CO-PRESIDENTS’ LETTER

Fall Greetings, JACL DC Chapter!

First, we salute all of our Veterans and their families.

We hope you are enjoying the great fall weather, and of course, getting ready for the upcoming holidays. It is also a time for all of us to give thanks and to remember those who may not have family or friends nearby during the holidays. Make sure to take a moment to make a friendly call or bring them to one of our upcoming events.

Since our last News Notes, it has been a very busy time for the DC Chapter in so many ways. We owe our volunteers a big thank you for another fun-filled Keiro Kai and Family Day in September. Over 110 people of all ages came out to enjoy an afternoon filled with games, delicious food, and of course top-notch entertainment by the JBE Band. Speaking of food, family and friends this year’s can’t miss Mochitsuki is on December 9th. Much more information will follow in the coming week. Registration information and details can be found on page 7. We hope to see you there!

In addition, we are continuing to post updates and special events via email, and on our chapter Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. Your ongoing input and participation in our chapter survey is very much appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

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CALENDAR

November 11: Veterans Day | December 9: Mochitsuki | January 27: Installation
KEIRO KAI & FAMILY DAY
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The DC Chapter’s 2017 Keiro Kai and Family Day on September 9 was well attended with a multigenerational crowd of great grandparents, grandparents, parents, and children. The celebration opened with a Get-to-Know-Your-Chapter icebreaker that motivated guests to intermingle with old friends and strangers alike to gather information about each other. Congratulations to the icebreaker’s winners: Kristine Minami, Sonia Misawa, and Tony Horos, Sr., who were the quickest to fill out the information-gathering cards.

Bingo, an old favorite, was one of the day’s entertainments with the grand prize going to Maya Abo Dominguez. Back by popular demand was the Japanese Business and Embassy (JBE) Band, which played a fun mix of Japanese and American favorites, including “Country Roads”, “A Hard Day’s Night”, and “Sukiyaki”. Performers were Go Eguchi (Mitsubishi), Kenichi Kobayashi (Embassy), Aino Yamaji (Embassy), Koji Okawa (Toyota), Maki Yasui (Japan Bank for International Cooperation), and Shin Donowaki (Sumitomo).

Of course food always binds everyone together, and it has become a tradition to enjoy sushi, like our mothers used to fix, superbly prepared by David Inoue and delicious homemade bento boxes from Michelle Amano.

Guests left with lots of containers of surplus food and words of appreciation for the opportunity to reconnect with family, friends, and neighbors, and with our culture and heritage. To supplement the impressions and comments we received, for the first time we sent out a feedback survey, which confirmed the high rate of satisfaction for the event, an average of 4.4/5. We value your comments and want to hear from you, so please submit your completed surveys so we can continue to make improvements.
NEVER GIVE UP! MINORU YASUI & THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

On October 18, 2017, steps away from the U.S. Supreme Court, a very special screening of “Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice,” took place in two packed rooms at the United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. The 18th was not any ordinary day. It was the day that the current administration’s third Travel Ban was set to take effect.

However, hours before the new travel ban rules were to take effect, federal judges in Hawaii and Maryland stopped the ban. At the same time No Muslim Ban Ever rally and march was taking place in Washington, D.C. The national office of the JACL participated along with a diverse group of concerned citizens and civil rights organizations from across the country.

Marching in the crowd was Holly Yasui, daughter of Minoru “Min” Yasui, the first Japanese American lawyer in Oregon who challenged the incarceration orders of Japanese Americans during World War II. In the evening Holly talked about her emotional day at the rally with so many people and civil rights organizations. Many of the marchers in the evening described it as a unifying and emotional day to be able to participate.

JACL national executive director David Inoue, JACL Daniel K. Inouye Fellow Elizabeth Kurata, and Norman Y. Mineta fellow Kenzie Hirai participated in the march with JACL banner in hand. They also attended the film screening and panel conversation with Holly Yasui and Muslim community leaders. A common theme during the panel conversation was learning from our past and our collective strength in working together. It was also noted that one of the first civil rights organizations to support the Muslim and South Asian communities after 9-11 were the National JACL and JACL Chapters across the country.

For more information on the film, visit: Minoruyasufilm.org.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR
ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

LOCATION: National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in WWII
(located at the intersection of New Jersey Ave., Louisiana Ave., and D Street)
DATE: Saturday, November 11, 2017
TIME: 2:00 PM

There will be an informal (pay as you go) lunch at 12:30:
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
400 New Jersey Avenue, NW.
(1/2 block from the Memorial)
No RSVP required - Meet in lobby cafe

Please contact Bruce Hollywood (brucehollywood@gmail.com or 703-229-3198) to RSVP or with any questions

Sponsored by:
The Japanese American Veterans Association
The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation
The Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors Organization
The Japanese American Citizens League
This year, in an effort to help DC Chapter members get to know their 2017 board members a little better, we created the Meet Our Board blog series on our website, jacl-dc.org. The blog series includes a blog post from Christie Mori, one of the chapter’s two youth board chairs and our youngest board member; first year co-president, Ron Mori (no relation to Christie!); long-time chapter members and former co-presidents Janice Nakano Faden and John Tobe; and Nikki Yamashiro, co-vice president and This year, in an effort to help DC Chapter members who is overseeing the DC Chapter’s digital media content. We also were able to hear from Craig Shimizu, former board member who moved to Los Angeles for law school this past summer. Board members shared everything from what the DC Chapter means to them to what they hoped to accomplish as part of the board during the 2017 year.

While we have not yet been able to feature all of this year’s board members, we hope that this blog series was a useful introduction (or re-introduction) to the familiar faces you see at chapter events!
J-A LADIES LUNCHEON

J-A Ladies Luncheon had a special treat on November 2, featuring a documentary, “Relocation, Arkansas-Aftermath of Incarceration.” The documentary chronicles the effect of the Japanese American incarceration experience in Arkansas during WWII on the generation that was born after the camps closed. It also focuses on the unlikely tale of those Japanese Americans who remained behind and the even more unlikely tale of how a small town Arkansas mayor of Italian descent became a legend in the Japanese American community. Alice Takemoto and her son Paul were featured in this film. Its themes include the complexity and hypocrisy of race relations in America, journeys toward forgiveness and healing, and cross community understanding.

Forty-five ladies and gentlemen attended this luncheon which Barbara Nekoba established over ten years ago.

A question and answer period followed the showing of the film when Alice explained how she was able to revisit her incarceration experience at Rohwer by going back to the site several times in recent years. Many luncheon guests reported that their parents had not shared their memories of their incarceration most likely because it was so painful but all expressed gratitude and appreciation for their parents' strength and sacrifices. Alice emphasized the relevancy of the incarceration to our current events and the need for all of us to speak out.

BITS & PIECES

Maria (Uchida) and Ted Pleiman welcomed their second daughter to the world on August 29, 2017. Lucile Akemi Pleiman weighed in at 6 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 inches in length. Her sister, Cora, now 2 ½ has a new playmate. Grandpa Craig, though living in Los Angeles, has made two trips back to Maryland to visit and to play with his grandkids. (He’ll be back for Mochitsuki!).

JACL DC Chapter T-Shirt Design Contest

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Calling all artists! We need your help to design a shirt for the DC Chapter. You now have until Monday, Nov. 20 to send in your design.

From the designs submitted, the DC Chapter board will choose three that DC Chapter members will vote on.

The guidelines are simple:
• All designs should be for a single-sided, center-screened print
• Include JACL DC Chapter somewhere in your design
• Please do not use any material that will require consent of a third party

Submit your design as a PDF or JPEG to jaclwdc@gmail.com.

Questions? Email jaclwdc@gmail.com.

We can't wait to see all of the fantastic designs that come in - unleash your creativity and get designing!
2017 JACL DC Mochitsuki

When: December 9 (Saturday)
Time: 12 noon - 2:30 pm
Location: Julius West Middle School
651 Great Falls Road
Rockville, MD 20850
Registration/Pre-order: Click here

Bring the family for another fun-filled day of mochi pounding/making, Crafty Ladies’ crafts, raffle prizes, and music by the amazing JBE band.
We look forward to seeing you all soon to celebrate!
(Pre-order Deadline: Wednesday, December 6 at 4:00 p.m.)

Lunch Options: $23.16*
- Chicken Teriyaki Bento, Ozoni & Dessert
- Pork Tonkatsu Bento, Ozoni & Dessert
- Vegetarian Bento, Ozoni & Dessert

Mochi Options
- Daifuku Mochi (anko filling) ½ lbs. ...............$12.61*
- Komochi (plain) ½ lbs. .............................$2.38*

*Prices include online Eventbrite fee

Walk-in bento lunches are $26.00, but sell out early so pre-ordering is best!
Click here to pre-order bentos and mochi.
JACL MEMBERSHIP

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

- Thousand Club: $200 per year
- Century Club: $350 per year
- Millennium Club: $1,000 per year

Please consider supporting JACL-DC with employer matching donations or in-kind donations. Go online at http://www.jacl.org/member/index.php to join or renew today.

Join or renew your JACL membership today! Members receive a complimentary subscription to the Pacific Citizen Newspaper, free admission to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, CA (just show your membership card), valuable discounts, access to special events, and eligibility for over $70,000 in scholarships awarded every year. Most importantly, your membership dues also will support the mission of JACL as the oldest and largest Asian American organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights and liberties of all Americans and preserving the Japanese American cultural and historical legacy.

To join or renew your membership online, go to http://www.jacl.org/member/index.php! If you’d like to join or renew over the phone, please call 415-921-5225 (Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm PST).

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

The JACL-DC Chapter website (www.jacl-dc.org) posts the latest news and resources for our members. On the JACL-DC website, you’ll also find a photo gallery of our members at events like Keiro Kai, JACL Picnic, and our Mochitsuki. And you can post comments after every news item – even if it’s to say hi or “job well done” to friends in the chapter. Another way to keep up to date is to connect to the chapter on Facebook. Search for “JACLWDC” and friend us! Then you’ll get the latest information from us as posts to your wall.