

Melissa Chan

platform for JETAA USA Country Representative 2012-2013



- ALT, Tokyo-to, Musashimurayama-shi, 08/2005 – 07/2007
- JETAANC Media Circle/Cultural Events Coordinator, 10/2008 – Present

The JET Program has been an integral part of my life since I was accepted back in 2005. I became an active member of the Northern California chapter when I returned to San Francisco in 2007 and joined the Executive Committee in the fall of 2008.

As the Media Circle/Cultural Events Coordinator of JETAANC, I have helped with various projects, including:

- Revived the Book Club and planned and organized the annual Hanami and Summer picnics
- Helped to manage the JETAANC Twitter account and facebook group.
- Supported the planning and execution of our larger events – Shinnenkai, Career and Networking Forum and the Alumni Led Orientation for new JETs.
- Served as an Assistant Editor for the JETAANC newsletter, Pacific Bridge.
- Set up and maintained our non-profit mailing account with the US Postal Service

I consider the JETAANC Executive Committee as a fully supportive group, in that we all come together to create, plan and execute successful events every year. As the largest chapter, JETAANC has a great history and we are incredibly grateful to have a strong alumni base. Our Executive Committee and Board of Directors provide valuable insight and support for our efforts and I am honored to be a part of that.

I had the privilege of representing JETAANC at the 2010 National Conference in New York City and the 2011 National Conference in Washington, D.C. Each year has been a great experience learning about the different chapters and seeing how we could work together on various projects. In New York, I was happy to see the launch of the new JETAA USA website and was impressed with how all of the chapters came together to promote the importance of the JET Program and the JET Alumni Association in light of the rumors at the time of the JET Program being on the chopping block. In Washington, D.C., with much of the focus on the relief efforts for the March 11th disaster, it was inspiring to see what each chapter accomplished locally and nationally. I was most impressed with the mobilization of both our national community and the individual chapters to raise awareness, fundraise and share information. I was also happy to see that so many previously inactive alumni were stepping forward and participating in the relief efforts. If elected, I would be happy to assist in the efforts to maintain and support the JETAA USA Relief Fund.

As Country Representative, I would like to support the dissemination of information to members of JETAA chapters. The national website and Google group are well established and have been great forms of

communication among chapter officers. I would like to continue Jessyca's work of updating the JETAA USA website with new information. The next step would be activating and communicating with the general membership through social media platforms. Currently, I actively contribute to the JETAANC Twitter and facebook group, by posting articles or information about events. I see these social media platforms as a means to disseminate information to our members, whether it is about various relief efforts in Japan, Japan-related events, or showcasing the work of current JETs and JET Alumni. The same could be done with the JETAA USA Twitter account and facebook group. My goal is for followers and group members to come to JETAA USA and chapter pages, as one of their sources of information for all things Japan-related. This will also help to foster relations with local Japan-related organizations, in showing support for each other's events.

I have enjoyed serving on the Executive Committee of JETAANC for the past 3.5 years and I am sure that the position of Country Representative will be just as rewarding. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

宜しくお願いします。