



Riverside Chapter JACL



December 2011

President's Message

As we get ready to celebrate the holidays I hope you will take the time to consider joining the Riverside JACL Board. The same group of members has served on the Board, and we need your help in continuing our work. This year Gayle and Francis Fujiooka moved to Ventura. We truly miss their work as corresponding secretaries. We need a few good volunteers.

I hope all of you have been reading about the World War II Nisei Veterans who have been awarded a Congressional Gold Medal at a special ceremony on November 2, 2011 at the Capitol in Washington D.C. I talked to George Kanatani who attended the ceremonies with 6 members of his family. He said it was a once in a lifetime event not to be missed. George and his daughter were on the Honor Flight provided by Southwest Airlines for the veterans from Los Angeles. George received a bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal along with the other 300 veterans who were in attendance. The actual Gold Medal will be in the Smithsonian.

We also honor these Riverside Nisei Veterans of the 442nd, 100th, and MIS who were not able to attend the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony. They are:

Charles Fujimoto

Junji Kumamoto

James Urata

Posthumously:

Dr. Robert Endo

George Fujimoto

Y. Kobayashi

Henry Nakabayashi

Dr. Gen Ogata

Charles Sugi

Colonel Steve Yamamoto

Please let me know if we failed to list other veterans in Riverside.

For more information and to see a video of the ceremony log onto the Nisei Veterans Network website.

Michiko Yoshimura

Day of Inclusion to be presented by Multicultural Council December 17

JACL members, along with interested friends, are cordially invited to a program presented by the Multicultural Council of the Riverside Museum Associates.

December 17th, the Day of Inclusion in California, is a day set aside for all of us to remember and learn about the sacrifices and contributions of our immigrant heritage in becoming American by embracing our shared differences and common goals.

Assembly member Mike Eng (D-Monterey Park) authored Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 76 to have December 17th designated as the "Day of Inclusion" in California. December 17th was chosen as a way to memorialize the historic Magnuson Act, signed into law on December 17, 1943, which repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and marked a turning point regarding society's harsh attitudes towards immigration and immigrants.

Film and Program in honor of the Day of Inclusion-

When: December 17, 2011 2:00 pm—4:00 pm

Where: Arlington Library

9556 Magnolia Avenue Riverside 92503

No charge.

Film: *Speaking in Tongues*

Film maker Marcia Jarmel to be present for reception.

As reported in the Pacific Citizen by Gil Asakawa, the JACL and other organizations passed a resolution apologizing for the Chinese Exclusion act. Now these groups are pushing for a similar bill, HR 282, to pass in the House.

Have you renewed your JACL Membership this year?



PSW Awards Dinner Honors

The Annual Awards Dinner of the Pacific Southwest District was held On October 29th, 211 at the Rose Center Theater, in Westminster, CA. The reception included a silent auction table and lovely hors d'oeuvres. It was an opportunity to mix and mingle with new and old friends from the various chapters comprising the

PSW District. District Governor Kerry Kaneichi greeted the assembly while they enjoyed a delicious dinner. Recipients of the Community Honoree Award were California Assemblyman Warren Furutani, Madeline Ong-Sakata, Bill Watanabe, Orange County Supervisor Bill Campbell and Mary Anne Foo. Highlights of the various JACL programs conducted this past

year were presented along with the chapter honorees. Clyde Wilson was honored for his work with the Riverside JACL. Many interesting and inspiring stories were told by community honorees as well as by the chapter honorees. This brought greater appreciation for the tireless efforts by the JACL in general to advocate for civil rights and community preservation through empowerment and activism for all Asian Americans and other disenfranchised communities.



Clyde Wilson poses with other chapter honorees on this special occasion.



Representing the Riverside JACL were (l-r) Jennifer Okabayashi, Clyde Wilson, Meiko Inaba, Michiko Yoshimura and Nancy Takano.

Photo by Katherine Wilson

In Memoriam Aiko Endo—1925-2011

Born in Seal Beach, California to Tarago Tanamachi and Katsuye Aoki, Aiko grew up with siblings Marion (still living) and Tom (deceased). Aiko and her sister spent time in Poston War Relocation Center. Later both Marion and Aiko were to receive their nursing degrees at the Episcopal Hospital School of Nursing in Philadelphia. This is where Aiko met her future husband, Robert Endo. They married in New York in 1950 and moved to

Champaign, Illinois, where Bob completed his graduate school work and Aiko worked at the Carle Hospital Clinic in Urbana, Illinois. Their first two children, Jean Emiko and Robert Michio, were born in Illinois. In 1959 the family moved to California, eventually settling in Riverside. There an additional family member, Kenneth Yoshio, was added to the family. Aiko was a wonderful homemaker and gracious and active member of the

community as well. She will be missed by the JACL community family, as is her husband Robert who passed away in 2009.



Aiko and Bob Endo at the Riverside JACL in 2009.

In Memoriam Reyeko Suzuki 1928-2011

Services for Reyeko Suzuki were held in San Francisco at the Christ United Presbyterian Church. She passed away in August of this year. She was born in Seattle, Washington. Reyeko married Roy Suzuki May 1948, and became an Air Force wife. The family was stationed in the U.S., Hawaii and Japan. After her husband's retirement, they lived in Southern California for many years. According to friends, she spoke fondly of the Riverside JACL before she died. She recently moved to San Francisco to be close to her son and his

family. Reyeko was predeceased by her husband, Roy T. Suzuki, brothers Kenichi Kikuchi and Mitsuo Kikuchi, sisters Miyeko Nitta, Takako Miyagishlma, and Fujiko Hayashi. She is survived by her son, Rodney Suzuki, and his wife, Reverend Grace Suzuki, granddaughters Miya and Remi, all of San Francisco, and sisters Masako Okazaki, Shigeko Kikuchi, Akiko Kikuchi, along with brothers Kouji (Joan) Kikuchi and Kunio (Mary) Kikuchi, all of Seattle. She also leaves numerous nieces and nephews.



Family Village Festival 2011 Success!



Michiko Yoshimura, Helen Yoshikawa and Bev Inaba are among the villagers sharing traditional arts and crafts.



Terry Nguyen of Taiko Mix on stage at the 11th Family Village Festival.

Celebrating cultural diversity in the community, the Family Village Festival came together again on October 1, 2011 in front of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum. Over a dozen authentic cultural villages educated visitors, more than 500 children received honorary cultural passports; and more than a dozen cultural performances on stage entertained everyone. The Festival also became a “Green Village” through eco-friendly practices.

The Riverside JACL was a generous community sponsor as well as a participant in the village group. One member even showed her moves in line-dancing. This festival is a production of the Multicultural Council of the Riverside Museum Associates.



Beverly Inaba performs with the Heart and Soul Line Dancers.

A message from the Riverside Museum

Veterans - Share Your Story

In an effort to present what war is like from a soldier's perspective, the Riverside Metropolitan Museum invites local veterans from all American Wars to tell their stories and share their photos as a part of its current exhibition, "Force of Arms: Riverside's Participation in American Wars 1861-2011".

We are particularly interested in hearing from soldiers who are currently serving or who recently served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan.

We also welcome veterans from any American conflict, and would like to have their story and/or photographs on display as a part of a community story. We would like your opinion of war in general, what it's like to be currently serving (or what it was like to have served), how American's perceive the wars and your service and any other stories you'd like to share with the public. The exhibit "Force of Arms" displays uniforms, weapons, and other artifacts from American Wars. It starts with the Civil War and in its final phase, will culminate with the stories from newly returned soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Please contact the Museum at 951 826 5273.

Riverside JACL Annual Meeting

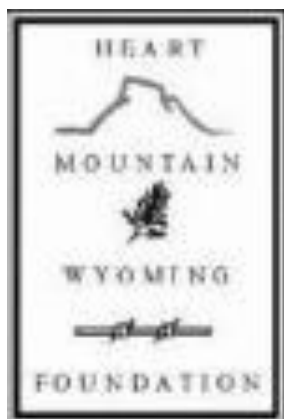


Recent annual meeting of the JACL was held at the First Christian Church in Riverside on October 22, 2011. The luncheon was highlighted by a presentation by Rich Davis, Assistant Principal at North High School and long time supporter of the JACL and the Sendai Sister Cities Committee. Rich related his experiences in Sendai following the multiple tragedies that occurred in Japan this past year. He was a part of a visiting group from the City of Riverside, headed by Mayor Loveridge. The City of Riverside donated over five hundred thousand dollars to the relief effort for Sendai. These funds were collected from citizens and organizations in the area. Rich hopes to continue his outreach work with the high school students of Sendai.



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Heart Mountain Revisited by Meiko Inaba

In August, hundreds of former internees of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center returned for the dedication of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center. For many, it was the first time since leaving over 65 years before. The Learning Center was a dream which began in 1996, when the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) formed as a nonprofit corporation and obtained its federal 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status in 1997. It was begun by both Wyoming citizens and former internees. The organization worked to preserve the site and one group of internees envisioned an educational facility that would preserve and teach the lessons embodied in the wartime experience of the people confined there during World War II. Additional projects completed were: 1) the restoration of the Honor Roll bearing the names of more than 800 internees who served in the U.S. military, including two recipients of the nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor; and 2) dedication of a Walking Tour of the site.

Attending the dedication were Chapter members, their families and friends: Willie and Nancy Takano, Jeanie and Yutaka Tanaka, Seiko Buckingham, Lori Tanaka, Chancellor Gregory Grey of the Riverside Community College District, Toshie Mikami, Richard and Ann Mikami, Vern and Carol Matsuura, Lynn Mikami, Shirley Mikami, Joyce Ishimoto, Mits and Meiko Inaba.

The keynote speaker for the Friday night pilgrimage dinner was Tom Brokow. He retold the stories of the past and commended those attending by saying, "The strength of this country is drawn from the dignity and determination of our fellow citizens who have been wronged, many of them terribly, but have not given up on the American dream or the promise that their country will learn from its past mistakes."

At the dedication on Saturday, former Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and retired U.S. Senator Alan Simpson, who met as Boy Scouts when Mineta's family was incarcerated at Heart Mountain, reflected on their experiences. Keynote speaker Senator Daniel Inouye talked about his own experiences during and after WWII, warning that to forget the past is to risk repeating it. He spoke of the racism he encountered after the war and spoke of the progress made in later years and noted the 1988 Civil Liberties Act granting token reparations and issuing a formal apology to Americans of Japanese ancestry incarcerated during the war. But he cautioned that the lessons from this experience must be taught to future generations, and said the Interpretive Learning Center is an important achievement because it will tell that story for years to come.

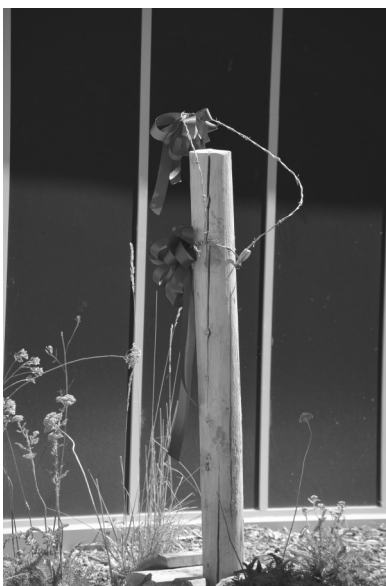
The Learning Center was officially opened by a ceremonial cutting of barbed wire. The grand opening banquet fo-

cused on "Guidance for the Future," as a panel of thought leaders commented on legal, legislative, psychological and philanthropic perspectives of the Japanese American experience and how it informs today's civil rights discussions. The panel included Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Lance Ito, a respected advocate for civil rights and judicial reform, whose parents were incarcerated at Heart Mountain; Irene Hirano Inouye, President of the U.S.-Japan Council; former Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta; and Dr. Melba Vasquez, President of the American Psychological Association.

On Sunday, over 100 fearless individuals set out to climb and conquer Heart Mountain; including Seiko Buckingham, and Jeanne, Yutaka and Lori Tanaka. One from our group joined the successful at the top. We won't mention who because they all put out an effort as big as the mountain.

Many memories were awakened on this pilgrimage to Heart Mountain. It was an experience and adventure back in time; recalling friendships, baseball, swimming, eating in the mess halls, work, school, sneaking out of camp, the barracks and showers, cold weather, wind and dust. All overshadowed by the fence posts with barbed wire, the guard towers and machine gun mounts and the guards.

Shirley Ann Higuchi – Heart



Photos by Lynn Mikami

Mountain Wyoming foundation Board Chair wrote, “As we celebrate the opening of the Interpretive Learning Center, it is a time to look back – and ahead. We pay tribute to the past sacrifices of our Issei and Nisei family members and friends. And we look to the future endeavors of the Center and the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation to continue their legacies.”

Ms. Higuchi also stated, “The Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center and surrounding site will stand as a powerful reminder of the need to balance concern for national security with respect for basic civil rights.”

Whether you were an internee at any of the camps or not, it is incumbent upon each of us to keep the future generations informed and educated of the past. Share your personal histories or the stories you have heard with your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and students. Encourage them to keep the stories alive.

Per the warning of Senator Inouye, “to forget the past is to risk repeating it.”



Norm Mineta and Toshie Mikami



*L—R
Nancy Takano,
Meiko Inaba,
Yutaka
Tanaka, and
Willie Takano*



*L-R
Seiko Buckingham, Lori
Tanaka, and Jamie Tanaka*

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Thanks! Let's stay in touch!



SCHOLARSHIPS 2012

The National JACL offers more than 30 awards, with an annual total of over \$70,000 in scholarships. Awards are available in the following categories: Freshman, Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Creative & Performing Arts, and Financial Aid. You must be a member of JACL. Information and applications are posted on the JACL website (www.jacl.org).