In February of 2019, the JASC announced the successful completion of a $25,000 Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation Challenge Grant, which raised an additional $25,000 in matching funds to support the digitization of rare endangered film collections in the JASC Legacy Center archives.

These color films, produced over 44 years ago in 1975, were developed through a federal grant received by the JASC to produce films and materials as part of our Issei Gerontology Project, which focused on first generation Japanese immigrants in Chicago.

Four 16mm films were produced at that time, including one which was included in the Then They Came For Me exhibit in Chicago in 2017. In 2018, these films were also screened at the Sixth Annual Chicago Area All-Camps Reunion. These screenings were the first time that these films had been shown in over 40 years.

Beyond the four finished films are roughly 24,000 feet of additional 16mm film footage as well as audio tape recordings, which include rare one-of-a-kind interviews. These oral history interviews represent a historical legacy that is rare not only in Chicago, but in the nation as a whole.

“I can think of few such collections in the country that include film interviews with first generation Japanese Americans,” stated Ryan Yokota, JASC Development and Legacy Center Director. “Film was expensive in those days, and few filmmakers bothered to turn their cameras on the Japanese community to capture in-language interviews such as these.”

In detailing their immigration histories and their stories of incarceration and resettlement, they are a testimony to the importance of safeguarding civil and human rights in the U.S.

Today, this footage is under threat of decay, having shown signs of shrinkage, and the vinegary smell indicative of deterioration. While the JASC had received a National Parks Service Japanese American Confinement Sites grant to organize and prepare these collections for eventual digitization, additional funds were needed for the digitization process itself.

Digitization will not only help the JASC to disseminate these materials through the web, but will also serve as a way to “preserve” the films from further decay, by creating a digital copy.

“Through the contributions of the many donors of the Japanese American community and beyond, we have been able to save the life histories of these first-generation Issei, and by doing so, save our unique Chicago story,” stated Michael Takada, JASC CEO.
Greetings from the JASC! As you can see from our cover story we are extremely excited by your response and generosity in supporting our efforts to preserve rare color film and audio tape recordings from our Legacy Center archives.

Your contributions were matched by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation and we now move onto the next phase of the project to restore and digitize these invaluable records of our community’s past.

We look forward to sharing news about this project’s progress in the coming months as well as our plans for showcasing the final products.

Along these same lines related to preservation and our Legacy Center, I am reminded that while many of us may not necessarily view family memorabilia as of much significance to people outside our immediate families, it does represent a history and as such it is quite possibly of interest to groups such as the JASC that are dedicated to historical preservation.

For example, the JASC welcomes materials that help describe and preserve the Japanese American experience, particularly from personal perspectives. No story is too small. So before you throw away any old photos, scrapbooks, etc., make a call to the JASC Legacy Center or to other organizations and learn how to make a meaningful contribution to their collections.

Looking ahead, there is a significant effort underway at the JASC to identify ideas for creating new space for our many programs and services. Across the board, we experience growing demand for our activities and services. At the same time, our aging facility presents increasing financial challenges with each passing season.

So what does new space look like? As we are only at the beginning of the process, we are keeping our options open. Possibilities range from selling our building to a party that can develop the site with the JASC as part of the new development, selling the property and finding another location, and everything in between. We want to stay in the neighborhood to serve the interests of our social service clients, and we can say with certainty that we will remain within the city limits. We are just getting underway and I’m happy to chat with anyone more about this exciting project.

In gratitude,
Michael Takada
2019 Day of Remembrance Connects Legacy to Today


The program opened with the posting of the colors by members of the Chicago Nisei Post No. 1183. Following this, MC Ryan Yokota, JASC Development and Legacy Director, recognized Mona Noriega, Chicago Commission on Human Rights Commissioner, who read a mayoral proclamation recognizing the Day of Remembrance. Evan Tatsui, a student at Niles North High School then read the language of the Civilian Exclusion Order, which had called for the forced evacuation of the Japanese American community during WWII.

Anna Takada, CJAHS/JASC Oral History Program Coordinator, screened a teaser trailer of an upcoming documentary, which draws from the oral histories collected in the project.

Karen Korematsu, Founder and Executive Director of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute, served as the keynote speaker for the evening, and in discussing the 1944 Supreme Court challenge that her father had waged against incarceration, noted that the 2018 Trump v. Hawaii Supreme Court decision that finally repudiated the Korematsu decision was similarly dangerous as a court precedent in approving the Muslim travel ban. Muhammad Sankari, Lead Organizer of the Arab American Action Network, and Mony Ruiz-Velasco, Esq., Executive Director of PASO - West Suburban Action Project, joined Korematsu in a panel that discussed additional contemporary concerns such as the separation and detention of children and families at the U.S.-Mexican border, and issues of policing and surveillance as they impact Muslim and Arab communities. The program then concluded with a call to action, the retiring of the colors, and a community reception.
Soup and Rice Event Shares Food, Community

Recently the JASC initiated a new “Soup and Rice” program to build community and to give folks a chance to socialize and eat. The JASC’s “Soup and Rice” events were originally inspired by similar “soup and bread” events at the Hideout bar and music venue in Chicago, which started after the 2008 recession as a way to help folks impacted by the economic downturn, and to raise donations for local food agencies. These programs then inspired other similar gatherings around the country and even internationally. The first JASC “Soup and Rice” event was held on March 8, 2019, and drew about 25 people, while a second event on April 5, 2019 drew about 50 people, with many attendees from both the Japanese American and the broader Chicago community.

At each event 8-10 Volunteers sign up to bring a crockpot of soup to share, while the JASC provides the rice. Everyone else pays what they can, with the proceeds being donated to the Lakeview Food Pantry. “These events are important in building the JASC as a community hub,” stated Joan Ambo, Program and Special Events Manager. “Through these events, attendees can meet new friends, and we also get to introduce new people to our organization.”

Later in the summer of 2019, the JASC is planning to hold a warm weather version, while the winter season will start again in January 2020. For information on getting involved, contact Joan Ambo at (773) 275-0097 ext. 228 or at jambo@jasc-chicago.org.

Summer/Fall Cultural & Language Classes Schedule

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

- **Beginners’ I Class** (Wednesdays)
  May 1, 2019 to June 26, 2019
- **Beginners’ II Class** (Mondays)
  May 6, 2019 to July 1, 2019
- **Intermediate Class** (Tuesdays)
  April 9, 2019 to May 28, 2019

Ikebana (Flower Arranging) Classes
Non-members tuition: $140 per session (four classes)
JASC Members: $120 per session (four classes)
Flower fee included
Instructor: Mrs. Yuko Inoue Darcy
(Ohara School Chicago Chapter)
Supplies needed for Ikebana class: a pair of scissors and a frog (a needle point flower holder - which can be purchased in class)
- Dates: Every Other Monday; 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
  June 3 and June 17, 2019; July 8 and July 22, 2019

Sumi-e Workshops (Saturdays, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
Non-members tuition: $50 per workshop
JASC Members: $40 per workshop
- June 1, 2019 Beginners and Continuing
- June 8, 2019 Continuing

Origami All Day Session @ JASC
Saturday, June 29, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Registration Fee: $20.00/per person; Minimum age: 10 years old
Additional information: june.yamasaki@gmail.com

Japanese Cooking Classes (Saturdays; 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)
Non-members fee: $65/class
JASC Members: $55/class
(Max. per class: 13 students)
- **Japanese Noodles**; June 15, 2019
- **Japanese Appetizers**; July 20, 2019
- **Maki-Sushi**; September 14, 2019
- **Tonkatsu / Korokke**; October 5, 2019
- **Ramen Noodles**; December 14, 2019

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, 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.
Then They Came For Me Exhibit Opens in San Francisco

Following a successful run in New York City, the *Then They Came For Me* exhibit has now traveled on to the Presidio District of San Francisco and will remain open through September 1, 2019 (www.thentheycame.org).

This exhibit had premiered at the Alphawood Gallery in Chicago, as a partnership with the JASC and other community members. Planners continue to look into other exhibit venues, to connect the Japanese American WWII incarceration story and other contemporary civil rights issues.

Memories of Now (MON) Seminar Series: The JASC held seven MON series events, in co-sponsorship with the CJAHS and/or JACL-Chicago. Sessions focused on Japanese American Civic Engagement, a book talk with Naomi Hirahara on her new book “Life After Manzanar,” a talk by Dr. Sonia Gomez on Japanese American war brides, a workshop on mass incarceration led by JJ Ueunten and Anne Watanabe, a book talk by UIUC Professor Naomi Paik on her book “Rightlessness: Testimony and Redress from U.S. Prison Camps Since World War II,” a presentation on disability justice by UIC Professor Akemi Nishida, and a book talk by Frank Abe on his new book on John Okada.

Turning 65 Medicare Workshop: The JASC and Don Sakamoto organized a workshop focused on educating the public about medicare and public health programs for seniors.

Virtual Asian American Art Museum (VAAAM): On October 3, 2018, VAAAM launched a virtual museum at www.vaaam.org, featuring art and photography by Chicago residents Michiko Itatani and James Numata, the latter of whom has a collection in the JASC Legacy Center archives.

The Pan-Asian Voter Empowerment (PAVE) Coalition: is a coalition of Asian American community organizations working on issues of advocacy and civic engagement. Currently the JASC is a member of this coalition and has been working on voter mobilization and preparing for the 2020 census.

Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium (JACSC): The JASC continues to participate in the JACS Consortium, which is a national coalition committed to telling the story of Japanese American incarceration, to preserving existing camp structures, and for advocating for continued federal funding to educate the public about the wartime incarceration.

Jun Fujita Catalog Event: As part of a partnership with the Poetry Foundation, a release event was held to announce the publication of a book of poetry by acclaimed Chicago photographer Jun Fujita.

An American Dream: Recently, Lyric Opera held a performance of *An American Dream*, an opera about a young Japanese American girl’s incarceration during World War II. JASC staff partnered with Lyric Opera on a number of community programs ahead of the performances, to provide additional historical background to this story.
GFB Courage and Compassion Exhibit in NW Suburbs

The Go For Broke National Educational Foundation (GFBNEC) in Los Angeles, California, is dedicated to telling the story of the Japanese American WWII veterans within the context of the larger story of wartime incarceration and the loss of civil and human rights. As part of their programming the GFBNEC has developed an exhibit called *Courage and Compassion*, which received federal funding to travel to ten different community sites across the country.

On March 2, 2019, the exhibit opened its Chicagoland area run in Schaumburg, through a generous partnership with the Trickster Gallery, a Native American gallery space in the northwest suburbs.

In preparation for the opening, community representatives from the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, JACL-Chicago, and the JASC worked together to develop additional content for a number of panels in the exhibit that tell the story of resettlement in Chicago, and the story of those members of the community that helped the Japanese American community as they left the camps and to rebuild their lives.

“Many people forget the ways in which the resettlement process represented an additional layer of trauma and difficulty for the Japanese American community as they left the camps,” stated Ryan Yokota, JASC Development and Legacy Center Director.

“Through this exhibit we remember those challenges, as well as those exceptional individuals and groups that came to the aid of the community in their time of need.”

At the opening event, both Native American drumming and Japanese taiko drumming by members of Tsukasa Taiko served to open the exhibit, along with a welcoming by Joe Podlasek, CEO of Trickster Gallery.

Dr. Mitch Maki, President and CEO of the GFBNEC also gave an opening statement for the exhibit, followed by a presentation by Professor Duncan Williams of the University of Southern California on the reception of Buddhism during the camp process and wartime.

Through the course of the exhibit, which closed on May 4, 2019, a number of programs were held to bring people into the space and to expand on themes raised by the exhibit. Some of the programming included a presentation to the public at nearby Schaumburg Library, and a veterans program that included participation by both Native American and Japanese American veterans. Additional docent tours were held with students, as well as educator trainings with local teachers.

In addition, a Japanese language tour was co-sponsored with the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago and was led by DePaul University Professor Nobuko Chikamatsu, while a separate program included a screening of the film “Watched,” that focused on issues of surveillance in Muslim and Arab communities.

On May 4, 2019, the exhibit finished its run in the Chicagoland area with a closing reception, which featured food and a musical performance by members of Ho Etsu Taiko along with Native American drummers.

“Through these programs the planning committee has worked to expand on the exhibit’s themes, to include first person voices of the people who directly experienced incarceration, and to make the connections between our historical experiences and the civil and human rights issues of today,” stated Anna Takada, CJAHS/JASC Oral History Project Coordinator.
Holiday Delight Program Shares Culture; Memories

On November 10, 2018, the JASC held its annual Holiday Delight - Kodomo Matsuri (Children's Festival), featuring a range of food and entertainment options, as well as the ever popular marketplace for attendees to get a jump start on their holiday shopping. This free annual event included all the usual favorites for people to eat, including sushi, teriyaki kabobs and burgers, and homemade baked goods, made by scores of dedicated community volunteers.

In addition, this year’s event was supported by the generous sponsorship of Art Design Chicago, Terra Foundation, Mark Mitamura, the Ravenswood branch of Wintrust Bank, Barry Regent Cleaners, JFC International, Strange Cargo, Kamehachi, Mitsuwa Marketplace, and Lawrence Fish Market.

In the marketplace a number of community vendors who specialize in Japanese and Japanese American goods displayed a range of unique items, including jewelry, garments, ceramics, books, and more. Rounding out the event was the annual silent auction, which offered a number of rare collectibles.

The Kodomo Matsuri included fun for all ages with games, craft projects, and Japanese dance and drumming demonstrations. The highlight for the kids was a special pre-Christmas visit from Santa Claus.

A special part of the program included an interview with local artist Hiroshi Ariyama, which was held in partnership with the Chicago Cultural Alliance.

Thanks for attending and please save the date for this year’s Holiday Delight on November 9, 2019!

JASC Welcomes New Staff

Joan Ambo, Merle Branner

The JASC would like to welcome Joan Ambo, Programs and Special Events Coordinator, and Merle Branner, Archivist, who were recently hired in 2018.

Joan Ambo has been an active volunteer in the community for many years, and has a teaching background working with toddlers in the Montessori method, as well as a background in Japanese dance.

A Chicago native, Joan grew up in the Uptown neighborhood, and currently resides in Rogers Park.

Joan is a graduate of the University of Illinois, Chicago, and the Inter-University Center in Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama, Japan.

To contact Joan regarding JASC programs and special events, please call her at (773) 275-0097, ext. 228, or by email at jambo@jasc-chicago.org.

Merle brings a broad wealth of experience in processing archival collections to her position, and has a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Dominican University, as well as a Master of Science in Educational Computing from Pepperdine University.

With over a decade of experience in the archival field, Merle has proven to be an invaluable member of the Legacy Center team. As the JASC continues to pursue a range of projects that include oral history collection and materials digitization, her background will be vital to growing the JASC collection.

To contact Merle regarding donations to the JASC archives, please call her at (773) 275-0097, ext. 248, or by email at mbranner@jasc-chicago.org.
Special Membership Levels

- Sakura ($1000)
  - Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Hamano
  - Ms. Pam Morooka
  - Mr. & Mrs. Greg Sahli
  - Ms. Hisako Takami
  - Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Yoshino

- Pine Trees ($500)
  - Mr. & Mrs. Steve Samson
  - Mr. & Mrs. John Robert Sasaki
  - Dr. & Mrs. Hiromi Shimotake
  - Ms. Lisa Sloan
  - Mr. & Mrs. John Suzuki

- Bamboo ($250)
  - Dr. & Mrs. Harold Arai
  - Ms. Julie Azuma
  - Mr. & Mrs. Yoshizumi Kawanaka
  - Mr. Howie Kuramitsu
  - Dr. & Mrs. Charles Martinez
  - Mr. & Mrs. Alan Matsumura
  - Mr. & Mrs. Shu Miyazaki
  - Mr. & Mrs. Paul Pedtke
  - Dr. Joyce Morishita & Mr. Bertrand Phillips
  - Mr. Mark V. Murphy
  - Ms. JoAnn Murphy & Ms. Marcela Goldsmith
  - Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Shibata
  - Mr. & Mrs. Allen Shimizu
  - Dr. Joe Takehara
  - Ms. Stacy Uchida & Mr. Rob Brown

Plum Blossoms ($150)
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- Mr. Fred Sugimoto & Ms. Amy Rasmussen
- Mrs. Midori Sugimoto
- Mr. Michael Takada

Donations - Corporate, Non-profit, etc.

- $1,000 and Above
  - Alpahwood Foundation
  - Chicago Cultural Alliance
  - Chicago Japanese American Council (CJAC)
  - Dr. Newton K. Wesley Foundation Fund
  - Illinois Humanities
  - Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago
  - ICCC Foundation
  - Network For Good
  - Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
  - Schwab Charitable Fund
  - Taiwanese American Professionals
  - The Japan Foundation Los Angeles
  - The McKnight Foundation
  - United Way of Greater Atlanta

- Under $100
  - Abbott Fund Matching Gifts Program
  - JP Morgan

Donations - Individual

- $1,000 and Above
  - Mr. Martin Fujimoto
  - Mr. David Isgaaki
  - Ms. Yukako Metcalfe
  - Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Mine
  - Mr. John Miyazaki
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  - Mr. Masahito Kimura
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  - Mrs. Mari & Mr. Jonas Vredeveld
  - Ms. Tomomi Yamada & Mr. Damon DiCastri
  - Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Yoshino
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  - Mr. Jon Kawamura & Ms. Elizabeth Foley
  - Mr. Richard Kimoto & Ms. Janice Ozyma
  - Ms. Chieko Kimura
  - Ms. Kristine Kimura

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

Thank you for your continued support!
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In Memory Of Tak & Miriam Sugiyama
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Sugiyama

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Edita Merza

Culture-Language Classes
Pia Hattori
Keiko Takenaka
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June Yamasaki
Steven Yamasaki

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Atsuko Jioobu
Shoko Mimura Johnson
Yuko Jurane
Kaori Lambert
Joey Lenti
Kaori Liebler
Jeff May
Amanda McClintock

Japanese Americans Say “Never Again is Now!”

On June 30, 2018, a Japanese American and Asian American contingent organized by the JASC, JAACL-Chicago, the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, Christ Church of Chicago, Midwest Buddhist Temple, and a number of Asian American organizations participated in the Families Belong Together rally, which organized over 60,000 people in Chicago to protest federal policies on child separation and indefinite family detention and the Muslim Ban decision. Pictured above are JA community members Anne Shimojima and Janette Koga at the march (Credit: WBEZ/Katherine Nagasawa).

Erica Ayumi Mizuuchi
Christine Munteanu
Tomoko Nakamishi
Emi Maia Nam
Kiyomi Negi
Noriko Yanagihara Phuah
Nancy & Greg Rivera
Nya & Olivia Robinson
Tamiko Sasaki
Mordccai Schectkter
Hiroko Sodergren
Hiroko Strulovick
Kateishu Tabion
Mike Walker
Shimako Asakawa Walker
Thea Wilson
Larry Zucker

Holiday Delight Volunteers

We apologize if we inadvertently omitted your name from any of these lists. If we have, we apologize, and please contact us to let us know!
レガシーセンターが目的達成
ゲイロード・ドネリー財団のマッチング・グランツに挑戦
昨年末、JASCはゲイロード/ドネリー財団の2万5千ドルのマッチング・グランツに挑戦し、メンバーとコミュニティーの協力を得て去る2月目的額を達成し、同財団からも同額の助成金を受けることができ、総額5万ドルで、44年前に一世高齢化研究プロジェクトの一環として収録されたまま、フィルムの状態で保管されていた貴重なインタビューのデジタル化に着手することになった。これによりシカゴのみならず、全米でも珍しい一世移民の日本語による記録が劣化から保存され、今後必要に応じてウェブサイトなどでも紹介することができます。
JASCの歴史資料室は短期間に目的額を達成できたことで、協力者に深く感謝しています。

折り紙オールデー
昨年に続いて、今年も下記のとおり、シカゴ・ノースサイド折り紙同好会が「折り紙オールデー」を開催します。

日時：6月29日（土）午前9時から午後5時まで。参加費は一人20ドル、昼食は各自持参。飲み物は用意しています。Β組の参加者は10歳以上、申し込みをしていない子供の同伴はご遠慮ください。

初心者から上級まで、レベルに応じて一日たっぷり折り紙を楽しめます。
このほか毎月第4土曜日に午後5時から5時まで、折り紙ミーティングを開催しています。手続きの折り紙で新しい作品に挑戦しませんか。参加費15ドル。
詳細はジューン・ヤマサキさんJune.yamasaki@gmail.com又は電話773-274-5954まで。

クッキング・クラス2019〜2020
スケジュール決まる
巻き寿司クラス…9月14日
トンカツ・コロッケクラス…10月5日
ラーメン・クラス…12月14日
鍋物クラス…2020年1月18日

日本語クラス
成人の初級1、初級2、中級1のほか低学年の子供のためのどんぐり会などレベル別の少人数のクラスが現在開講中。

以上の各種文化教室に関する詳細質問、定住者会への日本語での問合せなどは川口までどうぞ。
電話:773-275-0097内線226番
Eメール：classes@jasc-chicago.org
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 Application
12-month membership

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___/___/___

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☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ $25 ☐ $________
☐ My company will match my gift.

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Additional Donation $__________
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Card Number:________________________
Expiration date: _____/_____ CVV: ______
Signature: ___________________________