On October 23, 2019, the JASC, in partnership with Homeroom, a nonprofits arts programming collaborative, debuted its new documentary film, *Resettled Roots: Legacies of Japanese Americans in Chicago*, to a packed standing-room only audience.

Co-directed by Anna Takada and Maria Pimentel, this new documentary draws from the oral histories collected by Anna Takada under the joint JASC/Chicago Japanese American Historical Society Oral History Project, which had originated during the 2017 *Then They Came For Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans During WWII and the Demise of Civil Liberties* exhibit sponsored by the Alphawood Foundation. Following the conclusion of the exhibit, this oral history project continued with initial seed funding from the Alphawood Foundation, and a subsequent grant received from the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program.

The *Resettled Roots* film is unique among films about the incarceration experience, in that it includes a major focus on the experience of resettlement in Chicago, and the difficulties and privations faced by Japanese Americans in the postwar period, as they sought to rebuild their lives after leaving the camps. Even further, the film also brings a fresh perspective by linking the incarceration experience to contemporary issues such as the current issue of family separation and indefinite detention arising at the southern border.

The partnership between the two directors brought an important synergy to this project, considering Anna Takada’s intimate familiarity with the oral history collection, and Maria Pimentel’s background as a former MA student with a focus on documentary filmmaking at Loyola University.

The screening at Homeroom included a Q&A session with the filmmakers, and audience feedback from the screening at Homeroom was overwhelmingly positive.

“We were very happy with the enthusiastic response from the audience,” stated co-director Maria Pimentel. “And now we look forward to showing the film to larger and more diverse audiences throughout the city and country.”

The JASC is currently investigating screening opportunities, both locally and nationally, particularly on the film festival circuit and with local schools and universities.

Recently, the film has been shown at the annual Films of Remembrance event in San Francisco, CA in February 2020, with word on other possible venues and festival submissions still to be heard from.
Greetings from the JASC!
In this issue of our newsletter we are very excited to share front page news of the completion of our documentary film, Resettled Roots: Legacies of Japanese Americans in Chicago.

The documentary is the product of efforts toward collecting oral histories starting during the 2017 exhibition at the Alphawood Gallery and continuing to present day.

And if there were any doubts to its quality, we were thrilled that it was shown in San Francisco and San Jose during Nichi Bei Shimbun’s recent Films of Remembrance festival.

The team continues to submit applications to other festivals and making plans for additional public screenings.

In our newsletter last spring, I spoke about how we were actively looking at different options for creating new space for JASC.

Since then, working with a real estate company, we put the property up for sale and began looking at other properties in the area.

Due to a number of factors, including market conditions for new development in Uptown, we have not received any satisfactory offers from prospective buyers and we have not identified any properties to purchase meeting our requirements.

At the moment, we continue to keep our options open.

Possibilities range from selling to a party that develops the site with JASC as part of the new development, selling the property and finding another location, to everything in between.

What is certain is that our new space will reflect our commitment to preserving the Japanese American cultural heritage, providing social services to underserved communities, and welcoming a community space that celebrates Japanese culture.

I look forward to providing new updates as the project evolves.

In gratitude,
Michael Takada
On May 16, 2019, the JASC held its annual Sushi and Sake event fundraiser, with an enthusiastic audience of JASC supporters in attendance.

This year DJ Jeff Pazen provided the background music to the evening, with Japanese cultural performances by Toyoakimoto Shamisen and members of Tsukasa Taiko. MC Marz Timms kept things moving and fun through the program.

Sushi and appetizers were provided by Kamehachi, with additional custom cookies by Celestial Kitchens.


This year we were very excited to have a robust set of silent auction items, including a The Who package, donated by Clive Brinkworth; a Ranger Chocolate package, donated by George Domurot; a Metro Tickets & Swag package donated by Joe Shanahan; a Cubs Bench and Wrigley Field Flag donated by Steve Yamasaki; Be Yoga items, donated by Cat Koo Levine; a Cultured Pearl necklace, Dark Matter Coffee, donated by Dark Matter/Bob Quinlan; a 6th Century Japanese figurine, donated by Laura Muraoka; Two Cubs Tickets, donated by Stacy Uchida-Brown; Bari Zaki paper goods, donated by Bari Zaki; a case of Western Hemisphere Red Wines, donated by Bob Kumaki; a Renga Tei gift card, donated by Hisao & Miyoko Yamada; Accentric Custom Framing, donated by Yoko Kawaguchi; and tickets to West Side Story, donated by Lyric Opera.

Currently we are looking forward to our upcoming 2020 Sushi and Sake event, which is planned for Thursday, May 14, 2020 at Artifact Events.
Inherit Chicago Drumming
Up Resistance Event @AIC

The Chicago Cultural Alliance (CCA) is an organization composed of 43 major museums and historical and cultural organizations from around the Chicago land area, including the Japanese American Service Committee.

For the past few years, the CCA has held its’ Inherit Chicago monthlong program of events to encourage collaborative events among its’ members, and to recognize the rich cultural diversity of the broad community. This year, on October 26, 2019, the JASC participated in an event jointly sponsored by the American Indian Center (AIC) and the HANA Center, focused on a celebration of drumming. Titled “Drumming Up Resistance,” this event highlighted not only the cultural role of drumming in each respective community, but also the issues and concerns that bind all three communities together, both historically and today.

Starting off the event, audience members were able to partake of food from the three different communities, including fry bread, Korean food, and Japanese sushi.

From that point, the drumming commenced, with the program beginning and ending with Native American drumming. Members of the Korean community youth and young adult drumming group added a vibrant atmosphere to the event, and Ho Etsu Taiko brought their unique blend of traditional and contemporary drumming to bear.

Through it all, audience members thoroughly enjoyed the event and the blending and mixing of performances and food.

Spring/Summer 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, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)
  March 4, 2020 to April 22, 2020
  Textbook: Genki I; Instructor: Mr. Masahito Kimura
- **Beginners’ II Class** (Mondays, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)
  February 3, 2020 to March 23, 2020
  Textbook: Genki II; Instructor: Mr. Masahito Kimura
- **Intermediate Class** (Mondays, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)
  February 3, 2020 to March 23, 2020
  Textbook: Japanese for Busy People III; Instructor: Ms. Kyoko Hoshino

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: TBA

Sumi-e Workshops (Saturdays, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
Non-members tuition: $50 per workshop
JASC Members: $40 per workshop
- March 21, 2020 Beginners and Continuing
- March 28, 2020 Continuing

Chicago Northside Origami Meetings @ the JASC
Every 4th Saturday of the month, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, 2020
Fee: $5.00 per folder; All skill levels welcome!
Contact: June Yamasaki at June.yamasaki@gmail.com or at 773-274-5954

Japanese Cooking Classes (Saturdays; 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)
Non-members fee: $65/class; JASC Members: $55/class
(Maximum enrollment per class: 13 students)
- **Japanese Sweets**; April 11, 2020
- **Obento (Japanese Box Lunch)**; May 9, 2020
- **Japanese Appetizers**; June 13, 2020

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.
Get Counted in the Census, Coming March 2020

Every ten years the constitution of the United States mandates the government to take a census to count every person in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five territories. Census day this year will be on April 1, 2020.

This counting of the population is important for determining how many elected officials each state is entitled to have in the House of Representatives, and this information is also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. This information is also vitally important for communities, and the information from the census helps to determine the allocation of funding that pays for services such as hospitals, fire departments, roads, and many other vitally important resources.

For the Japanese American and Asian American communities, it is especially important to encourage participation amongst hard to count communities such as immigrant communities, limited english proficient households, amongst older adults, and those people who might be fearful of participating. Census responses are confidential, and the violation of confidentiality can carry harsh penalties including having to spend up to five years in prison and/or having to pay a $250,000 fine.

In the current outreach effort in the Japanese American community, the Chicago Japanese American Council has formed itself as a Complete Count Committee to ensure that the Japanese American community gets counted.

Coordinating the outreach efforts is Community Engagement Coordinator JJ Ueunten, who is currently presenting on the census at community organizations, festivals, and religious institutions. For more information, contact JJ at (773) 275-0097 ext. 225 or at jueunten@jasc-chicago.org

2019 Highlights from JASC’s Programs and Events

JASC Archival Digitization Update: Digitization work funded by the generous community donors of the JASC and through the help of the Donnelley Foundation has continued, and has now passed the halfway mark. This work has brought to life some rare collections in our archives, including incredible one-of-a-kind footage of the Japanese American community of Chicago from the 1930s and 1940s. For more info and to see some of these videos, visit us at: https://vimeo.com/user83469484

Memories of Now (MON) Seminar Series: The JASC held four MON series events, in co-sponsorship with the CJAHS and/or JACL-Chicago. These included a Kizuna event focused on the 8th commemoration of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami; a screening of a new youth-produced documentary by Kaiya Yonamine on the situation in Henoko, Okinawa; a book talk with Akemi Johnson on her new book on the women of Okinawa; and an event co-sponsored with Chicago Asian Americans for Environmental Justice, on environmental issues as they relate to Asian Americans.

The Pan-Asian Voter Empowerment (PAVE) Coalition: The JASC continues to participate with PAVE to advocate for issues relevant to the Japanese American and Asian American communities of Chicago. Current work has focused on coordinating around outreach efforts related to Census 2020.

Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium (JACSC): Through this national coalition of organizations that had received funding from the National Parks Service to spread awareness of Japanese American WWII incarceration, activities included a 2019 visit to Washington, DC to share best practices, and emphasize the importance of this program to legislators.
2019 Holiday Delight Brings Community Together

On November 9, 2019, the JASC held its annual Holiday Delight fundraiser event, with several hundred people in attendance through the course of the day.

The Holiday Delight event is the main autumn fundraiser for the JASC, and this year we had approximately 150 volunteers to help the event run smoothly and also to supply us with delicious food and treats. We are happy to announce that through their support that this year’s Holiday Delight was one of our most successful Holiday Delight events ever!

We had a number of new additions to the cultural programming for this year’s event. Besides having classical dance performances by members of Shubukai, and taiko drumming by Tsukasa Taiko, youth members of the Donguri-kai group debuted on the stage this year with a singing performance that delighted everyone in attendance. And of course, every year is a chance for Santa Claus to visit to hear what the children at the event are hoping to get for Christmas.

The Consul General of Japan in Chicago Kenichi Okada, who had only just begun his term in Chicago a few weeks prior, also attended the program and introduced himself to the audience.

Even further, this year’s space saw the addition of a new Donguri-kai built Totoro themed photo booth, an expansion of the Tamapopo-kai children’s craft corner in the warehouse, and an expansion of the seating areas for people to eat and relax at.

We were especially glad to add a new composting and recycling station this year, which was staffed by volunteers who worked hard to reduce the amount of trash generated by the event that might otherwise go to the landfill.

“Having the new composting and recycling station was our small way of having a fun event that could be enjoyable for families, and that could also reduce our impact on the environment,” stated Joan Ambo, Programs and Special Events Manager.

A number of new vendors joined the arts and crafts side of of the building, which we were very grateful for, as it expanded and diversified the number of offerings that were available to attendees. Some of the newest vendors included Pottery by Grace Pai, Tangerine Mountain Kimono, Sashiko Designs by Mary DeRay, LSS Luscious Knits, and Kiki’s T House.

We were also glad to have been supported in this program by our generous event sponsors, which included John T. Sasaki, Dryer Babich Buccola Wood Campora LLC, Barry-Regent Dry Cleaners, Wintrust Bank Chicago Ravenswood, Victura Consulting, Yamasho Food and Restaurant Supplies, Beyond Meat, Strange Cargo Tees, Kamehachi, JFC International Inc, Mitsuwa Marketplace, and KPMG. Their vitally important assistance contributed a great deal to our success this year.

“The success of this year’s Holiday Delight program is due to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and also because of the generosity of our sponsors and vendors,” stated Ambo.

“Through all of their efforts, we are able to have food and cultural programs that share our Japanese American heritage with families from throughout the Chicago community.”

For anyone interested in seeing a video of the event made by JASC Multimedia Coordinator Maria Pimentel, please visit our JASC Vimeo page at https://vimeo.com/379136050.

Santa Claus got to listen to Christmas wishes while visiting the JASC at the Holiday Delight event on November 9, 2019.
Japanese/Asian Americans for Immigrant Rights

As a continuation of earlier efforts to bring together members of the Japanese American community to address issues related to the indefinite detention of children and families at the border, an ad hoc coalition was organized in July of 2019 to address these issues that was jointly sponsored by the JASC, JACL-Chicago, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago. The primary goal of this coalition was to develop a contingent of Japanese and Asian Americans to participate in the July 13, 2019 “Take Action to End Criminalization, Detention, & Deportations” march in downtown Chicago organized by Indivisible Chicago.

In the lead up to the march, members of the coalition developed a Jewish-Japanese Shabat dinner to bring together members of both the Japanese and Jewish communities to reflect on their respective experiences of detention, and in the case of the Jewish Shoah, on the genocide that they experienced. This event was co-sponsored with the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs and held on July 12, 2019.

At the march itself on July 13, 2019, several hundred Japanese and Asian Americans were in attendance representing thirteen different Asian American organizations, and with two elected officials in attendance, including Josina Morita, Commissioner of the Cook County Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and Rep. Theresa Mah, from the 2nd District of the Illinois House of Representatives. The march contingent joined the main group in Daley Plaza for speeches and a march through downtown.

Tsuru For Solidarity Call for National Gathering

Developing out of growing nationwide sentiments amongst Japanese American activist groups and individuals, a new national coalition of Japanese Americans calling itself Tsuru for Solidarity, has set a goal for a “National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps” to take place in Washington, DC on June 5-7. 2020. Locally, the JASC and JACL-Chicago are members of Tsuru for Solidarity and are helping to promote awareness of it. Most importantly, this group is seeking to bring Japanese Americans who directly experienced the camps to this national gathering, though anyone can attend to show their support of this effort.

For more information about registration for the Tsuru for Solidarity National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps, please visit the Tsuru for Solidarity website here: https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/pilgrimage/

Roundtrip bus tickets from Chicago to DC are available for purchase through the JACL Chicago website at: https://squareup.com/store/jacl-chicago/item/bus-ticket-from-chicago-to-dc.

In addition, a limited amount of financial assistance to support community members in attending is available, and the application for this support is here: https://forms.gle/iFbBNMbMSA6BDNe7.

A new facebook page has been set up to share information about the pilgrimage and to help people to coordinate transportation, housing, and to figure out any additional logistics. For more information, join the facebook group at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/469593173736809/.
Special Membership Levels

Sakura ($1000)  Ms. Megan Nakano  Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Yoshino
Pine Trees ($500)  Ms. JoAnn Murphy & Ms. Marcela Goldsmith
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Samson  Mr. & Mrs. John Robert Sasaki
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Mr. Hich Yamagata

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

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Mr. Yoshi Yamahishi
Ms. Maiko Yanai & Mr. Joseph Lentl
Ms. Toshiko Yoshida
Mrs. Shigeo Yoshimura
Ms. Marcia Yoshizumi & Mr. James Stith
In honor of Connie Aburano, Mark Aburano-Meister, & Tuckasa Taiko
Mrs. Frances Benbow
In Honor of Kazue Mary Arendt
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Roeger

In Honor Of Yuri Hamada
Ms. Lisa Sloan
In Honor Of Carey & Betsy Hidaka
Ms. Lisa Sloan
In Honor Of Kevin & Susan Kaneo
Ms. Lisa Sloan
In Honor Of Betty and Junior Morita’s 60th Wedding Anniversary
Ms. Cathyn
In Honor Of Donna Sagi and David Handwerk
Ms. Lisa Sloan
In Honor Of Midori Sugimoto
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Ms. Merry Oya
In Memory Of Father & Husband
Mrs. Geraldine Jones
In Memory Of Shizuko Hirashima
Mr. Scott Hirashima
In Memory Of Bob & Yae Imon
Ms. Carla Imon Pedkte
In Memory Of Yasuo Ishih
Ms. Carleen Lorys
In Memory Of Shigeo Ishizu
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Mr. Jo Kawamura & Ms. Elizabeth Foley
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Ms. Sandra Horeis
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Kelly
Ms. Laura Mangini
In Memory Of Grace Waterane
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Dr. Paul Gossett
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kimura
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Ms. Ruth Morimoto
Ms. Stephanie Morimoto
Mr. Stephen Morimoto
Ms. Sandra Saibara

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Mr. Casey Ormori
Mrs. May One
Mr. Loreto Ongkiko
Ms. Merry Oya
Ms. Jan Ozaki & Mr. John Horton
Mrs. Linda Pedroza
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Mrs. Frances Benbow
In Honor Of Kazue Mary Arendt
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Mr. Philip Wong

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In Memory Of Kiyo Yoshimura
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Akiko Maeda
Ken Oba
Barbara Powell
Kayo Shinomaki
Lisa Sloan
Christine Sumida

Adult Day Services National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA) Senior Trainers:
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Edita Merza

Culture/Cooking Classes:
Chiako Takayama
Noriko Okumoto
Pia Hattori
Hiko Hattori
June Yamakazi

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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!

Calendar of Events
April 3, 2020
Soup & Rice Event

April 23, 2020
JASC Scholarships
Deadline - More information visit our website here: https://www.jasc-chicago.org/community-services/for-everyone/scholarships/

May 14, 2020
Sushi and Sake Fundraiser Event

November 14, 2020
Holiday Delight
とができます。人々が国勢調査の回答を躊躇する理由の一つは、個人の秘密データが入国管理事務所や警察、他の政府機関に漏らされることを懸念するからです。国勢調査の回答内容は秘密保持の対象となり、厳しい法律で秘密性を守られています。国勢調査の内容は統計目的にのみ使用されます。安心して調査に回答してください。回答の方法としては、3月下旬以降、オンラインあるいは、電話での回答、または郵送された回答用紙に記入して返送します。もし回答がない場合、5月からは国勢調査局の職員が直接住居を訪問して、回答を求めることになります。国勢調査局では、日本語、スペイン語、韓国語、ベトナム語など59か国語の資料を用意していますが、もし日本語でのサポートが必要な場合は、シカゴ定住者会の川口までご連絡ください。773-275-0097 内線226

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