



THE RICE PAPER

JANUARY 2010



A NEWSLETTER OF THE
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER OF
THE JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE

WEBSITE:
WWW.TWINCITIESJACL.ORG



Give to the Max Day

During the Give to the Max Day on November 17, 2009, a total of \$1,390 was raised on www.GiveMN.org for the Twin Cities JACL (\$750 for the Oral History Project; \$490 for the chapter; \$150 for the Scholarship Program).

The Give to the Max Day was an overwhelming success with more than \$14 million donated to more than 3,100 non-profits in Minnesota. Much appreciation to Chris Murakami Noonan for spearheading this fundraiser for the Twin Cities JACL.

NEWSLETTER

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Scholarship Committee holds one seat



Sansei Yonsei Kai Needs You!

Sansei Yonsei Kai is recruiting dancers of all ages, both male and female. No prior experience needed. Being a part of this group is a wonderful way to learn about the Japanese culture through dance and meet new people.

The group has a long tradition of dancing and performs every year at the Festival of Nations as well as at other community and business venues. The Festival of Nations requires a minimum of 8 dancers for the adult group. Sansei Yonsei Kai is especially in need of more adult dancers so that the Twin Cities JACL can continue to have the bazaar booth at the festival.

For more information, contact Linda Hashimoto van Dooijeweert at 651-631-9157 (work), 651-503-7995 (cell), or Linda@urbantraveler.com

The Rice Paper is going paperless...

A sharp rise in printing and mailing costs have almost doubled the expense of mailing a hard copy of the newsletter to our membership.

Consequently, future Rice Paper editions will be available on our website. Please submit your e-mail address on the website at <http://www.twincitiesjACL.org>. A Rice Paper distribution list will be created, so that members can be notified when a new issue of the newsletter is available each quarter. If you have any questions regarding the new format, please direct your inquiry to info@twincitiesjACL.org or contact a member of the Board.



2010 High School Graduate Scholarship Applications Available Submitted by Pam Dagoberg

Scholarship applications for 2010 high school graduates will be available at the end of January. Please contact Pam Dagoberg at 763-557-2946 (dagob001@tc.umn.edu) if you are interested in obtaining a local chapter scholarship application or would like to recommend someone for a scholarship.

Applications will be sent to the following students no later than January 31, 2010:

Torey Asao (Chaska High School)

Tom Edwards (Lakeville North High School)

Michelle Mizuhata (Glencoe Silver Lake 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." Local scholarship applications are evaluated based on scholastic achievement, extra curricular activities, community service and the essay. Scholarship recipients are required to be current JACL members (individual student membership or family membership is required). Membership information can be found at HYPERLINK "<http://www.twincitiesjacl.org>" www.twincitiesjacl.org.

Completed applications for local scholarships must be mailed by March 31, 2010.

In addition to the local scholarships, National JACL scholarships for entering freshmen are also available. Decisions for awards will be made this summer. Applicants are judged on the basis of their scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, community involvement, personal statement and letter of recommendation. Information regarding National JACL scholarships can be found at www.jacl.org. Applications must be mailed by March 1, 2010.



My experience as high-schooler and first time attendee of the JACL Youth Conference By: April Dennison

My experience at the JACL conference was a lot more fun than I expected, because truthfully I didn't know what the conference was going to be like. At first I have to admit I was shy and didn't think that I'd have much in common with the other people, especially since many people were from out-of-state and older than me, but after the icebreakers and just taking that first step and talking to people it became a lot less awkward. It actually surprised me that I had more in common with others here than some of my friends at high school, like my taste in music, video games, art, books, and fashion! My favorite icebreaker was the telephone charade, which totally cracked me up. I loved all the classes I attended, each one helped me learn more about my heritage in a different way. I've always been interested in my ethnic history, and the Midwest History helped cure my curiosity. The Taiko drumming was a very fun interactive class. I didn't know there was an art to the movements in Taiko drumming. And last but not least, was the Sushi class which I loved learning to make Japanese food and eat it too. The other social events were fun and made a nice opportunity to network/reason to casually talk to people, which helped especially for me since I'm not Miss Social Butterfly. My favorite event would be the talent show turned into short skits contest and karaoke, that was the funniest and my favorite night at the conference. Overall I would definitely recommend people to go to it, I think the next time I might bring a friend.



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JACL's First Collegiate Leadership Conference

Submitted by: **David Motoyoshi**

The Collegiate Leadership Conference gave me a broader look at the many options we have as citizens to take a more active role in public service. I currently serve as a youth representative for my local chapter and wanted to see how I could build on my current activities.

The Conference lasted four days and consisted of many small group seminars that encouraged a great deal of discussion and interaction. Over the course of the Conference, I gained an in-depth view of issues facing our unique community. The first full day of the Conference focused on the history of Asian Americans, challenges faced by Asian American students on campus, and the issues of immigration and health care reform. As a premedical student I found the presentation by Mona Bormet from the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) on public health of particular interest. She laid out specific steps that the APIAHF is taking to promote cultural competency, make translational services more readily available, and increase the accessibility of health care by the Asian American community. I had the chance to speak with her after her presentation and told her about my interests and studies.

She gave me the contact information for the Minnesota Asian American Health Coalition (MAAHC), a non-profit patient advocacy organization near the university I attend. The organization I was referred to works on improving research methods, increasing public and private involvement in health care, and collaborating with federal, state, and local governments to better serve the Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) communities

in health care. I have since met with the executive director a couple of times and I am now helping organize an advisory council of health care professionals experienced with the APIA community that will help outline goals for the coming year. In addition to the current issues facing the Asian American community, we also discussed the overlap between the JACL and other civil rights organizations such as American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). The speaker from the ADC compared the situation that many South Asians, Arabs, and Muslims are in following 9/11 with the situation that Japanese Americans were in after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The speaker went on to say how inspirational it has been to work with the JACL and how this provides them with hope to continue fighting stereotypes, hate crimes, and discrimination.

The major event of the weekend was the special project the participants were assigned to. We were placed into groups of four and assigned one issue from the following list: Census 2010, Voter Registration, and Hate Crime Legislation. We were given our topics and put into groups had to make a 10-15 min presentation on what our issue is and how it affects the community, what stance the JACL takes and why, and an action plan to raise awareness about the issue in our own communities. We were allowed to use any resources necessary and could present the issue in the manner we saw best fit.

For me personally, I felt the most important thing that I took from the conference was the drive to take a more active role in public service. I feel better prepared to take on this responsibility after the conference because it familiarized me with public policy, small group leadership and discussion, as well as an opportunity to meet other student organizers and network.

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BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT PLEA for Krissy Kobata

Dear family and friends:

I am sending you this email for your help in finding a bone marrow match for my cousin, Krissy Kobata. Krissy has a pre-leukemia condition called myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and is in need of a bone marrow transplant in order to survive. Our family has been hosting bone marrow drives and trying to get the word out. Our efforts have found matches for other people in need, but have not found Krissy's match. I am contacting you to see if you would help spread the word.

Krissy is a beautiful, well spoken, and poised 27 year old in need of a bone marrow transplant in order to save her life. She is bi-racial: half Caucasian and half Japanese descent. Therein lies the problem. Non-related bone marrow matches are more likely made within the same ethnic group. There is a very small percentage of minorities (Asians, Blacks, Hispanics, etc.) in the bone marrow registry.

Our family put together a team called "TEAM KRISSY". We have been working with "Asians for a Miracle Marrow Matches" (A3M) which is under the umbrella of the National Marrow Donor Program. Please visit her website to learn more about Krissy and bone marrow registration: www.teamkrissy.com.

On Sunday, December 6, we were encouraged by an article that was on the front page of the California section of the Los Angeles Times Sunday paper. The article was about a young hapa girl searching for a match. Krissy was also mentioned in the article: [A child's illness spurs action on marrow transplants -- latimes.com](http://latimes.com)

This year, Krissy has appeared in a health segment on our local KABC news with Denise Dador, and the show, "Extra!". Her appearance on Extra! was credited with inspiring over 2300 people to register to be bone marrow donors. Bone marrow donor, author, and Comcast sportscaster, Kevin Walsh, has also taken a special interest in Krissy.

Here is a plea that she wrote the other night. It's a little lengthy but I hope you'll read it.

Thanks for any help you can offer. If you are interested in registering, look at this website: http://www.marrow.org/JOIN/Join_Now_Sponsored/join_now_sponsored.html

(Some people had difficulty with the website Krissy included in her letter.)

We're really running out of time.

Paul Shinto

Dear Friends and Family,

I'm writing for a few reasons. The first and foremost is to say thank you. Thank you for all of your support over the past year and a half. One thing I know is that I would not be where I am today without all the love, support and help that has come forward.

With that said, it has been one year and nine months since I was diagnosed and I am still looking for my match. While it's been a long road, we have been inspired along the way from meeting other patients and their families fighting the same fight. We've also had good news that others have found their matches through all of our efforts. These are the things that I keep reminding myself- lives have been saved.

Unfortunately, this summer, and even up until two weeks ago, we experienced the darker side of this disease. I was heartbroken when I learned that three patients who I had gotten to know through all of this lost their battle. Two more had their diseases progress into aggressive Leukemia. I can't quite describe the sadness I felt in my heart when I heard the news. To be honest, a lot of it was also fear. I'm afraid that this nightmare could become my reality.

This is why I am pleading again for your help. I am going to find my match, but I need each and every one of you to help me. My family and I are in a race against time and we will not lose this battle.

At this point, I've had several opportunities to speak to groups about bone marrow registration and donation. I've also had the great opportunity to be on local news and Extra TV to try to spread knowledge. Each time, I am asked the same two questions: "Are you scared?" and "How does it affect your life?" My answers are always the same, "Yes." and "Every day I wake up, I hope today is the day that I find my match.

Many of you have asked me to let you know how and when we need your help. That time is now!

Ways to help:

- 1. If you aren't registered yet, we now have a FREE online registration code: <http://www.facebook.com/l/9c0ca;www.join.bethematch.org/swab4krissy>*
- 2. If you have joined, please send this on to any and all of your friends/family and encourage them to register as well (the more hapas, the better my chance)*
- 3. If you are unable to register and would like to donate to the Team Krissy cause, you can now do so by submitting donations to Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches (non-profit)
 - a. Please note, you must put a note on the check that it is for "Team Krissy" non-profit*
 - b. Checks can be sent c/o Patti Nomura (my aunt) at 3749 Lime Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807**
- 4. We are also working on organizing a run/walk 5K/10K in the spring with Be the Match as well as producing a PSA, public service announcement, to take our message nationally
 - a. If you know anyone that can help with these activities or have connections with people that would be willing to be a part of these efforts please let us know and we can provide more details**
- 5. If you would like to host a drive at your company, and it is permitted, please let us know as we can help assist in this and A3M or City of Hope will organize everything*

I know these are a lot of things to ask, however, if you can do just one of them, it will make a difference. I've never taken for granted the amazing friends and family that I have, so thank you for putting forth the energy and effort to help me find my match.

I hope to update you all with good news in the near future.

Love always,

krissy

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CHRYSANTHEMUM BANQUET



Capt. Bruce Yamashita (far left) and Tom Ikeda (far right) with Twin Cities JACL Board members Dan Motoyoshi, Dave Motoyoshi, Rachel Matsumoto, Steve Ozone and Gloria Kumagai.



Capt. Bruce Yamashita with TC JACL member and fellow Marine, George Logan.



Outgoing board member Joyce Miyamoto presented with an appreciation gift from the Twin Cities JACL by Dan Motoyoshi.

Board member Steve Ozone with Mari Yamanaka Thompson (left) and Marissa Dulas (right), both holding centerpiece decorations created by Jan Kiriara Monson.



Photos courtesy of Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

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Densho's Tom Ikeda returns to the Twin Cities - Submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

Tom Ikeda, Executive Director of Seattle-based Densho and 2008 banquet keynote speaker, attended this year's annual banquet to present excerpts of the interviews conducted by Densho in collaboration with the Twin Cities JACL in June 2009. He showed the audience how to navigate around the Densho website (www.densho.org) to view the video-recorded interviews, as well as demonstrated how interview excerpts are catalogued by topic and how to access the wealth of materials and resources that are available on the website.

Densho also graciously offered to webhost the second set of eight interviews that were videorecorded by Detroit-based director/producer Bill Kubota in October 2009.

Tom Ikeda's presentation (as well as Captain Bruce Yamashita's keynote address) was videotaped by Tom LaVenture of Asian American Press, and can be viewed at: http://www.aapress.com/aapress.com/Multimedia/Entries/2009/11/14_Entry_1.html

Thank you to the following individuals for participating in the interview process: Bill Hirabayashi, Yo Matsumoto, Yo Matsuura, Isao Oshima, Helen Tsuchiya, Mit (Mary) Tsuchiya, Joe Uemura, Harry Umeda, Mary Yoshida, and George Yoshino.



Tom Ikeda (center) with Oral History Committee members Lucy Kiriara, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Steve Ozone and Sally Sudo (not pictured: Carolyn Nayematsu and Penelope Snipper).



Bill Kubota

“Most Honorable Son” Screening and Reception

In October, the Minnesota Historical Society and Twin Cities JACL co-sponsored a film screening of "Most Honorable Son," written and directed by Bill Kubota. The documentary detailed the life of Ben Kuroki, the first Japanese American war hero, from childhood in Nebraska through his distinguished military career and on to his long-overdue honoring with the Distinguished Service Medal in 2005. After the screening, a question/answer session was held. The program was videorecorded by Tom LaVenture of Asian American Press, and can be viewed at: http://www.aapress.com/aapress.com/MultimediaEntries2009/10/11_Bill_Kubota_at_Minnesota_History_Center.html

Carolyn Nayematsu and Vincent Platt hosted a reception for Bill Kubota, interviewees, the Oral History Committee, and Twin Cities JACL Board. We are grateful to Lucy Kiriara, Don Maeda, George and Judy Murakami, John Oshima, Sally Sudo, and Ed and Pearl Yoshikawa for participating in this second phase of the oral history project, and to Carolyn Nayematsu and Steve Ozone for conducting the interviews. This phase is funded by grants from the National Park Service, the Asian Pacific Endowment of The Saint Paul Foundation, and the Kurt Pearson Social Justice Fund, as well as donations from community members.

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First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis Grant Award

The Twin Cities JACL was one of seven awardees of a 2009 Kurt Pearson Social Justice grant. Oral History Committee co-chairs, Steve Ozone and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, accepted the award on behalf of the Twin Cities JACL at a First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis Sunday service on October 18, 2009.

The Kurt Pearson Fund was established in 1992 in memory of Kurt, a life-long Unitarian and member of FUS. A young man of wit and wisdom, with an active social conscience, Kurt died of AIDS on August 13, 1991 at the age of 29. Grants are made each year in October near Kurt's birthday.



Steve Ozone (left) and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas (right) with Gene Martinez from the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, who presented the grant awards.



Multi-media project highlighting Minnesota's diverse communities

Submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

Thank you to members of our community, Bud Nakasone, Joseph Uemura, Todd Tsuchiya, Joyce Miyamoto and Gloria Kumagai for participating in personal interviews in November and December, coordinated by the Twin Cities JACL, the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, and the Minnesota Humanities Center. Excerpts of the interviews will soon be released to the public as part of a project to raise awareness of the contributions of the various communities in Minnesota.

Cheryl Hirata-Dulas represented the Twin Cities JACL at an informational meeting in September with representatives from the Minnesota Humanities Center, the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans and other Asian Pacific communities to discuss implementation of the newly established Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, which aims “to collaboratively create new programs and events that would celebrate and preserve the artistic, historical, and cultural heritages of the communities represented by each [of the four state] council[s].” These councils are the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, the Council on Black Minnesotans, and the Chicano Latino Affairs Council. Funds from the Legacy Amendment, adopted by Minnesota voters in 2008, were appropriated by the state legislature to support this work.

For more information about the project, visit www.minnesotahumanities.org.

Japanese American Citizens League
148 Hemlock Place
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TWIN CITIES CHAPTER

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TC JACL Holiday Party!



*Holiday Partry Co-Chairs Ange Hwang and
Lisa Shakerin with Santa*



Photos courtesy of Cheryl Hirata-Dulas