

BRUSH STROKES

June 2012

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURE



SAVE THE DATE

Preview Opening of The Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties—Wednesday, June 27—and commemoration of Miné Okubo's 100th birthday, 5:30 pm. White Park, Riverside. RSVP by June 22 to 951-222-8958 or email diana.meza@rccd.edu

Special guest will be Former US Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta. Tours will follow the program.

President's Message

May was very busy for JACL events since it was Asian Pacific Islander Month. The Riverside Public Library featured "Farewell to Manzanar" with a reception for the author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. Riverside JACL was a sponsor for a book talk by Judy Yung, author of "Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America." It was a pleasure to meet the eight scholarship recipients and their families at the Awards dinner. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and talking to the students about their future plans. Tyler Vollmer's mother let us know that she had gone to Washington D.C. to receive a Congressional Gold Medal for her father. I learned that Robert Sakaguchi's grandfather is Victor Sakaguchi, a longtime resident of Riverside. Jessica Porter's mother told me that she had received a Riverside JACL scholarship when she was a senior. Next comes our annual picnic at Sylvan Park on June 24, 2012. Bring your family and friends. It's always a happy event.

▶ Lastly, mark your calendar for the long awaited opening of the RCC District's Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties. This will take place on June 27, 2012 at 5:30 pm at White Park in Riverside.

The Center will foster an ongoing dialogue on social justice and civil liberties through art and humanities collections, exhibits, multimedia resources, research, and community

Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties RCCD

programs. We are certain this will be a positive addition to the principles upon which the JACL was founded and will be a valuable resource to our community. So we look forward to your joining us on this important occasion.

Michiko Yoshimura

SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE AND ANNUAL PICNIC IS JUNE 24

Our old fashioned family picnic will take place once again at Sylvan Park in Redlands on June 24. Bring your family and enjoy the games, for adults as well as children, the delicious food, including bingo games with prizes. It's an afternoon to relax and enjoy each other and look forward to a long hot summer. With any luck there will also be sno-cones and watermelon. Bring your lawn chairs and your sunblock!

Donations to Picnic Raffle Requested—The Picnic is coming, and JACL requests your donations for the raffle prizes and bingo awards. Let us know if you will be coming and if you can donate a gift item. Call Michiko Yoshimura if you have questions or would like to donate a prize. Her phone is 951 784-7057.



Left, Lily Taka, center, Doris Higa and Meiko Inaba, and right, Beverly Inaba, get ready for scholarship pot luck dinner May 20, 2012.

Congratulations to 2012 Scholarship Winners



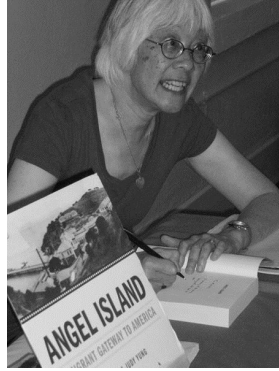
This year's outstanding scholars are: (top row, left to right) Juan Kiyoshy Imazu, Riverside JACL \$225; Gene Nakamura Shaffer, Dr. Hideo Inaba Memorial, \$400; Tyler Denson Vollmer, Dr. Gen Ogata Memorial, \$400; Jessica Porter, Riverside JACL, \$225; (bottom row) Danielle Nicole Finney, Riverside JACL, \$300; Kathlynn Ryden Miraflor, Riverside JACL, \$225; Audrey Hurdley, Riverside JACL, \$225; Robert Sakaguchi, Madokoro Memorial, \$300 — with Riverside JACL President, Michiko Yoshimura.

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IN MEMORIAM ◀

We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Bud Kiyoyuki (B.K.) Sakamoto. Memorial services were held for Mr. Sakamoto on May 17, 2012 at the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles. He was born in San Gabriel in 1913. He was interned at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming and then at Tule Lake, CA. He was predeceased by wife, Hatsuko. He is survived by six daughters, Sachi (Mike) Sugawara, Nancy (William) Takano, Julie (Wallace) Yokoyama, Joyce (Richard) Kozuki, Toni (Gary) Kitazawa, Naomi (Michael) McCallus, ten grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.



Judy Yung graciously signed books purchased.

Japanese tea and snacks courtesy of JACL



May 19, 2012 at the Arlington Library, Riverside, Judy Yung, Professor Emerita of American Studies at UC Santa Cruz, presented the story of the Angel Island immigrants. JACL served as a community sponsor, along with the RMA Multicultural Council, the Save Our Chinatown Committee, Judy Lee, and UCR.



JACL members Rayna Williams and Beverly Inaba



Helen Yoshikawa's (left) daughter's history project on Angel Island added graphic information to the learning experience.



Do you have any information about the origins of this marker? It is located at the Olivewood Cemetery on Central Avenue in Riverside. It reads in English

In Loving Memory -Erected by Japanese in Riverside—
May 1937.

We cannot make out the Japanese script. If you can help with any information about this marker, please contact Michiko Yoshimura, President of the Riverside JACL. Thank you.



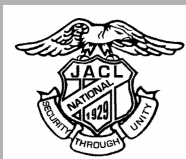
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**Thank You for
Your Donation**

**The Family of
Kikuyoshi "Jack"
Komura, who passed
away, our condolences
and appreciation
of your donation of
\$200 to the JACL.**

**Tim & Aki Caszatt for
the their support of
the scholarship fund
in the amount of
\$200.**

**James & Atsuko
Hagihara for \$40 for
the JACL newsletter.**

**Dolly Ogata for \$100
to the Dr. Gen Ogata
Memorial
Scholarship**

JACL Beyond Riverside

The Pacific Southwest District will hold its annual awards dinner on October 6, 2012. Mark your calendars. Let's put a Riverside JACL table together. Call Michiko Yoshimura for details.

JACL National Convention is coming July 5-8 in Bellevue, Washington at the Hyatt Regency. For registration information, go to www.jacl.org/2012.

New JACL National Executive Director, Priscilla Ouchida is the first woman appointed to that position.

Gordon Hirabayashi will receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously, the nation's highest civilian honor. He will be honored at the White House along with others who have made a lasting contribution to the life of our Nation.

The JACL Alert has stated its support for the civil rights issue of same-sex marriage as it has done for the last seven years. According to the ACLU, the JACL is the only civil rights organization that has an affirmative position on the same-sex issue.

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.