

THE RICE PAPER



JANUARY 2014

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER OF
THE JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE
WEBSITE:
WWW.TWINCITIESJACL.ORG

TC JACL 67th Anniversary

Chrysanthemum Banquet

Held Saturday, November 9, 2013

at the Chateau in Medicine Lake



*Guest speaker photographer Wing Young Huie (center),
Gloria Kumagai (left) and Lisa Shakerin (right).*



*Sally Sudo received a Special Recognition Award for her many hours and years of
exemplary volunteer service to the chapter. Dan Motoyoshi presented the award.*



NEWSLETTER

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Lisa Shakerin: 763-537-6829

Scholarship Committee holds one seat



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TC JACL SCHOLARSHIPS

2014 High School Graduate Scholarship Applications Available

Scholarship applications for 2014 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 available on the twincitiesjacl.org website under the Scholarships tab. They will also be mailed to the following students no later than January 31, 2014:

Mariko Akimoto, St. Paul
Quinn Coyle (Blake High School)
Matthew Dulas (Edina High School),
Karin Edwards (Lakeville North High School),
Dani Honda (Mounds Park Academy),
Parker Morehouse (Buffalo High School),
Matthew Murakami (Eden Prairie High School),
Roy Ramstad (Cannon Falls High School),
Kyle Tsuchiya (Eden Prairie High School)
Noah Tanaka Willmert (Minnetonka 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 JACL members (individual student membership or family membership is required). Membership information can be found at www.twincitiesjacl.org. It is acceptable to send membership forms along with the scholarship application.

Completed applications for local scholarships must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2014.

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 postmarked no later than March 1, 2014.

If you would like to support the TC JACL Scholarship Program by making a tax deductible donation, please contact Connie Tsuchiya at ctsuchiya@comcast.net.

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WWII artifacts



Preserving our Community's World War II Artifacts

With some of our membership getting on in years, retired curator Eric Saul, formerly with the Military Museum at the Presidio in San Francisco, suggested that the Twin Cities JACL help gather and preserve photographs, documents, newspaper articles, letters, printed program brochures, drawings, artwork, diaries, personal memorabilia, and other items related to the Japanese American experience before, during, and following World War II.

At a recent meeting with the Twin Cities JACL Education Committee to discuss bringing the "Go For Broke" exhibit to the Twin Cities that he curated at Ellis Island, Saul talked about the fact that with Nisei now in the process of downsizing, or having passed away, their children and grandchildren are faced with what to do with their belongings, many of them saved from the World War II era. He then mentioned that he has facilitated the donation of such artifacts from members of other Japanese American organizations to the Library of Congress, and said that he would be willing to help our chapter with this important process.

"These items are extremely valuable, and we need to ensure that they are preserved now before they are lost, damaged, or inadvertently thrown out," advised Saul. "People previously did not know what to do with these documents and memorabilia, and now that there is a permanent place for them, they will continue to tell the story of the Japanese American World War II experience."

Saul has investigated other possible options, and concluded that the Library of Congress is one of the best repositories for such artifacts. Unlike many other museums or libraries, the items are made available to the public at no cost, without copyright, which gives them the ability to be widely disseminated. Furthermore, there is a department set up specifically to preserve memories of WWI and WWII veterans, and appropriate items would become part of that special collection. Lastly, the artifacts are preserved in perpetuity in our nation's library, so permanent access to all is assured.

Before the artifacts are donated to the Library of Congress, Saul said that he scans the items, then gives a copy to the family and to the organization. Artifacts can then be mailed or hand-delivered to the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. Once the items are received, a letter of acknowledgment is given to the donor.

Tentatively scheduled this April, Saul will be traveling to our nation's Capitol to donate his extensive collection of photographs and archival materials. The items will be presented to the head of the Library of Congress and head of the Military Special Collections Department. Saul has invited members of our chapter who would also like to donate items to coordinate their visits with his, so that their artifacts can be presented at the same time. Alternatively, Saul offered to help organize a Twin Cities JACL group presentation in the future. If donors are not able to present their donations in person, Saul is also willing to hand-deliver them on their behalf.

In addition to passing the artifacts down and making them available to the families and Japanese American community, these items are important to the broader community for future education and research to learn about the Japanese American experience during World War II. Because the Japanese American community in Minnesota is unique, with Camp Savage and Fort Snelling being an influence on drawing Issei and Nisei to this area during and following World War II, artifacts from the Twin Cities JACL members would greatly enrich the collection in the Library of Congress.

"We encourage our members to look through basements, attics, closets, shelves, files, drawers, boxes, and other belongings for any items from pre-World War II, incarceration, and resettlement, such as photos, albums, newspaper clippings, letters, diaries, drawings, sketches, cartoons, and even clothing, handmade articles, and art pieces," stated Sally Sudo, TC JACL Education Committee chair. "Even if you think the item isn't important or worth saving, please check with us first before giving it away or tossing it out."

Contact Sally Sudo at 952-835-7374 for more information about making donations to the Library of Congress.

2013 Education Committee Year in Review



The Education Committee's primary focus this year was spreading the word about the role that Japanese American soldiers who trained in Minnesota played during World War II. In 2007, our committee published the first version of its Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) Teachers Curriculum and Resource Guide. This guide helped those who teach Minnesota and World War II History understand the part that our state played in instructing nearly 6,000 Japanese American soldiers in the Japanese military language at Camp Savage and Ft. Snelling. These men and women then went on to participate in every major campaign in the Pacific Theater and are credited with shortening the war by two

years. This year, new academic standards for teaching Social Studies were adopted by the Minnesota Department of Education, thereby necessitating the updating and revising of the curriculum guide. We would like to give a special thanks to Matt Walters, who spearheaded this work, committee members who helped with this project, and funding from the JACL Legacy Grant. This guide can be downloaded from our chapter's website www.twincitiesjacl.org.

One of the highlights of our year was being able to spend a day with former MIS Master Sergeant Roy Matsumoto. Roy, who celebrated his 100th birthday this year, traveled to the Twin Cities with his daughter, Karen, for the reunion of Merrill's Marauders from his home in San Juan Island, WA. Carolyn Nayematsu conducted an oral history interview of Roy, which was filmed by Bill Kubota and Steve Ozone. Roy's heroic actions while serving in the Burma jungle not only saved many lives, but led to victory over the enemy. Roy trained at Camp Savage and was anxious to see what was left of the site. We were graciously escorted by Janet and Will Williams of the Dan Patch Historical Society and Savage Community Library on a tour of Savage and posed for pictures by the plaque dedicated to the Japanese American soldiers at Camp Savage.



Another major project was putting on a Teachers Workshop at the Education Minnesota Professional Conference on October 17 at the River Centre in St. Paul. This is the largest educational conference in the state and is attended by some 10,000 educators. The title of our workshop was "Minnesota's Yankee Samurai: America's Secret Weapon in World War II."



Carolyn Nayematsu served as the moderator. Edwin (Bud) Nakasone gave an overall history of the MIS. Then Ed, along with Al Yamamoto, and Sally Sudo participated on a

panel, each giving their experiences of how their lives were affected by World War II. Teachers were introduced to the



use of our new MISLS Curriculum and Resource Guide. It was interesting to note that of the 31 educators attending our session, none of them had any knowledge that the MISLS was located here at Camp Savage and Ft. Snelling, and they knew very little about the role of the MIS during WWII. In addition to the workshop, Lucy Kiriara and Sylvia Farrells staffed an exhibit booth, and Jan Kiriara Monson helped with setup. Our participation in this conference was made possible through a grant from the JACL Legacy Fund.



In the September 20-October 3, 2013 issue of the Pacific Citizen, an article was published about the “Power of Truth” Teacher Award, which our committee is introducing for the first time this year. Any parent, student, or colleague (or the teachers themselves) can nominate a Minnesota educator in grades K-12 (not limited to a classroom teacher) whom they feel goes beyond the required Minnesota curriculum standards in teaching about the Japanese American experience during WWII. The winner will be honored with a monetary award and recognition at our chapter's Fall Banquet in 2014. We hope to make this an annual award. For more information, contact Sally Sudo ssudo@comcast.net or (952) 835-7374.

We filled requests for speakers for the following schools and community groups:

- Edina South View Middle School
- "One Book, One Community" event at Lakeville, MN
- Lakeville North High School
- Eagan High School
- Control Data Ceridian Retirement Group at Creekside Community Center Bloomington, MN
- SALT (Senior Adults Learning Together) in Burnsville, MN
- Lakeville Senior Heritage Center



As for future projects – the Minnesota History Center has expressed an interest in bringing the “Go for Broke: Japanese American Soldiers Fighting on Two Fronts” exhibit to the Twin Cities. The national JACL Education Committee will be sponsoring one of their Teacher Workshops in our area in the spring of 2015. Both of these events will require a lot of man power and we will be looking for volunteers to help with these projects.

We would like to thank Mary Yoshida, Seiki Oshiro, and Sylvia Farrells for their contribution of resource materials for our library of World War II related materials. Donations to the Education Committee enable us to carry on with our work and are always appreciated. Monetary donations are 100% tax deductible, and can be made to "Twin Cities JACL Education Fund," and sent to TC JACL treasurer Karen Lucas, 8625 Hunter Way, Apple Valley, MN 55124. For a complete list of available resources, check our website at www.twincitiesjacl.org.

Those serving on the Education Committee are: Janet Maeda Carlson, Sylvia Farrells, Lillian Grothe, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Lucy Kiriara, Gloria Kumagai, Carolyn Nayematsu, Sally Sudo, and Matt Walters. A special thanks to Ed Nakasone and Al Yamamoto for their advice and help with MIS-related projects. For any questions about our work, feel free to contact any committee member.

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Every year, in order to qualify for participation in the Festival of Nations, the TCJACL has been required to have a dance entry for the Festival of Nations performance stage. We have been fortunate to have Japanese dance instructor Linda Hashimoto Van Dooijweert instruct and direct a group of performers for this event. They will be rehearsing on Sundays from now until the Festival.

Linda is working to recruit a minimum of 8 adults and 8 children. If you know of anyone who might be interested in learning more of the culture and participating in an event that is both fun and of great service to the community, please contact Linda at Linda@urbantraveler.com. Dancers do not need to be of Japanese ethnicity or members of JACL. They can bring their friends, relatives or children to participate as well.

The first dress rehearsal is at the International Institute on March 22, so we have a full two months to learn the new dances. The cost of undergarments, zori, tabi, and dance equipment is defrayed through our fundraising efforts. There is no charge for lessons, room use, or kimono rental.

The Festival of Nations will be held this year on May 1-4, 2014. The TCJACL again plans to have a merchandise booth which is our main source of fundraising for local chapter activities. Please support Linda in her efforts to recruit and make our TCJACL booth possible.



Festival of Nations Future Chair

We are looking for someone interested in learning the ropes of coordinating the Festival of Nations Bazaar and Demonstration booths. This person will work with Jenny Olsen this year and take over next year. Activities of the Chair include:

Bazaar Booth:

- Representing JACL at the festival coordination meetings (2 per year)
- Picking out new items and ordering inventory
- Recruiting volunteers to price items before the festival, to sell items at the booth during the festival, and to count inventory after the festival
- Preparing paperwork, inventory sheets, price tags, signs, etc.

Demonstration Booth:

- Recruiting volunteers to train others and make inventory to sell, to sell items at the booth during the festival, and to teach visitors origami during the festival
- Buying supplies
- Organizing training and inventory making workshops

If you are interested in learning more about the position, please contact Jenny Olsen 612-280-3571 or jenny.monchichi@gmail.com.

TCJACL Social Media Survey Results

In November 2013, the board conducted a brief online survey to gauge the social media service use of our mailing list subscribers and determine whether we should adopt additional online services. Respondents were asked which services they would like to use to connect with TCJACL. There was also an option for those who only use e-mail, and respondents were allowed to choose multiple services.

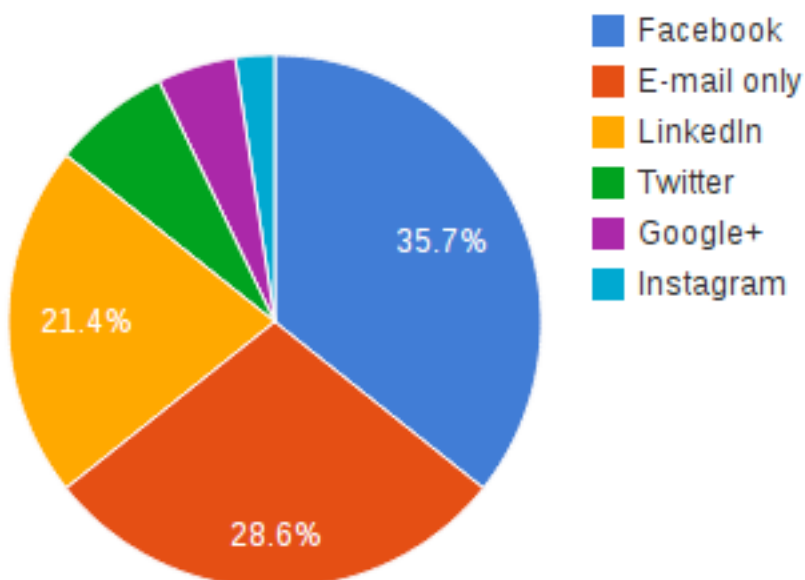
In total, 32 individuals responded, mentioning a total of 42 services. The most commonly mentioned were Facebook (15), e-mail only (12), and LinkedIn (9). Twitter and Google+ were mentioned only 3 and 2 times, respectively.

The goal of the survey was to determine if we should maintain additional social media services. Note that because all respondents already subscribe to our mailing list, we are unable to determine to what extent adopting additional services may broaden our reach to non-subscribers. Based on these results however, the board has decided not to adopt any additional services at this time. While this conclusion may be revisited in the future, the relatively small number of responses did not suggest adoption of additional platforms would be worthwhile at present.

Please note of course that we will continue to use our e-mail list and Rice Paper for important updates. There is no anticipation that this will change for many years to come.

If you are not yet receiving to our "e-mail blast" mailing list, please subscribe by sending an email to twincitiesjacl@gmail.com.

TCJACL Social Media Use, 11/2013 (n=32)



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