



THE RICE PAPER

A newsletter of the Twin Cities Chapter
of the Japanese American Citizens League
e-mail info@tcjacl.org

website: www.tcjacl.org | July 2017

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One Seat) Carolyn Nayematsu
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member) Treasurer
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UPCOMING EVENTS! PLEASE SAVE THE DATE



Golf Tournament:

Hyland Golf Course

Saturday, August 9, 2017

1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Cost \$20/members \$25/non-members

Submitted by: Zen Matsuda



Chrysanthemum Banquet

When: Saturday, November 11, 2017

Time: 11:00 am. - 2:00 p.m.

Where: Normandale Hylands United Methodist
Church in Bloomington, MN

A luncheon will be served, a silent auction will be held, and John Matsunaga, Education Committee member, will be the speaker.

John Matsunaga is a Minneapolis based visual artist/photographer, educator, and activist. His work in the visual arts explores Asian American and Japanese American history, identity, and experience, with an emphasis on the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans. He currently is a member of the education committee of the Twin Cities chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and teaches in the Asian American Studies program at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Submitted by: Gloria Kumagai



Annual Summer Picnic

Sunday, August 27

Submitted by: Lisa Shakerin

**GAMBATTE! LEGACY OF AN ENDURING SPIRIT
JAPANESE AMERICAN WWII INCARCERATION
THEN & NOW**

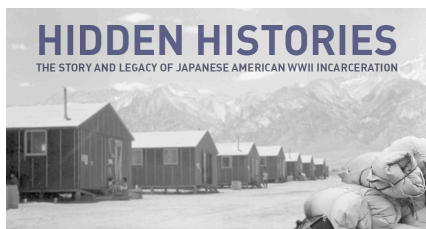


DON'T MISS THIS POWERFUL EXHIBIT by PHOTOGRAPHER PAUL KITAGAKI JR.

On display through October 28, 2017

<http://www.historicfortsnelling.org/events-programs/gambatte-legacy-enduring-spirit-japanese-american-wwii-incarceration-then-now>

SUPPORTING PROGRAMS



**AT THE MOVIES: HIDDEN HISTORIES
SATURDAY, JULY 15, 201 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.**

<http://www.mnhs.org/event/3390>

A collection of short narrative films documenting the Japanese American experience during WWII. Jason Matsumoto, Executive Producer with Full Spectrum Features will be our special guest. Films are appropriate for all ages.

**PHOTOGRAPHY, IDENTITY & COMMUNITY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.**

A panel of local photographers will discuss their artistic work that focuses on the histories, identities and experiences of the communities to which they belong, especially with regard to the social issues of racial profiling, stereotyping, and historical trauma.



**HISTORIC
FORT SNELLING**

**THE EXHIBIT AND PROGRAMS ARE
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



Co-sponsored by Historic Fort Snelling and the Twin Cities Chapter JACL

At the Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center
200 Tower Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55111

2017 High School Graduates Honored by JACL

The Twin Cities JACL's 54th Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church in Bloomington. The following 2017 high school graduates were honored during the program.

Madeline Bocek (Wayzata High School)
Erik Dagoberg (Wayzata High School)
Aria Flomer (Upper Mississippi Academy)
Kaiji Iishii (Wayzata High School, North Education Center Academy)
Benjamin Jourdan (Bloomington Jefferson High School)
Nathan Noma (Bloomington Jefferson High School)
Kylie Noonan (White Bear Lake Area High School)

The evening began with solo vocal performance by Erik Dagoberg. Graduates and guests were greeted by Twin Cities JACL Chapter president, Amy Dickerson. Fred Tsuchiya acted as the evening's Master of Ceremonies. During the program, Nathan Noma performed the first movement of the Hummel Trumpet Concerto on the trumpet, accompanied by David Zimmerman. Aria Flomer also performed a piano solo.

Scholarship awards totaled \$11,500.00. The following scholarships were awarded:

Shigeko Kirihara Memorial Scholarship – **Kaiji Iishii**
Dr. Norman Kushino and Kay Kushino Memorial Scholarship – **Benjamin Jourdan**
Tom and Martha Oye Memorial Scholarship – **Benjamin Jourdan**
Susan Matsumoto Memorial Scholarship – **Aria Flomer**
Tom and Reiko Ohno Memorial Scholarship – **Erik Dagoberg**
Annie Sakai Girard and Tsuyano Sakai Memorial Scholarship – **Nathan Noma**
Earl K. and Ruth Tanbara Memorial Scholarship – **Kylie Noonan**
Minoru and Mary Yoshida Memorial Scholarship – **Madeline Bocek**

Congratulations and best wishes to the 2017 graduates!

If you know of any 2018 high school graduates, please contact Pam Dagoberg at 763-557-2946 or scholarship@tcjacl.org. Local scholarship applications will be sent in January. JACL membership is required of scholarship applicants. Some of the known 2018 high school graduates are: Kana Anderson (Bloomington Jefferson High School), Eva Birkholz (Robbinsdale Armstrong High School), Hallie Ezaki (Bloomington Jefferson High School), Yoji Ishii (Wayzata High School), Yeshi Jampa (Bloomington Jefferson High School), Mei Savageau (Wayzata High School), Rina Tanaka (Wayzata High School).

If you are interested in learning more about these scholarships, please contact scholarship@tcjacl.org. Donations may be sent to TC JACL Scholarship c/o Connie Tsuchiya, 6431 Mere Drive, Eden Prairie, 55346.



Pictured: Aria Flomer, Benjamin Jourdan, Nathan Noma, Madeline Bocek, Kylie Noonan, Erik Dagoberg, Kaiji Iishii

Submitted by Pamela Dagoberg



COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU

Arigato gozaimasu to all the volunteers who helped make this year's Japanese Bazaar Booth at the Festival of Nations another successful fundraiser for TCJACL. We raised a little over \$6,000 which will help to fund chapter activities for the year. This income may be necessary to keep our chapter functioning but just as importantly, it is a community effort that builds camaraderie, generates fun memories and builds traditions that link us all to our chapter and the community we create within it.

Thank you to all our volunteers:

1. **Peace crane makers:** (We hand made and sold out of 300 peace cranes on bamboo sticks at \$1 each. Then we took ourselves out for lunch!). Thank you to Amy Dickerson, Amy Kuniوشي, Joyce Miyamoto, Lisa Shakerin, Karen Lucas and Carolyn Nayematsu. Join us next year for this rewarding activity.
2. **Merchandise pricing:** Thank you to Brody and Kasumi Lucas for your diligent and precise work.
3. **Merchandise storage:** Thanks you to Steven Savitt and Bryan Landy for use of your warehouse.
4. **Inventory move in and lantern set up:** Thanks to Cary Yamanaka, Zen Matsuda, Steve Lucas and Matt Farrells.
5. **Booth set up:** Thanks to Lisa Shakerin, Amy Dickerson, Amy Kuniوشي, Karen Lucas and Carolyn Nayematsu.
6. **Booth sales force:** Gary Ujifusa, Tim Thompson, Carolyn Nayematsu, Lisa Shakerin, Phil Nomura, Emi Sako, Lorrie Saito, Lynn Yamanaka, Sylvia Farrells, Jonno Trygg, Amy Dickerson, Amy Kuniوشي, Karen and Steve Lucas, Lee Hoon and Brad Benson, Mary and Russ Dennison, Lisa Tsuchiya, Theresa Tsuchiya, Teresa Schwartz, Natasha Vaubel, George and Judy Murakami, Renee Shakerin, Les and Karen Suzukamo.
7. **Take down and move out:** Phil Normua, Karen and Steve Lucas, Carolyn Nayematsu, Amy Kuniوشي.

Help wanted for next year: I am looking for volunteers willing to partner with me and take on specific areas so responsibility can be spread out. One area that would really be helpful and appreciated is someone to be in charge of overseeing the storage of unsold merchandise and booth supplies, arranging to move this into RiverCentre on move in day, and then to coordinate the boxing up and moving back into storage at the end of the Festival. If anyone would be willing to partner on this, please contact me at katalucas@aol.com or 952-270-3278.

As you can see, it takes a village.

Thank you to all our volunteers,

Karen Tanaka Lucas, Festival of Nations TCJACL merchandise booth chair

Twin Cities JACL Afternoon at the Theater

On Sunday, June 11, a group of Twin Cities JACL members attended the final performance of Full Circle Theater's "365 Days, 365 Plays--A 2017 Remix" at Penumbra Theater in St. Paul. During the fast-paced two hour show, the production staged 46 of the 365 plays written by Pulitzer Prize and MacArthur "Genius" Award winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks in her effort in 2003 to write a play a day for a year. A racially-mixed cast of ten professional actors and actresses tackled diversity and social justice themes using techniques such as humorous parody, theater-of-the absurd, and epic tragedy to express events in American history and current pressing social concerns.

Ruth Yahanda attended the play with Anna Murakami. She stated that: "We enjoyed the performance. We were simply amazed at how well the troupe performed --- not only in the multiple parts each of them played -- but also how well they moved the props around. They are talented."

A post-show discussion was held after each performance. Gordon Nakagawa led the post-show discussion after the June 11 performance. In his insights on the play, he explained:

"Suzan-Lori Parks used the phrase "radical inclusion" to describe how she allowed herself to be unreservedly open and receptive in her writing process. The phrase, "radical inclusion," also captures the spirit and performances of Full Circle Theater. Full Circle offers more than just superficial diversity and inclusion in their artists and performances. Full Circle embodies an experience of "radical inclusion" that takes us to and across the borders of difference and power, and reveals dramatically new, challenging, and transformative ways of thinking and feeling about ourselves, others, and our world. The show was a powerhouse, and the post-show discussion was incredibly dynamic and provocative."

Full Circle Theater was founded by artistic co-directors, Twin Cities JACL members, Rick Shiomi and Martha Johnson, and core artists, James A. Williams, Stephanie Lein Walseth, and Lara Trujillo. Its mission is to produce heartfelt groundbreaking theater that artfully addresses issues of diversity and social justice for 21st century audiences. Thank you to Full Circle Theater for providing the Twin Cities JACL with this opportunity to spend the afternoon captivated and entertained by a talented cast and crew.



Pictured l to r: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Martha Johnson, Rick Shiomi, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Gordon Nakagawa, Judy Murakami, George Murakami, Anna Murakami, Ruth Yahanda, Sally Sudo and Carolyn Nayematsu.

Welcome Dinner for Photographer Paul Kitagaki Jr.

On May 22, the Twin Cities JACL hosted a welcome reception for Paul Kitagaki Jr. at the home of Carolyn Nayematsu and Vincent Platt in St. Paul. The taco-themed dinner gave the Board, Education Committee and guests a chance to visit with the photographer the evening before the "Gambatte!" exhibition opening program.



Twin Cities JACL Board, Education Committee and guests with Paul Kitagaki Jr.



Paul Kitagaki Jr. and Tom Pfannenstiel, site manager at Historic Fort Snelling



Paul Kitagaki Jr. (far right) with dinner hosts Carolyn Nayematsu and Vincent Platt, Steve Ozone, Sophia Kim, Romare Bearden Onishi and Yuichiro Onishi.

Exhibit donors Karen and Les Suzukamo with Paul Kitagaki Jr. (middle)



Twin Cities JACL Co-Sponsors Exhibit, "Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit: Japanese American WWII Incarceration, Then & Now"

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, the Twin Cities JACL is co-sponsoring with the Minnesota Historical Society, an exhibition titled, "Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit: Japanese American WWII Incarceration, Then & Now."

Historic photographs of Japanese Americans during World War II taken by War Relocation Authority photographers, including Dorothea Lange and Tom Parker, are juxtaposed with contemporary portraits of the same individuals or their descendants taken by Pulitzer Prize-winning *Sacramento Bee* photographer Paul Kitagaki Jr.

An exhibit opening and reception was held at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center on May 23, 2017. Kitagaki was the keynote speaker. He shared the story of how he came about the idea of this project, after learning that his grandfather, father, and aunt were photographed by Dorothea Lange while waiting for a bus in Oakland, CA in 1942, to take them to the assembly center after Executive Order 9066. He later visited the National Archives in Washington, DC, and viewed the original photographs, saved in shoebox-sized containers, with only the location and date that the photographs were taken written on the back.

As Kitagaki examined Lange's photographs, he realized that each has an untold story, and he began a quest in 2005 to search for the identities of the incarcerated photographed by War Relocation Authority photographers to share how their lives were changed by the incarceration order. To-date, he has identified and photographed over 50 of the original subjects or their direct descendants, and documented their life stories.

"This exhibition gives us a connection with real people rather than just an abstract historical event," stated Carolyn Nayematsu, co-chair of the Twin Cities JACL Education Committee. "The photographer spent over a decade creating this exhibit through extensive research, interviews and photography, and it is very moving and informative--a definite must-see for Japanese Americans and all others."

For the exhibition opening program, Twin Cities JACL Education Committee member, Dr. Gordon Nakagawa, served as the emcee. Melanie Adams, Senior Director, Guest Experience and Education Services for the Minnesota Historical Society, gave a welcome, and Tom Pfannenstiel, Site Manager at Historic Fort Snelling, provided introductory remarks.

The photographic exhibition and accompanying programs are being funded by the National Park Service, Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee, Contra Costa JACL, Asian Pacific Endowment of the Saint Paul Foundation, Twin Cities JACL (including the Leslie and Karen Suzukamo, Donald S. Maeda, and Helen Tsuchiya funds), and the Joseph and Marie Winter Family Fund for Historic Fort Snelling.

"Gambatte!" is on display at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center, 200 Tower Avenue, St. Paul, MN through Saturday, October 28, 2017, during Visitor Center hours, and is free and open to the public. Accompanying programs are being held in conjunction with the exhibition (see elsewhere in the Rice Paper for schedule).



"Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit: Japanese American WWII Incarceration, Then & Now" exhibition at Historic Fort Snelling on opening night, May 23, 2017

For more information about the exhibition, visit:

www.historicfortsnelling.org/events-programs/gambatte-legacy-enduring-spirit-japanese-american-wwii-incarceration-then-now.org/ or call 612-726-1171.



Paul Kitagaki Jr. (seated 3rd from left) with Twin Cities JACL Education Committee members, (pictured l to r), seated: Les Suzukamo, Janet Carlson (co-chair), Carolyn Nayematsu (co-chair), Sally Sudo, and Karen Suzukamo; standing: Gloria Kumagai, John Matsunaga, Steve Ozone, Yuichiro Onishi, Gordon Nakagawa, Lillian Grothe, and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas



Exhibit opening program speakers, Tom Pfannenstiel, Melanie Adams, Paul Kitagaki Jr., and Gordon Nakagawa

Paul Kitagaki Jr. speaking at the exhibit opening program



Paul Kitagaki Jr. (seated right) with MIS Veteran Bill Doi (seated left) and daughters Dede Doi (standing left) and Peggy Doi (standing right)

The Travis Mizuhata family



Paul Kitagaki Jr. (middle) with former incarcerated individuals (left to right) Sally Sudo, Pearl Yoshikawa, Ed Yoshikawa and K. June Sugisaki



Masami Suga (left) with Gordon Nakagawa and Linda van Doojiweert (right) enjoying the reception buffet refreshments



Paul Kitagaki Jr. with local photographers John Matsunaga (left) and Steve Ozone (right)

Tom Kurihara, Natasha Vaubel and Carol Vaubel



Paul Kitagaki Jr. with colleagues involved in photography locally, including the Saint Paul Pioneer Press and Star Tribune

Event photographer Randy Kiriara, Paul Kitagaki Jr., and Julie Kiriara



Twin Cities Education Committee co-chairs, Janet Carlson (left) and Carolyn Nayematsu (right) with Elaine Koyama (middle)





OBITUARY

Carl Kiyoshi Somekawa

Somekawa, Carl Kiyoshi 95, died of natural causes on April 11, 2017. The long-time owner of a Wayzata CPA firm, Carl lived at Meridian Manor with Mari, his cherished wife of 69 years. Carl grew up in an active family of 8 in Portland, OR. He was an avid sports fan and was known as a gifted athlete with a special love of baseball. When World War II erupted, Carl was a student at Oregon State College, where he played on the baseball team. Solely because of his Japanese heritage, he was ordered to Minidoka Internment Camp in 1942. In 1943 with the support of the Quakers, he was allowed to leave the Internment Camp to go to college. After a year in Boston, he moved to St. Paul to live with sister, Emi, and her husband, Howard Nomura, and graduated from the U of M with a BA in accounting. Carl had a great affinity for numbers. Any kind of numbers. He liked to add the numbers of passing license plates and identify number patterns he encountered while shopping. (His love of numbers also enhanced his skill with a deck of cards.) As a frugal student with limited means, Carl courted Mari. In family lore, "Streetcar Carl" succeeded in charming Mari and won her heart over another suitor she called "Taxicab Bob." Carl and Mari were married in 1947. Carl was grateful to Ray Plank, the only person willing to give Carl a job following World War II in the face of widespread bias against Japanese Americans. Plank also pointed Carl and Mari to Ridgeview Drive. Here they built a home, made lifelong friends, and saw their children flourish. His family greatly appreciates the care and attention paid to Carl by the superb staff of Meridian Manor. In addition to his wife Mari, he is survived by sister Aida Kozu, son Roger Somekawa (Dianne), daughter Ellen Somekawa (Eric Joselyn), and grandchildren Kevin Somekawa, Tai Joselyn and Chi Pham. The family celebrated Carl's life at a private reception held in lieu of a formal service. Memorials to Asian Americans United (1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123) in Carl's name are welcomed.

Published on April 20, 2017- Star Tribune

Read more at <http://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/194188/?fullname=carl-kiyoshi-somekawa#bctgPWylzL4pBc5o.99>

Read more at <http://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/194188/?fullname=carl-kiyoshi-somekawa#zh5y4XbvFWyHtr9b.99>

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