

2015 JACL

ANNUAL REPORT



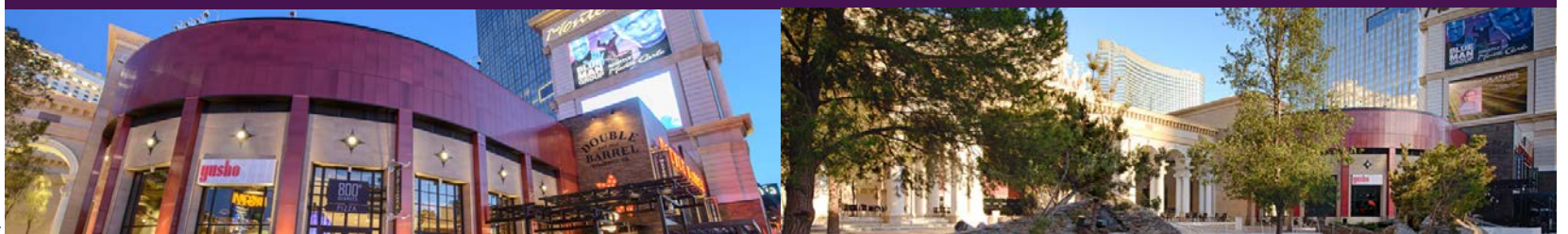
2015

JACL 2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION

JULY 11-14
LAS VEGAS
MONTE CARLO RESORT



3770 LAS VEGAS BLVD. SOUTH
LAS VEGAS, NV 89109



ABOUT

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of JACL work to promote cultural, educational and social values, and to preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

This annual report covers programs and projects of the Japanese American Citizens League from July 2014 to July 2015.

*Report compiled by Korinne Sugasawara.
Design and layout by Ryan Catabay / RN2 Creative.*



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Message from the President



It is my pleasure to share with you the 2014–2015 issue of the JACL Annual Report and I hope you will find this report to be useful and informative. We started publishing this report three years ago in an effort to enhance communications with our members, constituents, funders, and the general public. I believe that we are achieving the objective as this report highlights our successes and many of our key programs. In summary, I am proud to say that this past year was marked by many positive changes and we have made significant progress towards making JACL a stronger and a better organization.

First, I want to thank the National Council for re-electing me to the position of the National President in July 2014. It has been a great honor and privilege to serve in this capacity since July 2012 and I am grateful for placing your trust and confidence in me to lead this premier Asian American civil rights organization.

At the Japanese American Citizens League, we have come a long way since our beginning in 1929 as an organization fighting for the interests of Japanese Americans. With over 100 chapters around the country and approximately 10,000 committed members, JACL has continued to adapt to the changing social and political environment to fight for the rights of not only Japanese Americans, but for all Asian Pacific Americans and groups in need of a voice.

JACL has made great strides in the past year, both externally and internally. Within JACL, we continued to explore and develop innovative programs that would be relevant to our members; we revamped and updated our infrastructures, in the forms of both physical assets and online assets; and we examined and implemented processes to further improve our financial reporting capabilities and overall transparency.

One such initiative that I would like to highlight is the Kakehashi Program. Kakehashi is a youth exchange opportunity JACL offers with financial support provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japan Foundation. During this past year, we brought close to 100 youth in 4 groups to visit Japan. We received nothing but the most complimentary feedback on how invaluable this experience was to JACL participants. I am so pleased that JACL was selected to offer this opportunity to our youth and to further the relationship between the people of the United States and Japan. I am also delighted to report that we will not only continue, but expand, the Kakehashi Program in 2015–2016 with over 180 participants!

Externally, JACL has always been at the forefront of advancing the cause of the AAPI community through a variety of education programs and working with elected officials and other civil rights organizations on a number of initiatives. Unfortunately, we also continued to see acts of intolerance against AAPIs in politics, in media, and in our society, often based upon outdated stereotypes or general ignorance of our heritage and culture. JACL must remain vigilant in identifying and responding to such incidents not only to stand up to racial intolerance, but also to show others that we will not idly sit by when our heritage is denigrated. JACL must continue its adherence to the fundamental principles of social justice and civil rights that the organization was originally founded on, through advocating for equality and fairness for AAPIs and for all Americans.

Our national organization is run by a small team of dedicated and hard-working individuals who have made advancing JACL's mission their primary goal. Members of our National Staff and Pacific Citizen Staff are the ones who work hard on a daily basis to keep the organization moving forward and I am grateful for their hard work and commitment to JACL. At the same time, JACL is only as strong as its members, so I encourage all of you to get involved in our organization and make a difference for your chapter and your community. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as your National President and I am equally grateful to the National Board for their hard work and collaboration.

In the following pages, you will find detailed information on our national organization, regional offices, and our major accomplishments over the past year. I am extremely proud of what we have done and I know that we are capable of reaching even greater height through your hard work, dedication, and commitment to JACL. I look forward to working with all of you this coming year!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T. Lin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David T. Lin
National President

JACL District Councils

The Japanese American Citizens League consists of over 100 chapters nationwide and in Japan. These chapters are divided geographically into seven district councils, each of which is headed by a District Governor. The national organization is guided by the National Board, which consists of elected officers and District Governors.

Pacific Northwest (PNW):

Alaska	Portland	Spokane
Gresham-Troutdale	Puyallup Valley	
Olympia	Seattle	

Central California District Council (CCDC):

Clovis	Livingston-Merced	Sanger
Fowler	Parlier	Selma
Fresno	Reedley	Tulare County

Northern California/Western Nevada/Pacific (NCWNP):

Alameda	Japan	San Francisco
Berkeley	Lodi	San Jose
Contra Costa	Marin County	San Mateo
Cortez	Marysville	Sequoia
Diablo Valley	Monterey	Silicon Valley
Eden Township	Peninsula	Sonoma County
Florin	Placer County	Stockton
Fremont	Reno	Watsonville-
French Camp	Sacramento	Santa Cruz
Gilroy	Salinas Valley	West Valley
Golden Gate	San Benito	
Honolulu	County	

Intermountain District Council (IDC):

Boise Valley	Mount Olympus	Snake River Valley
Fort Lupton	Pocatello-Blackfoot	Wasatch Front North
Idaho Falls	Salt Lake City	
Mile High		

Midwest District Council (MDC):

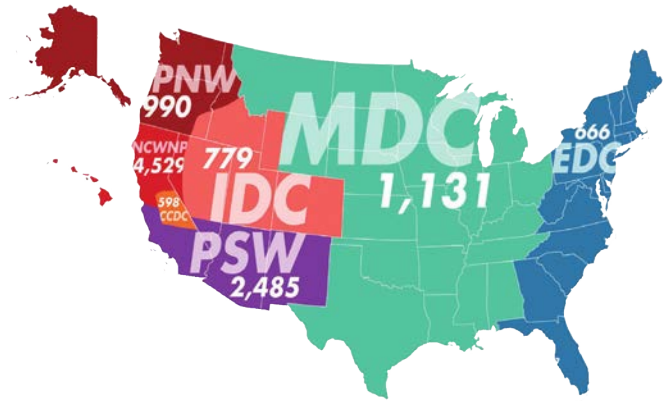
API Gulf Coast	Cleveland	Hoosier	St. Louis
Chicago	Dayton	Houston	Twin Cities
Cincinnati	Detroit	Omaha	Wisconsin

Pacific Southwest District Council (PSW):

APAN	Las Vegas	San Gabriel Valley
API Lambda	Marina-SCAN	San Luis Obispo
Arizona	New Mexico	Santa Barbara
Downtown Los Angeles	Orange County	Santa Maria
East Los Angeles	Pasadena	Selanoco
Greater LA	Progressive Westside	South Bay
Greater Pasadena	Riverside	Torrance
High Desert	San Diego	Venice-Culver City
Hollywood	San Fernando	Ventura County
Imperial Valley	Valley	West Los Angeles

Eastern District Council (EDC):

New England	Philadelphia	Southeast
New York	Seabrook	Washington, D.C.



*Approximate number of members for each district



Vision

Aware of our responsibilities as the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization, JACL strives to promote a world that honors diversity by respecting values of fairness, equality, and social justice.

F A I R N E S S | E Q U A L I T Y | S O C I A L J U S T I C E

Mission

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of JACL work to promote cultural, educational and social values, and to preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.



Contact Us

For more information about JACL programs and membership, please visit www.JACL.org or contact one of our regional offices:

National JACL Headquarters

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San Francisco, CA 94115

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5415 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60640

Phone (773) 728-7170
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Northern California / Western Nevada / Pacific Regional Office

1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

Phone (415) 345-1075

Pacific Northwest Regional Office

671 South Jackson Street, #206
Seattle, WA 98104

Phone (206) 623-5088
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Pacific Southwest Regional Office

244 South San Pedro Street, #507
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone (213) 626-4471

Washington, D.C. Office

1629 K Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006

Phone (202) 223-1240

Our National Organization

For more than 80 years, JACL has been at the forefront in championing the fight against racism and discrimination. Founded in 1929, JACL continues to address emerging civil rights issues. JACL is a contemporary organization with a rich history and pursues the ongoing mission of promoting social justice and diversity.

National Board Members



- [David Lin](#)
President
- [Matthew Farrells](#)
Secretary/Treasurer
- [Jeffrey Moy](#)
VP Public Affairs
- [Toshi Abe](#)
VP Membership
- [Miko Sawamura](#)
VP General Operations
- [Chip Larouche](#)
VP Planning and Development
- [Janet Kamoto](#)
IDC District Governor
- [David Unruhe](#)
NCWNP District Governor
- [David Kawamoto](#)
PSW District Governor
- [Colleen Morimoto](#)
Midwest District Governor
- [Sheldon Arakaki](#)
PNW District Governor
- [Michelle Amano](#)
EDC District Governor
- [Roberta Barton](#)
CCDC District Governor
- [Nicole Gaddie](#)
National Youth Chair
- [Kenji Kuramitsu](#)
National Youth Representative
- [Brandon Mita](#)
Legal Counsel
- [Carol Kawamoto](#)
Pacific Citizen Editorial Board

National Staff

- [Priscilla Ouchida](#)
Executive Director
- [Bill Yoshino](#)
Midwest Regional Director
- [Patty Wada](#)
Northern California
Western Nevada
Pacific Regional Director
- [Vacant](#)
Pacific Northwest
Regional Director
- [Stephanie Nitahara](#)
Pacific Southwest
Regional Director
- [Matthew Walters](#)
Business Manager
- [Christine Munteanu](#)
Assistant Program Director
- [Mariko Fujimoto](#)
Membership Coordinator
- [Mei Kuang](#)
Bookkeeper
- [Tomiko Ismail](#)
Membership/Data Entry
- [Merissa Nakamura](#)
Norman Y. Mineta Fellow
- [Emil Trinidad](#)
Daniel K. Inouye Fellow

Defamation

JACL monitors and responds to incidents of defamation and hate crimes that occur throughout the United States. JACL co-chairs the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition (APAMC) and serves on the executive committees of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR) and the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA).

JACL responded to a number of incidents in 2014-2015, including:

- JACL responded to remarks by Justice Clarence Thomas in the Obergefell v. Hodges same-sex marriage decision where he commented on notions of dignity by saying that those held in internment camps did not lose their dignity. Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida responded that the internment was “tantamount to the destruction of a community, a culture and an American system of constitutional protections... There is no dignity in inequality.”

“It is clear that Asian Pacific Americans benefit from affirmative action.”

- JACL reiterated its position that the Department of Homeland Security end the family detention program for women and children seeking asylum in the U.S. JACL condemned the building of new facilities at Dilley and Karnes in south Texas, which resemble the WWII-era camps for Japanese Americans. In its statement, JACL said, “Karnes, Dilley, and Artesia must not be remembered as we remember Manzanar, Heart Mountain, and Tule Lake.”

- JACL issued a statement on the Ferguson, Missouri decision in the death of Michael Brown saying that, “JACL is deeply troubled by the grand jury’s failure to indict Officer Darren Wilson... We support those who are working tirelessly to reform a broken system.” The statement went on to explain that the legal system often rationalizes police brutality and fails to value black and brown lives.
- JACL issued a statement about the HBO series from Australia, *Jonah from Tonga*, in which a white actor in brown makeup and wig depicts Jonah, a young Tongan teen. Numerous scenes in the series mocked or misrepresented Tongan culture and customs. The series was eventually dropped.
- JACL issued a statement chiding General Wesley Clark for suggesting internment camps for “radicalized” individuals. In its statement, JACL said, “The threat of terrorism is real, but we must remain circumspect about the responses we pursue. The apology to Japanese Americans says that we owe it to ourselves, to our own sense of honor that we do not go down a path that jeopardizes the rights of Americans.”
- JACL issued a statement on affirmative action in response to a lawsuit filed against Harvard University by a group called Students for Fair Admissions. JACL reiterated its support for affirmative action, saying “It is clear that Asian Pacific Americans benefit from affirmative action. Portions of the Asian Pacific American population, including Southeast Asians, Pacific Islanders, and recent immigrants, experience significant educational disparities and benefit from race-conscious admissions policies that account for the unique obstacles faced by these groups.”

Court Cases

JACL signed onto the following amicus briefs during July 2014–July 2015:

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project (U.S. Supreme Court, 2014)

This case focused on Dallas, Texas, where over a period of years a housing agency reinforced residential segregation by consistently approving affordable housing only in African American neighborhoods. The U.S. Supreme Court reviewed a key provision of the Fair Housing Act questioning whether it prohibits unjustified practices that disproportionately exclude or harm people based on race, ethnicity, religion, family status, or other characteristics covered by the standard of “disparate impact.” JACL joined an amicus brief filed by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights on behalf of a coalition of organizations. The brief provided evidence supporting the arguments that segregation continues to generate social harms whereas integration conveys benefits that accrue both to individuals and to society.

Obergefell v. Hodges; Tanco v. Haslam; Deboer v. Snyder; and Bourke v. Beshear (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015)

These cases challenge state constitutional amendments in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee that define marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. JACL joined a coalition signing onto an amicus brief filed by ADL that recounts how the U.S. Supreme Court has long rejected the argument that religious and moral disapproval can be used to justify discriminatory laws targeting disadvantaged groups.

Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Craig (Colorado Court of Appeals, 2015)

The complainants in this case, a gay couple, were denied the opportunity to order a cake for their wedding reception. The Colorado Civil Rights Division held that this constituted sexual orientation discrimination in violation of the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, a finding upheld by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. Masterpiece Cakeshop appealed the Commission’s ruling to the Colorado Court of Appeals, arguing that enforcing the nondiscrimination law was unconstitutional under the Free Exercise Clause and the compelled speech doctrine. JACL joined an amicus brief submitted by ADL urging the court to affirm the Commission’s decision and reject arguments that religious or moral disapproval is a legitimate basis for discrimination.

Conde-Vidal v. Armendariz (1st Cir., 2015)

This case challenged Puerto Rico’s marriage ban, a state constitutional amendment that defines marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. JACL joined an amicus brief filed by ADL arguing that overturning the marriage ban would not only ensure that religious considerations do not influence which marriages the state can recognize, but would also allow religious groups to decide the definition of marriage for themselves.

Brenner v. Armstrong (11th Cir., 2014); DeLeon v. Perry (5th Cir., 2014); Wolf v. Walker (7th Cir., 2014); Baskin v. Bogan (7th Cir., 2014); Henry v. Himes (6th Cir., 2014)

These cases challenged state constitutional amendments in Florida, Indiana, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin, which defined marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. The JACL joined amicus briefs filed by ADL on behalf of a coalition of 25 organizations arguing that overturning these marriage bans would ensure that religious considerations do not improperly influence which marriages these states can recognize.

Latta v. Otter (9th Cir., 2014)

This case challenged Idaho’s marriage ban. ADL filed a brief on behalf of a coalition of 23 organizations, including JACL, arguing that overturning the marriage ban would not only ensure that religious considerations do not improperly influence which marriages that state can recognize, but would also allow religious groups to decide the definition of marriage for themselves.

Texas v. U.S. (5th Cir., 2015)

JACL and more than 150 organizations joined an amicus brief filed by the American Immigration Council that provided powerful stories on the potential DACA expansion as well as DAPA beneficiaries. This brief attempted to demonstrate to the court that aspiring Americans who may be eligible for these initiatives are entrepreneurs, community leaders, and individuals committed to ensuring their families’ well being and to improving their communities.

Bahlul v. U.S. (D.C. Cir. 2014)

In light of JACL’s history and the incarceration experience during World War II, JACL and several other AAPI organizations filed an amicus brief contesting the use of military tribunals on non-citizens and urged the court to apply a strict scrutiny level of review for the Military Commissions Act.

2015 JAACL/OCA D.C. Leadership Summit

JACL and OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates partner every year to co-direct the JACL/OCA leadership summit in Washington, D.C., an intensive three-day civil rights and advocacy seminar that introduces emerging Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) leaders to public policy advocacy strategies.

"I forged friendships with not only JACL representatives from all over the U.S. but also fellow OCA leaders who forced me to think outside of the Japanese-American mindset and to unite forces toward similar goals as Asian Americans living in the States. I came back from the Leadership Summit renewed and energized for the advancement of social justice."

— Genta Iwasaki

"I walked away with a better understanding of issues many Asian Americans face daily, the importance of building advocacy with elected officials, and a deeper commitment on my part to achieving equality for our communities."

— Gregg Oshita

"The summit was inspiring and motivating. Not only did I meet incredibly passionate people that I now call my friends, I also became more aware of the issues that are important to me. I'm excited to share what I learned with my colleagues in Salt Lake City!"

— Nicole Gaddie

In 2015, twenty-six participants from across the nation visited Congressional offices to advocate for education and immigration policies relevant to the AAPI community. They also met with former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, attended a White House briefing with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) staff, ate dinner with Doua Thor, Senior Advisor of WHIAAPI, and took part in a speaker series with Representatives Mark Takano and Mike Honda.



Internships and Fellowships



College students and recent graduates have the opportunity to work in the areas of public service, public policy, and advocacy via JACL internships and fellowships in Washington, D.C. Fellows and Interns in the JACL Washington, D.C. office work on a wide variety of policy issues, advocacy efforts, and JACL National programs and projects. The Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship provides Fellows with the unique opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the policy-making process as members of a Congressional staff.

Kelly Honda

Mike M. Masaoka Fellow

Craig Shimizu

Daniel K. Inouye Fellow

Korinne Suagasawara

Norman Y. Mineta Fellow

Theo Bickel, Grace Kim

OCA Interns

“During my time as the Norman Y. Mineta fellow, I had the opportunity to work on various high-level projects, including co-directing a three-day leadership summit for emerging AAPI leaders, taking part in direct advocacy efforts with members of Congress around immigration reform and K-12 education, and creating the first ever LGBTQ plenary for the 2015 JACL Convention. The fellowship was a great learning experience.”

- Korinne Sugawara

“Serving as the JACL Daniel K. Inouye Fellow was an incredible experience. To work in a place as dynamic as Washington, D.C. and have a voice on some of the most important issues of our day was a life-changing opportunity. This fellowship has empowered me to be a more active and vigilant member of my community and has inspired me to become a more engaged citizen.”

- Craig Shimizu

“My internship at JACL has not only taught me valuable professional work skills, but also about the painful history of the Japanese-Americans during World War II and the numerous issues that still affect the AAPI community today. I believe that the knowledge I’ve received through this internship has broadened my horizons as well as strengthened my resolve to work in a non-profit.”

- Grace Kim

Campus Outreach

JACL’s Campus Outreach Program visits campuses nationwide to present workshops on topics of interest to young Asian Americans. In 2015, JACL presented a workshop on Multiracial Identity at the Midwest Asian American Student Union Conference (MAASU) at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. A workshop on anti-Asian sentiment, titled “When Hate Hits You” was presented to students at Creighton University as part of a Day of Remembrance commemoration.

Bridging Communities



The Bridging Communities Program brings together high school students from the Japanese American and Muslim American communities to foster a better understanding of the consequences of intolerance and the need for strong community partnerships. Students in Bridging Communities examine the similarities between the WWII incarceration experience of Japanese Americans and the post-9/11 experience of Muslim Americans by visiting Japanese American incarceration camps and satellite sites. Bridging Communities is funded in part by the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

Sixteen students traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas, as part of the 2015 Bridging Communities program. They learned of the struggles faced by African Americans at Little Rock Central High National Historic Site, where nine courageous African American students enrolled in the newly integrated school. Afterwards, students viewed artifacts made by incarcerated Japanese Americans at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies and heard the story of Richard Yada, a Rohwer incarcerree and resident of Little Rock. Finally, participants explored the site of Rohwer Relocation Center outside of McGehee, Arkansas.

Teacher Training Program



JACL conducts teacher-training workshops to promote the inclusion of the Japanese American experience in classrooms, museum exhibits, and community based programs. In 2015, through the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program, JACL conducted teacher-training workshops in Phoenix, Arizona; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Houston, Texas; and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. Two additional workshops are scheduled for 2015 in Boston, Massachusetts and Salt Lake City, Utah.

JACL Legacy Fund Grants

Established in 1990 by JACL's National Council, the Legacy Fund provides grants up to \$3000 for projects or activities that support the organization's Program for Action. Funding for the grants are provided by revenues from the approximately \$5,000,000 donated to the Legacy Fund by individuals who were incarcerated in the World War II camps.

In 2015, a record number of fourteen projects were awarded grants to increase youth participation, foster collaboration with diverse community groups, and build broader awareness of and appreciation for Japanese American contributions at the local, district and national levels. Awards were presented at the 2015 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

- The Chicago Chapter will create the Kansha Project Alumni Leadership Board in order to enable Kansha Youth Alumni to assume leadership of the program.
- The Cincinnati Chapter seeks to educate the Butler County youth about the contribution and history of Japanese Americans through literacy and the arts.
- The New England Chapter's project, entitled Bend, features a solo multimedia performance piece for colleges and universities that tells the true story of two Japanese American men who were incarcerated in camp during World War II.
- The New Mexico Chapter will support the translation of the recently uncovered Santa Fe internee scrap album and correspondence, and also the translation of the Lordsburg prisoners' diary.
- The New York City Chapter's Japanese American Oral History Project will focus on unique stories of Nisei and Sansei regarding the New York City Redress and Reparations movement.
- The JACL National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) will engage with JACL youth and young professionals nationwide, support District Youth Representatives, and increase the visibility of the NY/SC in all JACL Districts through a series of NY/SC retreats.
- The Philadelphia Chapter is supporting Good Luck Soup Interactive, a virtual community and interactive website that highlights the Japanese American and Japanese Canadian post-WWII experience.
- The Pacific Southwest District Council's project will strive to provide a positive and inclusive experience for 15 Japanese American college students who identify as LGBTQ and are allies for LGBTQ justice.
- The Puyallup Valley Chapter will focus on improving the chapter's operational infrastructure by supporting the development of technological communication and providing training to sustain it.
- The San Diego Chapter will support a documentary, Never Forget, which commemorates the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII and focuses on the veterans of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service. The chapter will also revive its annual Gala.
- The Seattle Chapter will create a well-designed website which will enhance marketing and communication for the Chapter.
- The Snake River Chapter's arbor structure will provide vital shade in the rehabilitation of the second largest Japanese garden in Oregon.
- The Washington D.C. Chapter will engage community members in the maintenance of the National Japanese American Memorial and will educate them about the history of the Memorial and the Japanese American experience.

Civic Engagement Program



JACL launched a campaign to increase civic engagement among Japanese American and under-represented AAPI communities. JACL partnered with Asian Resources Inc. and My Sisters House to organize the JACL Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Campaign in Sacramento County, California. Students made over 42,000 phone calls to Sacramento residents encouraging local Japanese, Vietnamese, South Indian, Hmong, and Laotian voters to participate in the 2014 midterm elections. Additionally, all JACL members were called in an effort to encourage full voter turnout for the elections and provide resources to assist in the voter registration process.

JACL partnered with Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote) during the 2015 Convention to provide workshops on increasing civic engagement. More than 125 JACL representatives from over forty-five chapters participated in presentations on voter mobilization, campaign plan development, and effective voter registration programs.

Kakehashi



In 2014, JACL sent eighty-five Japanese American undergraduate and graduate students to Japan through the JACL Kakehashi Project, hosted by the Japan Foundation. Participants traveled to Japan in May, July, and October, exploring cities and taking part in various cultural activities to facilitate cross-cultural understanding. Kakehashi participants also met with Japanese professors, students, and business and political leaders to learn about U.S.-Japan relations.



At the 2015 Convention in Las Vegas, Minister Tamaki Tsukada of the Embassy of Japan announced that the JACL Kakehashi Project would be made an annual program. Minister Tsukada also announced that the total number of participants would increase to 185, and opened the program to non-Japanese Asian Americans. In 2015, JACL will be coordinating seven nine-day trips with the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) in the winter of 2015 and spring of 2016.

Historic Preservation

JACL works to preserve the heritage and legacy of Japanese Americans and to ensure that the diverse experiences of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities are included in American history.

- JACL opposed the auctioning of over 450 crafts and artifacts made by incarcerated Japanese Americans by Rago Auction House. Rago had acquired the historic artifacts from a descendant of Allen H. Eaton, a folk art expert who opposed the wartime incarceration. Families had donated the items to Eaton with the mutual understanding that the items would be for public educational purposes. Due to strong community outcry, the artifacts were withdrawn from public auction.
- JACL advocated on Capitol Hill for the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program, which provides funds to preserve and interpret World War II Japanese American incarceration camps. Thirty-eight members of Congress signed onto letters in support of securing over \$2.9 million in funding for the JACS Grant Program.
- JACL protested the filming of a reality television show, “Diggers,” at Rohwer in Arkansas, the site of a World War II Japanese American incarceration camp. The show features hosts who excavate historic sites in search of artifacts and valuables. JACL expressed concern in letters to Half Yard Productions Company and Mayor-Elect Jeff Owyong of McGehee, Arkansas. Subsequently, JACL received word from Half Yard Productions that they would not be filming “Diggers” at Rohwer.
- JACL is a member of the All Camps Consortium, which brings together a number of leaders representing the World War II incarceration sites, as well as community stakeholders working to preserve and interpret the Japanese American incarceration experience. JACL attended a number of All Camps meetings in Washington, D.C. in 2015 to strengthen these relationships and build capacity through the sharing of resources, information, and best practices.

National Youth/Student Council

The National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) is composed of dedicated students and young professionals from each of JACL's seven districts. The mission of the NY/SC is to raise awareness of AAPI issues and to engage and develop young leaders who create positive community change. The NY/SC envisions a national network of collaborative young leaders and allies with the collective power and passion to make change happen.

The NY/SC plans and implements several Youth Leadership Summits throughout the year with sponsorship from State Farm and Southwest Airlines. These summits provide educational opportunities for young people to grow their skill sets and learn about new advocacy issues. Held in Clovis, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Washington, D.C.; and Seattle, WA. Topics ranged from the LGBTQ Asian American community, racial stereotypes, networking, and inter-communal racial identity.

NY/SC Youth Delegates Kota Mizutani and Kenji Kuramitsu traveled to Selma to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 voting rights demonstrations, to continue the fight for racial equality. The NY/SC sponsored a resolution at the 2015 National Convention calling upon JACL to support House Resolution 40, which proposes studying the effects of slavery on the African American community.



NY/SC MEMBERS:

Nicole Gaddie
National Youth Chair

Michelle Yamashiro
National Youth Representative

Macy Elliott
CCDC Youth Representative

Kota Mizutani
EDC Youth Representative

Charles Aoki
IDC Youth Representative

Nathan Iwamoto Fukumitsu
IDC Youth Representative

Michaela Ishino
IDC Youth Representative

Remy Hidaka
MDC Youth Representative

Kenji Kuramitsu
MDC Youth Representative

Michelle Huey
NCWNP Youth Representative

Beth Uno
NCWNP Youth Representative

Sarah Baker
PNW Youth Representative

Kristy Ishii
PSW Youth Representative

Mary Coomes
Member-At-Large

Kurt Ikeda
Member-At-Large

Emi Lea Kamemoto
Member-At-Large

Art of Gaman

JACL celebrated the final installment of the JACL-sponsored national tour of The Art of Gaman in Houston, Texas. The Art of Gaman features over 120 artifacts made by Japanese Americans while incarcerated during World War II and has been viewed by over half a million people in the United States and Japan. Curated by Delphine Hirasuna, the collection ranges from tools, artwork, photographs, and furniture and invites viewers to explore the Japanese concept of gaman, “to endure the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity.”

JACL and AARP sponsored an opening program for The Art of Gaman at the Holocaust Museum Houston in Houston, Texas on February 3, 2015. The reception featured a screening of ABC7 Los Angeles news anchor David Ono’s Emmy-winning documentary, *The Legacy of Heart Mountain*. The Art of Gaman will be on display in Houston until September 20, 2015.



Day of Remembrance



JACL and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History hosted 300 people for the 2015 Day of Remembrance, featuring a screening of ABC7 Los Angeles news anchor David Ono’s Emmy Award winning documentary, *The Legacy of Heart Mountain*. A panel discussion followed and the event concluded with a spoken word performance by G. Yamazawa, the 2014 National Poetry Slam Champion. Day of Remembrance is observed on February 19th, the date President Roosevelt authorized the incarceration of 110,000 Japanese Americans by signing Executive Order 9066 in 1942.

Voting Rights Act Rally



JACL partnered with The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights to advocate for the restoration of the Voting Rights Act. JACL visited over twenty Congressional offices in support of restoring voter protections weakened by the 2013 United States Supreme Court decision *Shelby v. Holder*. JACL marched for these key provisions in 1965, and the passage of the historic Voting Rights Act enfranchised minorities across the United States.

JACL joined over 300 people from more than 25 community and civil rights organizations in Roanoke, Virginia, calling for Representative Bob Goodlatte, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to hold a hearing on restoring the Voting Rights Act.

Honouliuli

JACL started a process in 2005 to make Honouliuli, the largest and longest used World War II incarceration site in Hawaii, part of the National Park Service. JACL met with the Director of the National Park Service Johnathan B. Jarvis, members of Congress, and other government officials on a number of occasions to inform them of Honouliuli's historic and cultural significance.

JACL passed a resolution in 2011 supporting a special resource study to review Honouliuli for inclusion into the National Park system. Members from the Honolulu JACL and Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) visited officials in Washington D.C. in December 2014 to deliver petitions with over 6,000 signatures to support designating Honouliuli as a National Historic Monument. JACL participated in both the historic Oval Office bill signing and dedication ceremonies designating Honouliuli as a National Historic Monument in March 2015.



2015 JACL Convention



JACL held its 46th National Convention on July 13-15, 2015, in Las Vegas, Nevada with over 250 people in attendance.

Delegates passed four resolutions, including one sponsored by the NY/SC supporting House Resolution 40. The resolution calls for Congress to establish a commission to study the institution of slavery in the United States and make recommendations on appropriate remedies. JACL is the first membership-based Asian American civil rights organization to support House Resolution 40.

JACL continued its support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) community with the passage of an emergency resolution calling upon JACL to be an ally to the transgender community. Other resolutions passed recognized the leadership and service

of Mike Masaoka to the Japanese American community, and honored the importance of artifacts created by incarcerated Japanese Americans during WWII.

The Convention featured two plenary sessions on relevant current issues: a LGBTQ plenary that shared the personal experiences of a multigenerational, multi-ethnic panel from the Asian American LGBTQ community and presentation from AARP on livable communities. Chapters participating in the Civic Engagement Campaign attended training sessions by Asian & Pacific Islander Americans Vote (AAPI Vote) on the importance of voting for Asian American and Pacific Islanders and effective voter registration campaign tactics.

Highlights of the 2015 Convention included a youth mixer and Kakehashi reunion to promote youth engagement, and an exclusive screening of the animated film Minions.

Prime Minister Abe Visit



JACL members participated in a number of events commemorating the first official state visit of the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe, to the United States. Over one hundred JACL members welcomed the Prime Minister at the official White House State Arrival Ceremony, where President Obama and Prime Minister Abe delivered speeches highlighting the deep friendship between Japan and the United States.

JACL participated in events and meetings with the Prime Minister in Boston, MA; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco and Los Angeles, CA. and witnessed Prime Minister Abe's historic address to a joint session of Congress. JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida attended the official State Dinner with President Obama and Prime Minister Abe.

Selma



“We consist of multiple generations and intersectional Japanese American identities brought together to remember, reflect, and continue the legacy of the Civil Rights March fifty years ago... Our remarkable encounters prepared us for both the reenactment of the 1965 March and for the immense responsibility that we must carry in order to realize the dream of these early heroes. In the many tomorrows to come, we will continue to march in solidarity for justice and racial equality. The trip to Selma was transformative, embedding in us a legacy of the struggles of the past and its impact on the journey to the future.”

— Kota Mizutani and Kenji Kuramitsu



JACL made history in March 2015 when a JACL delegation traveled to Selma, AL to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 demonstrations that led to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act. The JACL delegation brought together a multigenerational group, including Todd Endo, who participated in daily marches to the courthouse in 1965 to push for racial equality and the right to vote.

On the 50th anniversary of the historic march across Pettus Bridge, Kota Mizutani and Kenji Kuramitsu joined Todd Endo and a torch was passed from one generation to another. The JACL delegation then joined a contingent of over 70,000 people for the reenactment of the Pettus Bridge crossing.

Scholarship Programs

In 2014, JACL awarded \$67,500 in scholarships to twenty-eight deserving student members. Established in 1946, the program offers scholarships for college freshmen, undergraduate and graduate students as well as scholarships for law, creative and performing arts students, and those in financial need.

JACL established a U.S.-Japan Scholarship in partnership with Meiji Gakuin University (MGU) in Tokyo, Japan, which provides for an American college student to study abroad at MGU for two years.

Scholarships: 2014 Recipients

JACL offers scholarships for college freshmen, undergraduate and graduate students as well as scholarships for law, creative and performing arts students, and those in financial need.

2014 Freshman Scholarship Awards:

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship — Colvin Endo, Philadelphia JACL

Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship — Emily Isakari, French Camp JACL

Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship — Allysha Yasuda, Snake River Valley JACL

Mr. & Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship — Daniel Souza, Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL

CWO 4 Mitsugi Murakami Kasai (Ret) Memorial Scholarship — Marisa Eng, Mt. Olympus JACL

Shigeki “Shake” Ushio Memorial Scholarship — Eric Langowski, Hoosier JACL

Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship — Kayla Umemoto, Sacramento JACL

Sam & Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship — Sydney Kajioka, Sacramento JACL

Sam & Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship — Seth Karpel, Philadelphia JACL

Deni & June Uejima Memorial Scholarship — Megan Ingram, Puyallup Valley JACL

Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship — Kelli Tademaru, Venice Culver JACL

“Thirty years ago, my mother wrote an essay for this scholarship about her mother’s (my grandmother’s) experiences following the Executive Order 9066 declaration. With the incarceration, perceived differences were amplified and exaggerated at great expense to my grandmother’s generation, whether it was those who served in the military (442nd and 100th battalion) or lost their livelihoods at home. This history of JACL as advocates for the rights of Japanese Americans was inherent on the perception by policy makers that they were somehow a distinct threat to the general populace. Thankfully, now, the lives of Japanese Americans and their families have improved from this history due to a JACL that has provided the path to challenge their constitutional rights for a ‘greater America,’ has an unrelenting commitment to inclusivity and represents the bridge between the Japanese and non-Japanese JACL members.”

- *Eric Langowski*
Shigeki ‘Shake’ Ushio Memorial Scholarship Recipient

2014 Scholarship Awards: Undergrads, Grads, Law, Arts, Student Aid

UNDERGRADUATE

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship — Hana Yamahiro, Wisconsin JACL

Shigeru “Shig” Nakahira Memorial Scholarship — Marisa Kanemitsu, South Bay JACL

Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship — Megan Iritani, Mile High JACL

Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Scholarship — Kristen Yang, Chicago JACL

Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship — Tsukumo Tina Niwa, New York JACL

Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship — Nicole Hamasaki, Torrance JACL

Kyutaro & Yasuo Abiko Memorial Scholarship — Garrett Sano, Fresno JACL

GRADUATE

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship — Suzuho Shimasaki, Mile High JACL

Rev. H. John Yamashita Memorial Scholarship — Elizabeth Uno, Florin JACL

Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship — Christine Munteanu, Chicago JACL

Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda Memorial Scholarship — Kimiko Agari, Stockton JACL

Magoichi & Shizuko Kato Memorial Scholarship — Peter Yamamura, Seattle JACL



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