

KOKORO

San Mateo JACL Announces 2018 Scholarship Award



San Mateo JACL Board is proud to announce that their 2018 Scholarship was awarded to Notre Dame High School senior Brittney Kitaura of San Carlos. She plans on majoring in International Studies at the University of Oregon. This outgoing and enthusiastic young woman has been very involved with the Japanese American Community. She has volunteered countless hours helping with many activities and programs at Palo Alto Buddhist Temple and held Board Positions for the Bay District Jr. Young Buddhist Association. Brittney served as President of the Young Buddhist Association for two years and has also chaired their bingo and spaghetti dinner. She participated in the Dharma School taiko, choir, and was a

YBA Dance leader. At Notre Dame, Brittney was an Honor Roll Student and member of the National Honor Society. She was Captain of both the Varsity Swim team and the Varsity Water Polo Team, a Student Body Officer, and a Finalist in the Notre Dame Art Show. Brittney was awarded her scholarship at the 2018 San Mateo JACL Installation/Scholarship Dinner on April 25, 2018 (pictured to the right). Her proud parents and grandparents were also in attendance.



San Mateo Mayor Rick Bonilla installed the 2018 Board.

New Board Member Spotlight

Martha Sandy was born and raised in San Mateo. She and her husband Steve, have lived in Foster City for 30 years and have been married for 37 years. They have a son, Zach, who is a doctor of acupuncture specializing in orthopedics and sports medicine. (continued)

Martha is an active member of the Foster City Lions Club for the past 10 years and served as past president. She also served as Zone and Region chair for District 4-C4. She currently is the 1st VP for the Peninsula Council of Lions (PCL). The PCL donates to many causes mainly directed to police officers and firefighters. Also, Martha chairs the PCL dinner where police and firefighters are honored for their service, valor, and heroism.

Martha is a UC Davis Alumni with a bachelor degree in Psychology. She is an avid reader and gardener, and loves to cook, entertain, and exercise at the Bay Club.

JACL Disappointed with Supreme Court Decision

June 26, 2018 Press Release

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In a 5-4 decision today, the Supreme Court affirmed that the religious animus towards Islam can be ignored so long as the resulting policy appears on its face to be legitimately derived. This is exactly the logic that allowed 120,000 Japanese Americans to be incarcerated during World War II. JACL is deeply disappointed that the Supreme Court has misinterpreted the lessons from Korematsu, Hirabayashi, and Yasui.

During World War II, the government made the case for military necessity, and the court willingly accepted that argument, ignoring the clear racist intent. Today, the parallels are clear with public statements from the President defining his intent to ban Muslims from entering our country. The majority opinion repudiates the racism at the heart of Korematsu, yet ignores the religious animus that has clearly guided the formation of the Muslim Ban.

The majority decision states: “Whatever rhetorical advantage the dissent may see in doing so, Korematsu has nothing to do with this case. The forcible relocation of U. S. citizens to concentration camps, solely and explicitly on the basis of race, is objectively unlawful and outside the scope of Presidential authority. But it is wholly inapt to liken that morally repugnant order to a facially neutral policy denying certain foreign nationals the privilege of admission.”

Many would have also argued that the Japanese exclusion orders were “facially neutral” and we remind the court that Executive Order 9066 did not specify Japanese or Japanese Americans and was used to target small numbers of Germans and Italians. However, in its application, it was entirely discriminatory in its effect, and that is what the court has failed to recognize in its ruling today.

We urge Congress to take action and rein in the anti-immigrant and anti-family policies of this president. Congress has the power to stop this discrimination and must act now.

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.