Happy Autumn, DC Chapter!

I hope you had a wonderful Summer and are enjoying Fall. It is amazing how quickly the leaves turned this year.

In this edition of News Notes, you will find articles on the screening of the documentary film, An American Story: Norman Mineta and His Legacy, Keiro Kai, and details about Mochitsuki!

Mochitsuki is right around the corner on December 1 (Saturday!). Please see the flyer on page 10 for details and note that the venue has been changed from Julius West Middle School to Thomas S. Wootton High School in Rockville, Maryland. Deadline for bento and mochi pre-orders are November 28 (Wednesday) at 4:00 pm. Our Mochitsuki is the best event of the year because of the Crafty Ladies! Remember to bring cash or checks so you can purchase beautiful handmade gifts for the holidays, or for yourself!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our JACL National Fellows, Kenzie Hirai and Elle Kurata, for their great work with the JACL national office in DC and for serving on our DC Chapter Board. We wish you both the best of luck as you embark on your new adventures. Please know the DC Chapter will always be your home away from home. You will be missed, and we look forward to watching you grow into the leaders you are destined to be.

There were lots of transitions this year at the Embassy of Japan from a new Ambassador, Ministers, and leadership staff. Please join us in welcoming Minister Kenichirou Mukai, Head of Chancery, and Ms. Haruna Minoura with the Management & Coordination Section, to the Japanese American Community! We look forward to working with them and the Embassy of Japan to further strengthen the U.S.-Japan relationship. Minister Mukai and his family, and Ms. Minoura will be attending the Mochitsuki. We are honored to have them join us!

As always, I would like to thank our all-volunteer Board for the work they do for the Japanese American community. Our Chapter's success is also thanks to the engagement of our membership and friends. Thank you for your continued support, participation, and volunteerism. I look forward to celebrating 2018 over laughter and mochi on December 1!

Happy Holidays and wishing you an auspicious 2019,

Georgette A. Furukawa

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**CALENDAR**

- **December 1:** Mochitsuki
- **January 26:** Installation
- **April 11-14:** Rohwer/ Jerome Pilgrimage
- **April 27:** Manzanar Pilgrimage
- **May 18:** Amache Pilgrimage
- **June 6-9:** Wakamatsu Festival
- **June 6-9 July 5-8:** Minidoka Pilgrimage
- **July 26-27:** Heart Mountain Pilgrimage

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LINDA SATO ADAMS

Linda Sato Adams recently retired from the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) as the district’s Supervisor of Fine Arts, where she was in charge of 750 fine arts teachers in 205 elementary, middle, and high schools. She was responsible for the school system’s dance, music, theatre, and visual art programs. Her goals were to ensure a rigorous and high quality curriculum that supported opportunities for students to develop creative and critical thinking skills, and build a cadre of highly qualified teachers to support the academic achievement of all students. In recognition of her success, she received three honors in the past four months—the Jay Tucker Award for Outstanding Leadership in Arts Education from the Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance; the District Level Emeritus Art Educator from the Maryland Art Education Association; and the Montgomery County Executive’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities.

During her 30 year tenure in MCPS, Ms. Adams had been an art teacher at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Within the schools she also was a department chair, a resource teacher, and a staff development teacher. In addition, she worked as a project manager for New Teacher Induction in the Office of Staff Development and a staffing coordinator in the Office of Human Resources.

In her acceptance speech Linda praised the dedication of teachers and administrators, the passion of students, the commitment from parents, and the collaboration among arts organizations for keeping hopes and dreams alive through the arts, as the arts support students in creative and critical thinking, persistence, reflection, and empathy for understanding others.

Editor’s Note: News Notes encourages DC Chapter members to submit articles or ideas for articles about themselves or friends and family for publication in our newsletter. This is a way for us to share our stories and keep our chapter family connected.
DC Chapter National JACL Scholarship Winners

This year we proudly announce that three DC Chapter members out of 43 total winners won national JACL scholarships. Read on about their unique accomplishments, insights, and perspectives.

REBECCA JACKSON
Recipient of the Kenji Kasai Memorial Scholarship
Biola University

In 2017, Rebecca Jackson was appointed to the Smithsonian Institution in its Digital Media & Technology (DMT) Department. She worked closely with a mentor as an editor and content producer for a number of DMT projects. Also in 2017, Jackson was one of five U.S. high school students selected to research, write, and produce a short film highlighting one of the 10 internment camps. Her film, “Minidoka: A Portrait of America,” focused on her grandmother and artist Roger Shimomura. This project caused her to delve deeper than she ever had into the history of this time. Behind her Grandma’s lighthearted stories about roller skating at the Portland Assembly Center and playing baseball with her friends, the reality was that her family had lost everything—their home, their possessions, her father’s field of ripe strawberries and the American dream that her immigrant parents had worked so hard to build. Being able to put part of her story into a film was a dream come true—especially since this part of American history is constantly overlooked. She is proud to have the opportunity to keep history alive. During the summer before her junior year, she traveled to Tokyo and taught art and music at an English camp.

Jackson became a student member of the Washington, D.C., chapter at the beginning of her freshman year, following in the footsteps of her grandmother who was an active member of the Boise Valley Chapter. As a DC Chapter member, Jackson has experienced some of the most meaningful events in her life. Through JACL, she learned about the Day of Remembrance and the Digital Storytelling Project, and participated in Keiro Kai/Family Day and the Freedom Walk in downtown D.C.

She says that, “Embracing one’s ethnicity is one of the most amazing things an individual can do. On a recent college visit to Southern California, my mom and I met a Japanese American family and made an instant connection. Within a minute of meeting one another, we were talking about our grandparents, our family history, the internment, and our race. My Japanese culture has shaped me into the person that I am today. As an artist, about 80 percent of the art I do is inspired by my race. My race is the fuel behind my passion for my pieces. There are, however, a few problems that come with rallying around one single ethnic group. Focusing too much on one’s own race can lead to the exclusion of other races. When you close yourself off from others, it can add to the negative stereotype your race may already have. While it is wonderful to have pride and a sense of community within your race, it is also very important to understand other people’s cultures. I believe that embracing, celebrating, and having that sense of community with your own ethnic group is very important, but it is also important to then go out and meet others from different backgrounds.”
Megan Pelli is an accomplished cross-country runner. She utilized her skills to motivate her team members and was recognized by them accordingly. National Honor Society, Latin Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta have also nurtured her leadership skills, leading to peer tutoring and serving as a lector for her church. However, Pelli’s most treasured experience was her internship in Japan, where she served as an English teacher to Nichidai Middle School students at Nihon University. There, she shared her American culture with the students and helped facilitate a three-day “English Camp” in a nearby city.

She says, “America is a colorful mosaic, rich in the heterogeneous array of vibrant customs, language, traditions, and values. This plethora of various heritages has created a unique environment where our differing cultures and ethnicities are seen as one of our greatest national strengths. Diversity is generally a noble ideology that ought to be celebrated; however, differing cultures can also bring polarization between groups when each group becomes solely focused on their own advancement. Each culture is like a differently colored tile, making the mosaic of our nation more beautiful as a whole. Exploring one’s ethnic identity and cultural heritage will significantly enhance personal identity and help to develop a greater sense of belonging and self-worth. Celebrating your culture allows the opportunity to share the rich story of who you are and where you are from to others. Progress happens in baby steps. In my own lifetime, I have seen the steady shift from the idea that in order to be equal, we must minimize our differences, to blatantly celebrating those same differences and encouraging diversity. Our society is currently in the midst of a social revolution where people are realizing they no longer have to stay silent to minimize their differences, but now is the time to express them and appreciate them, making our mosaic richer in color today. Diversity makes America a beautifully multifaceted country; however, it also can have a dangerous dark side. In its negative form, diversity highlights our differences in a way that promotes suspicion, prejudice and resentment. Diversity without love leads to discrimination, rabid factionalism, and survival of the fittest. Rallying around a single ethnic flag can help us appreciate our own value and contribution to society, increasing respect and appreciation of others and national harmony.”
DC Chapter National JACL Scholarship Winners Cont’d

SOPHIAH KAWACHI
Recipient of the Dr. George Goro & Nettie Muramoto Memorial Scholarship
James Madison University

As a newer JACL member, Sophiah Kawachi is looking forward to becoming more active in her chapter. Kawachi has lived in Senegal, West Africa, and Quebec City, Canada. She is bilingual in French and beginning Japanese. As the daughter of missionaries in West Africa, she met many passionate American medical professionals who came to serve at clinics organized by her parents’ missionary team. The more she learned about how the professionals served those who had limited access to medical care in isolated villages, the more she was inspired to serve medically in challenging contexts. Toward her career goal of becoming a medical doctor, Kawachi participated in a premed internship at the Instituto Giannina Gaslini in Genoa, Italy. She is one of only a handful of James Madison University students asked to work as a teaching assistant in the Biology Lab this semester, which provides an opportunity to serve others in an academic context while developing leadership skills essential to a future career in medicine.

She says, “At the same time, rallying behind one ethnic identity can sometimes create a loss of individuality for me. I start defining myself by the characteristics that I share with others of the same ethnicity. I lose the traits and particularities about me that make me unique. I must remind myself that my ethnicity does not define the person I am. It is simply something that I have in common with other people. It unites me with others, but it does not make me the same as them. The mixture that is my ethnicity, half-Japanese and half-Caucasian, reminds me of the unfixed nature of my personality. I am not the same Sophi today as I was yesterday. I am often changing, sometimes sweeter than stressed, and sometimes more stressed than sweet. Some traits are more developed one day, and less so another. My passion for medicine, Shakespeare, art, classical music, and challenges out of my comfort zone defines me and makes up the person I am today — a person composed of many pieces, some very different and some very similar to the pieces that make up others.”
On Saturday, September 15, the JACL-DC Chapter hosted its annual Keiro Kai and Family Day at North Bethesda Middle School. This day was created to honor and respect our elders and to also bring together family and friends in the Greater DC area. Attendees enjoyed delicious food prepared by Top Sushi Chef, David Inoue, and Top Chef, Michelle Amano. We are grateful for the hours of preparation they put in to making all of the food for our event, including various types of sushi, chicken and beef teriyaki. We also want to thank the following volunteers who helped with preparing and serving our food including Richard Amano, Erick Ishii, Joy Aso, Meghan Bertoni, Thea Bertoni Hall, Shirley Bertoni, Sachi Mukai, and Jean Marumoto. Many of our JACL-DC Chapter board members were in attendance as well and helped throughout the day. We are grateful for all of you who helped make Keiro Kai a fun day for all! If you have not made it out to our Keiro Kai before or haven’t been in a while, we hope you can attend next year! You will be able to participate in “Get to Know you Chapter” activities, bingo, a raffle and who knows what we will come up with for next year!
DC News Notes

DC Premier Screening of
An American Story: Norman Mineta and His Legacy

The D.C. area was among the fortunate cities to host a special screening of a documentary covering the life and legacy of Secretary Norman Mineta, who was the first Asian American mayor and served in the U.S. House of Representatives for two decades before becoming a Cabinet member under the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations. The documentary, An American Story: Norman Mineta and His Legacy, was held at the Newseum on Sept. 27, in front of an audience of more than 100 individuals.

The film was a longtime dream of creators Debra Nakatomi and Dianne Fukami, who shared during the panel discussion following the screening of the film that they had approached Secretary Mineta for years before he finally agreed to join their project. Secretary Mineta, also a panelist, talked about his hesitation to be the focus of a documentary, but slowly changed his mind as he saw the growing need to underscore the value of civility and bipartisanship.

It was an inspirational and moving film, gaining a glimpse into the life of someone who was incarcerated during World War II, who then played a significant role in the Redress movement, which included a formal government apology and monetary reparations to survivors among the approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans incarcerated without due process during the war. In addition to the distinguished accomplishments of Secretary Mineta, the film reminds us why his work, and the work of groups like JACL, remains critical today. The film describes the integral role Secretary Mineta played on Sept. 11, 2001, as Secretary of Transportation at that time, working to ensure that what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II did not happen to any other group based on ethnicity or religion.

In a time of political polarization, it was also heartening to see the friendship and camaraderie that Secretary Mineta had with fellow legislator Alan Simpson, whom he first met as a boy scout at age 10, and ended up serving as a Wyoming senator. The film showed how the two, one a Democrat from California, and the other, a conservative Republican from Wyoming, developed a strong and lasting friendship, working together on legislation while in Congress, including the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, and remaining in contact to this day.

The film will air on PBS next year. To learn more, visit the Mineta Legacy Project at: http://minetalegacyproject.com/.
#JaCLGivingTuesday
Brandon Mita, DC JACL Membership Chair

This year, on Thursday, November 22, 2018, many or most of us will gather with friends, family, and loved ones to take part in a historical tradition that has lived on since 1621 when the Plymouth colonists broke bread with members of the Wampanoag tribe to give thanks for a bountiful harvest. This particular day is called Thanksgiving and is a national holiday in the United States. Each year, those who celebrate do so with their favorite foods (which may or may not include turkey). In my family, the Thanksgiving meal includes the typical Thanksgiving fare, which I take no shame when I lovingly refer to this meal as the “the ultimate day of carb[ohydrate] loading.” Yes, there is turkey as well as stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, bread, another kind of bread, spam musubi, a smattering of delicious vegetable platters, and finally, the sweet potato casserole.

For some, even more important than the Thanksgiving holiday are the days that follow in its wake. Starting with Black Friday, or the Friday immediately after Thanksgiving, millions of Americans flock to shopping malls and businesses looking to kick off the festive holiday season by purchasing gifts for loved ones. On Cyber Monday, or the following Monday after Thanksgiving, millions more lock themselves in their rooms with their electronic devices in order to scour the Internet for the best holiday shopping deals.

Arguably, the most important day in the post-Thanksgiving frenzied line-up is Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday marks the beginning of the charitable giving season. This year, when Giving Tuesday rolls around, think about giving to JACL. Since before 1929, JACL has been one of, if not the most influential, Asian Pacific American organizations in the United States that has focused all of its efforts in securing and maintaining civil and human rights. As many of you know, JACL is a national network of individuals that care deeply about numerous socio-political issues that affect various communities in the United States and aboard. Indeed, JACLers across the country work tirelessly throughout the year to safeguard the freedoms and liberties that make it possible for many of us to enjoy to the Thanksgiving and post-Thanksgiving festivities. But the fight continues, and we need your help.

So, this year on Giving Tuesday, make JACL the first line in your checkbook, the first website you visit, or the first call you make with your credit card in hand. Your gift to JACL does not have to be for any particular amount. So, whether it is deciding to hold off on purchasing that new app on your smartphone that you may end up deleting in a month or deciding to downgrade your fast food meal from extra large to just the regular one, we at JACL would be very grateful if you would use that excess amount to help us continue to secure and maintain our collective civil liberties and fight bigotry and injustice.

Here are the ways you can give to JACL:

- Send a check to JACL (1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115)
- Call JACL Headquarters (415-921-5225)
- Go to https://www.jacl.org.
- Join JACL by becoming a member. Go to https://www.jacl.org/member for additional information on how to join.
- If you use Amazon to purchase items, you can use AmazonSmile to select “Japanese American Citizens League National” as the charity of your choice.

Finally, if you do end up giving to JACL and if you have any social media accounts (i.e., Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), please do us the favor of shouting it out to the world that you donated to JACL and use the hashtag “#JaCLGivingTuesday”. Again, from all of us at JACL, we truly appreciate your support. Happy (early) Thanksgiving!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.
ORGANIZED visits back to former World War II concentration camps sites were started largely by Sansei in the late 1960s but have evolved to include participation from all communities confronting civil rights violations. Dates for scheduled pilgrimages at various camps are included in the calendar on the first page of this newsletter in the event that you and your family and friends wish to attend. The first organized pilgrimages occurred in Southern and Northern California in 1969 with trips to Manzanar and Tule Lake, both of which included an inter-generational mix of Issei, Nisei, Sansei and Yonsei. Since the 1970s, there have also been sporadic pilgrimages to other War Relocation Authority camp sites, assembly centers and Department of Justice camps. More Japanese Americans and the general public started participating in pilgrimages after the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

The early pilgrimages represented one manifestation of a growing interest in the wartime incarceration by members of the Japanese American community at this time, in particular members of the Sansei generation. Most Sansei grew up knowing little about the World War II experiences of their parents or grandparents, but had come of age during the social movements of the 1960s, which inspired them to explore their own ethnic identity and history. Some joined the 1968 student strike at San Francisco State University, encouraging other Asian American students on other campuses to fight for academic courses that included the history of minorities and women. Along with new museum exhibits, television programs, and documentary films, a visit or pilgrimage back to the former camp sites has become one venue to educate the public, as well as to give former camp inmates an opportunity to share their experiences.

Joanne C. Obata, passed away peacefully on Saturday October 6, 2018 at the age of 95 years. She was a longtime member of JACL who will be remembered for her devotion to her friends and family, her deep and abiding faith, and her good humor and positive outlook on life. She was very proud of her time as a Red Cross volunteer at Camp Zama in Japan during the Vietnam War. She loved books, movies, music, traveling, cooking, flowers, flower arranging, and good food. Loving mother of Tim Obata and Mary Forde, she is also survived by two grandchildren, Ben and Maura Forde.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Red Cross. Online condolences and fond memories of Joanne may be offered to the family at www.moneyandking.com. Services will be held at a later date.
SAVE THE DATE

JACL-DC MOCHITSUKI

Saturday, December 1, 2018
12:00 – 2:30 PM

NOTE NEW LOCATION: Thomas S. Wootton High School
2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, MD 20850

Bring the family & friends for an afternoon of fun!
Mochi-pounding/making * Crafty Ladies * Raffle

Register now for the JACL-DC Mochitsuki
(Pre-orders due by Wednesday, November 28 at 4:00 p.m.)

Lunch options:
- Chicken Teriyaki Bento, Ozoni & Dessert
- Pork Tonkatsu Bento, Ozoni & Dessert
- Vegetarian Bento, Ozoni & Dessert

Member price per bento*  $20.00
Non-member price per bento  $23.00
Walk-in price per bento   $25.00
Limited walk-in availability so pre-ordering is best!

Mochi options:
- Komochi (plain) ½ lb.    $  5.00
- Daifuku Mochi (anko filling) ½ lb.  $10.00

Click here to pre-order bentos and mochi.
Please consider making a donation to the JACL-DC Chapter in 2018. Donations can be included using the link above. For additional information or questions about the Mochitsuki event, e-mail jaclwdc@gmail.com or call 202-365-6845.

*To join JACL, e-mail https://jacl.org/member/ or call 415-921-5225
INSTALLATION LUNCHEON
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE — DC CHAPTER

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE 73RD INSTALLATION LUNCHEON OF THE JACL-DC CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2019

Meiwah Restaurant
4457 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD
Saturday, January 26, 2019
12:00—2:00 p.m.
$30 per person (includes tax and gratuity)

Keynote Speaker
Jeff Moy
JACL National President
Jeff will share his vision, priorities, and agenda as he enters his first full year as our National President

If you are interested in attending, please send an e-mail RSVP to Scott Tanaka at stanaka@aarp.org to reserve a space, and bring cash or a check to the luncheon for payment. Deadline to RSVP is January 24, 2019.
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 www.jacl.org/member 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 www.jacl.org/member! 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 SOCIAL MEDIA, FOLLOW US AND STAY IN TOUCH!!

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.

ABOUT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Located in the nation’s capital, 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.