



# NSRCFUND NEWSLETTER

COMMEMORATE THE PAST - EDUCATE FOR THE FUTURE

VOLUME 31

FALL 2023

## 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, LAS VEGAS, NV



Photos courtesy of Daniel Lee and Jean Hibino

### “Be Responsible for Yourself and Make Your Parents Proud”

The 2023 NSRCF scholarship awards ceremony took place at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas on April 29. \$40,000 was awarded to 20 Southeast Asian American high school seniors. It was not lost on anyone that this outstanding group from throughout Clark County had made it through the COVID years. [See article on scholarship recipients.]

Led by **Tuan Pham** with assistance from NSRCF board member **Alex**

**Cherup**, who also served as co-MC of the program, the members of the dedicated and hard-working local scholarship awards committee were: **Arlene Marktheparack, Son Dao, Sou Thammavongsa** (co-MC), **Maggie Chen, Judy Filler, Buu Nguyen, Anh Thu Tran, and Ana Wood**. THANK YOU TO ALL – your commitment throughout the process ensured that each recipient was well-deserving and also that they and their parents would have

a wonderful time at the awards ceremony.

About 80 people were treated to a wonderful evening that included a delicious, three-course sit-down dinner. 18 excited and happy recipients attended with their even more excited and happier parents. One awardee, who was unable to go, sent his very proud father in his place. Several students were resplendent in their country of origin native dress.

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# GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD

Dear NSRCF supporters and friends,

**Congratulations to the Class of 2023!** You made it! As part of the so-called “COVID Generation,” you graduated high school under the most difficult circumstances and countless hardships for you and your families. We on the board of directors of the NSRCF are fully confident that if you can get through a pandemic, you will succeed in college.

This year the NSRCF awarded 20 students from Las Vegas/Clark County, Nevada with \$40,000 in scholarships. **THANK YOU SO MUCH** to the local scholarship awards committee for giving so much time, energy and hard work to ensure the project’s success: co-chairs **Tuan Pham** and **Alex Cherup**, and committee members: **Maggie Chen**, **Son Dao**, **Judy Filler**, **Arlene Markthepharack**, **Buu Nguyen**, **Sou Thammavongsa**, **Anh Thu Tran**, and **Ana Wood**. We are so grateful you stepped forward to help. We understand how much work the process is every year, culminating in the awards ceremony. But we also understand that our scholarships are the tangible validation of a students’ hard work and determination, and it is clearly reflected back in the joy and pride on their families’ faces. [See article on scholarship awards ceremony.]

The board of directors is all-volunteer and remains determined to keep operating costs to a minimum so that donations to the Fund go primarily towards scholarships. (The NSRCF’s annual financial statement is made available upon written request.) Even given the current economic situation, the Fund stands at \$2.6 million as of July 22, 2023.

Several new NSRCF named funds were established this year: **Suezo and Kikuyo Hayashida** Named Scholarship and **Joseph R. Goodman** Named Scholarship. Special thanks to Anna Kuniyoshi for her generous support in establishing the **Charles William Tanioka** Named Scholarship, two Legacy Funds – **Denji Dan Kuniyoshi** and **Takako Tanioka Paul**, and two Tribute Funds – **Nobu Yoshimura Kuniyoshi** and **Yo Kuniyoshi** and **Tommy and Ann Zimmerman**. 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 or email us at [info@nsrcfund.org](mailto:info@nsrcfund.org).

Check out the new and improved NSRCF website! <https://www.nsrcfund.org/>. Many thanks to **Miguel Elias** and the team at **Pendulum Creative Group** for their design and creative input. Much appreciation to board members Liz Hibino and Laura Misumi for guiding the project through.

This year’s appeal letter is from the board of directors. By unanimous vote we decided it was imperative that we take an unequivocal stand for diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education in direct opposition to the US Supreme Court’s striking down of affirmative action on June 29, 2023. The Court also rejected President Biden’s student debt forgiveness program. This double whammy makes us more determined than ever to carry out the Fund’s mission to “annually award scholarships to students from underserved communities pursuing higher education, to encourage inter-ethnic collaboration, and to promote public awareness and understanding of the forced removal and unjust imprisonment of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II.”

The Fund is currently exploring awarding scholarships in Wisconsin in 2024. We were last there in 1998 when 25 students each received a \$1000 scholarship. With the ever-rising cost of a college education and the US Supreme Court’s rejection of student debt forgiveness, the board proudly announces that beginning next year \$70,000 in scholarships will be available. This is

*continued on next page*

## Greetings from the board (cont'd)



the largest amount the NSRCF has ever awarded, and includes increasing the 25 special “Named Scholarship” awards from \$2,000 to \$2,500 each.

We note the passing of former NSRCF president and board member since 1992, **Yutaka Kobayashi**, on February 27, 2023 [see “In Memoriam”] and longtime supporter, **Homer Yasui**, on July 25, 2023. Mr. Yasui congratulated the NSRCF in 2020 on its 40th anniversary, “For me, one of the most heartwarming results of the help so freely given to them by strangers so long ago, is that the founders of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund remembered what their parents had taught them about On - the obligation to repay acts of kindness. ... And that makes my heart swell with pride.”

Special thanks to **Don Misumi** of San Francisco for putting the newsletter together this year.

If you are interested in getting involved with the NSRCF contact us at [info@nsrcfund.org](mailto:info@nsrcfund.org). There are many

important and satisfying ways you can pay it forward.

Lastly, thank you to the Fund’s supporters on its 43rd anniversary. These last covid-defining years have impacted so many young lives. Our sense of ongaeshi (repaying a kindness) is unwavering, but our ability to do so depends on your support. In grateful appreciation,

### NSRCF Board of Directors

Paul Watanabe, President  
Stephen Y. Hibino, Treasurer  
Kesaya E. Noda, Recording Secretary  
Jean Y. Hibino, Executive Secretary  
Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy  
James McIlwain  
Keith Schuricht  
Laura H. Misumi  
Elizabeth Sequenzia Hibino  
Alex Cherup

## Where are they now?

### Ben Truong, 2008 NSRCF scholarship recipient, Phoenix, AZ

I received the NSRCF scholarship during my senior year of high school in 2008. I attended the University of Arizona graduating with a BS in Nutritional Sciences and a BA in French and worked as a registered dietitian for several years before attending the University of Pennsylvania for dental school. I entered the US Air Force as a dental officer upon graduation for 4 years and served in Illinois and in South Korea. I am now working as a general dentist in the St. Louis area!



I am very thankful for the NSRCF scholarship, for it allowed me the ability to attend college with less debt and achieve my educational goals. Now I am in the position to help in a way similar to how others helped me.

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# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023!



## NSRCF Scholarship recipients

**Cammi Crittenden (Vietnamese), Spring Valley HS**



*Audrey Logan Scholarship*

As a young girl, Cammi was raised by her Vietnamese grandmother and once she entered school she had to overcome the language barrier but found the motivation to do well. In high school she made the Honor Roll, had perfect attendance, and worked part time. She also joined DECA, and the Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese clubs where she organized a school-wide lunar celebration. Cammi's volunteer work in Key Club turned her interest in serving the community into a passion. She is attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, planning to major in Biology.

**Leilani Ferguson Cha (Lao), Liberty HS**



*My Immigrant Ancestors Scholarship*

Growing up in a military family on both parent's sides, Leilani was exposed to many diverse and international experiences. Her mother's family arrived in the US in 1980 as refugees of the Secret War in Laos. She excelled in high school, receiving Nevada's College and Career Ready diploma, and participated in track and field and dance. She taught piano and held several part time jobs after covid restrictions were lifted. She is attending SUNY – College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY planning to become a wildlife biologist, specifically, a pilot biologist.

**Shayla Dang (Vietnamese), Coronado HS**



*American Friends Service Committee Scholarship*

Shayla's parents fled Vietnam to America in search of a better life. She learned the value of education from them, watching her father fulfill his dream of becoming a dentist. With his help, she organized a free dental clinic and enjoys helping her mother at the temple. Her list of academic and extracurricular accomplishments is long: National Merit Finalist, AP Honor Scholar, Mu Alpha Theta president, National Honor Society, Chamber Orchestra, Key Club, fundraising for cancer research. She also works parttime. Shayla is attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with plans to become a nurse practitioner.

**Forche Hana Grunnan (Mien), Spring Valley HS**



*Kenji Murase Scholarship*

As a daughter of an immigrant parent, Forche has learned to be self-sufficient, creative, and determined to succeed. She volunteered in the community and held several part-time jobs during the pandemic. This year she proudly established her own beauty business which helps her "lift some financial weight that has been weighing down on my single mother's shoulders." She is attending Nevada State College, Henderson to pursue a business degree.

# NSRCF Scholarship recipients (cont'd)

## Raksmei Heng (Khmer, Chinese), Mojave HS



*Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami Scholarship*

Raksmei's parents sent him from Cambodia to the US in 2019 to have a better future than they did. He was a freshman in high school and says "with little English and leaving everything behind

was lonely and difficult, but rewarding and necessary." He was in JROTC all four years, volunteered many hours in community service, was in Asian American Pacific Islander Club and National Honor Society. Raksmei is a first generation college student attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, planning to be a computer scientist and engineer and a ROTC Officer.

## Brian Le (Vietnamese), Southwest Career & Technical Academy HS



*Shim and Chiyo Hiraoka Scholarship*

Brian's parents came to the US from Vietnam hoping for a better life. He says, "I was given the opportunity to achieve a higher education than them and pushed hard to advance in my studies.

... I want to make my parents not have to worry about my future." He volunteered with SkillsUSA, We the People, the Asian Community Development Council, and Nevada FBLA, and held part-time culinary jobs. His interest in the culinary/hospitality industry was sparked when eating at a friend's house whose parents were chefs. He is a first generation college student attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Harrah College of Hospitality.

## Kelly Keo (Khmer), Mojave HS



*Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida Scholarship*

Kelly developed an early interest in neuroscience and wants to be in a lab to "help treat and prevent neurological disorders."

In high school, once she was able to reach out with questions, it gave her "a sense of knowledge

I would not have obtained if I never asked for help." She excelled in academics and was active in National Honor Society, color guard, and volunteered in the community. She says, "my mother and father often cook Cambodian meals and they are the one thing that makes me feel so close to my culture." Kelly is attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

## Ha Nguyen Le (Vietnamese), Bishop Gorman HS



*Gladys Ishida Stone Scholarship*

Ha arrived in the US in 2017 from Vietnam. She was in the 7th Grade and says, "Every experience, from the language to the culture, friends and school, was new to me." She mastered it all, with a 3.97 GPA and

membership in National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, and Spanish Honor Society. She also found time for Dance Team and Key Club while volunteering with Opportunity Village. Ha is attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas planning on becoming a dentist.

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# NSRCF Scholarship recipients (cont'd)

**Christina Luong (Vietnamese, Chinese), Northwest Career-Technical Academy HS**



*Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship*

Bullied and picked on in middle school, Christina says that “Going into high school was a one-of-a-kind experience for me, one that I am eternally grateful for.”

For the first time she joined a club, the Polynesian Dance Club,

and she says it allowed her to be accepted for who she is. She became president of that club and also the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honors Society. A member of the National Honor Society and Key Club, Christina and her friends started the Asian American Pacific Islander club. She is attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and hopes to become an engineer.

**Ethan Minh Nguyen (Vietnamese), Ed W. Clark HS**



*Tama (Yoshimura) and Jiro Ishihara Scholarship*

Ethan’s list of academic honors and extracurricular activities in school and in the community are extensive: 3.97 GPA, National Merit Finalist, AP Capstone Diploma, HOSA, Serving Nevada, Boys State delegate,

Chamber Orchestra (cello), founder of Astronomy 4 Kids. Serving in Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada and Remote Area Medical he “developed a love for social advocacy in medicine” and “making sure marginalized communities are addressed.” The need for a more compassionate, holistic, and inclusive healthcare system has led Ethan to the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine (BA/MD program).

**Jazarah Mao-Bounyavong (Khmer, Lao), East Career and Technical Academy HS**



*Kaizo and Shizue Naka Scholarship*

Jazarah says that growing up as a Lao-Cambodian American was challenging and she often felt like an outsider. When she was introduced to theater, it quickly became her passion, not just the form, but the accepting and welcoming community.

She also took up traditional dance at her temple and has “developed a deep appreciation for my culture and heritage.” She also volunteered with Wat Lao Khandhidramarem, Key Club, and played volleyball. Jazarah is attending the College of Southern Nevada pursuing her dream of becoming a choreographer or film technician.

**Jennifer Nguyen (Vietnamese), Spring Valley HS**



*Fred and Kimiko Kishi Scholarship*

“I feel my future belongs in a career of helping others” and for Jennifer that means pursuing a nursing degree. She has held multiple part-time jobs, and belonged to Key Club, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese clubs, all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA

and graduating with advanced high honors. She sees college as, “Instead of being stuck to the same ideas I’ve had, I can learn to think in new ways and expand on what I already know.” She also hopes to spread her Vietnamese heritage, culture, language and history “in a loving way.” She is attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

# NSRCF Scholarship recipients (cont'd)

## Aidan Operana (Khmer), Sierra Vista HS



*Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi Scholarship*

Aidan was active in Student Council, Key Club, and DECA. He maintained a 4.0 GPA, received the Harvard Prize Book award, was captain of the varsity wrestling team, president of

Mu Alpha Theta, interned at a biotech company, and volunteered countless hours to service projects. He is the son of a refugee who fled the Khmer Rouge genocide, and he wants to “ensure that the world never forgets the atrocities that occurred during that time” through writing articles, research papers, and a book. Aidan is attending Emory University in Atlanta pursuing a degree in biochemistry.

## Darrion Phan (Vietnamese), Coral Academy of Science HS, Sandy Ridge

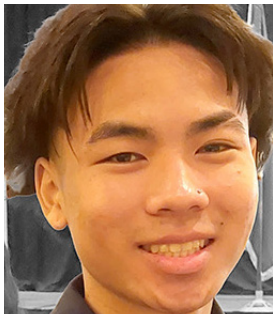


*Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa Scholarship*

“I grew up in a humble household, with not a lot to go around especially with my parents owning a hair styling family business. ... my parents made the most for us ... because even if we weren’t rich, they never made us feel poor.”

Darrion graduated first in his class, receiving the Honors + AP certificate. He received the Harvard Prize Book award, was a member of Key Club and Student Council. He also worked part-time. Darrion is skilled in taekwondo and was named 2019 Trainee Instructor of the Year. He is attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and his goal is to become a doctor.

## Davin Pathamavong (Lao), Cheyenne HS



*Alice Abe Matsumoto Scholarship*

“I’m the eldest child of two, raised by an amazing single mother who taught me to work hard and to be a good role model and set a good example for my younger brother.”

Davin served on Student Council, the varsity volleyball team,

worked part-time, and helped take care of his brother. He also supervised the SCVA and USAV volleyball club team. He is attending the College of Southern Nevada, pursuing a career in the medical field.

## Brian Phu (Vietnamese), Rancho HS



*David Mitsuo Takagi Scholarship*

Brian graduated top of his class, was a National Merit finalist, captain of the Science Bowl team, Vice-commander of the Armed Drill Team and Wing commander in JROTC, volunteered as a Vietnamese teacher’s aide at his temple,

and worked part-time. From an early age, Brian was fascinated with aircraft and knew he wanted to be an aerospace engineer. His parents and grandparents, however, insisted on his becoming a doctor. They soon realized that Brian was determined to follow the career path that gives him so much joy. He is attending the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

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# NSRCF Scholarship recipients (cont'd)

## Sarah Son (Vietnamese-Korean), Ed W. Clark HS



*Lafayette and Mayme Noda Scholarship*

Sarah excelled in academics, made the Academic Honor Roll, and received the AP Capstone Award. She was a member of the National Honor Society, HOSA, taught piano, tutored, volunteered at a

local hospital and food bank, co-founded the Operation Smile Club and Gift of Music, performing at local nursing homes. She says, "I knew that I would commit myself to performing medicine and pursuing the sciences in college in order to serve as a place of strength for those struggling." She is attending Vanderbilt University in Nashville pursuing a degree in biology – premed.

## Tiffinie Tran (Vietnamese, Chinese), Rancho HS



*Nobu (Kumekawa) and Yosh Hibino Scholarship*

"My traditional Vietnamese upbringing with the modern American perspective has promoted my passion for advocating for gender equality and my own success as a

Vietnamese woman in medicine." Tiffanie made Honor Roll and was an AP scholar, and although she had family obligations, she found time to volunteer with the Earth Club, Discovery Children's Museum, tutor, babysit, and was a student worker. She is attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas pursuing a major in psychology, "to achieve my dreams of having a career that focuses on supporting others."

## Aiden Tinder (Khmer, Vietnamese, Thai) Arbor View HS



*Kay Yamashita Scholarship*

Aiden's parents are first and second generation immigrants from Cambodia and Vietnam. He played soccer, baseball and football and works part-time to save money for college. His passion is to become a firefighter.

He volunteered in the Fire Explorer Program with Las Vegas Fire and Rescue to prepare for the firefighter academy. He also volunteered with the Miracle League to help people with disabilities play baseball, and helps at his local temple. He is attending the College of Southern Nevada.

## Alexander Vuong (Vietnamese), Ed W. Clark HS



*Koh, Mitsu and Dr. Kotaro Murai Scholarship*

Alexander is interested in media arts and video production. He volunteered with Just One Project Food Bank and the Navy JROTC. He took track and field and was a student worker at his

high school. Alexander made, directed, and created content such as public service announcements, and produced a weekly television show for the student-run Clark CTV. He is attending the Recording, Radio, Film Connection & CASA Schools.



# Where are they now?

*continued from page 3*

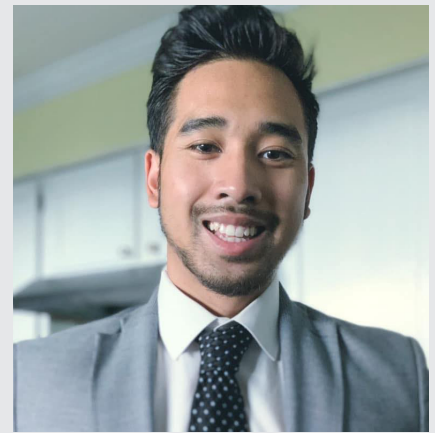
## **Tim Touch, 2010 NSRCF recipient, Washington, DC area**

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the scholarship I received from your organization in 2010. The financial assistance you provided me was instrumental in allowing me to pursue my academic dreams, and I am happy to say that it has had a significant impact on my career and life.

I was a senior at Annandale (Virginia) High School struggling to find any motivation on my academic journey. Thanks to your generous award, I was able to gain momentum in my first few years of college. The scholarship not only provided financial help, but provided me with confidence that led into my everyday life. I was able to participate in extracurricular activities and volunteer work, which helped me build my skills and gain experience in my field of interest.

After graduation from Radford University in 2014, I began my career in the Information Technology industry, where I have been working for the past eight years. I am proud to say that I have been able to excel in my career, thanks in no small part to the education and experiences I gained with the help of your scholarship. I have been promoted several times and have been recognized for my work in developing successful IT campaigns for various organizations.

None of this would have been possible without your support and acknowledgement, and I am grateful for the role your organization played in my success. Your investment in my education has not only benefited me, but has also made a positive impact on the organizations I have worked for and the people I have served. The fund continues to inspire me to help make a difference in the new generation of students.



## **Crystal Thao, 2014 NSRCF recipient, Hickory, NC**

It seems the years have flown by but I can still remember attending the award ceremony in Hickory like it was just yesterday. I'm so thankful to continue receiving newsletters here and there throughout the years.

I graduated from North Carolina State in 2018 with a major in business administration, concentration in Supply Chain. I've been fortunate and blessed on my journey despite the pandemic and product shortages. Since graduating, I've been a project assistant, a purchasing agent, and now currently an engineer at a company I've been with for 4 years. In

2021, I also opened a floral business. Life's been busy but diligence is key. I'm looking forward to so much more to come.

It's so nice to see NSRCF continue to impact and support the learning students of today and the future. I know I've always been grateful for the scholarship I received and that it helped provide me my university experience.



## *WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE NSRCF*

The Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund needs your support. Donations are vital to our scholarship program. There are several ways you can “lend a helping hand.” Tax-deductible 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.

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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.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**SAVE PAPER & MAILING**, email the newsletter to: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print



# IN MEMORIAM

*Yutaka Kobayashi*

*1924 - 2023*

*In 2014 at age 90, Yutaka Kobayashi won gold in both singles and doubles in Vancouver, WA and won gold in doubles and silver in singles at Laguna Hills, CA. Those victories ranked him #1 in the nation for men over 90 by the United States Tennis Association.*

Yutaka Kobayashi's decades of service to the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund left an indelible mark on its mission and work. Yutaka joined the board of directors in 1992, served as its president from 1998 to 2002, and "retired" in 2021. We are so lucky and grateful to have known him, to have benefited from his wisdom, thoughtfulness, and generosity. His deep commitment to - and "big picture" optimism for - the Fund were always pointed towards the future. He is deeply missed.

Over his nearly 30 years on the board, Yutaka contributed "musings" (his words) to the newsletter, in speeches, and for fundraising appeals. Following are excerpts.

**2007** It has been a very satisfying journey to be part of a program that encourages recent immigrant high school seniors to continue their education through our scholarship awards program. The pleasure of seeing the happiness of the students, their parents and friends at the awards program is beyond description.

**2013** I was 18 and had just graduated from high school in San Francisco when my family was forced to evacuate. I experienced the loss of my civil liberties, was classified an enemy alien by my own government, lived in a horse stall at Tanforan Race Track in San Bruno, CA, and suffered through terrible dust storms in Topaz, Utah. I finally got that break when I got a helping hand from strangers and was able to leave all that behind. I was one of the fortunate ones who received generous scholarship aid to leave the internment camp to complete my academic training ending with a Ph.D. in biochemistry.

71 years have passed since I was incarcerated and I am concerned that this chapter of America's history may be forgotten. We must remember and honor the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council that came to the aid of the college Nisei during WWII. At our annual scholarship award ceremonies, we highlight the story of the Nisei, their history of privation and redemption during WWII, and the need to be vigilant to ensure that their experience during

WWII never happens to another ethnic minority.

**2015** It is a wonderful experience to be part of this effort. The fund continues to grow and fulfill its mission to give a helping hand to Southeast Asian high school seniors, now a generation removed from the Vietnam War, so they can continue their educations.

Considering the escalating costs of higher education today, our scholarship awards are minimal. However, I believe our help shows students that people unknown to them care about them and care about their futures. Our aid encourages and supports students in whatever they aspire to be in whatever field they choose.

I believe that the West Coast Nisei who experienced the forced evacuation, internment and rejection by their own government have shown that it is possible for children of immigrants to overcome terrible obstacles and succeed in America. ... I proudly say that my time on the board of directors has given me a huge sense of satisfaction.

## 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, 2022 to September 30, 2023.

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### NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

#### **American Friends Service Committee\***

**Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami**  
(Joyce M. Fukami)

**Joseph R. Goodman**  
(Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa)  
John Goodman and Kerry King on  
behalf of the Goodman Family  
Robert Goodman

**Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida\***  
Frances Hayashida  
Susan Hayashida  
Margaret Murata

**Suezo and Kikuyo Hayashida**  
(Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida)  
Frances Hayashida  
Susan Hayashida  
Margaret Murata

**Nobu (Kumekawa) and Yosh Hibino**  
(Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida,  
family and friends)  
Karen and Steve Fugita  
Frances Hayashida  
Diane Hibino and John Triplett  
June Hibino  
Shirley Hibino  
Stephen Hibino  
Stephen, Liz, Max and Felix Hibino  
Cathy Inamasu  
Lorraine and Forrest Minor  
Laura Misumi  
Kenji Okumura  
Marisa Rivero and Michael McNulty  
Mark Rivero and Kim Williams

**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)  
Jan and Brian Kehoe  
Patti Kishi and Robert Chad  
Ruth Ann Kishi and Michael Woodring  
David Noda and Kay Nishiyama  
Kesaya Noda and Christopher Dye

**Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi**  
(Maureen Kobayashi)  
John Dubeck  
David and May Kobayashi  
Margie Yamamoto and Mark Hopkins

**In memory of Yutaka Kobayashi:**  
Jean Hibino  
Barbara Kobayashi, Lisa and Laron  
McPhaul, Doug Kobayashi  
John and Ruby Kobayashi  
Carol Gregory Nelson  
Mary Gruszka  
Craig Harwood  
May S. Persson  
Retired Men's Assoc., Wayland, MA  
Gail Sanders (and in honor of all  
Asian Americans)

**Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa**  
(Joanne K. Kumekawa, family and  
friends)  
Wallace Kido  
Yoshiko Kumekawa  
Bill and Sue Macy  
Rev. Masuo and Junko Miyazaki  
Profs. Noriko and Takamasa Sakurai  
Lee and Martha Whitaker in  
memory of Glenn Kumekawa  
Margie Yamamoto and Mark Hopkins

**Colonel Joseph Y. Kurata**  
(Col. Joseph Y. Kurata)

**Audrey Logan**  
(Kesaya Noda)  
David Noda and Kay Nishiyama

**Alice Abe Matsumoto**  
(Family and friends)  
Anonymous  
Steven Matsumoto  
Linda Pizinger  
Patricia Tanaka

**Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki**  
(Akio Mochizuki)  
Leslee Inaba-Wong  
Lynne and Robert Ishikawa  
Sharon Kotabe  
Tara Mochizuki and Jeffrey Chu

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

**Dr. Kenji Murase**  
(Family and friends)

**My Immigrant Ancestors**  
(Marcia Mau)

**Kaizo and Shizue Naka**  
(F. Robert and Patricia Naka)  
Fairfax (VA) Hockey League,  
Team USA Skiers

**Lafayette and Mayme Noda**  
(Walter N. Frank)  
Stephen and Donna Beaupré  
Noreen Enkoji  
Jan and Brian Kehoe  
Joan Longcope  
David Noda and Kay Nishiyama  
Carolyn Uchiyama

**Gladys Ishida Stone**  
(Gladys Ishida Stone)  
Judith and George Murakami

**David Mitsuo Takagi**  
(NSRCF board of directors, family  
and friends)  
Deb and Bill Handschin  
Sarah Lentz  
Barbara Takagi  
Keiji Takagi  
Mary Elizabeth Takagi  
Miye Takagi in honor of  
Mary Elizabeth Takagi

**Charles William Tanioka**  
(Anna Kuniyoshi)  
Anna Kuniyoshi

*continued on next page*

## **NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS, cont.**

### **Michi Nishiura Weglyn\***

#### **Kay Yamashita**

(Yutaka Kobayashi)  
Howard and Jane Tomi Boltz  
Neil Dion and Jennifer Gladden  
Margaret Murata  
Martha Uyeki  
Kenneth Yamashita

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#### **Woody and Betty Emlen\***

Warren Uchimoto

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(Calvin Ishida)

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(Kane and Rose Senda)

#### **Harutoyo and Haru Kobayashi**

(Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi)

#### **Denji Dan Kuniyoshi**

(Anna Kuniyoshi)  
Anna Kuniyoshi

#### **Nobu Yoshimura Kuniyoshi and Yo Kuniyoshi**

(Anna Kuniyoshi)  
Anna Kuniyoshi

#### **Livingston Yamato Colony Pioneers**

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Jan and Brian Kehoe  
Susan Kishi

#### **Takako Tanioka Paul**

(Anna Kuniyoshi)  
Anna Kuniyoshi

#### **Masu Sasajima\***

#### **Eleanor and Emil Sekerak**

(Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida)  
Jane Beckwith  
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(Jack M. Sneider)

#### **Bobby and Lily Takatsuka**

(Bobby and Lily Takatsuka)  
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Bobby Takatsuka

#### **Trudy King Toll\***

Warren Uchimoto

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Emi Fujii

#### **Yasuko Fujita**

(Joyce M. Fukami)  
K. Nanae Miles

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(Yosh and Nobu Hibino)

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(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)

#### **Judge William M. and Victoria Marutani**

(David K. Nitta)

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(Alice and Yo Matsumoto)  
Steven Matsumoto

#### **Nobu Miyoshi**

(Yoshiko and Ryoza Glenn Kumekawa)

#### **Takashi and Yuri Moriuchi\***

Jan and Brian Kehoe

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#### **John W. Nason\***

(Yoshiko and Ryoza Glenn Kumekawa)  
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#### **Dr. Lee Lowry Neilan**

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(Rhoda Nishimura Iyoya, Dwight  
Nishimura, Joseph Nishimura,  
Jonathan Nishimura)

#### **Shichiro and Sachi Noda**

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(Yuri and Eugene Kodani)

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#### **Taichi and Sachiye Takagi**

(David and Barbara, and Mary  
Elizabeth Takagi)  
Keiji Takagi

#### **UC Berkeley Student YWCA**

(Mary Yamashiro Otani)

#### **Yoshiko Uchida**

(Virginia Scardigli)

#### **Paul R. Wada**

(Yasuko and Yukio Wada)  
Tami Suzuki and Richard Eijima in  
memory of Marion T. Suzuki

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## TRIBUTE FUNDS, cont.

### **Yukio Wada**

(Yasuko Wada and Family)

### **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 Yasui  
Rachel Yasui

### **Tommy and Ann Zimmerman**

(Anna Kuniyoshi)  
Anna Kuniyoshi



The NSRCF Board of Directors established these (\*) and the following funds with the hope that what happened during World War II will neither be forgotten nor repeated, and that future generations will have the opportunity to receive a higher education:

### **Amache Alumni Tribute Fund**

Jan and Brian Kehoe

### **Gila River Alumni Tribute Fund**

### **Heart Mountain Alumni Tribute Fund**

Jan and Brian Kehoe  
Laura Uba

### **Jerome Alumni Tribute Fund**

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### **Poston Alumni Tribute Fund**

### **Rohwer Alumni Tribute Fund**

### **Topaz Alumni Tribute Fund**

Margaret Murata

### **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:

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Mariko Ando

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Kesaya Noda and Christopher Dye in  
honor of Steve and Donna Beaupré

Ken Nomiyama

Optum/UHG matching gift

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David Sakura in memory of

Chester and Agnes Sakura

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### **In memory of Marion Suzuki:**

Ken and Tomi Hamaguchi Family

Gene Hane

Ruth Ann Kishi and Michael Woodring

Alice Takemoto

Peter Trinh

US Bank Foundation matching gift

Paul Watanabe

Tiffany Xiong

Nobuko Yamasaki

Mary Yee and Paul Uyehara

# 2023 AWARDS *cont'd*

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Tuan Pham kicked off the program with a welcome and thank you to the many businesses, organizations, individuals, and restaurants who generously donated and contributed to the awards ceremony, and acknowledged attendees Kenny Shedd, former NFL wide receiver and Ramon Montano, former boxer.

The NSRCF video was played, which was especially poignant this year because it is narrated by Yutaka Kobayashi, who passed away two months before the awards ceremony. Jean Hibino gave remarks on behalf of the board of directors, and was followed by the **keynote speaker, Wayne Tanaka**. Mr. Tanaka is a Sansei, born in Lahaina, Maui. His grandparents immigrated to Hawaii to work on the sugar cane plantations. He received his Master of Education degree in Education Administration from UNLV and began his 28 year long career in education as a junior high school teacher, and then served as dean of students, assistant principal, and principal.

In excerpts of his keynote, Mr. Tanaka said, "Tonight we pause to 'catch our breath' and bathe in the glow of your success as scholarship recipients. You and your parents are to be congratulated for your tenacity to achieve

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## 2023 AWARDS *cont'd*

educational excellence. ... Good luck to all of you but remember to communicate with your parents ... don't forget your parents are working constantly to provide the finances and opportunities for you to venture out as a young adult to spread your wings, to experience new opportunities, new friends, new knowledge, and new realities about the world that surrounds you. ... you resided in the comfortable shelter of your high school environment. As a young adult, you will be making choices that will impact your future. Be responsible for yourself and make your parents proud as you set out to 'conquer' the world and become a successful young adult in your chosen profession. ..."

He ended to loud laughter with, "And most importantly, **always remember to make your bed.**"

The remainder of the program was devoted to the scholarship recipients who were each called to the stage and acknowledged, congratulated,

and photographed. Several gave "shout outs" of gratitude to their parents. Each awardee was presented with a certificate of achievement and congratulations from every member of the Nevada Democratic US Congressional Delegation: Sen. Catherine Cortez-Masto, Sen. Jacky Rosen, Rep. Dina Titus, Rep. Susie Lee, and Rep. Steven Horsford. The ceremony ended with much enjoyment, many selfies, deep gratitude from the parents to the NSRCF, and satisfaction for a job well done.

In a remarkable postscript, Alex Cherup, board member and Deputy Director of Nevada Legal Services noted, "The NSRCF effort contributed to unexpected benefits beyond the scholarship initiative. Through the process of reaching students, educators and community leaders, and attending events and activities, our work has established durable relationships. It has provided me the opportunity

to inform community members about the legal and social services available for low income individuals. Additionally, inspired by the NSRCF endeavor, interest in the possibility of a future scholarship program has grown. The dynamic power of these critical connections allows for the work of the NSRCF to continue to benefit the community well beyond the conclusion of our scholarship initiative."

We say this every year, but we cannot award scholarships across the country without the help of the all-volunteer local scholarship awards committees. This year stands out. For practically all of their high school years, the Class of 2023 had to navigate the obstacles of the COVID pandemic. The recipients more than proved their determination and focus. It is particularly gratifying that the Nevada committee took great pains to make sure they were so warmly and enthusiastically celebrated. Thank you!

# NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND 2023 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.