

## JACL BOARD MEMBERS

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Benjamin A. Kudo  
Alan Murakami  
Mark Nakashima  
Kalene Shim Sakamoto  
M. Dolly Strazar  
William Woods  
Mark Yabui

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From left to right, back row: Alan Murakami, Clayton Ikei, Marcia Sakamoto-Wong, Ioane Ho`omanawanui, David Forman, Kalene Shim Sakamoto, Micheal Murata. From left to right, front row: Garrett Toguchi, Art Koga, Karen Nakasone, Alphaonso Braggs. Missing: Rev. Wally Fukunaga, William Woods. Photograph by Susan Kitsu.

## JACL members attend January 14, 2005 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dinner/Dance

In addition to JACL's co-sponsorship of the MLK dinner and dance, our organizations was well represented by an energetic group of JACL Education & Events committee members and Directors purchased seats for a "JACL Table" to show our support for the NAACP. It is our hope that JACL members will consider attending future events involving our sister organizations, because it is clear that we must join with others as we all struggle to promote civil rights and achieve equal justice.



From left to right, back row: Education & Events Committee members Robert Imakire, Yoshie Tanabe, Ken Akinaka and Delores Glover. From left to right, front row: Roman Agaquin, "First Gentleman"; Karen Nakasone, President; Susan Kitsu, Third Vice President. Photograph by Jim Tanabe. Missing: David Forman, First Vice President.

HONOLULU CHAPTER

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Japanese American Citizens League  
JACL HAWAII, HONOLULU CHAPTER  
[www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)

JACL HAWAII

# Leading the Way!

Our Legacy, Our Future: Ensuring Diversity in America

## Day of Remembrance Commemoration to Feature Legendary Nisei Activist Yuri Kochiyama

Brian Niiya, Education & Events Committee

THE DAY OF  
REMEMBRANCE  
MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 21, 2005  
AT THE  
ARCHITECTURE  
AUDITORIUM  
AT UH MANOA  
AT 2:00 PM.

Over the past few years, the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League has joined communities across the country in organizing Day of Remembrance commemorations every February. These events note the anniversary of Executive Order 9066, issued on February 19, 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This executive order led to the mass exclusion of all Japanese Americans on the West Coast and their subsequent internment in American style concentration camps.

At these annual commemorations, we try to raise awareness about this history, which is still unknown to some or misunderstood by others. We also try to link this history with contemporary issues. Thus, recent Days of Remembrance in Honolulu have focused on the impact of the Patriot Act and hate crimes on Arab and Muslim Americans, on the plight of Japanese Latin Americans, and other related issues. As a Japanese American organization, we recognize that we have a responsibility to speak out in support of other groups that experience racial or ethnic scapegoating and violations of civil rights given our own historical experiences.

That's why we are so happy to be able to bring the legendary Nisei activist Yuri Kochiyama to Honolulu to be the keynote speaker at the 2005 Day of Remembrance. For over forty years, Yuri has championed civil rights, protested racial inequality, and supported political prisoners in the United States and throughout the world, in large part because of her own experience as a Japanese American during World War II.

She was born Mary Nakahara in San Pedro, California in 1921, a fishing community where her family operated a fish market. Self described as "provincial, religious, and apolitical," her world-and that of many of her fellow Japanese Americans-came crashing down in the aftermath of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. In the immediate aftermath of Pearl Harbor, her father was picked up and imprisoned. Later, she and the rest of her family became caught up in the mass forced removal and incarceration of all 110,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast, being imprisoned first at an "assembly center" hastily constructed on the site of the Santa Anita horse racing track, then in an American style concentration camp at Jerome, Arkansas.

Making the best of the situation, she taught school and organized a young woman's club at Jerome that corresponded with Japanese American soldiers and that organized events for their benefit. Through these activities, she met her future husband, Bill Kochiyama, a member of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team. After the war, the couple settled in New York City. Six children followed.

In 1960, the family moved to Harlem, a historically African American neighborhood in New York, in

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year JACL members!



This year, I hope to continue to build our membership base and heighten awareness in our community about JACL's mission and activities. I also hope that more of you, our JACL membership, will step up and become active participants in our organization. A few of you responded to my call to action in the last newsletter, urging the membership to become more active my joining the various committees we are trying to build up. Thank you for your positive response!

Announcements: Welcome to our newest Board member *Mark Yabui*. Congratulations to Board member *Alphonso Braggs*, who is the new elected President of the NAACP Hawai'i Chapter, and also JACL Board member *Bill Woods*, who was elected NAACP treasurer. Congratulations to our sister civil rights organization, the NAACP Hawai'i chapter, on a hugely successful Martin Luther King dinner and dance held on January 14, 2005, with a sellout 400 guests in attendance! JACL supported the MLK dinner as a co-sponsor, and all JACL members were mailed invitations to this dinner. You were also mailed invitations to a January 8th screening of Lane Nishikawa's "Only the Brave" film about the heroic contributions of Japanese Americans soldiers during World War II.

I hope that all of you will make the time to attend our annual Day of Remembrance ("DOR") event on February 21, 2005 (President's Day holiday). The purpose of the event is to remember the issuance of Executive Order 9066 during World War II, on February 19, 1942, which led to the exclusion and internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast. This year, the JACL Education and Events Committee, under the leadership of Board member and Committee chair Marcia Sakamoto-Wong, has tirelessly worked to put together an outstanding event featuring renowned activist Yuri Kochiyama. I want to recognize and thank Education Committee members *Clement Bautista*, *Brian Niiya*, *Delores Glover*, *Ken Akinaka*, *Pam Funai*, *Robert Imakire*, *Shelley Nishimura*, *Tom Nishi*, *Wendy Yamashita*, *Susan Kitsu* and *Yoshie Tanabe*, for all of their hard work in planning this event. Thank you to the many organizations and individuals who have already made financial contributions toward helping us defray the costs to put on this event. If you would like to make a contribution toward our DOR event, you may do so at the event itself, or you can mail it to the JACL Honolulu Chapter address (checks made out to JACL Honolulu Chapter with a notation that it is for the "Day of Remembrance" event).

For those members who do attend the DOR event, please stop by the Membership Table while you are there, and pick up a small gift as a token of our appreciation of your continuing support of the JACL Honolulu Chapter.

Aloha,

karen i. nakasone  
President, JACL Hawai'i, Honolulu Chapter  
Japanese American Citizens League

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### Day of Remembrance Commemoration to Feature Legendary Nisei Activist Yuri Kochiyama

became active with the Harlem Parents Committee and sent three of her children to the Harlem Freedom School. In 1963, she and her eldest son were among 600 protestors who were arrested in a demonstration for construction jobs for African Americans and Puerto Ricans. While in court, she met Malcolm X, who became a close friend. She joined Malcolm's Organization for Afro American Unity in March of 1964 and attended his liberation school. She later organized a meeting between Malcolm and Japanese atomic bomb survivors. She was with Malcolm X at the time of his assassination.

Malcolm's murder intensified Yuri's commitment to work for dignity and equality for all people. Through her tireless efforts, she has challenged long-held assumptions about race and has advocated about the struggles of people of color in the U.S. and around the world. One of her current activities is to support reparations for African Americans. She has been a strong voice for the importance of ethnic studies, workers' rights, and reparations for the Japanese-Americans incarcerated during WWII. She remains active into her 80s and now lives in the San Francisco Bay area.

Yuri is the subject of numerous books, articles and films and has inspired several generations of activists. She will be signing her autobiography *Passing It On: A Memoir*, published last year by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

In preparation for her visit, we have also arranged for a documentary on her life to be aired on 'Olelo Community Television. Yuri Kochiyama: Passion for Justice is a 57 minute profile of Yuri directed and produced by Rea Tajiri and Pat Saunders in 1993. Please watch for it in the weeks to come.

Preceding Yuri's presentation will be a short video tribute by Virgo Productions, produced by Kimberly Dominguez, Karen Samski, and Leslie Ishii. This fifteen minute documentary will introduce Yuri and her life's work.

Following her talk, there will be a response by author Saleem Ahmed. Dr. Ahmed is a native of India and former senior fellow at the East-West Center. While at the East-West Center, Ahmed worked on agricultural-environmental policy issues and is now active in promoting cross-cultural understanding. Copies of his book *Beyond Veil and Holy War: Islamic Teachings and Muslim Practices with Biblical Comparisons* (Moving Pen Publishers, Inc., 2002) will also be available for purchase.

Please join us for what should be an exciting program. The Day of Remembrance event will be held on Monday, February 21, 2004 at the Architecture Auditorium at UH Manoa at 2:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Parking on campus that day is free.

We are happy to joined by a host of co-sponsors for the event. As of press time, these co-sponsors include the American Friends Service Committee; the Hawai'i People's Fund; the Martin Luther King Coalition; McDonald's of Hawai'i; the Muslim Association of Hawai'i; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Honolulu-Hawaii Branch; the UH Manoa Ethnic Studies Department; the UH Manoa Office of Multicultural Student Services; and the United Nations Association, Hawai'i Division.

## Get Involved with the JACL!

Our **JACL Hawai'i/ Honolulu Chapter** board of directors held a retreat, before the year 2005 came to a close, which was meant to focus our efforts for 2006. A dedicated group of volunteer directors shared their ideas and expressed their commitment to the organization and to Board President *Karen Nakasone*. In addition to the public events and educational opportunities that you will be notified about throughout the year, we would like to invite any and all interested members to join our efforts by volunteering to serve on one or more of the following committees:

**Education & Events**  
MARCIA-SAKAMOTO-WONG  
*Chair*

The purpose of this committee is to inform the public about issues relating to the human and civil rights of all people, especially those who have been marginalized; and to preserve the cultural heritage and values of Japanese Americans. Currently, the committee plans and executes three major events: The Day of Remembrance (DOR) program commemorating the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII; a Fall educational event focusing on civil rights, redress of injustice, or related issues; and, the Annual General membership Meeting.

**Legal Defense & Advocacy**  
ALAN MURAKAMI &  
BILL KANEKO  
*Co-Chairs*

Monitors local legislation; coordinates the chapter's response to any pending local legislation; coordinates the chapter's response to any other pertinent national or local legislation.

**Membership**  
SUSAN KITSU  
*Chair*

Will be researching ways to include a corporate membership category for those local businesses that want to join JACL. Will pursue possible membership benefits from local companies. Goals for 2005 are to sustain current members while adding 75 new members, 20 youth members, and five corporate partners. Will partner with the Hawaii Herald to develop discount program for JACL members.

**Newsletter**  
DAVID FORMAN  
*Chair*

Prepares articles, announcements and additional items to keep the membership informed about chapter activities and issues of interest on a quarterly basis.

**Scholarship**  
GARRETT TOGUCHI  
*Interim Chair*

Publicizes, and solicits applications for, the chapter scholarships. Selects scholarship recipients, and hopes to plan an annual event to replenish the scholarship fund.

**Youth**  
SUSAN KITSU  
*Chair*

Will work with the youth base developed during the 2004 National Convention and build from there. Intends to create a presence at the law school, universities, and community colleges. Will try to develop more outreach to get youth involved.

**Diversity**  
REV. WALLACE FUKUNAGA  
*Chair*

A new initiative designed to assist in creating and maintaining an umbrella coalition of groups whose missions are similar to the JACL.

**Sister Chapter**  
GARRETT TOGUCHI  
*Interim Chair*

Intends to establish and develop a goodwill relationship with another JACL chapter, with the goal of providing mutual support and assistance.

GET INVOLVED!  
We look forward to  
hearing from you!

**Development**  
VACANT

Will focus on raising money through the Annual General Membership Meeting, board donations, general solicitation from members, and the Foodland/Sack-n-Save "Give Aloha" program. Will also work with the Scholarship Committee to raise additional funds to try to provide more scholarship aid to Emerging Leaders in our community.

If you are interested in helping any of the above committees, or know someone who might be interested, please contact the JACL via telephone at  
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