

# 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 2016



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Scholarship Committee Holds  
One Seat

Scholarship Chair: Pam  
Dagoberg: 763-557-2946

## From the Board.....

### JACL's Vision and Mission

#### Vision

Aware of our responsibilities as the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization, JACL strives to promote a world that honors diversity by respecting values of fairness, equality and social justice.

#### Mission

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

### Constitution Amendment Notice

The Board approved the addition of an Education Committee representative as a voting board member. This action requires our constitution to be amended. In accordance with the Bylaws, the President hereby calls a Special Meeting of the membership for Saturday, November 5, 2016, at 12:00 p.m. at Normandale Hylands Methodist Church in Bloomington immediately following the luncheon at the Chrysanthemum Banquet. A copy of the proposed amendment is enclosed, and you are encouraged to carefully review the change and come prepared to raise any questions for discussion prior to the vote. Three-fourths of the membership present at the meeting must approve amendments to the Constitution.

## RICE PAPER



### **TCJACL Booth at the Lantern Festival Submitted by Karen Lucas**

The Como Park Lantern Festival, the largest Japanese festival in Minnesota, is inspired by the Obon Festival in Japan. This is a 500+ year old Buddhist-Confucian custom which remembers and expresses gratitude to ancestors. In Japan families hold reunions and visit ancestral graves during a time when it is believed their spirits revisit us. They celebrate with a folk dance called Obon Odori. At the end of the Obon festival, families bid their ancestor's spirits off under the guidance of fire in a rite called Okurubi. At the Como Park Lantern Festival people line the banks of Frog Pond hours before dusk waiting for the launching of lighted floating lanterns into the evening darkness. Shorts and T shirt clad festival goers intertwine with kimono adorned women to join in the Odori street dance.

This year the TCJACL entered a booth in the Lantern Festival to raise funds to benefit our 2017 educational programs. These programs will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. Carolyn Nayematsu, Amy Dickerson, Ben Hartmann and Karen Lucas staffed our booth selling Japanese cultural merchandise such as koi, kokeshi dolls, ukioye themed fans, origami paper and hachimaki while Steve Lucas helped transport booth merchandise and supplies.

The Lantern Festival has been growing over the years and the footprint has been enlarged to accommodate several martial arts groups, food vendors, art and antique sellers, other vendors and service groups, childrens games, and a performance stage with several taiko groups and dance groups performing throughout the day.

Exploring this new venue for our organization was very rewarding. The weather was ideal. Several attendees wandered the grounds dressed in manga costumes right out of fad trendy Harajuku. Thousands of families and young adults arrived with a specific shared interest in Japanese culture (paid attendees numbered just under 12,000). An unusual concentration of race blended "hapa" and "kwota" young adults and interracial couples were drawn to our booth and we engaged several Japanese Minnesotans in compelling conversations generating contacts for potential new members!

It was profitable and enjoyable enough to start making plans to return next year!!



## **2017 High School Scholarships**

Scholarship applications for 2017 high school graduates will be available in January 2017. Please contact Pam Ohno Dagoberg (763-557-2946, [scholarship@tcjacl.org](mailto:scholarship@tcjacl.org)) 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:

Madelyn Bocek (Wayzata High School)  
Erik Dagoberg (Wayzata High School)  
Aria Mitsuko Flomer (Minneapolis)  
Isaac Kasahara (Bloomington Jefferson High School)  
Benjamin Kourdan (Bloomington Jefferson High School)  
Nathan Noma (Bloomington Kennedy High School)  
Kylie Noonan (White Bear Lake Area High School)  
Kristin Sako (Bloomington Jefferson High School)  
Andrew Swartz (Bloomington Jefferson 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, 2017.

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

### **JACL Kakehashi Program**

The JACL Kakehashi program is a 9-day trip to Japan to absorb its culture and learn about its economy, politics, etc. It will include trips to historical sites, Tokyo, and other places to be determined. Eligibility is age 18-25, student or professional with a degree.

The next trip is December 12-20. Additional information at following link.  
<https://jacl.wufoo.com/forms/z9ayzg5093yfq/>



### **2016 National JACL Convention – submitted by Amy Dickerson**

The National JACL Convention was held July 11 through 15, 2016 in Las Vegas, NV. The convention business included National Board elections, approval of the budget, and consideration of proposed resolutions.

David Lin's opening remarks started with Mr. Lin thanking Bill Yoshino for stepping into the Executive Director position. This was due to Priscilla Ouichida departing less than one month before the national convention. Mr. Lin also spoke about the Kakehashi program, the Teacher Training sessions funded by the national humanities endowment, 2015 financial deficit, and the future of the Pacific Citizen Newspaper.

As the week progressed the following business was completed:

- The National JACL Board was elected. The new board is comprised of Gary Mayeda – President, Michelle Amano – VP of General Operations, Jeffrey Moy – VP for Public Affairs, Matt Farrells – VP Planning & Development. The rest of the board members will be appointed by Gary Mayeda
- Three resolutions and two emergency resolutions were discussed and voted on. This included an emotional debate over the future of the Pacific Citizen Newspaper. Matt Farrells and I represented the TC JACL vote on these resolutions
- The budget and strategic plan was approved for the next two years
- Civic engagement training sessions were held

The National Youth/Student Council hosted a luncheon on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, and a panel discussion on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> on Multiracial and Shin-Nikkei experience. The NYSC is engaged in social justice, civic engagement, and they have an abundance of energy.

On Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> the Awards Luncheon was held and I was honored to accept the Legacy Grant that the TC JACL Education Committee received for our Day of Remembrance program in 2017.

The business agenda filled the days and some of the nights. But there was still time to meet people. There were three people that reconnected me with my family and old friends.

At the check-in table I met Carol Yoshino from Chicago. We started talking since my several of my father's side of the family live in Chicago. We discovered Carol grew up five doors from my cousins! She quickly caught me up on the cousins and my uncle Min.

The second person I met Gordon Yoshikawa from Cincinnati. I told Gordon that I had started researching my father's family being incarcerated in Tule Lake and that I wish I had started this project earlier when my father was living. He asked me where my father's family lived in California. I told him Marysville, he asked me his last name. I told him Morioka. He looked at me and said "the dentist?" Gordon's family lived in Marysville, and his family was also incarcerated in Tule Lake. Gordon was only 7 at the time, but his older sister knew my father. Unfortunately his sister



had passed away about 4 years ago. Gordon was able to answer some of my questions about Tule Lake.

On my free nights I went to dinner with Betsy and Kazu Sato, Barbara Neuman, Gordon Yoshikawa all from Cincinnati, and Steve Mitori from St. Louis. I grew up in St. Louis and my family and Steve's family are old friends. Steve caught me up on many of the families in St. Louis JACL.

I appreciate the opportunity to be a TC JACL delegate. My knowledge of the National JACL operations, programs and issues is greater, and it was a pleasure to connect with so many people!

Next year's convention is in Washington D.C. and will coincide with the opening of the Smithsonian exhibit. This is also the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Executive Order 9066.



*Matt Farrells being sworn in to the National JACL Board*

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Jeanne Sakata's play about about Gordon Hirabayashi's historic WWII defiance of Executive Order 9066, **Hold These Truths**, opens on October 7 for a three week run in the Dowling Studio of the Guthrie Theater. Hirabayashi was awarded the Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor, by President Obama in 2012. General Admission tickets are available at [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org) for \$9.



*JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE*

Twin Cities Chapter  
**2016 National Convention Report**

***Continuing the hard work...***

JACL National Convention is always a time to gather as a larger organization, celebrate our existence and all the great work of our community, catch up with long-time friends, and conduct the critical business of our national organization. Throughout our history, we've faced many challenges and have overcome many hurdles. This convention was no different. With the budget in disarray and contentious resolutions pending there was tension in the air and many outstanding issues yet to be resolved at the start of business on July 12, 2016.

Looking back on our time in Las Vegas, I am happy to report we pulled through to overcome the tough issues and resolve our differences on resolutions and budgetary matters. The outcome of these items are listed as follows:

**Resolution 1:** Acknowledgement of the civil rights violations forcefully imposed on Canadian Citizens of Japanese descent during and in the years following the end of World War II by the Canadian government and JACL to recognize the parallel experiences and encourage the retelling of the wartime plight of Japanese Canadians through teaching initiatives. Motion to support R-1 passed.

**Resolution 2:** Additional funding for the *Pacific Citizen* operations via the authorization of subscription fee for hard copy delivery for those members and subscribers who wish to receive it. Motion to support R-2 passed.

**Resolution 4:** JACL affirming support for a US asylum policy free of racial and religious prejudice by calling upon the legislative and executive branches. Motion to support R-4 passed.

**Emergency Resolution 1:** A reasoned approach to resolving the financial issues facing the national JACL and the establishment of a JACL Fiscal Oversight Committee which is charged with reviewing the budget, financial, and contractual activities of the JACL. Motion to support ER-1 failed.

**Emergency Resolution 2:** Support for the establishment of the Tule Lake National Historic Site and protection and preservation of the entire historic site via House Resolution 4387. Motion to support ER-2 passed.

**Budget:** A relatively austere proposed budget was negotiated to include back the three full time employee staff cut by identifying additional sources of revenue. The revised budget passed.

Overall, the 2016 convention was a success! We lived up to the motto many live by, "work hard, play hard."

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew Farrells  
Vice President, TC Chapter  
VP Planning & Development, National  
Japanese American Citizens League



**Twin Cities Chapter  
Voter Registration & Education Opportunities**



Over the past year one of National JAACL's main initiatives is civic engagement and focusing on the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community for voter registration and education. Our chapter has also been hard at work to assist in this effort here in the Twin Cities. We've partnered with Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP), an organization which specializes in voter initiatives aimed to raise the voice of the AAPI community, to offer ways our members can volunteer locally. Opportunities to get involved and help our community are listed below. We encourage you to participate this fall!

**Phone banks: Mon - Thurs from 5 - 9pm.**

We will be phone banking weekly, Mon - Thurs until Election day. We do the training at 5pm, and make calls from 6-9pm. If new volunteers can't make the 5pm training, we will still train after 5pm.

**Door knocks: Every Saturday, and some Sundays from 10am - 2pm & 12pm - 4pm.**

We will be door knocking every Saturday, and some Sundays until Election Day. We do trainings at 10am or 12pm, and knock on doors from 11am - 2pm, and 1-4pm. We do offer door knock trainings for those who would like to prepare ahead, and they are by request and are available Fridays 6-7pm.

**Voter Education and Registration Workshops**

We will have Voter Education and Registration trainings every Friday and Saturday 6pm - 7:30pm until mid-October.

Please contact Matt Farrells at [mfarrells@jacl.org](mailto:mfarrells@jacl.org) if interested in participating.

**CHRYSANTHEMUM BANQUET**

will be held SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2016

NORMANDEALE HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

Please see the Invitation and R.S.V.P. attached for more information

**Silent Auction Donations Needed**



The Chrysanthemum Banquet will include a silent auction. If you have items that you would like to donate, please contact Gloria Kumagai at [Gloriak377@aol.com](mailto:Gloriak377@aol.com) or 763-377-5602 by Friday, October 21, 2016.



## RICE PAPER

JACL Golf Tournament was commenced on 9/18/2016 at 1:30pm at the Gross National Golf Club. Since it is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JACL, we decided to do the Golf Tournament where it was first held in 1959 at Gross National Golf Course. It was a beautiful sunny day with a 15 mile per hour wind. This year we had many non-JACL members join us to play. I brought my cheerleading 6 week old son with me to encourage the golfers to win! Thank you for those who participated in the Golf Tournament! Thank you to Board Member Susan Burke and Carolyn Nayematsu for preparing the Winner Prizes!

Dennis Urabe for Best Score

Jay Kiriara, Lea Kiriara, Dennis Urabe, Tougher Bennet Xiong for Best Group

Teresa Swarts for Longest Pin

Rick Shiomi for closest to Pin

Submitted by Zen Matsuda



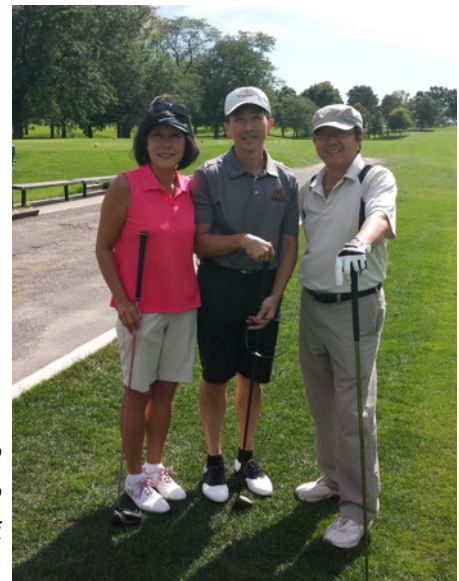
*Team:*

*Joe Greteis*

*Doug Hartmann*

*Teresa Swarts*

*Ben Hartmann*



*Team:*

*Emi Sako*

*Eugene Sako*

*Rick Shiomi*



*Team:*

*Hidehiro Ishii*

*Hideyuki Nakagawa*

*Susumu Akatsu*



*Rick Shiomi*

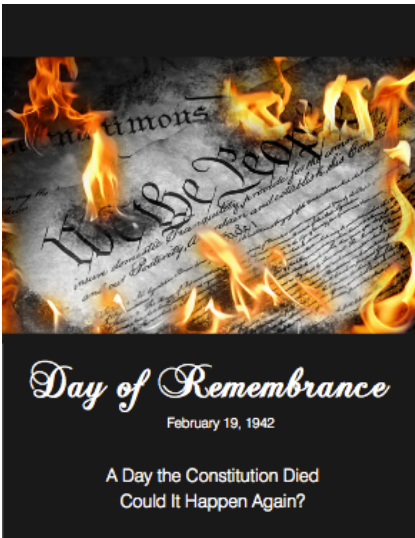


**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING  
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EVENTS**  
All events free and open to the public



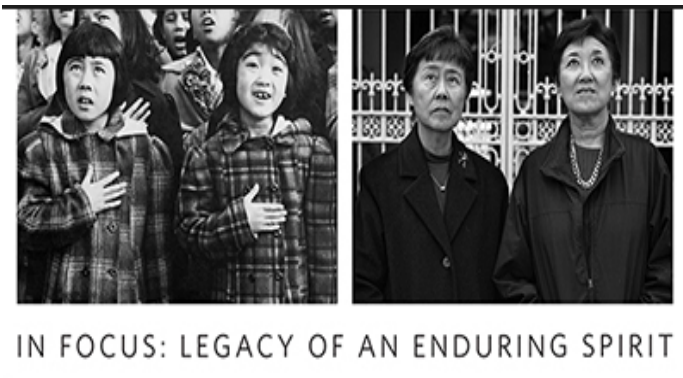
**Roger Shimomura Art Exhibit**

Opening: January 27, 2017  
Exhibited through March 2017  
Macalester College  
Wallace Fine Arts Center  
Law Warschaw Gallery



**Day of Remembrance Ceremony  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration**

Sunday, February 19, 2017  
MN History Center Auditorium  
345 Kellogg Blvd. St. Paul  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
(Beginning Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, save your seat by calling  
651-259-3015 or online at [mnhs.org/calendar](http://mnhs.org/calendar))



**Paul Kitagaki Photographs**

Gambatte: Legacy of an  
Enduring Spirit  
Historic Fort Snelling  
Visitors Center  
Memorial Day Weekend 2017  
through Labor Day

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

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Thank you - Your TC JACL Board of Directors