The DC Chapter continues to participate, host, and plan numerous events during the Spring and Summer months. Some of those events include the Freedom Walk at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, a cleanup event at the Memorial, participating in the APAICS Awards Gala, the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony and the JACL-OCA Picnic.

Speaking of Memorial Day, the DC Chapter is once again honored to co-sponsor this annual event at Arlington Cemetery’s Columbarium where we get an opportunity to recognize and remember the sacrifices made by previous generations. This is the 68th annual year which the Kobayashi family has organized this event and it is likely the longest continuous event of its kind in the nation. A special feature of the event has been the placing of flowers on the burial site of every fallen hero of Japanese American descent. To help defray costs, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution towards this effort. For additional information, please look for the Memorial Day flyer elsewhere in this edition of News Notes. I strongly encourage you to attend this very moving and meaningful event.

We are also looking forward to our annual joint picnic with the DC Chapter of OCA. This is a very family oriented event and it provides an opportunity to meet new people and renew old friendships. A flyer on this event is also included in this edition of News Notes.

I also want to mention that the JACL National Convention is coming up July 11-14 in Las Vegas. The convention is a tremendous opportunity to meet fellow JACLer’s from around the country and learn more about their activities and interests. Please go to www.jacl.org for additional information on how to get involved.

Finally, I want to encourage our younger members to come and join our many events. We have been making a special effort to reach out to youth through our RAH! program and have been encouraged by the initial response. We recently held a very successful cleanup of the National Japanese American Memorial where we hauled away 60+ bags of trash and yard debris. As part of the cleanup, participants also learned about the history of the Memorial and the background to some of the design elements. I want to thank all the DC Chapter members who came out to help and special thanks to Nikki Yamashiro for heading this up. We plan to hold another cleanup in early Fall.

Thanks for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events.
**FREEDOM WALK**

Once again, DC Chapter served as a co-sponsor for the 18th Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism on Saturday, April 2, 2016. In spite of the rain, close to 100 people attended. This year’s theme was “Protecting Our History, Preserving Our Parks.” It was a way to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the closing of the camps and to celebrate the centennial of the National Park Service.

The program began with a performance by Nen Daiko Drum Troupe from the Ekoji Buddhist Temple and presentation of colors by Boy Scout Troop 508 from Mt. Airy, MD. Both have been a part of Freedom Walk since the beginning. DC Chapter members Craig Shimizu, a fourth generation Japanese American, who served in the Army in Afghanistan led the Pledge of Allegiance and Janelle Kuroda, who serves in the Navy Reserves served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Mr. Jonathan Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service was the keynote speaker. He highlighted the recent designation of Honouliuli as a National Monument and the Confinement Sites grant program which promotes the preservation and interpretation of the internment sites. Other speakers included The Honorable Atsuyuki Oike, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan, National Cherry Blossom Festival Chair Kristin Rohr, Lauren Vaughan representing the Mayor of Washington, DC as well as the representatives from the sponsoring organizations, Calvin Shintani, Chair of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Michael Cardarelli, President of the Japanese American Veterans Association, and John Tobe, President of the Washington, DC Chapter of the JACL. Among the special guests in the audience were Davis Buckley, architect of the Memorial, Paul Matisse, creator of the Memorial bell and Diana Mayhew, Executive Director of the National Cherry Blossom Festival along with last year’s National Cherry Blossom Queen and two of their Goodwill Ambassadors and Navy Commander Masato and two midshipmen from the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

At the conclusion of the program, members of the Pi Delta Psi fraternity at George Washington University led the Walk around the National Mall.

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**JACL-DC and JAVA Present**

68th Annual Memorial Service

“Honoring the Past, Educating the Next Generation”

Sunday, May 29, 2016
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium

Featuring Col. Bruce Hollywood, USAF (retired) and Miss Sophie Kim, Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School

Following the ceremony, attendees are invited to lay floral arrangements at gravesites of our fallen heroes.

Questions for attending Memorial Service: Turner Kobayashi at Turner@audleyfarm.com or 540-539-1080

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 29, 2016.

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:__________________________
APAIICS 22ND ANNUAL GALA AWARDS DINNER

On Wednesday, May 4, the Asian Pacific Institute for Congressional Studies (APAIICS) held their 22nd annual Gala Awards Dinner before a packed room of 1400+ attendees.

The program recognized individuals and organizations for their contributions to the empowerment and advancement of Asian American and Pacific Islander community: Congressman Xavier Becerra -- Lifetime Achievement Award; Aziz Ansari and Alan Yang -- Vision Award; and Toyota -- Corporate Achievement Award.

The keynote speech was delivered by President Obama. Introduced by Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), the President highlighted his Administration’s efforts and successes on behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, saying "We can be proud of our individual heritage and we can be fighting every single day for the democratic values and pluralism that allows us to all live together."

The President also spoke about anti-immigration rhetoric and mentioned the treatment of Japanese Americans during WWII as a cautionary tale. The President said, "We’ve got to push back against anti-immigrant sentiment in all of its forms -- especially by those who are trying to stoke it just to seek political gain and just to try to get headlines. And just as we moved beyond “No Irish Need Apply” signs; just as we moved beyond questioning the loyalty of Catholics; just as we moved beyond the active persecution of Chinese immigrants; just as we learned the stain on our history from our treatment of Japanese immigrants and even Japanese Americans in World War II -- we are going to move beyond today’s anti-immigrant sentiment as well. We will live up to our ideals. We just have to keep speaking out against hatred and bigotry in all of its forms."

Also in attendance was former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who addressed the VIP reception, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, Former Secretary Norm Mineta (the founder of APAICS) and many Members of Congress.

Special congratulations to DC Chapter Board Member Amy Watanabe who was the key organizer of this event. APAICS is led by JACL National Director Emeritus Floyd Mori. Many DC Chapter members, along with JACL National members were in attendance to lend their support.

JACL DC CO-SPONSORS ALL CAMPS CONSORTIUM TOUR

On Saturday, May 14, the DC Chapter along with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, hosted a tour of the Memorial for the participants of the All Camps Consortium. In addition, youth who belong to the DC Chapter and other groups also participated in learning more about the history of the the Japanese American experience and about the memorial itself.

Dr. Franklin Odo, former Director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, and current John J. McCloy ’16 Professor of American Institutions and International Diplomacy at Amherst College told the overflow crowd that while memorials are permanent, public perception of them changes over time. Dr. Odo cited his own personal irony of being named the recipient scholar of the John J. McCloy Chair at Amherst College. During World War II, it was McCloy who as assistant secretary of War, pushed for the mass evacuation and incarceration of Japanese Americans. Initially, Dr. Odo had decided not to accept the post but after some reflection, thought it would be fitting that he would use his position to publicize the grave injustice that Japanese Americans suffered during World War II.

The other featured speaker was nationally known architect, Davis Buckley who designed the Memorial. With its status as a National Memorial, Buckley spoke about how the memorial is sometimes viewed as the face of the community. The memorial is also a symbol not only in the local community, but also nationally and globally. Buckley added the Memorial is the only one in the nation’s capital to have an apology and also the only one to have a working bell as part of its design element. Buckley said the memorial is located on the official grounds of the Capitol and that serves as a reminder to Congress and others that we must be vigilant and protect our civil rights. Buckley closed by saying the Memorial is hallowed ground and it is our legacy. We need to protect it and ensure that the next generation understands their obligation to carry this legacy forward.
Congratulations

Chase Philip Pillersdorf, born on April 18 at 4:16 p.m. at Lenox Hill hospital in New York City, to parents Stacy (Ichouji) and Lance Pillersdorf, weighing in at 6 pounds 14 ounces, 21.5 inches long.

Marika Hobson, (daughter of Sachi Mukai) and Dan Jaquet will become man and wife on May 28, 2016 in Colorado. Oh, Happy Day!!

Richard Misawa, son of Sonia Misawa, graduated from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Condolences

Edward Kiyoshi Nakade, June 22, 1950—April 19, 2016, was the son of the late Joseph and Marie (Higashiyama) Nakade in Stockton, CA. Ed attended Delta College and graduated from California State University, with a Bachelor's Degree. He earned his teaching credential in 1973. He was united in marriage to Debra L. Matsuo on July 9, 1983 in Stockton, CA. Following their marriage, Ed and Debbie resided in Atwater community.

Ed was employed with the Atwater Elementary School District as a teacher for over 30 years. Among his special interests, Ed enjoyed golfing, gardening and was an avid poker player. He was a member of the Stockton and Cortez Buddhist Churches and the Cortez JACL.

Ed is survived by his wife Debbie of Atwater, CA; his siblings, David Nakade of Stockton, CA and Shirley Bertoni of Rockville, MD.

Also surviving are his nieces Meghan Bertoni and Thea Bertoni-Hall (Joshua) of Rockville, Maryland, and nephews Steven Pocoroba of San Jose and Kevin Schindler of Los Altos.

Welcome Reception for New DCM Oike and Minister Sasayama

JACL DC chapter members were honored to attend Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae's reception for incoming Deputy Chief of Mission Oike and Minister of Chancery Sasayama, as well as bid a fond farewell to DCM Izumi.

He, along with the Minister of Public Affairs Tamaki Tsukada, have been long-standing collaborators with our DC chapter in working to build stronger relationships between the Embassy and the Japanese American community.

All Camps Consortium

The second All Camps Consortium meeting was held on Friday, May 13th at the law firm of Hogan Lovells in Washington, D.C. More than 60 participants were in attendance, including representatives from all 10 WRA confinement sites, several of the nation’s leading Japanese American organizations, and NPS representatives. Participants discussed how best to build a network of aligned organizations which would work together to raise greater awareness about the Japanese American incarceration experience during World War II. In addition, on Saturday, May 14, the attendees also participated in a lecture and tour of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. The discussion was led by Architect Davis Buckley who was the lead designer of the Memorial and Dr. Franklin Odo, currently a professor at Amherst College and former director of the Asian Pacific American Center, Smithsonian.

JACL Convention 2016

Registration is now open for the 2016 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada from Monday, July 11 through Thursday, July 14 at the Monte Carlo Hotel. Join JACL for a special plenary, “What’s at Stake in 2016?” The outcome of the 2016 elections will have deep and profound impact for years to come, for Japanese Americans, other Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and for the nation as a whole.

You can register online at the JACL website, JACL.org, https://jacl.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2016-Convention-Registration-Form.pdf or by mail. If you register online, $25 will go to the National Youth Student Council. Early bird special full convention fee for members is $275 as opposed to the full convention fee of $325. The cut-off date for early bird registration is Friday, June 17. We hope to see you there.
JACL-DC & OCA-DC JOINT PICNIC

Wheaton Regional Park
Shelter G
Shorefield Road, Wheaton, MD
Saturday, June 11, 2016
1200–230 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.

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