

# THE RICE PAPER



APRIL 2012

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

WEBSITE:  
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If you are not satisfied or find you are less inclined to read it, you can always request to be placed back on the regular postal delivery. You can view samples of past Rice Papers in electronic form at [www.twincitiesjacl.org](http://www.twincitiesjacl.org) and then from the menu on the home page go to Rice Paper and click on any edition.

The TC JACL also maintains an E-MAIL BLAST list of members to notify them of fast breaking announcements and events that are too urgent to wait for the next Rice Paper. Providing your e-mail for this allows you to receive information you might not otherwise receive. To be on this list (if you are not already) contact Connie Fukuda at: [cfukuda@earthlink.net](mailto:cfukuda@earthlink.net).



## SAVE THE DATE

Twin Cities JACL  
Summer picnic will  
be held on Sunday,  
August 5!

## NEWSLETTER

Chris Noonan: [noonant@comcast.net](mailto:noonant@comcast.net)

Connie Tsuchiya:

[ctsuchiya@comcast.net](mailto:ctsuchiya@comcast.net)

## TC JACL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dan Motoyoshi: 651-338-8243

David Motoyoshi: 952-435-7991

Lisa Shakerin: 763-537-6829

Scholarship Committee holds one seat

# RICE PAPER

## Festival of Nations

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### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE FESTIVAL BOOTH

The Festival of Nations is May 3-6. We again have our double sized bazaar booth. Some of the volunteers from last year have already signed up but we definitely need more! Here are the shifts and volunteers still needed:

Thursday, May 3    9:00-12:00 (5 spots, all filled)  
                          12:00-3:00 (4, **2 open**)

Friday, May 4      9:30-2:00 (5, **3 open**)  
                          2:00-6:00 (4, **all open**)  
                          6:00-10:00 (4, **2 open**)

Saturday, May 5    10:00-2:00 (4, all filled)  
                          2:00-6:00 (4, all filled)  
                          6:00-10:00 (4, **3 open**)

Sunday, May 6     10:00-2:00 (3, all filled)  
                          2:00-6:00 (3, **all open**)



Please contact Joyce Miyamoto as soon as possible if you can volunteer for a shift.

email: [fabmoto@gmail.com](mailto:fabmoto@gmail.com)

telephone: 651-636-3222

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### Silent Auction Donations



Many thanks to the **Minnesota State Fair** for donating a family pack to our silent auction last November.

**Stages Theatre Company**, located in Hopkins, MN, has donated a family pack of tickets each year. They are in need of volunteers for front-of-house ushers for their family performances. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kevin Meyer, Volunteer Coordinator, at 952-979-1126 or [kmeyer@stages theatre.org](mailto:kmeyer@stages theatre.org)



# RICE PAPER

## TC JACL Speaker Training

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### Twin Cities JACL Education Committee Sponsors Speaker Training Session

Twin Cities JACL Education Committee held an all-day Speaker Training Session on the Japanese American Experience During World War II on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at Macalester College. The workshop was designed to give the next generation, those without first-hand experience, an opportunity to learn about how to give a presentation on this topic to students and community groups using different approaches.

Two examples of presentations were demonstrated to the seven participants. The first was the interactive Powerpoint presentation from the Day of Remembrance 2011 program. While archival slides were shown, attendees took on the roles of the narrator and student readers of scripted excerpts of stories told by Japanese Americans who experienced World War II. Next, Janet Maeda Carlson talked about "Parallels to 9/11" to provide background on the relevance of the topic today, and reviewed the extensive list of Twin Cities JACL resources that are available to loan (visit [www.twincitiesjacl.org](http://www.twincitiesjacl.org), click on Education tab, then Resources to Loan). A video of a complete presentation given by Sally Sudo to an elementary school class was then shown.

In the afternoon, Matt Walters facilitated an informal panel discussion of experienced presenters to give advice and tips. Breakout sessions were led by Ken and Akimi Oyanagi on giving presentations to high school and adult groups, and Mary Yoshida and Lucy Kiriwara on giving presentations to elementary and middle school students.

The workshop was funded by a grant from the Ishida-Winifred Foundation of Illinois, and workshop facilities were provided for no fee by Macalester College's American Studies Program. Members of the workshop planning committee were: Sally Sudo, Janet Maeda Carlson, Matt Walters, Lil Grothe, Lucy Kiriwara, and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas.



*Front row: Mary Yoshida, Ken and Akimi Oyanagi, Lucy Kiriwara, Tomoko Hoogenboom; middle row: Janet Maeda Carlson, Lillian Grothe, Don Maeda, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Chris Murakami Noonan, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas; back row: April Dennison, Matt Walters, Hiroki Kikuchi, Steve Ozone. Not pictured: Sally Sudo and Leola Johnson.*





Reprinted article from the Star Tribune 2/16/2012

By Gordon Nakagawa

# An era that also should live in infamy

• The commemoration of Japanese-American internment during World War II can also be a call to action.

By GORDON NAKAGAWA

**T**his Sunday will mark the 70th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, issued by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1942.

EO 9066 set into motion the exclusion and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese-Americans. Among those detained behind barbed wire fences were my mother and father, and their families.

The day will pass quietly for most Minnesotans, most Americans. But for those of us whose lives have been touched by the watershed events of seven decades past, Feb. 19 is marked annually as a time for contemplation and a renewed commitment to social justice.

Two thousand miles from the West Coast, even Minnesota was a key player in the incarceration narrative. Historically, the Military Intelligence Service Language School was housed at Camp Savage and later at Fort Snelling from 1942 to 1946. Six thousand Nisei (second-generation) interpreters served in Pacific and European theaters and were credited with shortening the Pacific war by as much as two years, saving millions of lives.

Additionally, a number of Minnesota schools, notably Hamline University, Macalester College and St. Thomas, in concert with the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council from 1942 to 1946, enrolled significant numbers of Nisei students who had been forcibly removed from their West Coast schools.

The Twin Cities chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, established here in 1946, has been the principal voice and advocate for Japanese-Americans in Minnesota. In 2009, the league initiated an oral history project aimed at preserving narratives of former internees. In 2011, the league sponsored a multi-



Star Tribune file photo  
Japanese-Americans at an internment camp in Manzanar, Calif.

## The legacy of the incarceration remains most alive in acts of resistance in the relentless struggle for justice.

generational Day of Remembrance event commemorating the incarceration.

The legacy of the incarceration remains most alive in past and present acts of resistance in the relentless struggle for justice. Perhaps most inspiring are the 85 Nisei men who comprised the Fair Play Committee at the Heart Mountain internment camp. All declared their willingness to serve in the U.S. military — but only if and when their full rights as U.S. citizens were restored. Seven leaders of the group were convicted of draft evasion and sentenced to time in federal penitentiaries. These honorable, courageous resisters embodied an expansive vision of democracy, equality and justice.

The grass-roots redress movement of the 1960s to 1980s culminated in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which authorized a formal apology from the U.S. government and one-time mone-

tary reparations of \$20,000 for each surviving internee.

And in the wake of the horrific events of 9/11, Japanese-American civil rights organizations were among the first to call out the threat of harassment and retaliation against Muslim and Arab-American communities. Japanese-Americans have remained staunch allies of Muslim Americans.

In the end, the Japanese-American incarceration is more than a cautionary tale. It is an enduring narrative, illustrating a paradigm of governance that political philosopher Giorgio Agamben calls a "state of exception." Agamben observes that concentration camps have become the exemplar

for post-9/11 governance. These sites (think Guantanamo, or detention facilities where undocumented immigrants are denied due process) are where the rule of law is suspended and where "exceptions" are determined by military and administrative directives in the name of "homeland security."

And in the National Defense Authorization Act, which authorizes the indefinite detention of U.S. citizens without due process, Congress and President Obama have now effectively codified and institutionalized the most egregious transgression of constitutional rights since the incarceration.

Feb. 19 should be a day not only of commemorating the incarceration but a day of decolonizing and occupying (in the current parlance): Decolonizing our consciousness in the presence of xenophobic states of exception, and occupying the actual and virtual sites of injustice and oppression. These should be our living testament to the power and promise of the Japanese-American incarceration legacy.

Gordon Nakagawa is a visiting professor of communication studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and professor emeritus of communication studies and Asian-American studies at California State University, Northridge.

Star Tribune 2/16/2012

# RICE PAPER

## In the News

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*Article reprinted from the Rafu Shimpo - Los Angeles Japanese Daily News on-line*



### GRANT UJIFUSA TO RECEIVE ORDER OF THE RISING SUN

Fri, Dec 23 2011 | 2 Comments

NEW YORK — The government of Japan will honor Grant Ujifusa with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays for his contributions to preserving the history and culture of the Japanese American community and promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S.

Grant Ujifusa

The conferment ceremony will take place in New York on Jan. 26, 2012.

Ujifusa was a key player in securing the passage of the historic Civil Liberties Act of 1988. The legislation provided redress for grievances caused by the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. He significantly affected the course of the bill in Congress and the White House.

In 1983, leaders of JACL's Legislative Education Committee asked Ujifusa to become their chief strategist as they worked to secure passage of the Civil Liberties Act. They knew that Ujifusa, as the co-author of the "Almanac of American Politics," had unmatched access to representatives and senators from both parties. Ujifusa worked closely with Japanese American members of Congress to devise a justification for redress that would appeal to both liberals and conservatives of the 1980s.

While he is well-known for convincing senior Republican leaders in the House to vote for redress, Ujifusa is probably best remembered for reversing President Ronald Reagan's publicly stated opposition to redress. When Reagan signed the bill on Aug. 10, 1988, the Japanese American community achieved a stunning victory.

A former senior editor at Random House, Ujifusa is also the founding editor of the "Almanac of American Politics," a book in constant use at the White House, in Congress, and among the national media.

The first edition of the "Almanac of American Politics" was published in 1972, when it was a National Book Award finalist. Journalists such as Tim Russert and George Will called the book "the bible of American politics."

While at Random House, Ujifusa commissioned an oral history of the Japanese American internment camp experience, "And Justice for All," preserving an important piece of history for future generations.

Ujifusa, a third-generation Japanese American, grew up on farm in Wyoming, where his Okayama-born grandfather came to help build a railroad in 1904. An academic and athletic star in high school, he was admitted to Harvard, from which he graduated with honors in 1965.

His mother, Mary Ujifusa, was fluent in written and spoken Japanese. Proud of her Japanese heritage, she was also committed to equal rights for all Americans. From his mother, Ujifusa learned why civic engagement was both necessary and rewarding.

Ujifusa served on the Board of Governors at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles and on the Board of Directors of the Japanese American Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Extensively interviewed about the redress movement, he has also written many articles about the redress bill as it moved through Congress and on to the White House. He now consults for a major Wall Street firm, where he shares insights on politics and the economy that he has developed over a lengthy and illustrious career.

Ujifusa lives with his wife, Amy, a clinical social worker, and an adopted son John in Chappaqua, N.Y. His biological sons Steven, a historian, and Andrew, a newspaper reporter, are, like their father, graduates of Harvard.



# RICE PAPER

## In the News

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Reprinted from the White Bear Press on-line

Posted: Tuesday, March 6, 2012 7:06 pm | Updated: 10:03 am, Wed Mar 7, 2012.

### White Bear native earns elite military post

Editor's note: The Press conducts e-mail interviews from time to time with White Bear area natives doing interesting things in far away places. Paul Nakasone was recently promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

Name: Paul M. Nakasone

Age: 48

Family: Wife and four children

City of residence: Fort Meade, Maryland

Education: White Bear High School, 1982; Saint John's University (Bachelor of Arts), 1986; University of Southern California (Masters), 1989; Defense Intelligence College (Masters), 1991; US Army War College (Masters), 2007.

Occupation: U.S. Army Officer — currently the deputy director for trans-regional policy, The Joint Chiefs of Staff, Pentagon



*Brigadier General Paul Nakasone speaks during his promotion ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. Jan. 27. He is the son of Mary and Bud Nakasone of White Bear Lake. — Submitted Photo*

1) How did you become interested in the military as a career?

I believe my father's experience as an Army officer had the most profound influence on me. He served for over 40 years in the active and reserve force. I also recall the impact of seeing the veterans who marched, carried flags, or rode in the Memorial Day parade. I sensed their pride in having served their country during peace and war. I was impressed by this.

2) How did White Bear Lake schools influence your educational development?

This might be an unfair question to ask me as I am the son of two former White Bear Lake educators! I am the beneficiary of the outstanding schools within White Bear – Birch Lake Elementary, Central Junior High School and White Bear High School. I was fortunate to have teachers who provided an atmosphere that challenged me and exposed me to a broad range of ideas.

To this day, I can recall some of the key points offered in lectures, papers, homework, or tests, by Msrs. Tamillo, Perpich, Frost, Henningsgaard, and Foss. Moreover, I learned how to think critically, an invaluable skill in a number of jobs I have had and in a number of places where I have served.

3) You've had many important military assignments over the years, which one provided the most satisfaction?

I have had the distinct privilege to command soldiers on three different occasions during my career. The first, as a young company commander in the Republic of Korea provided me the most satisfaction. The opportunities and challenges of leading 100 men and women while deployed along the demilitarized zone that separate North and South Korea provided many fond memories.

Having grown up in Minnesota and experiencing many cold winters was good preparation for my time in Korea!

If commanding a company in the Republic of Korea was my most satisfying assignment, the one that has had the most impact was a posting to the Pentagon in the late 1990s. I was at the Pentagon on 9-11; this day changed all our lives.

4) What are some of your hobbies/interests outside of work?

I remain a big sports fan – Twins, Vikings, Wild . . . anything with a Minnesota connection is my fancy. Interestingly, as closely as I follow the Twins and Vikings, I have children that count the Philadelphia Phillies and Pittsburgh Steelers as their top teams (a product of a previous assignment in Pennsylvania). Admittedly, I count this as a shortcoming in my parenting skills!

5) Where do you see yourself in five years? Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff?

I hope I have the opportunity to continue to serve our Army and our nation. I am privileged to serve with America's finest; I look forward to doing this for several more years.

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### **Education Committee Sponsored Booth at the Minnesota Council for Social Studies Conference**

Jim and Janet Carlson traveled to St. Cloud on March 5 to meet with teachers at this year's MCSS Conference. They set up Education Committee's display on the World War II Experience of Japanese Americans which includes a three panel photographic panorama, sample lesson plans on internment and on the Military Intelligence Service, and the Committee's cd of information about internment and its connection to 9/11 including Web Resources for Students and Teachers. Of the approximately 250 teachers and administrators in attendance, over 70 received free copies of the cd. Another free Teacher Resource cd produced by the Densho Project was also made available to interested teachers. The slideshow from the 2011 Day of Remembrance event was played continuously during the Conference and attracted much positive attention. Several teachers indicated an interest in having a guest speaker from the committee visit their classroom. Others affirmed their commitment to teaching internment on a regular basis and said they had visited the JACL booth in previous years. If you know teachers who are interested in having a speaker from the Education Committee, please share our email address ([education.tcjacl@hotmail.com](mailto:education.tcjacl@hotmail.com)) with them.