



Greater Los Angeles Chapter *Japanese American Citizens League*

Newsletter no. 432

August 2021

VIRTUAL PROGRAM and BOARD MEETING

Sunday, August 8, 2021

Program at 1:00 p.m. **STANDING OUT AS HAPA**

Panel: Andrew Gruhn, Erica Harris, and Mylee Sumoge

Meeting follows the program.

Information: **Contact Louise for Zoom link**



Andrew Gruhn



Erica Harris



Mylee Sumoge

Three of GLA's hapa, or biracial, young adult members, Andrew Gruhn, Erica Harris and Mylee Sumoge, will be a panel. Topics to be covered include how they see themselves as hapa and discrimination they may have encountered. Discrimination may not have been major incidents, but microaggressions are significant and need to be acknowledged as discrimination.

UPDATES FROM GLA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Kristin
Kumagawa

Kristin Kumagawa, 2019

I completed my sophomore year at Chapman University from home. Luckily, I was able to stay involved through working remotely and maintained my status as a full time student. I officially added Public Relations and Disability Studies minors to my course load, and have been working on my Communication major. Most recently, I have worked as a summer intern with the American Association of People with Disabilities and am on the founding board of the Asian Americans with Disabilities Initiative. I remain grateful for the generosity of the JACL, for without the scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to pursue my education at my dream school!



Lauryn

Lauryn Murata, 2020

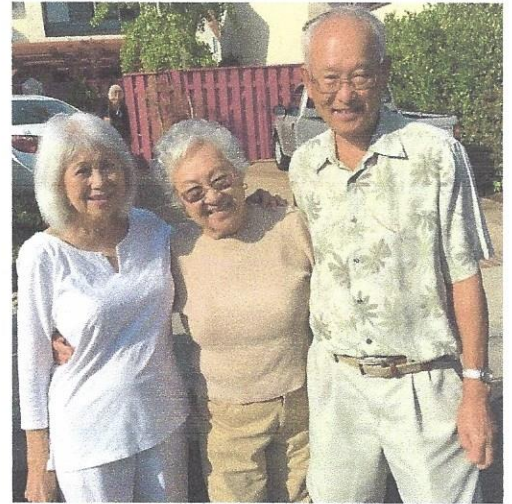
Starting my college journey online and at home was definitely not what I had hoped for, but it was a learning experience nonetheless. In the beginning, it was hard to remain motivated sitting at home in one spot all day staring at a screen. It almost felt like our senior year of high school where we went online for the tail end of it, so the 'I'm an official college student' hadn't really hit me yet. Staying motivated and maintaining a healthy mental health mindset was almost as hard as the curriculum. So for me personally, this pandemic has taught me the importance of community and social interaction. While adjusting to the new way of learning, I didn't prioritize reaching out to classmates, talking

to my professors, and just interacting in general. Learning in 2020 was a rollercoaster of emotion and wondering if I would ever see the campus, but luckily this fall I can! I plan to take what I learned while doing distanced learning both socially and academically to prioritize my education and my mental health in a 'work/play balance' in my life.

SEND OFF PARTY FOR JANET, July 11, 2021



Attendees of party sitting from left: Joyce Okazaki, Mitchell Matsumura, Kei Sakita, Janet Okubo, Mary Yamabe, Noh Yamabe, Emy Sakamoto, Mas Oshiro, Layne Sakamoto, Kanji Sahara. Standing: Grace Masuda, Junko Ikeda, Louise Sakamoto, A. Okada, M. Kadogawa, Erica Harris, Nancy Takayama. Photo taken by Ray Imatani



Grace Masuda, Janet Okubo, Ray Imatani (photographer of group picture and Grace's husband)

All the members of the Greater L. A. Chapter really, truly appreciate the great service our Janet Okubo gave tirelessly, graciously, and unselfishly for so long. Not only was she the President for 16 years, but she quietly took Minutes and kindly took care of the Treasurer's responsibilities. We owe Janet Okubo a huge debt of gratitude.

Rest of report deleted

report by M. Kadogawa

First Virtual JACL National Convention, July 15-18, 2021

On Sunday, July 18, the JACL concluded its 51st National Convention with a nearly 7-hour deliberative session of its members. Delegates from across the country engaged in thoughtful and respectful discussion on two resolutions which passed with overwhelming majorities.

Resolution one reaffirmed JACL's commitment to support Black and other communities whose civil rights, liberty, and well-being are denied by white supremacy and systemic racism. It further committed the organization to seek to be actively anti-racist in its actions and policies. The resolution also commits its membership and chapters to work towards the passage of legislation such as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the BREATHE Act which remain under consideration by the United States Congress.

The second Resolution passed by the National Council in response to the escalating hate crimes and incidents targeting Asian Pacific Americans in the past year, called upon media, elected officials, and community leadership to denounce racial discrimination, white supremacy, and xenophobia that is often at the root of anti-Asian incidents. The resolution affirmed the need for mandatory ethnic studies curriculum in K-12 education as a means to mitigate and prevent future racially motivated violence.

JACL National President Jeffrey Moy noted, "Central to both resolutions was the need to accomplish this work in collaboration and coalition with our partner communities. These two resolutions highlight how our communities truly have been "Forged Under Fire" as was the theme of our convention. Now begins the difficult work of promoting public education to ensure that all Americans understand and appreciate the rich diversity of our country and challenge structures and systems that prevent this country from living up to its full potential."

The convention was presented with many sessions in collaboration with OCA Asian Pacific Advocates. Among the featured guests to appear throughout the convention were:

Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, **Kiran Ahuja**
actor and activist **George Takei**

Congressmembers: **Mark Takano** (CA-41) and **Ted Liu** (CA-31), and
Deputy Assistant to the President and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific
Islander Senior Liaison, **Erika Moritsugu**

Sayonara Gala on Saturday, July 17 featured remarks by the former Commerce and Transportation **Secretary Norman Y. Mineta**, who has attended JACL national conventions since 1950s, applauded JACL for its work on advancing civil rights for Asian Americans and other minority communities. Secretary Mineta enthusiastically announced the launch of the JACL Centennial Education Fund and encouraged JACL members to donate generously in order to sustain the organization.

Then the longtime partner and ally of JACL, **Wade Henderson**, Interim President and CEO for the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights provided the evening's keynote address.

AWARDS

Japanese Americans of the Biennium awards:

California OC District Supervisor Lisa Bartlett and

Seattle, WA journalist Lori Matsukawa

George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award:

Seattle Chapter

National Student/Youth Council's Vision Award:

Tsuru for Solidarity

National Student/Youth Council's Digital Storytelling Award:

Sam Hamashima for his "Family Heirlooms"

Kristin Sato and Jessica Bukowski for their "Enryo"

(convention report continued)

Entertainment and Comments:

Olympic skating medalists and authors: Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani

Spoken word artist : G Yamazawa

Comedienne Atsuko Okatsuka

Taiko performances: Portland Taiko and Mark H Taiko

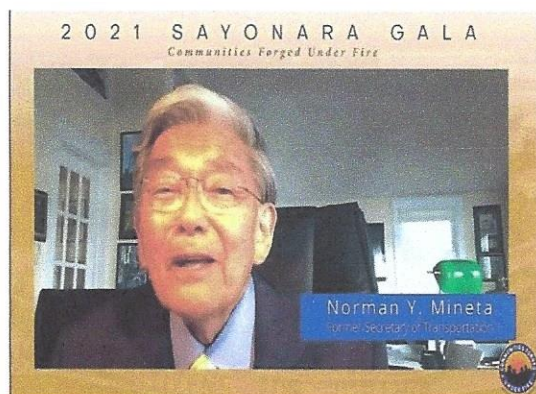
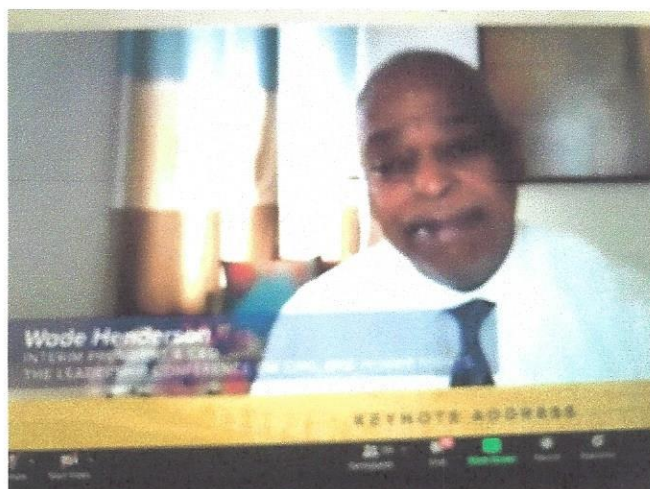
Highest volunteer recognition, Ruby Pin:

Ron Katsuyama of Dayton, OH, posthumous presentation

GLA "p.s." to the time-consuming Resolutions parliamentary process. Our **Andrew Gruhn** was on the Resolutions Committee, working during the review, discussion, and changes process. He was working on the real-time changes of edits/additions/deletions/ correction on the text of the resolutions on the computer. Good Job!



JACL National President Jeffrey Moy (top)
JACL Executive Director David Inoue
(bottom)



report by M Kadogawa

RAFU SHIMPO

Rafu Shimpo

Los Angeles Japanese Daily News

Muratsuchi Secures \$5 Million for Torrance WWII JA Incarceration Memorial

by JK Yamamoto JULY 29, 2021



Kanji Sahara gave a talk in 2019 on a proposed World War II Japanese American incarceration memorial in Torrance to the Greater L.A. JACL. He is pictured with chapter leaders Janet Okubo (left), Louise Sakamoto (right), and Miyako Kadogawa (standing). (Photo by Kathee Yamamoto)

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) on July 16 secured \$5 million in the state budget to build a memorial in the City of Torrance to teach the history of the mass incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans without due process of law during World War II.

The proposed memorial will include the engravement of the names of all individuals removed or excluded pursuant to President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 and unjustly incarcerated in concentration camps operated by the U.S. government during the war.

Muratsuchi stated, "I am pleased to deliver state funding to build this memorial, so that we will never forget the lessons of the World War II Japanese American mass incarceration. This has been a dream for many South Bay residents like Dr. Kanji Sahara of Torrance, who has been doggedly pursuing this memorial project for years. I want to thank Torrance Mayor Pat Furey and the City Council for supporting this project with a proposed site at Columbia Park in North Torrance, home to the largest Japanese American community in the mainland United States."

"I am very thankful for the leadership of Assemblyman Muratsuchi for championing this memorial," said Mayor Furey. "I expect the memorial will serve two purposes — honoring those who actually suffered internment and educating folks so that actions like Executive Order 9066 will never occur again."

"I was 8 years old in 1942 when I was imprisoned with my family at the Santa Anita Assembly Center, then sent to camps in Jerome and Rohwer, Arkansas," said Dr. Sahara. "I know how it feels to be put in a concentration camp. I look forward to working with the City of Torrance and Assemblymember Muratsuchi to build the Torrance World War II Japanese American Incarceration Memorial."

Muratsuchi represents the 66th Assembly District, which includes El Camino Village, Gardena, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway, Hermosa Beach, Lomita, Los Angeles, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Torrance, and West Carson.