



# NSRCFUND NEWSLETTER

COMMEMORATE THE PAST - EDUCATE FOR THE FUTURE

VOLUME 29

FALL 2021

## 2021 RHODE ISLAND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

*“There is a great need for hope, light, and resources for our communities”*

A pandemic perfect storm. Exponential rise in anti-Asian racism, hate, violence, murder, all under a cloud of scapegoating and fear mongering. Ongoing, escalating police attacks on Black lives and communities. An election, an insurrection, an inauguration. April, 2021 cover of TIME magazine, “The Lost Year. How the pandemic changed a generation of students.” No one could have foreseen the pandemic’s continued toxic impact on students, their schooling, their families, and their communities. Nevertheless, they persisted.

Last year we said that if the awardees got far enough to apply to – and get accepted – to college, and apply for – and receive – our scholarship, then we knew they would be prepared for any of life’s challenges. The same holds true, maybe even more so, for this year’s students. For your perseverance and resoluteness, we extend our whole-hearted congratulations to 2021’s scholarship recipients!

We are so thankful to the Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE), its Executive Director, Chanda Womack and Rosey Ok, Program Director, along with committee members, Danielle Maddox, Luca Agunos, Galen Auer, Niamiah Jefferson and Danielle Maddox, for all their work.

“We’re beyond grateful and honored the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund partnered with us. As the pandemic still continues there is a great need for hope, light, and resources for our communities. We’re pleased to have been part of shining that light because many high school seniors and families are struggling financially during these times. Although the application and acceptance process were met with some challenges for both committee members and students, we’re thankful for the encouragement and patience from the NSRCF and supporting us in providing light and joy to our graduating class of 2021.”  
– *ARISE team*

“When I received the scholarship award, I was very excited! It has motivated me to participate in more activities and organizations that’ll help benefit not just myself, but the people in my community.” – *Abigail Hang, Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa Scholarship*

“I would like to start by saying thank you again for this opportunity. Getting the email about receiving this scholarship was astonishing and relieving. I felt so proud of this achievement and excited to tell my parents.” – *Isabel Kue, Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi Scholarship*

“I can’t describe to you the amount of joy that I felt when I found out that I was one of the students receiving this scholarship. At times I did procrastinate on getting the scholarship application done, it was a bit tedious but definitely worth it.” – *Ger Lee, My Immigrant Ancestors Scholarship*

“I feel grateful and thankful for receiving the scholarship because

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## GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD

Dear NSRCF supporters and friends,

Congratulations to the Class of 2021! We thought last year was tough but as the pandemic raged on, 2021 turned out to be equally as difficult a school year. The NSRCF canceled its scholarship awards ceremony again. Despite the obstacles thrown in the way of this year's senior class, we are so proud of the graduates, their families, teachers, and all those who supported them in attaining their dream of college. Partnering with ARISE, Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education, its amazing Executive Director, Chanda Womack, terrific staff, and local scholarship committee members, 17 Named Scholarships of \$2000 each were awarded.

ARISE administers its own annual scholarship program, but because NSRCF gave scholarships to Southeast Asian students, ARISE decided it would award its scholarships to Black students. At the conclusion of the application process, four stand-out candidates remained but there were no more awards. ARISE asked NSRCF, and in solidarity with the Black community, the four \$1,000 scholarships were made. A total of \$38,000 was given this year.

We are so appreciative for every year's local scholarship committee because we know how challenging it is to get through the months long process. Add a pandemic to the mix and the task becomes that much more difficult. The Rhode Island committee did a remarkable job in the face of so many hurdles. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

The board of directors remains an all-volunteer group committed to keeping operating costs to a minimum so that donations to the Fund go primarily towards scholarships. (The NSRCF's financial statement is made available upon written request.) As of July 17, 2021 the Fund stands at \$2.6 million.

Two special Named Scholarships were created this year: My Immigrant Ancestors established by Marcia Mau and Fred and Kimiko Kishi established by their family. These are wonderful tributes that each provide an annual \$2,000 scholarship award in perpetuity. (The NSRCF Named Scholarships are on the website: <https://nsrcfund.org/support/named-scholarships/>.)

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## 2021 AWARDS

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it means I will always have people to thank for my accomplishments and receiving financial help. I am a firm believer that every award requires hard work and dedication.”  
– *Suphathai Trychanh, Alice Abe Matsumoto Scholarship*

“This scholarship proves that my value and the identity I cherish may be viewed through the eyes of strangers I’ve never met. This suggests that there are people who are rooting for you that you aren’t

even aware of. I am ecstatic to have received this award.” – *Summer Chen, Audrey Logan Scholarship*

“When I first received the email informing me that I had been one of the winners for the scholarship, I really didn’t believe it at first. I was really excited and really thankful! For it’ll allow me to further my education. I promise to give my best and hopefully not disappoint with what I do with this award.” – *Ethan Peang, Dr. Keiji Murase Scholarship*

“You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone - any person or any force - dampen, dim or diminish your light.” “Every generation leaves behind a legacy. What that legacy will be is determined by the people of that generation. What legacy do you want to leave behind?”  
– *Cong. John Lewis*

To the Class of 2021- thank you for your hard work, enthusiasm, and persistence.

## GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD *cont'd*

The board wishes to express its deep and heartfelt gratitude to long time Nisei board members, May Takayanagi and Yutaka Kobayashi, for their decades of service and the dedication and wisdom they brought to the table in ensuring the Fund's mission and permanence. At age 97, their collective knowledge combined with the historical continuity as Japanese Americans made them invaluable to the Fund's success. Most of all though, it is their friendship and cheerful participation that will be missed.

We are pleased to announce that the 2022 scholarship awards will be given in Portland, Oregon after a 19-year absence. Thanks to board member Phitsamay Uy, we are excited to welcome Toc Soneoulay-Gillespie and Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura as next year's co-chairs. They are organizing a diverse and representative local scholarship committee and we are looking forward to a successful (and pandemic-free as possible) undertaking.

Lastly, thank you to the Fund's supporters on its 41st anniversary. Your affirmation of our work gives hope and opportunity to high school seniors. The upheaval of the last two years only strengthens our commitment. There is still much work to do. Our sense of ongaeshi (repay a kindness) is unwavering, but our ability to do so depends on your support. Stay well, in grateful 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

James McIlwain

Laura H. Misumi

Keith Schuricht

Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy



“My name is Kristy Nhan and I was an NSRCF recipient in 2020 for the Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship. I recently completed my first year as a computer science major at the University of Washington! Although my first year was entirely online, I found community in student groups that welcomed me with open arms. I took my passion for expanding access to computer science education by becoming an instructor for UW's Girls Who Code club, teaching girls of color from local high schools how to code. It was so much fun to bond with them as well as build solidarity and create a safe space for girls entering computer science. I also took my love for my culture and community organizing by becoming a Freshman Leadership Intern for UW's Vietnamese Student Association. I organized a self-care event and fundraiser for organizations that support AAPI populations, and a members' career development event to build their professional profiles. I'm looking forward to continuing my degree in computer science and contributing to the community next year with your organization's support.”

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021!

## 2021 Scholarship Recipients

### Phakeo Arounerangsy, Pilgrim HS, Warwick



#### *Fred and Kimiko Kishi Scholarship*

Phakeo says, "As a half Laotian and half Khmer kid, my father wanted me to be involved with their communities." While keeping an AP-loaded course schedule he volunteered with his father who designed water filters

with Water for Cambodia, Robotics Club, was a peer tutor in physics and chemistry, and a member of National Honor Society. His interests include coding, game design and development, 3D modeling, video editing and graphic design. Phakeo is attending the University of Rhode Island, planning to major in Computer Science.

### Summer Chen, Woonsocket Senior HS



#### *Audrey Logan Scholarship*

Summer maintained a rigorous class load as she looks ahead to a career in Nursing. She was a member of National Honor Society, active in the RISD Art Program, Movement Education Outdoors, yearbook, Skills USA

Leadership Conference, volunteered with the local Rotary Club, and interned at a rehabilitation center. She also worked 35 hours a week at a restaurant. Summer is a first generation college student. She was accepted Early Decision to the Connell School of Nursing at Boston College.

### Vannadi Khuon, Classical HS, Providence



#### *Shim and Chiyo Hiraoka Scholarship*

Vannadi was raised by a very loving family, a source of strength and inspiration. She was an honor student, ran cross country, dances in the Cambodian Society of Rhode Island Khmer Dance

Troupe, and loves photography and baking. She is a second-generation daughter of Khmer refugees from Cambodian and Thailand, and the first to attend college. "I will study hard and make this money get its worth. Not only was I given this scholarship but it represents Southeast Asians, and that in itself means so much to me. With this opportunity, I promise to fulfill my dreams and live my best life." Vannadi is attending the University of Rhode Island in business and finance.

### Krisnu Chuon, Cranston HS East



#### *Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida Scholarship*

Krisnu's parents are refugees from Cambodia and he says they "have always wanted the best for me, always emphasizing a good education." He maintained Honors and High Honors and

perfect attendance. He worked as a youth leader at Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education, a community advisor at the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, and in various jobs at a local hospital. A teacher wrote, "His leadership skills and confidence brought him to the forefront of every activity." Krisnu is attending the University of Rhode Island, planning to major in Neuroscience.

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# 2021 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd.*

## Minh Nguyen Dinh, Providence Career & Technical Academy



*Tama (Yoshimura) and Jiro Ishihara Scholarship*

Minh's father's escape from Vietnam and journey to America inspires him, "He has always strived to provide the opportunity for his family to be safe, happy and thrive in education." Not

knowing any English in kindergarten, Minh worked hard and went from ESL classes to AP English in high school. He was in Student Government, the Photography Club, worked summers, excelled in his Automotive Technology classes, and as the oldest sibling, had many responsibilities at home. Minh is a first generation college student. He is interested in pre-med studies while attending Boston College.

## Abigail Hang, Pilgrim HS, Warwick



*Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa Scholarship*

Abigail is described as an outstanding and highly self-motivated student. She played the violin in the All State Orchestra and as a member of the RI Philharmonic Youth

Symphony, took Advance College Network classes, is active in her church, volunteered at farmer's markets, and was a member of National Honor Society. As a Hmong American and first generation college student, she says, "I've realized that education is about understanding the world we live in and finding ways on how to make it better. We are all human, we all want freedom and justice." She is attending the University of Rhode Island and planning to major in biology/pre-med.

## Isabel Kue, Cranston HS West



*Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi Scholarship*

While taking a majority of honors courses, Isabel also played volleyball, volunteered at the local library and elementary school, worked at a nursing home, and also enjoys sculpting, painting,

and knitting. She lives in a multi-generational home, her grandparents came to America as refugees from Laos during the Vietnam War. She says, "I am always happy to identify and represent being Hmong." Isabel is a first generation college student attending the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in the nursing program.

## Ger Lee, Classical HS, Providence



*My Immigrant Ancestors Scholarship*

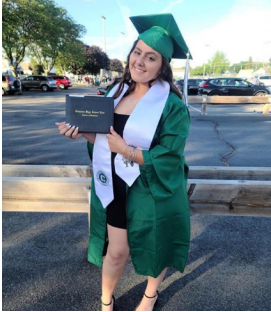
"Education isn't all about school, it's about understanding and taking criticism from others to better oneself. ... Growing up with nine siblings I was definitely educated about the outside

world." Ger kept up his grades and studies while playing volleyball and working with the Community Garden. He enjoys drawing and creative writing, and working with youth-centered groups. He also worked as a youth leader at Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education. Ger is a first generation Laotian American college student attending the University of Rhode Island with an interest in business and real estate.

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# 2021 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd.*

## Madison Pappas, Cranston HS East



### *David Mitsuo Takagi Scholarship*

Madison has always wanted to work in the healthcare field and says she learned a lot about her future career participating in the Brown University Medical Pathways mentorship program. “To follow my dreams, I need

to maintain a steady educational path.” She made honor roll, played varsity soccer as well as with the CLCF Soccer Club, Dance Club, worked several jobs, and volunteered with Little League. She is a first generation college student attending the Johnson & Wales University Health Science BS/MSPAS Physician Assistant Studies program.

## Chanlima Rin, Cranston HS East



### *Koh, Mitsu, and Dr. Kotaro Murai Scholarship*

Chanlima says that growing up an immigrant child from Cambodia, trying to learn a new language and to fit in was difficult but she is inspired by her hard-working mother who deferred her dreams

so her daughters would have opportunities. Chanlima played field hockey, lacrosse and track and field, was a member of National Honor Society, volunteered at a local hospital, and worked to help her family. She is a first generation college student attending the University of Rhode Island’s College of Nursing.

## Ethan Peang, Cranston HS West



### *Dr. Kenji Murase Scholarship*

As the oldest sibling and first to attend college, Ethan says his parents challenged him to do well in school. They came to the US from Cambodia and have worked hard to provide for their children. He made honor roll all four years,

was a member of National Honor Society, Multicultural Student Union, The Summit youth group, and active on his church’s audio/video team. His interests include video production, photography, and graphic design. He is attending Rhode Island College pursuing a degree in healthcare administration.

## Keily Angelina Ros, Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, Providence



### *Lafayette and Mayme Noda Scholarship*

“I am a first generation Cambodian American with a Latinx background.” Keily grew up with her grandparents, refugees from the Khmer Rouge. Her love of dance was

encouraged by her dancer father and is a way for them to connect. Keily interned at Everett Company, Stage & School where she mentored, danced, wrote and choreographed. She also interned at Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education, and works to help the family. She is attending Johnson & Wales University pursuing a degree in psychology.

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# 2021 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd.*

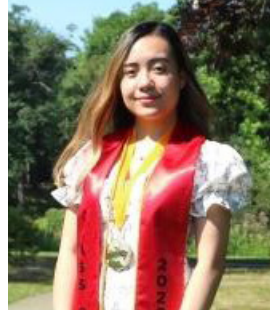
## Erica Serano, Mount Pleasant HS, Providence



*Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship*

Erica came to the US at age 10 and worked hard to learn English and do well in school. She made the honor and high honor roll, was in National Honor Society, Tri-Music Honor Society, concert band (baritone sax) and chorus. She is currently working while attending Johnson & Wales University, majoring in Criminal Justice. Erica is the first in her family to go to college and says, "Education will support me to achieve my goal of helping people, as well as help me be the successful woman that my parents and I wish for."

## Suphathai Trychanh, Hope HS, Providence



*Alice Abe Matsumoto Scholarship*

Suphathai came to the US with her single mother and sibling from Laos. "I will continue to dedicate myself to growing to show my mother she did the right thing. Her sacrifices were my gains and my gains will be the root of all our growth." Suphathai made excellent grades, was captain of the varsity volleyball team, participated in pre-college programs, was involved with Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education, and works to help the family. She is a first generation college student attending the University of Rhode Island, majoring in Pharmaceutical Sciences to become a pharmacist.

## Zachary Siemmao, South Kingstown HS, Wakefield



*Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami Scholarship*

"My paternal grandfather escaped Cambodia in the 1970s to come to America. Despite the dirt poor conditions it never stopped him from working as hard as possible to support his family. He is my role model." Zach maintained excellent grades, was in National Honor Society and Chess Club, and played varsity tennis. He was also in jazz band and president of the orchestra band. He was honored to play "Taps" at various memorials and volunteered at parades. Zach is attending Rhode Island College, undecided but interested in education, law and marine biology.

## Dominic Wiharso, Scituate HS



*Nobu (Kumekawa) and Yosh Hibino Scholarship*

"I plan on becoming a documentary filmmaker and journalist with a concentration on Southeast Asian stories." Dominic's list of accomplishments in academics, sports, extracurricular volunteer activities, and work experience is long, and his leadership skills earned him the respect and admiration of his peers. A teacher says, "He has never shied away from his unique upbringing, his multi-cultural background, and his belief that all people have the capacity for good." Dominic was accepted Early Decision to Columbia University planning to double major in Film & Media Studies and Human Rights.

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## 2021 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd.*

Emily Yang, Coventry HS



*Gladys Ishida Stone Scholarship*

“Being raised in a Hmong household, holding responsibilities as the eldest daughter, and the strong bond my family and I hold all come together to create my identity.”

Emily achieved Highest Honors,

was a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, Newspaper Club, Student Fellowship Club and World Language Club. She worked summers and is active in her church. She is attending Community College of Rhode Island in the Joint Admissions Program with the University of Rhode Island, working toward her goal of becoming an orthodontist.

*“I wanted to personally thank you for honoring me with this award. After reading the letter about your parents’ journey, the scholarship has taken on a more personal and affecting meaning for me. After immigrating to the US 4 years ago, the growing pains of assimilating were difficult. Despite that, coming to the US has been the most rewarding experience. Being able to represent my community - Southeast Asians as a whole - at Columbia is an honor. It’s empowering to see that there are organizations out there supporting Southeast Asian youth, especially when we are often neglected by broader conversations about the Asian diaspora.”*

**- Dominic Wiharso, 2021 Nobu and Yosh Hibino Scholar**

## 2021 ARISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year NSRCF partnered with Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE) to administer the NSRCF scholarships. Because NSRCF awarded scholarships to Southeast Asians, ARISE decided to stand in solidarity with the Black community and award its scholarships to Black students. At the conclusion of their application process, there were still four well-qualified, deserving applicants but no more awards. In solidarity with ARISE and the Black community, NSRCF awarded \$1,000 scholarships to the following students. Congratulations!



Nahum Greene, Woonsocket Senior HS, attending Clemson University, criminal justice

Nevaeh Greene, Woonsocket Senior HS, attending Clemson University, health studies



Anta Sall, Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter HS, attending North Carolina Central University (Durham), business degree



Lydia Nkrumah, Mount Pleasant HS, Providence, attending Boston College’s Connell School of Nursing



# IN MEMORIUM

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## Yoshio Matsumoto (1921 – 2021)

Yoshio Matsumoto lived to 99 years old, a remarkable, full, and inspiring life. Born in San Diego, he was attending UC Berkeley when WWII began. He met his future bride, Alice Abe, at Cal and they were both removed to the Tanforan Racetrack temporary detention center in San Bruno. With the assistance of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council (NJASRC), Yo left Tanforan to attend Washington University in Saint Louis, graduating with a degree in engineering. Soon after, he joined the US Army bound for Germany, but not before marrying Alice. Upon his discharge, they first lived in Detroit and in 1961 moved to Saint Paul where Yo worked for 3M Company until he retired. He had a lifelong love of travel, was active in the church and the Japanese American community. After Alice passed in 1997, Yo continued to enjoy music and the arts, and good food and drink, always surrounded by family and friends.



The Matsumotos were among the earliest supporters of the NSRCF. They were quick to acknowledge the help they received from the NJASRC to leave the internment camps to pursue their college educations. In presenting the Alice Abe Matsumoto Scholarship in 2007, Yo said, “We owe them a great debt for their kindness and their tireless effort to help many of us. So in the Japanese tradition, a kindness received is a debt that must be repaid. I am grateful to the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund and the New England Nisei group who created this fund for giving us the opportunity to repay that debt by providing some assistance to other young people seeking to improve their lives through education.”



## Mary Murai (1927 – 2021)

Mary Hanes Murai passed away at age 94 in McMinnville, Oregon. She enjoyed a nearly 40 year career as a registered nurse, graduating from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor’s degree in nursing. In 1945 she married Kotaro Murai while they were both attending the University of Minnesota. Mary worked at hospitals in St Louis, New York City and New London, Connecticut. The last two decades of her nursing career were spent with the Visiting Nurse Association of Southern Connecticut and the Groton (CT) Ambulance Company. She was active in the Sacred Heart Catholic parish in Groton, the American Association of University Women, and the

League of Women Voters. A lifelong, avid world traveler, both with Kotaro and after his early passing in 1991, she enjoyed learning about anything and any place new.

Mary came to the NSRCF through Nobu Hibino because they both lived in Connecticut and both were active in the League of Women Voters. Right away Mary supported the NSRCF and established the Koh, Mitsu, and Dr. Kotaro Murai Scholarship in 2001 to honor her in-laws and late husband. She joined the board in 2003 and attended several scholarship awards ceremonies in Portland, OR, Denver, Minneapolis and Washington, DC. At each one she proudly presented the Koh, Mitsu, and Dr. Kotaro Murai Scholarship award to that year’s recipient. When Mary resigned from the board she said, “I feel the NSRC scholarship and education program is important and worthwhile, and will continue to be a determined supporter.”

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# IN MEMORIUM



**Masu Sasajima (1937 - 2021)**

Masu Sasajima grew up in New York and Maryland. She received her BA from Hunter College and MA from Teachers College, Columbia University and pursued a career as an educational researcher. She retired from Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, NYC as a Risk Manager and officer. Masu's volunteer work followed her passion and curiosity to learn new things from New York (JACL, Self-Help Community Services) to Seattle (English-in-Action, Art Museum, Asian Counseling & Referral Service, and Holocaust Center for Humanity). Worldwide travel took her to the Caribbean, Europe, Scandinavia, China, Japan and Israel.

Masu was introduced to the NSRCF in 1996 at the awards ceremony in New York City. She was amazed that a group of Nisei would start a scholarship fund to honor the group that helped them during WWII and to "pay it forward" to Southeast Asian students. Through the ensuing years, Masu kept the NSRCF in the forefront, raising important questions, concerns, suggestions and advice. Last year on the occasion of NSRCF's 40th anniversary, Masu wrote a congratulations to the Class of 2020 that read in part, "My father always told us that learning never ends and we were enriched by our love of reading, but also by the diversity of family friendships and people from other racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. My older sisters were not able to continue their educations after the war because of family circumstances, but my younger brothers and I were the recipients of their sacrifice. This taught me to give to others who struggle for an education, not unlike the Nisei founders of the NSRCF."

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***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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*[Ed note: Thanks to board member, Jim McIlwain, when former recipients have had time to complete their educations and begin their working careers, he reaches out to them to see where life has taken them. We love hearing their stories.]*



### **Ashley Chan, 2008 Tama and Jiro Ishihara Scholarship**

I wanted to thank the NSRCF for my generous scholarship back in 2008. It really did help me succeed and achieve my dream of becoming a pharmacist. My mother was a refugee from Cambodia and taught me the importance of school. She said the only way to get to college was to find scholarships as she wasn't able to afford college for me. I was able to go to Arizona State University and graduated early in 2011. I applied to pharmacy school after graduation and got accepted in 2014 to Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. I was in the weekend pharmacy program and graduated in May 2018. I only went to classes on Saturdays and Sundays which made it an intense program, but it all paid off in the end. I moved back to Arizona and got a job as a pharmacist at Federal BCBS. I have been there over 2.5 years where I interact with doctors' offices and medical professionals as we work on cases for mutual patients. I have learned a lot about being a pharmacist and plan on growing more in this career. My family is so proud of me and they always introduce me as "the pharmacist" or "Dr. Chan." I have a PharmD but I never require anybody to call me that as "Ashley" is perfectly okay. I hope my story encourages the NSRCF to keep on doing what you are doing. I also hope this allows other students to keep on striving for their dreams as mine came true!



### **Cindy Quach, 2008 Michi Nishiura Weglyn Scholarship**

I was the first in my family to attend and graduate college (University of Arizona) through various scholarships, but the NSRCF's was the most memorable. I remember the awards ceremony quite fondly, my dad attended to watch me receive the scholarship, and me being 18-years old, I was the most anxious about how the MC was going to mispronounce my name. But he was also Vietnamese and pronounced it perfectly, the first time that's ever happened in a public event. It was such a small and trivial thing, but it's something that I remember to this day.

My dad was a Vietnamese immigrant who worked hard throughout his life and gave us an opportunity at a better life in America. I'll never forget his face among the crowd of families who came from similar backgrounds, other hardworking parents watching their hardworking sons and daughters receive a scholarship that told them - you can achieve anything if you work at it. Unfortunately, my dad passed away before he could see me graduate college, but I am very thankful to your organization for allowing us to share that memory together, and that he could see that things were going to be okay for me.

I started a career at Google, one of the most prominent, desired and difficult companies to get hired at and there I was. I started as an entry-level IT person and worked my way up to senior engineer. I'm grateful for those who have helped me along the way, thank you to the NSRCF for being one of those contributors. Your generosity begets further generosity from former anxious college-goers to future ones. Thank you for continuing to show those folks that hard work pays off.

## NSRCF NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS, LEGACY AND TRIBUTE FUNDS

The Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative 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 (minimum \$20,000), a Legacy Fund (minimum \$10,000) or a Tribute Fund (minimum \$2,000), please contact: 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, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

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### NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

#### **American Friends Service**

##### **Committee\***

Judy Nakadegawa

#### **Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami**

(Joyce M. Fukami)

#### **Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida\***

Frances Hayashida

Paul Hayashida

Susan Hayashida

Margaret Murata

#### **Nobu (Kumekawa) and Yosh Hibino**

(Michihiko and Bernice

Hayashida, family and friends)

Frances Hayashida

June Hibino

Shirley Hibino

Elizabeth & Stephen Hibino

Cathy Inamasu

Barbara & Gary Kitagawa

Forrest & Lorraine Minor

Laura Misumi

Michio & Mae Nakajima

Rick & Karen Okabe

Jack & Nancy Sneider

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)

Margaret Murata

#### **Fred and Kimiko Kishi**

(Family of Fred and Kimiko Kishi)

Elise Chad

Patti Kishi & Robert Chad

Brent Kehoe

Jan Kishi Kehoe

Megan Kehoe

Kimiko Kishi

Takeo Kishi

Susan Kishi & David Schuricht

Keith Schuricht

Sachiko Schuricht

Ruth Ann Kishi & Mike Woodring

#### **Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi**

(Maureen Kobayashi)

John Dubeck

Jennifer Kobayashi

Walter Zydlewski

#### **Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa**

(Joanne K. Kumekawa, family  
and friends)

Harvey Goldstein

Noriko & Takamasa Sakurai

Lee & Catherine Whitaker

Nobuko Yamasaki

#### **Colonel Joseph Y. Kurata**

(Col. Joseph Y. Kurata)

#### **Audrey Logan**

(Kesaya Noda)

Dr. Bach Tuyet Dang

Kay Nishiyama & David Noda

#### **Alice Abe Matsumoto**

(Family and friends)

Steven Matsumoto

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# NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND 2021 NEWSLETTER

NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.

19 Scenic Drive

Portland, Connecticut 06480

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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.