

THE RICE PAPER

A newsletter of the Twin Cities Chapter
of the Japanese American Citizens League

www.twincitiesjacl.org | October 2014



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Scholarship Committee Holds
One Seat

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National JAACL Education Committee to Conduct a Teacher Training Workshop in the Twin Cities on April 24, 2015

In 2012, the JAACL National Education Committee received federal funding from the National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program, to conduct teacher training workshops in five cities, including Minneapolis/St. Paul, on the "Japanese American Incarceration: Constitutional Vigilance in Times of Crisis."

This free workshop is scheduled on **Friday, April 24, 2015** from 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center.

Attendees will receive complimentary resource materials and a certificate of attendance. There will be with an optional tour of Fort Snelling following the workshop.

Topics will include: historical background, ties to current events (such as 9/11), and the role of the Military Intelligence Service Language School which was located at Camp Savage, then at Fort Snelling during WWII. Lesson plans to assist teachers with fulfilling requirements in the Minnesota Academic Standards for the Social Studies will be provided.

Our chapter's education committee has been working in collaboration with the JAACL National Education Committee as well as the Minnesota Historical Society to coordinate this workshop. Information and registration forms will be e-mailed to public and private schools throughout Minnesota at the beginning of 2015. We need your help in getting the word out to educators, especially to social studies teachers of grades 6-12. If you are interested in getting involved with our Education Committee, please contact Sally Sudo (chair), at ssudo@comcast.net or 952-835-7374.



SUMMER PICNIC: Everyone enjoyed the perfect weather during the annual summer picnic on August 3. About 60-70 people attended; one family had four generations! The kids' games included candy pickup with chopsticks (actually tongs) and a three legged race with their designated grownup. The water balloon toss made sure every participant was wet, wet, wet. No time for the Third Annual Twin Cities JACL Summer Picnic Quiz this year; come and try it next year!



Chefs Jacqueline and John Nakasone sample the delicious cuisine that they grilled.



The kids competing at Tug of War. Hmm, some of those kids are pretty big.



The parents side trying their best at Tug of War. They needed to eat more rice.



Reagan and Ryan Dean demonstrate their excellent three legged race technique.



And they're off! Who can carry a Japanese paper balloon on a sushi mat while running back and forth?



Thank you Mark Honda for always bringing the snow cone machine. Daughter Dani enjoys a grape snow cone.



Thank you Chris Noonan and George Murakami for supplying the Bingo game. Competition was fierce as usual.

Submitted by Lisa Shakerin. Photos courtesy of Cheryl Hirata-Dulas.

Twin Cities JACL Education Committee Assists Student with National History Day Project

Every year the Twin Cities JACL Education Committee receives requests from students who are participating in the National History Day competition. The requests include using resource materials from the chapter's extensive collection, oral history interviews, or advice and feedback on their projects.

National History Day is a year-long academic program focused on historical research. Students work individually or in groups conducting primary and secondary research around an umbrella topic. The theme for 2014 was "Rights and Responsibilities in History." This year about 600,000 students, 6th-12th graders from across the United States, America Samoa, Guam, International Schools, and Department of Defense Schools in Europe and Asia participated in the competition.

Over the past several years the Twin Cities JACL has had students win awards at the local, regional, and state level, but not until this year has a student received an award at the national competition held in Washington, D.C. In June, Mary Jo Dalsin, a 7th grader at St. Wenceslaus School in New Prague, MN, about 40 miles from the Twin Cities, was awarded third place in the junior individual documentary division for her 10 minute video titled, "Japanese Internment: Rights, Responsibilities, and Reparations." She interviewed TC JACL Education Committee chair, Sally Sudo, for inclusion in her documentary. "It is always interesting to see how students are able to incorporate the Japanese American World War II experience into the History Day theme," stated Sudo. "The TC JACL heartily congratulates Mary Jo for her efforts and fine work.

Mary Jo's mother, Emily Dalsin, describes her experience during the national competition as follows: "Each student is given a 20 minute timeslot for presenting her project. Documentary students begin their presentation by giving each of the three judges a written 500 word essay on their topic and an annotated bibliography. The judges read the written information, and then the student plays her ten-minute documentary. After the documentary ends, the judges interview the student. The interview/ question portion of the program takes about 5 - 7 minutes during which the student is quizzed on many aspects of the project. During the interview, MJ was eloquent and educated. She answered the judges' questions thoughtfully and with poise. We had been working with her all week to get her ready for the interview portion of the competition. I thought I had come up with every possible question, but I was wrong. At the end, one judge asked, "Where do *you* come down on this issue? How *should* the line between government responsibility for national security and citizens' rights be drawn?" My heart started beating a mile a minute. I didn't even know if MJ had ever considered how *she* felt about this issue. She knew how others felt... but had she ever considered her own opinion? When she spoke, I almost fell over. She was clear, articulate, and thoughtful. She could have been a college freshman, not a 12 year old little girl as she spoke to her judges. I was beyond impressed! At that moment, I understood the strength of the NHD program. My kid was the expert, and she was telling a story that she knew inside and out. She kept the judges' attention and provided details that I didn't know she knew. I was so proud! "Mary Jo's award-winning video can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/pPhu6N-147c>



Seventh grader, Mary Jo Dalsin, from New Prague, Minnesota, at the National History Day Competition in Washington, D.C., with her 3rd place medal in the junior individual documentary division for her video on the Japanese American Internment during World War II. Photo credit: Emily Dalsin.

Submitted by Sally Sudo

Save the Date!

Twin Cities JACL Children's Holiday Party
Sunday, December 7, 2014
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
New Brighton Community Center



Please watch for additional details in the next mailing. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Faber-Densley at emily.faber@gmail.com.

IN THE NEWS

During the MN State Fair, Kare 11's Belinda Jensen & Julie Nelson dyed silk scarves at "Dyed on the Spot" in the Creative Activities Building. One of the onlookers during that segment was our very own Chris Noonan, who is the Marketing & Communications Specialist for the MN State Fair, and likely played a big part in this year's record breaking attendance of 1,824,830!

See the full video at the following link:

<http://www.kare11.com/media/cinematic/video/14707717/new-at-the-fair-dyed-on-the-spot/>

Submitted by Jan Monson



Silent Auction Donations Needed!



The annual **Chrysanthemum Banquet** will be held on Friday, November 7, 2014, and will include a silent auction. If you have items that you would like to donate, please contact Gloria Kumagai at Gloriak377@aol.com or 763-377-5602 by Friday, October 24, 2014

CulturFest, an annual free all-day event, was held in Owatonna on Saturday Sept. 27. The Twin Cities JACL was represented by an origami booth led by Karen Lucas and Linda Hashimoto van Dooijeweert. This was a full day cultural festival starting with a parade and a race with 7 different cultural challenges along the route. There were over 20 activity, craft and demonstration stations with a children's international passport program. A live performance stage included music and multicultural performances highlighted by the Okee Dokee Brothers, a Grammy winning bluegrass duo.

This outdoor festival drew over 2,500 people on this beautiful day. The origami booth was very popular and we were kept continuously busy even with the help of our volunteers (Aiya, a Japanese foreign exchange student from Gunma, her friend Hannah and Skylar). This was a great way to engage children with a Japanese craft while raising money for the JACL.

Submitted by Karen Lucas



Volunteers needed

Volunteers are urgently needed to learn and perform Japanese dances at the Festival of Nations. Practices are on Sundays in Roseville. Kids, teens and adults are needed. Costumes and lessons are provided free for those interested. Please contact Linda Hashimoto van Dooijeweert at Linda@urbantravelertransit.com.



Congratulations to Steve Ozone! His photo titled, "Octopus #2" was selected in the photography category & displayed in the Fine Arts Center at the MN State Fair. As stated in the Star Tribune- photography drew the largest number of entrants: 727, of which 122 were accepted. This was Ozone's 5th year being selected in the juried art competition. Impressive.

You can see more of Steve's photos at the following link: <http://steveozone.com>

2015 High School Scholarships

Scholarship applications for 2015 high school graduates will be available in January 2015. Please contact Pam Ohno Dagoberg (763-557-2946, dagob001@tc.umn.edu) if you are interested in obtaining a scholarship application or would like to recommend someone for a scholarship.

Scholarship recipients must be current JACL members. Individual Student or Family membership status is required (Individual membership of a parent does not qualify the student to receive a scholarship). For information on membership, please visit www.twincitiesjacl.org

Applications will be sent to the following students:

Maya Coyle (The Blake School)

Sam Hidani (Wayzata High School)

Maddy Honda (Mounds Park Academy)

Reed Morehouse (Buffalo High School)

Leanna Sako (Bloomington Jefferson High School)

C. Luke Soucy (Wayzata High School)



In addition to completing the application form and submitting a transcript, students must write a short essay entitled "The Value of Further Education." Applications are evaluated based on the student's scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, community service and the essay. Completed applications must be mailed by March 31, 2015.

Many National JACL scholarships are also available. Information about National JACL scholarships can be found on the Youth page at the JACL website (www.jacl.org).



To receive information on JACL activities, relevant opportunities and events that occur on shorter notice than our Rice Paper can communicate, please sign up for the TC JACL "E-Mail Blast" by contacting us at twincitiesjacl@gmail.com. Sign up now. Don't miss out. Update us when your e-mail changes.

Also to help the TC JACL save money in printing and mailing costs, please consider receiving your Rice Paper electronically via e-mail. It shows up in beautiful color, easy to read and you can download it and save it on your computer for future reference or print it out. Please contact us at twincitiesjacl@gmail.com and sign up for the TC JACL "Rice Paper: E-Delivery."

Thank you,
Your TC JACL Board of Directors

SUPER SENIOR LUNCHEON

In July, the Twin Cities JACL in conjunction with Nikkei Project and the Twin Cities Buddhist Association, hosted the annual Super Senior Luncheon. 53 super (age 75 and older) seniors socialized and enjoyed a free Chinese buffet. 26 non-supers also attended the luncheon at Hibachi Buffet.



Photos courtesy of Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
45th National Convention
San Jose, CA
July 9-12
Twin Cities Chapter Report

Executive Summary

This year's National Convention was held in San Jose, California during July 9-12, 2014. This year's theme was *We Are America* and drew hundreds of chapter delegates, dignitaries, government officials, boosters, and staffers.

The National Convention highlights are as follows:

- National JACL 2015-2016 budget approved as presented.
- New National Officers were elected, including:
 - VP Public Affairs – Jeff Moy
 - National Youth Chair – Nicole Gaddie
 - National Youth Rep – Michelle Yamashiro
 - Legal Council – Brandon Mita
- Resolutions
 - ER-1 Passed: Award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Minoru Yasui.
 - ER-2 Passed: Award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Mitsuye Endo Tsutsumi.
 - ER-3 Passed: Commends of Secretary Eric Shinseki for his dedicated devotion to all veterans and Americans.
 - ER-4 Passed: Condemns the ruling in Burwell versus Hobby Lobby case.
 - ER-5 Passed: Condemns both NFL and Washington Redskins concerning the continued use of their name.
- Constitution and Bylaws Amendments
 - CBL-1 Passed: Move New Mexico Chapter to PSW district (from the MDC).
 - CBL-2 Passed: Remove Chairperson of the PC and National Legal Counsel from the National Board.
 - CBL-3 Failed: Remove the 60-day deadline for payment of dues, fees and assessments prior to Convention.
 - CBL-4 Passed: Change to the procedures used to nominate and elect candidates for national office.
 - CBL-5 Passed: Allow two district youth/student delegates to the National Council rather than one.

Detailed Report

This year's JACL National Convention theme was *We Are America* and was held in San Jose, California. Like all National Conventions, the schedule was packed with many activities and events, including business sessions, workshops, awards luncheons, and banquets. This year seemed even more exciting as national elections and the 2015-2016 biennial budget was on the National Council's business agenda. The Convention overall couldn't have been more of a success.

Wednesday, July 9 – The National Board met and provided status updates on programs and discussed social justice and operational matters. In the afternoon, buses took all convention attendees to the Welcome Reception at the San Jose City Hall Rotunda. We were all nicely welcomed with food and beverages. Once everyone had a chance to eat and catch up with old friends, a taiko drum performance ensued outside the rotunda.

Once the performance finished, we walked to the Le Petit Tianon Theater down the street for a “Valley of the Heart” reading by Luis Valdez., a love story, rooted in true historical events and set in the fertile Santa Clara Valley in 1941, about two families and their struggles to provide for the future of their American born children. The reading received positive feedback and was a highlight for many.

Thursday, July 10 – Two National Council (Council) business sessions filled the day and was then followed by a Hiroshima concert as the evening entertainment. The business sessions provided convention delegates the opportunity to hear from National Officers and staff on the progress of their programs and the state of JACL and our communities overall. In the afternoon session, the 2015-2016 biennial budget was presented to the Council for consideration.

The evening's entertainment consisted of the Los Angeles-based group Hiroshima. The thirty-year-old ensemble played their hit of blended R&B, pop, world music, and jazz to create an enjoyable experience for all those who attended. Even the youth and young adults found Hiroshima's music something they could relate to.

Friday, July 11 – The New Candidates Forum started the day. This event allowed delegates the opportunity to familiarize themselves with those running for national office. Each candidate was allowed 10 minutes to field questions and provide opening and closing remarks. This year there were no national candidates running opposed. Each candidate took the forum seriously and brought many new and productive ideas for their terms this next biennium.

Workshops of various topics followed the forum. Topics included the health insurance landscape, Nikkei genealogy, JA, multiracial, multiethnic, and mixed identity, LGBTQ justice, and many more. These workshops were interesting and meaningful, with experts and advocates within each respective field informing the convention delegates of issues that face our community today.

The Youth Luncheon followed these morning activities. During the luncheon the Vision Award is presented to the person or organization that made strides in an unconventional field. The 2014 honoree was ASPIRE. Founded in the San Francisco Bay Area, Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights through Education (ASPIRE) is the first API undocumented youth led organization in the U.S. and was very impressive in delivering their acceptance speech.

The afternoon led quickly into the Sayonara Banquet, the grand ceremony of every convention. This year the Edison Uno Civil Rights Award, which recognizes individuals or organizations for a life dedicated to outstanding leadership in the field of civil rights, was awarded to Stewart Kwoh. Mr. Kwoh is the founding President and Executive Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice – L.A (Advancing Justice – LA), a leading advocate for Asian American and NHPI communities while working to build bridges with other communities.

In addition to the Edison Uno award, Japanese American of the Biennium Awards, the highest public award of National JACL, were presented to Marsha Aizumi, an advocate for the LGBT community; Dale Minami, a civil rights activist who challenged the conviction of Fred Korematsu for his refusal to obey the exclusion orders targeting JAs during World War II; and Roy and PJ Hirabayashi, founding members of San Jose Taiko. The banquet exceeded expectations for drawing exceptional awardees – highlighting the great work and devoted individuals who strive to ensure equality for all Americans.

Saturday, July 12 – The schedule was packed with national office elections, Council business sessions, the Awards Luncheon, and San Jose Obon festival. During the business sessions, resolutions, constitution & bylaws amendments, and the budget were on the table to be debated and voted on. All resolutions passed and included, awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Minoru Yasui and Mitsuye Endo Tsutsumi; commending Secretary Shinseki for his service; and condemning the use of Washington Redskins name and the decision in the Burwell versus Hobby Lobby case. All but one constitution and bylaw changes were adopted.

During the Awards Luncheon the George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award and JACLer of the Biennium Awards were presented. In addition, the 2014 Legacy Fund Grant Recipients were announced and honored.

To cap off the convention, the San Jose Obon festival was in full swing, which showcased the cultural and traditions of one of the largest JA communities in the U.S.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D. Farrells

Matthew Farrells

Twin Cities Chapter Vice President

National JACL Secretary/Treasurer

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