

JACL *en*

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JACL Chicago's Annual Meeting

By Jeannie Harrell, JACL Chicago Secretary

On the evening of Wednesday, November 8, 2017, JACL Chicago members gathered at the historic Midwest Buddhist Temple for their annual meeting. Though the meeting got off to a late start, attendees—a mixture of JACL Chicago members familiar and new, young and old mingled over dinner.



Photos: Robert Brown

JACL CHICAGO BOARD OF DIRECTORS (L-R): BRIAN OZAKI, GLENN INOUE, JUDY TANAKA, CARY WONG, TONKO DOI, JEANNIE HARRELL, BRYAN HARA, LISA SLOAN, LANE MITA, LISA DOI, TOM YATABE, PHYLLIS TAMADA-BROWN, ROBERT MITA. NOT PICTURED: PAT YUZAWA-RUBIN, LISA SAKAI, BECKY OZAKI, MICHEAL OSHITA.

2018 JACL Chicago Scholarship Guidelines

See Page 5

2018 Day of Remembrance

Sunday, February 18, 2018

See Page 2 for details

Chapter President Bryan Hara gave his address, highlighting the achievements of the Kansha Alumni Leadership Board (ALB), our celebration of Bill Yoshino's retirement, and the hiring of Mari Yamagiwa, our former AmeriCorps volunteer, as a full-time employee of JACL Chicago.

After approving the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes, board members gave presentations on their particular departments within JACL Chicago. Tonko Doi reported on her ongoing effort to increase membership through letter-writing campaigns targeting lapsed members and other individuals in the community who are friends and neighbors

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 2/16/17.

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

Contact Us

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5415 North Clark Street
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Annual Meeting continued

of current members, but may not be involved with JACL yet. Christine Munteanu shared her successful fundraising efforts for the Kansha Project. Despite having left her position with JACL National last year, Christine continues to be very involved with the Chicago chapter, to our great appreciation.

I reported on the community outreach department's spending for 2017—our primary expenditures this year were in support of local Japanese and Asian American events. Lisa Sloan presented the operations and finance report prepared in conjunction with Cary Wong. Lane Mita gave the youth report, highlighting the successes of the Kansha ALB (which has nearly doubled in size in the few years since its inception) and the Next Generation Nikkei networking group. Tom Yatabe reported on our outward communications efforts, including our social media presence as well as the upcoming launch of a redesigned JACL Chicago website.

Photos: Robert Brown



CHRISTINE MUNTEANU GIVE THE REPORT ON THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE .



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR, TOM YATABE, GIVES HIS COMMITTEE REPORT.

At the close of the meeting, board members were up for nominations and re-elections. The chapter confirmed the current board, with the addition of the newest board member, Lisa Doi.

With the formal meeting agenda concluded, JACL Chicago members were welcome to give community announcements on events such as Cary Wong and Carol Yoshino's "Part D Party," where Cary would help people apply for Medicare, and Ron Yoshino's long, and ultimately fruitful, quest to have the Chicago

chapter recognized as an awardee of the Inagaki award (JACL Chapter of the Biennium).

Last year's annual meeting, held right in the wake of the 2016 election, had a somewhat somber and severe tone, and despite—or perhaps because of this—this year's annual meeting was much shorter and sweeter. 🌸

2018 Day of Remembrance

Sunday • February 18, 2018 • 2pm

Chicago History Museum
1601 North Clark Street, Chicago

2018 Holiday Delight

By Tonko Doi, JACL Chicago Development Chair

The Holiday Delight/Kodomo Matsuri is an annual fundraising and cultural event for the JACL. Each year they sell delicious Japanese treats and food, much of which is donated by members and organizations.

The event also features Japanese performing arts like classical Japanese dancing, *taiko*, and *shamisen*. Children are kept busy with arts and crafts. They even get to talk to a “Japanese Santa Claus.”

This year they added tables in the warehouse section to take the overload from the main dining room. All tables were full of diners and people socializing. That is the pleasure of going to events like this, you get to meet with people you haven't seen for a long time. Your head is turning this way and that greeting folks.

We are always excited to have a JACL Chicago booth at Japanese American community events like Holiday Delight. This year the volunteers were Tom Yatabe, Jeannie Harrell, Carol Yoshino, Bob Mita, Brian Ozaki, and myself.

It is surprising to find that many younger Japanese Americans do not have interest or know about what JACL Chicago stands for. I think many in the *Nisei* community were members of JACL and benefited from the redress movement. Many of their children and grandchildren may still not be fully aware of the importance and impact of our organization and its relevance today.

Through meeting new people at Holiday Delight, we were able to inform people about our mission and tell them about our exciting programs, including the Scholarship Program and Kansha Project. It is also the perfect venue to introduce people to JACL. It was a successful outreach event and we were able to sign up new memberships. We will continue to invite others to join us in our mission. 🍡



Photo: Tom Yatabe



Photo: Brian Ozaki

TOP: JACL CHICAGO'S HOLIDAY DELIGHT BOOTH GETS SET UP. MIDDLE: BRIAN OZAKI, TONKO DOI AND JOE TAKEHARA AT THE JACL CHICAGO BOOTH. BOTTOM: SETTING UP CRAFTS FOR KIDS' ACTIVITIES.



Photo: Tom Yatabe

2018 JACL Chicago Inaugural
More Information Coming Soon!

AACC Lunar New Year Celebration
Saturday, February 24, 2018, 5pm
Hyatt Regency O'Hare
9300 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont

Remembering Our Past to Protect Our Future

Brian Ozaki, JACL Chicago Board Member

Wednesday December 6th at the Muslim Education Center (MEC) in Morton Grove, Illinois, we held a program in conjunction with The Interfaith & Outreach Committee. Over 150 people attended this event. Our own Betty Morita was one of two main speakers to talk about the history of how the Japanese Americans from the West Coast were singled out and incarcerated. She spoke about the pre-war prejudices and post bombing of Pearl Harbor and how that affected her and her husband. She spoke about their loss of personal belongings and having to take only what they could carry. Betty and her husband Dr. JR Morita both ended up at Minidoka in Idaho, but didn't meet until they were here in Chicago.

Following Betty's sharing, Rodi Glass from the Holocaust Museum shared her experience from living in Amsterdam with her family. There were 140,000 Jews living in Amsterdam after the Spanish Inquisition and 75% had perished during WWII. She recalled the invasion and the sounds that were outside, but didn't see much—her blinds were closed, because they couldn't have them open. Because of her family's ingenuity and ability to have faith, she was placed into 3 different



AZAM NIZAMUDDIN, PROGRAM MODERATOR, WITH SPEAKERS BETTY MORITA AND RODI GLASS ANSWER AUDIENCE QUESTIONS.

concentration camps and survived all 3. Her family was one of the few that survived.

Azam Nizamuddin, a local lawyer, moderated the evening and tied both Betty and Rodi's stories together. He was able to draw similarities between both events that showed how dangerous it is to act on hate, bigotry and fear. What happened over 75 years ago is dangerously close to today in how fear, bigotry, and hatred is building this movement of Islamophobia and anti-immigrant, and hate towards others that don't fit certain people's views of how they think this country should be.

People then discussed in small groups at each table how fear, bigotry, and propaganda contributed to the events that happened, and what we can draw from these past lessons for our world today.

The intent was to bring together 10 strangers at a table and have an open discussion based on what you have listened to tonight and share how we as a human race can prevent something like the

Holocaust or incarceration of a minority group in today's time in the United States.

By the end of the evening, there was a lot of positive energy, thoughts and smiles and hopefulness. The ability to have multi faiths, different races, cultures, and ages filling one space and all carrying the same sentiment of "never again"—it was fantastic. 🌟

If you'd like to watch the recording of the event, you're in luck! "Remembering Our Past to Protect Our Future" is available on YouTube at this link:

https://youtu.be/hfKsY6_u0oo

Congratulations Jean Mishima!

By Lisa Doi, JACL Chicago Board Member

On December 6th, Jean Mishima received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays from the Japanese Government. The award recognizes her decades of commitment to the Chicago Japanese American community. Jean has served as the president of the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, on the board of Heiwa Terrace, and as the former president of the Chicago Japanese American Council, of which JACL is a member. Jean has been instrumental in connecting the Japanese American

community to other institutions in Chicago. She helped bring *Strength and Diversity: Japanese American Women 1885-1990* to the Field Museum in 1995, *A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the United States Constitution* to the Harold Washington Library in 1998, and *Japanese American Team Spirit: Chicago Nisei Athletic Association* to the Chicago History Museum in 2003. But these are just a few of the ways that Jean has shared the important history of Japanese American incarceration to audiences in and around Chicago for decades. Congratulations Jean! 🌟



THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AWARDED JEAN MISHIMA WITH THE ORDER OF THE RISING SUN, GOLD AND SILVER RAYS.

Photo courtesy of Lisa Doi

2018 JACL Chicago Scholarship Program Guidelines



5415 N. Clark Street Chicago, IL 60640
www.jaclchicago.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization whose mission is to advance social justice and promote the legacy and cultural heritage of the Japanese American community.

The Chicago Chapter of JACL offers scholarships ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000+ to undergraduate and graduate students who have demonstrated a commitment to JACL's mission. Scholarships are awarded based on an applicant's alignment with JACL's mission through involvement in (but not limited to) social justice advocacy, leadership and education initiatives, and the Chicago Japanese American community. Students applying for a second award should demonstrate sustained and ongoing engagement with JACL.

Funding for scholarships is provided by generous donations from JACL Chicago members and the greater Chicago Japanese American community.

Scholarships are open to all, regardless of race or ethnicity.

ELIGIBILITY

- **JACL Membership (NEW!):** Applicants who have not previously received a JACL Chicago scholarship **do not** need to be JACL members to apply for a scholarship. If selected to receive a scholarship, first-time winners will receive a one-year student membership to JACL Chicago as part of their award. Previous scholarship winners must have a current student or individual JACL Chicago membership valid through the end of 2018.
- **Enrollment Status:** Applicants must be full-time students at an accredited college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States for the fall of 2018. Students deferring enrollment will not qualify for the 2018 scholarship program. Awards are contingent on proof of enrollment.
- **Residency:** Applicants must be residents of the State of Illinois (although attendance at schools outside of Illinois is permissible) **OR** actively enrolled in an

accredited Illinois university, college, or institution of higher learning at the time of application.

- **Limits:** JACL Chicago scholarship winners are limited to receiving a total of two (2) awards in their lifetime.
- **Scholarship Luncheon:** All scholarship winners are required to attend the Scholarship Luncheon on Sunday, May 20, 2018. Awards will be distributed on this date. Any awardee who does not attend without prior approval from the scholarship committee will forfeit their award.

HOW TO APPLY

- Application forms will be available at **www.jaclchicago.org** or the JACL Chicago office by December 2017.
- All application materials, including application form and supplemental pages, official transcripts, and recommendation letters must be included in one complete application packet. Do not submit materials separately. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications must be received or postmarked by Thursday, March 1, 2018. Late applications will not be considered.
- Send complete application packet to:
JACL Chicago Scholarship Committee
5415 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60640
- Applicants will be notified of the Scholarship Committee's decision in April 2018. All decisions of the Scholarship Committee are final.

For questions or more information, visit **www.jaclchicago.org/programs/scholarship-program** or contact Christine Munteanu, JACL Chicago Scholarship Committee chair, at **scholarships@jaclchicago.org**.

NOTE: The Japanese American Citizens League administers a National Scholarship Program that is separate and independent from the JACL Chicago Scholarship Program. For information about the JACL National Scholarship Program, please visit: www.jacl.org/jacl-national-scholarship-program.

Join or Donate to the JACL Today!

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(In memory of Ed Ozaki and in honor of Bill Yoshino)
- Bill and Carol Yoshino
(In memory of Ed Ozaki)
- Bill and Carol Yoshino
(In memory of Ben Fujimoto)

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Remembering...

Ben Fujimoto
Miho Kimura
Robyn Oshita
Ed Ozaki

William (Willie) Toguri
Ronald Uchiyama
Arnold Watanabe

From time to time we receive notification of a community member's passing. Here are the names of people we have heard about recently.

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Applications Be Available
January 15th!**

Go to jaclchicago.org/programs/kansha-project/



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Japanese American Citizens League

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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, January 10 7pm – 9pm	JACL Chicago Board Meeting JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago
Monday, January 15	Kansha Project Applications Available Please check jaclchicago.org to access the application
Wednesday, February 14 7pm – 9pm	JACL Chicago Board Meeting JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago
Sunday, February 18 2pm	Day of Remembrance Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark Street, Chicago
Saturday, February 24 5pm	AACC Lunar New Year Celebration Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont
Thursday, March 1	JACL Chicago Scholarship Application Deadline Applications must be received or postmarked by March 1
Thursday, March 1	Kansha Project Application Deadline Online application must be submitted by March 1