

Japanese American Service Committee  
4427 North Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60640

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**JASC Wish List**

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- Bingo prizes (knick knacks, key chains, costume jewelry, stationery, toiletries, small stuffed animals, etc.)
- Computers—Pentium IV and above
- Office chairs
- Round tables, folding, 48” in diameter

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**Wish List Thanks**

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Special thanks to:

- **Stanley O. Kurokawa** for new tables and hair dryers
- **Church of Christ Presbyterian** for tables

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**Job Announcements**

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*The Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) is a non-profit, 501c3 organization dedicated to providing social services to the diverse community of the greater Chicagoland area and raising awareness and preserving its Japanese American heritage through educational and cultural programming. Benefits for full-time positions include: health insurance, life insurance and pension. The JASC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We are currently seeking to fill the following position:*

**Social Worker  
(1 part-time position)**

JASC Counseling Department: a social service program focused on seniors in need of planning for adequate physical, mental and emotional care. MSW/LCSW required. Position is half-time and bi-lingual capability preferred but not required. Persons with PsyD with IL license may also apply.

**If you are interested in this job position, please contact:** Frances Chikahisa, LCSW, JASC Counseling Program at **773.275.7212 ext. 225.** Fax resumes to **773.275.0958;** e-mail: [counsel@jasc-chicago.org](mailto:counsel@jasc-chicago.org).

# J A S C

## newsletter

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Japanese American  
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## 37th Annual Fuji Festival and Silent Auction

*Friday, September 14, 2007*

**Question:** *What would you do with \$10,000?*

**Answer:** It's up to you, but don't think about it for too long. You only have until September 14, the date of the JASC's 37th Annual Fuji Festival and Silent Auction.

Participants in this year's Fuji Festival raffle will compete for a grand prize of \$10,000, along with other prizes. But, as always, the Fuji Festival will feature many more enticements.

The 37th Annual Fuji Festival will offer buffet-style refreshments, entertainment, and dancing. Vocalist Bradford Newquist and the William Underwood Quartet will make a repeat appearance with an evening of old and new popular song standards.



The 37th Annual Fuji Festival and Silent Auction again will be held at the elegant Union League Club of Chicago, 65 W. Jackson Boulevard. The hosted reception and Silent Auction of a huge array of desirable goods, services, and more will begin at 5:00 pm, and the buffet, music, and dancing will commence at 7:30. And, most important, the proceeds from the event will support the JASC's programs and services.

For information on the 37th Annual Fuji Festival and Silent Auction and how you can help, contact Carol Yoshino at 773.275.0097, ext. 223.

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# President's Message



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Dear Friends,

Once again, (or more accurately, as always), there is an abundance of news to share with you about JASC!

You should know that at our Annual Meeting on June 18th we acknowledged and thanked several board members who are stepping down after a number of years of dedication and service to JASC: Lynn Oda, Joyce Morimoto, Lisa Sakai, Sandra Yamate, Dru Yamagiwa and Brian Zises. To our retiring board members, "Thanks for all the hard work you've put into making JASC the successful agency that it is today."

Ordinarily, the loss of such talent would cause any organization some concern about its future. Fortunately for JASC, I'm pleased to let you know that our 2007/08 slate of board members brings with it many new skills, talents and energies. Our newest board members include Craig Mizushima (Regional Business Market Manager, Harris Bank), Leeanne Oue (Public Relations Coordinator, Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Chicago), Jerry Richardson (Managing Director, Huron Consulting Group), and Kim Robinson (Partner, Cassidy Schade LLP).

On the social-side of events at JASC, the Resettler's Picnic on August 4th was the result of a collaborative effort between JASC, Tohkon Judo, JACL, Asian American Law Enforcement Assn. (AALEA), Nisei Vets, and others, and resurrected a long-standing Chicago JA community event. Preparations for our annual Fuji Festival have also been a high priority for both the Board and JASC staff since mid-summer.

Looking ahead for the Board, we continue to focus on strategies to help fund professional positions to assist staff in marketing, facilities and development efforts. Our overarching objectives remain unchanged: making JASC a destination center, whose design showcases Japanese culture and tradition; JASC's services effectively reaching out to the JA population throughout Chicagoland; JASC providing leadership in a consensus-building, facilitating manner among all JA community organizations.

The Board successfully worked through last year's Strategic Plan goals and objectives, and I'm really excited about tackling the goals and objectives for Year 2.

See you at JASC!

Sincerely,



Michael D. Takada  
President

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# 61st JASC Annual Meeting



The 61st Annual Meeting of the JASC was held on Monday, June 18, 2007, amid the exhibit *Origins of Now: ReBuilding Community*. Members and friends had a chance to see the exhibit in addition to being apprised of the state of the agency. They were also introduced to new board members, said good-bye to retiring ones, elected officers, and heard the status of the agency's strategic plan and the outcome of 60th anniversary events. In addition, five scholarships were presented to Kenji Morimoto, Justin Harada Rowland, Jennifer Palmejar-Takaki, Lauren Massa Segal, and Kai Yamagiwa (see page 6).

The following slate of officers was elected: President—Michael Takada, VP Finance—John Sasaki, VP Fundraising—Jackie Denofrio, VP Human Resources—TBD, VP Membership—TBD, VP Programs—Josina Morita, VP Marketing—Michael Tanimura, Treasurer—John Sasaki, Secretary—Michael Tanimura. Four new directors will join the board: Craig D. Mizushima, Leeanne Y. Oue, Gerald L. Richardson and Kimberly L. Robinson. Rounding out the board are Ken Anno, Jody Oshita Bajor, Cindy Kaneshiro, Erika Kono, Jim Kono, Jason Matsumoto, James Onoda, Glenn Sugiyama, and Douglas Tono.

Special presentations were made to retiring board members. Those stepping off the board are Joyce Morimoto, Lynn Oda, Lisa Sakai, Dru Yamagiwa, Sandra Yamate, and Bryan Zises.

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## New JASC Board Members

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### **Craig D. Mizushima**

Craig Mizushima has over 27 years of banking and public finance experience. He currently is Vice President and Regional Business Market Manager for the Harris Bank's Central District Region, managing both the Commercial Real Estate and Community Development activities. He serves as the Executive Advisor to the Harris Asian American Coalition of Employees, co-chairs the Harris' Central District's Diversity Council, and is one of only 33 individuals within the BMO Financial Group to be selected as a High Performance Champion.

Craig is active in the community, serving on the Boards of Directors and Executive Committees for the Chicago Council on Urban Affairs, the Delta Redevelopment Institute, the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, and the Midtown Educational Foundation's Midtown Center for Boys. He serves as the senior member of the City of Chicago's Loan Review Committee for the Department of Planning and Development, and is a member of the Loan Committee for the Greater NW Chicago Development Corporation's micro-loan fund and the NHS Neighborhood Lending Program Investor Oversight Committee.

Craig has a B.A. Degree from Northeastern Illinois University, and a Master of Urban Planning and Policy from the University Illinois at Chicago. When he is not working, Craig enjoys golf and spending time with his wife Nina and their daughter, Kristin, at home in west suburban Wheaton.

### **Leeanne Y. Oue**

Leeanne Oue is the Public Relations Coordinator for the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Chicago/ JCCC Foundation. In this



position, she oversees and administers the grant-giving program at the JCCC Foundation, the charitable arm of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Chicago (JCCC). She is also responsible for the public affairs activities at the Foundation and the Chamber, conducting outreach to the local English-language media outlets and promoting the philanthropic activities of the JCCC Foundation.

Leeanne has also been active on the Executive Committee of the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Alumni Association's Chicago chapter, having served as its President, Secretary, and Jobs Coordinator. Through this role, she has worked closely with the staff of the Consulate General of Japan and Chicago to help promote the JET Program and to maintain a strong regional alumni network.

Leeanne received a B.A. in Modern Languages and Literatures from Kenyon College and an M.A. in Japanese from Stanford University. She spent her junior year of college studying abroad at Waseda University in Tokyo. Originally from the Big Island of Hawaii, Leeanne has lived in Chicago (enduring the winters) for the past 6 years. She enjoys golf and swimming and has a 1st degree black belt in judo.

(continued on page 4)

# 61st JASC Annual Meeting



New JASC board members (left to right): : Gerald Richardson, Kimberly Robinson, Craig Mizushima

## Gerald L. Richardson

Jerry Richardson is a founding—and current—Managing Director of Huron Consulting Group. He has specific experience in advising clients on addressing financial issues inherent in forensic investigations, litigation matters, and preparing and negotiating insurance claim settlements. Prior to joining Huron, Jerry was a partner at Arthur Andersen LLP, and has been devoted exclusively to assisting clients involved in litigation, insurance claims matters, and forensic investigations. His clients have been in the retail, professional and financial services, energy, telecommunications, consumer products, commercial airline, advertising, publishing, sports and recreation, healthcare, and manufacturing industries.

Jerry received a Bachelor of Science degree with highest honors in Accountancy from the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign. He is a Certified Public Accountant, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Illinois CPA Society. In addition, he is an Associate Member of the American Bar Association.

## Kimberly L. Robinson

Kimberly Robinson is a partner in the Chicago office of Cassiday Schade LLP, and chairs the firm’s Diversity Committee as well. She has dedicated her career to the defense of medical malpractice cases, and has been involved in numerous trials to verdict. These cases have centered on such medical specialties as emergency medicine, pediatric surgery, neurosurgery, neuroradiology, obstetrics, gynecology and cardiology.

Kimberly has also represented many other medical specialties in cases that have been resolved prior to trial. She has extensive experience in representing various health care practitioners, such as doctors (both allopathic and osteopathic), surgeons, nurses, podiatrists, and dentists. She has represented both the individual health care provider and the health care institution.

Kimberly has dealt with virtually all issues involved in defending health care practitioners, for example, standard of care and treatment, informed consent, and complex medical causation.

She received both her undergraduate and law degrees from Northern Illinois University. She is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Asian American Bar Association, and the Northern Illinois College of Law, Alumni Board.

## JASC Membership

Membership Types	1 year
Individual (age 19+)	\$ 75
Family	100
Student (full time college)	35
Senior Individual (age 65+)	45
Senior Citizen Couple	80

## Special Membership Levels

Benefactor	\$ 1,000
Patron	500
Supporter	250
Friend	150

*Special Memberships will be acknowledged in JASC publications.*

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# 61st JASC Annual Meeting



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## “Hasta la Vista” to Retiring Board Members

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For six members of the JASC Board of Directors, the 2007 Annual Meeting marked the end of their service on the Board, but not, one hopes, the end of their participation in agency programs and events. We thank all six for the time they devoted to the JASC and for their dedication to the community.

**Sharon Hidaka** was named to the Board of Directors in 1999, and was vice-president of membership from 2005 to 2007. She chaired the 2001 Fuji Festival, co-chaired the 2000 and 2002 Festivals, and served on the Festival’s organizing committee several times. She is an active member of Midwest Buddhist Temple.

**Lynn Oda** took her place on the Board in 1997. “When I joined the Board,” she notes, “my first assignment was to chair Fuji Fest.” Lynn was vice-president of programs from 1999 to 2002, and vice president of human resources for two years. She is also the agency’s resident expert on Japanese Bobtail cats.

**Lisa Sakai** became a Board member in 1995, and held a number of positions, including secretary (from 2001 to 2003, and again from 2006 to 2007), vice-president of membership (from 1997 to 1999), and president (from 1999 to 2002). “I think I’ve been Treasurer,” she adds, “but I can’t remember when.” Lisa also chaired many special events, such as Fuji Festival, Holiday Delight, and the Community Picnic.

**Dru Yamagiwa’s** membership on the JASC Board began in 2005, continuing his family’s tradition of service to the Japanese American community. At the time, he was a student at Northeastern Illinois University and held a full-time job as well. Dru is a member of Church of Christ Presbyterian, and served as a ministry elder.

**Sandra Yamate** joined the Board in 1989. She served as a vice-president in 1996-1997, and held the position of Board president from 1997 through 1999. Among the many accomplishments she cites is “[persuading] Glenn Sugiyama to dress as a Japanese American Santa at Holiday Delight, a role he still plays every year.”

**Bryan Zises** was recruited to the JASC Board in 2006. He has a strong background in communications and media strategy, and currently serves as the Director of Public Affairs at the Illinois Housing Development Authority. Bryan is an active member of the Tohkon Judo Club.

**JASC welcomes submissions of articles or information to the newsletter.**

**Articles may be sent via mail, e-mail (programs@jasc-chicago.org), fax (773.275.0958) or disk. The next deadline for articles is September 15, 2007**

For more information, please call Sharon Harada at 773.275.0097 x229.

**If there are any omissions or mistakes in the lists or elsewhere in this issue, please call the JASC office and let us know. Thank you.**

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# 2007 JASC Scholarship Recipients



**Kenji Morimoto—  
Jean E. Taketoshi Scholarship**

"All the world's a stage," according to a Shakespeare character. If that's the case, then Kenji Morimoto has a clear advantage in life. This talented singer and actor participated in his school's musical theater productions in each of his four years at Evanston Township High School, as well as in school and district choirs and singing groups. In addition to that, Kenji has spent years studying taiko drumming at Midwest Buddhist Temple and with the JASC Tsukasa Taiko group.

But the stage is not the only thing for Kenji. He was the activities coordinator in his school's "Best Buddies" program, which encourages one-to-one friendships between students with disabilities and their mainstream peers. He also tutored other students in math and Japanese language.

Kenji's proficiency in the Japanese language and his interest in Japanese culture may have led to his decision to Go East—to Brown University in Rhode Island—to major in East Asian studies. Kenji Morimoto receives the Jean E. Taketoshi Scholarship to help him pursue his interests.



**Jennifer Palmejar-Takaki—  
Frank T. Kambara Scholarship**

Jennifer Palmejar-Takaki attends DePaul University with the goal of becoming a high school history teacher. This career path would seem to be a natural choice for a person who has spent years working with children and teens under the auspices of North Shore Baptist Church, and acting as a student peer mentor at De Paul.

As a Filipina-Japanese-American, Jennifer views her communities—church, school, and city—with a healthy curiosity about the various cultures they contain. At this time she is preparing to take a giant step beyond those borders by spending the next two terms studying in Italy. Such cultural and geographic exploration would not have been possible if Jennifer did not have a firm grounding in her own heritage.

Positive, focused, and committed: This is how her pastor and one of her instructors describe Jennifer Palmejar-Takaki. These are qualities that will serve her well when she helps her own students navigate their way in life. In recognition of those qualities, as well as of her academic achievements, Jennifer receives the Frank T. Kambara Scholarship.



**Justin Harada Rowland—  
William T. Yamamoto Scholarship**

"I think it was kindergarten when I realized everybody else in my class didn't go to a Buddhist temple," says Justin Rowland. But this difference did not isolate him from his peers. Instead, it provided him with a means to understand who he is, not only in a religious sense, but also in a cultural sense.

Justin put his academic and communication skills to good use helping fellow students in the New Trier Writing Center, where he served as a writing tutor. He was also a teaching assistant in an introductory chemistry course under the auspices of New Trier's Senior Instructional Leadership Corps. As one of the few non-Chinese students to have survived four years of Chinese language study, Justin received an award from the National Chinese Honor Society.

Come fall, Justin Rowland plans to leave the Chicago area for Nashville, where he will attend Vanderbilt University. To help him toward his goal of a career in bioengineering, Justin has been named the recipient of the William T. Yamamoto Scholarship.

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# 2007 JASC Scholarship Recipients



**Lauren Massa Segal—  
Sam Fukaye Scholarship**

Even in the diverse environment of the largest high school in the state of Illinois, acceptance is not easily gained. As the President of Room for All, a club at Lane Tech College Prep that strives to accept all people, Lauren Segal understood that fact. She herself found acceptance in a number of groups at school, including the stage crew, the Junior ROTC, and the Japanese Club, all the while maintaining a grade point average that consistently placed her in the top 10% of students in her class.

According to Lauren, involvement with the JASC from an early age gave her an insight into acceptance, not only across different ethnic and cultural points of view, but also across generations. "I have become a more community-involved person . . . because of the JASC," she says. The JASC awards Lauren Segal the Sam Fukaye Scholarship to be applied to her studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, as she works toward a career in biomedical engineering.



**Kai Yamagiwa—  
Southside Nisei Bowling Scholarship**

Community service is often a matter of one person's simply making the decision to try to improve what he can, whether it be picking up the trash around his church, or volunteering to dispense food and conversation at nearby homeless shelters. Kai Yamagiwa has taken these steps on his own, and, together with other members of his church, has served the greater community in the United States and Mexico. These church missions involve going to selected disadvantaged areas, setting up vacation bible schools for the children, and performing home improvement projects.

Kai is also a longtime volunteer coach for the Sansei Yonsei Athletic Association's basketball clinic. He also helps to coordinate the SYAA's coat drive, which benefits residents of Uptown neighborhood shelters.

Having closed out his high school years at Lane Tech College Prep, Kai Yamagiwa will enter the University of Illinois at Chicago to major in electrical engineering. He receives the Southside Nisei Bowling Scholarship to help him in his pursuits.

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## JASC Scholarship Eligibility

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Students who intend to apply for JASC scholarships in the future are urged to remember that **scholarships are available to students who are currently enrolled in a college or university**, as well as to high school seniors. All students who apply, or their parents, must be current JASC members. Past recipients of scholarship awards are not eligible to apply.

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends—please encourage any eligible young person you know to apply for a scholarship next spring.

# JASC Community Programs



## Legacy Center (Archives & Library)

### Supervisor: Deborah Mieko Burns

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of **Karen Kanemoto** to the position of **Legacy Center Manager**. Karen has been a staff member of the JASC since 1999. In her new position, Karen will be responsible for managing the daily operations of the program, preparing archival and library material for use, assisting researchers with archival records and library material, and promoting knowledge about the Japanese American community in the Midwest. Debbie Mieko Burns will continue to provide the initial reference interview with researchers and to administer collection acquisitions.



Karen is a valued member of the JASC staff and has deep roots in Chicago's Japanese American community. She is a native Chicagoan, a lifelong member of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, and is the

Executive Secretary of the Japanese Mutual Aid Society. Karen has an undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago, and worked as a publications editor for such organizations as the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, Macmillan Professional Journals, and the American Dietetic Association. Karen brings a wealth of knowledge about the Japanese American community to the program. Welcome Karen!

The JASC Legacy Center collects, preserves, and makes historical resources from the Japanese American community in the six-county Chicago area available for research and reference purposes. It houses the JASC archives and serves as a community repository for records and

information resources about Japanese Americans and Asian Americans. The Legacy Center seeks to preserve and promote community heritage and common understanding of the Japanese American experience as an integral part of American history. We provide reference services for our collections, can help you make connections with community members, will lend selected materials, and can refer you to other repositories. Our collections are available for use by appointment free of charge. All people are welcome!

This department is generously supported by the Chicago Japanese American Council, the Japanese American National Museum's Discover Nikkei Project ([discovernikkei.org](http://discovernikkei.org)), and the Tom T. Arai Bequest of the Japanese Mutual Aid Society.

## Golden Diners

The JASC is the site of the Golden Diners program sponsored by the Chicago Department on Aging. A nutritious lunch is served Monday through Friday beginning at 11:30 am. Suggested contributions for the lunch are \$3.00 for those under 60 and \$1.50 for those over 60. Please call 773.275.0097 and ask for Tess or Melba to make reservations for lunch.

## VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!

If you have a couple of hours to spare on Tuesday or Thursday mornings (9:15-10:00 am) or afternoons (1:30-2:30 pm), the Out-of-the-House program NEEDS you.

Please contact Frances Chikahisa, 773.275.7212 x 225 for more information.

## Out-of-the-House Program

What is "Out-of-the-House"? Literally it does mean getting seniors out of their homes and into the outside and into activities that can be somewhat challenging. These women exercise by doing standing exercises using light hand held weights, using stretch ropes and towels for additional stretch and toning. They get down on the floor to do abdominal stretches. The exercises often last well past an hour and 15 minutes. Do they get tired? They sure do, but each will say that they feel better since participating.

After eating lunch together the rest of the day's program will feature crafts, story gathering, ceramics, and outings. Most popular of the outings is going out to eat lunch at a restaurant. We've gone to mostly Asian restaurants such as Benihana, Itto Sushi and Tokyo Marina, we've also eaten at Vietnamese, Taiwanese, Korean and Chinese places. It is thanks to the dedication of our volunteers that this program exists. We are always looking for new members. Japanese is spoken freely, but is not a requirement. Remember: Men need to get out of the house, too.

Interested? Call Frances Chikahisa, 773.275.7212, ext 225.

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# JASC Social Service Programs



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## Adult Day Services

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### Supervisor: Melba Ristow, RN

After a long, chilly spring, we have finally warmed up enough to unwind our mufflers and think back on the events of the past few months in the JASC's Adult Day Services.

April was a fairly quiet month, possibly because the ADS clients were awestruck by the visit of the Easter Bunny at the beginning of the month. This may have been a good thing, since May was quite busy, indeed. Special activities in May started with a Mother's Day party honoring the client-moms. The monthly birthday party for clients who were May babies took place in the middle of the month. Finally, at the end of the month came the traditional ADS Memorial Day barbecue with hot dogs, burgers, and baked beans.

Highlights in June include the Father's Day party and the quarterly visit from the foot doctor, just in time for the first field trip of the summer.

We continue to promote and enhance our clients' maximum level of functioning to preserve their independence and prevent premature institutionalization. Nursing services and different activities are offered to maintain clients' physical, mental, and emotional well-being. For more information about the JASC's Adult Day Services, contact Melba Ristow, RN, ADS coordinator, at 773.275.7212, ext. 239.

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## Counseling

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### Social Worker:

### Frances Chikahisa, MSW, LCSW

Planning for housing and health care needs of our seniors continues to be our primary focus of service. As the staff social worker, I respond to all the requests for assistance. My job as the licensed clinical social worker is to evaluate these requests and provide the best solutions possible. At times, because I work on a one-to-one interview

basis, it may seem as though I am having a casual conversation. However, my training requires me to make assessments of the situations as I go along, looking for insights into the personality of the clients, their relationships with family or other significant persons, and to assess the kind of needs presented.

I coordinate the requests with the other social services provided by JASC such as homemaker services and adult day care. Where additional help is needed for the senior to be able to stay in their own home, I will suggest our homemaker service. But there are many situations that require more help than that of a homemaker. In those instances the services of a certified nurse's aid might be required. I can locate those home health services that provide the personnel, or I might locate a private person. Even after placement of the help, I keep in touch with the client to follow up on the services provided.

When the client is living with family members, there are two programs which can add to the quality of life for the senior. These are the Adult Day Services and Out-of-the-House programs. Both provide an opportunity for the seniors to spend part of their day away from home, socializing and exercising. This gives a break to the caregivers as well.

During the past year, I have also assisted in locating living arrangements outside the home. Some seniors are not able to recognize that they are no longer able to care for themselves. Under such circumstances, I establish an on-going relationship with the senior, helping them to accept a change in their living arrangements. A placement in an assisted living or retirement facility provides a secure environment and gives them additional social outlets.

The counseling services are on a fee-for-service basis. This means that the time I spend with clients is based on an hourly fee. Most of our clients have medical insurance—Medicare, for most of our seniors and, because I am an authorized Medicare provider, my services can be billed to Medicare.

We at JASC are always interested in hearing how we can improve and expand our programs. If there are other ways in which we can better serve you, please let us know. I am always happy to hear from you. Please feel free to call me at 773.275.7212, ext. 225.

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## Home Support Services

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### Supervisor: Helen Nakayama

### Alzheimer's Association "Safe Return"

The Alzheimer's Association has a program called "Safe Return" that identifies a person who becomes lost. This person can have Alzheimer's or related dementia. If the person becomes lost close to home or far from their residence, the individual may be unable to recall their address or give information which would help locate their family.

There is a \$40.00 enrollment fee for this program. For this fee, the registered person receives an identification bracelet or pendant, iron-on clothing labels and other items including a magnet card, key chain, and wallet cards.

If the enrolled person is missing, one phone call activates a network of assistance. The missing person's information and photo (if provided) can be faxed to local police. During the search process the Alzheimer's Association continues to provide assistance and information to the family or designated contacts and the community network.

When the missing person is found, a citizen or law enforcement authorities call the 800-number on the bracelet or pendant and notifies the people listed as contacts.

JASC can enroll people in this program with the \$40.00 fee waived. If you are interested in this program or would like more information, contact the Home Support Services Supervisor at 773.275.7212, ext. 228.

For online information about "Safe Return" go to: [www.alz.org/safereturn](http://www.alz.org/safereturn).

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# JASC News



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## The Artists of JASC Show Their Stuff

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As part of its goal of prioritizing its cultural programming, the JASC recently completed a three-month long showcase of its resident artists who performed to enthusiastic audiences in evening-length, concert performances. Presented amidst the *Origins of Now: ReBuilding Community* exhibit and the ongoing, work-in-progress mural project, audiences enjoyed performances by sketch comedy/improv troupe *Stir-Friday Night!* on May 11 and Japanese classical dance and music presented by *Fujima Ryu of Chicago* and the *Toyoaki Shamisen Ensemble* on June 8. JASC Tsukasa Taiko opened the series back on April 7.

The performances by *Fujima Ryu of Chicago*, the *Toyoaki Shamisen Ensemble* and *JASC Tsukasa Taiko* benefited from the hard work of Mr. Michio Iwao, who managed and participated in the construction of a beautiful 30' x 20' hardwood stage. The JASC would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Iwao and his many volunteers for their tremendous work in creating our new stage!

Supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council, this series of performances presented the diversity of cultural arts programming offered by the JASC. jc

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## "Fireflies" Light the Way for New Cultural Traditions

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On a chilly May afternoon, members of the JASC's resident arts organizations took the stage at Walter Payton College Prep and showed they had plenty of light and warmth to spare. "Fireflies in Flight," one of the programs staged to celebrate the JASC's 60th anniversary, showcased Japanese music and dance, and gave these traditional arts a contemporary twist.

Students and teachers of the Fujima Ryu of Chicago opened the program with a seamless series of Japanese classical dance numbers with the sure technique and costuming surprises for which they are known. The Toyoaki Shamisen group provided the musical bridge between the elegant dancers and the exuberant drummers of the JASC Tsukasa Taiko group. The first half of the program ended with a collaboration of three teachers: Fujima Shunojo performing a sword dance to the accompaniment of Hide Yoshihashi on taiko and Tatsu Aoki on shamisen.

The second half of the program was devoted to new musical traditions, anchored aurally and visually by blues woman Yoko Noge at the piano in a lovely, peach-colored kimono. With her ensemble, Japanese, she melded Chicago-style blues instrumentals and vocals with traditional Japanese music. They were eventually joined by the Fujima Ryu dancers in a lively "Tanko-bushi." All of the performers then took the stage for the grand finale.

"Fireflies in Flight" demonstrated that traditional arts need not be relegated to museums. As the recipients of a rich cultural heritage, we can be respectful of the past while acknowledging the many cultural experiences we ourselves have accumulated in our own lifetimes. That might be the true message conveyed by the artists of "Fireflies."

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## Five Wishes Meeting Held

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We had our first "Five Wishes" meeting on June 7, 2007. Those who attended were somewhat surprised by the content of the discussion. There has been quite a bit of media attention upon this "Five Wishes" document, and many thought it would be a discussion about "living wills." We touched upon living wills to a degree, but the real issues in completing this document are to think about the extent to which you wish medical intervention, and how comfortable you want to be when you are faced with pain and suffering at the end of life.

This is a document that asks the difficult questions. It also teaches a person and those who are in his support network to talk about these issues. It is all about communication—first, to look within oneself to decide how much medical attention you might want and second, to decide who should be named to carry out your wishes. An added challenge might be in talking with the family members about your wishes.

The signed Five Wishes document is legal in the sense that most states will accept it as valid. It can also be changed at any time. It simply needs to be dated and the previous one destroyed. We will be conducting more of these sessions because so many who attended found it helpful and asked for more meetings. Look for notices at JASC or call me, Frances Chikahisa, at 773.275.7212, ext. 225. fc

# JASC News



## Comings and Goings in JASC Office

All things must change, and so it goes within organizations. Recently, two of the JASC's longtime staff members—receptionist Sumie Tanimura and controller Dudley Yatabe—have retired. We thought that this would be a good time to reacquaint our readers with Sumie and Dudley, and to introduce their successors, Yuki Scroggins and Melanie Koga.



**Sumie Tanimura** After 10 1/2 years as the JASC's receptionist, Sumie Tanimura is ready to give retirement a try. Since relocating to Chicago in June of 1943 from Rosemead, California, by way of Gila River Internment Center, Sumie has worked as a seamstress, housewife, mother, secretary, caretaker, and keyline and paste-up artist.

Ten-and-a-half years at the reception desk translate to thousands of telephone calls answered, thousands of people to let in and out of the building, and hundreds of volunteer mailing crews to mobilize. Ten-and-a-half years at the reception desk also require a pleasant demeanor and a knack for friendly chit-chat with the agency's many regulars.

Now liberated from that desk, Sumie hopes to devote some of her free time to baking cakes for JASC Adult Day Service clients.

**Dudley Yatabe** His first retirement didn't stick, so Dudley Yatabe decided to try it again this year. Twelve years ago, having enjoyed a few months of leisure after leaving Tomoegawa USA, Dudley agreed to

do a little accounting work at the JASC. This June, he's ready to hand off his responsibilities as the agency's controller and give retirement another shot.

Dudley's family has lived in the Chicago area since 1943, when his father, Dr. Thomas Yatabe, left the Jerome Relocation Center and opened the Midwest office of the Japanese American Citizens League. Dudley, who started piano lessons at the age of 5, eventually attended Marshall High School, which had an excellent music program at the time. He went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in music at Northwestern University, and added another bachelor's in business administration following his service in Korea.

Retirement II means that Dudley will have the time to work on his keyboard repertoire, and this time it won't be Fast Funds. His wife, Nancy, and their two Lhasa Apsos, Lily and Pepper, will be able to go about their daily routines to the sounds of Chopin and Debussy. And Dudley may even be able to attend the big Yatabe Family Reunion without having to worry about the close of the JASC's fiscal year.



**Yuki Scroggins** By becoming the JASC's part-time receptionist, Yuki Scroggins adds new responsibilities to her crowded schedule. If you are a customer of Aiko's

Art Materials, or a member of the Japanese-speaking congregation of North Shore Baptist Church, or a student of Japanese language at the JASC, you probably know her already.

Yuki has lived in Chicago with her husband, Marvin, for the past 13 years, but the pathway she took to arrive here is interesting and circuitous. She was born and raised in Tokyo, attended her senior year of high school as an exchange student in small-town Ohio, went to college in the Pacific Northwest, and received her graduate degree—and met her future husband—

in Southern California. Her father and two sisters still live in Japan.

Yuki's graduate studies were in divinity, and she draws on that training in her role as a frequent guest speaker at North Shore Baptist Church. She applies her knowledge of language as a translator at Aiko's and as a teacher of Japanese at the JASC. We are confident that all her communication skills will be put to good use as she settles into her duties as receptionist at the JASC.

**Melanie Koga** Here's a question to mull over: Why would the JASC's new controller, Melanie Koga, be a fan of the Atlanta Braves? She's lived in the Chicago area for her entire life. She used to work at PepsiAmericas, but it's Coca Cola that makes its home in Atlanta. Can it be, as she says, that the Braves are "the most excellent team in the whole, wide world"?



Such questions aside, Melanie has adjusted easily to her new position, despite her long daily commute in from the suburbs and back. Without a doubt, her Girl Scout training—Melanie is a recipient of the GSA's highest award—helped her gain the determination, stamina, and survival skills to withstand the trip every day.

Melanie's career path started with a summer job as a bookkeeper, and continued with an undergraduate degree in accounting from DePaul University and CPA certification. Fortunately, Melanie finds the time to counteract the dull, gray image of her profession through family (dad and siblings still live in the area), travel (Paris and, of course, Atlanta being favorite destinations), golf (one calendar item this summer is golf school), and cats (named Clinton and Hillary, not to reveal any preferences for 2008). She's hoping to make it to Hawaii one of these days to visit her 97-year-old grandmother.

Gas prices have dropped a bit recently, so let's hope this trend continues for our new controller and Road Warrior, Melanie Koga.

# JASC News



## Fujima Ryu "Revitalizing Tradition"

On Saturday, August 25, 2007, at 5:00 pm, Fujima Ryu of Chicago is proud to present what is projected to be the first in a series of many performances and lectures. The presentation highlights Fujima Shunojo, the founder and head of Fujima Ryu of Chicago. For over 30 years, he has provided the opportunity for many to experience traditional Japanese classical dance in Chicago. This is a rare opportunity to see both male and female dance roles performed by Fujima Sensei.

One of the many challenges involved with Japanese classical dance (*nihon buyou*) in America is providing a proper foundation for the audience, so that the art form can be appreciated to its fullest potential. It is one thing to notice the costumes, music, and props, but to appreciate the significance of the dance, one needs to have a certain amount of background information.

The lecture will provide an essential base of knowledge; a "How to Watch Nihon Buyou 101," so that the audience can appreciate the dance, or *odori*, *without understanding Japanese*. Explanations of both dances, as well as contrast between male dance and *onnagata* (a female dance performed by a male) will be made. In addition, *nihon buyo's* origin from Kabuki, and how it is not Kabuki, will be explained.

It is an ongoing mission of Fujima Ryu of Chicago to provide a platform for the audience to have a better understanding of traditional Japanese classical dance. The dancer, the music, the costume, the props, the story, all establish an intricate many-layered reality for the audience to experience and enjoy the many components which make up Japanese classical dance. Please join Fujima Ryu of Chicago for the first step of this journey towards "Revitalizing Tradition."

## Special Membership 2007

(4/1/07 through 6/30/07)

### Friend

M/M Alan Endo  
D/M Kenneth M. Hamada  
M/M Robert Kato

## Bloomingtondale's

### The Shopping Benefit

- **North Michigan Avenue** 900 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago
- **Old Orchard** 376 Old Orchard Center, Skokie
- **Medinah Temple** 600 N. Wabash Avenue, Chicago
- **Oak Brook Center** 4 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook

**Wednesday, August 29, 2007**

**10 am to 10 pm**

Buy a \$10 ticket from the JASC, shop at any of the four Bloomingtondale's stores, and receive a 15% to 20% discount (limited exclusions apply) throughout the entire store for the entire day!

*If you will not be around on August 29, you are welcome to shop during the "pre-sale" which will begin on Tuesday, August 21. Buy your \$10 ticket from JASC, make your purchases at any store, and then pick them up anytime on or after August 29.*

For more information or tickets,  
call Carol Yoshino x223 or Sharon Harada x229  
773.275.0097

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# Community & Cultural Events



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## Tri-C Aki Matsuri 2007

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Aki Matsuri, the annual fall food festival of Christ Church of Chicago, will be held on Saturday, October 6, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm at 6047 N. Rockwell.

That will be the day when Tri-C will open its doors wide to welcome the community to share in a day of food and fun. This year, noodles will be featured! If you've ever tasted Tri-C's noodles, you would know that they are worth the trip by themselves, but there will be many more delicious treats to entice you.

Plans are underway for a featured meat entree, sushi, another lunch item to be determined, baked goods, cookies, Japanese sweets, and some type of food specials for the kids. In addition, there will be the hand-craft booth where gift items such as stationery, jewelry, kitchenware, and fashion accessories will be featured.

Please make plans to meet your friends and family for lunch or an early dinner. Then shop at the booths for treats. Before you leave, check out the take-out booth for a carefree supper. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, October 6! ls

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## Morita and Tani Honored by Community Renewal Society

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The JASC extends well-deserved congratulations to Josina Morita and Jennifer Tani, current and former members of the agency's board of directors. Josina and Jennifer were among the first recipients of the 35 Under 35 Leadership Awards of the Community Renewal Society.

The Community Renewal Society is a local, 124-year-old organization that works to empower individuals, community-based organizations, and congregations to advocate for social and economic justice. The awards highlight the importance of fresh voices in that mission by recognizing 35 emerging leaders who are 35 years old and younger.

Josina is a Senior Research Associate of the Applied Research Center, and has written on immigration, racial profiling, and Asian American issues. Jennifer is a Community Building Program Manager at United Way of Metropolitan Chicago and has worked in many ways to support and strengthen the Asian Pacific American communities.

As the struggle for social justice continues, it is heartening to know that two young leaders of the JASC are acknowledged leaders in the community at large. We applaud Josina and Jennifer and look forward to seeing the results of their work for years to come.

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## JASC Tsukasa Taiko Returns to Poland

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In November 2006, *JASC Tsukasa Taiko* was part of a contingent of 13 musicians who traveled to Poznan, Poland, to participate in the first-ever Made in Chicago: Poznan project. They made such an impact that in June 2007, the City of Poznan invited *JASC Tsukasa Taiko*, as well as several other Chicago-resident and national Asian American artists and collaborators, to return to Poznan to perform in the first-ever Asian American Jazz Festival to be presented outside of the US. Along with Hide Yoshihashi, Amy Homma and Tatsu Aoki of *JASC Tsukasa Taiko*, participating artists included *Chicago Tribune* Chicagoan of the Year Yoko Noge, Mwata Bowden, Jeff Chan, Jonathan Chen and from San Francisco, saxophonist/composer Francis Wong and *Gen Taiko's* Melody Takata.

While in Poznan, *JASC Tsukasa Taiko* presented a taiko workshop with a capacity-plus crowd of over 200 attendees, participated in a street parade, and performed with Yoko Noge's Multicultural Blues Band at the Blue Note club and with Tatsu Aoki's Miyumi Project in an outdoor concert attended by over 700 people.

It was historic, to say the least! JASC and taiko continue to pave the way for creating greater international understanding of the Japanese American and Asian American experience. And there is little doubt that *JASC Tsukasa Taiko* will make future visits to do more of the same.

The Asian American Jazz Festival: Poznan project was supported in part by the Governor's International Arts Exchange Program of the Illinois Arts Council. jc

# Community Calendar of Events



Date/Time	Event/Organization/Location
<b>Aug 4 (Sa)</b> <b>12 noon</b>	<b>JASC Resettlers' Picnic</b> <b>LaBagh Woods Forest Preserve, Cicero between Foster and Bryn Mawr</b> voice, 773.275.0097, ext 226; e-mail, jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org; web, www.jasc-chicago.org
<i>Aug 10 - 12 (F-Sn)</i>	Ginza Holiday Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee voice, 312.943.7801; web, www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org
<i>Aug 11 (Sa)</i> <i>6:05 pm</i>	Japanese Community Night: Chicago White Sox v Seattle Mariners US Cellular Field, 333 W. 35th voice, 866.769.4263 (Ticketmaster); web, www.whitesox.com
<i>Aug 14, 28 (Tu)</i> <i>6:30 – 8:00 pm</i>	JASC Tsukasa Taiko Workshop JASC, 4427 N. Clark voice, 773.275.0097; e-mail, jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org; web, www.jasc-chicago.org
<i>Aug 25 (Sa)</i> <i>5 – 7 pm</i>	Fujima Shunojo: Revitalizing Tradition Performance and Lecture JASC, 4427 N. Clark voice, 773.275.0097, ext 226; e-mail, jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org; web, www.jasc-chicago.org
<b>Aug 29 (W)</b> <b>10 am – 10 pm</b>	<b>Bloomingtondale's Shopping Benefit</b> <b>Bloomingtondale's, 900 N. Michigan, Medinah Temple, Old Orchard, and Oak Brook locations</b> voice, 773.275.0097; e-mail, jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org; web, www.jasc-chicago.org
<i>Sept 4, 11, 18, 25;</i> <i>Oct 2, 9, 16, 23 (Tu)</i> <i>1:15 – 2:15 pm</i>	JASC Tai Chi Class: Beginners Welcome JASC, 4427 N. Clark voice, 773.275.0097; e-mail, jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org; web, www.jasc-chicago.org
<i>Sept 6, 13, 20, 27;</i> <i>Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 (Th)</i> <i>6:30 – 7:30 pm</i>	JASC Tai Chi Class: Advanced JASC, 4427 N. Clark voice, 773.275.0097; e-mail, jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org; web, www.jasc-chicago.org
<i>Sept 10, 24;</i> <i>Oct 8, 22 (M)</i> <i>1 pm – 2 pm</i>	JASC Ikebana Class JASC, 4427 N. Clark voice, 773.275.0097; e-mail, jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org; web, www.jasc-chicago.org
<b>Sept 14 (F)</b> <b>7 pm</b>	<b>JASC Fuji Festival and Silent Auction</b> <b>Union League Club of Chicago, 65 W. Jackson</b> voice, 773.275.0097; e-mail, jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org; web, www.jasc-chicago.org
<i>Sept 22, 23 (Sa, Sn)</i> <i>11 am – 4 pm</i>	Asian Celebration/Morton Arboretum Morton Arboretum, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle voice, 630.968.0074; web, www.mortonarb.org

# Community Calendar of Events



<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Event/Organization/Location</b>
<i>Oct 7 (Sn) 1 pm</i>	31st Anniversary Dance Recital/Fujima Ryu of Chicago, JASC Northside College Preparatory High School, 5501 N. Kedzie, Chicago
<i>Oct TBA</i>	12th Annual Asian American Jazz Festival Northside College Preparatory High School, 5501 N. Kedzie, Chicago
<i>Oct 6 (Sa) 12 noon – 5 pm</i>	Aki Matsuri/Christ Church of Chicago Christ Church of Chicago, 6047 N. Rockwell voice, 773.338.8170
<b>Oct 20 (Sa) 9 am – 12 noon</b>	<b>JASC Health Screening</b> <b>JASC, 4427 N. Clark</b> voice, 773.275.0097; e-mail, <a href="mailto:jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org">jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org</a> ; web, <a href="http://www.jasc-chicago.org">www.jasc-chicago.org</a>
<b>Nov 16 (F) 10 am – 3 pm</b>	<b>Free Flu and Pneumonia Shots/JASC with Chicago Department on Aging and Chicago Department of Public Health</b> <b>JASC, 4427 N. Clark</b> voice, 773.275.0097; e-mail, <a href="mailto:jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org">jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org</a> ; web, <a href="http://www.jasc-chicago.org">www.jasc-chicago.org</a>
<i>Nov 23 – 25 (F – Sn) Times TBD</i>	Global Rhythms 3: TAO/JASC with Chicago Human Rhythm Project and Thanks 4 Giving Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph, Millennium Park voice, 312.334.7777; web, <a href="http://www.harristheaterchicago.org">www.harristheaterchicago.org</a> and <a href="http://www.chicagotap.org">www.chicagotap.org</a>
<i>Dec 1 (Sa) 10:30 am – 4:00 pm</i>	JASC Holiday Delight and Kodomo Matsuri JASC, 4427 N. Clark voice, 773.275.0097; e-mail, <a href="mailto:jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org">jascinfo@jasc-chicago.org</a> ; web, <a href="http://www.jasc-chicago.org">www.jasc-chicago.org</a>

*To include an event in the community calendar, call the JASC office at 773.275.0097, ext. 229, with the name of the event, the date and time, the sponsoring organization, and the location. The deadline for the winter 2008 issue is September 15, 2007. Events for November and December 2007 and January and February 2008 should be included.*

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Peggy L. Ishikawa

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## Volunteers

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**The Women's Group of the Christ Church of Chicago (Tri-C)** continues to donate some type of snack for the clients of the JASC's Adult Day Services Program every month.

**Mailing Volunteers:** Joyce Ishida, Lynn Kaihara, Bob Ogi, Mitzi Ogi, Molly Sakamoto, Margaret Shintaku, Joanne Tohei, Jack Tono, Mary Tono, and Roxane Tono

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