We were so excited NSRCF decided to return to the Greater Seattle area for its 40th anniversary. The local awards committee is a passionate and thoughtful group, comprised of community and education leaders who genuinely care about helping students gain access to higher education. Many of us were also first-generation college students and we chose to serve on this committee because of the huge opportunity for us to give back and pay it forward.

Southeast Asian students are faced with barriers and challenges around language, gaps in mental health treatment, race-based bullying, and harassment that prevent many of them from obtaining higher education. To that end, we worked hard to ensure an inclusive, accessible process, including providing workshops and tools to help students fill out the application.

It was with great pride that we awarded $71,500 to 66 Southeast Asian students – the largest group in NSRCF’s history! The students’ stories were so compelling that we personally contributed and raised approximately $15,000 from the local community. We also dedicated $5,000 of the locally raised funds to provide scholarships to four Pacific Islander students.

Thank you to the families, teachers, and advisors who worked tirelessly to support them. Thank you, students, for sharing your stories, hardships, and goals with us. It was inspiring to learn how much you have overcome, how you rise above the noise to reach your goals, and the ways you give back to your families and communities. We hope that you will continue to do so and someday pay it forward to the next generation of students. A lot of people care about you and are rooting for you. No matter how hard the journey gets, lean into resilience, and continue to pursue your dreams.

Black Lives Matter
The Seattle Awards Committee would like to take a moment to reflect on the racial injustices that are happening in our nation amidst this pandemic. We as Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders stand in solidarity with the Black Community and condemn the violence they face. While the struggle for racial equality and justice is ongoing, the turbulence of the past months must not overshadow the accomplishments of this year’s recipients. Your journey brought you to intersect with us, and we encourage each of you to continue to share your voices and stories. We believe that each of you exemplifies the best of the purpose and work of the NSRCF.
AN HONOR TO WORK WITH THE SEATTLE AWARDS COMMITTEE
Islanda Khau Naughton, board member

I’ve had the pleasure of attending a few of the award ceremonies over the years and am continuously humbled to meet so many resilient and ambitious individuals. It is one of the highlights of being on the board.

I moved back to Washington a few years ago and was excited when the board announced it chose the Greater Seattle area to be the scholarship destination for our 40th anniversary. What was even more amazing was that folks from the 2011 local committee agreed to serve again this year! I am so honored to have worked with such a compassionate and dedicated group of people. In January, I gave birth to my second son, so I had to step away to care for my family. The committee continued its work and went above and beyond. These remarkable individuals will always have a special place in my heart.

The culmination of all the hard work led us to award $76,500 to 70 students – the largest amount ever given to the largest number of students. These highly qualified students exemplify resilience, intelligence, and community.

To the class of 2020 - in times of darkness, societies have searched for and found beacons of light. You are those beacons.

Congratulations and good luck!

MASU SASAJIMA, Nisei, Seattle

I’d like to add my congratulations to the high school class of 2020 for your achievements and graduation. I would be remiss in also not acknowledging the significance of this year’s world-wide pandemic on your lives and future.

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 other 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.

A mentor once said that there were no problems, only challenges and opportunities. You have already demonstrated your own strengths to overcome obstacles and this will keep you in good stead as you face the future. Best wishes to you for the courage to lead a life of hope and optimism.
Dear NSRCF supporters and friends,

Congratulations to the Class of 2020! What an amazing milestone, accomplished during a pandemic and the broadening movement to end systemic racism. On the 40th anniversary of the NSRCF, a record 70 scholarships totaling another record $76,500 were awarded to outstanding high school seniors from Greater Seattle.

The board is grateful to member, Islanda Khau Naughton, who lives in the Seattle area, for her leadership and guidance of the local scholarship awards committee. Islanda and several members of the committee also worked on the 2011 awards committee, the last time the Fund was in Seattle. Thank you so much to this year’s committee members: Linda Ando, Bopha Cheng, Rahul Gupta, Maekara Keopanapay, May Lukens, Bely Luu, Charlene Mano Shen, Gabe Nishimura, Rattana Noeun, May Saetern, Ekkarath Sisavatdy, Khamph Southisombath, Bill Tashima, Jeff Thungc, and Star Wang. The committee locally raised enough funds to award four scholarships to seniors in the Pacific Islander community. That endeavor was spearheaded by Naomi Mulitauaopele Tagaleo’o, CEO of Education with Purpose Foundation for Pacific Islanders, along with Andrea Iosua-Tinae, Lindsay Tuiaisoso, Matthew Vaeena, and Ivo Vongsaveng.

We cannot do the Fund’s work without a committed, energized and well organized local committee and this year was no exception. Overcoming numerous obstacles, functioning during a pandemic, not meeting in person, working in isolation from home, calming anxious high school seniors whose schools were abruptly shut down (“How can I get my transcript? How can I get a recommendation?”), and the general uncertainty of life, the committee did an outstanding job.

Early on in the process the local scholarship committee knew that the awards ceremony had to be canceled due to covid-19. In lieu of an in-person program to celebrate this year’s recipients, the committee designed a terrific “Awards Gallery” on the website that we encourage you to watch: www.nsrcfund.org/scholarships/2020-awards. We are so appreciative!!

The NSRCF 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.) Even in these uncertain times, the Fund is holding steady at just over $2 million (as of July 31, 2020).

This year’s appeal letter is contributed by President Paul Watanabe, as excerpts from his virtual speech given in congratulations to the Greater Seattle scholarship recipients.

The board is pleased to announce that the 2021 scholarship awards will be given in the great state of Rhode Island. Thanks to member Phitsamay Uy, initial contact has been made with ARISE, the Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education and its powerhouse Executive Director, Chanda Womack. We are hopeful for a coronavirus-free endeavor, including an in-person awards ceremony next year.

Heartfelt condolences are extended to the families of Akio Mochizuki and Colonel Joseph Y. Kurata, both of San Francisco. Mr. Mochizuki passed away on July 18, 2020 at age 99. He was a longtime supporter of the NSRCF, and established the Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship in honor of his late wife. Colonel Kurata passed away on August 23, 2020 at age 98. He established the Colonel Joseph Y. Kurata Scholarship in 2015. “After reading the scholarship recipients’ educational and career goals, I was inspired to support your worthy program.”

Lastly, thank you to the Fund’s supporters on this 40th anniversary. Your affirmation of our work inspires us during these chaotic and unparalleled times. We have two objectives – award scholarships and tell our story. The NSRCF was born in the US concentration camps and draws a straight, unwavering line from 1942 to today. It is fitting that 1980 was also the year that Congress established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment

continued on next page
of Civilians. The Commission concluded that the decision of the United States Government to forcibly remove and incarcerate 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry was based on “racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.” Failure of political leadership. Unnervingly prescient. There is still much work to do.

Our sense of “ongaeshi” (repaying a kindness) is strong, but our ability to do so depends on your support. Stay well, social distance, wash your hands, and wear a face mask.

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
Islanda Khau Naughton
Yutaka Kobayashi
James McIlwain
Laura H. Misumi
Keith Schuricht
May O. Takayanagi
Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy

HOMER YASUI,
Nisei, Seattle

Well done, Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund.

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 parent’s had taught them about On -- the obligation to repay acts of kindness.

So, many years ago, those former Nisei college students established this fund as an act of ongaeshi - the obligatory repayment for favors received in the past. Rather than making these repayments to the descendants of the founders of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council of 1942, the NSRCF has paid it forward. Since 1980 it has been awarding monetary scholarships to high school seniors of Southeast Asian extraction, to help them pay for their college expenses. The supporters of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund have remembered how much it once meant to them when help was so badly needed.

And that makes my heart swell with pride.

PETER TRINH,
2008 NSRCF recipient, Arizona

Thank you and congratulations on forty years! May this fund continue to further education, love, and hope.

Thank you for showing us that the challenges we face today do not have to hold us back tomorrow.
HUY PHUNG,  
2011 NSRCF recipient, Seattle

To the class of 2020 – Almost 30 years ago, I was in your shoes on my way to college struggling to find my path in life. I was still trying to figure out what I wanted to be, what I wanted to do, all while trying to figure out how to pay for college. Receiving the NSRCF scholarship was a huge gift that lightened the burden as I tried to make my way into a brave new world.

While many things were similar, you have had so many more challenges to deal with in 2020. You’ve had a once in a century pandemic, a civil revolution sweeping the nation, and a global recession to deal with … all while trying to graduate.

The road to success is never short nor simple. It is always long and arduous. There are many paths to your destination, but all paths have one thing in common. They all begin with one step.

Congratulations on being awarded the 40th anniversary Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund scholarship. I hope this gift helps you with the first step to success as it helped me many years ago!

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE NSRCF

The Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund needs your support. Donations are the life blood of our scholarship program and allow us to support deserving students as they move from secondary school into higher education. Contact us by mail or email info@nsrcfund.org if you would like further information about giving. You can also donate via PayPal online at nsrcfund.org/support/donate.

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. You may also use PayPay at 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: ________________________________

Name(s) ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

City/State/Zip: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Samirah Apdalhalim (Cham), Renton HS
Kaizo and Shizue Naka Scholarship

As a Muslim woman of Asian descent and daughter of Vietnamese refugees, Samirah is keenly aware of the importance of education and being proud of her heritage. In high school she received outstanding grades, worked part-time, and implemented new programs for the youth in her community. She was a Peer Mentor, active in HOSA, and participated in several internships including cancer research, Southeast Asian Women camp, and computer programming. She continues to actively seek out opportunities available to underrepresented minorities. Samirah is attending the University of Washington to pursue her interest in public health and biology.

Lily Duong (Vietnamese), Highline HS, Des Moines
Audrey Logan Scholarship

As the first in her family to attend college, Lily worked hard to achieve excellent grades and be involved in school. She was a member of Tutor Team, Link Crew, Key Club, National Honor Society, and president of the Marine Biology Club. She also helped take care of her younger siblings and worked in the family restaurant. Her experiences growing up Vietnamese have taught her to push for equal access and to encourage students like her to pursue higher education. She plans to be a teacher and is attending Western Washington University as a Future Woodring Scholar majoring in Elementary Education.

Lisa Ha (Vietnamese), Kent-Meridian HS, Kent
Tama (Yoshimura) and Jiro Ishihara Scholarship

Raised by her single immigrant mom, Lisa was determined to be the first in her family to go to college. She was in Upward Bound, DECA, Interact Club, Japanese Club, and Girls Who Code Club. She volunteered at Tacoma General Hospital, Vietnamese Language School, Youth Faith Formation Program, youth choir, and youth dance group. Lisa is attending the University of Washington to pursue a career as a software engineer and is attending Pacific Lutheran University, pursuing a degree in Computer Science.

Uyen Dao (Vietnamese), Lincoln HS, Tacoma
Koh, Mitsu and Dr. Kotaro Murai Scholarship

Uyen arrived with her family from Vietnam in 2014. She found her voice by getting involved in the Vietnamese dance group and youth group at her church. Uyen established the first student-led health club in her school district. She was also a member of National Honor Society, Key Club, Upward Bound, and Outdoor Adventure Club. She volunteered at Tacoma General Hospital, Vietnamese Language School, Youth Faith Formation Program, youth choir, and youth dance group. Uyen is attending the University of Washington to pursue a career as a traveling doctor advocating for affordable and easier access to healthcare in developing countries.

continued on next page
2020 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS cont’d.

Tracy Ha (Vietnamese), John R. Rogers HS, Spokane
Kay Yamashita Scholarship

Tracy maintained a 4.0 GPA at the high school and college level while demonstrating her leadership skills in the National Honor Society, Key Club, Varsity Tennis, Skills USA, and the Vietnamese Buddhist community. As the daughter of immigrants, Tracy spent hours helping in her mother’s nail salon, and along with an internship at an urgent care clinic and visiting a developing country, her desire to serve underrepresented populations was affirmed. Working with Doctors Without Borders is one of her goals. Tracy is attending Stanford University majoring in the health sciences with the intent of becoming a pediatric surgeon.

Ravipon Khampradith (Lao), Federal Way HS
Lafayette and Mayme Noda Scholarship

Growing up in a household where higher education was emphasized Ravi worked hard to balance school, sports and work. While in high school he was also a Running Start student at Highline College and a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He was active in Key Club, and on the varsity track and field teams. He enjoyed being involved in the Lao community, teaching music and dance to Lao youth and volunteering at community events. He started his own photography business as a way to earn work experience and to express himself creatively. Ravi is attending Arizona State University’s Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering studying product/industrial design.

Julina Lang (Khmer), West Seattle HS
Dr. Kenji Murase Scholarship

Taking care of her ailing grandmother helped Julina realize she could be a positive role model and mentor in her community. She was an active leader in Link Crew, interned at Hiawatha Community Center and Delridge Community Center, and worked at the Boys and Girls Club and White Center Community Center. Weekends found her helping the Khmer community by participating at the Khemarak Pothiram Temple. She says, “Through my experiences with my grandma, I was able to reconnect with my family, community and Khmer roots.” Julina is attending the University of Washington pursuing a degree in Public Health.

Perseus Nguyen (Vietnamese), Evergreen HS, Seattle
American Friends Service Committee Scholarship

Perseus says, “I have always had the goal to prove others wrong about myself as well as leave behind a legacy.” Perseus’ community work included Ecology Youth Corps, cleaning up the sides of roads, supporting the LGBTQ+ community, and commissioning art for a 5K run/walk. They were the president of the Evergreen LGBTQ+ club, a member of the Outdoors club, and participated in track and field. Their wide-ranging interests include art, animals, nature, music, theater/acting, politics, law, and government. Perseus plans to attend Central Washington University “to hopefully pursue a career that makes me happy.”

continued on next page
2020 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS cont’d.

**Sofia Nguyen (Vietnamese), Franklin HS, Seattle**
Gladys Ishida Stone Scholarship

Sofia is an academic standout, active in Health Club, track and field, Upward Bound and National Honor Society. She is passionate about social justice and science. She painted murals in her community to express her activism, and participated in the Genome Sciences Internship at the University of Washington and the Political Science Academy at her school. She advocated for equitable science curriculums throughout the Seattle public school district as part of the Science Adoption Committee. Sofia is attending the University of Washington studying pre-health sciences and ethnic studies with a goal to build diversity in the medical field.

**Thanh-Thanh Nguyen (Vietnamese), Franklin HS, Seattle**
Colonel Joseph Y. Kurata Scholarship

If Thanh-Thanh can say one thing about herself is that she perseveres. She will be the first to admit that she can sometimes be “disconnected” from her Vietnamese community. Even so, she would like to travel to Vietnam for the first time and to go with her mother, “My ethnicity is an important part of my identity, it makes me who I am, what I am, and greatly impacts my life.” She perseveres - learning Vietnamese and volunteering as a library assistant and teacher’s assistant. Taking baby steps never intimidates her. Thanh-Thanh’s dream is to become a nurse. She is attending Seattle Central College.

**Kristy Nhan (Vietnamese, Chinese), Kentridge HS, Kent**
Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship

While achieving high honors and numerous academic awards in school, Kristy is also passionate about serving the community and giving back. In high school Kristy held leadership positions in Key Club and National Honor Society, and was the founder and president of STEM Careers Club. As the daughter of immigrant parents, she experienced firsthand the need for Seattle’s immigrant and refugee communities to be able to access and learn to use technology. By being a role model, Kristy hopes to encourage girls and young women to explore STEM careers. She is attending the University of Washington’s Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering.

**Linda Phan (Vietnamese), Garfield HS, Kent**
Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi Scholarship

Linda was actively involved with Student Government, Vietnamese Student Distributive Education Clubs of America, National Honor Society, varsity gymnastics, and varsity track and field. She was appointed to the Seattle Youth Commission that connects youth to local elected officials. She also volunteered with Post 84, the Service Board, Global Visionaries, and Girl Up Puget Sound. Linda says, “My marginalized background allowed me to better understand societal inequalities. I want to join the influx of diverse leaders in Congress … where the faces of politics are ones that kids like me can look up to.” She is attending Pomona College majoring in Political Science.
Phuong Phan (Vietnamese),
John F. Kennedy Catholic HS, Burien
Michi Nishiura Weglyn Scholarship

Joining the Eucharistic Vietnamese Youth Movement helped Phuong recognize her leadership abilities. She was president of her senior class, president of the Human Relations Club, and president of the Chamber Orchestra. She also worked part-time, advocated for common sense gun control, was an ACLU Advocacy Institute alumni, and Senate page. One of her proudest achievements was organizing a protest in her town to try to prevent an undocumented immigrant from being detained. The experience reminded her of the injustices her own immigrant parents faced and she is determined to acquire the skills to empower her community. Phuong is attending the Honors Program at the University of Washington majoring in Political Science and History.

Michelle Saechao (Khmer, Mien),
Lindbergh HS, Renton
Alice Abe Matsumoto Scholarship

As the daughter of refugees, Michelle says that spending a lot of time helping her parents and grandparents navigate life in America taught her the importance of higher education. In high school she worked hard to maintain a 3.9 GPA while involved in Key Club, HOSA, National Honor Society, Lindbergh Orchestra and an Eagle Crew mentor. She volunteered at Renton Park Elementary School and the Department of Social and Health Services. She received numerous academic, music, and community service awards. Michelle is a first generation college student attending Highline College, planning to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Flora Saelor (Mien, Thai), Rainier Beach HS, Seattle
Nobu (Kumekawa) and Yosh Hibino Scholarship

Flora values hard work and kindness, as evidenced by her volunteer work with the Iu-Mien Community Center and Asian Counseling Referral Services. She continuously pushed herself as an International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme student. Due to her family situation she also played an important role at home, and worked part-time to help pay bills. Joining the College Success Foundation provided her with support and help on a college and career path. Flora hopes to become a psychologist so she can improve herself while helping others to do the same. She is attending Pacific Lutheran University majoring in Psychology.

Pan San (Burmese, Karen, Thai), Ferris HS, Spokane
Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa Scholarship

Pan and her family arrived in the U.S. in 2007 from a Thai refugee camp. Her family always encouraged and supported her and she takes inspiration from her grandmother who is blind. Pan is determined to help her by helping others. She is an active member of her community working as a tutor and an interpreter, helping people with translations and paperwork. In high school she enjoyed volunteering at an elementary school. Pan’s goal is to help people with medical treatment, and she attended NEWTech Skills Center to study pre-medical assisting. She is attending Spokane Community College with the long term goal of a career in the medical field.

continued on next page
2020 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS cont’d.

Leah Tran (Vietnamese, Teochew - Chinese),
Lincoln HS, Tacoma
Shim and Chiyo Hiraoka Scholarship

“I am extremely appreciative to be a first generation Asian American student, and strive to surpass the expectations my parents set for me.” Leah was an active member of Key Club, Upward Bound, and Running Start at Tacoma CC. She and a group of friends established the Southeast Asian Student Association to embrace their cultures through promoting unity and pride. Leah volunteered with Greater Tacoma Community Foundation - Youth Philanthropy Board, and Pierce County Juvenile Detention Center - Diversion Program to help youth and their families navigate the criminal justice system. She is attending the University of Washington majoring in Education and American Ethnic Studies, and plans to become an educator and youth mentor.

Kovit Virivong (Lao), The Northwest School, Seattle
Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami Scholarship

Persistence, curiosity and passion are important to Kovit. He is more than just the son of immigrant parents and a hard working student at the top of his class. He brought Lao representation to the International Student Union, volunteered with the API Interest Group, worked as a student advisor and SSAT Prep teacher with Rainier Scholars, and proudly learned how to make art with wax. He tutored youth at a local library, enjoys taking photos, and his favorite activity is working on his car. He says, “I want to inspire Lao youth and show that they can surpass their limits.” Kovit is attending Pomona College to study neuroscience.

Tuyet-Nhi Vo (Vietnamese),
Rainier Beach HS, Seattle
Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida Scholarship

Daughter of a single mom, Tuyet-Nhi says, “Like my family, I also think that knowledge is something that can never be taken away from me.” She was an officer on the Associated Student Body and Key Club, a youth leader and intern for the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Advocating Together for Health (APICAT), and a regular volunteer for the nonprofit, Got Green. During her senior year, she carried a full collegiate load while working two part-time jobs. Tuyet-Nhi is the first in her family to attend college. She is attending Western Washington University to become a community health educator.

Chelsea Vorng (Khmer), Highline HS, Des Moines
David Mitsuo Takagi Scholarship

During high school Chelsea was a tutor, member of the National Honor Society, jazz band, Associated Student Body, and Link Crew. She also played basketball and tennis, and was on the swim team. A teacher wrote, “Chelsea's curiosity and attention to detail will ensure her success in research science, and her dedication to service and community will allow her to form connections with others that will be crucial to proposing and creating systemic change.” Chelsea is attending the University of Washington to study neuroscience, “I hope to do research on mental health, and use it to bring affordable treatments and therapies to the Khmer community, along with other communities of color.”
2020 GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Asigiah Aly (Cham), Franklin HS, Seattle
Anna Bun (Khmer), Interlake HS, Bellevue
Brian Cao (Vietnamese), Edmonds-Woodway HS, Edmonds
Kim Cao (Vietnamese), Evergreen HS, Seattle
Cam Che (Vietnamese, Chinese), Franklin HS, Seattle
Bryan Duong (Vietnamese), Hazen HS, Renton
Erianha Esteban (Khmer, Filipino), Franklin HS, Seattle
Aaron Fhong (Mien, Thai), Chief Sealth International HS, Seattle
Alexis Friedman (Khmu), Hazen HS, Renton
Brian Ho (Vietnamese), Cascade Senior HS, Everett
Henry Ho (Vietnamese), Garfield HS, Seattle
Andy Hoang (Vietnamese), Lincoln HS, Tacoma
Doan Hoang (Vietnamese), Woodrow Wilson HS, Tacoma
Lilli Huong (Khmer), Franklin Pierce HS, Tacoma
Hayley Gin Iglesias (Chamorro), Federal Way HS, Federal Way
Vinial Kumar (Fijian), Kent Meridian HS, Kent
Nhung Lam (Vietnamese), Mountlake Terrace HS, Mountlake Terrace
Emily Le (Vietnamese, Chinese), Juanita HS, Kirkland
Jameel Le (Cham, Chinese), Lindbergh HS, Renton
Tuoi Le (Vietnamese), River Ridge HS, Lacey
Paulina Mao (Khmer), Lincoln HS, Tacoma
Chalee Moua (Hmong), John R. Rogers HS, Spokane
Jazlyn Munoz (Khmer, Hispanic), Fife HS, Fife
David Nelson-Leang (Khmer), Lynnwood HS, Bothell
Anna Nguyen (Vietnamese), Franklin HS, Seattle
Bao-Tran Nguyen (Vietnamese), Cleveland HS, Seattle
Doan Nguyen (Vietnamese), Edmonds-Woodway HS, Edmonds
Hannah Nguyen (Vietnamese), Edmonds-Woodway HS, Edmonds
Kenny Nguyen (Vietnamese), Summit Sierra HS, Seattle
Nike Nguyen (Vietnamese), Interlake HS, Bellevue
Vanny Nguyen (Vietnamese), Lynnwood HS, Bothell
Vy Nguyen (Vietnamese), Hazen HS, Renton
Brenda Pham (Vietnamese), Kent Meridian HS, Kent
Cynthia Pham (Vietnamese), Ingraham HS, Seattle
Hana Phan (Vietnamese), Meadowdale HS, Lynnwood
Leo Scott-Rifer (Khmer), Summit Sierra Public School, Seattle
Hewah Soe (Burmese, Karen), Joel E. Ferris HS, Spokane
JaLyssa Tiengkhamsaly (Lao, Vietnamese), Stadium HS, Tacoma
Jasmine Tran (Vietnamese), Tahoma HS, Maple Valley
Kevin Tran (Vietnamese), Cleveland STEM HS, Seattle
Selena Tran (Vietnamese, Chinese), Lincoln HS, Tacoma
Vivian Tran (Vietnamese), Lindbergh Senior HS, Renton
Emily Un (Khmer), Chief Sealth International HS, Seattle
Phuong Uyen Nguyen Vo (Vietnamese), Rainier Beach HS, Seattle
continued on next page
2020 GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS cont’d

Vivian Vo (Vietnamese), Hazen HS, Renton
Kevin Vu (Vietnamese), Hudson’s Bay HS, Vancouver
Madison Vu (Vietnamese), North Thurston HS, Olympia
Akina Yada (Micronesian), Evergreen HS, Seattle
Mia A. Yi (Khmer, Korean), North Thurston HS, Olympia

MIRIAM, GEOFFREY AND EMILY MURASE,
Dr. Kenji Murase Scholarship

Congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of NSRCF

Our father, Kenji Murase, who served on the board of directors of NSRCF, once told us that his proudest achievement in life was helping to administer the Fund. He instilled with us the value of having a good education and it’s great to see that the fund continues to reward deserving students and help them on their educational journey. We wish the fund continued success in promoting higher education among students of Southeast Asian descent.

KEITH SCHURICHT,
Board Member

As the challenges facing society multiply, we are collectively bombarded by sound bites, headlines, and tweets espousing “this solution” or “that quick fix” to life’s every problem. People of all ages, walks of life, and political leanings now share myriad competing opinions spanning epidemiology, economics, and sociology. As global citizens, however, we need to understand others’ perspectives and concerns. We need a critical mass of critical thinkers. At the macro level, the ramifications of individuals’ behaviors on others is painfully obvious. To push forward, we must learn to communicate beyond echo chambers. Society broadly must learn to learn.

Though the breakdown of civil discourse has obscured the path forward, the importance of education remains clear. The NSRCF’s belief in the primacy of education remains unwavering. As a board member of seven years, I am honored to continue supporting the educational goals of Southeast Asian students. By providing scholarships, we hope to encourage and enable recipients to attain degrees and pursue their goals. In parallel, we hope to nurture critical thinkers who will lead their communities and our society forward.
KESAYA NODA, Board Member

On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the NSRCF, I am thinking about the devotion my parents and their friends had for this fund and the students it supports. I almost wrote “fierce devotion,” but I hold back from the phrase because “fierce” belies the joy they took in their work for it. My parents drove miles to the early, in-person board meetings, always returning home nourished by deep friendships, much laughter, and the fulfillment of one more year of shared hopes and a shared vision.

My ongoing involvement with the NSRCF is a joy for me. In these difficult times, more than ever, I need to look beyond my immediate community and grasp hands with the students and families I reach through the NSRCF. The young are the treasures and the hope of every community. Through NSRCF scholarship awards, we have the privilege of celebrating and supporting admirable, determined students who, I know, will give back twentyfold and more of whatever they receive. Please join us when we once again hold in-person awards ceremonies. Like me, you will find that meeting the students and their families is exhilarating - a shot of happiness and hope.

KEN KUMEKAWA AND THE KUMEKAWA FAMILY, Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa Scholarship

I imagine my father at a rail station in 1945, confident but insecure about his journey ahead. It had been a long journey, one about to get longer as it took him from the cityscapes of the Bay Area to the desolate Utah desert. But he knew he had the support of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council and that helped him take the next steps forward.

35 years later and many more miles traveled, my father and his generation found themselves in the position to help refugees from Southeast Asia and to acknowledge those that likewise helped them so many years ago. Thus the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund was created to support those who wanted to take those next steps as well.

On the 40th anniversary of the NSRCF, we look to the award recipients, past and present, to continue their journey and fulfill their promise. Congratulations to all.

HANNAH TANI HOGAN, Nisei, Illinois

Congratulations NSRCF

A flash-back appears! The World War II crisis.

We are forcibly removed to those barbed wire fenced destinations. My yearning to depart from the desolation. To “Go East.” To fulfill a higher education degree.

Pause:
On this 40th Anniversary, do remember all of the compassionate and tireless sponsors who made my impossible dream come true.

Today, for the 2020 Class. Look beyond this crisis. Discover the wide range of marvelous opportunities before your eyes. Good luck! With deepest regards, Hannah Tani Hogan
Congratulations to NSRCF on forty fantastic years!!

Since 2010, when the Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship was established, we have proudly watched NSRCF grow and flourish. We have seen hundreds of scholarships awarded, watched a new generation begin to take the helm of the committee and witnessed the expansion of the target recipients to include Somali as well as Southeast Asian students. What wonderful growth.

Many thanks to the American Friends Service Committee for being the inspiration, to the board for always striving to fulfill the vision of the committee founders, and to all those who have served on the local scholarship committees for their time and commitment to putting scholarship monies into deserving hands.

We are looking forward to seeing what the next forty years has to offer.

In honor of Akio Mochizuki, Tara Mochizuki, Jeffrey Chu, Timothy Chu and Elizabeth Chu

PHUOC V. LE, MD, MPH
1994 NSRCF recipient, California

When I think about what the essence is of NSRCF’s mission and activities over the past 40 years, the one word that comes to mind is solidarity. The original group of extraordinary people who established NSRCF knew what it was like to struggle as members of the oppressed, the “other,” the marginalized. They took that deep suffering and redirected that experience into the manifestation of what is meant by solidarity. In our society today, among an increasing recognition that all of our lives are interconnected, that an injury to one is an injury to all, and that we have such a long way to travel toward a just nation, the NSRCF continues to be a signal of what is needed most – solidarity.
The Hayashida Family,
Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida Scholarship

Our dad, Michihiko Hayashida, in a letter to a friend, wrote: “Even at our darkest moments there were those who made profound impacts on our lives, who at personal sacrifice, reached out to give us hope. We were very fortunate to be touched by such people.”

Both our parents understood the transformative power of education and its potential to level what still remains an uneven playing field. Their legacy of improving people’s lives through higher education lives through the recipients of the NSRCF. It meant a lot to them, and therefore means a lot to us, to know that the scholarship addresses issues of equity that can affect access.

We were raised with not only the value of education but more significantly, the importance of gratitude for what we have been given and paying it forward through service to others. Our parents recognized and were deeply grateful for the support of others who gave them hope. It is our hope that through the NSRCF sustainable progress towards social equity will be realized by future generations.

Bobby and Lilly Takatsuka,
Nisei, Seattle

Congratulations on the 40th Anniversary. As a recipient of aid from the Society of Friends-Quakers to attend college, it is gratifying to be able to return the favor by supporting the students selected by NSRCF.

2020 Awards Gallery

Visit: nsrcfund.org/scholarships/2020-awards
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, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

American Friends Service Committee*
Judy Nakadegawa

Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami (Joyce M. Fukami)

Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida*
Frances Hayashida
Hayashida Family Trust
Susan Hayashida
Margaret Murata

Nobu (Kumekawa) and Yosh Hibino
(Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida, family and friends)
Sue Bowers
Stephen & Karen Fugita
Frances Hayashida
June Hibino
Liz & Steve Hibino
Shirley Hibino
Cathy Inamasu
Barbara & Gary Kitagawa
Jim & Toby Kubota
Forrest & Lorraine Minor
Laura Misumi
Michio Nakajima
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

Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi
(Maureen Kobayashi)
John Dubec & Susan Hotine
Walter Zydlewski

Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa
(Joanne K. Kumekawa, family and friends)
Jane Beckwith
Harvey Goldstein
Wallace Kido
James McIlwain
Margaret & Prentice Stout
Nobuko Yamasaki

Colonel Joseph Y. Kurata
(Col. Joseph Y. Kurata)
In memory of Col. Kurata
Jean Hibino

Audrey Logan
(Kesaya Noda)

Alice Abe Matsumoto
(Family and friends)
Hannah Hogan
Steven Matsumoto
Michio Nakajima
Patricia Tanaka

Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki
(Akio Mochizuki)
Harley & Judy Inaba & Family
Robert & Lynne Ishikawa
Sharon Kotabe in honor of
Akio Mochizuki
Akio Mochizuki
Tara Mochizuki & Jeffrey Chu
In memory of Akio Mochizuki
Thomas & Ryuko Helm
Jean Hibino
Leslee Inaba-Wong
Gayle & Craig Wong

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

Dr. Kenji Murase
(Family and friends)
Emily Murase
Geoffrey Murase
Miriam Murase

Kaizo and Shizue Naka
(F. Robert and Patricia Naka)

continued on next page
Dr. Chosaburo Kato
(Kane and Rose Senda)

Fred Kishi
(Susan M. Kishi)
Ruth Ann Kishi & Michael Woodring
Susan Kishi & David Schuricht

Harutoyo and Haru Kobayashi
(Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi)

Livingston Yamato Colony Pioneers
(Lafayette and Mayme Noda)

Eleanor and Emil Sekerak
(Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida)
Frances Hayashida

Hikokuma and Koyoshi Shigeno Memorial
(Ted K. Shigeno, Agnes Miyakawa, Rosie Tani, and Florence Kawagoe)

Bobby and Lily Takatsuka
(Bobby and Lily Takatsuka)
Bobby and Lily Takatsuka

Trudy King Toll*
Warren Uchimoto

David Aman
(Lafayette and Mayme Noda)

Ann Graybill Cook*

Monroe E. Deutsch*

Kei Enomoto
(Jiro J. Enomoto)

Emi Kimura Fuji
(Midori Fuji and Sono Fuji)
Sono Fuji & Claudio Katz

Yasuko Fujita
(Joyce M. Fukami)

Junzo and Ito Hibino
(Yosh and Nobu Hibino)

Gordon Hirabayashi
(Elizabeth Muench and Bruce Hawkins)
Bruce Hawkins
Elizabeth Muench

Tom Imagawa Memorial Fund
(Mrs. Tom Imagawa and Family)

James Zeniichi Imamoto
(Grace Imamoto Noda)
Alice Takemoto

Frank and Hisako Ishikawa Family
(Michi I. Tashjian)

The Issei Generation
(Lillian Ota Dotson)

Elinor Umezawa Kajiwara
(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)

Denji Dan Kuniyoshi
(Anna Kuniyoshi)
Anna Kuniyoshi

Judge William M. and Victoria Marutani
(David K. Nitta)

Susan T. Matsumoto
(Alice and Yo Matsumoto)
Steven Matsumoto

continued on next page
Nobu Miyoshi
(Yoshiko and Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa)

Takashi and Yuri Moriuchi*

My Immigrant Ancestors
(Marcia Mau)

Naka Endowment
(Fumio Robert Naka)

John W. Nason*
(Yoshiko and Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa)
Warren Uchimoto

Dr. Lee Lowry Neilan
(Yoshiko and Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa)

Prof. Mabel M. Nemoto
(Atsuko Hirai)

Masamoto and Kimi Nishimura
(Rhoda Nishimura Iyoya, Dwight Nishimura, Joseph Nishimura, Jonathan Nishimura)

Shichiro and Sachi Noda
(Lafayette and Mayme Noda)
Janice Abe

Sekizo and Kinuko Nomura
(Mary S. Ozamoto)

Chiura and Haruko Obata
(Eugene Kodani)

Bob O’Brien
(Mrs. Chihiro Kikuchi)
Amy Iwasaki Mass

Fumi Yokoyama Ono
(Janine Ono, Frank Ono, R. Dana Ono)

Takako Tanioka Paul
(Anna Kuniyoshi)
Anna Kuniyoshi

Madeleine Haas Russell/
Columbia Foundation
(Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa)

Margaret Cosgrave Sowers*

Bill Stevenson*

Taichi and Sachiye Takagi
(David and Barbara, and Mary Elizabeth Takagi)
Keiji Takagi
Miye Takagi

Charles William Tanioka
(Anna T. Kuniyoshi)
Anna Kuniyoshi

UC Berkeley Student YWCA
(Mary Yamashiro Otani)

Yoshiko Uchida
(Virginia Scardigli)

Paul R. Wada
(Yasuko and Yukio Wada)
Tami Suzuki & Richard Eijima

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 R. Ogasawara

Reiko Azumano Yasui
(George I. Azumano)
Homer Yasui
Rachel Yasui

* The NSRC Fund board of directors established these and the following funds in the hope that what happened during World War II will never be forgotten, and that future generations will have the opportunity to receive a higher education:

Amache Alumni Tribute Fund
Gila River Alumni Tribute Fund
Heart Mountain Alumni Tribute Fund
Jerome Alumni Tribute Fund
Manzanar Alumni Tribute Fund
Minidoka Alumni Tribute Fund
Poston Alumni Tribute Fund
Rohwer Alumni Tribute Fund
Topaz Alumni Tribute Fund
Tule Lake Alumni Legacy Fund

continued on next page
THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the following contributors to the general fund:

Syed Arif in honor of Laura Misumi
Stephanie Klein & Larry Baer
Tina & Peter Barnet
Kesaya Noda & Christopher Dye
in honor of Taka Takayanagi
Bruce Ejima
Elizabeth Fox
Gary K. Hart
Judith Hijikata
Hannah Tani Hogan in memory of Frances Yamasaki Mori
Wayne Itano & Christine Yoshinaga Itano
Jack & Sue Kennedy
John Kirihara
Christopher Leonard
Patrick Nakamura
Jim & Harriet Nakano
Ronald & Irene Nakasone
Thomas Nishi
David Noda & Kay Nishiyama
Ken Nomiyama
Mariette Norbom
Keith Schuricht
Tak Shirazawa
Sofia Sequenzia & John Shostrom
George Suzuki
Kenji & Mary Tomita
Peter Trinh
Laura Uba
Mary Yee & Paul Uyehara
Paul Watanabe
Nobuo Yutani

Special thank you to our Greater Seattle area supporters who helped make 2020 a huge success:

Julia Ahn
Linda Ando
Sarah Baker
Bill Tashima and Chris Bentley
BiHoa Caldwell
Lisa Chan
Sharon Cho
Kumnith Chum
Barbara Conlin
Doug Cotanche
Cora Edmonds
Polly Fabian
Frank Fukui
Scott Furukawa
Julian Griesser
Brenda Handley,
Gobo Enterprises
Gary Howlett
Diana Huang
Howard and Kimberly Huon
Alicia Huong Dang
Daniel Jo and Suejin Park
Mara Kage
Meatra Keo
Ben and Longhan Khau
Tona Khau
Seila Kheang
Amanda Kim
Conor Kleweno
Alix Koyama
Jeffrey Lau
Jerry Quynn Lee
Lucy Li
Bely Luu
Tomas Madrigal
Juliana Morris
Islanda and Tim Naughton
Thu-An Nguyen-Lai
Momo Nisen
Rattana Noeun
Huy Phung
Kritin Puhl
Yevin Roh
Carrie Rubenstein
Pavan Samprati
Mary Shen
Stanley Shikuma
Kampuouthisombath
Jeff Thungc
Stephen Uy
Star Wang
Andy Wen
Eileen Yamada-Lamphere
JACL - Puyallup Valley Chapter
JACL - Seattle Chapter
Microsoft

JJ UBONWAN SAEUNG, DDS
2004 NSRCF recipient, Michigan

It is hard to believe that 16 years have gone by since I received an NSRCF scholarship. Being recognized for my hard work throughout high school helped propel me forward as I journeyed through college and found my passion in dentistry. Today I am proud to be able to treat oral diseases and alleviate pain for my community. Thank you for believing in us, your organization is crucial in making many kids’ dream come true. Congratulations on the 40th Anniversary!
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.
[Message delivered by Paul Watanabe, President of the Board of Directors, to this year’s scholarship recipients.]

I want to give you my personal congratulations and on behalf of the rest of the members of the board of directors on your wonderful accomplishment as recipients of scholarships for 2020. I and some other members of the board wanted to travel to Seattle to give you our personal greetings. I had already bought tickets on Amtrak along with my wife to take the train across the country to Seattle. But alas that trip and a lot of other travel is going to have to wait until some future time.

There is a famous saying, “may you live in interesting times.” And assuredly these are about as interesting of times as we’ve ever seen not only in American history but in world history. This is a period of time that they are going to be reading about in history books for all time. It is a memorable time, therefore, for world history, American history and for your and your family’s history because of your accomplishments graduating from high school and beginning your new career in college. I’m sure you will be well prepared to take on the challenges of a new and interesting world. We want to give you our support as much as possible and to the wonderful people who stand behind you.

One thing that I would have asked you to do if I saw you in Seattle personally would be to take a moment and learn something about the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund and the wonderful people who created a legacy that makes this scholarship possible. Almost 80 years ago some students like you, in this case Japanese Americans, yearned for and dreamed about going to college. But their dreams were interrupted by World War II when their families, like those of other Japanese Americans, were placed in America’s concentration camps. These students didn’t feel like there was any hope that they could continue their education. Except there was a group of strangers who took it upon themselves to support these students so that they could continue their education beyond the camps and continue their dream of going to college.

Many of the people who were assisted decided that they wanted to give back. They wanted to show their generosity to a new generation of students who needed support just as they had received many years before from strangers they didn’t even know. That is what this scholarship is built on - the desire of people to provide support for capable and promising students like you. I think it is a wonderful legacy and story, and one that I hope you will continue as you gain success in your lives and careers because of your college education. Remember with gratitude the generosity that was bestowed upon you.

Congratulations to you, and thank you to your family and friends and all those who trusted and had confidence in you and helped make this moment possible. We’re proud of you and are confident you will contribute to these interesting times.

X

NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.  
19 Scenic Drive, Portland, Connecticut 06480  
info@nsrcfund.org • www.nsrcfund.org • FEIN 06-1021906

I/we would like to “extend a helping hand” with my/our tax-deductible contribution of $__________  
(Please make check payable to NSRC Fund; or via PayPal at www.nsrcfund.org)

Name(s) __________________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: __________________________ Phone: ________________________________

☐ Add to an existing Tribute, Legacy or Named Scholarship Fund called: ___________________________

☐ Send information about how to establish NSRCF Tribute, Legacy and Named Scholarship Funds

☐ Send the annual newsletter to me by email: ___________________________

(print your email address)