

# THE RICE PAPER



APRIL 2011

## Day of Remembrance

“Looking Forward by Looking Back”

The Day of Remembrance was observed by the Twin Cities JACL in a program titled, “Looking Forward by Looking Back,” moderated by former WCCO-TV reporter, Maya Nishikawa. She opened the program by sharing a personal connection; her mother's family of seven was incarcerated in Tule Lake, CA during World War II.

Over 200 attended the program, held on February 12 at Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Bloomington, that featured seventeen youth lending their voices to the stories of those who lived during that time of fear and confusion. While slides of archival photographs were shown, students related the personal experiences, taken from various sources, including “*Remembering: Voices of the Internment*” a compilation of camp memories from local chapter members.

more...



Moderator Maya Nishikawa (center) with the Day of Remembrance committee members, from left: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Lucy Kirihaara, Lil Grothe, Sally Sudo (chair), Carolyn Nayematsu, and Janet Carlson.

### NEWSLETTER

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Scholarship Committee holds one seat



From left: Kyle Tsuchiya holds the candle for Gila River, Ariz., the camp where his grandmother, Helen Tsuchiya, was incarcerated, while Leanna Sako and Ani Tobin hold candles for Poston, Ariz. and Jerome, Ark., respectively. As moderator Maya Nishikawa named each site, audience members were asked to stand as their camps were announced.

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## day of remembrance cont...

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Following the readings, students lit candles to commemorate those who were incarcerated in the ten WRA camps and the Department of Justice camps, as well as the friends who helped during a time when it was unpopular to do so. During the candle lighting ceremony, Emily Tani-Winegarden read, "A Story To Tell," written by her grandmother, Yoshi Uchiyama Tani, who was incarcerated in Minidoka, ID. The poem ended, "...Justice did prevail-World War II is history, Freedom lost, regained, Minnesota, 'Home sweet home' – We have a story to tell."

Thank you to the student readers/candlelighters:

Emily Abe, 10th grade, Wayzata High School  
Matt Carlson, graduate 2010, Macalester College  
Quinn Coyle, 9th grade, The Blake School  
Erik Dagoberg, 6th grade, Wayzata East Middle School  
April Dennison, 11th grade, Century High School  
Matt Dulas, 9th grade, Saint Thomas Academy  
Emily Erickson, 12th grade, Wayzata High School  
Stephanie Hohbein, 12th grade, Wayzata High School  
Danielle Honda, 4th grade, Mounds Park Academy  
Leanna Sako, 8th grade, Olson Middle School, Bloomington  
Nikko Sencer-Mura, 12th grade, Minneapolis South High School  
Tomo Sencer-Mura, 10th grade, Minneapolis South High School  
Ryan Sudo, 10th grade, Forest Lake High School  
Emily Tani-Winegarden, 11th grade, Eden Prairie High School  
Ani Tobin, 5th grade, Groveland Elementary, Minnetonka  
Aaron Tsuchiya, 7th grade, Eden Prairie Central Middle School  
Evan Tsuchiya, 10th grade, Eden Prairie High School  
Kyle Tsuchiya, 9th grade, Eden Prairie High School



We also acknowledge assistance from Sakiye Tsuchiya for coordinating the program site and for helping with check in; Transfiguration Lutheran Church for use of the facilities; Maya Nishikawa for serving as program moderator; Jan Kiriara Monson for organizing the lunch reservations and helping with check in; Mikio Kiriara for creating the camp signs; Chris Murakami Noonan for designing the mailings; Sylvia Farrells for helping with check in; Gloria Kumagai for assisting with serving lunch; and Mitch Monson, Connie Tsuchiya and Steve Ozone for taking photos.

Members of the program committee were Sally Sudo (chair), Janet Maeda Carlson, Lil Grothe, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Lucy Kiriara, and Carolyn Nayematsu. Funding was provided by a grant from the Ishida-Winifred Foundation of Illinois.



*From left: Candles are held by Danielle Honda representing Rohwer, Ark., Quinn Coyle representing Manzanar, Calif., Emily Abe representing Tule Lake, Calif., April Dennison representing Amache, Colo., and Evan Tsuchiya representing Minidoka, Ida.*



*Erik Dagoberg, whose grandmother, Rei Ohno, was incarcerated at Heart Mountain, Wyo., lights the candle for the Department of Justice prisons, held by Tomo Sencer-Mura.*



# RICE PAPER

## day of remembrance cont...



*During the candlelighting ceremony, Emily Tani-Winegarden reads a poem written by her grandmother, Yoshi Tani, who was incarcerated at Minidoka, Idaho.*

*Matt Dulas read a memory about a youth whose brother left camp to attend college in the Midwest.*



*Leanna Sako, representing Poston where her maternal grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. George Nishida, were incarcerated, lights the candle held by Ani Tobin, whose grandfather, Theodore Matsuyama, was incarcerated at Jerome, Ark.*

*Stephanie Hohbein and Emily Erickson, both seniors at Wayzata High School, were readers and participants in the candle-lighting ceremony.*



*Program chair Sally Sudo and grandson Ryan Sudo, who related a passage about the horrific conditions in the showers and toilets.*

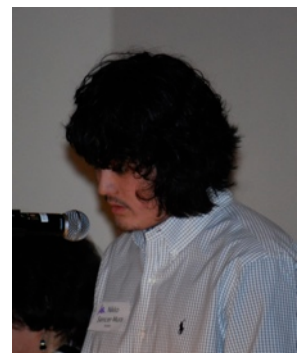
*Reader Matthew Carlson (far right) with his father, Jim, aunt, Joan Trygg, grandfather Don Maeda, who was incarcerated at Minidoka, and his mother Janet.*



*Cousins Aaron and Kyle Tsuchiya and Erik Dagoberg enjoy the lunch together.*



*Nikko-Sencer Mura recounted a story about a youth whose older brother volunteered for the 442nd, and the difficulties experienced by the Issei mothers with the break-up of their families.*



*Reader Quinn Coyle at the luncheon with his parents Mike Coyle and Laura Enkoji.*



*Article submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas.  
Photo credits: Mitch Monson and Connie Tsuchiya*

# RICE PAPER

## Help wanted

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### Volunteers Needed for Twin Cities JACL Bazaar Booth at Festival of Nations

The Twin Cities JACL is looking for 40 volunteers to staff the Bazaar Booth at the 2011 Festival of Nations. This annual event is from Thursday, May 5, through Sunday, May 8, at St. Paul

RiverCentre, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd. in St. Paul. All volunteers will receive a parking pass plus a gift certificate that can be used toward purchasing an item in the booth.

Following are the available shifts and number of volunteers needed for each shift:

#### Thursday, May 5

9 a.m. - 12 noon -- Five volunteers  
12 noon - 3 p.m. -- Five volunteers

#### Friday, May 6

9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. -- Five volunteers  
2 - 6 p.m. -- Four volunteers  
6 - 10 p.m. -- Four volunteers

#### Saturday, May 7

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. -- Four volunteers  
2 - 6 p.m. -- Four volunteers  
6 - 10 p.m. -- Four volunteers

#### Sunday, May 8

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. -- Four volunteers  
2 - 6 p.m. -- Four volunteers

The Festival of Nations is a major fundraiser for the chapter, so your help is appreciated.

#### Sign-up

If you're interested in volunteering, please e-mail Joyce Miyamoto at [fabmoto@gmail.com](mailto:fabmoto@gmail.com) or call her at 651-636-3222 by Monday, March 28, and indicate your shift preference.

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### Honoring our Minnesota Japanese American Veterans

For the last 13 years the Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota (JAVM) has held an annual memorial service to honor the heroism and dedicated service of deceased Japanese American veterans from Minnesota. At the Fort Snelling Cemetery during last year's service, an honor roll was read that numbered 56, eighteen more than when the first memorial was held. This year's service would have included in its tribute Sam Honda, recent vice president of JAVM. His sad passing last year is a poignant reminder that our Japanese American WWII veterans are aging and fewer remain. These are the individuals who laid the groundwork of sacrifice on which our generation's achievements and prosperity are based. Partly due to his loss and the health challenges faced by JAVM secretary-treasurer, Kathy Koch, the organization is no longer able to carry on this annual commemoration and is closing.

While the JAVM is not a program of the Twin Cities JACL, many of its members are JACL members. The TC JACL is looking into the possibility of being able to incorporate this event as part of our regular programming activities and is seeking to find one or more volunteers to help keep this going.

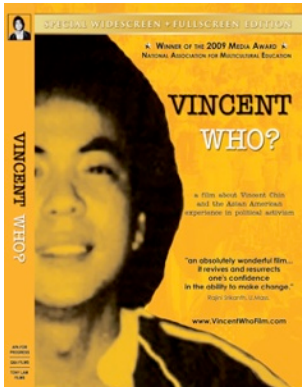
The past president has been Bud Nakasone. With the service having been a regular event at Fort Snelling Cemetery, the program and protocol and contacts have already been established. Both Kathy and Bud would be willing to continue in helping do the basics such as reserving the chapel, contacting the chaplain, preparing the program, and contacting veterans.

If you are willing to help out, please contact Kathy Koch at 952-884-1560 or Karen Lucas at 952-270-3278 or e-mail [katalucas@aol.com](mailto:katalucas@aol.com)

# RICE PAPER

## film screening

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### Free Film Screening: "Vincent Who?" Meet its award winning producer, Curtis Chin

Sunday, April 3, 2-4 p.m.  
Hennepin County Library  
12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka  
952-847-8800

#### About "Vincent Who?"

In 1982, at the height of anti-Japanese sentiments, Vincent Chin was murdered in Detroit by two white autoworkers who said, "It's because of you mother\*\* that we're out of work."

When the judge fined the killers a mere \$3,000 and three years probation, Asian Americans around the country galvanized for the first time to form a real community and movement.

This documentary features interviews with the key players at the time, as well as a whole new generation of activists.

"Vincent Who?" asks how far Asian Americans have come since then and how far we have yet to go. Featured interviews include: Helen Zia (lead activist during the Chin trial), Renee Tajima Pena (director, "Who Killed Vincent Chin?"), Stewart Kwoh (Executive Director, Asian Pacific American Legal Center), Lisa Ling (journalist), Sumi Pendakur (Univ. of Southern California), Dale Minami (civic rights attorney), Doua Thor (Executive Director, Southeast Asian Resource Action Center), and a group of five diverse young APA activists whose lives were impacted by Vincent Chin.

Visit the film's website for more information: [www.vincentwhofilm.com](http://www.vincentwhofilm.com)

#### About Curtis Chin

*Curtis Chin is an award-winning writer and producer who has worked for ABC, NBC, Fox, the Disney Channel and more. As a community activist, he co-founded the Asian American Writers Workshop and Asian Pacific Americans for Progress. In 2008, he served on Barack Obama's Asian American Leadership Council where he participated in helping the campaign reach out to the AAPI community. He has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, NPR, Newsweek and other media outlet.*

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## MCSS Conference

The Education Committee represented the TC JACL at a recent spring conference of the MN Council of Social Studies Teachers held at the Civic Center in Rochester, MN on Friday, March 4th. Over 150 educators from all over the state of Minnesota were in attendance. An informational booth was staffed by Judy Murakami and Sally Sudo. Many teachers stopped by to receive free copies of the following JACL publications: Journey from Gold Mountain: The Asian American Experience, A Troubling Legacy: Anti-Asian Sentiment in America, and What It Means to be an American: Lesson Plans on Race and the Media in Times of Crisis.

Janet Maeda Carlson, assisted by Carolyn Nayematsu, taught a well attended breakout session on "Lessons Learned from the Japanese American Internment and 9/11: Community Resources for Educators." Janet began with a chronology of domestic hate crimes and responses in the aftermath of 9/11 and compared it to what happened to Americans of Japanese ancestry right after Pearl Harbor, thus showing the relevance of the internment experience to what is happening in the world today. She also prepared a comprehensive CD of resources and websites on the topic which was distributed to all who attended. Carolyn made the Minnesota connection with the Military Intelligence Service Language School that was housed first at Camp Savage and later moved to Ft. Snelling. She offered suggestions on where in the social studies standards the Japanese American Internment and their role in World War II should be taught, and how to adapt it for various grade levels.

*Photo: L to R: Carolyn Nayematsu, Janet Maeda Carlson, Judy Murakami, Sally Sudo*





*Student Anders Lowry (3rd from left) with Sally Sudo and his parents, Laurie Jacobi and Cotty Lowry at the Day of Remembrance program on February 12. Photo credit: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas.*



## Student Interviews Twin Cities JACL Member/Former Internee for History Day Project

Anders Lowry, 7th grader at Lake Harriet Community School, interviewed Sally Sudo for his History Day project on the Japanese American World War II Experience. He selected this topic because of his interest in World War II history, but other students were already doing projects on the Atomic Bomb. "We have some close family friends who are Japanese," he said, "and my grandfather was a sailor on a Navy ship taking Japanese Prisoners of War back to the United States."

Anders learned about the 120,000 Japanese Americans sent to camps, and when he looked up references at the Minneapolis Public Library, one of the librarians connected him with the Twin Cities JACL. This year's History Day theme was "Debate and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures, and Consequences." The History Day project Anders submitted was a website about Japanese American internment camps during WWII. His website can be accessed at: [www.anderslowry.com](http://www.anderslowry.com).

Sudo was a first grader when her family was uprooted from Seattle, Wash. and incarcerated at Minidoka, Ida. "My interview with Ms. Sudo really helped me to understand how terrible this event was," he concluded, "and how we should never let this happen again."

We wish Anders the best of luck with his History Day project submission!



## Kristi Yamaguchi Releases New Book at the Mall of America Asian American Press

Olympic gold medal figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi was at Sears Court in the Mall of America on March 12 to sign copies of her new children's book, "Dream Big, Little Pig!"

Yamaguchi's debut picture book is designed to inspire children of all ages to dream big. The story centers on Poppy, a young waddling piglet who has big dreams of becoming a figure skater. Poppy is not graceful. In fact, she proved quite clumsy in trying out her skates.

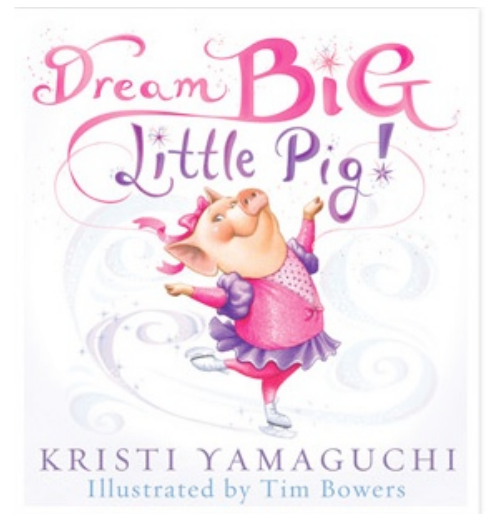
Poppy discovers that it takes a lot of persistence, hard work and belief in herself to be a star of the rink. Through the discouragement and teasing, she learns that it helps to have big fans in her corner, like her grandparents and best friend, Emma, who is always there for her.

Published by Sourcebooks Jabberwocky ([www.sourcebooks.com](http://www.sourcebooks.com)), the book comes to life with the help of award-winning illustrator Tim Bowers, who with his love for animals, including a childhood pet pig named Porky, went on to create artwork for several children's books.

In 2000, Yamaguchi married Bret Hedican, a North Saint Paul native who went on to play for St. Cloud State University and in the National Hockey League. They have two daughters, Keara, 7, and Emma Yoshiko, 5.

Yamaguchi was at the Mall of America in 2006 to accompany the American Lung Association's, "Faces of Influenza" Portrait Gallery, in an effort to encourage people to get their annual flu vaccinations to protect the health of their families. She also has her own foundation, "Always Dream" that supports various causes and fundraising events.

*photo credit: Bob San*



# RICE PAPER

## Japan Relief

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# JACL

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## Japanese American Citizens League

### **JACL and Direct Relief International Join Together for Japan Relief and Recovery Effort**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA., March 15, 2011 --** The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) today announced that it has joined with Direct Relief International in an effort to support relief and recovery efforts in Japan following the devastating earthquake and tsunami.

The JACL, founded in 1929, is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States and has a chapter in Japan. Direct Relief International, established in 1948, is a privately funded humanitarian organization with decades-long experience in emergency response and humanitarian health assistance worldwide. The organizations joined together in the face of this huge crisis in Japan to ensure that contributions to assist Japan are used in the most productive and efficient manner possible. 100% of funds donated to the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund, which will be managed by Direct Relief International, will be dedicated exclusively to relief and recovery efforts in Japan.

Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the JACL, said: "The JACL has formed this partnership with Direct Relief International because of the large number of inquiries of concerned members, partners, and friends who are anxious to help in a meaningful way and who want to join with the JACL in doing so. We thank all those who have already contributed and encourage others to join the JACL and Direct Relief in this worthwhile effort."

"Direct Relief's long experience in emergency response and efficient, transparent use of donated funds and JACL's extensive network both within the United States and in Japan, will ensure that resources made available for this crisis are well managed, well spent, and used in the most productive manner possible," said Direct Relief CEO and President Thomas Tighe.

Direct Relief's Director of International Programs and Emergency Response, Brett Williams, is traveling to Japan this week. Williams has led the organization's extensive assistance to Haiti, where Direct Relief has been the largest provider of medical material and aid (800 tons worth \$60 million) since the Haiti quake in January 2010. Similar aid is expected for Japan.

Mori and Tighe issued the following joint statement: "This is a massive, complex emergency in Japan that we recognize is beyond the capacity of any one organization to address fully so we believe this collaboration makes great sense, and we encourage other people, businesses, and organizations to join together to support people in Japan at this most difficult time."

Anyone wishing to contribute in this manner may visit the JACL website at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) and click on the link provided.

# RICE PAPER

## six days in the life...



*TC JACL member Sally Sudo's son, Paul, and his wife, Miwa, have been in daily contact since the earthquake hit the Sendai area. His emails reflect what daily life is like for everyone living in Japan outside of the disaster zone. Paul is an industrial engineer working for an American firm that makes motherboards for electronic products. Miwa works in the import-export division of Hyundai, Inc.*

### Day 1

I am OK (so far). Miwa is OK too. There are a lot of aftershocks, though.

We are now safe at home. A few things fell over, but not that bad. Miwa had to walk home from work (3.5 hours). All the public transportation has stopped.

### Day 2

The morning after and we are still doing ok. Haven't ventured outside much yet, but things seems pretty normal here. In terms of Tokyo, the biggest problem was trying to get home last night. Thousands of people couldn't make it home with the trains stopped. Thankfully, we both did without much incident. So far, all known friends and relatives seem to be ok.

### Day 3

The weather is gorgeous today in Tokyo. Highs expected to be in the upper 60's.

Getting to work was difficult this morning. The public transportation was running at about half capacity. I go out of the city so my train ride was relatively ok. I can't imagine what Miwa had to go through because she goes into the city. I bet it was a nightmare. Our office is in one of the areas designated today for a blackout this afternoon so we're trying to figure out how things will proceed. Tokyo has not been designated for a blackout as far as I know (the information keeps changing, so it's hard to keep up and figure out what is correct). It's expected these rolling blackouts will last through April. There seemed to be more food stocked in the convenience stores this morning, but still not 100%.

### Day 4

We are still doing ok today.

Yesterday, my office ended up closing at noon. With the scheduled blackouts, the trains near our office had announced that it would stop running between 1pm and 5pm. However, most of the areas scheduled for blackouts ended up not being blacked out. It was really confusing to know if you were going to get power or not. In the end, there were no power outages in Tokyo, but it wrecked havoc on any kind of planning—especially for the train companies. Given the chaos it created, today Tokyo Power announced that even in blackouts, the train companies would be supplied power. Even then, trains are only running at about 50 to 70% regular capacity to help conserve energy. Miwa's office is next to the Tokyo Power headquarters, so her office probably won't experience any blackouts. She worked until 4:30pm and was able to come home relatively easily using the trains. Food and other supplies are starting to become a problem. We personally are ok for now—we probably have enough food and water to last another week in the worst case. Takashimaya was closed yesterday. I think it's supposed to be open today. The shelves at the supermarket next door to our apartment are close to bare as of last night. There are some supermarkets in the area where you have to wait in line 30 min to an hour to just to get in. Food, water, batteries, tissue, toilet paper, etc are in very short supply. Other things like flashlights and candles are also sold out—people preparing for no power. There is also a big shortage with gasoline, but it doesn't really affect us since we don't own a car. No serious panics yet, but if it continues like this for a few more days I can imagine things escalating. People in Tokyo still have the attitude like, "Well, we can't really complain given what is happening in the disaster regions."

We still are experiencing aftershocks—big enough to wake you up while you are sleeping. All but one of the free channels still show only disaster coverage all the time, so it's getting to be a little tiring only seeing scenes of destruction. It's almost like we are cut off from the rest of the world. It's hard to tell how much truth is in the government briefings. From what I can tell, most media outlets in Japan don't want to be responsible for creating a public panic so they seem pretty reserved with their comments. There has been a number of widespread chain mails, however, that have things like "you should always be wearing a raincoat when you go outside" and other conspiracy theories that have been sent around. I don't know if creating more concern, anxiousness and hysteria is a good thing right now. I did see something on CNN's webpage that the US military has recorded higher levels of radiation in ships near the nuclear reactor, but much less than what they were fearing. So that was a little comforting. But I mean, that nuclear power plant is going to fail. It's just a matter of how badly it's going to fail and the subsequent damage.

### Day 5

We are still doing OK.

The blackout schedule is still confusing, but so far we have not experienced power outages at work or at home. The food and water situation seems to be improving by the day. Takashimaya was open yesterday, but only until 6pm. Other stores also have been open for limited hours. I'm not sure if this has more to do with conserving power or because of supplies. The supermarket next door to our apartment was open regular hours and did have more food on its shelves yesterday as compared to the day before. And I have noticed that convenience stores also have more stuff on its shelves today. Either way, the shelves are not fully stocked like before the earthquake and still out of certain things (batteries, instant noodles, etc), but it seems like they keep improving each day. So I do not think there will be any panic over food and water in Tokyo.

Some of the TV channels have returned to normal programming and we are now starting to see commercials again (although for some reason, most of the commercials tend to be ones that are made by insurance companies). How long did it take for things to return to normal in NY after 9/11?

Now onto the stuff I'm sure you're really concerned about. Yes, an increase in the levels of radiation has been detected even in Tokyo. And yes, you really don't know if the government is telling the entire truth or not. And yes, I am expecting the situation to get worse, not better, in the near future as the nuclear power plant situation plays out. However, so far Miwa and I have not had any thoughts of trying to evacuate—either out of Tokyo or out of Japan. I don't think the situation is that bad. There are people in our office who are starting to get a little hysterical about the



## six days in the life... cont...

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radiation, but I personally find it a little ridiculous that the same people smoke a pack of cigarettes a day. The cigarettes are much more harmful to the body than the amount of radiation that is currently being detected in Tokyo. So, you guys might think I'm being naïve, but I don't think the situation is that dire yet. Yes, the nuclear plant situation is very serious and I appreciate all the concern, but I think the prudent thing to do right now is to calm down. (To answer a few questions—We live in the southwestern corner of the Tokyo 23 ward district, Miwa's parent are in Niigata prefecture which is on the Japan sea side. And the Sudo relatives are in Tochigi, Chiba and Saitama prefectures—which is closer to Fukushima than Tokyo.)

To be honest, we are having to live our lives on a daily basis. The things we are having to think about are:

- Do you have enough food and water today?
- Will we have electricity today (at home and at work)?
- What will the public transportation be like getting to and from work today?

Living in fear of a nuclear power plant 150 miles away is not most pressing right now. It is scary and things are in constant flux, but we're ok for now.

Things actually continue to improve (other than the radiation), so we were beginning to relax a little. Then a magnitude 6 earthquake occurred in Shizuoka last night around 10:30 pm that felt pretty big to us in Tokyo (it was only like a 3 or 4 magnitude in Tokyo but Shizuoka is closer than Fukushima/Miyagi). Just a reminder that we still can't let our guards down. I'm on the US embassy email list and they keep sending out constant updates.

Day 6

Good morning. We are still doing OK.

I will add a new feature today. At 3pm, March 16 the recorded amount of radiation in the air in Shinjuku was 0.0541 microsieverts/hour. This information comes from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government homepage. It's all in Japanese. Please note, there is no consistency in the numbers used in media. Some talk in millisieverts, and some talk in microsieverts. 1 millisievert = 1000 microsieverts. So please make sure you know what decimal they are using when you are watching the news. I made the same mistake, so please be careful. (It would be the same as comparing one kilometer to one meter).

I am at home this morning. Our company decided to be closed this morning and keep the employees at home (in Japanese it's called jitaku taiki). As the day progressed yesterday, the nuclear power plant situation was so volatile that our management decided to be ultra-safe and keep people at home this morning, just in case the situation continued to escalate (ie. a nuclear meltdown). A while ago, I got word that our office will re-open starting at 1pm since the situation is not that bad.

Things in Tokyo seems to continue to improve. Some random observations:

- The train service has improved and are now running at around 80%.
- The scheduled blackouts are still confusing. You basically have to wait until the scheduled time comes and see if you still have electricity—there's really no other way to tell. Obviously, that makes any kind of planning near impossible.
- The food and water availability seem to improve each day. However, I have not yet seen things like tissue, toilet paper, batteries, and instant noodles on shelves yet. I think for us, the first thing we will run out of will be toilet paper in a few days if we cannot buy any soon (this is where I get to make my male chauvinistic joke about “Why do women use so much toilet paper????”). Also, it is hay fever season so we are going through a lot of tissue (Miwa has hay fever. Fortunately, I don't). There are other things that are hard to get like diapers and baby food, but that doesn't affect us.
- Since I got the rare morning off, I did notice at the supermarket next door the line was about 50 people deep waiting for it to open (30 minutes before opening time).
- I appreciate all the offers to send us stuff, but so far that is not necessary. To be honest, I'm not quite sure how the various delivery services are operating. To give a few examples, FedEx and UPS have suspended service in the Tokyo area. I think this has to do with the lack of gasoline availability. They don't know if they can get enough gasoline on a daily basis for their trucks to make deliveries.
- The TV stations continue to slowly return to regular programming. We are getting a little tired of seeing only news. With regards to the TV coverage, the TV stations do broadcast what other countries are saying about the situation so it's not like we are totally in the dark and being hidden from information. Obviously, the Japanese government point of view is most present, but we do know how seriously other countries are reporting the situation.

With regard to the radiation threat, in yesterday's email I was not trying to belittle the danger. Of course, Miwa and I will take all necessary precautions, including evacuating Tokyo or Japan if it comes to that. I did get an email from the US embassy this morning that now recommends that people within a 80km radius from the nuclear plant evacuate (this is the first time they have contradicted the Japanese government (30km). Reminder: I am 250km away. Also as a comparison, the French Embassy has recommended to the French in Japan to evacuate from Japan if possible.) I am trying my best to take in all the information and make intelligent decisions.

When I write these emails, I am writing my opinions at that moment only. Things here are literally changing by the hour so please keep that in mind—an hour after I send the email, I might have a totally different view of my situation. But as of now, I think we are OK. On the TV coverage there are experts from Hiroshima University and Nagasaki University and they obviously have a unique expertise given what was experienced in their cities, and they keep saying currently things are safe in Tokyo. As of this writing, every expert on every channel keeps stressing that there is no reason to panic yet in Tokyo. Of course, the situation needs to be continually monitored closely and we will do so.

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Loring Theater and Mu Performing Arts present a benefit fundraiser for the people of Japan. All proceeds from the event will go to the American Red Cross for Japan relief efforts. The event will feature Mu Daiko, Momoko Tanno, Francesca and Isabella Dawis, Sara Ochs, and others.

Special thanks to the Loring Theater for initiating this event. Reservations are strongly suggested.

Date: Wednesday, March 30

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Loring Theater, 1407 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis

Suggested donation: \$50 (to be accepted at the door)

Ticket reservations: [http://www.loringtheater.com/Loring\\_Theater/Whats\\_On.html](http://www.loringtheater.com/Loring_Theater/Whats_On.html)



SAVE THE DATE!

The annual TC JACL summer picnic will be held on Sunday, August 7