As you will read in this edition of News Notes, DC Chapter has continued to be very active in the community and we have whole slate of events coming up in the Spring and early Summer. We held another successful Mochitsuki, collaborated with our embassy partners to create the embassy’s first Japanese American week culminating in the JACL receiving the prestigious Japanese Foreign Minister’s Award, sworn in a new group of DC officers, and have embarked on several new initiatives which will educate the next generation and preserve the legacy of Japanese Americans.

An initiative we are particularly excited about is our Legacy Fund Project. DC Chapter was awarded a grant from JACL National based on our proposal to educate the youth in our community about the sacrifices and accomplishments of our Issei and Nisei. We are making a concerted effort to reach out and recruit youth at all of our events and we are delighted with the initial response.

While still in the planning stages, DC Chapter is a core member of an All Camps Consortium that will take place in mid-May. The idea is to gather representatives from all 10 camps in Washington DC and discuss best practices and how to lobby Congress to continue the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grants which have been used to fund various educational and construction projects at the camp sites around the country. More information will be forthcoming.

Our next big event is Freedom Walk which will take place on April 2nd. This is the kick off event for Washington’s Cherry Blossom Festival. We hope you will join us on that day. The keynote speaker will be National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis.

Finally, I wanted to especially thank the “Crafty Ladies” for their very generous donation to the chapter. Their contributions help to fund many of our projects and events and on behalf of the entire board and the DC Chapter in general, we all wanted to express our appreciation. Domo Arigato Gozaimasu!
Within the few past months, three members of our Chapter publicly described their experiences and their family's experiences during World War II. They emphasized the incarceration when families of Japanese ancestry living along the west coast were forced to evacuate the region.

Jean Kariya told her story on December 15, 2015, at a program at the Japan Information and Culture Center entitled "Internment of Japanese Americans: Past, Present, and Future". Born to immigrant parents in Oakland, California, she was in high school when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Ms. Kariya and her family were ordered to assemble temporarily at Tanforan Racetrack in South San Francisco and crowded into former horse stalls which, according to Ms. Kariya, still smelled of horses. Soon thereafter her family went by train to be incarcerated at Topaz in Utah and Crystal City Family Internment Camp in Texas. She completed her talk with highlights of her life after the war, first in Japan and then in the United States.

Mary Murakami recounted her experiences at the Tanforan Assembly Center and then Topaz when she spoke at an IBM luncheon at Normandie Farms restaurant on January 6, 2016. Ms. Murakami described the trains to Topaz that were guarded by soldiers and the barbed wire fences around the camp, where cameras were confiscated. She recalled poignant scenes with incarcerated parents on one side of the barbed wire fence and enlisted sons bidding each other farewell as the sons left to go off to war. Co-speaker at the IBM event was Terry Shima, highly decorated member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, who narrated the heroic deeds of his infantry and postwar military career. Terry punctuated his presentation with a quote from President Truman, who said of the men, "You fought the enemy abroad and you fought prejudice at home, and you won."

Janice Faden served on a panel with two local Muslim women at Congregation Beth Chai's annual Martin Luther King Day program in Bethesda on January 17, 2016. The event was entitled "The Dangers of Scapegoating in a Time of Fear". Ms. Faden told of the experiences of her family, beginning with the signing of Executive Order 9066 and ending with resettlement and redress, while her co-presenters focused on growing Islamophobia under the current political climate. Ms. Faden was struck by the fact that many otherwise well-informed attendees knew little to nothing about the internment camps of our Japanese forbears. Vowing to work to prevent repeating the violation of our Constitutional rights that occurred during World War II, the panel discussion explored strategies to avoid similar mistakes.
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

To mark the 74th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, the Smithsonian National Museum of American History presented Japanese American Incarceration and the Art of Identity with Roger Shimomura, an evening of programming on February 19. More than 200 people attended the Day of Remembrance event, which was sponsored in part by JACL National and JACL D.C. Chapter. Attendees were able to peruse tables showcasing artifacts from the museum's Japanese American history collection, try on a reproduction of a 442nd Regimental Combat Unit army jacket and speak with NMAHYouth—the National Museum of American History's youth group—about their student produced comics and comic trading cards. JACL D.C. chapter also exhibited at the event, sharing information with attendees about Remember and Actively Honor! (RAH!), a newly launched project that combines youth service and building awareness of the history of the Japanese American experience. The project—funded by a grant from the JACL Legacy Fund—hopes to highlight the relevance of these historical experiences to the social justice and civil liberty issues of today and encourage a new generation of youth community leaders.

The main feature of the event was the showing of news anchor and filmmaker David Ono's documentary on Roger Shimomura, a Japanese American artist whose work is a commentary on the sociopolitical issues of ethnicity in America. The documentary gives viewers a look into how Shimomura's experience in incarceration camps and his experience as a Japanese American impacted his life and art. Following the documentary, Ono led a Q&A session where Shimomura joined the audience via satellite video. Capping off the event was a performance by Regie Cabico, a Filipino American poet and spoken word artist.

SMITHSONIAN EXHIBITION COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

DC Chapter has committed to raising $10,000 to help fund a 2017 exhibit on the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. In addition to a display of EO 9066, the Smithsonian will be displaying artifacts from Japanese American families who are donating items to this exhibit. DC Chapter has already raised over 50% of the money needed to complete our commitment. We need to raise an additional $4400 by May 31, 2016. If you are able, please help us reach our goal by donating to this effort. All donations are tax deductible and will be greatly appreciated. Please send your contribution along with the form below to JACL DC Chapter, PO Box 6188, Silver Spring, MD 20906

Please make the check out to JACL DC Chapter and note the contribution is earmarked for the Smithsonian exhibit.

If you are interested in donating any artifacts, please contact Ms. Noriko Sanefuji at the Smithsonian. Her email is americanhistoryapacollection@si.edu or at 202/633-3340. Go to this link for more information, http://americanhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/file-uploader/EO9066_overview.pdf

☐ Yes, I will donate $____________ to the Smithsonian exhibit. 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: ______________________________________ Street Address ________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _____ Zip: ________ Telephone Number: __________

E-mail: ___________________________________________________________________________________
After getting snowed out for the first time since anyone can remember, the resilient DC Chapter held their 70th annual installation luncheon on February 13, 2016. The keynote speaker was Rear Admiral David Boone (ret), whose many accomplishments include responsibilities for White House operations during 9/11 and rescue and recovery efforts of Operation Tomodachi. For his efforts, Admiral Boone was awarded the Nippon Gen Gokkai Award from the Office of the Prime Minister of Japan. Thanks to the Legacy Fund, the chapter sponsored lunch for high school attendees, who heard Admiral Boone’s insightful remarks on growing up in Yokohama, Japan, his career in the US Navy Civil Engineer Corps, and his dedication to serve others.

The 2016 DC Chapter board was then sworn in by EDC Governor Michelle Amano. For 2016, the new board members are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Tobe</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Michelle Amano</td>
<td>EDC Governor</td>
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<td>Leona Hiraoka</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
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<td>Georgette Furukawa-Martinez</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Craig Uchida</td>
<td>Treasurer (ex-officio)</td>
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<td>Janice Nakano Faden</td>
<td>Outreach and Community &amp; Partnerships Chair</td>
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<td>Linda Sato Adams</td>
<td>News Notes, Program Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Watanabe</td>
<td>Communications Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Yamagata</td>
<td>Membership Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nikki Yamashiro</td>
<td>Legacy Fund Project Chair</td>
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<td>Miya Hiraoka Sluchansky</td>
<td>Youth Chair</td>
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<td>Ron Mori</td>
<td>Program Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Inoue</td>
<td>Anti-Hate Liaison Program Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alice Lin</td>
<td>Member-at-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merissa Nakamura</td>
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<td>Craig Shimizu</td>
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<td>Emil Trinidad</td>
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He is the current Daniel K. Inouye Fellow for JACL. In this capacity, he leads the organization’s civic engagement program and covers many policy topics, including education and immigration.

Prior to JACL, Emil has worked in various sectors across the DC metro area, including non-profit, private, and political work. He has been deeply involved with various Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) organizations around DC in both professional and volunteer capacities. He began as an intern in Asian Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote) and has worked for the Asian & Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund (APIASF). He currently serves as the co-chair for the Washington, D.C. Chapter of KAYA: Filipino Americans for Progress and previously served on the Board of Directors for the Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL). In these roles, he works to educate and empower the next group of AAPI leaders.

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: ________________________________
E-mail: __________________________________________
Three of six speakers at a recent panel discussion honoring Japanese Americans in the U.S. military were USJC members. Council Leaders/USJC Members Rear Admiral David Boone (ret.), Colonel Bruce Hollywood and Associate (Member) Lt. Commander Janelle Kuroda (USNR) were among the speakers on December 14 at the Japan Information and Culture Center.

Colonel Hollywood, Executive Director of the Japanese American Veterans Association, served as moderator. He said that the relationship between Japanese and Japanese Americans are the foundation of a strong U.S.-Japan alliance, and noted the diversity of the speakers, which included a lawyer, a doctor and engineers. (Col. Hollywood is also participating in the 2016 Japanese American Leadership Delegation program.)

Rear Admiral Boone discussed his experience growing up with an American father and a Japanese mother. His bilingual, bicultural upbringing helped his career in the Navy. "It pushed me to ask the right questions and think about the other culture," he said. "As military personnel, it is important to be a global citizen."

Lt. Commander Kuroda said she wanted to continue her family's legacy, as her granduncle served in the 100th Infantry Battalion. After working internationally in the Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps, she is now based in Washington, DC as a Foreign Affairs Officer. (She was a 2010 participant of the TOMODACHI Emerging Leaders Program.)

Lt. General Thomas Bostick, the son of an African American man and a Japanese woman, spoke about the importance of diversity. He noted that his father, who served in the military for 26 years, faced segregation, and touched upon the discrimination that African Americans, Japanese Americans, women and others have faced. "Think how things would've been if society had been more inclusive," he said. He also said that although there has been significant improvement, like how all combat roles were opened to women (a milestone that was achieved just the week before), more needs to be done.

Adding to the discussion of diversity, Captain Cynthia Macri (ret.) explained that she was previously the Special Assistant of Diversity for the Chief of Naval Operations. She said that gender-neutral society changes were necessary, noting that there were very few women who reach the rank of four stars. When considering military personnel's career advancement, "we need to see people as families, not individuals," she said.

Rear Admiral Yuki Sekiguchi, Defense and Naval Attaché at the Embassy, brought a Japanese perspective to the discussion. He touched upon the importance of the United States and Japan understanding each other's circumstances -- like Article 9 in Japan -- when cooperating for common goals.

Much to the audience's delight, World War II veteran Terry Shima, who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made a special appearance and delivered closing remarks. "The 442nd and the Tuskegee airmen contributed to the climate of postwar reform," he said, adding that the panelists and other Japanese American leaders were continuing that legacy by achieving a high level after "competing with the best of the best." He also recognized the many civilian leaders who further propelled the movement towards equality, like Secretary Norman Mineta, the late Mike Masaoka and the late Senator Daniel Inouye.


U.S.-Japan Council Newsletter
LEGACY FUND GRANTS

Applications for Legacy Fund grants are now available. The purpose of this Fund is to implement the JACL's mission, purposes, and Program for Action. The Legacy Fund was established in 1990. This fund gave the Japanese American Community an opportunity to contribute restitution monies toward research and education that would help prevent future injustices such as the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Last year 14 grant proposals were awarded for a variety of innovative projects. Our DC Chapter received a grant to engage community members in the maintenance of the National Japanese American Memorial and educate them about the history of the Memorial and the Japanese American experience. Other project topics included "Contribution of Americans of Japanese Ancestry through Literacy and the Arts", "Unique Stories of Nisei and Sansei regarding the New York City Redress and Reparations Movement", and "A Well-designed Website to Enhance Communication and Marketing for the Chapter." Eligible applicants include the JACL chapters, districts, and the National Youth/Student Council. The deadline for the application is April 1, 2016 and the maximum amount for the grants is $3,000. You can access the application instructions and form on the JACL website, https://jacl.org/legacy-fund-grants/, or from John Tobe, john.tobe@gmail.com and Janice Faden, jfaden1@verizon.net.

Past Legacy Fund Grants funded projects:
- Family: An API LGBTQ Gathering

BITS & PIECES

Congratulations

Leona Hiraoka, DC Chapter Vice President; Principal Partner, Integrated Media; and Vice President, Communications, Points of Light, was appointed to the U.S.-Japan Council (USJC) Board of Directors, and serves as the chair of the Communications Committee. The USJC is at the forefront of promoting deeper ties between Japan and the United States. The organization connects government, political, business, and cultural leaders between the two countries.

Condolences

Asako "Susie" Ichiuji passed away peacefully at her home after a long battle with cancer. She was the beloved widow of Joseph "Joe" Ichiuji, loving mother of Karen Ichiuji Ramone and Douglas Ichiuji; proud grandmother of Stacy Ichiuji Pillersdorf, Julie Ichiuji Cyr, B.J. Ramone, and Alex Ichiuji. She is also survived by brother George Tsuda, sister Rose Tsuda Tanaka and many dear friends. Susie was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming on August 27, 1921 where she grew up and graduated high school.

As a volunteer of the U.S.O., she met Joe who had just returned from serving in the U.S. Army’s 552nd Field Artillery Battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and they married in 1948. In 1979 Susie retired from the Federal government after 37 years of distinguished service with several agencies, most notably NASA, U.S. Peace Corps, and the General Services Administration.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 19 at 11 a.m. at the Geneva Presbyterian Church, 11931 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, Maryland. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, 4200 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Suite 106-236, Washington, DC 20016.

Constance Nayematsu Ishio

Longtime resident of the Silver Spring, Maryland area, died January 1, 2016 at her daughter's home in Goodyear, AZ.

Born in 1920 in Crow Agency, MT, to Yahei and Koume (Mikami) Nayematsu, one of six children. She received her BA degree in Early Childhood Education from Colorado State Teacher's College, and taught preschool in New York City before she married the late Col. Sunao (Phil) Ishio in 1945. She supported her husband in his activities with JAVA (Japanese American Veteran's Association) and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

She was preceded in death by her husband, with whom she shared 64 years of marriage, and her son, Douglas Ishio. She is survived by her daughters, Julie Sloneker and her husband, Mark, and Holly Molden and her husband, Jim and their son, Dr. Jaime Molden.

Memorial gifts may be made to Streams of Hope Church, Gaithersburg, MD or the Phil and Connie Ishio Scholarship Fund through JAVA. Please make check out to the JAVA and mail to LTC Mark Nakagawa, 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153.

A memorial gathering will be held at Streams of Hope Church, 200 W Diamond Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877 on March 12, 2016 at 11:00 am with reception to follow.
Hundreds of JACL members and guests, friends and families celebrated the holidays at Mochitsuki 2015 on December 5! Thank you to all who attended – enjoying the bento boxes, purchasing gifts from the Crafty Ladies, pounding fresh mochi and more! Thank you to the JBE Band for providing live entertainment throughout the event! And thank you to those who donated to the raffle, whose proceeds will fund our chapter’s work for the 2017 JACL National Convention in Washington, DC.

Stay tuned for news and events in the New Year – and yes, Mochitsuki will return in December 2016!

18th Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk
Saturday, April 2, 2016
National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II

Protecting Our History, Preserving Our Parks

Keynote Speaker: Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director, National Park Service

National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism
New Jersey & Louisiana Avenues and D Street, NW
(closest Metro is Union Station)

NJAMF AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CREATING DIGITAL STORIES

The Foundation is looking for high school students under the direction of dedicated history teachers to each research one of the 10 camps used during World War II to incarcerate Japanese Americans and create a digital story—telling a story unique to that camp. Qualified students will be interested in the Japanese American Incarceration experience, American history, and/or civil rights. Selected students must attend a Digital Storytelling Workshop on July 28-30, 2016 at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, located near Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming (expenses paid).

We are seeking up to 10 culturally diverse students to create short digital stories, under five minutes long, about each of the 10 confinement sites conveying the unique stories of each confinement site and capture the backgrounds of those incarcerated there. The process of researching oral and written histories, writing the video narrative, and learning the videography will provide a profound educational opportunity for the students involved. Emmy Award-winning filmmakers Jeff MacIntyre and David Ono (Content Media Group) will run the Digital Storytelling Workshop and oversee the final production details for each digital story.

TIMELINE:
March 1, 2016: Deadline to Receive student/teacher applications (email NJAMFstudentproject@gmail.com)
February—July 2016: Research period for students
July 28-30, 2016: Students travel with Foundation representatives to Heart Mountain, WY, for digital storytelling workshop
August—December 2016: Final film production period
February 2017: 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066; Reception will be held to showcase all finished digital stories

After the digital stories are finished, they will become the heart of an interactive companion website tying back to each confinement sites’ website. In tandem with the website, a mobile Application will be developed to be used by visitors to the Memorial.

Confined Sites: Gila River (AZ), Granada (CO), Heart Mountain (WY), Jerome (AR), Manzanar (CA), Minidoka (ID), Poston (AZ), Rohwer (AR), Tule Lake (CA), Topaz (UT)

Project Contact: Beth Kelley, NJAMFstudentproject@gmail.com

M O C H I T S U K I  2 0 1 5
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