

- In the 1950s, the JACL worked for passage of the Walter-McCarran Act that provided citizenship rights for Japanese immigrants. The JACL filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* to provide integration in America's public schools.
- In the 1960s, the JACL participated in the March on Washington that brought public attention to the need for major changes to the civil rights laws. JACL led the effort against federal anti-miscegenation laws.
- In the 1970s, the JACL led the successful effort to repeal Title II of the Emergency Detention Act for fear that it may one day be used to arbitrarily detain individuals. JACL also launched the national Redress campaign to seek remedies for the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.
- In the 1980s, the JACL played an instrumental role in leading the campaign to gain passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided an apology and monetary compensation to individuals who were unjustly interned and affected by the government during World War II.
- In the 1990s, the JACL combated "Japan-bashing" that arose when Japan's strengthening economy led to the purchase of trophy properties in the United States causing defamation and hate crimes directed at Asian Americans.
- In the 2000s, led efforts to preserve internment camp sites as a lasting legacy to future generations. The JACL established effective leadership programs aimed at high school and college students. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the JACL was a national voice cautioning against intolerance toward Arab and Muslim Americans.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Public Policy

The historic mission of the JACL is to protect the rights of the community against injustice and bigotry, and to promote and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community. The JACL fulfills this mission by monitoring and responding to public policy issues that affect the community. As an example, during the 1980s, the JACL organized the effort to seek federal legislation to address the wrongful incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Known as the Redress Campaign, this successful effort provided an apology by Congress and monetary compensation to individuals who were affected by the presidential executive order that led to the Internment.

Education: The Legacy of Asian Americans

The JACL is the most prominent national Asian American organization that produces educational materials for teachers that focus on the Asian American historical experience, an overlooked chapter of American history.

These materials include:

- “*A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience*,” a curriculum guide that focuses on the World War II internment.
 - “*The Journey From Gold Mountain: The Asian American Experience*,” a curriculum guide on the history of Asian Americans in the United States.
 - “*A Troubling Legacy: A History of Anti-Asian Sentiment*.”
 - “*What It Means To Be An American: Lesson Plans on Race and the Media in Times of Crisis*,” a booklet that focuses on the World War II internment of Japanese Americans and the post-September 11th experience of Arab and Muslim Americans
- “*An Unnoticed Struggle*,” a booklet on the history of Asian American civil rights participation.

Following September 11, 2001, the JACL was one of the leading organizations that cautioned against intolerance directed against the Arab and Muslim American communities. This effort included an educational campaign in the public schools entitled “What It Means To Be An American” where teachers were given instruction on teaching units comparing the World War II internment of Japanese Americans with the experience of Arab and Muslim Americans following September 11th. The initial workshops were held at the University of Michigan at Dearborn, the Holocaust Museum Houston and the University of San Francisco. These workshops continue to be presented today.

Response to Defamation and Bigotry

The JACL is among the most active Asian American organizations that respond to incidents of defamation and hate crimes throughout the country. The JACL publishes a hate crime report titled *The Network Update* twice annually that summarizes the major incidents of hate directed at Asian Americans.

The JACL produces and distributes material on anti-Asian sentiment and hate crimes. These materials include *Words Can Kill the Spirit*, a brochure on slurs and defamation, *Anti-Asian Sentiment on Campus* and *When Hate Hits You*, a booklet on response to hate crimes.

The JACL conducts workshops on hate crimes and defamation that are particularly suited for high schools and universities.

Leadership for a New Generation

JACL’s youth and leadership programs develop and train new generations of leaders to gain an understanding of their identity, the identity of the Japanese American community, an appreciation for the history and achievements of Japanese Americans and an understanding of the issues confronting the Asian American community.

One of these programs is *Project: Community!*, which develops and empowers the voice of our youth. This program is conducted in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Chicago. Through a series of interactive sessions, high school participants gain an understanding and appreciation of personal identity as well as the importance of preservation of the Japanese American community. Each session gathers facilitators and speakers from various parts of the community to conduct interactive workshops focused on specific topics ranging from identity, to the power of place, to grassroots organizing, to Japanese American history to issues of diversity.

The JACL maintains an outreach program to colleges and university throughout the United States. During 2008-09, the JACL presented workshops on issues and leadership development at the following universities and student conferences:

- University of California at Riverside
- East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference held at Cornell University
- Midwest Asian American Student Union Conference held at the University of Kansas
- National Asian American Student Conference held at Emory University
- Purdue University
- University of Notre Dame
- East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference held at Rutgers University

The students who attended these sessions gained a greater personal insight on the characteristics of an effective leader and how one becomes a leader, and the manner in which Asian American values influence personal behavior and how these values are perceived by others. The workshops also gave students a greater awareness about the historic contributions of Asian Americans, including a greater understanding about the use of stereotypes and how to respond to incidences of defamation and hate crimes.

The JACL maintains a growing Fellowship Program for young college graduates to enhance and develop their skills as emerging leaders. These individuals are provided the opportunity to work with the JACL staff and volunteers on the organization's national and local programs. The following fellowships are currently offered by the JACL

- Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship – Washington, DC Office
- JACL Ford Program Fellowship – Midwest Office
- Daniel K. Inouye Fellowship – Washington, DC Office
- Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship – Washington, DC Office
- Mike Honda Fellowship - Pacific Southwest Office

The JACL Scholarship Program has administered numerous scholarship grants for qualified students since 1946. The primary funding of the scholarships is derived from the earnings from an account comprised of scholarship donations made to the JACL. Each year, the Scholarship Committee evaluates applications submitted from JACL's 112 chapters.