

2016 JACL ANNUAL REPORT



2016

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This annual report covers programs and projects of the Japanese American Citizens League from 2016

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to share with you the JACL Annual Report for 2016. This report is filled with the many initiatives and programs that illustrate the collaborative efforts of our amazing organization. Collectively, our programs reach people from every time zone from the eastern to the western parts of the U.S. Since 2011, this report is an ongoing annual endeavor to better inform our members, funders and many supporters of the vision of JACL and how we achieve that through the programs we pursue.

Our staff is the engine of our organization and the membership is the emotional core. Many of the programs are jointly organized with both staff and members working together to achieve success. Without our many funders and supporters, we could not achieve our mission.

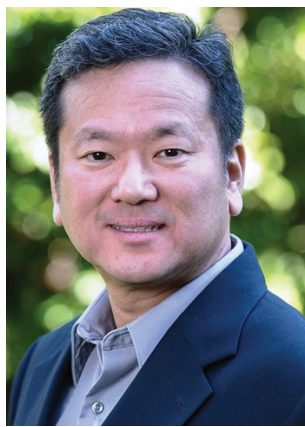
Newly elected in July, I am grateful to the National Council for extending to me both their trust and support to lead the National JACL. With the heart and skills of the National Board and the National Staff, I am confident that we, as a team, shall continue to propel JACL to be a premier Asian Pacific American civil and human rights organization.

The JACL has many attributes that earn us our standing in the national arena. Formed in 1929, the JACL has continuously fought "...to secure and safeguard the civil and human rights of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and all communities that are affected by injustice and bigotry," as we proudly proclaim in our mission and vision statements. With over 100 chapters across the country and nearly 8,000 devoted members, the JACL continues to evolve and adapt to the changing social climates that affect our way of life, and strives to protect our rights in the greater fabric of Asian Pacific Americans.

Over the past decades, the JACL has programs that have evolved and grown over the years, such as the JACL-OCA Washington DC Leadership Summit. This program was initially a stand-alone JACL program and became a joint program with OCA in 1994, of which I am a proud graduate. This premier leadership summit takes the best and brightest individuals from every JACL district and our National Youth/Student Council and gives them an up-close experience of how to engage in public policy and foster personal connections with elected congressional representatives. This program is a key pipeline through which young professionals are inspired to make a difference in society by exercising their newly acquired leadership skills.

In organizational operations, the physical and online assets were restructured to allow for easier and timely reporting to our members. We intend to further these improvements with a Financial Oversight Committee made up of financial and management experts to assist the National Board with the ever-changing financial conditions that face the organization.

With the financial support of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE), we have managed the Kakehashi Program, a very successful youth exchange program. Organized in four group trips to Japan, we have taken nearly 200 youth to Japan to experience their cultural heritage and learn about Japan society and politics. The JACL was asked and entrusted by MOFA to manage this program and we are honored by the opportunity to do so.



The AAPI communities have seen a rise in xenophobia, and JACL is there to educate and state how such acts and policies adversely affect us. Social media is a wonderful platform to express and exchange ideas at light speed, but we have also found that hate and misinformation are also disseminated as well. It has become another area that we must monitor and respond to accordingly.

Teaching tolerance is a never-ending endeavor, and even though our relationship with many elected officials and other civil rights organizations remains strong, the continued battle for equality and social justice remains a daunting one. The challenge to JACL has never been greater in recent years and we must rise to this challenge with the strength and courage to do what is right and do what is best for our communities.

Our National JACL staff is an amazing team of 7 individuals across the US. They are dedicated to the mission of the JACL and serve our members well. The team at the Pacific Citizen continues to publish an award-winning newspaper, along with a digital online version that now includes color photos. The future holds the possibility of additional features such as interactive click-thru stories that only a digital version can accomplish. This is an area where growth potential exists and the PC staff is hard at work exploring those opportunities.

Our Fellowship Program has brought us outstanding young individuals who continue to inspire us with their energy and enthusiasm. You may have met them at our convention this past summer. They work tirelessly on many JACL projects and put in long hours, all the while learning valuable leadership and management skills. I've bumped into a few of them in Washington DC and, the Fellows, as we call them, shall become our future leaders within the DC beltway.

Following the recent elections and talk of creating a registry for Muslims in the U.S., the JACL experienced an uptick in new members, as did many other civil rights organizations. Could this be 1942 all over again? Such a suggestion struck a nerve too close to home for Japanese Americans. Other civil rights organizations also spoke out in solidarity. The call to defend the civil rights of all Americans will not go unanswered, as we continue to keep a close watch on this development. This underscores the critical need for JACL to further educate the public and make sure that our stories are in every curriculum guide and taught in every school in America. We have much work ahead of us.

It is an honor to serve as your National President and to have an enthusiastic and talented National Board that is committed to the cause of civil rights.

In this annual report, you will find information that details the programs of our organization and our key accomplishments of the past year. These are the facts, but the heart and soul are to be found in every staff person and every member you meet. From the chapter scholarship awards to the chicken teriyaki dinners and the educational rallies, you will find unwavering dedication to the JACL. Thank you, and I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Gary Mayeda
National President

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CRAIG SHIMIZU, Mike M. Masaoka Fellow

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Founded in 1929, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the nation's oldest and largest organization serving Asian Pacific Americans in the areas of civil rights, cultural preservation and education.

For 87 years, the JACL has championed the rights of all to be free from racism and discrimination, implemented strategies to effect positive social change, particularly for the Asian Pacific American community, provided opportunities for youth to understand and appreciate their cultural heritage and identity, and worked with educators and students to share the history, stories and lessons of our place in America.

The organization has five offices and 104 chapters across the nation.

For more information about the JACL, its services and programs, please visit www.JACL.org or contact one of our offices.

JACL VISION

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

JACL 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 the JACL work to promote cultural, educational and social values, and to preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

DEFAMATION AND HATE

The JACL monitors and responds to acts of hate and defamation that occur across the country. The following are incidents that took place in 2016:

- **STATEMENT ON THE CASE OF A NEW YORK POLICE OFFICER**

“JACL has always stood with those working to create institutional change. In the case of the tragic death of Akai Gurley, we support justice for Gurley, as well as a fair and just judicial process for former New York police officer Peter Liang. Liang’s conviction demonstrates how structural racism can pit communities of color against each other. There are no winners in a case like this. We must acknowledge that the justice system does not treat everyone equally, that an implicit racial bias disadvantages the majority of those who go through it, and that we must continue having uncomfortable conversations about race to face the reality of the country we live in.”

- **SYRIAN REFUGEES**

JACL issued a statement in the wake of calls by state governors and other officials to close their borders to Syrian refugees. JACL stated, “The United States has always been a sanctuary of freedom and opportunity for immigrants fleeing oppression and seeking a better life. Today, in the face of threats to our national security, the United States must lead with its values and ideals. We must not succumb to impulses motivated by fear. JACL unambiguously supports a program that allows for the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the United States.”

- **HOLLYWOOD RACISM**

JACL issued a statement on racism in Hollywood in response to situations where white actors were selected to play roles of Asian characters in upcoming movies. Scarlett Johansson was set to play a Japanese cyborg named Major Motoko Kusanagi

in a DreamWorks film adaptation of Ghost in the Shell, and Tilda Swinton is playing a Tibetan sorcerer, the Ancient One, in Marvel’s upcoming Doctor Strange film. JACL stated that “these casting decisions perpetuate the practice of whitewashing roles from original material that features Asians as lead characters. JACL opposes these casting decisions because it contributes to the exclusion of Asian Americans and Asian American narratives from mainstream media.”

- **SHOOTING DEATHS OF ALTON STERLING AND PHILANDO CASTILE**

JACL responded to the shooting deaths of two black men by indicating that it again raised the specter “of a society that continues to devalue black and brown lives. Alton Sterling, a black man, was killed by police in Baton Rouge, LA. Philando Castile, a black man, was killed by police in Falcon Heights, MN. The U.S. Department of Justice will investigate the killing of Sterling, and the Minnesota governor has called for a similar investigation in the killing of Castile. We must do better than to simply express outrage, as these expressions by themselves leave communities of color with the impression that racism and excessive force have no end. These communities will not tolerate it, nor should we. We cannot simply reiterate our emotions each time these incidents occur. JACL remains committed to the struggle for racial equity and will continue to work alongside our partners in the pursuit of institutional change because our own historic experience obligates us to do no less.”

- **RACIAL TAUNTS AT HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL GAME**

National JACL joined with the JACL Northern California/Western Nevada/Pacific District Council and the JACL Florin Chapter in condemning the behavior of some spectators attending a basketball game between McClatchy High School and Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills, California. During the game, racial taunts could be heard shouted from the Oak Ridge spectator section, including “Go back to Fiji,” “small eyes” and “soy sauce.” JACL stated, “These are terms that were intended to intimidate and ostracize. These racist terms cannot be stripped from a dark history of discrimination directed at Asian Americans.”

- **HATE KILLINGS IN MILWAUKEE**

JACL sent a letter to the district attorney in Milwaukee County commending them on their timely action in charging an individual with first degree murder and attempted first degree murder. In the crime, it is alleged that Daniel Popp stopped Jesus Manso-Perez as he and his son walked by Popp’s apartment offering them a beer. After refusing Popp’s offer, Manzo-Perez and his son proceeded to the laundry room and, as they were returning to their own apartment, they again encountered Popp, who pointed a weapon at them and shot Mr. Manso-Perez, then fired at his son, who was able to escape. Thereafter, the accused entered the apartment of Phia and Mai Vue, and kicked down the bedroom door where the family had taken refuge after hearing gunshots. Popp ordered Mr. Vue out of the bedroom and shot him and then killed Mrs. Vue.

- **HATE ATTACK ON A CHINESE STUDENT IN INDIANA**

JACL responded to an unprovoked attack on a Chinese high school exchange student in Nashville, Indiana. It was reported that Dana Ericson struck the student in the back with a hatchet causing a serious injury. Ericson was charged with multiple counts including attempted murder. In his admission of guilt, he attributed his action to “ethnic cleansing.” JACL contacted the school superintendent offering assistance and stressing the importance of assuring the student that a safe environment would be provided for her. In addition, the Hoosier JACL was encouraged to utilize this incident to press for the passage of a hate crime law in Indiana, one of the few states that do not have a hate crime statute.

- **STATEMENT ON 2017 ELECTION**

JACL issued a statement reiterating its displeasure at the coarsening of rhetoric during the recent presidential campaign where immigrants and religious minorities were targeted. “The campaign season began with attacks against political correctness and devolved into full-throated expressions of racism. We know when groups are singled out and targeted that it tears at the social fabric by making them feel vulnerable, fearful and suspicious of others. Respect for diversity has always served to strengthen America and, despite the deep divisions caused during the recent election cycle, we must now continue to defend this unique American value and adamantly reject attempts to undermine it.”

COURT CASES

The JACL signed onto amicus briefs of the following court cases:

- **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION**

U.S. v. Texas – JACL joined a diverse coalition of 326 immigration, civil rights, labor and social service groups that filed an *amicus* brief with the U.S. Supreme Court, urging the Court to lift the injunction that blocked the executive actions on immigration that President Obama announced in November 2014. The Obama Administration’s expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program as well as a new Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) initiative were blocked by a federal district court in Texas, and that court’s order was subsequently upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The lawsuit against the President’s executive actions was brought by 26 states. Late last year, the federal government appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The issues to be decided by the Court were: (1) whether a state that voluntarily provides a subsidy to all aliens with deferred action has Article III standing and a justifiable cause of action under the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”) to challenge the Secretary of Homeland Security’s guidance seeking to establish a process for considering deferred action for certain aliens because it will lead to more aliens having deferred action; (2) whether the guidance is arbitrary and capricious or otherwise not in accordance with law; (3) whether the guidance was subject to the APA’s notice-and-comment procedures; and (4) whether the guidance violates the Take Care Clause of the Constitution, Article II, section 3.

On June 23, 2016, an equally divided Court affirmed the Fifth Circuit’s decision in a *per curiam* opinion.

- **ACA AND THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT**

Zubik v. Burwell – In an *amicus* brief filed by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the JACL joined a broad group of religious and civil rights organizations defending a key provision in the Affordable Care Act’s contraception mandate.

In 2010, Congress passed the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which required group health plans and health insurance issuers offering health plans to provide preventative care and screenings for women pursuant to the guidelines established by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These guidelines include “approved contraceptive methods, sterilization procedures, and patient education and counseling for all women with reproductive capacity.” The regulations include an exemption from contraceptive coverage for the group health plan of a religious employer. The exemption did not mean that such services were not covered, but that they were not covered through a cost-sharing mechanism.

The petitioners were religious organizations that argued that the contraceptive coverage mandate of the ACA violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), which Congress enacted in 1993, because the mandate requires these organizations to “facilitate” the provision of insurance coverage for contraceptive services that they oppose on religious grounds. In several separate cases, the relevant district courts issued injunctions against the government, and the relevant Courts of Appeals reversed. The appellate courts held that the religious organizations were unable to show that the contraceptive mandate substantially burdened the exercise of their religious freedom.

On May 16, 2016, the Court vacated and remanded the case in a *per curiam* opinion. It held that it reached no decision on the merits of the case, and nothing in the opinion should be construed as affecting the ability of the government to ensure that employees covered by the insurance plans at issue receive full contraceptive coverage. Given the importance of the issues involved in this case, the Court remanded the case to the lower courts to afford the parties the opportunity to determine how to proceed in a manner that grants employees full contraceptive coverage while also respecting the organizations’ religious exercise.

- **DISCRIMINATION IN SERVICE TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE COUPLE**

Ingersoll v. Arlene’s Flowers – Arlene’s Flowers’ owner Barronelle Stutzman refused to sell flowers to a gay couple, Ingersoll and Freed, for their wedding. A Washington Superior Court ruled that the florist violated the state’s anti-discrimination law when she denied service to the couple and said that the defendant’s refusal based on her religious opposition to same sex marriage is, as a matter of law, a refusal based on Ingersoll and Freed’s sexual orientation in violation of the Washington anti-discrimination law.

Arlene’s Flowers appealed the ruling to the Washington State Supreme Court. JACL joined a brief submitted by ADL in support of the couple, urging the court to affirm the lower court’s decision and reject arguments that religious or moral disapproval is a legitimate basis for discrimination against minority groups.

- **DISCRIMINATION IN REAPPORTIONMENT**

Evenwel v. Abbott – At issue in this case was whether states may use total population—as opposed to number of registered voters or number of citizens of voting age—to draw district lines. Following the decennial census in 2010, the Texas Legislature adopted a redistricting plan that created roughly proportionally-sized state senate districts with regard to total population, including registered voters, eligible voters and people who are ineligible to vote. While the districts had roughly the same total population, the district sizes varied with regard to other metrics. Plaintiffs filed suit alleging that the redistricting plan violated the one person, one vote principle of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. JACL joined an *amicus* brief filed by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights arguing that barring states from using total population to draw district lines could unfairly exclude current and potential voters from the democratic process and would lead to underrepresentation of groups disenfranchised by discriminatory voting laws.

In an opinion authored by Justice Ginsberg on April 4, 2016, the Court held that apportioning legislative districts based on total population is permissible under the Equal Protection Clause.



2016 JACL/OCA D.C. LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The 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 governmental agencies and officials in our nation's capital and to strategies in public policy advocacy.

In 2016, twenty-nine participants from across the nation visited Congressional offices to advocate for education and immigration policies relevant to the AAPI community. They attended a White House briefing with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI), enjoyed dinner and discussion with Deputy Secretary Chris Lu, and took part in a speaker series with Congresswoman Grace Meng, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congressman Ted Lieu, and Congressman Mark Takano.

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 when they serve as members of a congressional staff.

Merissa Nakamura
NORMAN Y. MINETA FELLOW

Emil Trinidad
DANIEL K. INOUE FELLOW

Alice Lin
MIKE M. MASAOKA FELLOW,
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE HONDA

Craig Shimizu
MIKE M. MASAOKA FELLOW,
REPRESENTATIVE TULSI GABBARD

Emi Nishimura
JACL SPRING INTERN

Malin Ouk
JOHN MOY/SOUTHWEST INTERN

Jennifer Kaku
OCA INTERN

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES, TEACHER WORKSHOPS

National JACL held two comprehensive training workshops for teachers titled *Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis: The Japanese American Incarceration*. The workshops were sponsored through a \$165,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. A total of 72 teachers from throughout the United States attended the sessions.

The workshops were designed to provide experience-based insight into the incarceration by visiting sites such as the Santa Anita detention facility and Manzanar concentration camp. In addition, the workshops were held at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles and the first session consisted of a walking tour of the Little Tokyo area led by Alan Nishio and his colleagues from the Little Tokyo Service Center.

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, author of *Farewell to Manzanar*, captivated the teachers with episodes from her book and with the manner in which some of these episodes were translated into a movie version of her work. June Aochi Berk and Minoru Tonai shared personal stories about their experiences at Santa Anita as well as at Rohwer and Amache respectively. Their recollections were a highlight for the teachers who appreciated the opportunity to hear these firsthand accounts.

Dr. Valerie Matsumoto, a professor of history at UCLA, presented on art in the camps by depicting camp life through numerous works of artists such as Mine Okubo, Estelle Ishigo, and Henry Sugimoto. Dr. Mitch Maki discussed the postwar impact of the camps in individuals and the Japanese American community related to the trauma caused by that experience as well as the discussion within the community about remedies in the lead up to the redress campaign.

Dale Minami who led the effort to vacate the conviction of Fred Korematsu during the 1980s, discussed the constitutional issues raised by the incarceration in the

cases of Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui, and Mitsuye Endo. In one of the final sessions, John Tateishi, who directed the early stages of JACL's redress efforts, detailed the legislative campaign that resulted in an apology and compensation for those affected by Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066.

Sharon Ishii-Jordan, retired professor in education from Creighton University, and Greg Marutani, chair of JACL's Education Committee, served

as facilitators. They also assisted the teachers who collaborated on a project to develop learning activities to be used in their classrooms.



NEH workshop facilitators give a presentation



"Farewell to Manzanar" author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston at a workshop



Teachers pose with plaque commemorating the Santa Anita Detention Center

THE LEGACY FUND GRANTS PROGRAM

The JACL Legacy Fund was established by the JACL National Council in 1990. Approximately \$5 million was first donated to the fund by members who used their redress monies to further the legacy of patriotism and civil rights that is central to the story of Japanese Americans in the U.S. Earnings from this perpetual endowment are used to award grants to JACL Districts, Chapters and NYSC for projects that support JACL's mission and purposes.

In 2016, grants were awarded to 12 JACL Chapters and the National Youth/Student Council totaling \$35,500.

THE 2016 LEGACY FUND GRANT RECIPIENTS ARE:

- **BERKELEY JACL:** Support for the Mineta Legacy Project, with funds to video record an interview with President George W. Bush for a one-hour documentary of Secretary Norman Y. Mineta to be televised nationally and at film festivals, with web-based educational curriculum provided.
- **CHICAGO JACL:** The Kansha Project Alumni Leadership Board, which would provide an opportunity for meaningful engagement of current and former Kansha Project participants, leading to a sustainable youth development initiative.
- **MILE HIGH JACL:** The Minoru Yasui Legacy Project, an all-day symposium in Denver, Colorado, on civil liberties and human rights to mark the centennial of Yasui's birth and to honor his legacy of fighting for social justice for all.
- **NEW MEXICO JACL:** A documentation and education program, "Confinement in the Land of Enchantment (CLOE): Japanese Americans in New Mexico During World War II," this phase focuses on the small town of Clovis, New Mexico and the Nikkei there who hold the distinction of being practically the only JAs from the sparsely-populated interior west to suffer incarceration.
- **NATIONAL YOUTH/STUDENT COUNCIL:** Youth Summits to be held in different JACL Districts across the country addressing the needs of the local API community, and which shall engage youth, introduce them to the JACL and provide leadership and networking skills to equip them to create change in their communities.
- **PHILADELPHIA JACL:** An exhibit of "Good Luck Soup," an interactive online database of Japanese American stories before, during and after the incarceration, with its initial showcase at the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival, followed by showings at traditional art galleries.
- **PHILADELPHIA JACL:** The exhibit, "Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps During World War II," would be brought to the East Coast for a month to expand the knowledge and awareness of how these labor camps were a part of the incarceration story, and to talk with East Coast families who may have lived and worked in these labor camps.
- **PORTLAND JACL:** Reproduce 5000 copies of the "Power of Words" brochure to make available at the 2017 Smithsonian Exhibition on the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. The "Power of Words" brochure addresses the language euphemisms used to describe the Japanese American World War II incarceration and the preferred terminology that more accurately describes the dire realities of that experience.
- **PUYALLUP VALLEY JACL:** Replacement signage for noted artist George Tsutakawa's sculpture titled "Harmony," located on the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup, WA., the former site of the Puyallup Valley Assembly Center (also known as Camp Harmony) where Japanese Americans were forcibly taken after EO 9066 was issued.
- **SEATTLE JACL:** A conference, "Family 2.0," will bring together and leverage individuals from the LGBTQ and AAPI communities for a day of workshops, learning and support that speaks to intersections of race and LGBTQ identities, and which can serve as a starting point for new and lasting resources and relationships.
- **SOUTH BAY JACL:** Tanoshii Fun Camp, a summer program whose goal is to promote the legacy of Japanese American culture and heritage to youth, ages 7 to 10. Children will learn of Japanese festivals like Oshogatsu, values like gaman, gambaru and kansha, and be exposed to the experience of youth in the concentration camps. High school and college students shall develop leadership skills serving as camp counselors.
- **TWIN CITIES JACL:** To organize "February 19, 1942: The Day the Constitution Died," for its 2017 Day of Remembrance observance of the 75th anniversary of EO 9066. The goals are to honor Japanese Americans impacted by the incarceration, educate the broader community about EO 9066, increase awareness of the parallels with events occurring today and inspire individuals to be vigilant.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Nineteen JACL Chapters have continued the campaign launched in 2015 to increase civic engagement among JACLers, Japanese Americans, and the greater Asian and Pacific Islander

American (API) community. The chapters had four initiatives:

- 1) Participate in a skills-building training and consultation, hosted by APIAVote at the 2016 National Convention in Las Vegas, NV.
- 2) Register new voters both within their chapter membership and externally in the JA and API community.
- 3) Host or participate in a voter education event such as the APIAVote and Asian American Journalists Association Presidential Forum watch party, Presidential Debate watch party, or town hall for a local race.
- 4) Get out the vote by phone banking or asking for people to commit to voting on November 8th.

The volunteer efforts resulted in 650 new registered voters, 457 participants in voter education events, and over 4,000 calls made to local API voters.

Strategies for civic engagement varied vastly by chapter. Several chapters utilized e-blasts or newsletters to send reminders to their members and some participated in local community events, especially during the Japanese festival season in the summer, to register new members. Many were able to partner with local API community organizations to increase the volunteer capacity and reach more people in the community.

APIAVote's National Field Director, Eric Salcedo, was instrumental in providing coaching throughout this campaign to the JACL chapters participating. The following chapters and their volunteers are to be acknowledged for the wide breadth of work done in their local communities preceding the election:

- Alaska
- Berkeley
- Boise Valley
- Chicago
- Cincinnati
- Clovis
- Idaho Falls
- Mt. Olympus
- New York
- Omaha
- Placer County
- Portland
- Puyallup Valley



- Sacramento
- Salinas Valley
- Salt Lake City
- Seattle
- Snake River
- Twin Cities

This civic engagement effort was made possible by the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation.

JACL KAKEHASHI PROJECT

In 2016-2017, the JACL will send 200 Japanese American and Asian American undergraduate and graduate students, and young professionals to Japan through the JACL Kakehashi Project, coordinated by JACL and the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) and supported by funding from the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Participants traveled to Japan on a 9-day trip in Fall 2016, Winter 2016, and Spring 2017, exploring cities and taking part in various cultural activities to facilitate cross-cultural understanding. JACL Kakehashi participants met with Japanese professors, students, and business and political leaders to learn about U.S.-Japan relations.

In 2015-2016, the JACL sent 185 participants in December 2015, January 2016 and March 2016 to Tokyo, Kyoto, Fukuoka, and Miyagi prefecture.



The 2016 Kakehashi Participants in Japan



NATIONAL CONVENTION



Carole Hayashino receives the Japanese American of the Biennium Award

The Japanese American Citizens League held its first national convention in Seattle, Washington, on August 23, 1930. The historic meeting convened on Labor Day weekend and was attended by 108 delegates in the facilities of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce.

In July 2016, the organization gathered to hold its 47th National Convention with 150 delegates in attendance in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The delegates met and elected members to the National Board, who shall serve and lead the organization over the 2016-18 Biennium.

Resolutions debated and adopted by the delegates included support of the Tule Lake concentration camp as a National Historic Site, acknowledgment of the parallel civil rights violations imposed upon Japanese Canadians by the Canadian government, support of a U.S. asylum policy free of racial and religious prejudice, and additional funding for the JACL newspaper, the Pacific Citizen.

Plenary sessions featured discussions on the 2016 national elections, the multi-

cultural and Shin-Nikkei experience, U.S.-Japan relations, and the future of Pacific Citizen in the digital age.

Working sessions for the delegates included a presentation on civic engagement and how chapters can effectively carry out voter registration campaigns in their respective areas.

The Seattle JACL was named the recipient of the George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award, which recognizes an outstanding JACL chapter for its accomplishments over the past biennium. Sponsoring this award is the Venice-Culver Chapter in honor of George Inagaki, the first National President of the JACL.

At the Youth Luncheon, the NY/SC's Vision Award went to Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles, for its community outreach, perseverance, dedication to history, and social justice-informed activism.

At the Sayonara Banquet, JACL honored recipients of the Japanese American of the Biennium Awards. The Japanese American of the Biennium Award is the highest public service award given by JACL.

Recipients included Carole Hayashino in the field of Education & Humanities, Delphine Hirasuna in the field of Business/ Industry/ Technology, and June Kuramoto and Dan Kuramoto in the field of Arts/ Literature/Communication.

The 48th JACL National Convention will be held in 2017 in Washington, DC.



The 2017-2018 JACL National Board is sworn into office

JACL NATIONAL YOUTH/ STUDENT COUNCIL

The JACL National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) hosted three Youth Leadership Summits from August 2015 to December 2016, in three cities and connecting with over 150 people. These summits, and the planning retreats necessary to make them happen, were made possible through sponsorships from State Farm and Southwest Airlines.

On November 14, 2015, the NY/SC, partnered with the Asian Pacific American Institute of Congressional Studies (APAICS), to host their first ever Young Leaders Summit at the Utah State Capitol. NY/SC members Nicole Gaddie and Nathan Iwamoto-Fukumitsu, along with JACL staff member Stephanie Nitahara, organized an identity-based workshop, during which participants were asked to reflect and engage in discussion on the multiple identities (such as race, gender, sexual orientation, class, etc) that they each carry daily. The discussion created a space for participants to be in community with each other and validate the struggles facing Asian and Pacific Islander young people in Utah.

In addition to the NY/SC-led workshop, several other leadership and networking workshops were hosted by Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP), APAICS and APIAVote/National Tongan Society. Students also had the opportunity to hear from several API political leaders, participate in a dynamic role-playing simulation hosted by the American Petroleum Institute, and learn about financial literacy from State Farm.

JACL NCWNP Youth Representative Michelle Huey, along with the newly formed API Queer Sacramento Coalition, hosted “APIQ Homecoming: A Conference for LGBTQ+, API and Their Allies” at Sacramento State University in California on April 16, 2016. The first event and coalition of its kind in the Sacramento area, the conference was aptly named a “homecoming” because this was the first time this community had a “home” in the area. With performances, panels and workshops led by a wide range of community leaders, APIQ Homecoming attracted about 100 people, many of whom were students and young professionals.

The NY/SC had an opportunity to attend the Presidential Election Forum,

hosted by Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote and the Asian American Journalists Association on August 12, 2016. Taking place at the Colosseum at Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas, NV, the Presidential Election Forum featured representatives from all four Presidential campaigns: Gary Johnson (Libertarian); Jill Stein (Green Party); President Bill Clinton, surrogate for Hillary Clinton (Democrat); and State of Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, surrogate for Donald Trump (Republican).

JACL PSW Youth Representative Juli Yoshinaga, noted, “For me, this particular event was especially meaningful because the 2016 election cycle will be my first time voting for the next President of the United States. The Presidential Forum provided a space for me to fairly evaluate all the candidates, so that I can make a well-informed decision come election day. I was overwhelmed with the passion each speaker had for both the Presidency and our country. As a result, I left the Forum feeling more passionate and excited than ever before.”

On October 15, 2016, JACL National Youth Representative Kenji Kuramitsu successfully hosted a summit in Livonia, MI, in conjunction with the JACL Midwest District Council meeting. Twenty-five youth representing Japanese American, black, Native American and multiracial communities traveled from districts and states throughout the Midwest to gather outside of Detroit for a daylong conference called “Remodeling the Model Minority: Japanese Americans and Black Liberation.”

Kenji and JACL Chicago member Lisa Doi designed the curriculum and led a day of progressive discussion regarding relevant textual readings, ice-breakers, team-building reflection exercises, and intergenerational dialogue. Throughout the day, participants discussed how Japanese Americans experience racial oppression in the U.S., the contemporary and historic American racial hierarchy that places whiteness at the top and blackness at the bottom, and how East Asian Americans might play into this dynamic. The day concluded with a critical discussion on Japanese American allyship, and how Nikkei community activism might best support the black liberation movement.



NY/SC MEMBERS BETWEEN JULY 2015-DECEMBER 2016:

CURRENT NY/SC MEMBERS:

Kota Mizutani

NATIONAL YOUTH CHAIRPERSON

Kenji Kuramitsu

NATIONAL YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Michelle Huey

NCWNP YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Kacie Robles,

CCDC YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Juli Yoshinaga

PSW YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Nathan Iwamoto-Fukumitsu

IDC YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Mieko Kuramoto

EDC YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Eric Langowski

MDC YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Sarah Baker

MEMBER AT-LARGE

Emi Lea Kamemoto

MEMBER AT-LARGE

Hana Fulghum

MEMBER AT-LARGE

PAST NY/SC MEMBERS:

Mary Coomes

MEMBER AT-LARGE

Kristy Ishii

PSW YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Nicole Gaddie

NATIONAL YOUTH CHAIR

Michelle Yamashiro

NATIONAL YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS PROGRAM

Since 1946, the JACL has been helping students achieve their educational goals through its National Scholarship & Awards Program. The program currently offers over 30 awards, with an annual total of over \$70,000 in scholarships to JACL youth nationwide.

Every summer, the National Scholarship & Awards Program presents scholarships to entering freshmen, undergraduates, graduates and law students, to those in the creative and performing arts, and those requiring student aid.

2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

FRESHMAN:

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Meredith Loy, Portland JACL
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Tyler Nakae, Stockton JACL
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship - Emi Hirsh, Portland JACL
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship - Jasper Miura, Sacramento JACL
M/M Takashi Moriuchi Memorial Scholarship - Kenton Shimosaki, Stockton JACL
Mush & Haru Kuroiwa Scholarship - Davis Katakura, Selanoco JACL
CWO4 Mitsugi Murakami Kasai (Ret) Memorial Scholarship - Yumi Kobayashi, Berkeley JACL
Shigeki "Shake" Ushio Memorial Scholarship - Nathan Iwamoto, Salt Lake City JACL
Deni & June Uejima Memorial Scholarship - Raiden Takeuchi, Twin Cities JACL
Sam & Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Quinn Fujii, Sacramento JACL
Kenji Kasai Memorial Scholarship - Conner Mawhinney, Mile High JACL
Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship - Moie Uesugi, New York JACL

UNDERGRADUATE:

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Allysha Yasuda, Snake River JACL
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Mary Coomes, Chicago JACL
Shigeru Nakahira Memorial Scholarship - Marisa Eng, Mt. Olympus JACL
Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship - Nicole Sakioka, Selanoco JACL
Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship - Kelli Kosaka, South Bay JACL

GRADUATE:

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Molly Serizawa, San Fernando Valley JACL
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Ryan Kenji Kuramitsu, Chicago JACL
Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship - Jean Shiraki, New York JACL
Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship - Brandon Ishikata, San Diego JACL
Rev. H. John & Asako Yamashita Memorial Scholarship - Trent Ichiuji, Sacramento JACL
Magoichi & Shizuko Kato Memorial Scholarship - Genta Iwasaki, New York JACL
Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda Memorial Scholarship - Akemi Arzouman, San Fernando Valley JACL
Chiyoko & Thomas Shimazaki Memorial Scholarship - Caitlin Yumori, South Bay JACL
Railroad & Mineworkers Memorial Scholarship - Cathlin Goulding, New York JACL

LAW:

Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship - Cristine Bleyl, Seattle JACL

ARTS:

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Creative Arts Scholarship - Nick Salter, Mile High JACL
Aiko Susanna Tashiro Hiratsuka Performing Arts Scholarship - Marin Osawa, Houston JACL

STUDENT AID:

Dr. George Goro & Nettie Muramoto Memorial Scholarship - Michael Yee, Philadelphia JACL
Abe & Esther Hagiwara Memorial Student Aid Scholarship - Amber Lau, Sacramento JACL

JACL families created many of these scholarships in remembrance and honor of loved ones. Others donated to the scholarship program to demonstrate their belief in the importance of education for future generations.

In 2015, the National JACL presented scholarships totaling \$77,000 to 31 student scholars, and in 2016, presented \$74,000 to 28 award recipients from JACL chapters across the country.

2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

FRESHMAN:

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Julie Fukunaga, Lodi JACL
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Brooke Shimasaki, Stockton JACL
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship - Jemma Jio, San Jose JACL
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship - Caitlin Takeda, Ventura County JACL
M/M Takashi Moriuchi Memorial Scholarship - Simon Langowski, Hoosier JACL
CWO4 Mitsugi Murakami Kasai (Ret) Memorial Scholarship - Katelyn Nakamura, French Camp JACL
Shigeki "Shake" Ushio Memorial Scholarship - Taylor Goto, Sacramento JACL
Sam & Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Rachel Oda, South Bay JACL
Deni & June Uejima Memorial Scholarship - Kyle Eng, Mt. Olympus JACL
Kyutaro & Yasuo Abiko Memorial Scholarship - Riki Eijima, San Francisco JACL
Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship - Joy Yuzuriha, Portland JACL
Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship - Tatsuya Daniel, Chicago JACL

UNDERGRADUATE:

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - KayLene Yamada, Wasatch Front North JACL
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Garrett Sano, Fresno JACL
Shigeru Nakahira Memorial Scholarship - Bryce Mawhinney, Mile High JACL
Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship - Breana Inoshita, Florin JACL
Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship - Davis Katakura, Orange County JACL
Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Scholarship - Yumika Takeshita, New York JACL

GRADUATE:

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Isaac Uyehara, Philadelphia JACL
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Kari Kokka, Berkeley JACL
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship - Brandon Ishikata, San Diego JACL
Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship - Matthew Iritani, Mile High JACL
Dr. George Goro & Nettie Muramoto Memorial Scholarship - Kristi Agari, Stockton JACL
Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship - Amanda Wake, New York JACL
Rev. H. John & Asako Yamashita Memorial Scholarship - Traci Ishigo, San Fernando Valley JACL
Magoichi & Shizuko Kato Memorial Scholarship - Kenji Kuramitsu, Chicago JACL

LAW:

Grace Andow Memorial Law Scholarship - Lindsey Sugimoto, West Los Angeles JACL
Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship - Genta Iwasaki, St. Louis JACL

DISTRICTS AND CHAPTERS

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 who sits on the National Board.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Alaska	Puyallup Valley
Gresham-Troutdale	Seattle
Olympia	Spokane
Portland	

INTERMOUNTAIN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WESTERN NEVADA PACIFIC DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

MIDWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

EASTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

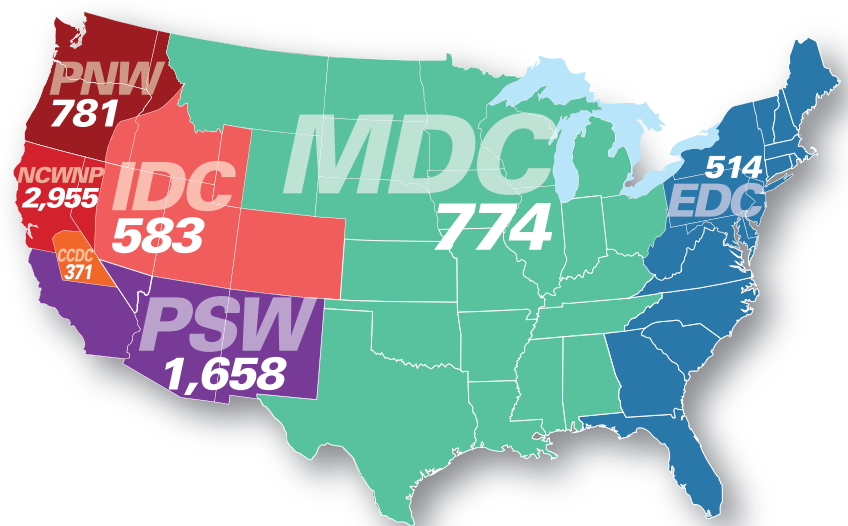
New England	Seabrook
New York	Southeast
Philadelphia	Washington, D.C.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL

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



*Approximate number of members for each district

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