Happy Fall, DC Chapter!

We hope that you had a wonderful summer and the transition to fall has been a smooth one for you as we get ready to head into peak holiday season.

In this edition of News Notes, you’ll be able to read about our Annual Keiro Kai and Family Day, where we honored our elders and the families in our Chapter, enjoyed delicious food prepared by our own Michelle Amano and David Inoue, and played a couple of rousing rounds of BINGO. We are incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated and remarkable Chapter, which we hope will come out to celebrate for our Mochitsuki event on Saturday, December 14. Because of the positive response we heard from last year’s attendees, we are hosting the event again at Thomas S. Wootton High School in Rockville, Md. In addition to ozoni, mochi making, the JBE Band, and our raffle, don't forget that it is your one and only opportunity to purchase something from the Crafty Ladies! Their goods always go fast—be sure that you don't miss out. Whether it is a present for a loved one or a treat for yourself, you will not walk away empty handed.

In the News Notes we also want to welcome JACL National's new Daniel K. Inouye Fellow, Matthew Weisbly, to the DC Board. Some of you may have already met Matthew at our Keiro Kai and Family Day, where he was a part of the terrific crew of volunteers that helped with everything from set up to serving tea to our elders to photographing the event. And, speaking of volunteers, if you are interested in volunteering at Mochitsuki, or becoming more involved in our Chapter events, please email us at jaclwdc@gmail.com.

As this is the last News Notes for 2019, on behalf of the DC Chapter Board, we would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of our Chapter. Looking back at what our Chapter has accomplished through the years, it not only is something that we should be proud of, it is something that is promising for what the future holds for our Chapter.

We hope that you celebrate the close of 2019 with your family and loved ones, and may 2020 be a year filled with more laughter, more kindness, and more joy.

With thanks and gratitude,
Georgette and Nikki
Welcome Matthew Weisbly to the DC Chapter!

By Nikki Yamashiro

The JACL DC Chapter Board would like to welcome Matthew Weisbly, JACL National's new Daniel K. Inouye Fellow, to the Board. Coming from Phoenix, Arizona, via Los Angeles, Matthew recently completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Southern California with a degree in history. His senior thesis explored numerical data and oral histories of Nisei soldiers with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. A long-time JACL member, he also served as a Youth Representative for the Arizona Chapter and the inaugural Ted T. Namba fellow for the PSW district. Following his fellowship, he wants to return to school to get his PhD in history.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE DC CHAPTER BOARD?

The DC Chapter Board is seeking Chapter members interested in joining the Board. If you enjoy organizing events, communicating updates, working with other organizations, developing your own leadership skills, or generally increasing your involvement with the DC Chapter, please contact the Board at jaclwdc@gmail.com.
DC Chapter Scholarship Winners!

By Nikki Yamashiro

The DC Chapter congratulates Megan Pellei for being selected by the JACL National Scholarship Committee as a recipient of the Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship. Established by the Endo Family, this scholarship honors Alice Yuriko Endo, who was an active member of the Washington, DC JACL Chapter. Alice was an avid supporter of social causes, and she and her son, Todd, proudly marched in the legendary and historic Civil Rights March on Washington, DC, in 1963.

And, congratulations to Rebecca Jackson for her selection by the JACL National Scholarship Committee as the recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Creative Arts Scholarship. This scholarship was established by the estate of the late Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara. Mr. Kuwahara, a resident of Los Angeles, was a well-known investment and securities broker in Little Tokyo, located in Los Angeles, California. The Kuwaharas believed in the value of education and wished to support and inspire the youth of our community. As a result, their estate generously funds a number of our scholarships, including one specifically to support aspiring artists.

When asked what the scholarship means to her, Rebecca shared,

“Art and my Japanese heritage have been two of the most important things in my life for as long as I can remember. As a Japanese American, I have discovered that I express my love for Japan and my pride as a Japanese American through my art. The JACL and this scholarship highlight young Japanese American artists, and I think that is so important. Through the JACL I have experienced some of the most meaningful events in my life.

“I am entering my sophomore year at Biola University in La Mirada, CA this fall where I am majoring in film and art. I hope to pursue a job in graphic design, animation, and media production. This summer I taught at an art camp, worked as a video editor, and was employed at a boba shop. In my spare time I enjoy editing videos, playing ukelele, drawing, and spending time with my family and friends.

“I am grateful to the JACL for helping me pursue my dreams!”

Congratulations again to our two DC Chapter scholarship winners!
Keiro Kai and Family Day
By Scott Tanaka

On Saturday, September 28th, the JACL DC Chapter hosted its annual Keiro Kai and Family Day at North Bethesda Middle School. Keiro Kai was created to honor and celebrate our elders and brings together family and friends from around the Greater DC area. Attendees enjoyed ono food by Top Sushi Chef, David Inoue, executive director of the National Japanese American Citizens League, and Top Chef, Michelle Amano, JACL DC chapter board member. The JACL DC Chapter is grateful for the many hours they put into preparing all of the food for our event, including various types of sushi, chicken teriyaki, beef, and delicious side dishes. Minister Kenichiro Mukai of the Embassy of Japan, accompanied by his children Ana Mori and Arata, presented remarks. Keiro Kai would not be possible without the many volunteers, including JACL’s Daniel K. Inouye Fellow, Matthew Weisbly, and JACL’s Norman Y. Mineta Fellow, Katherine Hirata. Many of the JACL DC Chapter board members were in attendance as well and helped throughout the day as did Michelle Amano’s hard working servers in the food line, Joy Aso, Erick Ishii, Shirley Bertoni, Nancy Yamada, and Rich Williams.

If you have not made it out to Keiro Kai before or haven’t been in a while, please join us next year! You will be able to participate in “Get to Know your JACL DC Chapter” activities, bingo, raffle drawings and more! And it’s free for members!
KEIRO KAI & FAMILY DAY
During the week of September 9, 2019, a fifty-five member Japanese chorus group, Imaoikiruhito Resonance Harmony, came to Washington, DC, with a mission “to strengthen friendship with Americans, especially Japanese Americans.” The Harmony group was established in September 2017 for the purpose of participation in the Remembrance Concert for the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

During their brief stay in our area, the group held two musical performances and smaller events including singing in the Union Station Grand Foyer and listening to three Japanese Americans discuss their experiences during and after WW II. The programs were sponsored by the Embassy of Japan and arranged by Minister Kenichiro Mukai, Head of Chancery, and his wife, Midori, who is also a member of that group. Imaoikiruhito Resonance Harmony members include residents from Tokyo, Kanagawa and Okinawa prefectures, Osaka, and New York.

The Harmony group's first event was at the Visitors' Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, located at Kensington, MD, on September 11, the 18th anniversary of 9/11, for residents of the Washington, DC area. Minister Kazutoshi Aikawa, the Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, officiated the event on behalf of Ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama. Minister Mukai introduced the group, saying that Imaoikiruhito is a Japanese phrase referring to people who live every moment of their lives blissfully and with joy. He elaborated that resonance and harmony occur between the souls of such people. He added that the choral group members have gathered here to express hope for the future of our friendship with the United States for many years to come, and to unite and express gratitude through voice and music. Ryo Yanagitani, classical pianist of the Ryuji Ueno Foundation, also performed a medley of pieces representing the theme of this event.

Continued on next page
IMAOKIKIRUHITO RESONANCE
HARMONY cont’d

The second event was held during the afternoon of September 12 at the Ambassador’s Residence, where the Harmony group listened to Japanese American speakers who shared their stories of how the Japanese American war experience impacted them and how it related to them as being of Japanese heritage. Mary Murakami, longtime DC Chapter member, described her internment camp experience at Topaz internment center. Terry Shima, 442nd veteran, discussed the Nisei who served in combat in Europe and in combat intelligence assignments in the Asia Pacific region. Shirley Ann Higuchi, Chairman, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF), presented the Foundation’s goals and activities to preserve the story of unconstitutional imprisonment of Japanese Americans. Following the formal presentations, Minister Mukai moderated a lengthy Q and A session, and Noriko Sanefuji, museum specialist at the Smithsonian American History Museum and DC Chapter member, served as interpreter.

At the third major event held the evening of September 12 at the Ambassador’s Residence, the Harmony group sang what Minister Mukai described as “songs of respect and gratitude for the Nikkei population.” David Inoue, Executive Director of JACL and DC Chapter member, emphasized that we must all work together to make this world better and lift one another up. He added that bringing people together through music is one way of doing that.

The goal of the Imaoikiruhito Resonance Harmony chorus and the events of the week can be summed up in Minister Mukai’s words: “It gives us great courage to know that however far away we may live, the people of the United States of America and Japan can be brought together through a beautiful harmony of resonating minds and bodies. We believe that this has the power to spread a wave of peace throughout the world.”

(Special thank you to the JAVA e-Advocate for providing information for this article)
On Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at the Metropolitan Club in Washington, DC, the Committee for the Republic, in collaboration with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF), presented the Defender of Liberty Award posthumously to four American patriots who as Committee of the Republic member Bruce Fein said, “formed the Mount Rushmore of citizen courage”—Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, Min Yasui, and Mitsuye Endo.

The award was presented to this group of individuals who spoke truth to power and challenged the unconstitutionality of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s 1942 Executive Order 9066. In accepting the award on behalf of her father Min, Holly Yasui said, “We have a sacred duty to tell the government when they are wrong.” Fred Korematsu’s daughter, Karen Korematsu, added, “My father often said, being an American citizen is not enough. You have to look like one. We need to remind the courts about an overreach of power, and we have to stand up for our rights.”

Accepting on their behalf was Karen Korematsu (daughter of Fred Korematsu), Holly Yasui (daughter of Min Yasui), and Wendy Weiner (daughter of Mitsuye Endo).

Also attending the ceremony were NJAMF Board Members Doug Ichiuji and John Tobe, and Minister Ken Mukai from the Embassy of Japan.
IN MEMORIAM
DR. DIANE MURAKAMI

Dr. Diane Murakami died peacefully at her home in Mill Valley CA on October 3rd, 2019 after a year-long battle with lung cancer. She was 66 years old.

Born in Los Angeles, Diane grew up in Bethesda, MD after her mother Mary and father Dr. Raymond Murakami began his dental practice in Washington, DC. She attended Washington University, St. Louis and graduated from Georgetown University Dental School, Washington DC. She ultimately moved to San Francisco and then founded her dental practice in the city's main dental building on Sutter St. where she worked for nearly 40 years. Diane served thousands of patients, many of whom became close personal friends.

Diane was a highly-involved mother, committing her free hours to her children's academic, social and sporting activities. Her Sunday meatball cuisine filled her home with her children's friends.

She was passionate about sports; a dedicated follower of Bay Area teams, a fearless scuba diver, avid golfer, stylish skier, as well as an accomplished gymnast in her early years. She travelled the world and made friends in every corner.

Diane was happiest when surrounded by her children and their families, on the arrival of the Sunday New York Times and New Yorker magazine and on the acceptance of her $30 winnings from her husband after their twice-weekly golf match.

She will be remembered for her outstanding professionalism, her warm and generous personality, her liberally shared advice and counsel, and a never-ending collection of hilarious stories and tales.

Diane is survived by her husband Brian Chadbourne, son Christopher Drake, daughter Michelle Drake, her daughter-in-law Kristina, son-in-law Roger, her mother Mary, sister Kimi and brother-in-law Kenley.

In her memory, the family suggest a Tribute gift to the Lung Cancer Research Foundation (https://www.lungcancerresearchfoundation.org/support-us/give-in-tribute).

Published in San Francisco Chronicle on Oct. 22, 2019
IN MEMORIAM
LINDA AYOYAGI

Longtime participant and friend of the DC Chapter, Linda Aoyagi passed away peacefully on May 29, 2019 in Honolulu, Hawaii. With her husband Gordon, they faithfully supported various DC Chapter activities. We always looked forward to Linda’s homemade manju at Mochitsuki, her creative contributions to the Crafty Ladies table, her origami lessons, her proud presence at the Memorial Day Ceremony, and her efforts to maintain the valuable traditions of our Chapter.

If you wish to make memorial donations in Linda’s honor, you can do so via:

- Lupus Foundation of America, https://www.lupus.org,
  2121 K Street NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20037
- National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), https://rarediseases.org,
  55 Kenosia Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810
- Straub Foundation, Hawaii Pacific Health, https://giving.hawaiipacifichealth.org,
  55 Merchant St, Suite 2600, Honolulu, HI 96813

WEBINAR: Digital Access and Literacy

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Webinar on Digital Access and Literacy
Date: Wednesday, Nov. 20, 4pm
Register at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7529015124782467597

This webinar will focus on how digital access and literacy are relevant to many issue areas that impact the Asian American community: workforce development, 2020 Census; digital divide issues; homework gap; civic engagement; family communication; and news circulation. What does digital literacy and access look like for the Asian American community and other communities of color? How do we better understand the issue? What solutions should our communities be pushing for within industry and government to address these issues? These questions will be explored in this webinar.

Speakers:
- Angela Siefer, Executive Director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance
- Francella Ochillo, Executive Director, Next Century Cities
- Hart Clements, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Patty Murray
- Koustubh “K.J.” Bagchi, Senior Counsel for Telecommunications, Technology, and Media, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC (moderator)
SAVE THE DATE

JACL-DC MOCHITSUKI

Saturday, December 14, 2019
12:00 – 2:30 PM

Thomas S. Wootton High School
2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, MD 20850

Bring the family & friends for an afternoon of fun!
Mochi-pounding ~ JBE Band ~ Crafty Ladies ~ Raffle

Register now for the JACL-DC Mochitsuki
Limited walk-in availability so preordering is best to receive discounted prices!

| Lunch options: | Chicken Teriyaki Bento, Ozoni & Dessert | $20.00 |
|                | Salmon Bento, Ozoni & Dessert           |       |
|                | Vegetarian Bento, Ozoni & Dessert       |       |
|                | Member price per bento*                 |       |
|                | Non-member price per bento              | $23.00 |
|                | Walk-in price per bento                 | $25.00 |

| Mochi options: | Komochi (plain) ½ lb. - Member price*    | $ 5.00 |
|               | Non-member/walk-in                      | $ 7.00 |
|               | Daifuku (anko filling) ½ lb. - Member Price* | $ 8.00 |
|               | Non-member/walk-in                      | $10.00 |

Place your preorder:  https://jacldcmochitsuki2019.eventbrite.com
Please consider making a donation to the JACL-DC Chapter in 2019.
Donations can be included using the link above.
For additional information or questions about the Mochitsuki event, e-mail jaclwdc@gmail.com
*To become a JACL member, go online to https://jacl.org/member/ or call 415-921-5225
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.

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!!

https://jacl-dc.org/  JACL DC Chapter  @jacl_DCchapter  @jacldcchapter

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.