

THE RICE PAPER



SEPTEMBER 2010



CHRYSANTHEMUM BANQUET



You are cordially invited to the 64th annual Chrysanthemum Banquet. We are honored to host Stuart Ishimaru, the acting chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as our guest speaker. Considering the

dynamic employment environment that we are experiencing, it should be compelling to hear him speak about the current state of the commission.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information. The EEOC has the authority to investigate charges of discrimination against employers who are covered by the law. Their role in an investigation is to fairly and accurately assess the allegations in the charge and then make a finding.

The event will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2010 at the Chateau in Medicine Lake. Please see the enclosed flyer for additional information. We look forward to seeing you there!

NEWSLETTER

Chris Noonan: noonant@comcast.net

Connie Tsuchiya: ctsuchiya@comcast.net

TC JACL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matthew Farrells: 612-272-8772

Chris Iijima: 612-327-2982

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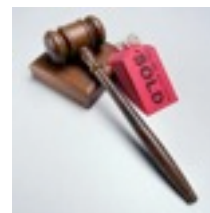
Steve Ozone: 612-789-0660

Lisa Shakerin: 763-537-6829

Cary Yamanaka (Treasurer):

952-432-2055

Scholarship Committee holds one seat



Silent Auction Items Wanted

The Chrysanthemum Banquet on November 6, 2010 will have a silent

auction as in past years. We are seeking donations of various items for it. If you have something to donate, please contact Rachel Matsumoto at 612-827-5280 or at ramat001@gmail.com.

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JACL Picnic



After a week of hot and sticky (like sushi rice) weather, August 15 was a pleasantly cool day for the annual summer picnic. About 70 members and guests enjoyed grilled entrees and potluck fare. There was bingo, kids' games and door prizes. The tug of war competition between parents and kids was intense as usual. After each side claimed one victory, everyone was too exhausted for that third pull for victory. Maybe next year! Thanks to Jake and John Nakasone for cooking and to Jan Monson and Cary Yamanaka for set up help.

Come join the fun next year!

Submitted by Lisa Shakerin



Master chefs Jake and John Nakasone



Graham, Duncan and Chris Mincks eating al fresco



Lil and Dani Honda awaiting Bingo



Chris Markgraf, Jack Dagoberg and Erik Dagoberg eating heartily before the tug of war



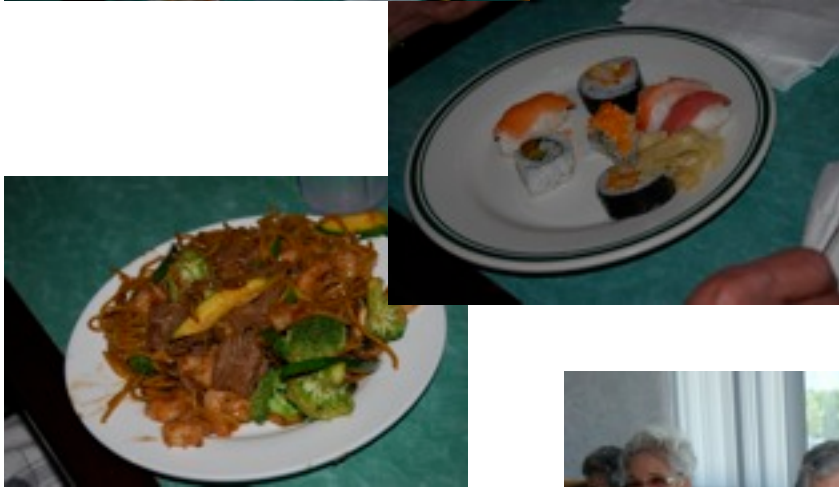
Picnic chairperson Lisa Shakerin

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Super Senior Luncheon



SUPER SENIOR LUNCHEON



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JACL National Convention



Embracing Change at the 2010 JACL National Convention

Submitted By Leilani Savitt, Twin Cities JACL Delegate

I frequently visit Chicago for the marvelous shopping, award winning restaurants, and unparalleled entertainment. But, I had never gone to the Windy City to conduct business so from the moment I walked into the Swissotel I was nervous. I have attended several past JACL National Conventions but after having to take a break from JACL for veterinary school I felt lost. I questioned if I had done enough research on the proposed resolutions; if I had learned enough about the National Board candidates; if I had studied the budget enough. As soon as I got to registration my mood changed instantly. Being surrounded by plenty of smiling people, I knew right then and there that I was with friends again.

There was a lot of business and there always is at these conventions. The business sessions were laborious yet informative. I felt the first plenary session on reframing civil rights was most interesting. One of the most provoking thoughts during this discussion was said by Karen Narasaki, President and Executive Director of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC). She stressed that fear is at the root of change. I see this fear in some my fellow JACL members as they propose minute changes that have little impact. It is this fear that will destroy our beloved organization. This is the reason why is it so important for JACL to support fearless young leaders. On that note, I would like to congratulate the chapter in fostering Matthew Farrells' leadership in the JACL. It was fantastic to see him run and be elected as the National Youth Chair!

At some of my first national conventions I stayed in the hotel just about the entire time, but as I grew older and wiser, I learned that a little time away from convention business is healthy. On Friday morning, I took an Absolute Segway Tour through Chicago. It was my first time on a segway. This was one of my favorite events because I got to enjoy the sights and sounds of Chicago, while learning to ride something new.

The Sayonara banquet was held a day early on Friday and I felt like I was saying goodbye at the same time I was still saying hello. There were many awardees and as someone who appreciates science and the contributions it has made to prolonging lives, I was especially thrilled that the Japanese American of the Biennium was awarded to researcher Dr. Richard Morimoto. Following the banquet, our district had a punch and popcorn social to allow JACL members to meet with our candidates running for National office.

Although many may feel like we did not have any huge accomplishments, it was reassuring to see that the national council passed a budget that kept the Pacific Citizen in Los Angeles. On the other hand, I was disappointed when the majority of our members voted against the membership dues increase. It is my opinion that unless drastic cuts are made, membership dues will have to eventually increase in order to balance the budget. I also believe that it is going to be more difficult to keep members when membership dues have to jump much higher at one time to compensate for the minimal dues increases we could be taking right now instead. For financial reasons and for the stability of the JACL, I am relieved that National Council will be meeting annually. There are many important decisions that JACL members need to make and so I look forward to seeing my fellow Twin Cities JACL members in Los Angeles next summer.

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TC JACL Scholarships



2011 JACL Scholarship Update

Scholarship applications for 2011 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, 2011:

Luke Anderson (Bloomington Jefferson High School)
Cameron Asao (Chaska High School)
Chloe Edwards (Bloomington Jefferson High School)
Emily Erickson (Wayzata High School)
Yasuhiro Guitierrez (Bloomington Jefferson High School)
Stephanie Hohbein (Wayzata High School)
Nick Honda (Tartan High School)
Charles Kirihara (Bloomington Jefferson High School)
Elizabeth Krantz (Eden Prairie High School)
Kelvin Nakagaki (Wayzata High School)
Tyler Satoh (Edina High School)
Nilco Sencer-Mura (South High School)
Louise Suzukamo (Mounds Park Academy)
Jade Walton (Bloomington Jefferson High School)
TJ Wesley (Eden Prairie 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 www.twincitiesjacl.org.

Completed applications for local scholarships must be mailed by March 31, 2011.

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, 2011.

Submitted by Pamela Dagoberg

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Education Committee



Education Committee Receives Grant Award to Train the Next Generation of Speakers

The Twin Cities JACL Education Committee recently received a grant of \$4,500 from the Ishida-Winifred Foundation of Illinois to train the next generation of speakers to give presentations on the Japanese American Experience during World War II.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, he began a process that led to the forced removal of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from their homes on the west coast. Unfortunately, the history of racism against Asians in America and the subsequent incarceration of Japanese Americans is a topic frequently overlooked in history classes and textbooks. After the September 11, 2001 attacks, the government considered enacting processes that were similar to what the Japanese American community experienced during WWII, except that the JACL and other organizations spoke out against such measures. We need to continue our efforts to educate students and the broader community about our past history to prevent violations of civil rights and civil liberties from happening again.

Since 1995, our chapter has had a Speakers' Bureau that responds to requests for speakers and sends volunteers to schools and community organizations to share their experiences during WWII. Until now, our speakers have primarily been Nisei with first hand knowledge and experience. However, the number of Nisei who are able to speak is dwindling. Therefore, training the Sansei, Yonsei and Gosei (3rd, 4th and 5th) generations on how to make presentations on this topic is vitally important.

The Education Committee will be organizing training workshops that will include background information and resource materials, as well as presentations by those currently on the Speakers' Bureau. Sansei, Yonsei and Gosei, please consider participating in this program. No previous training or background is required, just an interest in learning and sharing information with others.

More information will be available as the Education Committee develops a workshop schedule. Contact **Sally Sudo** at (952) 835-7374 or ssudo@comcast.net if you are interested in learning more about the project or to volunteer with planning the workshops.

We are grateful to the Ishida-Winifred Foundation for its generosity and for giving us this opportunity to train our next generation of speakers. Through the training workshops, we will be able to fulfill requests from schools and community organizations, and continue to educate others on the important topic of the Japanese American Experience during WWII.

Submitted by Sally Sudo
Chair, Education Committee

2010 Chrysanthemum Banquet

Please join us Saturday November 6th at:

The Chateau
10715 South Shore Drive
Medicine Lake, MN 55441

Social Hour, Hors D'Oeuvers and Silent Auction to begin at 5 o'clock.

Dinner will be served at 6 o'clock and guests will have a choice of the following dinners:

- (1) Oriental Salad - Roast Beef - Garlic Mashed Potatoes - Vegetable Medley
- (2) Oriental Salad - Vegetable Stir Fry - Fried Rice

Green Tea and Coffee - Chocolate Decadence with Triple Berry Sauce

Our children guests may choose:
Crispy Chicken Strips or Macaroni and Cheese
Meals are accompanied by potato triangles, fruit, dessert and milk.

We are pleased to have Mr. Stuart Ishimaru, Chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as our guest speaker.

Tickets prices are:
Adults \$35.00 Nisei \$25.00 Children 12 and under \$15.00

If you should require more information feel free to contact: Daniel Motoyoshi at 612-866-3651

Reservation Deadline is: OCTOBER 23rd

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Reservation for the Twin Cities JACL's Chrysanthemum Banquet
with guest speaker Stuart Ishimaru
Saturday, November 6th 2010

Name: _____ Phone: _____

I would like to make a reservation for _____ number of individuals.

Names of all people included in your reservation:
Please indicate dinner choice by each individual *

*

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Make checks payable to Twin Cities JACL

Please return form and payment by **October 23rd** to:

Daniel Motoyoshi
6344 Bloomington Ave S
Richfield, MN 55423

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JACLers IN THE NEWS...



Reprinted from a "Finding Minnesota" news segment featuring the Normandale Japanese Garden. By WCCO's Mike Binkley.

Finding Minnesota: Bloomington's Japanese Garden

Story & video link: <http://wcco.com/findingminnesota/bloomington.japanese.garden.2.1861180.html>

Reporting: [Mike Binkley](#)

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (WCCO) — August 15, 2010

Each week, we like to reveal hidden gems in Minnesota that you might not have visited. For example, did you know there's an authentic Japanese garden in Bloomington? It's a quiet little oasis on a two-acre plot next to Normandale Community College.

"I wander around and I find myself just completely allowing nature to kind of encapture me," said Bernie Bryant, the chair of the Japanese Garden committee.



You'll find lanterns, a waterfall, and koi in the pond -- elements that are all common to a Japanese garden. But the history of this garden is uniquely Minnesotan. It started in the 1960s when garden club members like Bunnie Aaze and Yvonne Bublitz went on a tree-planting campaign. "We had entered a Sears Roebuck beautification contest," said Bublitz, "and the Bloomington Garden Clubs won \$500." They wanted to put their winnings toward a Japanese garden in the area where the community college was being built, but they knew they would need help. Turns out, there was a group of men looking for a project just like this. They were past members of the Military Intelligence Service Language School.



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JACLers IN THE NEWS...

You see, decades earlier, after Pearl Harbor, many Japanese-Americans had been sent to internment camps, especially on the west coast. But Frank Yanari and others had found a warmer welcome here, as they helped the United States with military intelligence and translation. "They were treated very kindly during a difficult time," said Yanari's daughter, Gail Wong, "and they wanted to leave a remembrance here to the people of Minnesota, to thank them."



The group's fundraising helped pay for a bentendo, and the drum bridge that leads to it. A nearby plaque reads, "We, the Japanese American veterans of the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service Language School, dedicate this bentendo and bridge to the people of the Twin Cities and all of Minnesota for the kind treatment we received while we were stationed here during World War II. 1942-1946."

Yanari's daughter, a General Mills executive, now serves on the Japanese Garden committee. "I really feel his presence when I walk through here in the garden," she said, "and it's a beautiful place to remember him by." The garden was dedicated in 1976, but many people are still surprised when they stumble upon it for the first time.

"Well, there are even college students that didn't know there was a garden out here," said Shirley Huskins, who helps host sukiyaki dinners to raise money for the garden.



Aaze and Bublitz have put decades of work into the garden, they have grown to enjoy the startled looks from visitors. "When they come here, they just can't believe that this is even here," said Aaze. "And 'My gosh, I didn't know about it.' And I think that's the hardest thing for us to understand, because it's so beautiful." The garden is maintained through a partnership with Normandale Community College, and it's free to the public.

Fundraisers and weddings help pay for the upkeep. In fact, Minnesota Bride magazine named it one of the great places to get married in a garden setting in the Twin Cities.

Japanese 148 Hemlock Place
American Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
Citizens _____
League TWIN CITIES CHAPTER

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TWIN CITIES JACL NEEDS YOU!

The JACL Board is looking for candidates to serve a two - year term beginning January 2011. Meetings are held once a month where you'll gain leadership experience, give back to the community and get a free meal!

For more information contact Matt Farrells at matthew.d.farrells@gmail.com



Holiday Party Chair

We are looking for a chair for the Children's Holiday party in early December. The party usually features some entertainment such as a juggler or magician, light refreshments and a visit from Santa. Anyone interested please contact Lisa Shakerin at 763-537-6829.