Day of Remembrance Marks 75 Years Since E.O. 9066; Over 700 People Attend Chicago Weekend of Art and Youth Programming

“This actually happened. This happened to somebody I love,” stated poet and author Dwight Okita, in talking about why he writes poetry about the Japanese American World War II incarceration experience.

“This can happen again, maybe to someone you love, or maybe to you. So let’s not repeat the mistakes of history.”

With a packed audience in attendance, Okita was joined at this year’s Day of Remembrance (DOR) main program by Jason Matsumoto, Executive Producer of the film “The Orange Story”; and Erika Street Hopman, Writer/Director of “The Orange Story.”

Kazuko Golden, Writer and Director of the film “A Song for Manzanar;” and Dr. Richard Morimoto of Northwestern University, who served as the panel moderator. These artists spoke on the panel after Okita conducted a reading of his poetry and the filmmakers screened their respective films.

Organized by the Chicago Japanese American Council, the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, the Japanese American Citizens League - Chicago Chapter, the Japanese American Service Committee, and the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago, this year’s Day of Remembrance activities marked 75 years since the signing of Executive Order 9066, in which President Franklin Delano Roosevelt authorized the incarceration of roughly 120,000 people in the Japanese American Concentration Camps during World War II.

Attendance at the main event at The Chicago History Museum included over 450 people, spurring the addition of a number of screenings of the films throughout the day.

Russell Lewis, Executive Vice President of the Chicago History Museum, and Jean Mishima, President of the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, helped introduce the event, and community leader Anna Takada served as mistress of ceremonies.

Representatives of the City of Chicago Mayor’s Office and of the Illinois State Governor’s Office, were present and issued proclamations recognizing this day.

In addition, as part of the proceedings, Whitney M. Young Magnet High School student Zoe Ariyama read the wording of the evacuation order.

Members of the Chicago Nisei Post No. 1183 served to open and close the ceremony with the posting and retiring of the colors.

Earlier that day, roughly 50 youth and parents attended a reading of

Continued on page 3
Message from CEO Michael Takada

Greetings from JASC! As you can see from the accompanying stories in our latest edition of the JASC Newsletter many exciting things have been happening at both JASC and within the community.

With heated political campaign rhetoric showing no signs of tapering off at the conclusion of last fall's election season and in the case of matters related to immigration actually becoming louder and more inflammatory, we experienced greater interest from both within and outside our community seeking forums to talk about the dynamics and danger around exclusionary rhetoric, its impact on civil liberties and the Japanese American incarceration experience during WWII.

You’ll read how this year's Day of Remembrance program on February 19th drew so many participants for the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, that organizers needed to add additional screenings of the short films featured as part of the main program. And through a collaboration with Northwestern University's Block Museum, we actually experienced a Weekend of Remembrance with a program centered on an exhibit by Kristine Aono that included small group discussions with former incarcerees.

Other events that continue to draw crowds include our continuing Memories of Now series, the most recent ones featuring author Professor Greg Robinson writing about Japanese Americans in Chicago and Rich Cahan speaking about his recently published book, “Un-American: The Incarceration of Japanese Americans During WWII.”

We are all looking forward to the opening of the upcoming exhibit at the Alphawood Gallery, “Then They Came for Me.” JASC and other community organizations and individuals have been working with gallery staff in its presentation of the incarceration experience, the resettlement of Japanese Americans in Chicago, and what we as individuals can do to protect the rights of others in times of uncertainty.

Stay tuned for there are more of these types of programs out on the horizon providing unique opportunities for rich conversation and dialogue.

In gratitude,
Michael Takada
Day of Remembrance Events Target Youth and the Arts

Continued from Page 1

“I am Yuki,” a children’s story written by Clinical Assistant Professor Karen Su of the University of Illinois, Chicago.

This year’s youth-oriented event, coordinated by Anna Takada and a number of young adult volunteers provided a special opportunity to pass down this important story of unjust incarceration to a new generation of children and youth.

In addition, some 200 people attended an event the day before at the Block Museum at Northwestern University centered around an exhibit featuring work by artist Kristine Aono.

At this event, attendees were able to contribute to Aono’s art piece by nailing a nail into her art piece as a way of commemorating the Japanese American incarcerees.

In addition, break-out groups allowed attendees to hear directly from former incarcerees, such as Jane Hidaka, Yuki Hiyama, Enoch Kanaya, Jean Mishima, Jim Mita, and Merry Oya.

In sum, the events over the weekend allowed for an opportunity to bring home the human impacts of the incarceration experience.

As main event panelist Kazuko Golden stated, “In the final credits, we show a picture of a grocery store, and that was my grandfather’s grocery store.”

“He had a home. He had a promising future with his new bride who came from Japan. And he went from that to four years later being in Chicago trying to just make it working at a paper mill.”

“What does it do to your self-esteem and confidence when you go from having a grocery store to struggling to be released and only finding factory work for your new bride?”

Golden continued by connecting the issues of JA incarceration to contemporary concerns over proposed government policies.

“We need to hear it. We need to hear the politicians saying it, and what exactly is the verbage they’re using, and where are the policies changing, and where are the politicians standing in either building a more inclusive America, or an America that is making policies where they will be building walls that will put people that are safe for society behind bars.”

Panelist Jason Matsumoto also noted how he hopes to make more movies on the Japanese American incarceration experience, particularly in regards to the story of resettlement in Chicago.

As he stated, “There are so many ways that we can enrich the national story of this history if we focus on places like Chicago or the Midwest where people don’t know a lot about what happened here.”

Matsumoto further stressed his hopes that community members will be inspired by these films to become more involved.

“I have a family connection to this history, so it is a commemoration for me. It’s important to me from a very personal perspective. But I’m most interested, especially right now in this moment in time, in turning commemoration into action, and into activism.”

JASC Resident Partners

Anime Chicago • animechicago.com
Asian Improv Arts Midwest • airmw.org
A-Squared Theatre • a-stw.org
Chicago Aikido Club • chicagoaikidoclub.com
Chicago Nisei Post No. 1183 • nationalveteransnetwork.com/chicagoniseipost1183.shtml
Shubukai • fujimalegacy.com
Japanese Mutual Aid Society
New Horizons
Northside Friends • northsidefriends.org
Northside Origami Club
Stir Friday Nights! • stirfridaynight.org
Tohkon Judo Academy • tohkon.com
Tsukasa Taiko • taikolegacy.com
JASC Welcomes Social Worker Mio Nomura

The JASC would like to introduce Mio Nomura as our new Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). She has already joined the Out of the House program and is also available for English and Japanese language counseling services for individuals and families.

Though Mio was born and raised in Yokohama, Japan, she has been a Chicagoan for over 15 years and received her Master’s of Social Work from Loyola University. Throughout her career Mio has specialized in working with adults, seniors, and their families in a variety of settings, including community, inpatient, outpatient, and long-term care. She has guided many of her clients through living with illness, grief and loss, and other phase-of-life and family issues.

Being a long-time north-sider, Mio is very familiar with the JASC community and is excited to be taking on an official role within it, saying “I feel very comfortable with and have a lot of respect for older adults. They have seen so much. I enjoy finding out where each person comes from, what they’ve done, and what life events have influenced them.”

Mio improves her clients’ quality of life by using her expertise in regards to knowing what services are available to her clients and how to navigate healthcare systems and organizations on their behalf.

Please contact Mio at mnomura@jasc-chicago.org or at 773-275-0097 x225.

Mio also runs a private practice, Nomura Counseling & Consulting, with locations throughout the city (e.g., Ravenswood, Ukranian Village, Sauganash).

Upcoming Cultural & Language Classes Schedule

Japanese Language Classes

Beginner’s Class
Mondays, 6:30pm-8:00pm
Textbook: Genki I
Instructor: Mr. Masashito Kimura

Intermediate Class
Tuesdays, 6:30pm-8:00pm
Textbook: An Integrated Approach to Intermediate Japanese
Instructor: Ms. Kyoko Hoshino

Students are expected to attend all classes.
Non-members tuition: $165 per session (eight classes)
JASC Members: $135 per session (eight classes)

Ikebana (Japanese Flower Arranging)
Instructor: Mrs. Yuko Inoue Darcy
(Ohara School Chicago Chapter)
Mondays, 1:00pm-2:00 p.m.

Supplies needed for Ikebana class: a pair of scissors and a frog (needle point holder), which can be purchased at the class.
Non-members tuition: $140 per session (four classes)
JASC Members: $120 per session (four classes)
Flower fee included

Japanese Cooking Classes

2017
September 16  Maki-sushi
October 21  Okonomi-yaki
November 18  Tempura

2018
January 20  Ramen Noodles
February 17  Nabe-mono (One-pot dishes)
March 17  Bento (Box lunch)
April 7  Korokke/Ton-katsu
May 19  Japanese Appetizers
June 16  Tsuke-mono/Salad

All cooking classes are on Saturdays, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Non-members fee: $65; JASC Members: $55

Contact Kay Kawaguchi at classes@jasc-chicago.org or at 773-275-0097 x226 for updated information on these classes.

To register, please send your name, address (including ZIP), email address, and phone number, listing the class or classes you would like to take, along with a check (made out to JASC) to: Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60640. Refunds will be given if cancellations are made up to five working days prior to class. NO REFUNDS AFTER CLASSES BEGIN.
JA Incarceration Exhibit Coming to Alphawood Gallery

We are excited to announce that a new exhibit will be opening in Chicago in late June 2017 regarding Japanese American incarceration and postwar resettlement. Richard Cahan and Michael Williams, authors of the recently released book “Un-American” have partnered with the Alphawood Foundation (which runs the Alphawood Gallery) and have approached the JASC and other Japanese American community organizations and individuals about the possibility of developing this exhibit.

A community meeting recently took place on March 23, 2017 with a range of community partners representing local social organizations, religious organizations, and historical associations, along with a number of interested individuals and leaders. During this meeting, community members shared their perspectives, and a number of questions were asked and feedback elicited regarding the exhibit.

Currently the exhibition narrative is being finalized and a search is being conducted for items that could be included in the exhibit. This exhibit will center on the many photographs taken by War Relocation Authority commissioned photographers during the incarceration process along with a range of additional objects and photographs from JASC archival collections and individual collections.

In addition, a range of programming will be planned during the duration of the exhibit, with a special push to draw in visitors from local schools and community organizations.

“We are very excited about this rare and unique opportunity to exhibit our archival holdings” stated Ryan Yokota, JASC Legacy Center Manager.

“For many of the items in the exhibit, this will be the first time that we will be able to introduce the Chicago community to the rich variety of materials that have been entrusted to us over the years.”

“We hope this exhibit will spread awareness of the lessons of history at this critical juncture in time.”

JASC to Collaborate on Hoarding Prevention Project

The JASC has recently been approved to collaborate with The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCSPP) on a new project that seeks to address issues of hoarding in the elderly community. The JASC is one of three organizations, including Heiwa Terrace and The Community Builders, Inc., that will work with TCSPP in developing this project.

Hoarding has increasingly been recognized as a problem that can increase in severity with age, and aside from health issues that it can cause to those affected in terms of the safety of their homes and associated other issues, hoarding can also exacerbate social issues and indicate deep, underlying psychological issues as well.

Through this grant project, the JASC and its partner agencies will be involved in training housing agency staff in identifying hoarding issues, in screening residents for issues, and in providing early intervention and psychoeducation activities to help reduce the incidence of hoarding amongst housing community residents.

In sum, the JASC is glad to be able to expand into this area of work, and hopes to use this funding to continue to look for innovative ways of helping area seniors.
For the last several years the JASC has maintained a relationship with the Steans Center for Community-Based Service Learning at DePaul University and is currently hosting 20 nursing students who have been able to help us to support our Adult Day Services program clients.

This partnership, which entails students working at the JASC for 16 hours per quarter for the duration of their two-year program, is designed to foster the developing of student relationships with community based organizations and clients outside of their clinical training in the nursing program.

Through this program, they get real life experience and perspective that is different from the world view to which they are accustomed. They also get to learn about the challenges and barriers to running a community service organization.

Through this training they serve in a variety of roles, including as companions to ADS clients, helping with arts and crafts projects, helping them with mobility issues, and in supporting a range of other activities in the program.

The JASC is glad to be able to partner with DePaul University in supporting these students in gaining insight into the issues facing elderly clients.

As a member of the Pan Asian Voter Empowerment Coalition (PAVE), the JASC has been working with a range of advocacy and social service agencies in Chicago to present a unified voice on issues of concern to the Asian American community. As part of this work, PAVE coordinates an annual Asian American Action Day at the state capitol in Springfield, Illinois. This year’s event was on May 17, 2017, and featured a day of organizing and lobbying on Asian American issues.

At this year’s Action Day, participants sought to raise awareness about the proposed Illinois TRUST Act, which is designed to protect immigrants by preventing law enforcement from cooperating with immigration authorities without a warrant. Other issues raised dealt with automatic voter registration and state funding issues.

“As a coalition member, it was great to meet other people for whom similar issues are important, and it was very energizing to be at the rally before going to meet directly with the politicians,” said Justine Urbikas, JASC Program and Operations Manager.

“It helps to remind our elected officials that budget issues impact real people, not just numbers on a page. We are the face of those social service agencies most affected by state budget cuts and delayed payments.”
Melba Ristow Enters 26th Year With Adult Day Services

As one of the most long-standing staff members at the JASC, Melba Ristow presents a modest presence as the Adult Day Services (ADS) unit coordinator, which oversees the provision of senior care within a socially active environment geared towards stimulating cognitive and social well-being.

This year marks the 26th year of Melba’s service to the organization and reflects her continuing commitment to provide for the needs of the community.

Married with three sons, Melba attended nursing school at Far Eastern University in the Philippines before immigrating to the U.S. to join her sister in 1974.

“When I first came here I, like anybody from another country, saw it was very different,” said Ristow. “But then you learn through the years.”

She eventually found work at Northwestern University’s medical center for 36 years until retiring two years ago. She worked as a nurse in the psychiatric unit with patients dealing with substance abuse issues and was in charge during the weekends.

She eventually found work at the JASC as a way to balance her schedule to allow for her to care for her school age kids.

“When I started here at the JASC, it was a time of transition for me, because I was married, and had three boys, with my oldest son in the third grade,” said Melba.

“So I started here as a part-timer because I had to pick up the kids from school.”

Changing her focus to work with the elderly was a departure from her previous nursing experience.

“When I worked here it was really new to me to work with the elderly, because I used to work in a psychiatric ward with people who were all active, and with people with substance abuse problems who were very argumentative. But over time you learn.”

She would eventually grow to enjoy her time working here, and eventually as her prior supervisors left, Ristow was encouraged to step up to serve as the unit’s coordinator.

Currently, Ristow sees a growing need for more services for the elderly, but notes that financial concerns continue to be an issue.

“I think it’s getting even worse, because there are more elderly, but the only problem is the funding.”

“A lot of the baby boomers didn’t save enough money. And for those who saved money, with the cost of living getting so high, they don’t want to spend money.”

“And there’s no money from the government, so it will be hard to predict. I just hope it will get better.”

“I feel so bad for some of the old people, especially those who don’t have any family. That’s the reason I give these big parties during holidays. Because some of them don’t have families, this is their holiday.”

That said, Ristow notes the many benefits that these services have provided to her clients.

“We have people here where if Adult Day Care was not here and we didn’t help them out, they would have been in a nursing home much earlier than expected.”

Even beyond this, Ristow notes how these services also serve to support families. As she notes, “But other than that it’s so good to feel that the families of the clients can come to you and are very grateful for your help. That makes you feel good.”
MON Series Features Author Talks


At our most recent Memories of Now (MON) seminar speakers event on March 28, 2017, the JASC, along with co-sponsors the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society and the JACL-Chicago Chapter, hosted author Richard Cahan to speak on his recently published photo book Un-American: The Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II, which he co-authored with Michael Williams.

With roughly 70 people in attendance at this talk, Cahan and Williams’ book has clearly sparked a great deal of interest from members of the Japanese American and larger Chicago community.

This book talk focused on the behind the scenes story of the many photographers hired by the War Relocation Authority to document the incarceration process, including such famous icons in the history of photography as Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams, among others.

Even further, however, Cahan and Williams delve further into their investigation to also track down the subjects of many of these photographs, to ask the vital questions of what became of their lives after being incarcerated and how did they sum up their experiences in the camps.

This talk followed closely behind another recent talk by academic Professor Greg Robinson of the Université du Québec À Montréal on March 3, 2017.

At this talk, he discussed excerpts from his recently released book, The Great Unknown: Japanese American Sketches, and highlighted the stories of a range of important Japanese Americans who had lived in pre-war Chicago, many of whom have been little known or appreciated up until now.

Both talks were an exciting start to this season's MON series. Please stay tuned for news about additional MON seminar series talks coming soon.

Upcoming Living Our Culture Online Event

Join us this year at our annual silent auction and raffle.

Visit www.jasc-chicago.org/loc17 for more information or join us on one (or all) of the following dates for previews where you can place a maximum bid or use the “buy it now” option to take the items home with you before the online auction launches on June 7, 2017.

Help sustain the JASC community. Support Living Our Culture.

Raffle drawing
with cash prizes up to $1,000
Raffle drawing at 5:00 p.m.
Friday, June 16, 2017

Silent Auction featuring vacation getaways, restaurant gift certificates, sports memorabilia, Asian-inspired artwork and more.

Silent Auction Preview Times:
Thursday, June 1, 2017
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Monday, June 5, 2017
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 6, 2017
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Online Silent Auction
Sunday, June 7, 2017- Monday, June 15, 2017

Save the Date: 2017 Holiday Delight - Kodomo Matsuri on November 11, 2017, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the JASC
Donor Acknowledgements - July, 2016- December, 2016

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The JASC would like to thank everyone who renewed their membership this year! Thank you!

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We apologize if we inadvertently omitted your name from any of these lists. Please let us know!
日系人戦時強制収容とシカゴ転住者の戦後
アルファウッドギャラリーで6月末展示会開催へ

米国連邦政府のアーカイブに公式資料として保存されている日系市民の戦時強制収容所における生活などを撮影した貴重な写真、それら日系家族のその後を追ったインタビューから構成された写真集「Un-American」は好評のうちに第一版は売り切れ現在二版目の印刷を考慮中。

編集者であるリチャード・カーン、マイケル・ウィリアム両氏とアルファウッド財団がこの写真集と戦後シカゴに転住したシカゴ日系人の暮らしに関する展示会“THEN THEY CAME FOR ME”を、アルファウッド・ギャラリーで開催することで合意し、シカゴ日系コミュニティに協力を求めており、去る3月23日、JASCで第一回の準備会議が開かれました。この会議には定住者会、日系市民協会、シカゴ日本人共済会をはじめ各宗教団体の代表や日系の歴史に興味を持ち活動を活発に意見交換しました。

準備期間が十分でないため、第一次展示を6月末に開催し、更に充実した内容の展示を9月にオープンする予定です。

75年目を迎えた“追憶の日”記念行事に700余名が参加

1941年12月、日本軍の真珠湾奇襲により太平洋戦争の幕が切って落とされ、翌42年2月ルーズベルト大統領により大統領令9066が発令され、12万人の日本系人・日系人が敵性外国人として全米10箇所の収容所に強制収容されて今年で75年を迎えました。この忌まわしい日を忘れない為に全米の日系社会で毎年開催されていた“追憶の日”のシカゴの記念行事は、シカゴ日系評議会、シカゴ日系歴史協会、日系市民協会シカゴ支部、シカゴ定住者会、シカゴ日本人共済会の共催で、去る2月19日(日)、シカゴ歴史博物館で開催され、450余人が参加、オーディリアに収容されなかった参加者のために別室で討議会なしで映画「オレンジ物語」と「ソンブ・フォー・マンザナー」が上映され、子供のためのワークショップ、ノースウエスタン大学のブロックミュージアムで関連イベントとして開催されたアート・クリスティン・アオノさんの作品展参加者と合わせて700余人が参加しました。

新しいソーシャル・ワーカー
バイリンガルの野村みおさん

この春から、新しく定住者会にソーシャル・ワーカーとして日英バイリンガルの野村みおさんが仲間入りしました。

野村さんは横浜出身でシカゴに来て15年目、ロヨラ大学で修士号を修得し、成人及び高齢者とその家族を対象としたカウンセリングをしており、特に英語の不自由なクライアントには日本語で相談が出来る心強いカウンセラーで定住者会にとっても待望のバイリンガル・スタッフです。野村さんへの問合せは電話:773－275－0097、内線225、又はmnomura@jasc-chicago.orgまで。

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子供のための日米文化サークル
「タンポポ会」新学期登録日
9月5日(火) 午前10時から

ゼロ歳から5歳の幼稚園入学前の子供を対象とした、日米文化サークル「タンポポ会」は設立以来今年で34年、人種、国籍を問わず多くの幼児が早い時期から日本文化を親しめるように、と言う三世両親の希望から誕生。童話、お遊戯、手遊びや折り紙などのクラフトから、日米の年中行事を織り込んだ楽しいプログラムが組まれています。クラスは毎月現日曜日の午前10時から午後12時まで、このほか水曜日の午前10時からは日本語の学習を組み込んだビッグ・クラスで、3歳から5歳迄の子供が参加できます。現行のクラスは6月末で終了し、9月からの新学期の入学登録日は両クラスとも9月5日(火)の午前10時から午後3時までJASCで受付されます。詳細問合せはtampopo@jasc-chicago.orgまで。

夏の墨絵ワークショップ

ケイ・トーマスさん指導の墨絵のワークショップが7月8、22日の両土曜日午後1時から4時まで開かれます。初心者歓迎。

*生け花クラスは9月から再開します。
*クッキング・クラスは9月に巻き寿司、10月お好み焼き、11月てんぷら、2018年1月ラーメン、2月鍋物、3月お弁当、4月コロッケ/トンカツ、5月ジャパニーズ・アペタイザー、6月漬物/サラダなどが予定されていますが、変更の可能性もあります。カルチャークラスの詳細はwww.jasc-chicago.orgをご覧下さい。
 Membership Application
12-month membership

Member Information

Name____________________________
Birthdate month/year _____/_____
Spouse/Partner_______________________
Birthdate month/year _____/_____
Address_____________________________
City______________ State____ Zip ______
Phone ______________________________
Email ______________________________
Preferred contact method:
☐ Email
☐ Mail

Please mail this form and payment to:
JASC
4427 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60640

Thank you for your Support!

Membership Levels

☐ Student $40
☐ Individual $80
☐ Family $110
☐ Senior Citizen (age 65+) $65
☐ Senior Couple (age 65+) $85

Special Memberships

☐ Sakura (Cherry Blossoms) $1,000
☐ Pine Trees $500
☐ Bamboo $250
☐ Plum Blossoms $150

For “Family” or “Special Membership” please provide names and birthdays of children 18 & under.

1. ____________________ D.O.B___/___/___
2. ____________________ D.O.B___/___/___
3. ____________________ D.O.B___/___/___

Additional Donation

☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ $25 ☐ $____________
☐ My company will match my gift.
☐ Please enclose necessary information.
☐ Please record the donation in my name.
☐ Please record the donation in memory of: _____________________________

Payment Information

Membership Total $_____________
Additional Donation $_____________
Total $_____________

Payment Method
☐ Check (payable to JASC)
☐ Credit Card
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover
Card holder's name:____________________
Card Number:________________________
Expiration date: _____/_____ CVV: ______
Signature: ___________________________