

# KOKORO

## **2018 JACL National Convention**

The President of the Philadelphia Chapter of JACL Rob Buscher also serves as Festival Director of the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival set a theme for the 2018 convention that focused on the value and importance of the arts as an alternative way to document and teach history and to reveal its impact on humanity. It was an important reminder that the arts are a powerful force that engage hearts and minds and give rise to change.

At the opening reception of the convention we enjoyed performances by Peter Shikoda television and film actor who performed an excerpt from the play about Gordon Hirabayashi Hold These Truths, Mayumi Yoshida award winning actor and director, and Tadashi Nakamura award winning documentary film maker. These three artists also gave a presentation for the delegates at the Plenary Session and “Examined Nikkei contributions to both Hollywood and independent cinema from the early years of the Asian American Cinema Movement through today.”



Steve Okamoto & Mary Jo Kubota-arcarese  
attended as delegates for the San Mateo JACL  
Chapter.

There was a story telling session that examined the different mediums from poetry to theatre as means to record community history and experiences. Rich Shiomi, playwright/director and Mikato Hirono presented a Theater Workshop that focused on the core elements of live performance.

On the next to last night convention attendees were treated to the “Artist Bash” at the fabulous Barnes Foundation. There were several multi-cultural performances but the highlight was the performance by “G. Yamazawa National Poetry Slam Champion who has been featured on ABC, NBC, NPR, PBS and has toured over 200 universities worldwide to challenge the perspective of race & culture, poetry & rap, and the phenomena of the human condition.” G. was an incredible and funny performer who had everyone clapping, dancing, and joining in his rap poetry. Convention participants also got to visit the Barnes Foundation Galleries and they are amazing!!!! If you have a chance to visit Philadelphia make sure to visit the

Barnes Foundation and please check out G. Yamazawa on YouTube!

It was an exciting and thought provoking convention thanks to the work of Rob Buscher and the Philadelphia JACL.

## Millbrae Japanese Culture Festival



Diana Okamoto, Lauren Kawawaki, & Misa Sakaguchi helping out at the Kidz Klub koi art booth.

This is the sixth year that the San Mateo JACL participated in the Millbrae Culture Festival and shared an informational booth with the San Mateo County History Museum. The San Mateo Japanese American Community Center (JACC) joined us this year in an adjacent booth. It was a beautiful day and a very successful event! All three organizations recruited some new members. JACL and the JACC had many energetic

volunteers helping. Misa Sakaguchi represented the History Museum. Misa is also on the JACL Board and volunteers regularly at the JACC so she helped at all the booths! The JACL provided a very popular koi art project for all children that stopped by our booth. Diana Okamoto organized that activity and also signed up many families to participate in our youth outreach program “Kidz Klub.” Diana is planning several fun and exciting cultural activities for children and families throughout the year. Thanks to Kathleen Kimura, Festival Chair, for organizing this outstanding event. It was a fun, meaningful, and community building event for all who



## 2019 National Scholarship Program

The JACL has been helping students achieve their educational dreams with the National Scholarship and Awards Program since 1946. The program currently offers over 30 awards, with an annual total of over \$70,000 in scholarships to qualified students nationwide.

The National Scholarship and Awards Program offer scholarships to students who are entering freshman, undergraduate, graduate, law, in the creative & performing arts, and those with financial need. All scholarships are one-time awards. Entering freshman applications for 2019 will be available November 2018 on the JACL website [jacl.org](http://jacl.org).