



Chapter Newsletter

You're Invited! Annual Membership Meeting & Reception

Saturday, May 7, 2016

1pm-4pm, JAA Community Center

Membership meeting begins at 1pm. Program and Reception begins at 2pm.

Featured Speakers:

David Lin, National JACL President

Grant Ujifusa, Chapter Member

Please join us for our annual membership meeting, followed by a reception with friends, food, and drink. Meet the new board, make new friends, and help advance justice!

Prospective members are welcome for the program and reception at 2pm

Please RSVP by 4/15 to George Hirose at george.hirose@gmail.com or (917) 833-8123 or mail the cutout on the back of this page or RSVP online by following the link at ny-jacl.org



JACL New York
c/o George Hirose
20 Stuyvesant Oval #12H
New York, NY 10009

EVENTS

MAY 7:

JACL NY Annual
Membership Meeting

More info on back page ...

SOCIAL MEDIA

We launched a Facebook page! Join our campaign to get 300 "likes" by our membership meeting on May 7!

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A Message from the Presidents

This past year has been very active for the JACL NY Chapter. Continuing the JACL's legacy as America's oldest and largest Asian civil rights organization, we have been very busy revising our bylaws, reconfiguring our board, and determining our primary priorities, goals, and commitments to our membership. Our dedicated and experienced Board of Directors is a focused, strong voice within the Japanese American community.

One of our major focuses has been on collaborations with other Japanese and Asian community organizations. We recently launched the **Japanese Community New York Oral History Project**, spearheaded by the JACL NY Chapter, JAA (Japanese American Association), JAJA (Japanese Americans and Japanese in America), and NYC DOR (NYC Day of Remembrance Committee). This ambitious project is a milestone in helping to ensure that the stories of valued members of our community will not be forgotten. *(Read more about this important project on page 7.)*

The JACL NY and Philadelphia Chapters were involved in helping the organized effort to stop the Rago Arts Auction of Japanese American camp artifacts. *(You can read more about those efforts on page 3.)* We also helped to coordinate and revive our community education efforts with a speakers' panel at Brooklyn's Yeshiva High School of Flatbush on the forced evacuation and incarceration of people of Japanese descent in the Americas during WWII.

This Spring, JACL NY, JAJA and the JAA cohosted the well-received **Hibakusha Speak Out** event, with a panel comprised of dedicated peace activists and survivors of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. We also lent our support to the Day of Remembrance gathering at the Japanese American United Church, and proudly marched with the Asian LGBT community in the Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade, as well as with the NY Buddhist Church in New York City's Gay Pride Parade.

On October 27, 2015, the JACL and JAJA cohosted a Human Rights Forum entitled **LGBT: Personal Stories and Activism**, and in early December our chapter participated in a panel discussion about WWII Japanese American incarceration in an event hosted by Columbia University.

The chapter has also been working to raise our visibility within the tri-state area in regards to civil liberties and civil rights issues affecting different communities. We

(continued on next page...)

2015 JACL NY Board



George Hirose, President

Mike Ishii, President

Helen Irie, Treasurer

Phillip Ozaki, Membership Chair

Takumi Harada, EDC Vice Governor

Ayako Sairenji, Youth Chair

Luis Fujimoto D.M.D

Amara Hoshijo

David Okada

Susan Onuma

**Presidents Photos to the right; All other board member L to R, top to bottom*

(...continued from Presidents' Message on page 1)

have been lending our support to the Organization of Chinese Americans in their efforts to protect people of Chinese heritage from police brutality in the Qingyou Li case in Queens, and in solidarity with the Muslim American community, we attended Candlelight Vigils organized by No Separate Justice at the site of the Metropolitan Correctional Facility. These vigils are in protest of the incarceration of Muslims for an indeterminate amount of time without just cause, which has unfortunately begin to mirror the type of persecution that people of Japanese heritage in the US were subjected to during WWII.

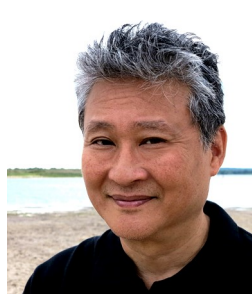
Most recently, we have lent our support to OCA in their efforts to ensure that Officer Peter Liang receives fairness in the justice system; we remain resolutely opposed to police brutality against communities of color, and remain committed to finding a unified path with all communities fighting to end racism.

There are many positive things that we can do together to ensure and preserve equality for all people, and we truly appreciate your loyal and continued support. We welcome you to join us in our efforts. There are many opportunities to get involved, and we invite you to offer feedback, join one of our working committees, or attend our monthly board meetings and sponsored events.

To view our updated Chapter Bylaws, please visit: www.jacl-ny.org/bylaws. The Chapter membership will be ratifying these bylaws at the Annual Meeting on May 7.

Sincerely,

George Hirose & Mike Ishii
Chapter Co-Presidents



Oral History Project

The New York Japanese Community Oral History Project is a collaborative effort by NY JACL, JAA, JAJA, DOR, and other concerned individuals. We came together in Spring 2015 to discuss a plan to record video interviews of community members in order to document important life histories within our community. What is unfolding is an incredibly rich, tapestry of Japanese history in the tri-state area.

This volunteer project has been received with great interest and excitement, and made us aware of the diversity and richness of our local community. We are conducting interviews in both English and Japanese, and our goal is to include stories that exemplify our history in culture, art, politics, education, and business, while embracing the immigrant experience and important historical events of the past 100 years, such as the incarceration and forced removal of individuals during WWII and their stories after the war.

We have begun identifying a list of interview candidates and have already successfully conducted one round of interviews with plans for a second round in April of 2015. We have prioritized elders as interview subjects for the current phase of the project.

We are a vibrant group and we welcome volunteers who are interested in assisting in this project with interviewing, technical production and fundraising. Our meetings are organized around potlucks and we celebrate our community connections as we gather to enjoy meals together, give committee updates and plan our important next steps.

If you would like to nominate someone to be interviewed, please contact NY JACL or contact Mike Ishii (mikeishi@gmail.com).

The NY JACL is the recipient of a \$2500 2015 Legacy Fund Grant from the National JACL, providing seed money for the project.

We welcome donations to support this ongoing work. Contributions can be sent to "NY JACL".



Membership Join/Renewal Form

Please use this tear out to updated you contact information or renew/join as a member.

Join or renew online at www.jacl.org/member .

Or mail this form and a check to: **1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115**

For more info or to check your membership status please contact Membership Chair Phillip Ozaki at phillozaki@gmail.com or 773-816-1318.

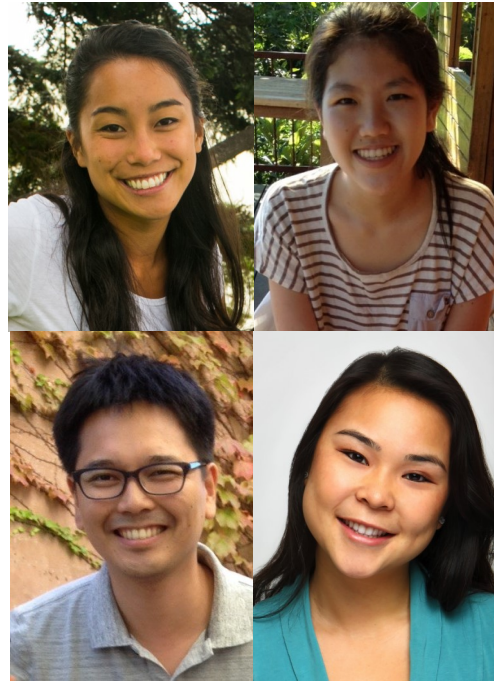
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--|
| This is a: | | <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | | | |
| <u>Regular/Individual</u> | <u>Couple/Family</u> | <u>Student/Youth</u> | <u>Thousand Club</u> | <u>Century Club</u> | <u>Millennium Club</u> | |
| \$65 | \$125 | \$25 | \$100 | \$200 | \$1000 | |

Congratulations, JACL National Scholarship Winners!



Left to right, top to bottom: Caitlin Goulding, Moe Uesugi, Genta Iwasaki, and Jean Shiraki.

The JACL NY Chapter is proud of its four outstanding scholarship recipients, who embody the organization's ideals and principles. Here's a bit more about the winners, their educational pursuits, and their future goals.

Caitlin Goulding is the recipient of the Railroad and Mine Workers Memorial Scholarship. She started medical school last year at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. While this scholarship will assist her financially through several more years of school, she believes that the Japanese American community has supported her dream of becoming a doctor for many years, and looks forward to serving her patients and the community.

Moei Uesugi is the recipient of the Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Scholarship. She is currently in her first year at Brown University, where she plans to major in Computer Science and Comparative Literature. She is honored to have received a JACL National Scholarship, and to be recognized for her participation in Japanese dance and culture. She hopes to remain fully in touch with her identity as a Japa-

nese-American, a writer, and a computer scientist.

Genta Iwasaki is the recipient of the Magoichi and Shizuko Memorial Scholarship. He graduated from the Master's of Science program in Gerontology at University of Missouri-Saint Louis this past December and returned to the JD program at Washington University Law School in January. He hopes to become an elder law attorney, specializing in the needs of the senior population.

Jean Shiraki is the recipient of the Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship. Previously a Daniel K. Inouye Fellow at JACL in Washington, DC, she is in her final year of medical school at the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harlem, NY. This scholarship has helped her to travel to and apply for Residency programs around the country.

2015 National JACL Convention

The 46th National JACL Convention was held at the Monte Carlo Resort & Casino in Las Vegas and featured several interesting workshops and sessions, including a report and update on the upcoming 2017 Smithsonian Exhibit commemorating the 75th anniversary of EO 9066 and an LGBTQ plenary which explored Asian-American LGBTQ identity.

JACL's support for the LGBTQ community was echoed by the National Council's success in passing Emergency Resolution 2, introduced by the Honolulu chapter, which calls upon JACL to be an ally to the transgender community and support increased access, equity, and fair treatment of transgender individuals. Other resolutions passed by the National Council included:

- Resolution 1, honoring Mike Masaru Masaoka for his leadership and service to the welfare of the Japanese American community.
- Resolution 3, recognizing the importance of artifacts created by incarcerated Japanese Americans during World War II.
- Resolution 4, introduced by the National Youth Student Council (NYSC), supporting House Resolution 40; this resolution would establish a federal commission to review the institution of slavery and the resulting impact on living African Americans, and provide recommendations to Congress on appropriate remedies.

Another theme at the convention was the Kakehashi Project, which sent 90 JACL youth members to Japan last year as part of JACL's partnership with the Japanese government. Many of last year's participants were in attendance as delegates to the convention, and it was also announced by Minister Tamaki Tsukada of the Embassy of Japan that the Kakehashi project would be extended as a permanent annual program, and with double the number of participants allocated next year.

One Year After the Canceled Auction of Nikkei Camp Artifacts

by Nancy Ukai, Board Member,
JACL Berkeley Chapter



Photo credit: Nancy Ukai.

From a tin-can handwarmer to a wooden crate wondrously transformed into a painted *but sudan*, more than 50 historical WWII Nikkei objects were exhibited for a multigenerational crowd of some 120 at the JACL Day of Remembrance event held last month in Salinas by five Monterey Bay chapters.

Poston survivor Mas Hashimoto of the Watsonville chapter swung a tin-foil covered can around in windmill fashion to show how, as a child, he stoked the embers of mesquite charcoal inside to keep his tiny "stove" heated before placing it under his folding stool during winter.

The event that focused on camp objects is but one example of how community awareness of historical artifacts has been heightened in the aftermath of the canceled Rago auction last year. In April, a project at Sonoma State University led by Dana Ogo Shew will digitize objects from Amache with the support of the Sonoma JACL.

Nearly one year has passed since Japanese Americans nationwide mobilized through social media and other means to protest the public sale by Rago Arts and Auction of an assemblage of 450 historical artifacts held for decades by crafts expert Allen H. Eaton and his successors. Legal action by Heart Mountain and intervention by George Takei helped lead to the cancellation of the auction.

Eaton wrote the 1952 book, *Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: the Arts of the Japanese in Our War Relocation Camps*. It featured dozens of short profiles of craft works, landscapes and cultural practices carried out in the ten concentration camps during WWII. Eaton hoped to display many of the documented objects in an exhibition but the event never took place.

After the Japanese American National Museum acquired the 450 items, 300 of which are photographs, discussions have taken place between museum officials and a working group of representatives from the various camps, including Heart Mountain, Minidoka, Amache, Topaz and Tule Lake.

The discussions have focused on ways to share information on the collection with the public so that people can begin to connect specific items to camps and even their families in order to gather background data.

The artifacts have been separated from community members for 70 years. Also under discussion are long-term loans of artwork, future exhibitions and digital displays.

2015 JACL NY Highlights

Hibakusha Speak Out

April 28, 2015

JAA Community Center

Co-sponsored by:

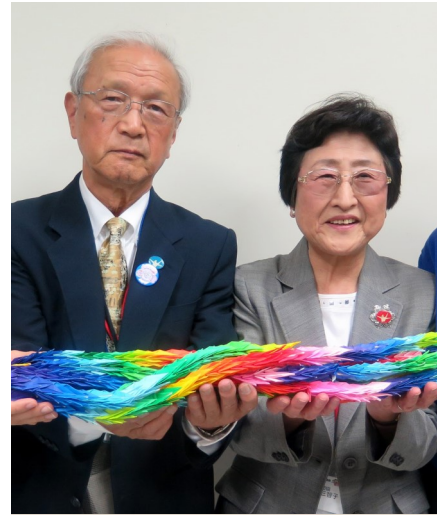
The Japanese American Citizens League of New York (JACL NY)

Japanese American Association (JAA)

Japanese Americans and Japanese in America (JAJA)

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, *hibakusha*—atomic bomb survivors—came from Japan to attend the 2015 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Review Conference. An audience of over 100 people listened in rapt attention as Hiroshima A-Bomb survivors Tamotsu Masada and Michiko Kodama told their personal stories. Most importantly, they conveyed their message of hope as they each expressed their personal motivation to educate people around the world and tell their stories so that the mistakes of the past would not be repeated.

At the end of the evening, the panelists presented us with a colorful and beautiful *senbazuru* (1000 origami cranes strung together) as an extension of their wish for a peaceful world.



(Photo credit: George Hirose.)

George Takei's Allegiance

November 15, 2015

Longacre Theater on Broadway, NYC

This past November, JACL NY members joined forces with the organization's Seabrook and Philadelphia chapters. With other community members, nearly 200 people attended a Sunday Matinee performance of George Takei's Broadway play, *Allegiance*. It was a powerful experience for so many members of our community to come together for this special performance, which was highlighted by a special post-show talk-back with George Takei and Greg Watanabe from the cast.

JACL NY would like to applaud *Allegiance* for thoroughly entertaining audiences on Broadway, while bringing the story of Japanese American internment to a broader audience. We wish the producers and cast of *Allegiance* the greatest of success as they look for new opportunities to take the production on tour and educate the masses!



(Photo credit: George Hirose.)

Human Rights Forum: LGBT Personal Stories and Activism

October 27, 2015

Co-sponsored by JACL NY and JAJA

JACL NY member Aya Yabe and Board member Phillip Ozaki joined Hoshina Seki, President of the American Buddhist Study Center, to give us a heartfelt, personal discussion about their lives and LGBT issues in both the US and Japan.

The JACL as a national organization has resolved to support the LGBT community and all who are affected by prejudice and bigotry.

Left to right: Phillip Ozaki, Hoshina Seki, Aya Yabe. (Photo credit: George Hirose.)



(Photo credit: George Hirose.)



Bottom photo, left to right: moderator Mae Ngai, Madeleine Sugimoto, Franklin Odo, Eric Muller, Fred Katayama. (Photo credit: George Hirose.)

The Politics of Memory Conference

December 5, 2015

Columbia University

JACL NY member Madeleine Sugimoto participated in the "Memories of the Japanese American Incarceration" panel discussion with Franklin Odo (founding director of the Asian/Pacific American Center, Smithsonian Institute), Fred Katayama (Thompson Reuters reporter), Eric Muller (Univ. of North Carolina Law school) and moderator Mae Ngai (Columbia University) at this conference organized by Columbia's Institute for the Study of Human Rights. Madeleine, who was interned at Camp Jerome, Arkansas as a young girl, shared her thoughts and personal memories. Madeleine was also involved in educational outreach for our chapter this past year, speaking to students at Yeshiva High School in Flatbush, Brooklyn.

A Journey Through the Japanese American Experience: Presentation & Discussion with Photographer Stan Honda

February 23, 2016

Co-sponsored by JACL NY and JAJA

In honor of the Day of Remembrance (February 19), Stan Honda, a New York-based photographer who has worked as a photojournalist for 34 years, spoke about his career and showcased his unique portfolio of images, particularly those documenting the Japanese American internment camps. The evening also featured a lively group discussion with some of the community's most prominent internment survivors.

Please visit stanhonda.com to see Stan's work.



(Photo credit: George Hirose.)