



NSRCFUND NEWSLETTER

COMMEMORATE THE PAST - EDUCATE FOR THE FUTURE

VOLUME 27

FALL 2019

2019 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FEATURED MANY FIRSTS



Photo by Bruce Maeda Photography

35 Minnesota Students Receive \$55,000

After a 12 year absence, the NSRCF scholarship awards returned to Minnesota. The awards ceremony was held at the Tapestry Restaurant in Saint Paul on April 27. This year's recipients were joined by over 100 parents, siblings, friends and guests for an afternoon of good food, celebration and well-deserved recognition.

Local scholarship committee co-chairs, Tiffany Xiong of Theater Mu and KaYing Yang of the Coalition of Asian American Leaders, were the program's MCs. They did an exceptional job throughout the

months-long process. Theirs was an enormous undertaking, successfully concluded with the aid of a dedicated committee: Abdisalam Adam, Hsajune Dyan, Kaziah Josiah, PaDer Her, Suleiman Adan, Yee Yang, Ayaan Dahir, Janet Maeda Carlson, Mee Pha, Pang Yang, Ty Hong, Hadi Mohamed, Judy Murakami, Mohamed Mohamud, See Moua-Leske and Van Hong. Additionally, 31 people volunteered to read applications. THANK YOU to everyone!

From beginning to end, this year's scholarship awards were notable for

several "firsts:" the most scholarship applications ever received (302) from the most high schools (71), with nearly 40% of the applications from Hmong students (it is estimated that the Twin Cities metro area is home to the largest Hmong community in the U.S.). Even the awards ceremony venue was notable – the restaurant opened when the Hmong American Partnership received a grant to provide jobs to the refugee and immigrant Hmong community.

Perhaps the most significant "first" was the decision by NSRCF's

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2019 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS *cont'd*

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board of directors to earmark \$5,000 specifically for Somali students. The Twin Cities is also home to the largest Somali community in the U.S. As Japanese American former incarcerated, the children and grandchildren of immigrants and former incarcerated, and Southeast Asian refugees, the board's decision was an intentional act of solidarity with a group of people singled out for their ethnicity, religion, and "otherness." In the wake of the U.S. government's "Muslim ban" (and more recently, the president's targeting of four Congresswomen, in particular Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota's 5th Cong. District encompassing Minneapolis) the board felt that awarding scholarships to Somali students was a tangible and positive expression of support.

A large group of NSRCF board members and supporters traveled from the local area and across the eastern U.S. to be part of the awards ceremony. Prior to the program, attendees were treated to delicious food provided by the restaurant which set a celebratory mood. The ceremony began with a welcome from Ikram Koliso from the City of Saint Paul's Office of Financial Empowerment. As a Muslim woman and first generation college graduate, she reminded everyone, "We all do better when we all do better." Ikram was followed by the NSRCF video and president Paul Watanabe who spoke passionately about the Fund, the importance of education, and the board's decision to include awards to Somali students. Van Hong, a



Photo by Bruce Maeda Photography

former recipient spoke about how the NSRCF scholarship he received in 2007 helped him go to school, graduate, and set him on his career path. [Excerpts of Van's speech are in the newsletter.] He was followed by the committee's choice for student speaker, Ba Blu Htoo, the Dr. Kenji Murase Scholar. She is Karen, born in a refugee camp in Thailand and came to the US in 2011 at age 10. [Excerpts of Ba Blu's speech are in the newsletter.]

The presentation of the scholarship awards began with the 15 general scholarship awardees. Committee members, Abdisalam Adam, Assistant Principal and Somali Cultural Specialist at Saint Paul's Highland Park Senior High School, presented \$1,000 awards to five Somali students, and Mee Pha, who designed the ceremony program booklet, presented \$1000 awards to ten Southeast Asian students.

Several guests affiliated with some of the 20 Named Scholarships presented the \$2000 awards in person. Board member Kesaya Noda presented her parents, Lafayette and Mayme Noda's scholarship and the Audrey Logan scholarship; board

member Laura Misumi presented her grandparents, Nobu and Yosh Hibino's scholarship; Lisa Takagi presented her father, David Mitsuo Takagi's scholarship; board member, Jean Hibino presented the Shim and Chiyo Hiraoka scholarship on behalf of the family; Ken Kumekawa presented his father, Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa's scholarship; Mead Stone presented his stepmother, Gladys Ishida Stone's scholarship; and last but not least, in presenting his late wife, Alice Abe Matsumoto's scholarship, 98-year-old Nisei and former incarcerated, Yoshio Matsumoto spoke from personal experience with heartfelt passion and encouragement.

Special recognition is also given to the Twin Cities Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JAACL), Kevin Duong, Theater Mu, Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL), Tapestry Restaurant, Bruce Maeda of Bruce Maeda Photography, and the U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota for the use of their display panels entitled "Japanese Incarceration in WWII."

Congratulations to the Class of 2019!

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD

Dear NSRCF supporters and friends,

The Fund celebrated its 39th year by recognizing 35 outstanding high school seniors from across Minnesota at an awards ceremony in Saint Paul on April 27. The board was grateful to be able to work with the co-chairs of the local scholarship awards committee, **Tiffany Xiong** and **KaYing Yang**. Guided by their expertise, and with an outstanding committee, the Fund received the largest number of applicants from the largest number of high schools ever, enabling the awarding of \$55,000. **Thank you** to all the great people who worked so long and hard to make it possible.

The board of directors remains an all-volunteer group committed to keeping operating costs to a minimum so that gifts to the Fund go primarily towards scholarships. (The NSRCF's financial statement is made available upon written request.) As of July 31, 2019 the Fund crossed the \$2 million mark for the first time. It was decided at the March, 2019 board meeting that beginning in 2020, \$55,000 will be made available for scholarships with an additional match of up to \$5,000 for any locally raised

Photos by Bruce Maeda Photography



funds. It is hoped that the potential to assist even more students will aid in local fundraising efforts.

This year's appeal letter is contributed by treasurer, **Stephen Hibino**, and the Fund's newest board member, who also happens to be Steve's wife, **Elizabeth Hibino**. Welcome Liz! The board looks forward to a continuing and necessary generational shift bringing new ideas, fresh perspectives, and a double shot of energy.

2020 will be the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the NSRCF. What better way to celebrate than in Seattle, the third time the Fund has been to the Emerald City. A local committee has been organized and includes several members from the 2011 scholarship project. Board member, **Islanda Khau Naughton**, also a member of the 2011 committee, has agreed to be the point person. We look forward to another successful endeavor.

SPECIAL THANKS to **Don Misumi** of San Francisco, CA for helping put the newsletter together so Islanda can focus on the 2020 scholarship awards.

And last but not least, thank you to the Fund's supporters. In awarding scholarships every year we re-commit to reach underserved communities while making sure our story is not forgotten. "Never Again is Now" resonates deeply in the Japanese American community. When racism, white



nationalism, scapegoating, "Go back to where you came from," and the absence of political leadership are allowed to drive national policy, we know what happens. Our families lived it, experienced it, suffered from it. But they also fought against it. The Fund's motto - "Commemorate the Past - Educate for the Future" will continue to be both guiding and transformative.

Our sense of "ongaeshi" (repaying a kindness) is strong, but our ability to do so depends on your support. With appreciation,

NSRCF Board of Directors
Paul Watanabe, *President*
Stephen Y. Hibino, *Treasurer*
Jean Y. Hibino, *Executive Secretary*
Kesaya E. Noda, *Recording Secretary*
Elizabeth Sequenzia Hibino
Islanda Khau Naughton
Yutaka Kobayashi, *Awards*

Committee National Liaison
James McIlwain
Laura H. Misumi
Keith Schuricht
May O. Takayanagi
Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy



NOTE FROM FORMER RECIPIENT, KY GIA PHAM

Since receiving the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund Scholarship in 2015, I graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Sociology with minors in Asian American Studies and Education Studies. My educational journey was not easy. Being a first-generation college student from a low-income Chinese and Vietnamese background, I had to navigate the education system alone. Luckily, I found an amazing support system in college, and I highly encourage anyone entering college to find their support systems! My involvement with the UCLA Academic Advancement Program and Early Academic Outreach Program allowed me to pursue my passion for promoting higher education among underrepresented

and underserved communities. In addition to that, I was able to do research on emotional wellness in first-generation Southeast Asian undergraduates. This project was something that was close to my heart, and I am so grateful to have found and provided information for practitioners on how to strategize on providing opportunities to better students' experience on college campuses.

I am currently in the master's program for Higher Education and Student Affairs at New York University. I want to continue my life journey in providing, studying, researching, and developing a plan to pave the way for equitable education. Without a doubt, higher education is where I am meant to be.

[Ed note: We love to hear how former recipients are doing. Gia attended Oakland (CA) High School and was the NSRCF Kaizo and Shizue Naka Scholar in 2015. Gia says she enjoys connecting with other students. Email her at info@nsrcfund.org]

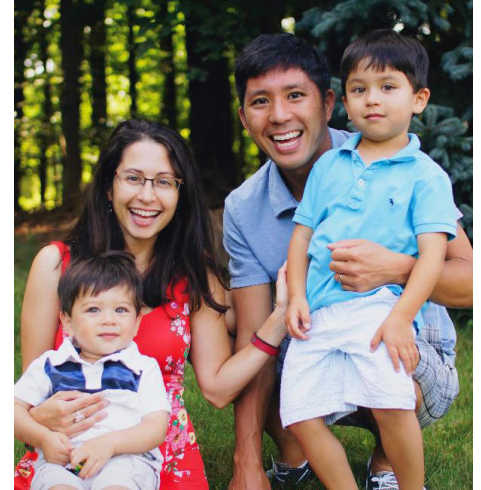
Keeping the NSRCF Flame Lit

Newest NSRCF board member, Elizabeth Hibino, and her husband Stephen, NSRCF's treasurer, co-wrote this year's appeal letter. They currently reside in Portland, Connecticut with their two boys, figuratively keeping the NSRCF flame lit. WELCOME LIZ!

Steve made the commitment to help the Fund 12 years ago, providing financial management and oversight, as well as in his role as ex-officio member of the Investment Committee. He continues to follow in his grandparents, Nobu and Yosh Hibino's footsteps, carrying on in the spirit of "ongaeshi" – repaying a kindness by paying it forward. His job as manager at Bank of America keeps him busy but he spends his down time having fun with his kids, and playing or watching sports, in particular running races and cheering on teams from his native

Massachusetts. He also volunteers with several community events and loves to travel with family.

Liz grew up in Portland, CT and joined the NSRCF board of directors in July, 2019. She has a Master's in Social Work and has worked as an advocate and therapist for children and families affected by domestic violence. She currently is a stay-at-home mom. She also offers workshops for parents of young children, and co-facilitates a support group for immigrant women in nearby Middletown, CT. She says she has felt unofficially a part of the Fund



for a long time through Steve but is eager to now be a full member of the board. "I have always been interested in learning about other cultures and have felt strongly about the immense value of diversity in our country. In today's political environment, it is even more important to support our immigrant families and first generation students."

2019 NSRCF NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

GLADYS ISHIDA STONE SCHOLARSHIP

Mai Nhia Chang, Patrick Henry HS, Minneapolis



Mai was an Honor Roll student active in the Asian Cultural Club, Leos in Action, Girl Scouts, and

College Possible. Her two dreams are to become a Certified Nursing Assistant and a social worker. As a Hmong American, she understands how difficult it can be to find the right help. "I hope I can make an impact on children, helping them know that there are people out there in the world who are willing to help them out and that no matter how long the way is, that we are always there for them." Mai is attending the University of Minnesota.

HISAYE HAMAOKA SCHOLARSHIP

Nhia Chang, Patrick Henry HS, Minneapolis



Nhia proudly achieved straight As in high school, was active in Leos in Action, Senior Committee, College Possible,

Link Crew, debate team, and Asian Culture Club. He also was a math tutor. Nhia aspires to become a dental hygienist, "As a member of the Hmong community, those that may not know English, I wish to use my native language to help them

understand the significance of oral hygiene and its importance and connection to the overall body." Nhia will be attending the University of Minnesota.

ALICE ABE MATSUMOTO SCHOLARSHIP

Christina Hang, Robbinsdale Cooper HS, New Hope



As the daughter of refugee parents, Christina found time to focus not only on her studies, making Honor

Roll, but played badminton, was accepted into College Possible, and volunteers at a hospital. She says, "I want to be a role model to my siblings, do what is best for my family, and maintain good grades in school so I can grow to be a successful contributor to my Hmong Minnesota community." Christina dedicated many hours to pass her Certified Nursing Assistant exam, the first step to achieving her dream of becoming a Registered Nurse. She is attending St. Catherine University, Saint Paul.

KOH, MITSU, AND DR. KOTARO MURAI SCHOLARSHIP

Wesley Luu Ho, Burnsville HS



Wesley maintained straight As, was active in National Honor Society, weightlifting team, Science

Bowl, and marching band/pit

orchestra/pep band. He plans to major in mechanical engineering. "Currently in the Vietnamese community, I feel that not enough children are getting the support to understand the applications of engineering and how subjects like math, physics, and chemistry all pertain to the field of engineering. I see myself joining an organization to increase involvement in these areas and allow young children to feel the enjoyment of going hands on and building something of their own." Wesley is attending the University of Minnesota.

KAY YAMASHITA SCHOLARSHIP

Htee Law Hsu, Hmong College Prep Academy, St. Paul



At age 5 Htee's family fled Myanmar and she spent the next 12 years in a refugee camp in Thailand before

arriving in the U.S. in 2015. As the oldest in her family, Htee not only kept up her studies but helped take care of her siblings. Htee is active in her church youth group, plays piano, and works part time. She is the first in her family to go to college and plans to pursue a degree in nursing. She wants to make her parents proud and pave the way for her siblings to follow. Htee is attending Saint Paul College.

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2019 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd*

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DR. KENJI MURASE SCHOLARSHIP

Ba Blu Htoo, Roseville Area HS •



Ba Blu's family fled Myanmar and she was born in a Thai refugee camp, coming to Minnesota in 2011 at age 10.

She excelled in high school, National Honor Society, Honor Roll, certified AVID tutor, Badminton Club, and Asian Cultural Show. She is also active in church, Girl Scouts (Asian Women Circle), volunteering at a nursing home, and as a volunteer and paid tutor. From her own personal experiences, Ba Blu became passionately interested in psychology, and sees it as a way to also help her Karen elders. Ba Blu is attending the University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul.

MICHIHIKO AND BERNICE HAYASHIDA SCHOLARSHIP

Tejlim Lee, Patrick Henry HS,
Minneapolis



Tejlim's parents are from Laos and came to the U.S. via a Thai refugee camp. She was born and raised in

the United States and grew up in a household that strongly believes in the Hmong tradition and customs. She says, "With education, I believe that I will be able to achieve this dream of becoming my own person within my culture." Tejlim balanced a rigorous course load, work and family commitments, while participating in Upward Bound, World Refugee Day,

Second Harvest, Hmong New Year's, and summers with the Regional Center for Math and Science. She is pursuing mental health care, art, and astronomy at Northeastern University in Boston.

KAIZO AND SHIZUE NAKA SCHOLARSHIP

Gaohoua Candace Moua, Brooklyn
Center HS

Gaohoua knows that hard work yields good results, making the



Honor Roll and National Honor Society. She wholeheartedly participated in an afterschool leadership

internship called Expect Respect, was in Treble Choir, volunteered on the Health & Wellness Fair, and at an assisted living facility. She worked on a local political campaign in her Hmong community, and helped her mother, who teaches the Hmong language, with parent meetings, cooking sessions, reading sessions, and guest speakers. Gaohoua is attending the University of Minnesota to pursue her interest in psychology and health science.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP

Khoa Viet Nguyen, Saint Paul
Central HS



Khoa's family arrived in the U.S. in 2002. He made Honor Roll, was a member of National Honor Society, and

recognized for High Achievement in Chemistry, Latin and AP U.S. History. He served on Senior Class Council, and was active in French Club, College Possible, Gender Sexuality Alliance, and volunteered at the Science Museum and Saint Paul's Public Parks. Khoa strives to be a leader and role model in his Vietnamese community, keeping its culture and heritage alive. Khoa is planning to pursue a pharmacy degree while attending the University of Minnesota.

YUTAKA AND MAUREEN KOBAYASHI SCHOLARSHIP

Molly Lee Nhean, Centennial HS,
Circle Pines



Molly says, "I plan to continue my work with advocacy groups and share my story publically in hopes of bringing

awareness as well as inspiration to those impacted by domestic violence." She was recognized as Student of the Month, was a Cheer Team captain, played flute in the band, and was active in Peer Leadership. She volunteered at a women's shelter, the More than Pink Program for young girls, and was a Miss Lino Lakes Ambassador encouraging young women to become leaders. This summer she visited her family's hometown in Cambodia to donate school books, clothes, and supplies. Molly is attending Minnesota State University to pursue a career in social work.

2019 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd*

HIROKO FUJITA AND PAUL FUKAMI SCHOLARSHIP

Jerry Sirisavath, Columbia Heights HS

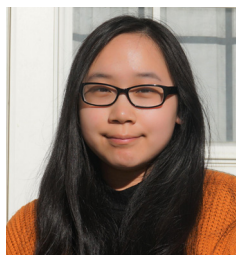


Jerry's family is from Laos, arriving in the U.S. via Thailand in the mid-1970s. He says, "My plan is to give

back to the community I grew up with, North Minneapolis, and the Asian American community." In high school Jerry earned high grades, made the Honor Roll, received an award from National Honor Society; was active in Robotics, Anime Club, played baseball and worked to help his family. Jerry is the first in this family to pursue higher education and he wants to make his family proud. Jerry is attending St. Cloud State University planning to become a software engineer.

LAFAYETTE AND MAYME NODA SCHOLARSHIP

Katherine Zoosiab Thao, White Bear Lake Area HS South Campus



Katherine's family is from Laos. She is the oldest of seven. It is important to her to represent her Hmong

people proudly to the public, to inspire and be a role model to the younger Hmong generation, and to give back to the community. She consistently received high grades throughout high school and the list of her awards, extracurricular activities, volunteer work and accomplishments

is impressive. Her interests range from music to art to social justice. She is attending Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Paul, planning to major in biology with a pre-med track.

AUDREY LOGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Mai Soua Vang, Central HS, Saint Paul



Mai is Hmong, her family is from Laos, arriving in the U.S. via Thailand in 2004. She is one of eight

children. She made the Honor Roll throughout high school and received several scholastic awards. Mai was president of Student Council and active in College Possible, Let's Be Ladies, Student Engagement Advancement Board and Asian American Organizing Project. She also worked part time and took classes at Saint Paul College. She is interested in International Studies. Mai is attending the College of Saint Benedict & Saint John's University in Collegeville.

DAVID MITSUO TAKAGI SCHOLARSHIP*

Olivia Leah Thao, Harding HS, Saint Paul



"I want to be able to fulfill my desire of becoming a doctor and being educated as a first generation college student."

Olivia's family came to the U.S. from Thailand and settled in Minnesota

where she was born and raised. She made the Honor Roll, was a member of the National Honor Society, Upward Bound, softball team, and Korean Club. She also volunteered in many activities in her Hmong community. Her interest in pediatrics stems from taking care of her siblings and younger relatives. Olivia is attending the University of Minnesota.

* Under the terms of another scholarship Olivia received, she was precluded from receiving the financial award accompanying this well-deserved recognition.

TAMA (YOSHIMURA) AND JIRO ISHIHARA SCHOLARSHIP

Chayeng Maximillian Vue, John A. Johnson Sr. HS, Saint Paul



Chayeng's maternal grandfather was a refugee from the Vietnam War, fleeing Laos and risking his life to

bring Chayeng's mother to the U.S. "My mom worked hard against all odds and cultural pressures for her to perform traditional Hmong female expectations so that she could go to college." Chayeng was active in Govie, a program that began as a student walkout in support of the Ferguson, Missouri protestors in 2015. The program continues to develop student leaders. Chayeng also volunteered at Inner City Tennis on Saturdays. He is interested in visual arts. He will be attending the University of Minnesota, the first son in his family to go to college.

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2019 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd*

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SHIM AND CHIYO HIRAOKA SCHOLARSHIP

Aye Aye Win, Como Park HS, Saint Paul



Paul
Aye Aye's family is Karen from Myanmar, coming to the U.S. via Thailand in 2012. Starting

from a young age she had to take on more and more complex family responsibilities yet she remained focused on her studies. She made Honor Roll, was in Upward Bound, Big Brother Big Sister, Girl Scouts, and the App Club. She worked part time to help her family. She is determined to get a college education with a degree in social work, "I plan to volunteer with Karen Organization of Minnesota to help people learn about the resources available to them and teach them how to live in a new country." She is attending Metropolitan State University, Saint Paul.

MICHI NISHIURA WEGLYN SCHOLARSHIP



MongZong Xiong, Roseville Area HS
MongZong's parents escaped war in Laos and came to the U.S. via a refugee

camp. He and his seven siblings are first generation Hmong Americans, growing up in a household valuing education. He worked hard to maintain high grades, received an Academic Award, was active in the

AVID program, Hmong Club, played varsity tennis and the viola in the symphony orchestra, worked on local political campaigns, and interned at the Youth Right Track Program. In college MongZong plans to pursue his interest in science and medicine. He is attending Augsburg University in Minneapolis.

RYOZO GLENN KUMEKAWA SCHOLARSHIP

Nalee Xiong, North Senior HS, Saint Paul



Paul
"Listening to my elders' marvel about escape stories, and watching my parents create

a life in America taught and gifted me unique aspects and qualities that make up who I am, my identity." Nalee's family fled Laos and arrived in the U.S. in 1988, impressing upon her a strong study and work ethic. She received an Academic Letter, was a member of the National Honor Society, volunteered with Relay for Life and the Salvation Army Hmong Outreach Program, and is active in her church. Nalee plans to pursue a career in education or the medical field. She is attending Century College in White Bear Lake, MN.

COLONEL JOSEPH Y. KURATA SCHOLARSHIP

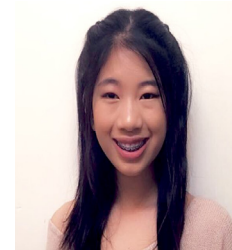
Soumina Yang, John A. Johnson Sr. HS, Saint Paul

Soumina wishes to follow in her late father's footsteps to go to college. "I want to be able to continue my education and show my family that

although we did not have much growing up, it is not where you come from but it is truly where we go from here." She made Honor Roll, was a member of the National Honor Society, 2018 Cadet of the Year in AFJROTC, received the Sojourners and DAR awards, was active in Youth in Government and the YMCA. Soumina is passionate about improving mental health literacy in her Hmong community and she is inspired by her parents and continuing their legacy of working hard. She plans to pursue a career in health care in spring, 2020.

NOBU (KUMEKAWA) AND YOSH HIBINO SCHOLARSHIP

Pahoua Xiong, Coon Rapids HS



Pahoua's family fled Laos and came to Minnesota in 2004 from a Thai refugee camp where she was

born. She is one of seven children and has responsibilities for her younger siblings. Pahoua made High Honor Roll, was on Student Council, and a member of the National Honor Society. She was active in Upward Bound, College Possible, Educators Rising, TRIO, track, and worked to help her family. While firmly grounded in her Hmong culture, she is interested in learning about other cultures. She aspires to teach English abroad. Pahoua is attending the University of Minnesota.



Photos by Bruce Maeda Photography

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 NSRCF GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Amira Mustafa Abukar, South HS, Minneapolis
Augsburg University, Minneapolis

Abdifitah Habiib Farah, South HS, Minneapolis
Augsburg University, Minneapolis

Ne Gay, Marshall HS
Ridgewater College, Willman (MN) Campus

Ayan Abdirahman Hashi
Metro Schools College Prep, Minneapolis
Saint Paul College

Kwe Knyaw, Leap HS, Saint Paul
Augsburg University, Minneapolis

Hannah Hai Lam, Burnsville HS
St. Catherine University, Saint Paul

Mu Kpru Law, Harding HS, Saint Paul
Concordia University, Saint Paul

Korina Lee
Community of Peace Academy, Saint Paul
University of Minnesota

Faiza Adbillahi Mah, Columbia Heights HS
Dougherty Family College
University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul

Mohamed Abukar Mohamed, Columbia Heights HS,
Dougherty Family College,
University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul

Nang Ya Moan Oo, Humboldt HS, Saint Paul
University of Southern California, Los Angeles

Marry Tha Dar Soe, Humboldt HS, Saint Paul
Metropolitan State University, Saint Paul

Pachia Thao, Champlin Park HS
St. Cloud State University

Kobe Bloing Tran, Coon Rapids HS
College of Saint Benedict & Saint John's University,
Collegeville, MN

Pang Houa Yang, Humboldt HS, Saint Paul
Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN



“EDUCATION GAVE ME LIBERATION”

everyone who is involved in making this possible. It is truly an honor to be able to speak in front of so many amazing and inspiring people.

Although I am not exactly an expert in the history behind the scholarships, I have read many stories regarding the people involved in the emergence of this program. I especially resonate with it because as a child, I also grew up surrounded by guards and fences. My parents went through countless struggles, running from the war, immigrating to the United States, giving us the opportunity that they themselves didn't receive.

One of the most important gifts I have received from my parents is education. Education gave me liberation, something that

a lot of people in my community are deprived of. I am extremely thankful to have received the Dr. Kenji Murase Scholarship. This will allow me to take a step closer to my goals. My goal of being able to attend and earn a college degree. My goal of studying a subject I love. And my goal of giving back to my community. For I had so much, while many of them didn't.

Which is why these scholarships are so special. It has a remarkable history and because of the contributions that were made by these amazing people, it will allow for the next generation to create phenomenal stories as well. On behalf of my fellow 2019 scholarship recipients, thank you! And congratulations everyone!

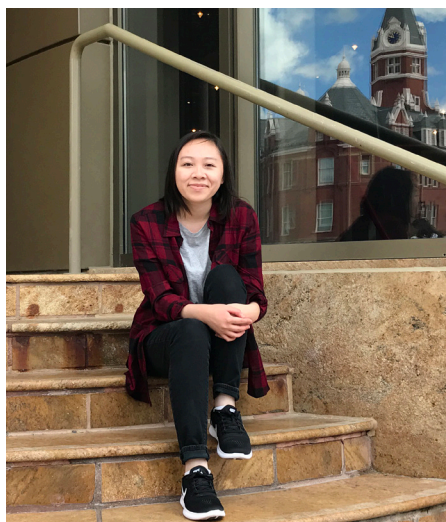
[Ed. note: Ba Blu Htoo was chosen to be the student speaker at this year's scholarship awards ceremony. She is Karen, born in a Thai refugee camp after her family fled Myanmar, coming to Minnesota in 2011 at age 10. She is attending the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul.]

Hi, my name is Ba Blu Htoo. I am currently a senior at Roseville Area High School. First and foremost, I would like to say thank you to the benefactors, organizers, and

NOTE FROM FORMER RECIPIENT, KAE SAETEURN

[Ed. note: Kae Saeteurn received an NSRC Fund scholarship in 2011 in the Greater Seattle area. Kae is Mien, one of seven children, whose parents were refugees from Laos. Kae wrote in 2011 that she sees herself “as a role model for younger generations of Mien children.” We are thrilled that she is volunteering with the 2020 Seattle scholarship program.]

It's crazy to think that it's been over eight years since I applied for and received an NSRC Fund scholarship. I don't remember too much about the application process or ceremony, but I do remember feeling very humbled



and excited to have been one of the many scholarship recipients. With the NSRC Fund's support, I was more prepared to begin my

undergraduate journey.

Since 2011 I graduated with a B.A. in 2015 from the University of Washington (UW), double majoring in Communication and American Ethnic Studies. Throughout undergrad, I worked as a student assistant supporting advancement and fundraising efforts for one of the colleges on campus. Eventually I landed my first full-time gig at a local nonprofit helping in underserved communities, where I also worked in the advancement team. I worked there while simultaneously pursuing a master's degree

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in Communication at the UW. I received my master's in June 2018, and landed a new gig at UW a few months later, continuing along my advancement path once more.

Aside from school and work, I've been doing a bit of traveling! I've visited Toronto, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Phoenix. Experiencing what each city has to offer has truly been rewarding, and I hope to continue my travels by going abroad.

With all of that said, I've come to

really value community involvement, advancement work, and traveling.

From supporting my professor with community events during undergrad to working for a nonprofit that supports local underserved communities, it means a lot to me to see community members coming together and collaborating. As for advancement, I better understand and appreciate the impact of funds and scholarships, and the power of philanthropic work overall. Lastly, traveling has been enriching by allowing me to experience the

lifestyles and cultures of various cities.

I've learned and experienced a lot since being an NSRC Fund scholarship recipient in 2011. I'm still very much grateful for the support provided by the scholarship toward my academic pursuits. NSRC Fund's commitment to providing scholarships to students from underserved communities continues to be something I'm grateful for as well, and I'm excited for the fund to award Seattle-area students once again for its 40th anniversary!

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE NSRCF

The Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund needs your support. Donations are the life blood of our scholarship program and allow us to support deserving students as they move from secondary school into higher education. There are several ways to "lend a helping hand." Contributions may be made to a specific Tribute, Legacy or Named Scholarship fund, or to the General Fund, by using the form below. Donations of appreciated stock can provide significant tax advantages. Designating a charitable donation in your will enables support for the causes that were important to you during your lifetime. Donors are recognized in our annual newsletter. Contact us by mail or email if you would like further information about giving.



NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.

19 Scenic Drive, Portland, Connecticut 06480

info@nsrcfund.org • www.nsrcfund.org • FEIN 06-1021906

Enclosed is a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

To an existing Tribute, Legacy or Named Scholarship Fund called:

To the General Fund

(Please make check payable to NSRC Fund or **PayPal at www.nsrcfund.org**)

Tell me how to establish a Tribute, Legacy and Named Scholarship Fund.

Tell me how to donate appreciated stock.

Please email the annual newsletter to: _____

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

NSRCF NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS, LEGACY AND TRIBUTE FUNDS

The Nisei Student Relocation Commemoration Fund's annual awards are made possible by contributions from individuals and organizations. Named Scholarships, Legacy Funds and Tribute Funds enable anyone, including organizations, to honor, commemorate or pay tribute to individuals, groups or events. If you would like information about establishing a Named Scholarship Fund (minimum \$20,000), a Legacy Fund (minimum \$10,000) or a Tribute Fund (minimum \$2,000), please contact the NSRCF: 19 Scenic Drive, Portland, CT 06480.

The following funds have been established, and are designated by who created them, * and (). The Board of Directors is grateful for the generous support these funds have received, as noted, during the period from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

American Friends Service Committee*

Judy Nakadegawa

Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami (Joyce M. Fukami)

Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida*

Frances Hayashida

Susan Hayashida

Jean Hibino in memory of Mich Hayashida

Nobu (Kumekawa) and Yosh Hibino (Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida, family and friends)

Stephen & Karen Fugita

Frances Hayashida

Michihiko & Bernice Hayashida

June Hibino

Shirley Hibino

Elizabeth & Stephen Hibino

Cathy Inamasu

Nancy & John Kennedy

Barbara & Gary Kitagawa

Jim & Toby Kubota

Yoshio Matsumoto

Marisa Rivero & Michael McNulty

Lorraine & Forrest Minor

Laura H. Misumi

Michi & Mae Nakajima

Karen & Rick Okabe

Sofia Sequenzia & John Shostrom

Diane Hibino & John Triplett

Shim and Chiyo Hiraoka

(Ann Graybill Cook and

Michael Hoshiko)

Tama (Yoshimura) and Jiro Ishihara

(Jiro Ishihara, NSRCF board of directors, family and friends)

Louise M. Sullivan

Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi (Maureen Kobayashi)

John Dubeck & Susan Hotine

Walter Zydlewski

Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa

(Joanne K. Kumekawa, family and friends)

In honor of and in memory of Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa:

Mrs. Setsu Asahi

Kesaya Noda & Christopher Dye

Wallace Kido

Masataka & Emiko Konishi

Mrs. Kayo Kumekawa

Mrs. Yoko Masuda

Mrs. Atsuko Morizaki

Noriko & Takamasa Sakurai

Patty & Prentice Stout

Barbara Takagi

Margie Yamamoto & Mark Hopkins

Nobuko Yamasaki

Mrs. Fumiko Yonezawa

Colonel Joseph Y. Kurata

(Col. Joseph Y. Kurata)

Audrey Logan

(Kesaya Noda)

Stephen & Donna Beaupré

Tuyet Bach Dang

Kay Nishiyama & David Noda

Alice Abe Matsumoto

(Family and friends)

Hannah Tani Hogan

Yoshio Matsumoto

Michi & Mae Nakajima

Steven Matsumoto

Patricia Tanaka

Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki (Akio Mochizuki)

Tara Mochizuki & Jeffrey Chu

Akio Mochizuki

Misao Inaba, in honor of Akio Mochizuki

Harley & Judy Inaba

Lynne Ishikawa

Keith & Priscilla Kojimoto

Sharon Kotabe, in honor of Akio Mochizuki

Koh, Mitsu, and Dr. Kotaro Murai (The Murai Family)

James O. Wilkes

Dr. Kenji Murase (Family and friends)

Kaizo and Shizue Naka (F. Robert and Patricia Naka)

Lafayette and Mayme Noda (Walter N. Frank)

Eldora Adachi

Tuyet Bach Dang

Noreen Enkoji

Evelyn Glenn

Joan Longcope

Kay Nishiyama & David Noda

Tanya Noda & Harvey Yan

Gladys Ishida Stone
(Gladys Ishida Stone)
Hannah Tani Hogan
George & Judy Murakami

David Mitsuo Takagi
(NSRCF board of directors,
family and friends)
Deborah & Bill Handschin
Martha W. Lentz
Mary E. Takagi
Miye Takagi

Michi Nishiura Weglyn*

Kay Yamashita
(Yutaka Kobayashi)
Neil Dion & Jennifer Gladden
Mr. & Mrs. Kenji Tomita
Mary Uyeki
Tad & Fran Wada

LEGACY FUNDS

Thomas R. Bodine*
Warren Uchimoto

Woody and Betty Emlen*
Warren Uchimoto

Joseph R. Goodman
(Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa)
Jane Beckwith

Suezo and Kikuyo Hayashida
(Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida)
Frances Hayashida
Michihiko & Bernice Hayashida

Julius Ishida
(Calvin Ishida)
Calvin Ishida

Dr. Chosaburo Kato
(Kane and Rose Senda)

Fred Kishi
(Susan M. Kishi)
Kimiko Kishi
Ruth Ann Kishi & Michael Woodring

Harutoyo and Haru Kobayashi
(Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi)

Livingston Yamato Colony Pioneers
(Lafayette and Mayme Noda)

Eleanor and Emil Sekerak
(Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida)
Frances Hayashida
Michihiko & Bernice Hayashida

**Hikokuma and Koyoshi
Shigeno Memorial**
(Ted K. Shigeno, Agnes Miyakawa,
Rosie Tani, and Florence Kawagoe)

Bobby and Lily Takatsuka
(Bobby and Lily Takatsuka)
Bobby and Lily Takatsuka

Trudy King Toll*
Warren Uchimoto

TRIBUTE FUNDS

David Aman
(Lafayette and Mayme Noda)

Ann Graybill Cook*

Monroe E. Deutsch*

Kei Enomoto (Jiro J. Enomoto)

Emi Kimura Fujii
(Midori Fujii and Sono Fujii)
Sono Fujii & Claudio Katz

Yasuko Fujita
(Joyce M. Fukami)

Junzo and Ito Hibino
(Yosh and Nobu Hibino)

Gordon Hirabayashi
(Elizabeth Muench and Bruce Hawkins)
Bruce Hawkins
Elizabeth Muench

Tom Imagawa Memorial Fund
(Mrs. Tom Imagawa and Family)

James Zenichi Imamoto
(Grace Imamoto Noda)

**Frank and Hisako Ishikawa
Family** (Michi I. Tashjian)

The Issei Generation
(Lillian Ota Dotson)

Elinor Umezawa Kajiwara
(Elinor U. Kajiwara)

Jin and Kay Kinoshita
(Jin and Kay Kinoshita)

Yuri and William Kochiyama
(Michi and Walter Weglyn)

Haru and Keiroku Kumekawa
(Nobu and Yosh Hibino)

Denji Dan Kuniyoshi
(Anna Kuniyoshi)
Anna Kuniyoshi

**Judge William M. and
Victoria Marutani**
(David K. Nitta)

Susan T. Matsumoto
(Alice and Yo Matsumoto)
Steven Matsumoto
Yoshio Matsumoto

Nobu Miyoshi
(Yoshiko and Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa)

Takashi and Yuri Moriuchi*

Naka Endowment
(Fumio Robert Naka)

John W. Nason*
(Yoshiko and Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa)
Warren Uchimoto

Dr. Lee Lowry Neilan
(Yoshiko and Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa)

Prof. Mabel M. Nemoto
(Atsuko Hirai)

Masamoto and Kimi Nishimura
(Rhoda Nishimura Iyoya,
Dwight Nishimura, Joseph
Nishimura, Jonathan Nishimura)

continued on next page

Shichiro and Sachi Noda
(Lafayette and Mayme Noda)

Sekizo and Kinuko Nomura
(Mary S. Ozamoto)

Chiura & Haruko Obata
(Eugene Kodani)

Bob O'Brien
(Mrs. Chihiro Kikuchi)
Amy Mass

Fumi Yokoyama Ono
(Janice Ono, Frank Ono, R. Dana Ono)

Takako Tanioka Paul
(Anna Kuniyoshi)

Madeleine Haas
Russell/Columbia Foundation
(Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa)

Margaret Cosgrave Sowers*

Bill Stevenson*

Taichi and Sachiye Takagi
(David and Barbara, and Mary Elizabeth Takagi)
Miye Takagi, in honor of Mary Elizabeth Takagi

Charles William Tanioka
(Anna Kuniyoshi)
Anna Kuniyoshi

UC Berkeley Student YWCA
(Mary Yamashiro Otani)

Yoshiko Uchida
(Virginia Scardigli)

Paul R. Wada
(Yasuko and Yukio Wada)
Yasuko Wada

Yukio Wada
(Yasuko Wada and Family)
Yasuko Wada

Michi N. and Walter Weglyn
(Robert H. and Agnes Suzuki, Lafayette and Mayme Noda, and Nobu Hibino)

Mabel Sheldon Williams*
Frances Ogasawara

Reiko Azumano Yasui
(George I. Azumano)
Homer & Miyuki Yasui
Rachel Yasui

* The NSRCF Board of Directors established these and the following funds with the hope that what happened during World War II will never be forgotten, and that future generations will have the opportunity to receive a higher education:

Amache Alumni Tribute Fund

Gila River Alumni Tribute Fund

Heart Mountain Alumni Tribute Fund

Jerome Alumni Tribute Fund

Manzanar Alumni Tribute Fund

Minidoka Alumni Tribute Fund

Poston Alumni Tribute Fund

Rohwer Alumni Tribute Fund

Topaz Alumni Tribute Fund

Tule Lake Alumni Legacy Fund

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The NSRCF Board of Directors extends its thanks to the following contributors to the general fund:

Rosanna Y. Alfaro
Stephanie Klein & Larry Baer
Chanhty Borisouth
Kesaya Noda & Christopher Dye, in honor of Tetsuo Takayanagi
Bruce Eejima
Philip Goldsmith, in honor of Paul Watanabe
Wayne Itano
John Kiriara
Jennifer Kobayashi
Polly Nason McCrea
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Jim & Harriet Nakano
Ronald & Irene Nakasone
A. Hirotooshi Nishikawa
Alan Nishio
Keith Schuricht
Robert & Barbara Sequenzia
Tak Shirasawa
George Suzuki
Peter Trinh
Laura Uba
Mary Yee & Paul Uyehara
Paul Watanabe
Nobuo Yutani

Photo by Bruce Maeda Photography



IN MEMORIAM Dr. Michihiko Hayashida (1927-2019)

Michihiko (“Mich”) Hayashida was born in Berkeley, California, one of 12 children. His family was incarcerated first at the Tanforan racetrack in San Bruno, CA then removed to Topaz in Utah. He spent his senior year of high school behind barbed wire. With the help of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council Mich left Topaz in 1944 to attend Boston University. At Boston University, Mich followed in his brother’s footsteps as a premed student, but after one year, he was called to military service. He returned in 1946, graduated, and then attended Boston University Medical School. He was a board-certified ophthalmologist and practiced in Oakland, California, and transferred to Hawaii in 1966. Mich met his wife, Bernice, who is from Hawaii, while she was attending the Boston College School of Social Work

As one of the earliest and staunchest supporters of the NSRCF, the board of directors created the Michihiko and

Bernice Hayashida Scholarship. Upon being notified, Mich wrote,

“Despite all the problems and uncertainty brought on by our mass forced removal from the Pacific Coast, there were those not directly affected, who despite the disapproval or indifference of the majority, went out of their way to help us. In our time of need they came forward and enabled so many of us to continue our education. In doing so, they instilled in some of us a sense of responsibility to help others in need. The forced displacement of the Southeast Asians provided the opportunity to be actively involved in helping students to further their education. Thank you very much for this great honor.”



“3/13/98 - 5/5/11 - 5/29/18” Former Recipient, Van Hong, Speaks at Awards Ceremony

I’m good at remembering numbers. These numbers won’t mean anything to you, but to me, they are significant milestones.

March 13, 1998 - The day my family set foot in the States. We moved here from Siem Reap, Cambodia.

May 5, 2011 - The day I graduated college. The first boy in the history of our family to do so, the second person behind my older sister, Jenny - have to give her props.

May 29, 2018 - The day Elon, our first little nephew was born; which marked the beginning of the next generation.

My name is Van Hong, and I am an immigrant and a recipient of this Nisei Student Relocation



Commemorative Fund Scholarship in 2007. Looking back, it was a long journey for me to get in this room, a long journey to get to college, a long journey that I often had to navigate with blindfolds on, alone.

Luckily, I was

decent enough to earn a partial division I soccer scholarship that covered 50% of my tuition at UW-Milwaukee; and the other 50%, well ... I was hoping I’d win the lottery, even though I don’t really know how to play it. No, I’m just kidding. I scoured the internet like a madman looking for scholarships. I applied to many and any scholarship, in fact, I even entered countless poetry contests, because winners could win money. Unfortunately, they didn’t think my rhymes were good enough, I never won. I used to listen to a lot of Tupac; he let me down, his lyrical genius didn’t rub off on me.

In all seriousness, I was so happy when I found out I got this scholarship. Although the scholarship didn’t cover the remaining 50% of my tuition, that \$2,000 was like water that helped blossom an unguided immigrant to graduate, to work in one of the most respected consulting firms in the world, Deloitte & Touche, and to start a nonprofit that provides scholarships to help other students pay for college called Spam FC Scholarship Foundation.

As you enter your new world, be daring, be creative, shine light on where you came from ... and take a couple coding classes... Thank you for listening, I’m so excited for all of you!

NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND 2019 NEWSLETTER



Photos by Bruce Maeda Photography

NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.

19 Scenic Drive

Portland, Connecticut 06480

NSRCF MISSION STATEMENT

The Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund (NSRCF) is a nonprofit charitable organization founded in New England that annually awards scholarships to students from underserved communities pursuing higher education. The NSRCF was established in 1980 by second generation Japanese Americans, Nisei, in gratitude to the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council. The Council made it possible for the Nisei to leave the World War II internment camps for colleges and universities across the United States. The NSRCF encourages inter-ethnic collaboration and promotes public awareness and understanding of the forced removal and unjust imprisonment of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II.