



## The Japanese American Service Committee's Legacy Center Archives in Chicago Catalogs its Collection and Places Records Online

The Japanese American Service Committee's (JASC) Legacy Center Archives in Chicago houses materials that touch on every facet of Japanese American life from 1890 to the present. Here you will find Japanese passports, diary entries about the attack on Pearl Harbor, and personal letters written from World War II confinement sites. From photographs to official government documents, the archives is a treasure trove overseen by JASC, a group founded in 1946 to help former incarcerated start new lives in Chicago, the largest postwar resettlement community.



A Girl Scout troop at Rohwer. Photo courtesy: Japanese American Service Committee Legacy Center Archives, Chicago, Illinois

With the help of a 2012 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$75,268, the JASC was able to purchase database software and hire two archivists to assist the Legacy Center's Manager and Project Director Karen Kanemoto in processing and cataloguing 86 collections containing 3,700 records. About three-quarters of the archive is now catalogued.

The new software – Eloquent Archives using the WebGENCAT toolkit (which maintains applications and allows the building of new ones) – enabled Legacy Center staff to digitize finding aids and all descriptive content associated with the manuscript collections, and then put them online for easy access. Researchers now can visit the Legacy Center's catalog via a link posted on the JASC website: <http://www.jasc-chicago.org/cultural-and-community-programs/legacy-center/archives/>. In the catalog, researchers will find links to all collections and can locate materials through a keyword search. The software also enhances the Legacy Center's capabilities to manage collections through the generation of record forms and accession records.

The grant also allowed Kanemoto to attend two weeks of training at the Georgia Archives Institute, where she enhanced her knowledge of preservation and conservation, cataloging, and the use of data management software. She oversaw selection of the Eloquent Archives software, drafted language for the archives database and helped prioritize collections for processing. Working with Kanemoto were Project Archivist Justine Wagner-Mackow and Consulting Archivist Jane Kenamore.



The Certificate of Naturalization for Cho Yamamoto from 1956. Issei were not allowed to become U.S. citizens until the passage of the Immigration Act of 1952. Photo courtesy: Japanese American Service Committee Legacy Center Archives, Chicago, Illinois