The DC Chapter continued its busy pace during the spring and early summer. In May, the Chapter was honored to once again co-host the 67th Annual Memorial Service at Arlington National Cemetery. This was an inspiring event that brought multi-generations together to remember and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. In June, we held our second JACL-OCA picnic and it was the biggest one yet. There was plenty of food and fun along with the always spirited raffle drawings.

In July, several of our chapter members (including youth members Kara and Mas St. George) attended the JACL National Convention in Las Vegas. It was a great opportunity to renew acquaintances, make new friends, and learn what other chapters are doing around the country. Please read Kara and Mas’ article about their experience attending their first national convention.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the two JACL fellows who will be moving on this fall. These fellows are chosen from a competitive field and come to Washington, DC to work in the JACL’s DC office. They spend long hours helping to make the JACL a national presence in the area of civil and human rights and also pitch in to assist the DC Chapter. Some of the activities they worked on and participated in during their term include the OCA-JACL Leadership Summit, the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act in Selma, Alabama, and the activities of the recently concluded National Convention. Mineta Fellow Korinne Sugasawa will be moving on to Sacramento, California where she was accepted into the prestigious California Senate’s Capital Fellows Program. Inouye Fellow Craig Shimizu (who was the keynote speaker at the Arlington Cemetery Memorial Service) will transition over and become a Masaoka Fellow working on Capitol Hill. On behalf of the entire board and DC Chapter membership, we want to thank them for their dedicated service and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Finally, I want to remind chapter members of the upcoming Keiro Kai event in September where we honor our seniors who have paved the way for many of us. There will be plenty of food and entertainment. Please come and join us for this family friendly event. Enjoy the rest of the summer and hope to see you soon.
From July 13 to July 15, we attended our first JACL National convention, at the Monte Carlo Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. Upon arrival, we walked in to the youth orientation, and marveled at so many of "our peeps" in one room. Although we live in a diverse area in central Maryland, there are only a handful of Japanese Americans in our community. Orientation began with an icebreaker, instructing us to introduce ourselves to three people in the room. Within minutes, we felt that we had made lifelong friendships from all over the country. Next on our agenda, was an information session about the issues to be discussed during our meetings, and a description of the delegates’ voting process.

Being Japanese Americans of the Yonsei generation, we feel that much of the ties to our heritage have diminished throughout the years. We were raised with a handful of Japanese traditions such as taking our shoes off at the door and saying itadakimasu before eating ochazuke (or "ochadasan" as our grandmother called it when we were kids) at our grandparent’s house. JACL’s Legal Counsel, Brandon Mita was the first Japanese American to marry into our family. Brandon’s influence has kindled an interest in us connecting to our heritage. Brandon was instrumental in encouraging us to join JACL, attend the gatherings and to meet/network with others at the convention.

The sessions provided us with a wealth of information on various issues supported by the JACL. The Youth Council presented a resolution to have JACL support John Conyers bill H.R. 40. This bill aims to study the impact of slavery on economics, politics, and the social life of today’s African Americans. Other presenters included, Bryan Chan, and Mia Francis Yamamoto of the Hyacinth-Alvaran Human Rights Campaign. They rallied for JACL’s support for acceptance and equal rights for the LGBTQ communities. AARP representative Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur spoke about ways to improve the quality of life for our elderly citizens.

Our JACL forefathers have worked tirelessly to promote tolerance and acceptance for minorities. It is up to the younger Japanese generations to continue to move forward with their progress. We encourage you to attend next year’s national convention in Las Vegas. You have our word that it will be a memorable experience. We look forward to seeing you there.

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR JACL MASAOKA CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP

The deadline for the JACL Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship has been extended to Monday, August 31, 2015. The Masaoka Fellowship is designed to develop leaders for public service, particularly at the national level, and provides Fellows the unique opportunity to be placed in a Congressional office where they gain firsthand knowledge of policy creation.

Each paid Fellowship will last for a period of at least one year and is located in Washington, D.C. Completed applications and letters of recommendation should be emailed to pouchida@jacl.org. For questions, please email policy@jacl.org, or call 202-223-1240. There are 2 positions still available for the 2015-2016 JACL Masaoka Congressional Fellowship program.

The Masaoka Fellowship is designed to develop leaders for public service, particularly at the national level, and provides Fellows the unique opportunity to be placed in a Congressional office where they gain firsthand knowledge of policy creation.

The Fellowship lasts for a minimum of 1 year and is housed in the D.C. office of a member of the U.S. Senate or the U.S. House of Representatives. The length of the Fellowship is decided upon by the selected Fellow and by the Congressional office. Specific duties in the office vary depending on the Congressional office and on the Fellow’s experience and knowledge of Congressional functions.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens, JACL members, and students or young professionals who have completed at least an undergraduate degree. Preference will be given to those who have demonstrated a commitment to Asian American issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community. Communication skills, particularly in writing, are important. Applicants must submit a completed application form and one letter of reference.
Our Chapter is a proud recipient of a JACL 2015 Legacy Fund grant for a project to maintain the National Japanese American Memorial, located just a few blocks from the US Capitol. The project's goal is to set up a regular work schedule that would supplement the National Park Service's regular cleanup and, at the same time, teach community partners the history of the Memorial and the Japanese American experience. The cleanup events will be an excellent opportunity to network, recruit new JACL members, and nurture the younger generation to becoming community leaders. A special thank you to Chapter member Rosie Abriam for writing the grant. John Tobe will be project chairman, Rosie Abriam project recorder, and Georgette Furukawa-Martinez project representative.

The JACL’s Legacy Fund was established in 1990 with the theme "Gift of the Generations" to give the Japanese American community an opportunity to contribute restitution payments toward research and education that would help prevent future injustices, such as the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The Washington DC Chapter is one of 14 nationwide grant awardees. As co-chair of the Legacy Fund Grants Committee, Janice Nakano Faden presented certificates to the awardees at the JACL Sayonara Banquet on July 15, 2015, and DC Chapter board member Amy Watanabe accepted the certificate for our Chapter. The 2015 JACL awardees are:

- **Chicago Chapter**—Kansha Project Alumni Leadership Board
- **Cincinnati Chapter**—Contribution of Americans of Japanese Ancestry through Literacy and the Arts
- **New England Chapter**—*Bend, A Solo Performance Piece*
- **New Mexico Chapter**—Confinement in the Land of Enchantment: Japanese Americans in New Mexico during WWII
- **New York City Chapter**—Japanese American Oral History Project
- **National Youth/Student Council**—NY/SC Retreats
- **Philadelphia Chapter**—*Good Luck Soup Interactive*
- **Pacific Southwest District Council**—Nikkei LGBTQ (Lesbian, gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, or Questioning
- **Puyallup Valley Chapter**—Improvement of the Chapter’s Operational Infrastructure
- **San Diego Chapter**—*Never Forget, A Documentary*
- **San Diego Chapter**—Annual Gala
- **Seattle Chapter**—Chapter Website
- **Snake River Chapter**—Arbor Structure for the Chapter’s Japanese Garden
- **Washington DC Chapter**—Remember and Actively Honor!
MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Washington, D.C. - To honor those who served and sacrificed in uniform, the JACL Washington D.C. Chapter and the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) hosted the 67th annual Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery on Sunday, May 24th. Turner Kobayashi, whose family has chaired the event since the first ceremony in 1948, served as the program’s emcee. JACL D.C. Chapter President John Tobe and JAVA President and retired U.S. Army Colonel Michael Cardarelli gave remarks and welcomed guests on behalf of their organizations. Michelle Amano, JACL EDC District Governor and granddaughter of JACL leader Mike Masaoka, read the JACL creed. A U.S. Army bugler sounded “taps” after the veterans in attendance were recognized.

Themed “Honoring the Past and Transforming the Future,” the event featured guest speakers Lauryn Mitchell, President of the Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School Student Government Association, and Craig Shimizu, the current JACL Daniel K. Inouye Fellow and a veteran of the U.S. Army and Afghanistan.

“Spark Matsunaga was a remarkable man known for his fortitude, courage, and persistence for fighting for what was right and what was best for all… In the spirit of Memorial Day, I ask all of you to remember the pro-equality actions of those who came before us and assist in continuing the fight for equality. It may not be easy. In fact, it may take the same fortitude, courage and persistence displayed by Spark Matsunaga but in the end, it will be worth it,” said Mitchell.

Shimizu reflected on his experience in Afghanistan and remembered the sacrifices of the Japanese American soldiers of the past: “I cannot imagine a group of people who had less and gave more than the men of the 442nd and MIS. Soldiers whose government had failed them and who lost everything to the internment – their homes, their families, and their freedom. These men had literally nothing left to give but their lives, and many ended up giving those as well.”

Following the ceremony, attendees laid flowers at the graves of the nearly 80 Japanese Americans who are buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

THANK YOU!

To all who donated to the Memorial Day Ceremony:
Shirley Bertoni
James & Margaret Brady
Douglas Crowe
Janice Faden
Yuka Fujikura
Leona Hiraoka
Hinako Hirose
Donna Hollingshead
Dale Horos
Paul Igasaki
Chosei Kuge
Yoko Morita
Ray Murakami
Mae Nakamoto
JACL Seabrook
Gary Tanigawa
John Tobe
Martha Watanabe
Deborah Watanabe
Fumie Yamamoto

By Craig Shimizu
On June 20, JACL-DC brought the community together at the annual summer picnic at Wheaton Regional Park. This was the second year that JACL and OCA have partnered on the event, resulting in a great turnout with lots of different food.

Around 150 people, from both organizations, enjoyed barbecue chicken, kalbi beef, burgers and hot dogs, plus an assortment of salads and desserts brought by the community. They also won a wide range of prizes in the largest raffle yet!

JACL-DC Chapter President John Tobe noted that the chapter was proud to be reaching out to other Asian American groups, and that the picnic was a great way to bring people together. OCA DC Chapter President Mary Tom offered her warm greetings to those gathered and noted the power of collaboration.

Maryland State Senator Susan Lee visited the picnic and thanked the attendees for their continued interest in advocating for Asian American issues. JACL National Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida also spent the afternoon at the event, as did past Executive Director Floyd Mori.

Young children and teens, young professionals and grandparents all enjoyed a warm summer afternoon with lots of treats. JACL-DC Secretary Georgette Furukawa-Martinez coordinated the event and ran the barbecue, with member Jack Tobe heading the grill. Many thanks to volunteers and attendees alike for another successful summer event.
**B I T S & P I E C E S**

**Opportunity**

AARP Home Fit Workshops educate participants about the types of home modifications that can help people age-in-place and go about their daily activities while staying independent and injury free. Please join us on Thursday, November 5, at Meiwhah Restaurant (lunch is not included as a part of this workshop). For questions, please contact Michelle Amano 301-412-3866 michelle_amano@me.com or Barbara Nekoba at bnekoba@verizon.net. The Home Fit Workshop is open to all JACL members and friends. The Home Fit Workshop will include a lecture, helpful handouts and open discussion.

**Congratulations**

Julie Ichiuji, granddaughter of Susie Ichiuji and daughter of Doug Ichiuji, was married on June 20, 2015 at the Ritz Carlton in Washington, DC. Her husband is Michael Cyr.


Founded in 2008, PAAFF is the East Coast’s premier Asian American and Pacific Islander cinema showcase. Their marquee event is their annual film festival each November, an 11-day event featuring film screenings, panel discussions, musical performances, cooking demonstrations, and other culturally relevant events. As a non-profit volunteer-run organization, PAAFF relies on charitable contributions to continue our work celebrating and elevating the AAPI experience and educating the non-Asian mainstream about the tremendous diversity in our community. Please join them for their Fundraiser Banquet on Friday, September 11th at Ocean City Restaurant in Philadelphia's Chinatown and their 2015 festival November 12-22. For more information, visit www.paaff.org

JACL Inouye Fellow Craig Shimizu (L) and Jennifer Jones at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Photo Credit: Korinne Sugawara
Keiro Kai & Family Day

Saturday, September 12, 2015
12:00—2:30 p.m.

North Bethesda Middle School
8935 Bradmoor Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817

FEATURING:
“The JBE Band”
The JBE Band members include local Japanese business leaders and
staffers from the Embassy of Japan

&

JACL - DC Top Chef: David Inoue

Sushi, Chicken Teriyaki, Rice, Drinks, Games,
and Entertainment for all ages!

JACL members are FREE!
If you are not a member, please consider joining the DC Chapter
(Join today at: JACL.org)

Non-members $10 per person or $20 for family of four

Please RSVP by September 5, 2015 for planning purposes to:

(keirokaifamilyday.eventbrite.com)

If you have a question, call Ron Mori at 202-434-6095 or rmori@aarp.org
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