

# JACL *en*

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## Introducing our 2020 JACL Chicago Scholarship Winners

By Christine Munteanu, JACL Chicago Scholarship Committee Chair

**Y**ou may think that I am required to say this as the Scholarship Committee chair, but I truly mean it when I say that the annual Scholarship Luncheon is my favorite JACL Chicago event. I love that it is, by its very nature, an intergenerational event, one that visibly demonstrates the way the activism and leadership of the youth in our community is a continuation of the legacy of the community leaders that have come before us. I find myself filled with hope in the resilience of our community as we connect the past, present, and future. So it was with a heavy heart that the scholarship committee made the painful but necessary decision to cancel this year's Scholarship Luncheon, which was planned for May 17.

Thankfully, due to the generosity of our scholarship donors, JACL Chicago was still able to provide scholarships this year to support our awardee's studies in the fall. I am proud to share that we awarded five scholarships to the following students:

- Iwaoka Memorial Scholarship: Eriko Darcy, graduating senior at Latin School of Chicago, entering Wellesley College
- Mitzi Shio Schectman Memorial Scholarship: Elyse Monma, graduating senior at St. Francis High School, entering Marquette University
- Miyasaki Family Scholarship (JMAS): Lily Ng, graduating senior at Evanston Township High School, entering Northwestern University
- Mas Nakagawa Memorial Scholarship: Sam Nishimura, continuing undergraduate at DePaul University
- Tomiyama Scholarship: James Ozaki, continuing graduate student at Cornell University

Although we were unable to celebrate our scholarship awardees in person this year, I hope you will visit our website ([www.jaclchicago.org/programs/scholarship-program/2020-scholarship](http://www.jaclchicago.org/programs/scholarship-program/2020-scholarship)) to learn more about our accomplished scholarship winners, and take the opportunity to reach out to congratulate them, connect with them, and welcome them to our community.

**Congratulations to all of the 2020 JACL Chicago Scholarship Winners!**

*Read the winner profiles and scholarship descriptions in this issue!*

*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 10/23/20.**

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)

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Introducing Scholarship Winners continued

Our website also has descriptions of the scholarships we have awarded, which are either donated directly by, or continue to be funded in memory of, past community leaders, many of whom are survivors of the WWII Japanese American incarceration. Our scholarship program embodies their enduring legacy, strength, and resilience, and I invite you to reflect upon the connections between the *Nikkei* incarceration experience and the social justice issues that our young scholarship winners are engaged with today.

JACL Chicago is immensely grateful to our scholarship donors, who have allowed us to provide financial support and stability to our awardees in this time of uncertainty. I would also like to thank the members of the JACL Chicago Scholarship Committee (Gary Yamagiwa, Joyce Morimoto, Judy Tanaka, Pat Harada, and Rosemary Lee), whose responsiveness, flexibility, and creativity allowed us to reimagine this year's Scholarship Program while still meeting our goals.

The past few months have underlined the importance of community and connection for our individual and collective health and well-being. I am grateful that this year's Scholarship Program served as an opportunity to foster relationships and strengthen our circles of support. Thank you to everyone who has continued to support our program and our awardees -- and I hope to see everyone at the 2021 Scholarship Luncheon, which is planned for Sunday, May 16! 🍷

## 2020 JACL Chicago Scholarship Winner Profiles

### Iwaoka Memorial Scholarship: Eriko Darcy

Eriko Darcy is this year's recipient of the John Iwaoka Memorial Scholarship. Eriko is a graduating senior at the Latin School of Chicago. This fall, she will begin her undergraduate education at Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

Eriko is an Illinois State Scholar, varsity track and field athlete and, foremostly, a gifted pianist. Her school's College Counseling Office describe Eriko as a "piano prodigy, a virtuoso with an undeniable gift and a truly rare talent." Eriko began playing piano and competing at age four. She is the recipient of numerous awards and has won many competitions, including First Place at the Chicago Area Steinway Young Artists Competition, performing with the Round Rock Symphony Orchestra as the winner of the Texas State International Young Artists Piano Concerto Competition, and winning the 2019 Steinway Junior Piano Competition. Eriko has performed twice at Carnegie Hall: as a First Prize winner of the 2011 Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition, and as the winner of the 2010 American Fine Arts Festival and with the Civil Orchestra at Chicago Symphony's Orchestra Hall. In addition, Eriko lends her talent by performing for events and fundraisers at her church and other community organizations.

Despite the rigors of her practice and performance schedule as a pre-professional piano player, Eriko is also involved in several extracurricular activities at her school. She



Photo courtesy of Eriko Darcy

is active in her school's Asian Student Alliance, an affinity group that serves as a safe space for students who identify as Asian to discuss personal experiences, Asian representation in the media, and cultural heritage. She is also an executive board member of Latin's Initiative for Ethics, where she helped organize school-wide discussions on ethics in speech and the media, airing polarizing and opposing viewpoints and opinions. As part of the 2018 – 2020 Latin in Rwanda team, she organized and attended a summer camp for youth with HIV/AIDS living in Rwanda. The camp's goal was to provide a haven from tumultuous relationships at home and social stigmas regarding HIV/AIDS for the youth. Eriko is also a member of the Student Advisory for Global Exchanges, advising the school administration on improving the foreign exchange experience and welcoming foreign students.

Eriko grew up spending many summers in Japan, and is thus fluent in English and Japanese, as well as studying French at Latin School. Her recommenders describe Eriko as "unafraid of hard work, wise beyond her years, unflappable, and tough under pressure," and someone who "steps into new experiences with courage and is open to learning about other people."

JACL Chicago is pleased to award Eriko the John Iwaoka Memorial Scholarship.

### **John Iwaoka Memorial Scholarship**

Since 2008, JACL Chicago has been pleased to award scholarships from a trust established by the estate of John Iwaoka.

John Iwaoka was born in Santa Rosa, California, and grew up in San Francisco. His father owned a dry cleaning business. John attended polytechnic high school in San Francisco, which specialized in trades and vocational training. After graduation, John decided to learn a trade and went to work with two Issei men who taught him carpentry. John became a very accomplished carpenter and took pride in his profession.

At the outbreak of World War II, John and his family were incarcerated in Heart Mountain in Wyoming. After the war, he came to Chicago and eventually bought a building with his brother, Sam, and sister, Rose.

Although John did not have a formal education beyond high school, he placed a lot of value in education. John's biggest regret is that he did not have children to carry on his legacy. In the place of heirs, he established a trust fund for JACL Chicago to distribute scholarships to empower future generations of Japanese Americans to follow their dreams.

### **Mitzi Shio Schectman Memorial Scholarship: Elyse Monma**



Photo courtesy of Elyse Monma

Elyse Monma is this year's recipient of the Mitzi Shio Schectman Memorial Scholarship. Elyse is a graduating senior at St. Francis High School in Wheaton, Illinois. This fall, she will begin her undergraduate education at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Elyse has contributed to her high school community in many ways. She has been on her school's varsity lacrosse team for four years, beginning as a goalie and eventually taking on the role of a leader supporting the new girls in their pursuit of sport. She is also a member of the arts and crafts club and performs in musical theatre.

As a junior, Elyse painted a mural of the school's patron, St. Francis, in the school's hallway. One of her teachers said of the artwork, "Her talent has truly been a gift to our high school community."

During her senior course on "Peace and Social Justice," Elyse decided to research and develop a voluntary independent project. She had been studying Japanese American history and presented her research on the incarceration camps in a presentation to her peers in conjunction with the conversation on systematic oppression.

**To read the Scholarship Winner Profiles and full award descriptions, visit our website at:**

**[www.jaclchicago.org/programs/scholarship-program/2020-scholarship](http://www.jaclchicago.org/programs/scholarship-program/2020-scholarship)**

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## Next Gen Nikkei's Quarantine Quiz a Success

By Sara Pyne, Kansha ALB Member

**O**n the last Friday in July, Next Gen Nikkei and the Kansha Alumni Leadership Board teamed together to host JACL Chicago's first ever virtual trivia night. Participants joined a Zoom call, where hosts Lane Mita and Sara Pyne read trivia questions as they flashed on the screen, while answering the questions from their phones using an app called Kahoot. Questions ranged from pop culture through the ages to civil rights legislation, as individuals competed for first, second, and third place. Participants earned points both by choosing the correct answers and by answering them quickly. Christine Munteanu came in first place, winning a gift card to a person-of-color-owned restaurant of her choosing, which was Renga Tei. Lisa Doi came in second place, winning an Illinikkei shirt. Jeannie Tomoda Harrell came in third place, winning a gift basket full of snacks from Hello Tokyo in Niles. The evening was fun, light-hearted, and full of familiar and new faces. In times like today, it is especially nice to have a place to gather with community and share a few laughs around a competitive game of trivia. We hope to see you all at the next virtual gathering! 🍷

**Follow Next Generation Nikkei Online to stay up-to-date on upcoming events and news!**

[www.facebook.com/NextGenNikkei](https://www.facebook.com/NextGenNikkei)

[www.instagram.com/NextGenNikkei](https://www.instagram.com/NextGenNikkei)

2020 Scholarship Winner Profiles continued

Elyse has also demonstrated a strong commitment to community service. She has volunteered with Feed My Starving Children, which provides nutritious meals to children worldwide, and People's Resource Center, a food pantry and social service agency.

Elyse is also a long-time member of the Girl Scouts, having been involved since childhood. She earned the Girl Scouts Silver Award for her volunteer project helping to construct a garden for Connection for Friends, an organization serving teens and adults with special needs. She is now working towards a Girl Scouts Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Senior can earn. For her Gold Award project, Elyse is connecting her passion for educating others on Japanese American history and why it remains relevant by creating an educational presentation on the Japanese American incarceration presentation for her school.

In her personal statement, Elyse stated, "You do not need to be personally connected to the issue... if you have a passion for promoting social reform. We need courageous, brave voices to stand up for what they believe in."

JACL Chicago is pleased to award Elyse Monma the Mitzi Shio Schectman Memorial Scholarship.

### **Mitzi Shio Schectman Memorial Scholarship**

Mitzi Shio Schectman was born in Seattle, Washington, the youngest of seven daughters of Shozo and Tsuru Shio. During World War II, her family was forced to abandon their home and business and was incarcerated at Minidoka in Idaho.

In 1981, Mitzi testified before the Congressional Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians about the harsh effects incarceration had on families, stating: "The secure foundation built over 34 years had been destroyed. The family had to start our lives over again, much the way my father

did when he made his choice to come to America. There was a difference, however – he left his old life to begin a new one, in a spirit of hope and eager to face the future. The family, exiles in our own country, started the slow process of rebuilding, but we could not look ahead. We could only deal with the present, and try to forget the past."

This scholarship given in Mitzi's name honors the *Nisei* generation of women who endured the incarceration camps, suffered the resettlement years, and succeeded in keeping their families together with strength, and courage, and wonderful grace. It is meant to encourage deserving youth of our community to continue their education and keep her legacy alive.

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### **Miyasaki Family Scholarship (JMAS): Lily Ng**



Photo courtesy of Lily Ng

Lily Ng is this year's recipient of the Miyasaki Family Scholarship from the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago (JMAS). Lily is a graduating senior at Evanston Township High School. This fall, she will begin her undergraduate

education at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, where she plans to major in Neuroscience.

Lily is an excellent student and has maintained nearly a straight “A” average throughout her rigorous academic high school career. She has consistently been on the High Honor Roll and the Asian and Middle Eastern Honor Roll for Academic Excellence throughout high school. She has also received an Outstanding Achievement in Biology and Award for Leadership in Chemistry, and is a member of the National Honors Society.

Lily’s teachers describe her as a self-motivated, driven, and determined student who is bright, honest, mature, dependable, confident, and respectful. She is a natural leader with a strong work ethic who leads by example. Lily is not afraid to challenge herself, and goes above and beyond what is expected of her. One teacher states that academic success does not seem to be Lily’s primary goal, but rather her success is the result of her inquisitive mind and diligent efforts, making her an outstanding student in the truest sense the word.

In addition to her academic endeavors, Lily has been an active member of her community. She has taught coding to young girls through Kode with Klossy and She is Code in order to promote racial and gender equality in STEM fields. She has also volunteered at the Evanston School Children’s Clothing Association, which assists low-income families find clothing for their children.

Lily has been involved with the Justin Wynn Leadership Academy since the fourth grade, where she plans community service opportunities, engages in leadership training and team building exercises and learns from community leaders.

She is a member of the Emerge Leadership Program at her high school, where students are empowered to address an issue they’re passionate about through asset-based community

development. As part of her own project, Lily and some of her peers partnered with a community organization to facilitate a Kingian non-violence training at her school to address racial disparities and conflict resolution. Her initial project has become the Kingian Nonviolence Student Club, where she serves as Head Facilitator.

Lily’s family was incarcerated at Minidoka and Heart Mountain during World War II, and she wrote in her personal statement, “I work hard to follow in my grandparent’s footsteps and be the ally they needed when they were my age.”

JACL Chicago and JMAS are pleased to award Lily the Miyasaki Family Scholarship.

### **Miyasaki Family Scholarship (Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago)**

Aki Miyasaki and the late John Miyasaki were born and raised in Los Angeles, California. In the first months of World War II, they and their family were removed from their home and incarcerated for the duration of the war at Heart Mountain in Wyoming.

Aki and John resettled in Chicago in 1945, resumed their educations at the University of Southern California and Illinois Institute of Technology, and built their careers in education and engineering.

Established in 2019 through the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago, the Miyasaki Family Scholarship is meant to help young people reach their educational goals and take their places as contributing members of their communities.

The Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago is a 501(c)(3) organization that was founded in 1935 by Japanese immigrants living and working in Chicago to assist other members of their community. The Miyasaki Family Scholarship continues Mutual Aid’s original and current commitment to community service.

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### **Mas Nakagawa Memorial Scholarship: Sam Nishimura**

Sam Nishimura is this year’s recipient of the Mas Nakagawa Memorial Scholarship. Sam is a student at DePaul University, where he is working towards a BFA in Animation with a Concentration in Character Design and Storyboarding. He is scheduled to graduate in 2021.

Sam is a talented artist with exceptional drawing skills. His Beginning Drawing professor noted that “In my 20+ years of teaching, I would rank Sam in the top 1% in terms of his skill level.” Sam has



Photo courtesy of Sam Nishimura

used his art as a way to explore his Japanese American identity and the history of the Japanese American incarceration. For a self-portrait assignment, he drew himself with a crown of tangled barbed wire in which white cranes were ensnared.

Sam has a strong commitment to social justice and has explored the intersection of arts, activism, and Asian American identity through DePaul’s Asian Cultural Exchange, an Asian American student organization. Through his involvement, he has attended and helped to plan and facilitate multiple campus and community events, including those raising awareness of issues in Filipinx,

*Continued on page 6*

Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander and Indigenous communities. He also served as the organization's treasurer, where he was responsible for applying for funding through the cultural allocation funding board and student activity fee board.

Sam volunteered as an after-school tutor for elementary school students, and works part-time since 2017 as a Title Clerk and Recorder at Citywide Title Corporation. He also has a green thumb, and has helped to revitalize community gardens and provides landscaping and maintenance work for the Village Green Baptist Church in Glen Ellyn. Sam is also a trumpet player, and plays in the Screamin' Demons DePaul Pep Band for both the men's and women's DePaul basketball teams at the Wintrust Arena and McGrath-Phillips Arena.

Sam has recently become active in JACL and the Chicago *Nikkei* community, attending events such as the Day of Remembrance, Nikkei Nights, and Listen to Your Elders! film screening. He is a member of the Tsuru for Solidarity Chicago committee, helping to fundraise and organize for the rally in D.C.

In his scholarship application, Sam reflected, "Through JACL, I've learned how

expansive the Japanese American identity is in its history, and how that history resonates in the United States today. I want my legacy as a Japanese American to be an example of how family, community, experience, and action can uplift others, which is exactly what JACL offers to the world."

JACL Chicago is pleased to award Sam Nishimura the Mas Nakagawa Memorial Scholarship.

**Mas Nakagawa Memorial Scholarship**

The Mas Nakagawa Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Mas Nakagawa, a talented and successful graphic artist.

Mr. Nakagawa served with the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. He settled in Chicago after his discharge and studied at the Illinois Institute of Design. While honing his skills professionally, he began to contribute countless hours to JACL and the community, designing invitations, programs, logos, etc. There are many samples of his designs in the JACL Chicago files.

This scholarship is typically given to a student who is pursuing further study in the creative arts or a related field.

**Tomiyaama Scholarship: James Ozaki**

James Ozaki is this year's recipient of the Tomiyama Scholarship. James is a first year graduate student at Cornell University, Class of 2021, where he is pursuing a Master of Industrial and Labor Relations. He received a BA in Communication from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2017. James is a previous recipient of JACL Chicago's Chiye Tomihiro Memorial Scholarship in 2016.

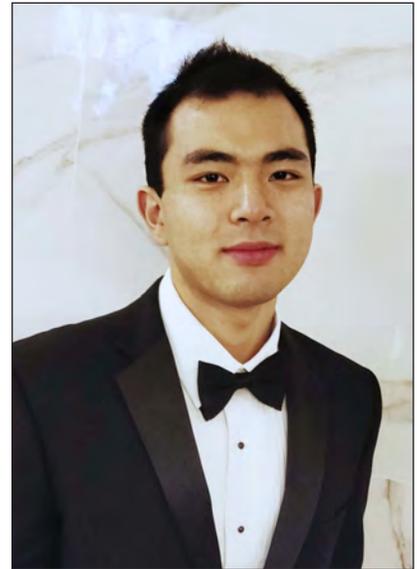


Photo courtesy of James Ozaki

James has been involved in the JACL for many years. He has participated in Project: Community!, the Kakehashi Project, the Kansha Project, and served on the Kansha Alumni Leadership Board. He consistently attends community events including the Kansha Project Culmination and Day of Remembrance, even as his education and various opportunities have taken him far from home, and is a frequent contributor to JACL Chicago's JACLER newsletter. James won first place in the Go For Broke National Education Center Essay and Poetry Contest for 2016-2017. In 2018, he was selected by JACL National to be a National Park Service Manzanar Intern.

As a son of musical artists, James has a passion for singing and music. In 2016, he was the founder and music director of the group Unseen A Cappella, which is composed of mostly Asian American singers who competed in the 2017 International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella. He has also been a member of various groups, including the Arlington Chorale, Cornell University Glee Club and The Hangovers A Cappella.

After graduating from UIUC, James was a curatorial intern at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, where he worked on the "Writing a Wrong" exhibit, which contained many Japanese American artifacts from WWII. In the course of his internship, James came across letters between the War Relocation Authority and California farmers regarding hiring of Japanese American workers who were being released from the incarceration camps. In these letters, James saw firsthand the way racist attitudes and hiring practices impacted Japanese American resettlement patterns and the community's historical trajectory. It was this research that inspired James to pursue his Master's degree.

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## Indiana University Apologizes for Japanese American Ban

By Eric Langowski, Next Generation Nikkei Board Member, Hoosier Chapter

James' graduate professors describe him as "a very insightful, creative, and thoughtful scholar with a solid grasp on theories and research" and praise his maturity and resilience"

In his personal statement, James shared, "My involvement with JACL has ultimately been enriching, healing and confidence boosting in terms of discovering my identity and equipping me for that journey... By channeling passion, story, mission, history and resources, JACL surely grounds our community in a shared identity and steps to make change."

JACL Chicago is pleased to present James Ozaki with the 2020 Tomiyama Scholarship.

### Tomiyama Scholarship Fund

Taketo "Tak" Tomiyama was born in Los Angeles, CA in 1933. He attended Whittier School until President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which forcibly relocated him and his family to Rohwer Camp in Rohwer, Arkansas. Once released from camp, he and his family moved to Chicago, Illinois.

Tak had always been active in JACL, acting as a Junior JACL Treasurer and 1st Vice President. He served as the President of JACL Chicago for two terms (1968 and 1970). He had a core belief that he should always help the Japanese American community in any capacity whether it be financial or otherwise.

Todd Tomiyama was born in Chicago, IL on October 10, 1965. Todd graduated from Lane Tech High School in 1983 and attended Northern University. Todd followed his dad's (Tak's) involvement in the Japanese American community. He participated in the Junior JACL and several sporting teams. Todd developed life-long friends and was known as someone you could count on to help.

This scholarship honors both Tak and Todd's contributions, and encourage students to maintain the legacy of JACL through education. 🌱

In the last semester of my senior year at Indiana University (IU), my focus was on my future graduation, until my mind was forced back to the past. I discovered that my soon-to-be alma mater had enacted an explicitly racist ban on Japanese Americans during WWII, led by Board of Trustees President Ora L. Wildermuth. Wildermuth proclaimed that the ban was necessary because "I can't believe that any Japanese, no matter where he was born, is anything but a Japanese." To make matters worse, I realized walking to class the next day that the campus gym was named after Wildermuth; someone who would've readily denied my grandmother (or even myself) admission to the university.

I knew I needed to do something. I thought about my grandmother who was lucky to be admitted to a university in Kansas after being rejected from other schools. For *Nisei*, attending a college was leave clearance from the camps and a much-needed opportunity to start a new life. IU could have been this opportunity, but they chose not to be.

Weeks later, I held a Day of Remembrance event calling for IU to apologize. I met with dozens of administrators, deans, and local stakeholders explaining our community story and why an apology was needed. There was some quick progress when IU removed Wildermuth's name from the gym. A few months later, I published a definitive report on the ban in the Indiana Magazine of History ([www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/indimagahist.115.2.01](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/indimagahist.115.2.01)). Yet, further progress was hard to come by.

In 2020, I returned to IU presenting another DOR event calling for an apology (and reparations in the form of retroactive diplomas) alongside leading Asian American faculty. In response to this petition, IU's President Michael McRobbie issued an apology for the ban in July. President McRobbie directed IU's archives to identify and apologize directly to any descendants of those denied admission, to commission a plaque containing IU's statement of regret, and to organize a committee of faculty to plan



A HISTORICAL MARKER COMMEMORATING BILL GARRETT, THE BIG TEN'S FIRST BLACK BASKETBALL PLAYER. THE MARKER STANDS IN FRONT OF THE BILL GARRETT INTRAMURAL CENTER ON INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S CAMPUS. THE INTRAMURAL CENTER WAS PREVIOUSLY NAMED AFTER THE ARCHITECT OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN BAN UNTIL ITS 2018 'DE-NAMING.'

Photo: Eric Langowski

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## Exploring Identity Through Art and Activism

By Christine Munteanu, Kansha ALB Member

Next Generation Nikkei (NGN) hosted a virtual Arts and Activism panel and workshop on Saturday, August 15. Artists Cori Lin, Emily Harada, Sen Morimoto, and Tani Ikeda shared reflections on the relationship between their art and identity, as well as the ways they've engaged with current social justice issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement, through their art. The speakers shared how art has been a tool for connecting with their family, how they have uncovered the experiences and wisdom of past generations, and engaged in thoughtful self-reflection throughout the event.

For Cori Lin, a Midwest-based illustrator and designer, art has been a means of connecting with her Japanese American identity through projects such as *Yonsei*, a collection of portraits and interviews with her family members. It has also been a way to engage with a broader sense of pan-Asian solidarity. Cori's current involvement with Nikkei Uprising has allowed her to use her artwork in support of ongoing advocacy projects through Tsuru for Solidarity and Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago. This sense of community has grounded her during challenging times, providing a foundation for connecting with the energy and wisdom of past generations and channeling that into the future.



Photo courtesy of Cori Lin

*Taiko* player Emily Harada shared the history of *taiko* and its significance both for herself and the Japanese American community as a means of community-building, representation, empowerment, and resistance. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic preventing them from performing together, Emily's



Photo courtesy of Emily Harada



Photo courtesy of Sen Morimoto

*taiko* group Ho Etsu has taken time to engage in anti-racism efforts through self-reflection, financial equity, and direct advocacy. Emily showed a brief clip from her 2016 *taiko* piece, "Poston," which reflected her grandfather's incarceration experience, and shared that she is currently working on developing a protest song that can be used for rallies and marches, *bon-odori*, and stage performances.

Growing up as one of the only Asian families in Wendell, Massachusetts, multi-instrumentalist producer, rapper, and singer-songwriter Sen Morimoto shared that music was both a way for him to resist stereotypes of Asians, and later, as he began writing lyrics in Japanese, a way for him to connect with his Japanese family members and his cultural heritage.

Sen also shared his recent experience with being removed from a virtual concert series organized by the City of Chicago due to his public critique of Mayor Lori Lightfoot's response to BLM protestors. His experience illustrates the potential and power artists have when utilizing their platform for social justice, and how even something he felt was a "tame" critique can still be perceived as a large threat to those in power.



Photo courtesy of Tani Ikeda

As an LA-based filmmaker, Tani Ikeda reflected on the way that quarantining at her family home in Seattle has been an opportunity to deepen her relationship with her parents and connect her activism and organizing work with her family life. Creating collaborative Tik Tok videos with her parents has been a means of engaging in creativity, joy, and silliness together, as well as a tool for education and resistance. Tani also spoke about her current project, Japanese American Women Speak

(JAWS), which captures the experiences of Japanese American women from 1942 through the COVID-19 era. Tani's stories highlighted the ways art can be a means for finding new ways to connect and deepen relationships with those around us.

The panel was moderated by Veronica Murashige, a 2019 Kansha Project participant and a member of the current Kansha Alumni Leadership Board. This program was funded through JACL National's Legacy Fund Grants Program.

**You can follow these artists and their work:**

**Cori Lin**

[www.corilin.co/](http://www.corilin.co/)  
[www.instagram.com/cori.lin.art](https://www.instagram.com/cori.lin.art)

**Emily Harada**

[www.hoetsu.org/](http://www.hoetsu.org/)  
[www.facebook.com/hoetsutaiko](https://www.facebook.com/hoetsutaiko)  
[www.instagram.com/hoetsutaiko/](https://www.instagram.com/hoetsutaiko/)

**Sen Morimoto**

[www.instagram.com/sen\\_morimoto](https://www.instagram.com/sen_morimoto)

**Tani Ikeda**

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**LAST  
CHANCE  
FOR THE NEXT  
→ 10 ←  
YEARS!**

an event sharing the history of Japanese Americans and IU's ban.

As I went through the process of getting this apology, I reflected often on the legacies of redress. I sought out descendants of those denied admission to see what they wanted from IU. I spoke to hundreds of people who had never heard the Japanese American story before. I built coalitions with Asian American faculty, students, and alumni. I created an irrefutable report which made it impossible to argue an apology was not necessary. This was all for just one university. I cannot begin to imagine how difficult it was for *Nisei* and *Sansei* leaders to get redress passed by Congress. I am grateful for the legacy of redress for inspiring and guiding my efforts at IU. I hope that the descendants of those denied admission find solace in the apology.



Photo courtesy of Eric Langowski

ERIC LANGOWSKI IS LEADING EFFORTS ON THE NISEI COLLEGE REDRESS PROJECT (NCRP) WHICH PROMOTES RECONCILIATION BETWEEN JAPANESE AMERICANS AND THE MIDWESTERN COLLEGES WHICH BANNED THEM DURING WWII.

To learn more about the Nisei College Redress Project, you may visit our website at [www.jaclchicago.org/programs/nisei-college-redress-project](http://www.jaclchicago.org/programs/nisei-college-redress-project).

**Time is almost up for you to fill out the 2020 Census!**

We need an accurate count now, to plan for our community needs and account for proper government representation. The future of our community starts right now.

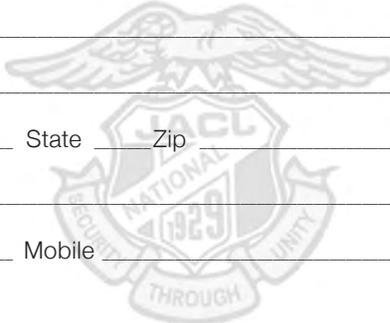
Complete the census online at [MY2020CENSUS.GOV](http://MY2020CENSUS.GOV), by phone, or by mail now.

Shape your future. Start here. Start now.

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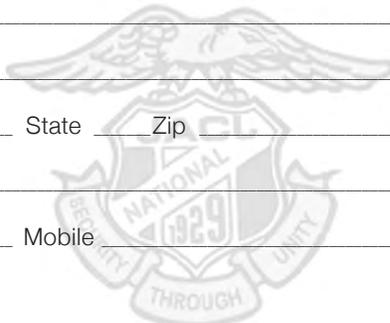
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Donation amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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# JACL

Japanese American Citizens League

## CHICAGO CHAPTER

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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

<b>Wednesday, August 15</b> 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<b>JACL Chicago Board Meeting</b>
<b>Sunday, September 6</b> 6:00pm - 7:30pm	<b>Okaeri Connects! Virtual Program</b> More information and registration: <a href="http://www.eventbrite.com/e/okaeri-connects-online-gathering-tickets-115582248617">www.eventbrite.com/e/okaeri-connects-online-gathering-tickets-115582248617</a>
<b>Wednesday, September 9</b> 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<b>JACL Chicago Board Meeting</b>
<b>September 24-29</b>	<b>JACL/OCA Virtual Leadership Summit</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 14</b> 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<b>JACL Chicago Board Meeting</b>