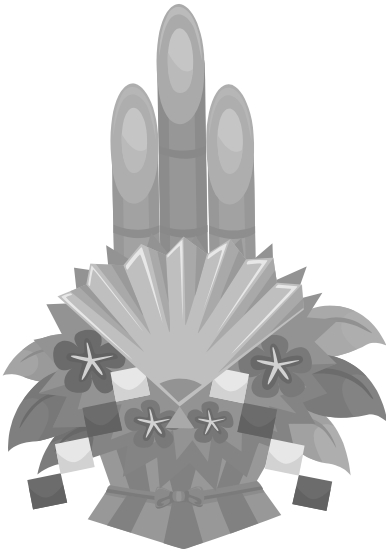




Riverside Chapter JACL



February 2012



President's Message

Dear Members: *Akemashite omedoto gozaimasu* —

Happy New Year 2012, Year of the Dragon!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Oshagatsu celebrations. My family and I try to do our best in serving the special Japanese New Year's Day foods, but we've also had to add ribs and ham to ozoni, sushi, sashimi, mochi, kuromame and other osechi ryori foods.

I want to thank our Board members for continuing to serve as officers in the Riverside JACL. I want to encourage you to attend the Board meetings and to volunteer to support the organization

We have our annual installation luncheon coming up on March 10th at the Marriott in Riverside, with two very interesting speakers — Mary Curtin, writer of the play *Miné Okubo: A Name for Herself*, and Chancellor Gregory Gray of RCC. The 100th birthday of Miné Okubo is approaching and we thought it appropriate to have these two speakers join us for insight into Miné Okubo and into the development of the Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties, where the art collection of this remarkable woman will be kept. Look for your flyer on this program and join us for what is sure to be an interesting afternoon.

And speaking of good times, if you would like to become a sponsor of the Installation luncheon, please let us know. We also appreciate any donation to our auction that you can make. The raffle is always an enjoyable part of the afternoon and we all look forward to it.

As always, we like to hear from you if you have questions, concerns or suggestions you would like to make.

Michiko Yoshimura

President

Membership Report

Many years ago, a college professor told his class that a business is only as good as the individuals in that business. This holds true for non-profit organizations as well. Please ask yourself,

"What can I do to help JACL be a better organization?"

If you ask each board member how you can help, we will give you as many answers as there are board member. My answer, as the Riverside Chapter Membership Chairman, is this:

The Riverside JACL is involved in a multitude of serious projects including civil rights, cultural preservation, education, scholarships and disaster relief, as well as fun projects such as our semi-annual general meetings and the annual picnic. All of the previously mentioned projects require funds.

Where do we get these funds? Mainly from donations from our members. **Only \$2 per member per year in membership dues comes to the Riverside Chapter.**

How can we increase the donor base?
By increasing our membership.

How can you help? I think you get the idea.

Ask your friends, family and neighbors if they are members. If not invite them to join. You may also consider a gift membership. I do. With the gift membership, my family stays in touch with the activities of the national organization through the JACL newspaper, the Pacific Citizen, and the local news through the Riverside Chapter newsletter.

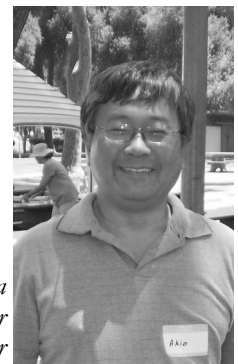
As the membership chairman, **I challenge each of you to find a new member or to reinstate a former member.**

Must a member be of Japanese descent? No, anyone can join as long as they believe in equal treatment of all persons.

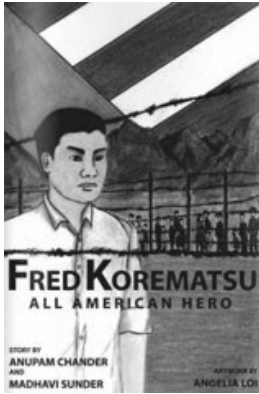
What can you do to help JACL?
Help us increase our membership.
And thank you for your support!

Any questions, please call me at 951-735-8481, leave a message, and I will return your call within one to two days.

Akio Yoshikawa
Membership Chair
Riverside Chapter



Civil Rights



Day of Remembrance

Date: January 30th Each Year

Short Biography

Fred T. Korematsu was a national civil rights hero. In 1942, at the age of 23, he refused to go to the government's incarceration camps for Japanese Americans. After he was arrested and convicted of defying the government's order, he appealed his case all the way to the Supreme Court. In 1944, the Supreme Court ruled against him, arguing that the incarceration was justified due to military necessity.

In 1983, Prof. Peter Irons, a legal historian, together with researcher Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga, discovered key docu-

ments that government intelligence agencies had hidden from the Supreme Court in 1944. The documents consistently showed that Japanese Americans had committed no acts of treason to justify mass incarceration. With this new evidence, a legal team of mostly Japanese American attorneys re-opened Korematsu's 40 year-old case on the basis of government misconduct. On November 10, 1983, Korematsu's conviction was overturned in a federal court in San Francisco. It was a pivotal moment in civil rights history.

Korematsu remained an activist throughout his life. In 1998, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Bill Clinton. In 2010, the state of California passed the Fred Korematsu Day bill, making January 30 the first day in the U.S. named after an Asian American. Korematsu's growing legacy continues to inspire activists of all back-

grounds and demonstrates the importance of speaking up to fight injustice.

This article was reprinted from Japanese-City.com, a website devoted to the promotion and education of Japanese arts and culture and supportive of hardworking organizations.

Is Defending the Constitution Irrelevant?

In late 1998 Tom Brokaw published a book titled "The Greatest Generation." Briefly, it is the story of a generation, who came of age during the Great Depression and World War II. They went on to build what we know as modern America. While Japanese-Americans were part of this generation, a few helped create modern America by not going to war, starting large corporations or entering the political arena. They contributed to making this

country great by going to jail. On January 2, 2012 the last of three who brought a lawsuit in federal court passed away and with him their story becomes part of the fabric of the American story.

Gordon Hirabayashi, along with fellow Japanese-Americans Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui, brought lawsuits before the Supreme Court. Mr. Korematsu died in 2005 and Mr. Yasui passed away in 1986. Mr. Hirabayashi was the last remaining trio of Japanese-Americans who became symbols of protest against unbridled governmental powers in a time of war.

In 1942 as a senior at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle, Mr. Hirabayashi refused a curfew for Japanese-Americans. Subsequently, while his parents, four brothers and one sister boarded a bus to a relocation center, he decided not to get on that bus. In a newsletter from the University of Washington, Mr. Hirabayashi stated that he did not intend to be a rebel, but as an American citizen he had rights. When his case got to the federal courts he felt he had a chance to win since federal judges are supposed to uphold the Constitution. According to an Associated



Press article citing the UW newsletter, "But the judge told the jury, 'You heard the defense talking about defending the Constitution. That's irrelevant. The issue is the executive order that the military issued.' Under those circumstances, the jury came back very fast." Mr. Hirabayashi served two years in jail. In 1998, a federal court issued a wrongly convicted ruling.

Apparently, according to one federal judge the Constitution is merely a piece of parchment. Jurisprudence in the world of the federal judge handling Mr. Hirabayashi's case would allow any rights bestowed by that parchment to be revoked by merely the issuing of an Executive Order. This viewpoint is obviously un-American in modern America, but in 1942 it needed to be challenged. Without heroes such a Gordon Hirabayashi there wouldn't have been a challenge and there wouldn't have been a ruling to overturn. By standing up for his rights as an American and going to jail, Mr. Hirabayashi helped secure all our rights and help create modern America. Along with Mr. Korematsu and Mr. Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi was a leader of The Greatest Generation and

taught us that defending the Constitution is not irrelevant.

Clyde Wilson, Civil Rights Chair

Day of Inclusion Celebrated

The Riverside JACL was a sponsor at the recent Day of Inclusion (December 17) which was established in 2009 by the California State Assembly Concurrent Resolution 76 to remember, learn from and celebrate our diverse immigrant heritage. Specifically, the day celebrated the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The City of Riverside similarly declared December 17 to be the day of inclusion in Riverside.

The celebration's highlight was a film entitled *Speaking In Tongues*, a documentary about dual language immersion programs and highlighted with a long distance interview via Skype with filmmaker, Marcia Jarmel. Language education is only one of many issues facing the community and its changing cultural demographics.

An interested audience of about 50 persons enjoyed the pro-

gram. The community partner sponsors such as JACL were given a certificate signed by the Assemblyman Mike Eng, author of the bill. A number of City officials, educational leaders and supporters from various civil rights groups joined students and interested friends in the afternoon. The event was coordinated by the Multicultural Council of the Riverside Museum Associates.



Back row left to right: Ennette Morton, Rosalind Sagara, Luz Negron, Assemblyman Mike Eng, Clyde Wilson, Gladys Walker. Front row: Judy Lee and Ahyce Kogi.

Photo by K. Wilson

442 Veterans not to be forgotten...

After reading the last newsletter, Charles Fujimoto let us know the names of additional JACL Riversiders who had served in World War II with the 442nd.

Robert Katsumi Mizumoto

Posthumously:

Richard Michio Teshima — killed in action in Italy

Harold Harada

Sam Ogawa



JACL

Japanese American Citizens League

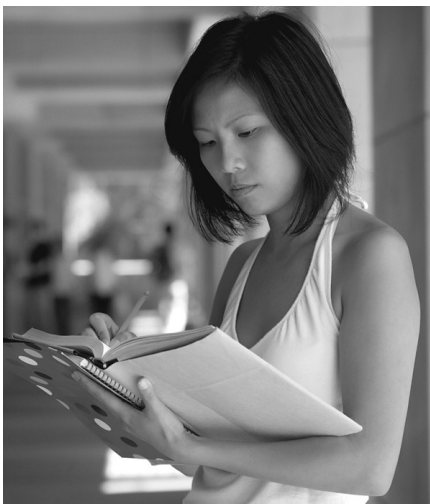
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Annual Installation Luncheon March 10, 2012

Raffle Donations and Sponsors Needed! Please call President Michiko Yoshimura if you would like to participate. See registration flyer enclosed for event details.



Scholarship Applications Available

The Riverside JACL has its own scholarship program. Last year we awarded 7 scholarships totaling \$2,700. You do not have to be a member of JACL. If you know a student of Japanese ancestry who will be graduating in 2012, please contact Michiko Yoshimura (my141@sbcglobal.net). They will be sent a Riverside JACL application form. Application forms are due the first week of March 2012