

JACL *er*

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2017 JACL Chicago Annual Meeting

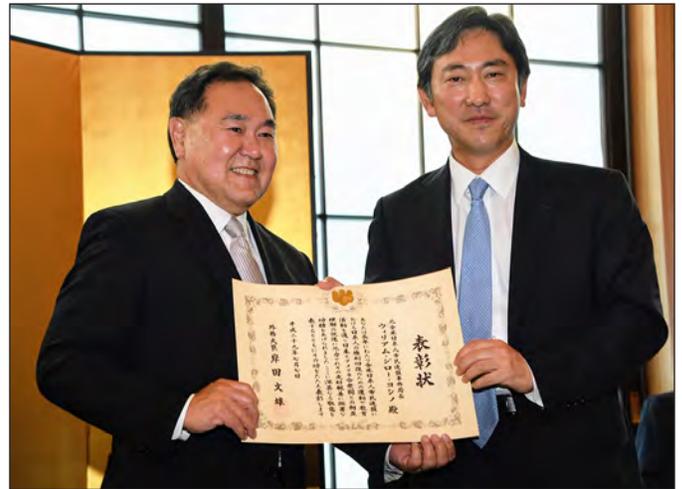
Information Coming Soon!

Midwest District Council Meeting at JACL Chicago September 23-24

2017 JACL National Convention

By Brian Ozaki, JACL Chicago Board Member

This year's National Convention was held in Washington DC from Thursday July 6th through Sunday July 9th. Each day was packed with National Board meetings and sessions for both delegates and youth. We were happy to attend two very important panel discussions called "Resolve: A Dialogue on the Current State of AAPI Civil Rights" and "Building Bridges: Sharing Our Experiences" the next day. Both were very insightful and full of very useful information. In current days where it seems that we have moved backwards in time and regressed, open discussions, education, and new fresh faces with the energy to move us all forward as a unified community is what we all have a commonality to do.



BILL YOSHINO RECEIVED A FOREIGN MINISTER'S AWARD FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN FOR HIS LONGSTANDING DEDICATION OF RESTORING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF JAPANESE AMERICANS.

Photo: Chris Ikejiri

There were several workshops including "Building Coalitions Across Intersecting Identities and Communities" hosted by Sarah Baker and Emi Kamemoto, and "AAPI's Portrayal in the Media & Arts" moderated by Rob Buscher and Rick Shiomi. These were short workshops which I wished were longer, so we had more time for discussions. But it was a nice transition into a screening of *Good Luck Soup*. The attendance was so great, that it warranted a much larger room! There were 6 resolutions on the schedule and 2

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 10/18/17.

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

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National Convention continued



Photo: Chris Ikejiri

JACL CHICAGO ATTENDEES AT THE EMBASSY RECEPTION HELD AT THE RESIDENCE OF AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN, KENICHIRO SASAE.

emergency resolutions to adopt. All were discussed with much vigor and heart and some met opposition and concern, but in the end, all 8 were adopted for 2017. Also, 4 proposed ByLaw Amendments were explained and heard. All the resolutions and bylaws took much serious thought and discussion that it had to be continued into the next day to further continue these very important matters to be resolved.

Many other JACL members who were not a delegate or on a committee also were there to take part in the convention and its activities. The first night was the Smithsonian Reception, only open to JACL. This year marked the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History hosted an event surrounding their display of artifacts, history, and the actual EO 9066 document. This was an open tour after a very wonderful reception. The food, atmosphere, the people, and the center stage acknowledgments were fantastic. Even though many of us Japanese Americans know of the history some of our family or friends may have went through, this display of wartime hysteria causing the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans is a positive glimpse into #Neveragain. A commitment to never let something like this happen again to any other group. Following the Smithsonian reception was a Youth Mixer back at the hotel to break the ice for some and to say hello to old friends (who are youth :)).

Friday night we had the pleasure and honor to attend an Embassy Reception at the residence of Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Kenichiro Sasae. Even though he couldn't be there, because he was attending the 2017 G20 summit in Hamburg, he was well represented and opened his home to us. From the outside, his house looked like a modern concrete Frank Lloyd Wright home, but once through the doors, it was open, warm and inviting. With many touches of very ancient Japanese architecture of flowing inside to outside as one space and simplicities, you can tell there was a lot of attention to detail to make home on this land much like a home from Japan. Everyone was generous and polite and among all the fantastic food in multiple rooms, we got to see our own Bill Yoshino receive a Foreign Minister's Award from the Government of Japan celebrating his longstanding dedication of restoring and protecting the rights of Japanese Americans. Then the reception moved outside when the large glass doors opened. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience and I was so honored to be a part of this and see Bill on center stage.

Saturday night, we had the Sayonara banquet. This was the last hurrah for the convention and it was fantastic. We had many speakers, speeches and awards to close out this grand evening. The JACL President's Award was given to Joan Bernstein, a pioneer herself as a lawyer and a human being. She continues to fight at work and outside her office. The other award was given to the late Angus Macbeth who was instrumental in the 1988 Civil Liberties Act. Lastly, there was the 2017 Legacy Fund Grants given out to several individuals. This evening's banquet was a

perfect ending to a spectacular convention weekend. This was my first JACL Convention and I surely hope it is not my last. JACL's motto for this year is *Resilience, Remembrance, Resolve*. What more fitting words for today's day to day rhetoric and the future of JACL. 🍷

Resilience, Remembrance, and Resolve

by Lane Mita, Youth Co-chair

It was an honor to represent the Chicago Chapter as a delegate at the Japanese American Citizens League National Convention this year. This was my 3rd time attending the convention. It's one of my favorite times of the year - you get to meet fellow members of the organization from across the country, and reconnect with old friends. This year, my favorite part was being able to visit the National Museum of American History's exhibit, *Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II*.

As a delegate, I helped represent the Chicago chapter during the business sessions. This included discussion and voting on various resolutions and bylaw amendments. All the proposed and emergency resolutions passed, the ones that were of note especially for the Midwest District Council were Resolutions 4 and 6. Resolution 6 was proposed to support the continuation of teacher training workshops and programs that were run by Bill Yoshino and Christine Munteanu. These workshops and programs allowed teachers from across the nation to come together and learn about the Japanese American incarceration experience during World War II and critically consider how they can incorporate this history in their curriculum. Due to budgets cuts, we did not want to lose this program, as education is one of most powerful instruments in developing the next generation. In addition, Resolution 4 was created to support the continuation of filling the Midwest District Council Regional Director position after Bill Yoshino's retirement. We believed that it was an essential position that needed to be filled, as the Midwest District covers the largest geographic area of all the districts in JACL with 20 states. There was a bit more opposition than we had thought, but we had the support of past national presidents Floyd Mori and Ken Inouye.

Overall, going to the National Convention is always a pleasure. I am amazed at the amount of young professionals that begin to

move up the ladder in terms of taking National Board positions within the organization. I really admire that this organization continues to value their youth programming and develop young professionals. I am already looking forward to the next National Convention, which will take place in Philadelphia!

The 2017 National Convention was run by JACL volunteers, fellows, and staff led by Interim Executive Director, Stephanie Nitahara. Jeannie Harrell, Brian Ozaki, Lane Mita, and Mari Yamagiwa represented the Chicago Chapter as delegates. 🍷



Photo courtesy of Brian Ozaki

JACL CHICAGO MEMBERS, CRAIG KANESHIRO, LANE MITA, MARI YAMAGIWA, REBECCA OZAKI, JEANNIE HARRELL, AND BRIAN OZAKI ENJOY THE EMBASSY RECEPTION.

2017 JACL Chicago Annual Meeting

Watch for More Information Coming Soon!

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2017 Japan Fest

By Mari Yamagiwa, JACL Chicago Member

On Saturday and Sunday, June 3-4, the 2017 Chicago Japan Festival took place at the Forest View Educational Center in Arlington Heights. This annual event, hosted by the Chicago Japanese American Council, brings together community members to enjoy various exhibitions, performances, and delicious food. There was a sense of familiarity as I caught up with friends and browsed the beautiful artwork and handcrafts. Throughout the weekend there were performances ranging from dance groups to *taiko* pieces to *aikido* demonstrations. On Saturday evening, there was even a special concert by Mari Iijima, an accomplished singer and songwriter from Japan.

The special exhibitions this year were *Kizuna 6: Resilience*, a striking photo exhibition that was created to remember victims of the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in 2011, and the *Los Angeles Tanabata Festival*, a celebration of traditional folklore with a display that included large, colorful streamers.

This is one of the few annual events that brings together the Japanese American and Japanese national communities. I am so thankful for these opportunities to reconnect with friends and meet new people. It is fitting that the theme of Japan Fest is: "Bridging Cultures, Building Friendships." I hope you'll be able to join us next year at Japan Fest! 🍷

2017 JACL Chicago Golf Outing

By Glenn Inouye, JACL Chicago Board Member

On July 13th, the annual JACL Golf Outing was held at the Glenview Park Golf Club, in Glenview, IL. Despite the huge amount of rain that fell in the days prior to the outing (as much as 7 inches), the course held up well and we were able to play. We did start under threatening skies, but eventually the skies cleared, the sun came out and it turned into a nice day for golf.

At the end of play, everyone gathered at the Café restaurant for lunch and the award presentations. Among the 42 golfers who participated this year was the Consul General of Japan, Naoki Ito. We were honored by his presence and as it turned out, he's a pretty good golfer. The top 2 gross scores were turned in by Glenn Inouye with an 89 and Dave Yada with a 91. Prizes for the top 2 handicap scores for men went to Dick Yamasaki with a 56 and Consul-General Ito with a 60. The top handicap score for women went to Suzanne Sawada with a 55. The closest to the pin prizes went to Consul General Ito and Judy Tracey. The prize for longest putt went to Fred Yamanuha and Judy Tracey. The prize for longest drive went to Al Endo and Lynn Tsuma.

I would like to thank the following sponsors: Alan Endo of Endo Communications Inc., Al Shimizu of Nal's Auto Repair and Marcus Inouye of HLP Mortgage. I would also like to acknowledge the staff at the golf course and the Café restaurant; they were very accommodating and helpful in meeting our needs.

As chairperson for this outing, I would like to give a special thank you to Carol & Joyce Yoshino and Carol Miyake. Their help with checking in golfers and recording everyone's score was greatly appreciated. Also, thanks to all who came out to play, all who made donations and all who helped in bringing people out to play. I am looking forward to next year's outing and hope to see all of you again.

This outing is open to members, non-members, people who know how to golf and even those who don't. It has been an enjoyable way for JACL members and the community to join together to bring awareness and show support for our Chapter. 🍷



ABOVE: THE FORTY-TWO GOLFERS IN THIS YEAR'S JACL GOLF OUTING WERE JOINED BY CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN, NAOKI ITO.

2018 KANSHA Project

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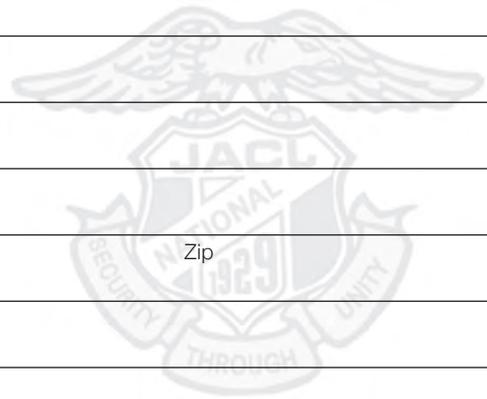
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Photos: Joyce Yoshino

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Reflections on Chicago Nikkei Picnic

Rebecca Ozaki, Youth Co-chair

This year, the Chicago Nikkei Picnic took place on Saturday, August 5th at the Bunker Hill Forest Preserve.

Some of my first memories of the Japanese American community began with the Annual Nikkei Picnic. My grandparents would bring my brothers and me when we were younger. At the time I was a very shy kid who didn't know other kids in the community. I would latch on to my brothers as they made new friends for us or I would hide behind my grandparents and eat my "footballs" aka *inari sushi* in the comfort of their shadows. I remember the rows of colorful plastic-lined tables with endless spreads of homestyle cooking, the big hill (back in the day) with candy sprinkled across it as my brothers and I filled out buckets, the two person geta sandal race that won me first choice prize to my valued Sailor Moon locket, the jelly bean guessing game where one could win a trip to Japan, the very loud of slightly off tune karaoke jam, "Country Roads," and the way my grandparents seemed to know everyone they crossed paths with at the picnics. These gatherings have been integral to my connection with the *Nikkei* community and my fond memories of what community feels and looks like from a young age.

As I return to the Annual Nikkei Picnic years later, I feel a part of this community too and that the faces at the picnic have become all too

familiar and warm. I realize that over the years these folks of many generations and identities have become family. And as many members of the Kansha ALB and JAACL Chicago Board danced to Lane Mita and Jeff Tademoto's karaoke rendition of "Single Ladies" I felt it. 🍷



Photos: Robert Brown



Ginza 2017

By Lane Mita, Youth Co-chair

The Ginza Festival is one event that brings in the fall with an air of excitement! It is an annual festival that takes place at the Midwest Buddhist Temple. There are artists and vendors with craft items, Japanese food, and entertainment throughout the weekend.

I have been volunteering for Ginza for a while now in the chicken *teriyaki* booth. You're probably thinking that you haven't seen me at Ginza before—well it's because my head is always down preparing the chicken meals whether it is reaching down to fill a new container with a rice ball every second or trying to bag all the to-go containers. Something that's always of notice is the crazy long food line, and we always have to try to meet the intense demand!

The weather was beautiful this year, and I believe it showed in the amount of people who attended. If you had a chance to catch the *taiko* performances this year, I am very jealous. The primetime show this year was Ho Etsu Ensemble, Midwest Buddhist Temple Taiko, and Detroit Taiko all coming together to perform on one stage! If you have the chance to come next year, it is worth taking one weekend to come join the fun! 🍷



Photos: Robert Brown



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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.

Go Green! Receive the JACLER newsletter (in full color), news and updates via email. See page 2

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, September 13
7pm – 9pm

JACL Chicago Board Meeting
JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago

September 23 – 24

Midwest District Council Meeting
JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago

Wednesday, October 11
7pm – 9pm

JACL Chicago Board Meeting
JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago

Through November 19

Then They Came For Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans During WWII
Alphawood Gallery, 2401 N Halsted St, Chicago