

# THE RICE PAPER

A newsletter of the Twin Cities Chapter  
of the Japanese American Citizens League

e-mail [info@tcjacl.org](mailto:info@tcjacl.org)

website: [www.tcjacl.org](http://www.tcjacl.org) | October 2015



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Scholarship Committee Holds  
One Seat

Scholarship Chair: Pam  
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## Normandale Japanese Garden Festival



*Gloria Kumagai & Karen Tanaka Lucas  
representing TC JACL*

*Kathy Hara manning the Normandale  
Garden table*

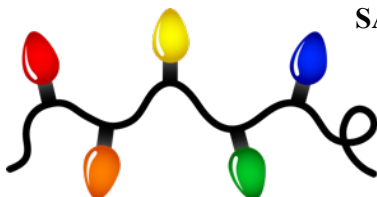
*The talented Lucy Kiriara (middle)  
with daughter Jan Kiriara Monson  
(left) and Margit Jordan (right)*



## SAVE THE DATE!

### Children's Holiday Party -

Sunday, December 6 Eagle's Nest - New  
Brighton Community Center





Scholarship applications for 2016 high school graduates will be available in January 2016. Please contact Pam Ohno Dagoberg (763-557-2946, [dagob001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:dagob001@tc.umn.edu)) if you are interested in obtaining a scholarship application or would like to recommend someone for a scholarship.

Scholarship recipients must be current JACL members. Individual Student or Family membership status is required (Individual membership of a parent does not qualify the student to receive a scholarship). For information on membership, please visit [www.twincitiesjacl.org](http://www.twincitiesjacl.org)

Applications will be sent to the following students:

John Akimoto (St. Paul)  
Brandon Asao (Chanhassen)  
Theo Honda (Mound Park Academy)  
Julie Iijima (Rochester)  
Graham Mincks (Robinsdale Armstrong High School)  
Nathan Mukai (Savage)  
Rod Takata (St. Louis Park High School)  
Aaron Tsuchiya (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." Applications are evaluated based on the student's scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, community service and the essay. Completed applications must be mailed by March 31, 2016.

Many National JACL scholarships are also available. Information about National JACL scholarships can be found on the Youth page at the JACL website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)).

The Twin Cities JACL scholarship program is made possible because of the generous members of our community. Tax deductible donations can be sent to:

*Twin Cities JACL Scholarship Fund  
c/o Connie Tsuchiya  
6431 Mere Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346*

Want to recommend a young person for a Twin Cities JACL Scholarship?

We would like to identify current  
high school, middle school, **elementary school**, and pre-school students!

Please send the  
name, address, high school graduation year of your

child / niece / nephew / grandchild / friend

to

[scholarship@tcjacl.org](mailto:scholarship@tcjacl.org)

Once received, their name will be added to the scholarship database And they will receive an application during their senior year.

### **Twin Cities: JACL Golf Tournament 2015**

It was a great Sunday afternoon at 1pm! To my surprise, many participants were already there before I got there and I was an hour early! The weather was the best condition we can ask for and we had full 5 foursomes for the tournament. After the results came in and each categories won fun prizes and avoided the rain and bad weather that came in right after.

Best Score: 1<sup>st</sup> place Brian Tsuchiya, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Aaron Tsuchiya, 3<sup>rd</sup> Doug Hartmann  
Best Foursome: Connie, Todd, Brian, and Aaron Tsuchiya won by 30 points  
Longest Put: Susan Burke  
Closest to Pin: Eugene Sako  
Most Tree hits: Susan Burke  
Most Lost Balls to the Pond: Jay Kiriara  
Most Putts: Bryan Arney



Thank you for those who came, also welcome to those who are non-members, hopefully we will see you again!

*Submitted by Dr. Zen Matsuda*

*Time to check in!*



*Zen, Debbie Kiriara and Jay Kiriara*



*Team Tsuchiya*

*Teresa Toguchi & Doug Hartmann*



*Susan Burke wins a bag of rice!*



*George Murakami, Matt Farrells, Emi Sako, Eugene Sako*



*Susan Burke, Darron Cork, Mary Thies, Jamie Cork*





*Students of the language school pose in front of a building at Camp Savage in Minnesota in 1944 in this photo from the exhibit "America's Secret Weapon: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service in World War II." Wyatt Olson/Stars*

*Pioneer Press Article submitted by Sally Sudo*

### **Japanese-Americans recall WWII Fort Snelling military language operations**

by: Maja Beckstrom, (St. Paul, Minn.) |

Pioneer Press (MCT) |

published: September 14, 2015

(Tribune News Service) — One of the secret weapons of World War II was developed at Fort Snelling in St. Paul, Minn. During the war, 6,000 Japanese-Americans from Hawaii and the West Coast were trained at the 19th-century Twin Cities fort in Japanese language, military terminology and intelligence.

They served with every combat unit in the Pacific. They translated captured documents, intercepted radio transmissions and interrogated Japanese prisoners of war.

"People know little about it, and it had such strategic importance to the war," said Stephen Osman, former site manager of Historic Fort Snelling. "These linguists served with every front line unit in the Pacific and saved thousands of lives, both Japanese and American."

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's chief of intelligence, Charles Willoughby, said the graduates of the Military Intelligence Service Language School "shortened the war by two years." This weekend, two veterans of the school will speak at Fort Snelling in tandem with a touring photo exhibit: "Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service in WWII."

### **Out of the camps**

In November 1941, about a month before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. military established a top-secret Japanese language school in an abandoned hangar at San Francisco's military base, the Presidio. All but two members of the first class were Japanese-Americans, mostly children of immigrant parents, known as "Nisei."

After the United States declared war, the government was fearful of Japanese-American collaboration with the enemy and forced 120,000 Japanese-Americans on the West Coast into internment camps. The school was forced to move. Several sites were considered, but military brass took up then-Gov. Harold Stassen's invitation to Minnesota.

Sally Sudo was one of thousands removed from their homes in the spring of 1942. When she was in first grade, Sudo's parents and nine siblings were evacuated from Seattle to a relocation camp in Minidoka, Idaho. The following year, her brother Joe Ohno graduated from high school and volunteered for the U.S. Army, then joined the language operation in Minnesota.

Many Japanese-American parents on the West Coast discouraged their sons from risking their lives for a country that treated them like enemy spies.



"My parents were never vocal about it," said Sudo, a retired teacher from Bloomington who was instrumental in getting the photo exhibit to Minnesota. "I'm not sure if they agreed with his decision or not."

"Part of his rationale for serving was to plain get out of the prison camp," she said. "That might have motivated him more than thoughts of patriotism. But he was also of the mindset, as many were, that America wouldn't see them as loyal American citizens unless they shed blood for their country."

Joe Ohno started at the language school when it was in Savage, Minn. It outgrew the space and moved to Fort Snelling in August 1944, a year before the Pacific war ended. Ohno served as an interpreter and translator in the Philippines and during the post-war occupation in Japan. Like many graduates, his positive experience led him to encourage his family to move to Minnesota after the war. He passed away in 2002, said Sudo.

## **Securing the peace**

Many more soldier linguists volunteered from Hawaii, where a sizable Japanese-American population had not been forced into camps.

"We didn't face the tremendous discrimination that they faced on the West Coast," said Edwin "Bud" Nakasone, an 88-year-old retired educator from White Bear Lake, who will speak Saturday, along with Albert Yamamoto of Otsego.

Nakasone was 14 and living on the island of Oahu when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He remembers rising early to meet friends at the beach that Sunday. While he was eating cereal at the kitchen table, he heard the drone of engines and looked through the screen door to see planes in formation flying through a gap in the hills on their way to bomb planes on the ground at nearby Wheeler Air Force Base.

After the war ended, the military still needed linguists to secure the peace. Nakasone was drafted in August 1945 after he graduated from high school. He arrived at Fort Snelling on Christmas Day 1945.

"We thought it was great," Nakasone said. "There was no danger of being killed in action. And we'd heard nothing but good reports about Minnesota. All of us looked forward to serving Uncle Sam."

Nakasone had attended Japanese language classes outside public school in Hawaii, but he was far from fluent. As he mastered the language in class, he spent free time at local dances and taking the trolley up Hennepin Avenue, where the young Hawaiian soldiers ordered plates of Mongolian beef at Chinese restaurants.

In 1946, the program moved to Monterey, Calif., where it later evolved into the main language school for the Department of Defense. Nakasone was deployed to Japan in early 1947 where he served for more than a year with the occupation forces.

## **The scene in Japan**

"When we got there after 11 days at sea, I could see the ragged-looking Japanese dock workers," recalled Nakasone, who was stationed north of Tokyo. "Some of my friends flicked their cigarettes on the dock, and these dock workers would scurry around and stamp them out and put them into their pockets, so they could roll cigarettes for themselves at home, or sell them on the black market."

Food was as scarce as tobacco. Nakasone saw people trade heirloom kimonos for rice and a few vegetables. The Japanese had been led by their military leaders to believe that they could fight off a United States invasion with bamboo lances. By the time Japan surrendered, the country was devastated.

"There had been heavy bombing," Nakasone said. "In places, there was nothing left but chimneys, the brass guard rails and downspouts pulled away from buildings to be used as ammunition by the military."

For the next year, Nakasone interpreted for officers at headquarters and at the polls during an election. His worst assignment was helping military police gather up prostitutes for medical exams. The highlights of his experience were friendships with the Japanese.

"They were amazed that there were people like us, of Japanese decent, who were part of the American Army," Nakasone said. "We gave them our thoughts about America and democracy. We were the rainbow that connected one country to another country."

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Last weekend, I attended my first **JACL summer picnic**. I came by myself and did not know exactly what to expect. I had a wonderful time. People at the picnic were very welcoming, inviting me to join them and introducing me to others. I sat at tables and was welcomed. They made me feel like one of the family. The food was plentiful and delicious. I met so many people and I am looking forward to getting to know all of them better. The games were very fun. Everything was organized and yet relaxed. I played tug-of-war, balloon toss, bingo, and I even won a prize at the raffle. The price was right –free! They had games for the children, including a three-legged race, and racing with water balloons balanced on paddles and spoons. There was a great family atmosphere and feeling of community. I cannot wait to get to know the people better. I look forward to bringing my whole family to next year's picnic!

*Submitted by Susan Burke*

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*EDINA MAGAZINE - August 2015*

*Our Cheryl Hirata-Dulas on another volunteer mission! Edina Country Club Neighbors for Preservation hosted its first historic home walking tour.*

*After Steve Ozone's photos have been selected for display at the Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts show for 5 years, this year he went behind the scenes and was the juror of photography. It is the largest juried art show in the state. Ozone's photo entitled "Dent Corn" pigment ink on paper was displayed in the Juror's Corner.*



*Congratulations to our former TC JACL Picnic Children's Games Chairman Liz Hara! (Daughter of Kathy & Tom Hara.)*

"Sesame Street" Wins FIVE Daytime Creative Arts Emmy Awards Saturday, April 25, 2015  
"Sesame Street" won a total of FIVE Daytime Creative Arts Emmy's during the 42nd annual Daytime Creative Arts Emmy Awards.

Outstanding Costume Design/Styling

Sesame Street (PBS) Costume Designer/Live Actors Brian Hemesath, Jared Leese Costume Designer/Muppets Erin Slattery Black, **Elizabeth Hara**, Liz Hara, Michelle Hickey, John Douglas James, Rollie Krewson, Sarah Lafferty, Lara Mclean, Anney Ozar, Connie Peterson, Jane Pien, Sarah Schoening, Polly Smith, Jason Weber

To read the article in it entirety, please go to the following link-

<http://muppetshenson.blogspot.com/2015/04/sesame-street-wins-five-daytime.html>

*Articles Submitted by Jan Kirihara Monson*



*Congratulations to Rick Shiomi on another prestigious accolade!*

Playwright Rick Shiomi named 2015 McKnight Distinguished Artist  
*May 14, 2015*

The McKnight Foundation has named Minnesota playwright, director, producer, theater artist, and musician Rick Shiomi as the 2015 McKnight Distinguished Artist, in recognition of artistic excellence spanning four decades. Now in its 18th year, the annual honor includes a \$50,000 cash award and recognizes individual Minnesota artists who have made significant contributions to the quality of the state's cultural life.

**Rick Shiomi Photo:**  
**Lia Chang**

“Given the breadth, scope, and importance of Rick Shiomi’s artistic legacy, there is no single yardstick by which to measure his impact,” said McKnight president Kate Wolford. “It is multifaceted, trailblazing, and extends well beyond his commitment to Asian American theater in the Twin Cities, and we at McKnight are honored to celebrate his accomplishments with this award.”

A seminal leader of the Asian American theater movement since the 1980s, Rick Shiomi has written, produced, or directed over 50 plays during his career. He is perhaps best known as co-founder of St. Paul’s Theater Mu, dedicated to bringing Asian American voices to the stage. Shiomi founded Theater Mu in 1992 and served as artistic director from 1993 through 2013. Under his leadership, Theater Mu became Mu Performing Arts and grew from a small start-up in an area where Asian American theater was almost nonexistent into a nationally recognized company. (The organization’s name comes from the Korean pronunciation of the Chinese character for the shaman/artist/warrior who connects the heavens and the earth through the tree of life.)

Born and raised in Toronto, Shiomi’s perspective as a Japanese Canadian figures prominently in his art and life. His parents were among the many Canadians of Japanese descent forced into internment camps during World War II; their experiences in the camp are a strong theme in many of his works. Shiomi graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in history in 1970, received a teaching diploma from Simon Fraser University, and went on to travel the world, teaching in Japan and Hong Kong before returning to Canada, this time settling in Vancouver, British Columbia. In Vancouver, he helped organize the Powell Street Festival, edited a film designed to teach children about Japanese Canadian history, and became an active member of the Japanese Canadian Citizen's Association, where he helped edit *Inalienable Rice: A Chinese & Japanese Canadian Anthology* (Chinese Canadian Writers Workshop, 1973). It was during this time he met playwrights David Henry Hwang and Philip Kan Gotanda, both of whom were influential in his artistic development.

To read the article in its entirety, please go to the following link-

<https://www.mcknight.org/newsroom/news-releases/playwright-rick-shiomi-receives-2015-mcknight-distinguished-artist-award>

*Submitted by Jan Kirihara Monson*



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### PHOTO EXHIBIT - “Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service

*Submitted by Janet Carlson, Photos by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas*

An enthusiastic crowd gathered on September 12 for the last program at Historic Fort Snelling’s for the photo exhibit “**Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service during WWII.**” There was a buzz in the air about that morning’s story in the *Pioneer Press* ([http://www.twincities.com/news/state/ci\\_28796869/japanese-americans-recall-world-war-ii-fort-snelling-military-language-operations](http://www.twincities.com/news/state/ci_28796869/japanese-americans-recall-world-war-ii-fort-snelling-military-language-operations)) about Bud Nakasone, Joe Ohno and the Japanese Language School at Camp Savage and the Fort.

The afternoon began with a showing of *Honor and Sacrifice*, a film about Roy Matsumoto who served with Merrill’s Marauders in Burma after graduating from the Military Intelligence Service Language School in Camp Savage. A Kibei, Matsumoto went to grade school in Hiroshima and returned to the US for high school. He had an ear for the language which served him well first as a deliveryman for a Japanese American grocer in Los Angeles and later as a translator in the Army. *Honor and Sacrifice* is available for loan for educational purposes from the Education Committee’s library which is coordinated by Sally Sudo (952-484-5193 or [ssudo@comcast.net](mailto:ssudo@comcast.net)).

Stephen Osman, a long time site manager for the Fort, served as emcee for the event. He began the discussion with a summary of the activities that took place at Fort Snelling during WWII. He also described the creation of the Language School at the Presidio in San Francisco and its move to Minnesota after Executive Order 9066 was signed. Among the noted historic figures associated with the School was Gov. Harold Stassen. Osman described the course of study as well as the extracurricular activities the students enjoyed. Minnesota was home to the school from May, 1942 to October, 1946 and several thousand soldiers, most them Nisei, graduated from the program before serving in every part of the war in the Pacific.



*Bud Nakasone, Steve Osmond, program moderator, and Albert Yamamoto*

*Twin Cities JACL Education Committee members, Carolyn Nayematsu, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Janet Carlson, Sally Sudo, and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas*



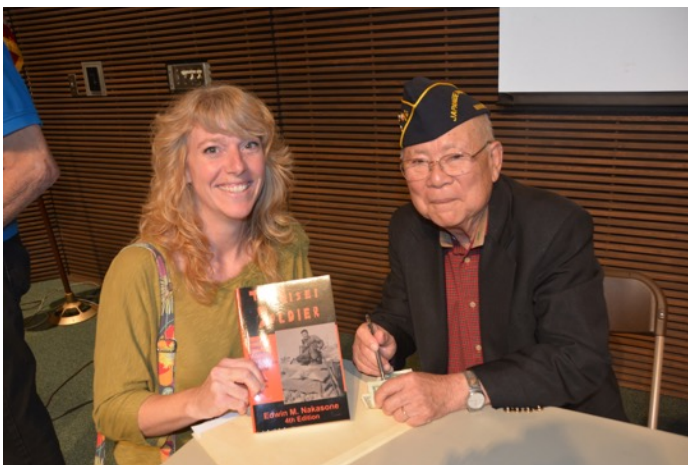
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Next, Bud Nakasone described his experiences from being a youthful witness to the attack on Pearl Harbor to service in post-war interpreter in Japan for the Army during the Occupation. Nakasone spoke philosophically about the non-official roles the Nisei interpreters played in the recovery of Japan and in facilitating the formation of the strong ties that developed between the US and Japan during the occupation.

In contrast, Al Yamamoto had a very different WWII experience from most Nisei. He was trapped on a small island of Japan far from Tokyo for the duration of the war. Yamamoto recounted his schooling and life in Japan during the war. At one point, he shared a photo of himself on a boat on the Inland Sea. In the background was a secret midget submarine project of the Japanese Navy. Not surprisingly, Yamamoto became bilingual and an attractive candidate for service in Japan as an interpreter for the Army once he was able to return to the US after the war.

The three speakers then joined the audience to view the photo exhibit about the MIS which will remain on display on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until October 31 at the Visitor Center. (<http://www.historicfortsnelling.org/events-programs/japanese-americans-military-intelligence-service-during-wwii>)

The Education Committee has created a curriculum guide about the MIS which is available for download at <https://www.tcjacl.org/education/mis/>



*Michelle Rudolph, program attendee, with Bud Nakasone, author of The Nisei Soldier, 4th edition, at the book signing*

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For in depth articles related to MIS by Maja Beckstrom of the Pioneer Press and “The Legacy of Fred Korematsu” by Steve Hunegs, please see the following links submitted by Emily Faber Densley:

<http://www.startribune.com/the-legacy-of-fred-korematsu/329598741/>

[http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci\\_28796869/japanese-americans-recall-world-war-ii-fort-snelling](http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_28796869/japanese-americans-recall-world-war-ii-fort-snelling)

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