



Photo from Lisa Shiosaki Olsen (5th from the right) at one of JACL's teacher training workshops visiting Minidoka internment camp in Idaho

September 2020

Dear Friend,

My name is Lisa Shiosaki Olsen. I am a sansei, daughter of a 442 veteran, military mother, teacher, and lifelong JACL member. **As an educator heading back to the classroom and JACL National Board Member, I wanted to update you on our Covid-19, social justice, and education work and ask for your charitable considerations during these unprecedented times.**

Today, we see an alarming increase in anti-Asian sentiment concerning Covid-19. Many members of our community are being verbally and physically attacked. JACL fights against these injustices and offers support to those targeted in these attacks. JACL also rebukes the use of racially charged terms like "Chinese flu" that further stigmatize the Asian community.

Education is one of our most powerful tools to create positive social change such as with JACL's teacher workshops (see photo on previous page). Through JACL, educators from all over the country learn about the Japanese American incarceration of WWII, how it relates to racial bias today, and how to incorporate it in the classroom. **This is a dynamic tool because when you educate a teacher, you educate thousands of students whose knowledge pays forward for multiple generations.**

Your gifts would help us update our curriculum guides, provide more teacher training workshops around the country, and continue fighting for social justice.

My father always reminded me to be grateful to JACL because it allowed me the chance to have an education and opportunities that others did not. During WWII, my father was denied the salutatorian award in high school due to racial prejudice. He was finally given this award in his 70's. This influenced my desire to pursue a career in education and to support Japanese and Asian American education programs like those at JACL.

We are JACL members because we believe that through education we can influence the future and create a better world for ourselves and others. Education is an integral part of our Strategic Plan because it changes perceptions and belief systems. **We ask for your generous consideration to fight for racial justice during Covid-19 and educate the public so that we can achieve complete justice for everyone.**

Sincerely,

Lisa Shiosaki Olsen
National Board Member/Intermountain District Governor
Japanese American Citizens League

P.S. We are grateful for any support during these economic times but if you would additionally – or otherwise – like information on **planned/estate giving**, please check the box in our form or contact us at (773) 816-1318 or mbr@jacl.org. Thank you and stay safe.