



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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ABOUT JACL

Founded in 1929, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the nation's first and largest Asian American civil rights organization.

As a 501(c)3 charitable organization, the JACL champions and advocates for the Japanese American, Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA), and civil rights communities through advocacy, education, and leadership development.

Our Mission

To secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.

The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and to preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

Milestones

1929

JACL was founded while over 100 laws discriminated against Japanese and Asian Americans.

1942

120,000 Japanese Americans were forcibly removed to concentration camps.

1988

JACL wins Redress and Reparations for the World War II camps through the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

2020

JACL continues its mission fighting anti-Asian discrimnation during Covid-19, standing with Black Lives Matter, and educating about the Japanese American legacy.

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Thank you to Mei Kuang, Bookkeeper, who served the organization for over 13 years.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is my pleasure to share the 2020 JACL Annual Report with you. After a brief hiatus, we are pleased to publish this report capturing highlights of our work in the hopes that we can enhance communications with our constituents, partners, and the general public. I am proud to highlight our successes in spite of an incredibly challenging year, and thank our staff, members, and partners for their continued support that made this possible.

I want to thank the National Council for reelecting me to the position of National President in 2020 and continuing to trust in my leadership. A special thanks also goes to the Nominations and Credentials Committees for working together to create a virtual election process, which would traditionally take place during an in-person convention.

It has been a great honor to serve in this capacity since 2018 and I am excited to continue working with the National Board and our members to build upon the legacy of this organization. I am incredibly thankful for the collaborative efforts of this Board, and know we will continue to work hard to ensure JACL is able to realize its incredible potential in the years ahead.

Over the last year, as we continued to see a divided nation and the rise of hate, it's clear that the need for JACL is as great as when we were founded in 1929. With 10,000 members and 100 chapters around the country, our reach is critical as we continue to tell the Japanese American story to educate and advocate for the rights of communities who face injustice.

With that in mind, JACL made great strides in 2020, updating our infrastructure and tapping into the knowledge of our members to create processes that will improve how effective we are as an organization. These changes can be seen in everything from our membership database, to virtual programming, to other creative ways we've maintained connections while sheltering-in-place, and you can expect to see more improvements and growth over the next year.

In this report you will find highlights from the last year and see the many ways that our staff and members found opportunity in the challenges we faced. As one example, the COVID-19 pandemic created a need for our members to become more fluent in technology, sharing information critical to our anti-hate work though virtual meetings and social media in response to anti-Asian sentiment. This report also shows you our education work such as revisions to the Power of Words handbook, our youth programs like Kakehashi, and the JACL/OCA Leadership Summit, held on Zoom, which is a program that was critical to my own understanding of advocacy and civil rights.

I am also proud of the way that JACL has continued to work with our partners on critical issues such as those raised by the Black Lives Matter movement. Although I moved to San Francisco last year, having lived in Washington, D.C. for over a decade prior showed me the important role JACL continues to play at the forefront of the civil rights community. It's critical that we continue to stand in solidarity with our coalition partners in advocating for equity and justice, sharing the lessons we've learned from our own struggles, and work towards healing and transforming this country.

Thanks again to all of you for your dedicated engagement and support of the JACL. This is an amazing and unique organization, and I encourage you to share your ideas and passion with us, collaborating with chapter, district, and national board members, so that this special community can continue for years to come.

It's critical that we continue to stand in solidarity with our coalition partners in advocating for equity and justice, sharing the lessons we've learned from our own struggles, and work towards healing and transforming this country. 99

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Moy JACL President

COVID-19

Navigating the Global Pandemic

In 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic changed our lives forever.

Our mission to protect Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders has never been more clear.

Our digital capabilities have never been so challenged.



AAPIs around the country reported **2,808 incidents** of racism and discrimination according to www.stopAAPIhate.org. Working with partners like them around the country, we've:

- Worked to fight against anti-Asian sentiment in the wake of the pandemic.
- Worked with local chapters in specific attacks against Japanese Americans in California, Idaho, New York, and more.
- Spoken out against elected officials who have used racially charged language like "Chinese flu" and others who have compared quarantine measures to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.



Though we were unable to meet in person for National Convention, we have hosted new programs online. Every month, we hosted one to two virtual events, averaging 75 attendees, on a variety of topics from mental health to mixed race identity. We also partnered with communications software, Salsa Labs, to launch digital advocacy. In 2020, JACL members and our friends took action by emailing legislators on topics including Japanese American studies in California, H.R. 40 (p. 7), and JACS (p. 10).

For the first time ever, the JACL/OCA Leadership Summit was held virtually. This year's virtual summit, held over six days, trains future leaders of JACL and our long-time partner, OCA National, on leadership and advocacy skills. While the virtual format had its challenges, it allowed participants to meet directly with three members of the House of Representatives and with offices all across the country that we've been unable to reach before.

As we publish this Annual Report in early 2021, we remain hopeful. The vaccine has started distribution, and President Joe Biden signed a memorandum to prevent discrimination towards AAPIs. Going forward, we plan to continue virtual programs and we hope to see you in person soon!

Photos: (Above) The JACL National Board Meeting held virtually. (Below) The JACL/OCA Leadership Summit meets with three AAPI members of the House of Representatives.

For anyone of the Japanese diaspora or, let's be honest, anyone in general, visiting Japan is a life-changing experience.

Since 2014, JACL has sent 968 youth to Japan to discover their heritage and "build bridges" (the translation of kakehashi) between our countries.







In December 2019 and February 2020, we sent a delegation of 92 and 68 youth, respectively, with Japanese ancestry on the Kakehashi Project. On day one, cohorts assemble at select U.S. airports and meet their peers who will embark together to Tokyo and one other region over the next 10 days.

Sophia Eberlin loved connecting with so many Japanese Americans and Japanese university students. Benjamin Barr enjoyed the cultural activities like tea ceremony and Zazen (Buddist meditation). At the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum, David Mori discovered his family's immigration documents from almost a century ago. For Megan Matsuoka, the highlight was living as a local with her host family in rural Iwate prefecture.

On day 10, the Kakehashi delegation returns to Narita Airport and flies bavck to the United States. They are forever changed with a stronger awareness of their personal identities as Japanese Americans, and with the long-lasting bridges to the history, culture, and people of Japan. Many of them pledge to continue service to the Japanese American Community.

The Kakehashi Project is done in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) and supported by funding from the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Cheyenne Cheng Norman Y. Mineta Fellow



Matthew WeisblyDaniel K. Inouye Fellow

National Scholarship Program

The National Scholarship Program awarded 33 students with \$77,500. Awardees were highlighted in a special edition of JACL's Pacific Citizen newspaper.

Young Professionals Caucus

The Young Professionals Caucus (YPC), JACL's new affinity group for self-identifying young professionals, hosted monthly virtual community spaces while building up infrastructure for innovative programming.

National Youth/Student Council

The National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) launched a Digital Storytelling Contest and workshops such as "Addressing Anti-Black Racism in the Japanese American community."

Fellowship Program

Cheyenne Cheng was selected as the Norman Y. Mineta Fellow, and Matthew Weisbly continued as the Daniel K. Inouye Fellow.



SUPPORTING **BLACK LIVES MATTER**



In the wake of the protests around the country following the murder of George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis, the JACL made one of its strongest statements in support of the Black community and to urge Congress to pass House Resolution 40. Similar the the legislation that created a commission for Japanese American reparations, H.R. 40 would create a Congressional Commission to investigate slavery, its impact, and recommendations for reparations.

Though JACL has made many commitments to standing in solidarity with the Black community before, George Floyd's murder was an important reminder to the organization and the Japanese American community why those commitments were made in the first place. "Our Outrage for George Floyd's Murder is Not Enough "became one of our highest shared statements, reaching nearly 3,000 people on Facebook alone.

JACL's National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) took the initiative to create a program called, "Addressing Anti-Black Racism in the Japanese American Community." In collaboration with other Japanese American youth from around the country, the hour long virtual workshop featured numerous speakers and over 100 participants who took the time to educate themselves on the Black Lives Matter movement and what we can do to end systemic racism.

Our Outrage for George Floyd's Murder is Not Enough." While JACL National took necessary measures, so did local chapters and districts. The Seattle and Twin Cities JACL Chapters also hosted workshops addressing anti-Blackness in our community. In many other cities, JACL members attended socially-distanced protests, worked with local Black community organizations, and participated in the Tsuru for Solidarity.

We also hosted a fireside chat with NAACP Washington Office Director Hilary Shelton. JACL and the NAACP are longtime allies that work together in coalition for social justice. The fireside chat brought our communities together to openly discuss our future work and how our community could help the black community in the fight to end systemic racism and gain reparations.



Photo: Banner from the Tsuru for Solidarity Day of Action, where JACL Executive Director David Inoue spoke from the Black Lives Mattel PH444 Highight Alford Michigan Communication (No. 1) Physics (No. 1) Ph Post's daily highlights.

SOCIAL **JUSTICE**





Commitment to Justice

In 2020, JACL signed on to, endorsed, and sponsored over 60 statements including 4 amicus briefs and legislation from a diversity of partner organizations and offices. JACL National released 32 unique statements on topics such as anti-Asian sentiment, Black Lives Matter, JACS, COVID-19, and more.

2020 Census & GOTV

National and local chapters ensured members participated in the 2020 Census and registered to vote either in person or safely by mail.

Tsuru For Solidarity

JACL has been a partner of Tsuru for Solidarity since the group's formation. Tsuru aims to end child and family detention and separation around the country. While June's mass pilgrimage in Washington, D.C. was canceled, socially distant local protests and online programming continued.

Tech & Media

JACL joined with tech and telecom partners to bridge the digital divide. In the media, we've seen a disturbing uptick in anti-Asian sentiment due to the pandemic. We've worked with partner organizations and our tech and media ones, alike, to combat discimination and expand broadband access.



Footer: Photo: In June 2020, JACL Executive Director David Inoue spoke at Black Lives Matter Plaza in front of the White House with Washington, DC area members of Tsuru for Solidarity and 1,000 cranes (tsuru) for justice.

When we think about the critical parts of our mission that say "education" and "preserving the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community," we think about JACS. What is JACS?



BY THE NUMBERS

246

\$32,841,729

Total Projects

Awarded

\$5,158,271

23

Remaining

States





In 2006, JACL worked with bipartisan members of Congress to establish the **Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS)** grant program (Public Law 109-441, 120 Stat. 3288) for the preservation and interpretation of U.S. confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II.

The law authorized \$38 million for the entire life of the grant program to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair, and acquire historic confinement sites in order that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from these sites and that these sites will demonstrate the nation's commitment to equal justice under the law.

In 2020, the JACL and worked with Representative Doris Matsui to introduce the **Japanese American Confinement Education** (JACE) Act to replenish funding for the JACS program. The JACE Act would permanently reauthorize the JACS program within the **National Park Service (NPS)**, authorized funding for an additional \$38 million in new grants and a new, five year, \$10 million initiative for education programs. On December 1st, members called and emailed their members of Congress for JACS Advocacy Day. In the wake of our advocacy day, another 11 cosponsors to the House bill were added. We await for the JACE Act to be re-introduced in the new Congress.

Finally, in October, JACL co-hosted the first-ever **JACS Consortium Education Conference** as the national advocacy leader and group's fiscal sponsor. The full-day event showcased ongoing scholarship and community programming. With multiple community sponsors, partnering organizations, speakers, and attendees, it's the beginning of a new chapter in the teaching and education of the Japanese American incarceration experience.

Photos: (Above) President Ronald Reagan signs the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. (Middle) The JACS Consortium meets, pre-pandemic. (Below) The first-ever JACS Consortium Education Conference is co-hosted on Zoom by JACL in October.

JACS & Japanese American Legacy | 11

JAPANESE AMERICAN LEGACY



Power of Words

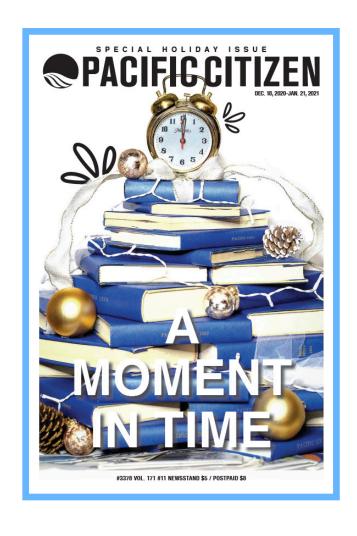
The National Education Committee updated the Power of Words, a handbook that describes government euphemisms used during World War II. Download the handbook for free at www.jacl.org/education.

Pacific Citizen

The Pacific Citizen, the JACL's national newspaper, continues its 91 st year in circulation. The special Holiday Issue's theme was "A Moment in Time" and sums up 2020's unprecedented year and the contributions of our chapters, youth, and community.

Legacy Fund Grants

The Legacy Fund Grants program awarded a total of \$31,745 in "seed" funding to eight JACL chapters' new programs. Highlights include \$5000 each to Seattle JACL's "100th Year of Activism'' and New York JACL's Yuri Kochiyama walking tour in Harlem.



TO OUR MEMBERS, DONORS, AND SPONSORS

Sponsors

















Legacy Gifts

JACL and the National JACL Planned Giving Program thank the legacy givers who included us in their plans to continue our educational and social justice programming.

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Susan Y. Matsumoto Revocable Living Trust

Estate of Shizuye Mikami

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New Life Members

Recently, we've seen a surge of members who upgrade their membership for a lifetime of support and we wanted to thank them.

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Sumitoshi & Grace Yumae Allen Zhou



TO OUR CHAPTERS AND VOLUNTEERS

JACL's impact is amplified by over 500 volunteers in 100 grassworks chapters around the country and in Japan. Thank you to our chapters, districts, committees, convention, National Youth/Student Council, Young Professionals Coucus, and all volunteers for their leadership!

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WESTERN NEVADA PACIFIC (NCWNP) DISTRICT COUNCIL

Alameda Monterey Peninsula Berkeley Placer County

Contra Costa Reno Cortez Sacramento Diablo Valley Salinas Valley Eden Township San Benito County Florin-Sacramento Valley San Francisco Fremont San Jose French Camp San Mateo Gilroy Seguoia Golden Gate Silicon Valley Honolulu Sonoma County Japan Stockton

Watsonville-Santa Cruz Lodi

Marin County West Valley

Marysville

Clovis Fowler Fresno

Livingston-Merced

Parlier Reedley Sanger **Tulare County**

INTERMOUNTAIN DISTRICT COUNCIL (IDC)

Boise Valley Fort Lupton Idaho Falls Mile High Mount Olympus Pocatello-Blackfoot Salt Lake City Snake River Valley Wasatch Front North

PACIFIC NORTHWEST (PNW) DISTRICT COUNCIL

Alaska

Gresham-Troutdale

Olympia **Portland** Puyallup Valley

Seattle Spokane

EASTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

New England New York Philadelphia Seabrook Southeast Washington DC

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST (PSW) DISTRICT COUNCIL

APAN Progressive Westside

Riverside Arizona Downtown Los Angeles San Diego

East Los Angeles San Fernando Valley Greater Los Angeles San Gabriel Valley Greater Pasadena San Luis Obispo High Desert Santa Barbara Hollywood Santa Maria Imperial Valley **SELANOCO** Las Vegas South Bay New Mexico **Torrance**

Venice-West Los Angeles Orange County

Pasadena Ventura County

MIDWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL (MDC)

Chicago Houston Cincinnati Omaha Cleveland Saint Louis Dayton Twin Cities Detroit Wisconsin

Hoosier







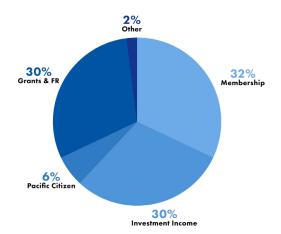
Photos: (Left) In response to canceled events, JACL Chapters around the country delivered bento lunchboxes to their senior members. [Photo Credit: Arizona JACL] (Middle) Chapters around the country safely participated in Black Lives Matter protests and Tsuru for Solidarity events. [Photo Credit: Florin JACL] (Right) The National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) hosted their retreat at JACL's San Francisco headquarters in February 2020 just before the pandemic.

FINANCIALS

Operating Revenue

	FY2020	FY2019
Membership	\$546,496	\$514,937
Investment Income Withdrawals	\$500,519	\$399,807
Pacific Citizen	\$97,592	\$152,466
Fundraising & Grants	\$510,610	\$365,646
Convention Registration		\$109,565
Other	\$31,495	\$38,539
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,686,712	\$1,580,960

2020 Revenue

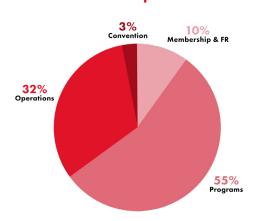


Operating Expenses

	FY2020	FY2019
Membership & Fundraising	\$158,592	\$136, <i>7</i> 23
Programs	\$8 <i>7</i> 5,311	\$802,337
Convention	\$52,589	\$243,592
Operations	\$499,493	\$553, 7 09
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,585,985	\$1,736,361

^{*}Operating revenue and expenses excludes unrealized gains or losses in investment accounts.

2020 Expenses



Assets

	FY2020	FY2019
Total current assets	\$947,121	\$369,543
Property and equipment, net	\$141,361	\$190,790
Cash and equivalents for LT	\$216,201	\$306,029
Long-term investments	\$13,641,892	\$12,402,375
TOTAL ASSETS	\$14,946,574	\$13,268,737

Liabilities

	FY2020	FY2019
Total current liabilities	\$3 <i>7</i> 4, <i>7</i> 91	\$150,020
Post-retirement benefit obligation (net)	\$276,306	\$323,953
PPP Loan	\$(127,120)	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$523,977	\$473,973

Net Assets

	FY2020	FY2019
Total unrestricted	\$2,188,11 <i>7</i>	\$1,8 <i>7</i> 5,904
Temporarily restricted	\$6,591,531	\$5,211,532
Permanently restricted	\$6,999,211	\$6,837,265
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$14,422,597	\$13,128,041
TOTAL LIAB. & NET ASSETS	\$14.946.574	\$13.268.737

ABOUT THE LEGACY FUND

After JACL's historic win for Reparations through the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, many WWII camp survivors invested portions of their reparations payments into the "Legacy Fund" to ensure that JACL's mission will endure and that history never repeats.

In addition, many long-term supporters have included JACL in their estate plans or donated to the Scholarship Endowment Fund to ensure that future generations will have educational and social justice programming. Their investments will not only carry on their legacy but also that of the Japanese American community.

For more information, please contact mbr@jacl.org or 415-921-JACL (5225).

www.jacl.org/legacy



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