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www.nsrcfund.org



NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION
COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.

19 Scenic Drive, Portland, Connecticut 06480

Fall, 2017

Dear NSRCF friends and supporters (and future supporters!):

We are living in an age where so much information is at our fingertips, available all at once. Technology makes it easy to forget that people relate best in person, and absorb information best in narrative, where we can empathize with, and see ourselves in, the stories of others. In these turbulent times when it seems that history is being forgotten, and egregious conduct is becoming the norm, we must constantly remind ourselves who we are and where we come from. The NSRCF is helping keep the story of the Japanese in America alive, while also helping Southeast Asian students develop new stories of their own.

I am Yonsei, fourth-generation Japanese American. I am also a proud third-generation NSRCF board member who has inherited the legacy of “lending a helping hand.” In 1942, my grandparents, Nobu KumeKawa and Yosh Hibino were removed first to the horse stalls at Tanforan racetrack in San Bruno, CA and then shipped to Topaz, Utah. Through the brave efforts of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, they left Topaz to complete their college educations.

I remember hearing the story of how my grandma went through various New England states’ phone books searching for Japanese last names and then cold-calling folks looking for other Nisei. Her efforts helped create the New England Kenjinkai, now in its 40th year. The informal group of Nisei celebrated Oshogatsu (New Year’s) with their families and friends, and for me, it was a wonderful way of being in community with Japanese Americans from all over New England. It was always an amazing affirmation of self, and an opportunity to remember the circumstances of how so many of us came to be on the East Coast. That same group of Nisei established the NSRCF. My earliest childhood memories of the Fund was sitting on my living room floor helping to stuff envelopes for the annual newsletter mail out.

I graduated from college in the year of President Obama’s first inauguration. His campaign and election ushered in a new era of community organizing. I chose to go to Lowell, Massachusetts to be an AmeriCorps Youth Organizer where I worked with Southeast Asian and Latino youth. I saw firsthand the effects of the lack of political power in underserved communities of color. I spoke often to my teens about what happened to my family during WWII, that it was not an isolated act, but the product of racist government policy. I stressed that by looking backward, we learn how to effect change.

What I love about the NSRCF is the simplicity of its mission. Its simplicity belies the power of its purpose and work. The stories in the newsletter of past recipients’ success, of applicants’ ambitions, and Named Funders’ histories inspire me daily. I believe those of us who have inherited this legacy owe it to future generations to continue drawing connections between communities. In a time when xenophobic rhetoric is casually flung down from the highest public office, we continue to provide young Southeast Asian Americans with the opportunity to further their educations. Giving what you can allows us to continue our work and carry on in the spirit of the WWII Student Relocation Council and Nisei students. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laura H. Misumi

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I/we would like to “extend a helping hand.” Enclosed is my/our tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____.
(Please make check payable to NSRC Fund)

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Send information about how to establish NSRC Fund Tribute, Legacy and Named Scholarship Funds

Send the annual NSRC Fund newsletter to me by email: _____
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