

# JACL *en*

**In this Issue:**

- page 1** Bridging the Japanese American & Latino Communities
- page 3** Mobilizing Our Community in the Primary Election
- page 5** Students on a Social Justice Pilgrimage Visit JACL Chicago
- page 6** Spring Midwest District Council Meeting
- page 7** Thank You to Our Donors and Advertisers
- page 8** Calendar of Events

**RSVP for the 2018 JACL Chicago Scholarship Luncheon**  
Sunday, May 20  
*See page 3 for details*

**Register for the 2018 Chapter Golf Outing**  
Thursday, July 26  
*See page 4 for details*

## **Bridging the Japanese American & Latino Communities**

**By Henry Litt, Kansha ALB Member**

**O**n a sunny Sunday afternoon in March, JACL Chicago co-hosted a music and storytelling event at Case Calle 20, an art gallery in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood. Titled *Bridge: Bridging the Japanese American & Latino Communities*, the event’s goal was to connect the Japanese American and Latinx communities through an exchange of narratives.

The concept of *Bridge* developed from conversations between Kansha Alumni Leadership Board (ALB) member Keilyn Kuramitsu and Javier Suárez, the owner of Case Calle 20. Javier regularly hosts storytelling workshops at his gallery that emphasize the experiences of marginalized individuals and was eager to facilitate an exchange that would allow each community to hear the other’s narratives.



ERIN AOYAMA AND JULIAN SAPORITI OF THE NO-NO BOY PROJECT SHARE PIECES FROM THEIR MULTIMEDIA CONCERT.

Photo: Mari Yamagawa

While *Bridge* focused on Japanese American stories, we are hoping to organize a future event that will allow Japanese Americans to hear the experiences of Chicago’s Latinx community as well.

*Bridge* was headlined by Julian Saporiti and Erin Aoyama, who form the Brown University-based musical duo *The No-No Boy Project*. They bookended the event with

*Continued on page 1*

# 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 5/15/18.**

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](http://www.jaclchicago.org)

### Contact Us

JACL Chicago Chapter  
5415 North Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60640-1294

Phone: 773.728.7171

Fax: 773.728.7231

Email: [info@jaclchicago.org](mailto:info@jaclchicago.org)

Web: [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org)

### Go Green!

If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter electronically, and receive JACL news and updates via email, please email [info@jaclchicago.org](mailto:info@jaclchicago.org) and let us know you'd like to be added to our electronic mailing list!

### Advertise in the JACLER!

Go to [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org) for details on how to place your ad today.

- Affordable Rates
- Targeted Community Audience
- Support JACL Chicago



Follow us on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/JACLChicago](https://www.facebook.com/JACLChicago)

BRIDGE continued



Photos: Mari Yamaguchi

JAVIER SUÁREZ, OWNER OF CASA CALLE 20, INTRODUCES THE EVENT AND WELCOMES THE ATTENDEES TO THE SPACE IN PILSEN.

a series of pieces touching on topics including the incarceration camps and immigration of Southeast Asians. Their lyrics and acoustic guitar melodies were accompanied by a series of archival pictures and videos that allowed audience members to visualize the intense emotional experiences that their songs described. The rest of *Bridge's* performers were all members of JACL Chicago, who shared some sort of artistic or narrative piece. This included Lane Mita, who introduced the incarceration history, Keilyn Kuramitsu, whose story reminded us of the emotional and psychological trauma that the incarceration inflicted, Ryan Yokota, who shared historical and personal vignettes of Japanese and Latinx solidarity in the face of marginalization, and myself, who read a poem written by Kenji Kuramitsu. In addition, Emily Harada shared a video of Ho Etsu Taiko's performance of *Poston*, a piece she composed to honor the experience of her grandparents.

With a wide spectrum of performance mediums and topics, *Bridge* succeeded in sharing more than just historical facts with the non-Japanese American audience members. While I cannot speak for those attendees, based on conversations I heard at the concluding reception, it appeared that many of them came away with a new perspective on the trauma and emotions caused by the incarceration experience. Furthermore, as one of the event organizers, I found it uplifting to see members of different communities under the same roof interacting with one another and discussing issues of marginalization and solidarity. Coalitions are certainly not formed in one afternoon. Hopefully though, *Bridge* acted as a starting point for further dialogue and future coordinated action. I look forward to next hearing the narratives of the Latinx community and continuing to build upon this relationship between our two groups. 🍄

**SAVE-THE-DATE**

**Kansha Project Culmination**

**Saturday, June 23**

*More info coming soon!*

## Mobilizing Our Community in the Primary Election

By Keilyn Kuramitsu, Civic Engagement Coordinator

February and March were filled with a number of exciting civic engagement opportunities sponsored by JACL Chicago, JASC, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago. I had the good fortune of being able to join in on a few of these events and I am incredibly appreciative to all the organizations, and their respected members, who were instrumental in the planning and implementation of these programs. After participating in the phone banks and the voter education event, I walked away a much more knowledgeable individual on the election process.

The voter education event took place on Tuesday, February 27th at JASC. The evening consisted of two presentations; the upcoming Illinois Primary (held on March 20th) and the need for a fair tax system in Illinois. There is a myriad of reasons why voters are hesitant to cast their vote in any given election. Oftentimes, it is because they do not see how their vote could make a difference. You hear it time and time again, "does my vote really matter?" The answer is yes! The reality, is that



STEVE MOON, OF ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE - CHICAGO PRESENTS ON THE NEED FOR A FAIR TAX SYSTEM IN ILLINOIS.



Photo courtesy of Bryan Hara

BRYAN HARA, ALONG WITH OTHER JACL CHICAGO AND JASC VOLUNTEERS CALL TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERS OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO GO AND VOTE.

the margin of victory (MOV) in state and local elections have historically been incredibly small. This means that a candidate can win by the slimmest margins. For example, at the 2014 Illinois General Elections, Robert Dold beat Brad Schneider by 4,856 votes and kept his seat as U.S. Representative for Illinois' 10th congressional district. Even more fascinating, approximately 19,754 people in the 10th district identified as AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander). This demonstrates that the AAPI community is greater than the margin of victory! If we are able to mobilize our community and cast our votes, there is no way that any candidate can ignore the issues we are advocating for. Our voices in unison are too powerful to silence because we have the potential to decide an election. How empowering!

*Continued on page 4*

Scholarship  
Luncheon  
RSVP

**Sunday, May 20, 2018**  
at 12 PM

**Maggiano's Little Italy**  
Westfield Old Orchard Mall  
4999 Old Orchard Shopping Center  
Skokie, IL 60077

\$45 regular, \$25 student/youth  
**Please RSVP by May 11, 2018**

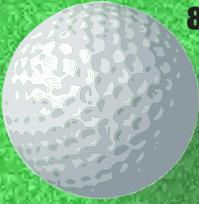
To RSVP or make a donation call 773-728-7171 or visit:  
[jaclchicago.org/events/scholarship-luncheon](http://jaclchicago.org/events/scholarship-luncheon)

# 2018 JAACL Chicago Golf Tournament

**Thursday, July 26, 2018**

**Glenview Park Golf Club**

**800 Shermer Road, Glenview, IL**



**9:00 am**

**Cost: \$90/golfer**

**Lunch will be served after golf.**

**Please RSVP to the JAACL office by July 16th.**

p: 773.728.7171 e: info@jaaclchicago.org

## 2018 Golf Tournament Registration Form

Please enclose entry fee(s) for all golfers (\$90/person) listed on the registration form. We will inform you of your starting time. **Registration deadline is July 16th.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW! Become an Event Hole Sponsor for \$150 (includes golf for one person).**

SPONSOR NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

Please list other golfers in your group:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **JAACL CHICAGO**

Mail to: JAACL Golf Tournament, 5415 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60640-1294

In the weeks following, two phone banks were held on March 8th and 13th to encourage members of our community to go out and vote in the upcoming primaries. Voter turnout is traditionally low in primary elections which can be discouraging. We don't want a small number of people deciding who will represent their party. The more involved in the election process, the better.

The first phone bank we were able to call hundreds of members of the Japanese American community and at the end of the night we were all exhausted yet grateful for the progress we had made. Ask anyone, phone banking is not always the easiest work because many people you call are annoyed, tired, or uninterested in what you have to say. But studies show that it is, in fact, effective in getting people to the polls. It can also lead to some very satisfying conversations and this was especially relevant when it came to the second phone bank as we called members from our very own community! It was not uncommon to see a familiar name come up on the call sheet and have a nostalgic conversation. On a side note, all the catered food at these events was unbelievably delicious and I was able to break bread with some lovely members of our community!

I am hoping to connect more with members of the AAPI community and become a more informed and engaged citizen in the political process. We hope you join us as we continue this work in the fall for the Illinois General Election! 🇺🇸

**Japan Festival**  
**Saturday & Sunday**  
**June 2-3**

**More info at:**  
**janifest-chicago.org**

## Students on a Social Justice Pilgrimage Visit JACL Chicago

By Kenji Kuramitsu, Kansha ALB Member

**O**n March 6th, members of JACL Chicago's Kansha Project Alumni Leadership Board (ALB) welcomed university students who were participating in a social justice pilgrimage to the city of Chicago. Youth from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles were hosted by Chicago Regional Organizing for Antiracism (CROAR), a national organization working to dismantle institutional racism with an active Chicago chapter. CROAR reached out to JACL Chicago to learn more about the work of our organization and young people.

Students visited socially-engaged nonprofit and activist groups including the #LetUsBreathe Collective, the Inner-City Muslim Action Network, the American Indian Center, and JACL Chicago, inviting ALB members to join at these and other site visits. Students also visited sites of historic racial importance including the Martin Luther King, Jr. monument in Marquette Park, and the Hyde Park house used by the Department of Justice for internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Throughout our time at the JACL office, participants were exposed to history of the Nikkei community in Chicago. Many who had been familiar with the events of the wartime incarceration were not aware of the legacy and history of Japanese American resettlement throughout the rest of the United States. The visiting students, ten women of color from

across California, also shared about their experiences of riding the Red Line from the South Side up to the North Side to the event. According to participants, the experience of participating in public transit and witnessing firsthand the intense segregation of our city was a shocking one. This and other reflections were powerful reminders of the work still left to do.

Parts of this workshop, designed by ALB members Lisa Doi and Kenji Kuramitsu, drew from material used in the JACL Chicago's Next Generation Nikkei gathering with National Youth/Student

Council members this October. Staff person Mari Yamagiwa presented on the history of JACL, and chapter Youth Chair Lane Mita gave some context for the history of Kansha Project and the Kansha Project Alumni Leadership Board. Participants also engaged in icebreaker and partnered reflection activities, discussed themes of urban movement and public memory, and watched the

short experimental horror film *Seppuku*, by Yonsei filmmaker Daryn Wakasa, a project funded by the Japanese American Confinement Sites grants.

Joy Bailey, a community organizer with Chicago ROAR, expressed gratitude on behalf of the group for their visit to JACL Chicago. She explained, "Many students didn't know about the history and experiences of Japanese Americans and were inspired and moved to learn more. Several students really appreciated the activity where JACL [members] asked them to write down whatever was on their mind and heart that was keeping them from being fully present during the week and to put it in a basket which JACL would hold for them. They were really touched and were better able to let go and be present the rest of the week."

Welcoming pilgrimage participants to our offices was also a special experience for alumni of the JACL Chicago's Kansha Project, who have in the past participated in a similar trip experience to the West Coast. Many thanks to Christine Munteanu, Keilyn Kuramitsu, Mari Yamagiwa, and Lisa Doi for the attention and support. May we continue to hold one another in care, support, and radical solidarity. 🌱



Photo: Mari Yamagiwa

KANSHA ALB MEMBERS HOST YOUTH FROM LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY IN LOS ANGELES.

### Japanese American Memorial Day Service

Monday, May 28  
11:00am

Montrose Cemetery  
5400 N Pulaski Rd, Chicago

## 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.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual . . . . .	\$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Family . . . . .	\$125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Youth . . . . .	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club . . . . .	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Century Club . . . . .	\$350.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1000/Century Spouse . . . . .	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Millennium . . . . .	\$1,000.00

**Please support the JACL with a Donation!**

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

## Spring Midwest District Council Meeting

By Bryan Hara, Chapter President

Over the weekend of March 9, 2018, JACL Chicago participated in the Spring Midwest District Council (MDC) meeting. Chapter representatives from Chicago, Omaha, St. Louis, Dayton, Cincinnati, Wisconsin, Detroit, Minnesota, and Indiana were all in attendance. The JACL National Youth Student Council (NYSC) held a youth summit alongside the MDC meeting. The NYSC participants and MDC chapter representatives were able to come together to discuss and strategize youth initiatives within the district and chapters.



Photo: Bryan Hara

MILWAUKEE-BASED JAPANESE AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER, DOMINIC INOUE, SHARES HIS WORK AT THE MIDWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING.

MDC voted to support a separate NYSC budget, so youth programs could be funded through the JACL National budget. In addition to normal district business such as the education report, budget report, and preparation for the JACL National Convention, the Wisconsin chapter had two keynote speakers that presented on the intersections of photography and social justice work. The meeting was a success, and our Fall 2018 MDC meeting will be held in Minnesota. 🇺🇸

## JACL National Convention

July 18-22

Philadelphia, PA

For more information go to  
[jacl.org/2018-convention](http://jacl.org/2018-convention)

**Like Us on Facebook!**

[www.facebook.com/JACLChicago](http://www.facebook.com/JACLChicago)

## Thank You to Our Donors and Advertisers!

(Donors as of 4/4/18)

### General

Debbie Buscato  
Greg Kimura  
Michael Oshita  
Nancy Rivera  
Bill and Carol Yoshino  
(in memory of Dale Nomura)

### Kansha Project

Clay Cerny  
Janis Jasper  
Masahito Kimura  
Mari Langowski  
Junko Mizuta  
Richard and Joyce Morimoto  
Christine Munteanu  
Anne Shimojima  
Mari Yamagiwa



## KANSHA Project T-shirts

**\$15 plus shipping**

**Call or email the  
JACL Chicago  
office for details.**

773.728.7171  
info@jaclchicago.org

Join us for the  
**Kansha Project Culmination**

**Saturday, June 23**  
*More info to follow*

## Advertise in the JACler Today!

The JACler reaches the entire membership of the JACL Chicago Chapter and chapter friends at very reasonable advertising rates

Go to [jaclchicago.org](http://jaclchicago.org)  
or call 773.728.7171 for details.



## Prudential

**Cary Wong, CLU®, ChFC®, CFP®**  
Financial Advisor

CA Insurance License # 0805613

**The Prudential Insurance Company of America**  
10275 W. Higgins Road, Suite 200, Rosemont IL 60018  
Tel 847 321-3872 Fax 877 840-7826  
cary.wong@prudential.com  
www.prudential.com/us/c.wong



Life Insurance • Health Insurance\* • Long Term Care\*\* • Annuities • Retirement Funding  
\*Availability varies by carrier and state.

\*\*Individual Long Term Care Insurance underwritten by insurers not affiliated with Prudential. Availability varies by carrier and state.

Variable Life Insurance • Variable Annuities • Mutual Funds  
Offering investment advisory services through Pruco Securities, LLC (Pruco), doing business as Prudential Financial Planning Services (PFPS), pursuant to separate client agreement. Offering insurance and securities products and services as a **registered representative** of Pruco, and an agent of issuing insurance companies. 1-800-201-6690.

CFP® is an educational certification only.

AL SHIMIZU



## NAL'S AUTO REPAIR

MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL WORK  
ON MOST JAPANESE AND DOMESTIC CARS

773.525.8600  
FAX 773.525.8644

1815 W. IRVING PARK RD., CHICAGO, IL 60613

HOME & AUTO • BUSINESS • HEALTH • LIFE



**THE ROBERT T. MITA AGENCY**

ROBERT T. MITA  
AGENT

5432 MAIN STREET SKOKIE, IL 60077

m 847.899.7065 f 847.966.0982

e robertmita@gmail.com

# JACL

Japanese American Citizens League

## CHICAGO CHAPTER

5415 North Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60640-1294  
p: 773.728.7171  
f: 773.728.7231  
e: [info@jaclchicago.org](mailto:info@jaclchicago.org)  
w: [jaclchicago.org](http://jaclchicago.org)



*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

<b>Wednesday, May 9</b> 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<b>JACL Chicago Board Meeting</b> JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N Clark St, Chicago
<b>Wednesday, May 16</b>	<b>Asian American Action Day</b> Springfield, IL
<b>Sunday, May 20</b> 12:00pm – 2:30pm	<b>Scholarship Luncheon</b> Maggiano's, 4999 Old Orchard Shopping Center, Skokie
<b>Thursday, May 24</b> 7:00pm – 10:00pm	<b>Kansha Nisei Lounge Fundraiser</b> Nisei Lounge, 3439 N Sheffield Ave, Chicago
<b>Monday, May 28</b> 11:00am	<b>Memorial Day Service</b> Montrose Cemetery, 5400 N Pulaski Rd, Chicago
<b>Thursday, May 31</b>	<b>Kansha Coffee Conversations</b> <i>Time and location to be announced</i>
<b>Saturday/Sunday, June 2-3</b>	<b>Japan Fest</b> - more info at: <a href="http://japanfest-chicago.org">japanfest-chicago.org</a> Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S Goebbert Rd, Arlington Heights
<b>Wednesday, June 13</b> 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<b>JACL Chicago Board Meeting</b> JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N Clark St, Chicago
<b>Saturday, June 23</b>	<b>Kansha Project Culmination</b> <i>Time and location to be announced</i>