



NSRCFUND NEWSLETTER

COMMEMORATE THE PAST - EDUCATE FOR THE FUTURE

VOLUME 24

FALL 2016

2016 CHICAGO SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

photo credit: Josh Keokanlaya



THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF THIS!

\$50,000 in scholarships were awarded at the 36th annual NSRCF ceremony on June 12 at the Silver Seafood restaurant in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago. 160 recipients, parents, siblings and friends, joined with local awards committee members and NSRCF board members to congratulate the 32 high school seniors on their past accomplishments and to wish them well in their college pursuits.

The NSRCF board of directors gives a hearty and appreciative THANK YOU to this year's excellent co-chairs Diep Nguyen and Michael Takada and their stellar committee: Amy Houlihan, Thavary Krouch, Tuyet

Le, Ruth Martinez, Christine Kim-Tai Plautz, Khamphoui Singvongsa, Michael Tanimura, Alan Thavisouk, Hai Long Tran, Stacy Uchida, Justine Urbikas and Joliana Yee. It bears repeating every year that the NSRCF board of directors could not fulfill its mission without the enthusiasm, commitment, and countless hours of really hard work put in by the local scholarship awards committees. 2016 was no exception. The Chicago committee faced many daunting challenges during the application process and all credit goes to the co-chairs and committee members for their determined efforts to get the word out, follow-up, outreach and network, encourage and persist to

bring this year's scholarship program to its successful conclusion.

Many thanks are also extended to the following community partners: Japanese American Service Committee (JASC), Cambodian Association of Illinois, Lao American Organization of Elgin (LAOE), Lao American Community Services, Vietnamese Association of Illinois, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago, and Northeastern Illinois University. Special recognition is given to LAOE and its Director of Youth Services, Alan Thavisouk, whose enthusiasm and persistence enabled 15 Lao American students

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2016 CHICAGO SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS *cont'd.*

to receive a scholarship. In all of his correspondence Alan never failed to say, "Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be a part of this great service!"

The NSRCF board members who attended were Yutaka Kobayashi and his wife Maureen, Jean Hibino, Jim McIlwain, and Stephen Hibino. Longtime Fund supporters also in attendance were Hannah Tani Hogan, a Nisei from Vernon Hills, Illinois; Tom and Mary Ann Hibino from Massachusetts; and Shelley Kurata and her daughter Courtney from California.

Michael Takada, co-chair and CEO of JASC was the MC of the afternoon's program. The keynote speaker was Trish Morita-Mullaney, Assistant Professor of English Language Learning at Purdue University. She spoke of her journey from San Francisco to the Midwest and her family's history and experiences during their WWII

internment. Three recipients were chosen by the committee to speak: Alec Seng, the Jiro and Tama Ishihara Scholar; Charlie Chansiri, the Lafayette and Mayme Noda Scholar; and Hilary Pham, the American Friends Service Committee Scholar. [Please read the excerpts of their inspiring speeches in this newsletter.]

Three new named scholarships were awarded this year. Shelley Kurata was thrilled to be able to present the Shim and Chiyo Hiraoka Scholarship in honor of her parents to Christopher Rattanasamay. Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi, even though they were trapped on the Logan Airport tarmac for three hours, made it just in time to present their named scholarship to Phoebe

Hoang. The third new named scholarship is named for Colonel Joseph Y. Kurata of San Francisco and was awarded to Nathan Chin. These special scholarships are highlighted in this newsletter. Everyone was treated to a wonderful multi-course Chinese banquet, and the program concluded with the presentation of award certificates, endless photos, happy and proud families and much good cheer, a wonderful affirmation of the Fund's work. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2016!



I was awarded a scholarship in 2008 and I am sorry that it took me so long to give back; I also wish that I could give more. Receiving the scholarship gave me such pride and inspiration. In the past eight years, I graduated from the University of Arizona (studying economics and accounting) and soon began work at a local accounting firm doing audits of governmental and nonprofit entities. I recently left the firm to finish out the requirements to become a certified public accountant and am happy to say that I have succeeded and am now a CPA! I held on to your mailed newsletters after receiving the scholarship to motivate myself to work hard and give back. I try to be the best person I can be and I sincerely hope that I can give more in future.

- Peter Trinh (2008 Scholarship Awardee)

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD

Dear NSRCF supporters and friends,

In celebrating the Fund's 36th anniversary we extend our thanks to all who supported its mission and work throughout the year, allowing us to provide educational opportunities for students in the Greater Chicago area.

This year's awards ceremony was held on June 12th.

CONGRATULATIONS to co-chairs **Diep Nguyen** and **Michael Takada** and committee members Amy Houlihan, Thavary Krouch, Tuyet Le, Ruth Martinez, Christine Kim-Tai Plautz, Khamphoui Singvongsa, Michael Tanimura, Alan Thavisouk, Hai Long Tran, Stacy Uchida, Justine Urbikas and Joliana Yee. Their long hours of hard work over many months enabled \$50,000 in scholarships to be awarded to 32 deserving high school students. Four board members attended the awards ceremony, joining parents, siblings, friends, and supporters in celebrating their achievements.

To date, the NSRC Fund has awarded nearly 900 scholarships totaling nearly \$910,000. We will be reaching the 1000/\$1Million milestone in a few years. The board of directors remains an all-volunteer group. We are committed to keeping operating costs to a minimum so that gifts to the Fund go primarily towards scholarships. (The NSRC Fund's financial statement is made available upon written request.) As of July 1, 2016 the Fund stands at just over \$1.6 million dollars.

It is with heavy hearts that the board acknowledges the passing of former board member and friend, **Bob Maeda** on January 30, 2016 at age 83. Bob retired from our board in 2014, we miss his leadership, steady, quiet presence and laid back sense of humor.

Four Named Scholarships have recently been established: **Colonel Joseph Y. Kurata; Shim and Chiyo Hiraoka; Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi; and Ryozen Glenn Kumekawa**, bringing the number of these special awards to 19. Named Scholarships make it possible to give an annual \$2000 scholarship, the largest amount the Fund awards, to outstanding students. They are established in different ways, from a lump sum to yearly donations to bring a Tribute Fund or Legacy Fund up to Named Scholarship Level, or established by the board of directors. If you would like more information on starting a Named Fund or contributing to an already existing one, please contact us.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION to **David Aman** of Hanover, NH who is in charge of the Fund's database, mailing list and in general, keeper of the information. David has been with us for over 15 years. We cannot do our work without you.

The 2017 scholarships will be awarded in Lowell, Massachusetts and the potential area covered will be eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Thank you to board member Phitsamay Uy who has agreed to

chair the awards committee. She is currently lining up co-chairs to assist her with the undertaking. A group of skilled, interested and enthusiastic folks have already been meeting, and we are confident of a successful outcome.

And last but not least, thank you to the Fund's supporters. Your unwavering belief in the mission and work keeps us going. We look forward with anticipation to the coming year.

With appreciation,

NSRCF Board of Directors
Paul Watanabe, *President*
Stephen Y. Hibino, *Treasurer*
Jean Y. Hibino, *Executive Secretary*
Kesaya E. Noda, *Recording Secretary*
Islanda Khau Naughton
Yutaka Kobayashi,
Awards Committee National Liaison
Phuoc Van Le
James McIlwain
Laura H. Misumi
Keith Schuricht
May O. Takayanagi
Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

ALEC SENG

Tama and Jiro Ishihara scholarship recipient

I come from a family who has suffered and survived the Cambodian genocide and migrated to America for better opportunity because America was seen as a sanctuary and as a place where one could start over and achieve anything as long as they worked hard enough. My family escaped to America in 1981 as refugees from the Khmer Rouge and was sponsored to live in Chicago to start a better life. This wasn't easy because they didn't know much English and didn't have any experience living in a first world country. Because of the circumstances they were left with, they were forced to accept any jobs that they could get in order to survive and thrive in America.

Growing up, I never really had guidance for my education. I understood that my parents didn't speak much English and didn't have much of an education, however, they did their best to try and support me in any way they could. My parents always said, "Stay in school, always try your best, and always work hard, and there is no way that you can fail." I still put 110% into everything I do in order to make my parents proud and to reach my full potential.

My parents instilled in me an appreciation for learning. Thanks to them and the NSRCF scholarship, I am one step closer to making my dreams come true.

HILARY PHAM

American Friends Service Committee scholarship recipient

I grew up on the north side of Chicago in Albany Park, a neighborhood known for its ethnic diversity but did not include many other Asian families. My parents, both proud of their Vietnamese and Chinese backgrounds, took the situation in stride and never let my surroundings hinder me. When my mother was fourteen years old, she escaped from Vietnam with only her two younger sisters, the clothes on their backs, and sights set on the future. For two years, she lived in a refugee camp in Malaysia. It wasn't until President Carter changed the immigration laws that she was able to come to America. Even without knowing any English or having completed a formal education, my mother lived with a foster family and attended a high school in Bloomington, Illinois then earned a degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Education was the ticket that enabled my family to move towards the dream they carried to America. Those same study skills that my parents taught me along with the inclination to explore new areas have melded. I plan to study International Business and Economics. I hope to one day work for the government or a global organization and create economic legislation that will give back to communities across the country.

CHARLIE CHANSIRI

Lafayette and Mayme Noda scholarship recipient

I want to acknowledge my appreciation towards my parents for their unconditional love and support on my journey; they have supported me every step of the way and continue to believe in all of my endeavors. Their discipline has allowed me to see the potential in my own abilities and utilize the skills I have obtained.

Establishing a goal is one part, but manifesting the goal in reality is the progression. Establishing goals are important because they evolve an experience. Experiences are a learning process, and that's exactly what life truly is, a learning experience. What is important is not how you achieve a goal, but rather how you can apply the experience to your life.

My advisor, Mr. Alan Thavisouk, made me realize one of the most important lesson in life, the power of your voice. He has taught me the values of leadership and communication through volunteering, I will continue to improve and apply them for the rest of my life.

I would like to thank the committee of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund for not only this scholarship to further my education, but for advocating the values of those who paved the road before us and for inspiring the next and future generations to go beyond their potential threshold.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2016 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

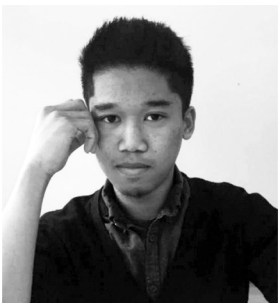
LAFAYETTE AND MAYME NODA SCHOLARSHIP



Charlie Chansiri
(South Elgin HS)
is attending Loyola University in Chicago planning

to major in biochemistry because it involves the study of all living organisms, yet integrates chemical properties at a molecular level. He says, "Prior to becoming a doctor, a degree in biochemistry will be adequate to understanding health and disease to improve the qualities of life. It is my belief that now is the time for change. I aspire to save lives and to make a difference; I believe that through hard work and dedication anything is possible."

COLONEL JOSEPH Y. KURATA SCHOLARSHIP



Nathan Chin (CICS Northtown Academy) always considered himself a people person. He

loves making people laugh and smile, but most importantly he loves helping people create a positive outlook for their lives. He also loves math and plans on becoming a computer hardware engineer. He says, "I want to use my math skills to build stronger and faster

computers. By making a computer one second faster, that's one more second to help save a life, to help cure cancer, to help change the world." He is attending is St Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

YUTAKA AND MAUREEN KOBAYASHI SCHOLARSHIP



Phoebe Hoang
(Waubonsie Valley HS) is attending Indiana University's Kelley School of Business

to pursue a degree in Finance and Economic Consulting. She was active in Business Professional America, DECA, and Key Club International, and her teachers said, "She is a hard working student who instinctively knows how to motivate others to give their best efforts" and "Her classmates respect her and see her as a leader." These traits will suit her as she aspires to be in investment banking in New York City.

GLADYS ISHIDA STONE SCHOLARSHIP



Thidachanh Veda Kethdy
(Elgin HS) is attending Elgin Community College and then plans to transfer

to Illinois State University. Thidachanh is a first generation Laotian American.

As a member of Lao Youth Leaders she promoted Lao culture but also gained a better understanding of Lao health problems. She says, "My parents suffered through so many hardships in order to give my sisters and me a better life and that is why I want to become a teacher. I want to spread knowledge and inspire the next generation."

HISAYE HAMAOKA MOCHIZUKI SCHOLARSHIP



Vivian Lam
(Amundsen HS) was active on the swim team and National Honor Society, and volunteered

at a local hospital. One teacher said, "She is modest, intelligent and hard-working and is respected by both her teachers and her peers." Vivian is the first in her family to go to college. She loves working with children and her dream is to help them by becoming a pediatric nurse. To that end, she is attending Loyola University Chicago in the Nursing Program.

NOBU AND YOSH HIBINO SCHOLARSHIP



BaoTran Le
(Niles West HS) was an active leader in the Literacy Center, NARWHALS ecology club,

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2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd.*

DECA, National Honor Society, and the founder of the DIY Club to find creative ways to give back to the community. Her goal is to “fuse philanthropy and business” to help her community grown and thrive. She is attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the College of Business where she hopes to acquire the skills to become a socially-conscious entrepreneur.

AUDREY LOGAN SCHOLARSHIP



Lisa Le (Rich Woods HS) was recognized as a 2016 Illinois State Scholar, was active in the National Honor

Society, Interact Club, and Spanish Club. She is attending Bradley University in Peoria in the Pre-Med program in the College of Education and Health Sciences. She hopes to have a career in the medical field, either as a pharmacist, nurse or doctor. She says, “Since my parents never had the opportunity to go to college and obtain a degree, I want to achieve this dream for them.”

DR. KENJI MURASE SCHOLARSHIP



Tommy Mai (Von Steuben HS) was seen as a leader in school, he was a member of the National Honor

Society, started the Vietnamese Club, and helping to establish the first Key Club at his high school. He has had to overcome obstacles in his home life

which has made him consider becoming a psychologist to help him have a better understanding of the human mind and help others in need. Tommy is attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

MITSU AND DR. KOTARO MURAI SCHOLARSHIP`



Francis Dinh (Glenbard East HS) Through his many athletic, volunteer and musical activities, Francis says he

has learned persistence, looking out for others, perseverance and leadership. He also became interested in biotechnology and would like to travel to less fortunate countries to create affordable treatments for specific diseases and problems using biotechnology. He is attending the University of Illinois at Chicago to pursue that degree.

HIROKO FUJITA AND PAUL FUKAMI SCHOLARSHIP



Jennimai Nguyen (Mundelein HS) was a varsity cheerleader who worked part time after school, was a

member of the National Honor Society, and editor of both the school newspaper and yearbook. Her interest in writing and communication has led her to Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism. She aspires to a career at a major publication like the *New York Times* or *Vogue*.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP



Hilary Pham (Whitney M. Young Magnet HS) As captain of the Scholastic Bowl, treasurer of the Science

Olympiad and member of the National Honor Society Hilary learned to speak up and lead. She wants a college education that will allow her to receive a well-rounded education and to explore different subjects. She is attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the College of Business. She would like to work for the government in the future, either as a consultant or a lobbyist.

SHIM AND CHIYO HIRAOKA SCHOLARSHIP

Christopher Rattanasamay



(Bartlett HS) is active in the Lao community, was co-president of Lao Youth Leaders, and enjoys

helping to raise awareness of his culture by playing traditional music. He is an aspiring computer science major and hopes to become a video game developer, “Having a passion for something will lead to greater success.” He is attending the College of DuPage for his first year and plans to transfer to a four year university to get his Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science.

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2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd.*

TAMA AND JIRO ISHIHARA SCHOLARSHIP



Alec Seng (Warren Township HS) finds inspiration in his parents' difficult journey to America.

"I have deep respect for them being able to support a family. They always told me to stay in school and try hard in everything in order to success." Alec was a member of the National Honor Society, Feed My Starving Children, Mother Earth's Concerned Students, and several other organizations. He is attending DePaul University and hopes to become a dermatologist to help people. He sees college as one step closer to living his dreams and making my family proud.

KAIZO AND SHIZUE NAKA SCHOLARSHIP



Branstarr Shihanath (Larkin HS) is passionate about Visual Arts. She was a part of her high school's Visual Arts

Academy, and mentored an elementary school program that empowered young girls through the arts. Branstarr plans to use her artistic abilities in college and will major in Art Education at Illinois State University. Her goal is to become a teacher where she hopes to inspire youth through visual arts in school as well as in their community.

MICHIHIKO AND BERNICE HAYASHIDA SCHOLARSHIP

Natalie Somphonhphakdy (Larkin HS)



Natalie was active in student government, honor societies, cheerleading, HOSA, and the Health

Care Science Program. Through volunteer opportunities, she discovered she enjoys working with children. Natalie's goal is to be a nurse practitioner in either the labor/delivery unit or the neonatal intensive care unit. Natalie is attending Loyola University in Chicago.

ALICE ABE MATSUMOTO SCHOLARSHIP

Alexus Angel Thongsakounh's



(Elgin HS) extracurriculars in high school included HOSA, Food for Greater Elgin, Youth United Way, cross country

and track and field. She is attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences program as a premed student and hopes to attain her dream of becoming a Nurse Practitioner in a pediatric office.

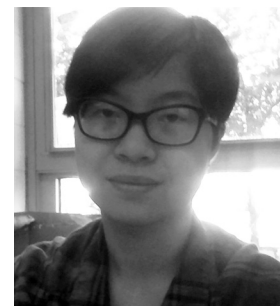
MICHI NISHIURA WEGLYN SCHOLARSHIP



Amy Tran's (Amundsen HS) high school activism included Asian Americans Advancing

Justice and KINETIC, Chicago's immigrant and refugee youth empowerment program. Through her activism she learned public speaking skills, problem-solving and effective communication. Amy is attending Loyola University. She remains committed to raising awareness about issues of immigration and poverty.

KAY YAMASHITA SCHOLARSHIP



Lalita Wong, (Northside College Preparatory HS) played violin in the school orchestra,

and volunteered at the South-East Asia Center where she worked with children, opening her eyes to the possibility of teaching. Some of her hobbies include practicing the violin, reading (fantasy and historical), and playing with her niece. Lalita would like to become an English teacher. She is attending DePaul University.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2016 GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

2106 GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Anh Ngoc Bien (Holy Trinity HS)
Northeastern Illinois University

Kevin Nguyen (Elgin HS)
University of Illinois, Chicago

Kobe Raksinh (Elgin HS)
Elgin Community College

Andy Chai (Elgin HS)
Parkland College Pathway Program to
University of Illinois

Lily Nguyen (Glenbard North HS)
Loyola University

Karisma Saymikhna (Centennial HS)
Illinois State University

Xaly Channakhone (Elgin HS)
Elgin Community College

Sean Nguyen (Hoffman Estates HS)
University of Illinois, Chicago

Nattaly Sivankham (South Elgin HS)
Michigan State University

Warren Lam (Amundsen HS)
Harry S. Truman College, Chicago

Panida Dar Phetsavanh
(Rockford East HS)
Rock Valley College

Zackery Tao (Maine West HS)
DePaul University

John Loeung (John Hersey HS)
Ferris State University

Somchy Phomsopha (Guilford HS)
Carroll University

SHIM AND CHIYO HIRAOKA SCHOLARSHIP



*(Established
by Ann
Graybill
Cook,
Michael
Hoshiko,
family and
friends)*

Were it not for working together in the legal office of the Gila River War Relocation Center in Arizona, the chances of Yoshimi Roger “Shim” Hiraoka and Lily Chiyoko Tsukahara ever crossing paths would have been highly unlikely. It was there that Shim, son of immigrant farmers of Del Rey, California, graduate of UC Berkeley and San Francisco Law School, and a California State Bar certified attorney met Santa Barbara-born Chiyo, daughter of immigrant produce house owners, who had worked

her way through school honing her secretarial skills.

That encounter led to their internment camp wedding in 1943. Shim soon after enlisted with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and participated in the famed “Rescue of the Lost Battalion” and the liberation of Bruyeres in France. Chiyo at just age 20 led seven family members out of Gila to the East Coast where she found work in Philadelphia as a nanny/housekeeper. During the day, Chiyo used her superb stenographic/secretarial skills at the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, working for Field Director Tom Bodine. At WWII’s end, Shim and Chiyo made their way back to Fresno, California. They still faced prejudice because of their Japanese ancestry,

but eventually found acceptance, raised three daughters, and assimilated. Shim established a sole law practice, became a Rotarian, Mason, VFW leader, and both were members of the Japanese Congregational Church. With children finally of age, Chiyo put those same superb skills to work at Fresno State College.

In 2000, the family learned that an NSRCF Tribute Fund had been established for them by life-long friend Ann Graybill Cook and Michael Hoshiko. Through the generosity and memorial gifts of family and friends, their fund reached the Named Scholarship level. We lost Shim in 2004, and Chiyo in 2013. Condensing their 61 years together

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YUTAKA AND MAUREEN KOBAYASHI SCHOLARSHIP

(Established by Maureen Kobayashi)

Yutaka was born and raised in San Francisco. In 1942 he and his family were sent to the Topaz, Utah concentration camp. He was able to leave Topaz in January 1943 through the aid of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council to attend college, eventually earning a Ph.D. in biochemistry.

He is an expert in liquid scintillation counting, and retired from DuPont in 1995. Yutaka is an avid tennis player. In 2014 at the young age of 90, he achieved a longtime goal when the USTA ranked him the #1 U.S. tennis player in singles and doubles in that age group. Yutaka joined the board of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund (NSRCF) in 1992, and served as its president from 1998 to 2002. He undertook a major revision of the by-laws; he and Maureen organized the Fund's 20th anniversary celebration; he serves as the national liaison to the

local scholarship awards committees, developed a "how to" manual for them; and produced a DVD about the NSRCF. Yutaka has also written a book, "A Nisei's American Odyssey" which chronicles his life, memories, observations and lessons learned about the internment experience. He continues to speak about this at churches, schools and various social groups.



During her professional life, Maureen headed the lab at New England Nuclear which synthesized radioactive nucleosides needed by research biochemists world-wide. When she hit the "glass ceiling," she decided to attend night school, earned her MBA, and then switched to the finance department of the company. Maureen has dedicated much of her time, considerable energy and many skills to community service. She has been a president of the local American Cancer Society; hospice volunteer; science mentor at elementary and high schools;

financial advisor to seniors; and English language speaking aide. Maureen is also a world traveler, hiker, biker, tennis player and swimmer. As a committed supporter of the NSRCF, and member of its Investment Committee, she was instrumental in lobbying the board to change to a very successful, yet responsible, investment strategy. Maureen wanted to establish this Scholarship Fund in tribute for all Yutaka has done for the NSRCF, but true to form, he insisted "we do it together."

HIRAOKA *cont'd.*

is not easy. They represent to their family, now into its "Gosei" 5th generation, the strength, endurance, resiliency, and resolve of our Nisei forebears. They are missed and remembered with deep love and gratitude. Now with a Named Scholarship their story, this legacy, is cemented in perpetuity.



Every day is my second chance, so no more regret, no more turning back, and I will be moving on. My future starts with my own decisions...it is never too late. Just like going to college, if you don't get to go to college right after your high school year, it doesn't mean you can't go forever. As long as you are willing to learn, there's always someone who's willing to teach. I will do my very best when I go to college, and I will make the support from NSRCF worth it.

- Xaly Channakhon
(2016 Scholarship Awardee)

RYOZO GLENN KUMEKAWA SCHOLARSHIP



(Established by Joanne K. Kumekawa, friends and family)

Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa played

a critical role in the growth and development of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund (NSRCF) for 21 years - as an involved supporter, a board member, and as president of the board.

In 1992, Glenn was well-qualified to chair the Southern New England Awards Committee, having been responsible for designing the strategic use of federal funds for Rhode Island's response to the arrival of 12,000 Southeast Asian so-called "Boat People" needing relocation and resettlement assistance. In 1998, he joined the NSRCF board of directors, assuming the presidency in 2002. He focused his participation

on the need to expand the funding base; seeking opportunities for corporate outreach; expanding the size and composition of the board; and raising discussion about the process by which scholarships are awarded. During his presidency, the Fund's mission statement was further clarified, the board was restructured; levels of scholarship giving were expanded; grants were sought and received; new informational materials were developed; and the board of directors transitioned to a younger, more diverse group.

With a deep and abiding commitment to his beloved Rhode Island, Glenn was the Director of Planning of Warwick; Executive Assistant to the Governor for Policy and Program; and Executive Director of the Coalition of Northeast Governors (CONEG) Policy Research Center. He served on the Design Review Committee of the Capital Center Commission, to develop and preserve downtown

Providence. He is a Professor Emeritus of the Intergovernmental Policy Analysis Program of the University of Rhode Island, and served as Chair of the Graduate Program of Community Planning and Area Department.

Glenn made the NSRCF board's work a joy and a privilege. He steadfastly focused on the importance of the Fund's efforts to commemorate the WWII evacuation and internment, and the generosity and goodness of people who reached across race differences and wartime hatred to offer a helping hand to young Japanese Americans. As one of those young Japanese Americans helped by the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, he left the Topaz, Utah internment camp for college in Maine. Decades later he continues to inspire the board's efforts to reach out in that same spirit of "ongaeshi" - repaying a kindness.

I WILL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP

[Ed. note: Mor Xiong was a 2003 scholarship recipient from Portland, Oregon. Thanks to Development Committee members Jim McIlwain and Phuoc Le for keeping in touch with former recipients. Following is an excerpt from a letter she sent to them.]

During high school I always knew that I wanted to become a nurse and to serve the community. After having received the scholarship in 2003, I

attended three years of community college for general education and pre-nursing. In 2006, I was admitted to the Nursing Program at Portland Community College, graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing in 2008, and became licensed as a Registered Nurse in the State of Oregon. I began work immediately as an RN staff at a local Skilled Nursing Rehabilitation Center taking care of the elderly and

vulnerable population. After one year, I wanted to advance my education and enrolled in the RN to BSN program at Linfield College-School of Nursing. It was hard going back to school having to balance working full time and having a family (I am a mother of three). But with perseverance and commitment I graduated with my BSN in 2011 and I was then promoted to

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COLONEL JOSEPH Y. KURATA SCHOLARSHIP

(Established by Col. Joseph Y. Kurata)

Colonel Joseph Y. Kurata was born in Lodi, California. He and his family were interned at Rohwer, Arkansas in 1942. When Joe left Rohwer he went to work in Cleveland, Ohio and was drafted into the Army in September 1944. He was awaiting shipment to Europe when Germany surrendered so he was sent instead to Camp Ritchie in Maryland with the first group of Nisei soldiers to receive counterintelligence (CIC) training for eventual duty in the Pacific. For Joe, this marked the beginning of a lifelong career in the Army. Upon finishing CIC training, he and about 85 fellow Nisei soldiers shipped out to Japan for duty with the Occupation. Joe's service also took him to Korea. Back stateside he attended the Army Intelligence School, the Army Command and General Staff School, and

the Defense Intelligence School. Through the GI Bill he was able to achieve his aspiration of obtaining a college education from the University of Maryland's overseas extension and night classes. In Vietnam he served as CIC staff officer with Headquarters, Military Assistance Command. After serving 32 years in the military, during which he rose from private to colonel, he retired in 1976 at the Presidio, San Francisco.

Joe met and married his late wife Shirley in Yokohama in 1946. He has three children and three grandchildren. He resides in San Francisco and was chapter president of the Army Counterintelligence Corps Veterans; a member of MIS NORCAL; a member of the Board of Directors of the Fort Point & Presidio Historical Association; and participated in discussions with the National Park Service hoping to

preserve the Crissy Field hangar where the first MIS Language School class met in 1941.

Joe also enjoyed being a fishing mentor to visiting grandchildren.



The 2015 Named Scholarship recipients' stories reminded Joe of his own experiences as a child of immigrant parents. His parents taught their children to ignore the prevailing prejudice and discrimination against Asians and strive to study hard and excel academically. Joe said, "After reading the scholarship recipients' educational and career goals, I was inspired to support your worthy program."

FOREVER GRATEFUL *cont'd.*



Resident Care Manager. I have enjoyed working in the rehab specialty, but after almost seven years I wanted to return to providing patient care in an acute care setting and something more challenging. I recently took an RN staff position at one of Portland's Level one trauma hospital (Legacy Emanuel Medical Center) in the Medical Telemetry/Stroke unit. I have to

say, this job change has been very rewarding.

I humbly and proudly admit that I am first generation college graduate in my family since immigrating to the United States in 1990 and NSRC Fund had made it possible. I will forever be grateful for the scholarship and will encourage my children to apply for the scholarship in the future.

Again, thank you.
Sincerely,
Mor Xiong, RN BSN

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT J. MAEDA (1932-2016)

Former NSRCF board member, Robert J. Maeda passed away on January 30, 2016. Bob served as a director from 2003 to 2014. In those 11 years he provided leadership, guidance and support for the Fund, always quietly, humorously, steadily.

Bob was born in El Centro, California and in 1942, the family was removed and interned at Poston, Arizona when Bob was just 9 years old. Upon leaving Poston, the family went to Chicago. Bob received his B.A. in Western Art History from the University of Illinois. He then served eight years in the US Army and Army Reserves achieving the rank of Specialist, 4th Class. Bob received his master's degree from the University

of Michigan and Ph.D from Harvard University in Asian Art History. In 1967, he was hired as the first Asian American professor to teach Asian Art at Brandeis University, spending his entire teaching career there, retiring in 2000. A prolific scholar, his research focused on paintings from the Sung Dynasty as well as the Japanese American artist Isamu Noguchi.

Bob was a leader in the Massachusetts Japanese American community. He served as president of the New England Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and was a member of the NSRCF awards and finance committees, lending advice and expertise. He



enjoyed the camaraderie and fellowship of the board and it was mutual. Having retired from the board in 2014, he was already sorely missed.

MY PARENTS' STORY IS CEMENTED IN PERPETUITY

BY SHELLEY KURATA

We are pleased this year's "appeal letter" writer is Shelley Kurata of Gardena, California. Shelley is a Baby Boomer Sansei, eldest of three daughters, born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley town of Fresno. She matriculated from (then) Fresno State College with a B.A. and teaching credential, eventually moving to teach in Southern California. Married, mother, and now grandmother, she continues to work in a small law practice. She attended 2015's awards ceremony in Oakland and was inspired to raise her parents' fund to a Named Scholarship. With the help of family she succeeded and this year attended the Chicago

program with her daughter Courtney to personally and very proudly present the first Shim and Chiyo Hiraoka Scholarship.

As a longtime supporter of the NSRCF she says, "I know I have never taken for granted the fact that my parents were who they were and each day I am reminded of it even more. Their lives and their stories are separated by just a generation but this history remains



(L to R): Courtney Kurata, Christopher Rattanasamay, Shelley Kurata

fresh in my mind. The connection with the WWII Student Relocation Council and NSRCF is very real as to how the history relates to my parents' wartime experiences. With a Named Scholarship their story is cemented in perpetuity."

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, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

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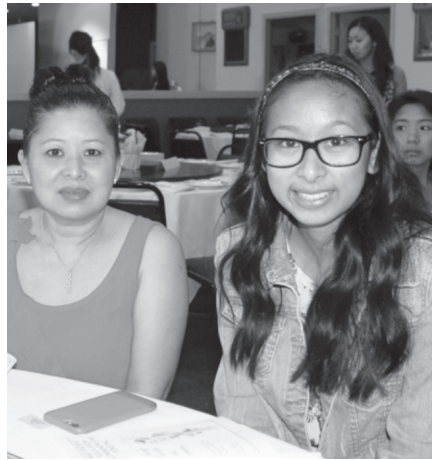
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NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND 2016 NEWSLETTER



NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.

19 Scenic Drive

Portland, Connecticut 06480

MISSION STATEMENT

The NSRC Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in New England that annually awards scholarships to students from underserved communities pursuing higher education. The NSRC Fund 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 prison camps for colleges and universities across the United States. The NSRC Fund encourages inter-ethnic collaboration and promotes public awareness and understanding of the forced removal and internment of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II.