



DC NEWS NOTES

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

CALENDAR

MEMORIAL DAY

May 24, 2015
Arlington Cemetery



JACL/OCA PICNIC

June 20, 2015
Wheaton Regional Park

JACL CONVENTION

July 13–15, 2015
Las Vegas, NV



KEIRO KAI

September 12, 2015

MOCHITSUKI

December 5, 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Tobe

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As the weather begins to warm up, so do the activities of the DC Chapter. Last month, many of our members welcomed Japan's Prime Minister Abe to Washington, DC. There were overflow crowds at the White House arrival ceremony, his historic address before a joint meeting of Congress, and the many other events that took place around the region. Mrs. Abe was also very busy in Washington, and she made a special visit with First Lady Michelle Obama to the Japanese immersion school in Great Falls, Virginia.

On Sunday, May 24, the 67th Annual Memorial Service will be co-hosted once again by the DC Chapter and JAVA. After the program, attendees fan out and place flower arrangements on every headstone of a Japanese American service member interned at Arlington Cemetery. Special thanks and recognition to Turner Kobayashi and his family for coordinating this event from the very beginning and identifying where every Japanese American service and family member have been laid to rest. I strongly urge you to come and participate in this moving and memorable event.

Next month, on Saturday, June 20th, the annual JACL-OCA barbeque will be held at Wheaton Regional Park, in Silver Spring, MD. Please come and join in the fun as we renew old ties and make new ones at this family-friendly event. There is always PLENTY of food and fun.

We also want to extend congratulations to our own Dr. Ray Murakami who has been awarded the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays from the Japanese government. You can read more about Ray and the above mentioned events in News Notes.

Finally, a reminder that the JACL National Convention will be held from July 13-15 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Please consider joining your fellow JACLers at the 46th annual convention! Have a great spring/summer and see you at one of upcoming events.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON DC



On April 27, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife Akie arrived at Andrews Air Force Base, in Maryland to begin their visit to the Washington

DC region. The Abes flew to DC from Boston where they were greeted by US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy who gave them a personal tour of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library.

On April 28, the First Lady and President Obama welcomed the Prime Minister and his wife to the White House for the official start of their state visit. With a beautiful clear day, the leaders were greeted by an overflow crowd which included many national and local JACL members. A few fortunate JACLers were even able to shake hands with President Obama and Prime Minister Abe as they walked by the rope lines. Later that afternoon, Mrs. Abe and the First Lady Michelle Obama made a special trip out to Great Falls Elementary School, in Great Falls, Virginia to interact with the students who are participating in the Japanese language immersion program. That evening, President Obama hosted a state dinner in honor of the Prime Minister and his wife and both leaders toasted the close ties between the our two countries.

On April 29, Prime Minister Abe become the first Japanese Prime Minister to address a joint meeting of Congress. Again, several national and local JACL members were in attendance and witnessed this historic event.



After departing Washington, the Prime Minister and Mrs. Abe visited Silicon Valley where he was given a ride in a Tesla by Elon Musk. In Los Angeles, the Abes made a special visit to the Japanese American National Museum and reiterated their long standing commitment to strengthening ties between the Japanese and Japanese American peoples. They also expressed their deep appreciation for the generous support given to Japan (especially by the Japanese American community) during the 3/11 disasters.

JACL-DC and JAVA Present

67th Annual
Memorial Service
"Honoring the Past, Transforming the Future"

Sunday, May 24, 2015
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium

Featuring Former First Lt. Craig Shimizu, 3rd Infantry Division, US Army
Miss Lauryn Mitchell, President of Student Government Association,
Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School
Following the ceremony, attendees are invited to lay floral arrangements at gravesites of our fallen heroes.

By car: Approach guards at gates on Memorial Dr. & tell them you are attending this ceremony at the Columbarium | By metro: Metro to Arlington National Cemetery, go through visitor center & to the Columbarium

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 24, 2015.

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: _____

AMY UYEMATSU, SANSEI POET AND TEACHER

When Yellow Turns To Brown

- "the high yellow note"
- Vincent Van Gogh
- "In a number of Van Gogh's paintings, the yellow has dulled to coffee brown..."
- Los Angeles Times, "Van Gogh Mystery Solved," February 15, 2011

How the mind opens or slams shut when it's still hungry and raw -
there were two schools of learning where I come from and mine only had the primary colors of white and non-white

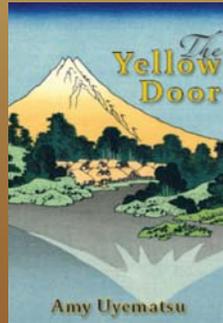
The meaning of yellow depended on who did the asking – my girlfriend Lorene Taylor with the long blond curls or me with straight black hair and skin that changed every summer from beige with yellow undertones to sun drenched brown

For Lorene yellow was the innocence of daisies or luscious like Marilyn Monroe but my brand of yellow was permanently tainted with the treachery of Ming the Merciless, dive bombing kamikazes, and Tokyo Rose, a history fouled by Hearst headlines and Manzanar latrines

I didn't know then how Van Gogh used yellow to reveal the night sky painting straight from his tube of chrome yellow his sunflowers delivered in thick rapid strokes

I had to find out on my own that Van Gogh was inspired by the same Japanese woodblock masters I admire and in one furious decade he emblazoned his fields, stars, even self-portraits with "the high yellow note"

My early lessons about yellow left a persistent stain - I still won't paint its perky hues on my kitchen walls but like Van Gogh, my eye has trained itself to feast on yellow everywhere I look



Gardening Shears

Anyone who truly knows Southern California understands the longheld secret about "my Japanese gardener" – the handiwork of issei and nisei gardeners still showcased from the tract homes of West Los Angeles to the manicured pines and cypress trees of wealthy Hancock Park estates.

This wasn't true before the war, when men like my Pasadena Grandpa operated markets and restaurants, raised produce and flowers, scaring big business with their unstoppable success – until Executive Order 9066 put them in their place.

When the war ended, gardening became the only game in town for men like Grandpa. He found willing customers among his former white Pasadena neighbors, my girlfriend's father began with one rich hakujin on Beverly Boulevard, the word spreading about these magicians who bring dying plants to bloom.

Amy Uyematsu grew up in Southern California. Her poetry grows out of the conflict between her wish to belong to the culture around her and her strong sense of ethnic identity — like many Japanese-Americans during World War II, her parents and grandparents were interned. A high school math teacher, she has published four collections: 30 Miles from J-Town; Nights of Fire, Nights of Rain; and Stone Bow Prayer. Her latest book, The Yellow Door, celebrates her Japanese-American roots and the profound changes that have occurred in her lifetime.

FREEDOM WALK

The annual National Cherry Blossom Festival took place in Washington, D.C. The festival commemorates the gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Tokyo Mayor Yukio Ozaki to Washington, D.C. in 1912. In return, the U.S. Government sent flowering dogwood trees to Japan in 1915. In the years since, the festival has become a mainstay on the local calendar, drawing an estimated 1.5 million visitors to a month-long series of events held every year during March and April.

As part of the festival, the Japanese American Veterans Association, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, JAACL Washington, D.C. Chapter, and Ekoji Buddhist Temple co-sponsored the 17th Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk on March 28th. Held at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, the ceremony featured keynote speaker Catherine Mitrano of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Minister Tamaki Tsukada of the Japanese Embassy, and 442nd veteran Terry Shima.



JACL-DC & OCA-DC JOINT PICNIC

JACL-DC & OCA-DC JOINT PICNIC

Wheaton Regional Park

Shelter G

Shorefield Road, Wheaton, MD

Saturday, June 20, 2015

12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Chicken Teriyaki Kalua Pig Kalbi Hot Dogs Pot Luck Raffle

Pot Luck Assignments

(last name begins with — brings...)

- A—K Fruit or Dessert
- L—P Sushi, Rice, or Noodle Dish
- Q—Z Salads (potato, pasta, greens)

Raffle Items NEEDED!!!

Contact Georgette Furukawa-Martinez for more information at 202-365-6845 or e-mail:

JACLDC.Events@gmail.com

Non-members: Please kindly bring a Pot Luck dish and RSVP to Georgette via the above number or e-mail address. Thank you!

Please contact Georgette if you have any questions or need transportation.

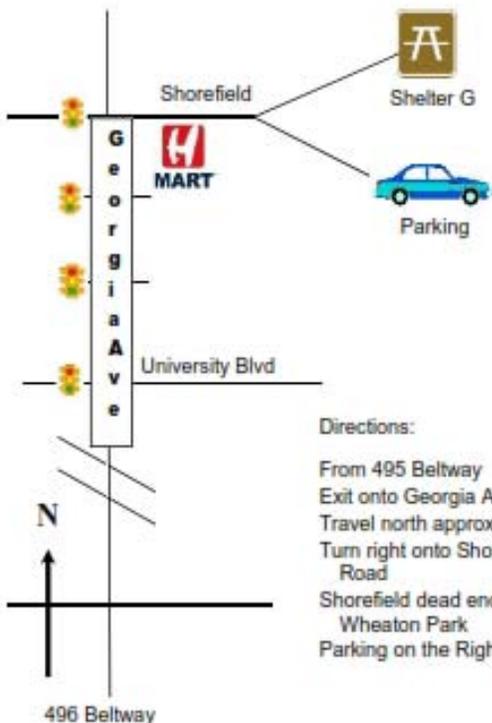


Carousel



Mini train

At the picnic, nonmembers are encouraged to join or make a donation of \$5 or more per person to help defray costs.



BITS & PIECES

Congratulations



On April 28th, the Japanese government announced that our own **Dr. Ray Murakami** of Bethesda, MD had been awarded the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays.

This high honor is in recognition of Dr. Murakami's contributions to the advancement of the social status of Japanese Americans in the United States and for promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

Jennifer Uchida and **Jeff Franklin** were married on May 9, 2015 in Brooklyn, NY. Jenny was a member of the JAACL DC board (as Youth Coordinator) and is Craig Uchida's youngest daughter. Bride and groom work in New York City, where Jeff is an architect and Jenny is a graphic designer.

Terry Shima and the Cherry Blossom Bridge, profiled on the NHK World News: <http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/english/news/features/201504160817.html>

Carolyn Hoover, the daughter of Kimi Murakami and Kenley Hoover (granddaughter of Ray and Mary Murakami) was selected to participate in the Invitation Program for Japanese American students which is sponsored by the Government of Japan. Only five high school students from the entire United States are selected to participate in a program which promotes mutual understanding and exchanges between the younger generations of Japanese and Japanese Americans. We are so proud that Carolyn will represent the Washington region.



Leona Hiraoka participated in the TOMODACHI MetLife Women's Leadership Program on March 23, sharing personal stories of her career path and discussed topics such as women in leadership, work-life balance, mentorship and how non-profit or volunteer work plays a role in her professional life.



Maura Nakahata is graduating from T.C. Williams in Alexandria, VA. She is going to the University of Virginia next year.

Samantha Mori will be going to University of Virginia next Fall. She will be graduating from Woodson High School in Fairfax, VA in June.

Condolences

Rev. Shojo Honda passed away April 13. He had been ill for a few months. A memorial service will be held for Rev. Shojo Honda on June 13 at 11:00 a.m. Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station, VA. All are invited. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Ekoji Buddhist Temple.

Kenichi G. Kuwabara, of Silver Spring, Maryland, passed away on February 23, 2015, at the age of 90. He was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. His family moved to California where he attended the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). When the United States entered World War II, the Kuwabara family moved temporarily, to his uncle's place in Colorado. He is a veteran of World War II, served as a member of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and also served as a civilian translator for the U.S. Department of the Army, ATIS, in Tokyo. He returned to Colorado and finished his education, receiving a MA from the University of Denver. After graduation, he worked and retired as an international economist with the U.S. Department of Commerce. He is survived by his wife, Rose, three children (Arthur, Patricia Hodgkin, and Carolee Yoshida), two grandchildren (Kristina and Jackie), sister Pearl Katayama, and four nephews. Ken Kuwabara was a long time member of the JAACL Washington, D.C. Chapter and in the past, served as an Editor for the DC News Notes.

DC NEWS NOTES

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ABOUT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Located in the nation's Capitol, the Washington, D.C. Chapter partners with local, regional, national, and international organizations to build a network of support that maintains the proud history of the Japanese Americans and promotes the values and concerns of the APIA community.

www.jacl-dc.org



Photo by Joe Shymanski