



DC NEWS NOTES

Publication of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League

www.jacl-dc.org

CALENDAR

MOCHITSUKI

December 5, 2015
12:00–2:00 p.m.
North Bethesda Middle School
8935 Bradmoor Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

LEGACY OF JAPANESE AMERICANS IN THE US MILITARY

December 14, 2015
Japanese Information & Culture
Center (JICC)
Washington DC

INTERMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

December 15, 2015
Japanese Information & Culture
Center (JICC)
Washington DC

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S AWARD TO JACL, JAVA, NJAMF, & USJC

December 16, 2015
Japanese Information & Culture
Center (JICC)
Washington DC

INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

January 23, 2016
12:00–2:00 p.m.
Meiawah Restaurant
4457 Willard Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Tobe

202-390-5020 or e-mail: john.tobe@gmail.com

We all know what the holiday season means ... mochi! Yes, our very popular Mochitsuki will be held on Saturday, December 5, at the North Bethesda Middle School. It is our largest event of the year and there will be mochi making demonstrations, entertainment, the always popular raffle, bentos, and of course, mochi. The Crafty Ladies will also be on hand selling their handmade gifts and gift baskets. This year, the funds raised from the Mochitsuki will go towards funding an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution observing the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. The JACL-DC Chapter has committed to raising \$10,000 for the exhibit and we are getting close to that goal. You can read more about both the Mochitsuki and the Smithsonian exhibit elsewhere in News Notes.

I also wanted to mention that the Embassy of Japan will be sponsoring a series of events highlighting the contributions of Japanese Americans. The first event will be a panel discussion on Japanese Americans in the US military. On the next day, the discussion will focus on internment and what Japanese Americans are doing to preserve our legacy. Finally, the last day will be a ceremony to honor four Japanese American organizations for their efforts to promote friendship between the United States and Japan. The organizations are the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF), and the US-Japan Council (USJC). Each of these organizations will be receiving the prestigious Foreign Minister's Award from the Government of Japan. The entire series of events will be held at the Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC), which is located on 18th Street in downtown, Washington DC.

Please mark your calendars for our installation lunch which will once again be held in January at Meiawah in Chevy Chase. More details will be sent out shortly.

Finally, I wanted to express my thanks to all of you for supporting the DC Chapter. We continue to be the largest chapter on the East Coast and we are continuing to grow our numbers. Thank you so much for generously supporting our events throughout the year. Your support helps us in the important work of preserving our legacy and promoting civil and human rights. On behalf of the DC Chapter Board, Happy Holidays to everyone. We look forward to seeing you at Mochitsuki.

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KEIRO KAI/FAMILY DAY

On Saturday, September 12, the DC Chapter held our annual Keiro Kai/Family Day at North Bethesda Middle School. In Japanese, "kei" means to honor or respect, and "ro" refers to the elderly. Thus the term "keiro" means to honor or pay tribute to our seniors. With a crowd of almost 200, this was the largest Keiro Kai that chapter has ever held. Joining in the festivities were a contingent of midshipmen from the Naval Academy in Annapolis. The crowd was also entertained by the JBE Band which was made up of diplomats and staff from the Embassy of Japan. Their set included both American and Japanese songs, and they had everyone swaying and tapping along. A raffle was also held. Kristine Minami and her family won the grand prize of Redskin football tickets and field passes. Special thanks to board member Ron Mori for leading this event and to Kim Hirose for donating the football ticket package.



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



Washington, D.C. – On November 11, the JACL Washington, D.C. Chapter co-sponsored the annual Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) Veterans Day Ceremony. Despite rain in the days leading up to the event, the ceremony was held on a sunny afternoon at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II.

The ceremony featured remarks from Mr. Cal Shintani of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF), Mr. Mike Cardarelli, of the JAVA, and Retired Army Colonel Paul Shelton of the Pan-Pacific American Leaders and Mentors Organization (PPALM), all of whom were co-sponsors for the event.

Craig Shimizu, a JACL Washington D.C. Fellow and Afghanistan veteran, participated in a wreath laying ceremony, and JACL EDC District Governor Michelle Amano had the honor of introducing the keynote speaker, Major General Joseph Carvalho Jr., the Deputy Surgeon General and Deputy Commanding General (Support) of the US Army Medical Command.



While visiting Hawaii for his high school reunion, MG Carvalho recalled his surprise upon learning that his classmate's father, 442nd veteran Shizuya Hayashi, had received the Medal of Honor for his actions during World War II. "I must have spent five minutes shaking [Grant's] hand, and then spent the rest of the evening bragging about Grant's Dad and how he was a true American Hero. It certainly reinforced for me that many of our nation's heroes are amongst us daily, and yet, we may never know the sacrifices they made in a previous life to defend our freedom."

Photographs by Craig Shimizu and Floyd Mori

SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT 2017



This is a reminder for everyone to look through their personal belongings and into the attic for artifacts for the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History exhibit on Japanese American experiences during World War II. The exhibition will display images and objects that tell the story of how Executive Order 9066 shaped the lives of Japanese Americans during World War II and continues to resonate throughout the community. Your donations will tell your personal story and share the historic and current impact of Executive Order 9066. Items sought include: military uniforms, photos of WWII veterans, camp handmade toys and children's items, camp cards and games, camp school artifacts, birth and death certificates from camp, camp worker documentation, sports-related materials, camp newsletters and newspapers,

personal letters, resettlement documents, redress documents, and Hawaii camp documents. Not only will your donation be for the 2017 exhibition, but it will also be for the Smithsonian archives to educate future generations. The Smithsonian would take your original materials and give you copies to keep.

JACL-DC CHAPTER TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT ON EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

To coincide with the JACL National Convention returning to Washington, DC in 2017, the Smithsonian Institution, in partnership with the JACL, will have an exhibit at the American History Museum observing the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 which authorized the Secretary of War to prescribe certain areas as military zones. Eventually, E.O. 9066 cleared the way for the incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans into concentration camps. JACL DC Chapter has committed to raising \$10,000 towards that exhibit and we will be using events like the Mochitsuki to raise funds and awareness about E.O. 9066 and fund the exhibit.

If you are interested in contributing to this worthy effort, please send your tax deductible contributions to: JACL DC Chapter, P.O. Box 6188, Silver Spring, MD 20916. Please make a notation that your generous contribution is earmarked for the E.O. 9066 exhibit.

HONORING RAY MURAKAMI AND MARTHA WATANABE

Congratulations to two of our notable DC Chapter members who have received recognition for their work over the years-- Ray Murakami and Martha Watanabe.



Ray Murakami received the Decoration of The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays from the Emperor of Japan on October 8, at the Embassy of Japan. He is awarded for his contributions to the advancement of social

status of Japanese Americans in the United States and for promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States. Through his extensive network of contacts of influential political leaders, he was instrumental in creating and establishing the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C.

On Sunday, October 25, at the Organization of Chinese Americans-DC Chapter's 42nd Annual Honor Awards Gala, long time JACL member **Martha Watanabe** received their Community Service Award for her decades of service assisting OCA and other Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders organizations throughout the region. In addition to working at the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Voting Section, Martha also serves as Commissioner for the DC Commission on Asian Pacific Affairs and also chairs the annual National Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk.

This is a well-deserved and high honor, and we congratulate her!



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).

NIKKEI LADIES' LUNCHEON



Forty ladies met on November 6, at Meiwah restaurant to socialize and to learn valuable tips from an AARP speaker on home modifications that can help us age-in-place and go about daily activities while staying independent and injury-free. We learned about where to install grab bars and railings, what types of doors and handles to acquire, how to make appliances accessible, and where to set lighting in our homes. We even had to pledge to throw away all "evil" scatter rugs to prevent falls. A special thank you to Michelle Amano for organizing the event and to Barbara Nekoba for keeping the group active and coming back for more enjoyable times together.

This group began with their first luncheon on August 6, 2009, for the purpose of getting out and socializing which was becoming a challenge for the aging. It has developed as a way for mothers and their daughters to come together as well as for Japanese-American women to reminisce and stay connected. The ladies meet three times a year and alternate between restaurants in Maryland and Virginia.

Save the Date

2016 JACL-DC Installation Luncheon

Saturday, January 23, 2016

Meiwah Restaurant, Bethesda, MD

CHECK US OUT AT JACL-DC.ORG AND 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.



Let's stay in touch in the New Year!



Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of fun!

- Mochi-pounding & Mochi-making
- Arts & Crafts Fair by the Crafty Ladies
- Entertainment by “The JBE Band” featuring
Local Japanese business leaders & staffers from the Embassy of Japan

Saturday, December 5, 2015

12:00pm – 2:00pm

North Bethesda Middle School
8935 Bradmoor Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817

Bento Boxes - \$19 (includes ozoni, drink and dessert) Choose from:

- Chicken Teriyaki
- Salmon Teriyaki
- Vegetarian (Vegetable Tempura)

Fresh Mochi Sale – ½ lb.

- Mochi with Anko Filling - \$9
- Plain Mochi - \$6

A limited number of bentos (\$25 each) and mochi will be available for the day of purchase. Items are first come, first serve so pre-ordering is encouraged!

Deadline to order is Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Pre-order now at: <http://2015jaclmochitsuki.eventbrite.com>

Or mail payment to: JACL DC Chapter

4101 Albemarle Street NW #645, Washington, D.C. 20016

Questions? Please e-mail: jaclwdc@gmail.com

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5406 Uppingham Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-5510
Telephone: 301-320-4131
E-mail: michelle_amano@me.com



ABOUT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Located in the nation's Capitol, 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.

www.jacl-dc.org



Photo by Joe Shymanski