



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

Headquarters: 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115
DC Office: 1850 M Street NW, Suite 1100 • Washington, DC • 20036
Phone: (202) 223-1240 • Fax: (202) 296-8082 • E-mail: natdir@jacl.org

National Director's Report

July 22, 2010

Floyd Mori, JACL National Director natdir@jacl.org

CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL JACL GALA

Now that the National Convention for the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is over for this year, it is time to move on to our next major event. The National JACL Gala is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2010, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C. Proceeds from the event will go to the National JACL to help fund the important work that must continue.

This is the fourth year that the JACL Gala will be held in the nation's capital. Five years ago after moving to Washington, D.C. to become the Director of Public Policy for the JACL when Kristine Minami left that position upon finishing law school, I began to attend a lot of Gala dinners for various organizations. It became clear to me that the JACL could use a Gala of its own in Washington, D.C. to bring visibility to the organization and to raise needed funds. John Tateishi, then National Executive Director of the JACL, agreed.

So we embarked on having the JACL host a Gala in the nation's capital. It is a lot of work for the Washington, D.C. JACL staff which includes two recent college graduates who are the JACL Mineta Fellow and the JACL Inouye Fellow, a volunteer, and occasional interns. [The Director of Public Policy position remains vacant due to budgetary issues.] The JACL Gala has become one of our new traditions for the JACL which we hope will continue for a long time.

The Gala has been called "A Salute to Champions" and provides the opportunity to honor people who have made a difference. The honorees this year are outstanding women champions. They include Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), who has done much for the JACL and the Asian American community; Etsu Mineta Masaoka, a JACL stalwart who supported her husband Mike Masaoka and the JACL through many years; Roxanna Saberi, a journalist and writer from North Dakota who was captured and held in Iran; and Christine Toy Johnson, an actress and filmmaker who, with her husband Bruce Johnson, produced a documentary film about Wat Misaka, the Japanese American who was the first non-white person to play in what is now the National Basketball Association. The corporate partner to be honored this year for outstanding contributions to the JACL is Eli Lilly.

JACL members and friends are given several opportunities to support the JACL Gala. Of course, anyone who is able to attend the event will be most welcome. [JACL members may contact the Washington DC JACL office to receive a special JACL price if desired.] Individual tickets and Tables of Ten may be purchased to be filled by the purchaser or may be donated to be filled by the JACL which comps dignitaries and attempts to include as many hill staffers as possible. Sponsorships and donations at any level are appreciated. Ads (for as low as \$50 for a one eighth page ad for JACL members) may be purchased for the program booklet. All documents for these purposes are available at the JACL website [www.jacl.org].

We hope you will consider supporting the National JACL Gala this year. We also encourage participation in the JACL Pacific Southwest District's Annual Awards Dinner on October 9.

Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who have supported the Gala in the past and thanks to everyone for all you do for the JACL.