



DC NEWS NOTES

Publication of the Washington D.C. Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League

CALENDAR

CHERRYBLOSSOM FESTIVAL

March 20–April 27, 2012
Centennial Celebration
1912–2012

FREEDOM WALK

March 31, 2012

MEMORIAL DAY

May 27, 2012

JACL PICNIC

June 9, 2012
Wheaton Regional Park

JACL CONVENTION

July 5–8, 2012
Seattle, WA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Janice Nakano Faden,

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Our New Year is off to a vigorous start with four enthusiastic new board members and all ten current members returning from last year. Our new board members are Georgette Furukawa-Martinez, Leona Hiraoka, Hillary Nakano, and Stephanie Otani-Sunamoto. You will find details of our Installation Luncheon in this issue of News Notes. News Notes will be published quarterly, and we will keep you posted through News Notes, event flyers, listserv messages, and our new DC Chapter Web site.

Last year was an eventful year. We joined together as a community to provide support during the Japan earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis of March 11; paid special tribute to the Army's 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service; and shared our culture and fellowship through our annual picnic, Keiro Kai, and Mochitsuki. We expanded our Keiro Kai to Keiro Kai/Family Day to make it a multigenerational event and enjoyed a record number of participants at our Mochitsuki. We partnered with other prominent organizations to support special programs, including Day of Remembrance, Freedom Walk, the Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery, and the Obon Festival at the Ekoji Buddhist Temple.

We are growing. We now rank 3rd in the country, out of over 100 chapters, in adding new members last year. Our growth resulted from the outreach of each of you, who encouraged family and friends to join and to our welcoming events. To keep growing we are adding services and programs to bridge the generations and expand our appeal. We will soon launch a JACL-DC Chapter Web site, JACL-DC.org, which will provide a wealth of timely information about our organization and link to other Asian organizations. Our new Scholarship Chairman, Jack Tobe, is charged with providing scholarship information available through JACL and other Asian organizations, and our chapter will nominate member applicants for JACL scholarships. Georgette Furukawa-Martinez has plans to start Nikkei Sundays, an outreach to Japanese, New Nisei, and Japanese American communities, that will include English language tutoring; help with homework, resumes, and college applications; outings; and networking opportunities.

To reach our ambitious goals for the coming year, we will establish processes and form committees to include more of you in JACL-DC's work. To that end, I invite everyone to be an active participant in our events and services. Many of you have prepared scrumptious food, created beautiful crafts, designed eye-catching posters, and set up for events, to name a few of your valuable contributions.

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IN MEMORY OF 3/11



Tsunami in Japan

Megan Slack, White House Blog

One year ago, one of the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded struck off the coast of Japan and triggered a massive tsunami. Waves reached as far as 6 miles inland, claiming nearly 19,000 lives and causing billions of dollars in damage to roads, bridges, and buildings. The threat of nuclear meltdown at several of the country's badly damaged reactors loomed large, and months of around-the-clock work was required to avoid catastrophe.

The United States sent help to assist in the search, rescue, and recovery efforts, and worked closely with Japanese officials in the days, weeks and months following the initial disaster. At the peak of Operation Tomodachi—

our single, largest bilateral military operation with Japan ever—the Department of Defense had 24,000 personnel, 190 aircraft, and 24 Navy ships supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.

Statement by the President on the One Year Anniversary of 3/11 in Japan

As we mark one year since the catastrophic earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disasters in Japan, Michelle and I join all Americans in honoring the memory of the 19,000 victims lost or missing. We continue to be inspired by the Japanese people, who faced unimaginable loss with extraordinary fortitude. Their resilience and determination to rebuild stronger than before is an example for us all.

One year later, we remain committed to assist the people of Japan to rebuild. This effort, led by the Japanese government, has benefitted from the compassion of the American people, who in difficult economic times have given generously to help. Today, U.S. experts continue to support Japan's ongoing efforts to deal with the challenges associated with Fukushima, and the TOMODACHI public-private partnership is investing in the next generation to strengthen cultural and economic ties. We are grateful for the contributions of Americans, civilian and military, who have joined with people from around the world to support Japan's recovery.

No one can forget the tragic images of disaster in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, or the heartbreak of friends who lost homes, belongings, and, most importantly, loved ones. Even as it works to rebuild its devastated northeastern region, Japan has never wavered from its steadfast commitment to help other countries around the world. So on this day when our thoughts and prayers are with the Japanese people in remembrance of the hardship faced one year ago, let us also celebrate the recovery underway in Japan and pay tribute to Japan's unflagging dedication to bettering the lives of others throughout the world. The friendship and alliance between our two nations is unshakeable and, going forward, the people of Japan will continue to have an enduring partner in the United States.

JACL and Direct Relief International

Direct Relief and the JACL released an online, interactive map detailing the expenditure of \$3.9 million on more than 250 projects that have been supported with the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund established by the organizations immediately following the devastating earthquake and tsunami 12 months ago with a commitment that 100% of the funds received would be used solely for the support of people and communities affected by the tragedy.

250 projects have been supported with these funds, including: food, water, and temporary shelters in the early response; care for elderly and people with disabilities, including mobile healthcare units; emergency services in the Fukushima prefecture, where over 100,000 people were displaced; debris, mud removal and infrastructure repair; support of orphanages, including therapy and tutoring; mobile library services; and jobs for unemployed disaster workers, many who lost their jobs in the fishing industry in Ishinomaki.

For more information from the National JACL, go to: dcdigest@jacl.org

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE— 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Let's Not Repeat the Mistakes of History

Abbreviated

*Abraham H. Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League
and Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the JACL*

This week we commemorate the 70th anniversary of a shameful and dark chapter in American history. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which provided the legal authority for the forced relocation and incarceration of 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent — the vast majority of whom were citizens. The anniversary of this tragic national mistake provides a teachable moment for our nation on the dangers of stereotyping, prejudice, and racial profiling — even as we face the very real, continuing threat of terrorism.

Executive Order 9066 authorized the creation of military zones for Japanese citizens and resident aliens, which paved the way for the forced expulsion of 120,000 American citizens of Japanese descent from their homes to camps throughout the western U.S. — where they were held behind barbed wire without evidence documenting a single individual's disloyalty towards America.

Those incarcerated in the camps were uprooted from their communities, separated from their families, their homes, and their possessions, and lost their personal liberties and freedoms until the end of the war.

Tragically, the president's executive order was bolstered by additional congressional enactments. And when the constitutionality of these actions was challenged in two main cases before the U.S. Supreme Court — *Hirabayashi v. U.S.*, and *Korematsu v. U.S.* — the court held that these clearly discriminatory actions by the government were, in fact, justified and constitutional.

In April 1976, President Gerald R. Ford finally rescinded Executive Order 9066. And four years later, President Jimmy Carter signed legislation creating the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to investigate the impact of the executive order and the internment camps.

That commission issued its nearly 500-page report, *Personal Justice Denied*, in 1983. The report concluded that, "The promulgation of Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity, and the decisions which followed from it — detention, ending detention and ending exclusion — were not driven by analysis of military conditions. The broad historical causes which shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership."

The commission also called for Congress to apologize for these injustices. That recommendation was fulfilled in 1988, when Congress approved the Civil Liberties Act, which provided a formal apology and limited reparations to the Japanese citizens and resident aliens that had been sent to internment camps.

In many communities, February 19th is annually recognized as the Day of Remembrance for the Japanese American community. Jewish Americans annually commemorate the horrors of the Holocaust during the spring, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom Hashoah. Clearly, Both our communities can celebrate together the distance we have come from February 1942.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

To honor Japanese American and American veterans who served their country during World War II and in other wars, the JACL and the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) are sponsoring the annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Sunday, May 27, 2012.

As in past years we are asking for donations to help cover the cost of the graveside flowers and the wreath that we lay at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The cost of the bouquets of flowers placed on the graves has been covered by our chapter and JAVA and through donations from other chapters as well as individuals. Anyone interested in making a donation to help cover the cost of flowers may do so by sending a check to the DC Chapter.

Yes, I will donate \$ _____ to the Memorial Day event. Make check to: JACL DC Chapter and send it to: Craig Uchida, Treasurer, P.O. Box 6188, Silver Spring, MD 20916. Donations are tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

The Washington DC Chapter hosted its 66th Annual Installation Luncheon on January 28, 2012 at MeiWah Restaurant in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Keynote speaker for the event was **Ms. Daphne Kwok**, Chair to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, U.S. Department of Education.

Mr. Floyd Mori, National Executive Director, JACL, installed the executive board members, leading them through their oath of office for 2012.

In addition, a special recognition was given to Mr. Floyd Mori, retiring National Executive Director, JACL.

President:	Janice Nakano Faden
Vice Governor, EDC:	Michelle Amano
Treasurer:	Craig Uchida
Co-Secretaries:	Leona Hiraoka Georgette Furukawa Martinez
Membership:	Linda Sato Adams
Youth Chair:	Jeffrey Moy
Memorial Day Chair:	Gordon Aoyagi
Program Chairs:	Dale Shimoda Horos Donna Shimoda Hollingshead David Inoue
Scholarship Chair:	Jack Tobe
Members-At-Large:	Hillary Nakano Stephanie Otani-Sunamoto

New members include:

Leona Hiraoka is the Director of Interactive Media for the National Education Association, where she oversees the web, digital media, and magazine divisions for the organization's 3 million members. She also serves on the editorial board of Education International, a Brussels-based consortium of 400 groups in 170 countries. A Southern California native with family in California and Hawaii, she has two wonderful daughters, Kima (age 17) and Miya (age 12).



Georgette Furukawa-Martinez is a Nisei from Hawaii and, thanks to her strict immigrant parents, speaks fluent Japanese and English. She is currently the External Relations Specialist at Sony Corporation of America (SCA), the parent company of all Sony subsidiaries in the United States. At SCA, Georgette is responsible for a portfolio that includes Conflict Minerals, Health IT, and Corporate Social Responsibility. Prior to SCA, Georgette was the Government Relations Specialist for Sony Electronics Inc. and Congressional Scheduler in the DC office of former Congressman Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii. When she is not working, Georgette enjoys volunteering with the Japan-America Society of DC and US-Japan Council, and mentoring her little "sisters" and "brothers" on school, life, and their careers. In addition to the above, she loves tutoring children of Japanese expats as she can relate to the difficulties of growing up in a Japanese-speaking household in the US. As a member of the Board, Georgette is looking forward to bridging Japanese and Japanese-Americans together. She, selfishly, is also looking forward to cooking and baking for her fellow members of the DC-Chapter! Georgette is a graduate of Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. She resides in Montgomery County with her husband, two cats, and a turtle.

Hillary Nakano is currently the AARP Norman Mineta Fellow in the JACL's National office. She assists the National Director in issues concerning civil rights, hate crimes, education, immigration, internment camp preservation appropriations, senior citizens, and U.S./Japan relations. Before coming to the JACL National Office, Hillary participated in the JACL's inaugural John Moy & Southwest Airlines Congressional Internship program. During that experience, she worked in the leadership office of Democratic Caucus Vice-Chair Xavier Becerra. Hillary graduated from the University of California Santa Barbara with a double-major in Asian American Studies and Feminist Studies and participated in various student-led organizations on-campus. She hopes to attend law school in the fall of 2012 to pursue her passion for social justice.

Stephanie Otani-Sunamoto is a Southern California native. She graduated from Stanford with a B.A. in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity with Honors. Stephanie is currently the Daniel K. Inouye Fellow at the JACL Washington, D.C. office. Prior to that, she was a JACL John Moy and Southwest Airlines Congressional Intern in Mike Honda's (CA-15) office on Capitol Hill. Her other interests include cooking and eating, photography, and creative writing.

MOCHITSUKI

The rhythmic pounding of steamed rice welcomed DC Chapter members and guests to our annual Mochitsuki on December 3, 2011, at North Bethesda Middle School. Led by Floyd Mori, JACL National Executive Director, and Craig Uchida, Chapter treasurer, adults and children alike took turns participating in the tradition of preparing the mochi flour for the sticky treat that symbolizes the binding together of our community for the coming year.

While inside, Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki greeted each guest, thanked us for helping Japan recover from the earthquake/tsunami disasters, and presented bracelets that expressed the appreciation of the Japanese people for all the support. Throughout the afternoon, we renewed friendships and made new ones, enjoyed family time together, and celebrated the occasion with delicious bento boxes and ozoni. Crafty Ladies brought their wonderful, creative handicrafts for sale and generously donated the proceeds to our Chapter. Irene Mori gathered the multigenerational guests around her and taught them how to shape the mochi into delicious morsels. Jean Kariya led the dancing that threaded its way through the crowd.

A special thank you to Mochitsuki chefs Sachi Mukai and Barbara Nekoba, who also prepared mochi for sale and tsukemono that went quickly. A record number of volunteers organized the event, made signs, set up the registration table, delivered the bento boxes, served food to 250 guests in an hour, cleaned up, and returned supplies to storage. A hearty thank you to the Board and extended family members who helped make this a memorable occasion.



MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to the Washington DC Chapter of the JACL for the following awards:

- Third place in New Memberships! (29 new members)
- Growing 7.1% in 2011
- Helping raise \$11,902 for JACL through membership

New Members since December: Gerald Hayward II, Kimi Murakami, Mary Okamoto, Zachary Prystup, Satoshi Rowland, Miyuki Wade, Kate Wilcox

Increase your support to the JACL by increasing your membership option:

- Thousand Club: \$100 per year
- Century Club: \$175 per year
- Millennium Club: \$1,000 per year

Please consider supporting JACL-DC with employer matching donations or in-kind donations

Let's make 2012 a banner year for membership! E-mail Linda Adams at Linda_adams@mcpsmd.org for membership information.



SAVE THE DATES

JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

The annual national JACL convention will take place July 5—8 in Bellevue, Washington at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue.



The theme for this year is "Inform, Transform, Perform: Embracing JACL in an era of transformation."

Conventioneers will be welcomed at an Aloha Mixer featuring a Hawaiian band and dancing. More entertainment will be provided by the Portland Swing Band at the Sayonara Banquet.

The theme of the convention recognizes the changing face of the JACL and the challenges it faces to be relevant in the 21st century. An important contributor to a dialogue about the future of the JACL will be the National Youth/Student Council which will also meet at the convention.

JACL—DC PICNIC

Please join us for our annual JACL picnic on Saturday, June 9, 2012, 12:00—2:00 p.m. at Wheaton Regional Park, Shelter G, Shorefield Road, Wheaton, MD.



Picnic includes: chicken teriyaki, hot dogs, pot luck, and raffle

Potluck assignments:
(last name beginning with...brings...)

A—K Salads (potato, pasta, greens)

L—P Fruit or Dessert

Q—Z Sushi, Rice or Noodle Dish

We need raffle items!!!

Contact Janice Faden for more information at 301-320-4131 or e-mail: jfaden1@verizon.net

BITS & PIECES

Births

Jonah Yukio Shifrin, grandson of Janice Nakano Faden, born November 10, 2011, 4lbs, 7oz., 17 3/4" long. Born to Julie Faden-Shifrin and Ian Shifrin.

Congratulations

Jack Tobe for making varsity baseball at The Field School.

Condolences

- **Gerrold Mukai**, husband of Sachi, passed away on March 12. Gerrold was a helicopter pilot in the 101st Airborne during the Vietnam conflict. He was also a special appointee in the Carter Administration. *In lieu of flowers, donation may be made in the name of Gerrold Mukai to United Christian Parish or National Institute of Health.*

- **Betty Shima**, wife of Terry Shima, passed away on February 5. Betty is the mother of Michael Shima and of Eileen (Richard) Roulier; grandmother of Kelly and Eric Shima, great grandmother of Donovan Trexler. *In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Geneva Presbyterian Church or to the Japanese American Veterans Association, Betty Shima Scholarship Fund. Please make checks payable to JAVA, write Betty Shima Scholarship Fund on the memo line and mail to Mark Nakagawa, 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153.*

- **Dr. Donald Tatsuro Nakahata** passed away on March 15. He is survived by his wife Alice, with whom he

shared 52 years, sister Beatrice, his sons Andrew (Alison), Peter (Laura) and John (Pam), and grandchildren Eileen, Maura, Dashiell, Paxton, Kevin and Darren.

Tamaki Kawakubo is performing at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater, which appropriately was a gift from Japan. The concert will be April 5, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Go to: <http://www.kennedy-center.org/events/?event=RMXA1>

Ladies Luncheons

Did you know that a group of Japanese American ladies (and their friends) have been meeting for lunch three times a year (first Thursdays in March, July, and November) at area restaurants?



These lunches help provide an opportunity to keep our community together and in contact with each other in a fun and easy way.

If you are interested in joining us, you are most welcome. Call Barbara Nekoba at 703-780-9124 or e-mail her at bnekoba@verizon.net for additional details.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our immediate needs are for a lawyer to review our constitution and bylaws and for a Media/Communications Chair webmaster to update our website and send out information regularly to the membership. If you are interested, please contact me by phone or e-mail.

I am looking forward to another exciting year as your president. We welcome your participation in DC Chapter programs and services, would love to hear from you if you have ideas for activities and improvement, and hope to see you many times at our events.

Continued from page 1



Cherry Blossom Events

Celebrating 100 years, March 20—April 27, 2012



Cherry Blossom Peak: March 20—24, 2012

Visit the [National Park Service](#)'s website with links to the Blossom Cam, cherry blossom photos, and information

on how to donate to the Cherry Tree Replacement Fund.
<http://www.nps.gov/cherry/cherry-blossom-web-cam.htm>



Blossom Kite Festival

March 31, 2012



National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade

April 14, 2012



Sakura Matsuri —Japanese Street Festival

April 14, 2012

Additional Events



Enhancing the US-Japan Partnership: Education and Cultural Ties in a Changing Global Context

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 9:00 AM – 5:00 p.m. RSVP Required: pfields@jusfc.gov

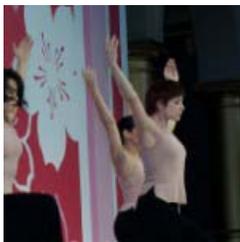
Join the **Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL)** in honoring our Asian Pacific American (APA) public service leaders during Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month!

The **APA Heritage Ball** will take place on May 9, 2012 at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, located at 1615 H Street NW in Washington, DC. This dynamic event will bring together APA public service leaders, including current and former political appointees, and the next generation of leaders from the APA community. The event will feature a keynote speaker, celebrity emcee, silent auction, and much more!

apaheritageball.eventbrite.com

The 2012 **National Japan Bowl** will be held Thursday-Friday, April 12-13, 2012 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD. The Japan Bowl was created by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC in 1992. It is an academic competition that tests the achievements of high school students throughout the United States who are studying the Japanese language, but it also tests the students' knowledge of "Japan, the country."

<http://www.us-japan.org/dc/japanbowl.php>



National Cherry Blossom Festival Opening Ceremony

March 25, 2012



2nd Annual Bike Ride and Cycle Expo

March 25, 2012



14th Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk

March 31, 2012

<http://www.ncbfreedomwalk.org/Default.aspx>



Canon Performance Stage at Sylvan Theatre

March 31—April 15, 2012

For more information, go to:

<http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/about/2012-centennial/>

or washingtonpost.com/gog and search cherry blossom.

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ABOUT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Founded in 1929, the JACL is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. The JACL monitors and responds to issues that enhance or threaten the civil and human rights of all Americans and implements strategies to effect positive social change, particularly to the Asian Pacific American community.

<http://www.jacl.org/about/about.htm>

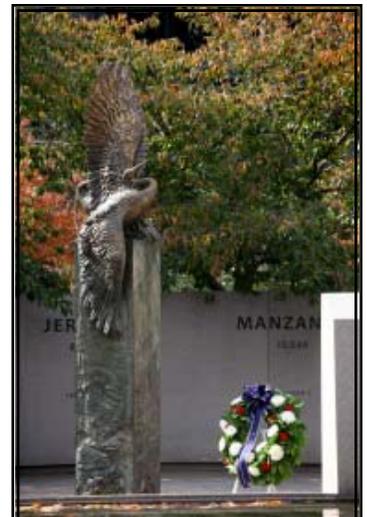


Photo by Joe Shymanski