

BRUSH STROKES

December 2012

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURE

Scholarship Program

We can be very proud of our scholarship program, made possible through the generous donations of Riverside JACL members and friends. Last year scholarships totaling \$2,300 were awarded to eight students. This year we will be awarding the first \$500 Mits Inaba Memorial Scholarship, established by a donation from Meiko Inaba and family. Scholarship applications will be sent to local high schools. If you know a graduating senior of Japanese ancestry, please let us know so that we can send them a personal invitation to apply for the local scholarships. Applicants for Riverside JACL Scholarships do not have to be members. The high school counselors often do not know who is of Japanese ancestry. Applications are due in early March 2013. The National JACL has its own Scholarship Program open to active JACL members. All information about the national program is posted on their web site jacl.org.

President's Message

Dear Members:

It is with great pleasure and pride that we, the JACL Board, add our hearty congratulations to Mark Takano and to his family — Willie and Nancy and all the children and extended family — for Mark's victory in the recent elections. Nancy tells us that the whole Takano clan will be journeying to Washington DC, come January, to see Mark and the swearing in of the new U.S. Congress. Would that be exciting to see! It is a very important time for Asian Americans and to be in the position to see history being made is mind boggling. We wish Mark all the very best, the greatest strength to tackle the tough issues and the hope that he will continue to live his dream. To Nancy and Willie, we wish the best as well and hope that they will enjoy the changes in the years to come.

In Riverside, we have a new Mayor coming on board and in our own chapter we must elect officers once again. Please check your mailbox for a ballot soon and cast your vote.

We are planning to hold our annual meeting in conjunction with the 2nd annual Day of Inclusion on December 15th. We will have a lunch at a restaurant (to be announced) and make our way over to the interesting program being planned by the Multicultural Council/RMA. Day of Inclusion is important to all of us and certainly hits home with the Asian Americans. Civil rights issues are such an important part of our lives every day. For that reason I hope we will continue to have your support for this local chapter of JACL.

Michiko Yoshimura, President

Mr. Takano goes to Washington

by Dr. Clyde Wilson

Jefferson Smith: *Well, what do you expect me to do? An honorary stooge like me against the Taylors and Paines and machines and lies?*
Clarissa Saunders: *Your friend, Mr. (Abraham) Lincoln had his Taylors and Paines. So did every other man who ever tried to lift his thought up off the ground. Odds against them didn't stop those men. . . Remember what you said about Mr. Lincoln? You said he was sitting up there, waiting for someone to come along. You were right. He was waiting for a man who could see his job and sail into it, that's what he was waiting for . . . I think he was waiting for you,*

From Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

The 2012 Presidential Election has come and gone. In these days of hard times, a murky future, and low opinion of our elected government, the American voting public in their collective wisdom, re-elected the same President, same Senate, and same House of Representatives. However, there is an important change, at least for the newly redistricted 41st

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Harada House Stewardship Fund: RMA will match donations up to \$5,000

The Riverside Museum Associates voted to match funds donated to the Harada House Stewardship fund up to \$5,000, according to President Jim Ferguson. This is in honor of Mits Inaba who recently passed away.

Donations will be used to implement the highest priority preservation projects for the site, notably the foundation stabilization, seismic retrofitting and site drainage. A grant from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment fund was used to complete engineering specification drawings for these projects and emergency stabilization of the foundation has temporarily stabilized the structure, but your donation is crucial to ensure the site is preserved for future generations.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the National Historic Landmark Harada House Stewardship Fund. Checks can be made payable to the Riverside Museum Associates and sent to the RMA, NHL Harada House Stewardship Fund, c/o Riverside Metropolitan Museum, 3580 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, 92501.

If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Voorheis at lvoorheis@riversideca.gov or call 951 826 5131, or Jim Ferguson at jferg1203@aol.com.



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History Symposium at Riverside Museum featured Harada House and book launch



The House on Lemon Street by Mark Rawitsch was launched in November during a history filled weekend of programs including an appearance by the author at a Barnes & Noble book signing. Mr. Rawitsch also was a presenter at the various programs during the weekend, coordinated by Lynn Voorheis, Curator of Historic Structures and Collections at the Museum, while additional programs took place at the Mission Inn and the Center for Social Justice. The events included a presentation by Naomi Harada.



Judy Lee and Meiko Inaba were among the many interested persons attending the history symposium at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.

Congressional District and, perhaps, the Japanese-American community. One of the Riverside Chapter's own, Mark Takano, was elected as Congressman for the 41st Congressional District. I recall my wife Katherine and I attending a last-minute rally for Mark (thank-you, Nancy, for the sushi) the day before the elections. He spoke of how, in a previous attempt at a Congressional seat, he lost by a mere 500 votes (which was about one vote per precinct) and how he was not going to lose by 500 votes again. He won by over 30,000 votes. Talk about your typical Japanese-American overachiever!

Why is the election important? Sometimes I look back at myself. I remember once when I was a kid seeing a light-hearted movie where an American fighter pilot and a Japanese fighter pilot shot each other down during WWII. They ended up floating next to each other in the Pacific Ocean. As they started to talk to each other, the American pilot noted how good his Japanese counterpart's English was. The Japanese pilot replied, "Oh, UCLA, Class of 1939, B.A. in Ornamental Horticulture." Well, I attended at UCLA, earned a B.A., then later, a Ph.D. When I was a child, for a while, my step-father worked as a, you guessed it, Japanese gardener. In some respects, I'm a walking, talking, living, breathing Japanese-American stereotype. But look also at some of our Chapter's founding members, Dr. Robert Endo, Dr. Junji Kumamoto, Dr. Gen Ogata. They all ended up earning their doctorate in Plant Pathology, Plant Physiology, and Chemistry, respectively. Same thing, same stereotype. This is not a criticism, mind you, merely an observation.

Most of the JAs of my age (and older) seemed to gravitate to certain fields, usually the sciences, usually agriculture-based. One field in which you see few JAs is politics. (And I am not overlooking the great contributions of Daniel Inouye, Warren Furutani and others.) However, with the 2012 election there seems to be a

change in the thinking of some JAs and Asians in general. Not only was Mark elected to the 41st Congressional District, but Al Muratsuchi was elected to California's 66th Assembly district. Maybe, just maybe, this marks (no pun intended) a change in JA aspirations and how JAs see themselves in society. Or maybe not. Perhaps some JAs have always had a passion for elected politics, but just, for some reason, didn't pursue it. But hopefully, with this election and with Mark and his achievements, they can serve as role models and more JAs will envision a political future. I wonder if sometimes we limit ourselves by stereotyping ourselves.

In closing, I leave you with this writing by Mark Takano taken from his Facebook page.

Before I turn in for the night, I must say something about "Lincoln". Mr. Spielberg affirms my conviction that politics is a calling. He shows us Lincoln's effort to pass the 13th Amendment that abolished slavery. The process was not always pretty--the wheedling, the cajoling, the low bargaining. But in the end, being on the right side of history was at stake...our experiment in democracy was at stake. Enough members of the House rose to the occasion. It took passion, tenacity, and in the case of Thaddeus Stevens self-control to advance the principle of equality before the law. I am ready to advance that principle, too.

Dr. Clyde Wilson



RIVERSIDE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE



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Beyond Riverside

A National Conference commemorating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988

July 4 through 7, 2013
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Seattle, Washington

Following the success of its three prior National Conferences—Los Angeles, California (2002); Little Rock, Arkansas (2004); and Denver, Colorado (2008)—JANM will once again host a National Conference to examine the historic and contemporary implications of the Japanese American experience on democracy, justice, and civil rights. Participants of all ages will be able to engage in an exciting slate of programming from dynamic multi-ethnic, multi-generational speakers to key historic site visits, as well

as a number of other thought-provoking activities. Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to gather with friends and family while exploring further the remarkable aspects of the Japanese American story. www.janm.org

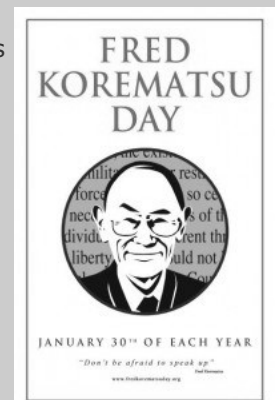
Saturday, January 26, 2013 Torrance, CA Fred Korematsu Day event

Location: Main meeting room,
Katy Geissert Library,
Torrance, CA

Time: 2:00-4:00pm

Program: The program will begin with the 24-minute version of the film "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: the Fred Korematsu Story." Karen Korematsu, daughter of Fred Korematsu and co-founder of the

Korematsu Institute will then speak, followed by a Q&A discussion. The Torrance Korematsu event is being sponsored by the South Bay, Torrance and GLAS Chapters of JACL plus the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California.



The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.