



**Malia Yamamoto**



**Allison Hall**



**Aiden Lew**



**Kaylee Yokoyama**



**Lynne Onishi**



**Michelle Yokoyama**



**Kobe Yamamoto**



**Joshua Santos**



**Allyson Sofronas**

# Scholarship Award Recipients 2024

Congratulations to the 2024 Scholarship Award Recipients! Scholarships were awarded this year to nine very deserving young people who are pursuing their higher education. Their awards were based on their demonstrated academic achievement as well as their commitment to church and community.





# Educational Scholarships 2024

By Michelle Vaughan with Christine Yorozu, Collin Ikeda, Joan Sato Hernandez, Rachel Ono-Lim, Emi Suzuki, Joel Ing, Joey Ing, and Rev. Karen Yokota Love

**T**he Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church Educational Scholarships are designed to support the mission of the church through supporting a multitude of educational opportunities. We are proud to have helped students in their pursuit of continuing education since 1968. We encourage **all** applicants; from those just entering their next phase of education to those returning to complete or pursue continued education.

We are blessed to offer these scholarships under the following criteria:

## Vera Ing Community College/Trade School Scholarship

Established in 2016. Award(s) will be made to those pursuing continued education through community colleges and/or technical/trade schools. **Other Eligibility Opportunities/Community Based Internships:** There is also opportunity for a scholarship to support an internship for a nonprofit or community organization.

## Yasuda Scholarship

Award(s) will be made to high school seniors or college undergraduate.

## William S. Yorozu Scholarship

Awards will be made to a college sophomore, junior or senior and to a graduate student.

## Robert and Lucy Sato Scholarship

Award(s) will be made to a college undergraduate and/or graduate student pursuing a degree in Engineering, Mathematics, Nursing, Science, Technology or related fields of study.

## Blaine Memorial Scholarship

Award(s) will be made to high school seniors, community college, technical/trade school, and/or college undergraduate or graduate student. 📖



## The Vera Ing Scholarship

**T**he Vera Ing Scholarship has been established to recognize Vera's accomplishments and give a hand up to those with similar circumstances and passion. Vera was a go-getter, a doer, always engaged in what she set her mind to. When her three children were in grade school, Vera started her college education to quench her thirst for learning more. She attended North Seattle Community College where she earned a degree in Early Childhood Education. She then attended the University of Washington and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning. Vera served on the board of the North Seattle Community College Foundation from 1990 until 1999. She was the board chair from 1994-1997. Vera was the first distinguished alumna in 2002, when the annual award was created. Vera was a strong leader in her community and at Blaine Memorial UMC. She was active in Seattle's International District and in the city since the 1960's. It was important for Vera to give back to the community. This scholarship was awarded to an individual who exemplifies Vera's passion of continuing education to give back and better the community they serve.

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## Robert and Lucy Sato Scholarship



**T**he Robert S. Sato scholarship was established in 2010 at the time of his passing. It was amended in 2024 to include Lucy Y. Sato at the time of her passing.

Bob was born in Firwood, Washington. In 1942, as America entered the Second World War, Bob and his family were forcibly incarcerated at Minidoka in Hunt Idaho. There, he finished high school, and was drafted to ultimately serve in the 100th Battalion/442 RCT. A licensed professional Civil engineer by trade, he earned his degree in civil engineering at the University of Washington. Bob spent most of his career at the Army Corps of Engineers, rising to the position of Assistant Chief of Design Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was a leader in the Seattle Japanese American community, serving as President of the Seattle Chapter JACL in 1986, Commander, Nisei Veterans Committee, as well as multiple committees at Blaine Memorial UMC.

Lucy was born in Seattle, Washington. She and her family were also incarcerated at Minidoka. She completed her Nursing education in Philadelphia at the Cadet Nursing Program. Lucy worked at the Jackson Chevalier Clinic, she then joined the US Public Health Service. She later joined Harborview in the Partial Hospitalization Program and provided mental health nursing for Asian immigrants at ACRS. Lucy's love for travel and generosity took her on many Mission trips with the Jubilate Choir including Zimbabwe, Africa and Brazil. She volunteered much of her time at Blaine and sang in the Choir.

Bob and Lucy were always a beacon of light for their family, friends and community. Their focus on lifelong learning and application of knowledge has been instilled in their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and through the scholarship awarded in their name.



### **The Blaine Memorial UMC Scholarship**

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## Ted and Margaret Yasuda Scholarship

**H**aving arrived at a milestone in their lives – their retirement in 1987 – Ted and Margaret Yasuda established a scholarship at Blaine Memorial UMC, returning this gift to God in gratitude for all the blessings they have received in their lives. It was their hope that in this way, others may be helped and encouraged as their children were. When the scholarship established, Ted and Margaret wrote, “Education has been very important to us. As our father said to us during World War II, education of Japanese Americans when we lost everything, ‘put education and knowledge into your head...no one can take that away from you.’” Margaret Yasuda graduated from Garfield High School and was interned at Minidoka Internment Camp during World War II. Leaving Minidoka to attend Seton Nursing School in Colorado, Mrs. Yasuda was a member of the Nisei Cadet Nurses of World War II. She received her Bachelors of Science in nursing from the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio. She received her degree in Public Health Nursing from the University of Washington. Mrs. Yasuda was a nurse with the King County Public Health Department where she worked in the well-baby clinic, on travel immunizations and the visiting nurse division. She married Ted Yasuda in 1950 and they were blessed with 58 years of marriage. Mrs. Yasuda passed away in 2009. Ted Yasuda was interned at Minidoka and served in the 442nd RCT. Mr. Yasuda attended the University of Washington, graduating with a degree in Eastern Asian History and a Masters Degree in Librarianship. Mr. Yasuda worked for Boeing for over 30 years as a Technical Librarian. Mr. Yasuda enjoys gardening, photography, and coming to church. He served as Financial Secretary at Blaine for many years, was involved with Boy Scout Troop 55 and was instrumental in the building of Blaine Memorial UMC at our present site.

## The William S. Yorozu Scholarship

**W**illiam S. Yorozu was a Nisei member of Blaine Memorial UMC from his early youth. He graduated from Garfield High School in Seattle and earned his degree in Horticulture/Landscape Design from Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. After college he was the owner of a full service landscape maintenance and construction company, T. Yorozu Gardening Co., started by his father. During his summer months, he hired many Nisei and Sansei high school and college students. He was a firm believer in a good education and was proud that some student employees graduated to become doctors, attorneys and business leaders. The family of William S. Yorozu feels it is fitting to honor his name through scholarships at Blaine Memorial UMC. The scholarships promote a connection with God and help students to achieve their educational goals. 📖





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## Allison Hall

Thank you so much for your support of my education! I will be continuing to pursue a Nursing degree at Case Western Reserve University. I would like to extend a special thanks to the Sato family for their support. I will be using this scholarship towards my tuition. Once again, I want to share my gratitude for this support and investment in my education.

## Aidan Lew

I'd like to thank the Blaine community for supporting me in my academic and personal journey over the years. Without your support, I would not be nearly the person or student that I am today. I will be attending the University of Washington in the fall. In the years to come, I will continue to work hard towards my academic goals and stay connected to my community however I can. Once again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you all for your support in my postsecondary education!

## Lynne Onishi

Thank you, Blaine Memorial UMC congregation, for your support and encouragement! This community has nurtured me in my leadership journey for many years, and I hope this next step in my education will prepare me to serve the wider Church in new ways. I will begin my studies at Claremont School of Theology this Fall semester where I'll be pursuing a Master of Divinity degree. I want to extend an extra special thanks to the Ing, Sato, and Yorozu families for your kind and generous support through the scholarship program. The scholarship funds will go toward my tuition, housing, and books this year. I am grateful and blessed!

## Joshua Santos

I am Joshua Santos and am entering my Senior year at the University of Washington. I am currently pursuing a BA in Cinema Media Studies. I will be using the scholarship to help pay for my classes, book fees, and other fees classes have. I would like to thank you all for not only the financial support you have given me, but also supporting me in general. Your love, friendship, and mentorship means a lot to me, so I would like to thank you all for supporting me in all these different ways. This past year has been fantastic and I can't wait to create more memories with you all.

## **Allyson Sofronas**

Thank you for all the support and guidance you have given me over the years. I am honored to be a selected recipient of the Blaine Scholarship and Yasuda Scholarship. This scholarship will significantly ease the financial burden of my education and will go directly toward my tuition as I work toward a degree in design. With my planned degree I aim to pursue a career as an art director. Once again, thank you for your investment in my future.

## **Kobe Yamamoto**

I would like to thank the Blaine community for all the support they have shown me every Sunday ever since I started attending. I know that the congregation is always praying for me and supporting my dreams. I would also like to give a special shout-out to the Yorozu family. Thank you for showing your financial support and aiding me in my pursuit of a college degree. My scholarship money will be used to help pay for tuition and textbooks.

This upcoming year, I will be a Senior at the University of Washington where I am pursuing a double major in Business Administration: Accounting and Information Systems, along with a minor in Real Estate. Post-graduation, I plan on working in the Accounting Industry and pursuing my CPA license.

## **Malia Yamamoto**

Hello everyone! This year I will be attending Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science and completing a Master of Biomedical Science. I would like to thank the Sato and Yorozu families for their financial support allowing me to pursue graduate school. The scholarship is much appreciated and will be applied to my tuition. I am also grateful for the love from the congregation overall and will miss seeing you all every Sunday.

## **Kaylee Yokoyama**

Thank you so much for your generous support in awarding me the Blaine Scholarship, which I will use to help support my tuition. This upcoming school year, I will be entering my senior year at the University of Washington, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Education. I am deeply grateful for the endless love and support I receive from the Blaine community. After graduation, I plan on attending graduate school to earn a doctoral degree in clinical psychology to become a child clinical psychologist. Thank you again for your unconditional care and guidance in supporting my education and career aspirations!

## **Michelle Yokoyama**

I want to say thank you so much for providing me with scholarships as I pursue my master's degree in Dietetics, Nutrition and Exercise Physiology. I am attending WSU at the Spokane location. My goal is to become a registered dietitian. I am having an amazing experience expanding my knowledge through my clinical rotation at Providence Sacred Heart Hospital and my food service management rotation at MultiCare Hospital.

I have the opportunity to work with diverse patients with chronic illnesses such as cancer or diabetes. I also work with patients in ICU and NICU. I am supporting people who need nutrition care and physical exercise to facilitate their well-being for their body, mind, and spirit.

I plan to use the money towards housing and tuition. Thank you for your generous support! 📖