



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 | January 2018

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Greetings from the TC JACL Board!

2017 was a busy year for the TC JACL. I want to take a moment to thank the Board, the Education Committee, the Scholarship Committee and all the volunteers that help put together a successful year.

First, I want to thank Amy Kuniyoshi who served the last two years and took on the role as the Secretary of the Board last year. Amy was also brought the JACL Facebook page up and added post for us. I also want to thank Susan Burke for also serving on the board the last two years. Susan was great at collecting golf prizes for the Annual Golf Tournament. Thanks Susan and Amy for serving on the board.

2017 TC JACL events included the following:

- Roger Shimomura Art Exhibit
- Day of Remembrance Ceremony
- Festival of Nation booth
- Scholarship Banquet
- Gambette: Legacy of an Enduring Spirit
- Summer Picnic
- Golf Tournament
- Chrysanthemum Banquet

Thanks to all the members that worked many hours putting together these programs and events. Your dedication to the organization is very much appreciated.

I want to welcome the new **2018 TC JACL Board of Directors**. We have four new members joining the Board for a two year term: Janet Carlson, John Matsunaga, Phil Nomura and Teresa Toguchi Swartz. We have three returning members: Amy Dickerson, Matthew Farrells and Gloria Kumagai. The board members continuing their second year of their term are: Ben Hartmann, Karen Lucas Tanaka, Lisa Shakerin, Zen Matsuda, Carolyn Nayematsu and Pam Ohno-Dagoberg.

The board met in December and 2018 TC JACL Officers are:

- Amy Dickerson - President
- Matthew Farrells - Vice President
- Lisa Shakerin - Secretary 1st half of 2018
- Karen Tanaka Lucas - Secretary 2nd half of 2018
- Janet Carlson - Treasurer

The Board is meeting in January to go through their strategic planning for the year. If you have any suggestions for events or activities, please feel free to contact any board member.



FESTIVAL OF NATIONS 2018

The 2018 Festival of Nations will be held Thursday May 3 through Sunday May 6, 2018.

Please save the dates to attend and volunteer to work a shift at our merchandise booth!

Shifts will be

Thursday 9:00-12:00 and 12:00-3:00

Friday 9:30-2:00 and 2:00-6:00 and 6:00-10:00

Saturday 10:00-2:00 and 2:00-6:00 and 6:00-10:00

Sunday 10:00-2:00 and 2:00-6:00



Free admission to the festival (value \$13.50), booth merchandise credit, and partial compensation for parking will be provided to all volunteers (carpool or work a double shift and full parking fee is paid).

An e-mail will be sent to prior volunteers in early April for shift sign ups. If you are not on our contact list and might be interested in working, please contact Karen Lucas and 952-270-3278 or katalucas@aol.com to be added to the festival volunteer contact list.

We also will be planning work sessions for making “peace cranes on a stick” to sell at the Festival. Dates for these sessions will be scheduled between February and April. If you are interested in participating in these, please contact Karen.



Dancers Needed

Learn Japanese Dancing (free) for 2018 Festival of Nations Performances

Every year in order to qualify for participation in the Festival of Nations; the TC JACL has needed to have a dance entry for the Festival of Nations Performance Stage.

We have been fortunate to have Japanese dance instructor Linda Hashimoto van Dooijeweert instruct and direct a group of performers for this event. They will be rehearsing on Sundays from now until the Festival. If you know of anyone (adult or child) 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@urbantravelertransit.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 Festival of Nations will be held this year on **Thursday May 3 through Sunday May 6, 2018**. The TC JACL 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 JACL booth possible.



CAIR Banquet

Submitted by Leslie Suzukamo

The Twin Cities JACL followed up on a promise to support Minnesota's Muslim community by sponsoring a table at the 10th anniversary banquet for the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Minnesota in December.

Eleven JACL members, primarily from the Education Committee, attended the Dec. 9 CAIR banquet at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington.

The chapter's relationship with CAIR-Minnesota began early last year, Janet Carlson, co-chair of the education committee said.

At that time, Education Committee Co-Chair Sally Sudo had asked Jaylani Hussein, CAIR's executive director, if he would be interested in participating in last February's JACL Day of Remembrance event, the 75th anniversary of the presidential order to round up and incarcerate Japanese-Americans during World War II, Carlson said.

"At the Day of Remembrance, Jaylani and (JACL Board Chair) Amy Dickerson made a pledge to work together" to fight Islamophobia, Carlson said. The two organizations saw similarities between the distrust and hatred directed toward Muslims today and the same sort of animosity that Japanese-Americans felt after Pearl Harbor, the co-chairwoman said.

At the Day of Remembrance ceremony, Dickerson pledged: "We will show up, stand up, speak up, rise up, lift up and act up in the name of civil and human rights, and local, national and global justice."

At the banquet, Hussein thanked all the attendees, noting that the packed ballroom of more than 600 people was three times the number that attended last year's banquet.

Hussein observed that President Trump's travel ban directed against Muslims last year helped to galvanize people of all faiths to become activists.

"You are the solution," he told the audience. "Join us, be us and be part of the effort to make us a more inclusive society."

Attending the banquet from the JACL-Twin Cities were: Carlson and her husband Jim Carlson; John Matsunaga, member of the education committee and a board member, his wife Kat Hayes, who is chair of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota; Gloria Kumagai, another board member and member of the education committee; Ben Hartmann, member of the education committee, youth board member and chair of the youth committee; Yuichiro Onishi, education committee member, his wife Sophia Kim and their son Romare; and Les and Karen Suzukamo, JACL members.

Nidoto Nai Yoni Remembering the Wartime Incarceration of Japanese Americans



On View
January 26–
February 24, 2018

Opening Reception
Friday, January 26
6:30–8:30 p.m.

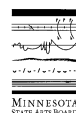
Location
East Side Freedom Library
1105 Greenbrier Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

This exhibit presents photographs of the physical remnants of the ten American concentration camps that were used to incarcerate Japanese Americans during World War II. In 1942, approximately 110,000 Japanese Americans that lived within the western United States were forcibly removed from their homes, imprisoned in American concentration camps for up to four years, and denied their constitutional rights because of their Japanese ancestry. This body of work explores the themes of memory and forgetting, particularly in regards to the loss in our understanding of this history that will inevitably occur when the last of those who went through this experience pass away and their lived memories vanish.

Biography

John Matsunaga is a Minneapolis based visual artist, educator, and activist. His work in the visual arts explores Asian American and Japanese American history, identity, and experience. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Twin Cities chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and is a member of its education committee. He also teaches in the Asian American Studies program at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

For more information regarding the exhibit and related programming please visit: <http://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/>



John Matsunaga is a fiscal year 2017 recipient of an Artist Initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Additional funding for this exhibit is provided by the Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League through the Les and Karen Suzukamo Fund, the Donald S. Maeda Fund, and the Helen Tsuchiya Fund.

The East Side Freedom Library would like to thank the F.R. Bigelow Foundation, the Marbrook Foundation, and the McNeely Foundation for making events and programs like this possible.

Discussion Panel

Saturday
February 10, 2018
1:00–3:00 p.m.

*Experiences of Wartime
Displacement, Dispossession, and
Confinement: the Japanese American
Incarceration and Beyond.*

A panel including members of Minnesota's Japanese American, immigrant, and refugee communities will discuss their communities' experiences of confinement, displacement, and eventual resettlement in Minnesota. Audience members will be encouraged to share their experiences.

Artists Panel

Saturday
February 17, 2018
1:00–3:00 p.m.

*Representing and Resisting
Historical Injustices through Art.*

A panel of artists from diverse communities will join featured artist John Matsunaga in a conversation about how they have used their artistic practices to engage the historical injustices which have challenged their communities. The artists will bring the experiences of not only diverse communities, but also various art forms into this conversation.

Film Screening and Discussion

Monday
February 19, 2018
7:00–9:00 p.m.

*And Then They Came for Us (2017),
a film by Abby Ginzberg and
Ken Schneider.*

Seventy-five years ago, Executive Order 9066 paved the way to the profound violation of constitutional rights that resulted in the forced incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans. Featuring George Takei and many others who were incarcerated, as well as newly rediscovered photographs of Dorothea Lange, *And Then They Came for Us* brings history into the present, retelling this difficult story and following Japanese American activists as they speak out against the Muslim registry and travel ban.



**Twin Cities and camp related artifacts needed for “Courage and Compassion:
Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience”**

The Twin Cities JACL education committee is seeking objects, documents, photographs, and other materials related to the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans and Japanese American resettlement to Minnesota. These items will be displayed as part of this summer’s exhibit at the Historic Ft. Snelling Visitor Center titled, “Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience.”

This exhibit, created by the Go for Broke National Education Center, is traveling to ten locations around the country. The education committee is currently developing a supplement to this main exhibit that will showcase our community’s local history and experience. Historic items will play an important role in telling our community’s story. We are continuing to solicit you, our local Japanese American community, for additional items that can be displayed in the exhibit when it is on view in the Twin Cities.

We are still in need of items which can help flesh out the reality and challenges faced by Japanese Americans as a result of displacement and incarceration. Examples of items from camp or resettlement to Minnesota include but are not limited to photographs (from camp or life in Minnesota during the 1940s and 1950s), job offer letters, correspondence with any of the Twin Cities resettlement committees, War Relocation Authority documents, clothing from camp or uniforms, 1940s yearbooks (from camp, local colleges, or local high schools), anything related to wartime military service (MIS, 100th and 442nd, etc.), art made in camp, and all kinds of camp artifacts. Any objects that we borrow will be returned to you and will be secured in museum display cases during the exhibit.

Also, thank you to all of you who have already agreed to lend us news articles, programs, yearbooks, photographs, and other related items.

Please contact Karen Lucas via e-mail, katalucas@aol.com if you have items that you would be willing to lend us or if you have any questions. It would be helpful to have a snapshot and a description of the item and its context.



2018 High School Graduate Scholarship Applications Available

Twin Cities JACL scholarship applications for 2018 high school graduates will be available at the end of January. Please contact Pam Dagoberg at 763-557-2946 (scholarship@tcjacl.org) if you are interested in obtaining a local chapter scholarship application or would like to recommend someone for a scholarship.

Applications will be sent to the following students no later than January 31, 2018:

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)

Applications are also available on the twincitiesjacl.org website under the Scholarships tab.

In addition to completing the application form and submitting a transcript, students must write a short essay entitled “The Relevance of JACL Today.”

Applications are evaluated based on:

- Scholastic achievement
- Extracurricular activities
- Community Service
- Essay

For the first time this year, a Twin Cities JACL Service Scholarship will be added to the other scholarship awards. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding JACL volunteerism. Students may choose to apply for this specific scholarship. If applicants are not selected for this scholarship, they will be considered for other awards.

Scholarship recipients are required to be current Twin Cities JACL members (individual student membership or family membership is required). Membership information can be found at <https://www.tcjacl.org/>.

Completed applications for Twin Cities JACL scholarships must be mailed by March 31, 2018.

National JACL Scholarships

In addition to the Twin Cities JACL scholarships, **National JACL scholarships** for entering freshmen are also available. Decisions for awards will be made this summer by a National JACL scholarship selection committee. Applicants are judged on 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 mailed by March 1, 2018.

Submitted by Pam Dagoberg

National JACL Announces 2018 Scholarship Program

SAN FRANCISCO -- The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) announces its **National Scholarship and Awards Program** for the 2018 academic year. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, and those specializing in law and the creative/performing arts. There are also student aid scholarships for those in need of financial assistance in this era of rising tuition costs.

Scholarship Program information, instructions and applications can be found on the JACL website, www.jacl.org, by clicking “Youth” on the menu bar.

Freshman applications must be submitted directly by the applicant to the Twin Cities JACL chapter, with a postmark no later than March 1, 2018. Freshman applicants may submit applications to Twin Cities Scholarship Committee c/o Pam Dagoberg, 4365 Kingsview Ln N, Plymouth, MN 55446.

Chapters have one month to evaluate their freshman applications and forward ONLY the most outstanding ones to the National JACL Freshman Scholarship Committee, postmarked no later than April 2, 2018.

Applications for the **“other” scholarship categories** (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts, and student aid) are to be sent directly by the applicant to the National JACL Scholarship Committee, c/o Central California District Council, with a postmark no later than April 2, 2018. The mailing address for this committee can be found on the application itself.

All those applying to the National JACL Scholarship Program must be a **student member** or **individual member** of the JACL.

For more information on the National JACL Scholarship Program, contact Regional Director Patty Wada at pwada@jacl.org or National JACL Vice President for Planning & Development Matthew Farrells at mfarrells@jacl.org.



Chrysanthemum Banquet 2017

The Chrysanthemum Banquet was held on November 11, 2017. There were 58 attendees at the banquet held in Bloomington, MN. There was a silent auction held before the luncheon. The money raised at the silent auction goes to TC JACL Youth fund. Gloria Kumugai coordinated and ran the silent auction. Rachel Matsumoto helped Gloria with the auction. Thanks Gloria and Rachel!

The registration was handled by the Education Committee members; Sally Sudo and Lucy Kirehara. This is the second year they have handled the registration table. Thanks Sally and Lucy!

The Banquet Speaker was John Matsunaga. John is a visual artist, educator, and activist. John is also a TC Board member. The Title of John's program was : "You Will Not Be Forgotten: Visually Representing the Japanese American Incarceration" John presentation addressed why Japanese American visual artists continually feel compelled to make work that addresses the Japanese American incarceration even after redress. In this presentation, John discussed the need and desire to visually represent the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. John introduced his current body of work, "Nidoto Nai Yoni," which consists of photographs of the physical remains of the ten American concentration camps. If you missed John's presentation at the banquet, you will have another chance to view his photographs at the East Side Freedom Library in St. Paul from January 26 through February 24, 2018. Thank you John for speaking at the Chrysanthemum Banquet.

A big thanks for the banquet committee for putting the banquet together:
Carolyn Nayematsu, Sylvia Farrells,
Gloria Kumugai and Amy Dickerson !

Submitted by Amy Dickerson



Guest speaker John Matsunaga and members of TC JACL Education Committee and Board of Directors

Photo credit: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas



Fort Snelling Virtual Reality Demonstration

Twin Cities JACL member Kat Hayes, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Minnesota, has been working on creating a virtual reality exhibit using one of the shuttered Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) classroom buildings at Fort Snelling Upper Post. The virtual reality exhibit includes historic photos, text panels, and oral history audio clips that play as the visitor walks through the building.

On November 21, Twin Cities JACL Education Committee members visited the University of Minnesota for a demonstration. Professor Hayes explained to the group that she and her colleagues used a scientific and technologic tool called photogrammetry to create a 3-D model of Building 103, which was one of the classroom buildings for the MISLS during World War II. "My thought was that these buildings are unlikely to ever be open to the public for historic interpretation, but with virtual reality we can make them accessible," she stated. "I'm hopeful that we can scale it down to a version that people can look at on a smartphone or tablet as a companion to the 'Courage and Compassion' exhibit."

In addition to possible inclusion of the virtual reality project in the TC JACL Education Committee's upcoming "Courage and Compassion" exhibit at Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center this summer as part of the Go For Broke National Education Center's grant from the Japanese American Confinement Sites program of the National Park Service, a version could potentially be a part of the permanent display on the MISLS at the proposed new Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center.

Submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

Pictured L to R: Prof. Kat Hayes and Samantha Porter, a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology and a Digital Preservation Specialist in the Liberal Arts Technology and Innovation Services (LATIS) unit at the University of Minnesota, look on as Sally Sudo tests out the virtual reality goggles, with Karen Tanaka Lucas assisting. Photo credit: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas.



**Resettling Japanese-Americans to St. Paul during World War II:
The International Institute, the War Relocation Authority,
and Ruth & Earl Tanbara**

An Illustrated slide show presentation by historian Krista Finstad Hanson will take place at:

Unity Church-Unitarian Church
733 Portland Avenue, St. Paul, MN
Wednesday February 7, 2018

The presentation will be 7:15-8:30 and is free and open to the public.

****Note:** The talk is part of regular "Wellspring Wednesday" programming at the church. Dinner is available from 6:00 -7:00 for \$7.00 per adult or \$20 for a family.

Unity's church offering taken on Sunday 2/4/18 will "donate the plate" to the Ruth & Earl Tanbara Scholarship fund for the JACL.

Ruth & Earl Tanbara were some of the founding members of the Twin Cities Japanese American community. They were charged with working with local organizations to help pave the way for people coming out of the camps during and after WWII to settle, find jobs, housing and schooling in the Twin Cities. They were members of Unity Church from 1945 until their deaths. Their funerals were held at Unity Church. There is a memorial to Ruth in the church's "Center Room." Ruth arranged the flowers for Sunday services for more than 30 years. Some of her ceramic vessels are on display and still in use at the church.

Submitted by Karen Lucas

TC JACL Resource Library is Moving

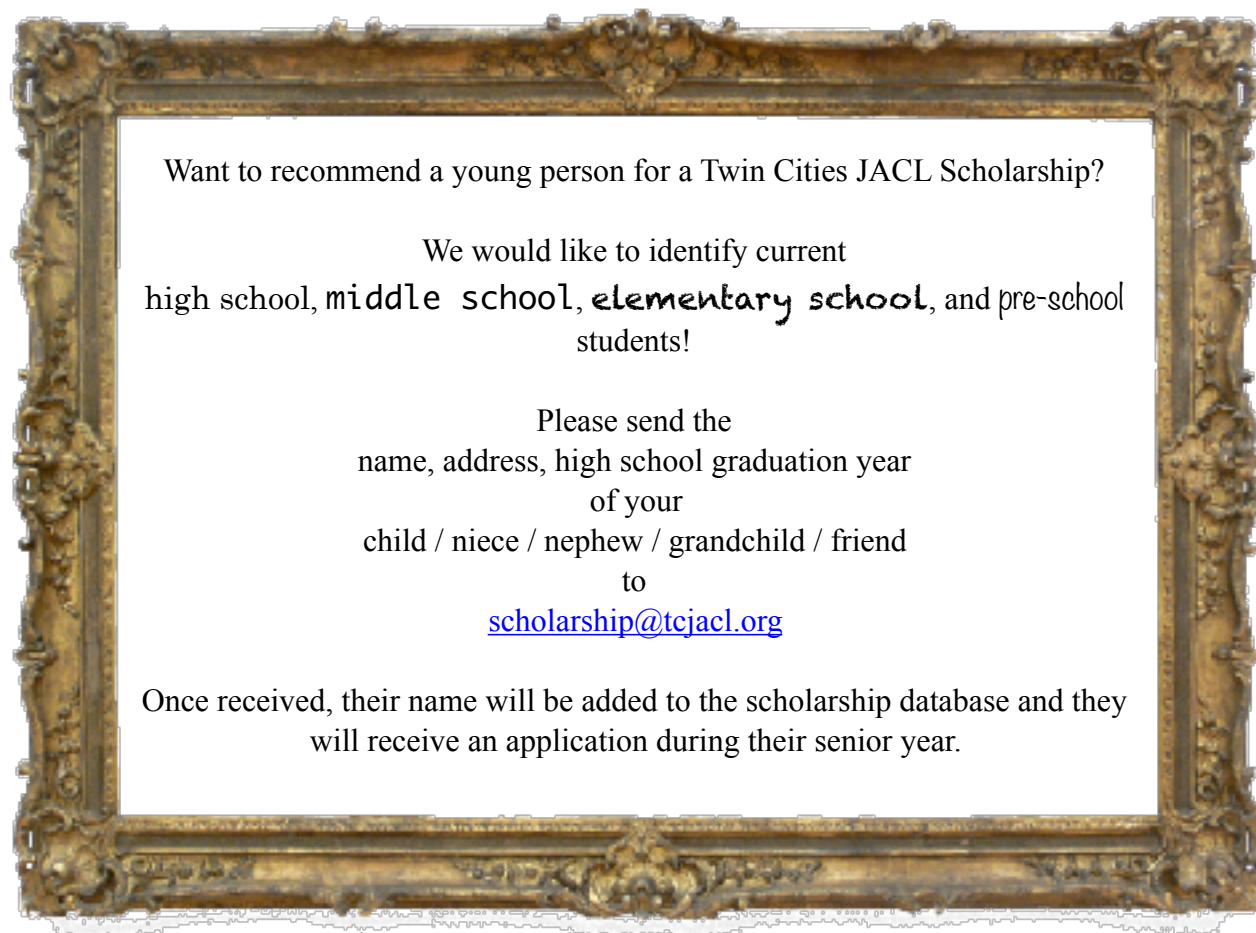


Thanks to Yuichi Onishi, TCJACLER and Eastside Freedom Library Board member, the search for a new home for the Chapter's library has come to fruition. The Board of the Eastside Freedom Library has approved our request to house the extensive collection of print and video resources that Sally Sudo has built and maintained for many years for the TCJACL. There will be a ceremony marking the transfer, during the opening reception for "Nidoto Nad Yoni: Forgetting and Remembering the Wartime Incarceration of Japanese Americans." **The dedication of the Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League Resource Library's new location will take place on Friday, January 26, 2018 between 6:30-8:30 at the Eastside Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier Street, St. Paul, MN 55106. This is free and open to the public** and all JACLers are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

The Library is open to all. Materials must be used on site as lending is not available.

Eastside Freedom Library was founded by Peter Rachleff, a retired Macalester College labor history professor and his wife, Beth Cleary, a theatre and dance instructor. This beautiful 1917 Carnegie Library at one time brought literature to the East Side early communities of Swedes and Italians. It now houses the history of immigrants, of labor, of feminism, of jazz and of African-Americans in Minnesota. The library functions as a community center for events and exhibits and is run as a nonprofit funded through donations and grants.

Submitted by Karen Lucas



TCJACL at JASM Shinnenkai 2018 celebration on Jan. 14 at Washington tech magnet school in St. Paul. (L-r) TCJACL education committee members Ben Hartman, Elizabeth Fugikawa, Karen Lucas, Carolyn Nayematsu. Unidentified participant in front.

Submitted by Carolyn Nayematsu

BEN and Elizabeth giving help on the popular pachinko





JACL/OCA Leadership Summit Now Accepting Applications!

JACL Initiates Series on Sexual Assault

January 16, 2018

Announcement

Contact: Kenzie Hirai, Mineta Fellow, mhirai@jacl.org
Elle Kurata, Inouye Fellow, ekurata@jacl.org

In conjunction with the #MeToo movement and the long overdue reckoning of sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and negative sexual culture, JACL enters the conversation. In support of survivors JACL will begin to publish a series of short essays. These essays attempt to discuss sexual assault, violence, and the way in which individuals in our community are affected by these issues.

JACL must join the conversation in order to help the Japanese American community be educated on these issues and to lend support for the survivors who are a part of our communities.

This first essay broadly discusses sexual assault and victimization, and how a culture of rape can affect women and LGBTQIA individuals. In later writings JACL will discuss how these things uniquely impact the Japanese American community and explore important topics that are only briefly introduced in the first essay.

Please see our first essay [here](#). Look out for other essays part of this series.

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.

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JACL

Japanese American Citizens League

JACL Condemns use of Japanese American Mass Incarceration in Defending Student Accused of Sexual Misconduct

January 12, 2018

Press Release

Contact: Jeffrey May, Vice President for Public Affairs, jmay@jacl.org
David Inoue, Executive Director, dinoue@jacl.org

The Japanese American Citizens League was shocked to learn of Minnesota attorney Ryan Pacyga's reference to the Japanese American incarceration experience in reference to his client, University of Minnesota basketball player, Reggie Lynch. Mr. Pacyga, in attempting to make the case that his client is being punished without due process, used the Japanese American incarceration experience as a historic example of the "hysteria" that led to the imprisonment of innocent people at a massive scale.

We would like to remind Mr. Pacyga that his client has gone through the school's disciplinary process and was determined to be in violation of school standards. Japanese Americans did not have any such consideration. This false analogy notwithstanding, it is patently offensive that anyone might try to draw a comparison between the mass incarceration of 120,000 people for their ethnicity, the vast majority of whom were American citizens, and his individual client's personal situation.

JACL also takes this opportunity to condemn Mr. Pacyga's invocation of Title IX enforcement as an injustice to his client and affirm our support for the 45 years of progress Title IX has brought for women in education. The use of the word "hysteria" in itself further tinges his comments as being predisposed against women's rights to equal education opportunity, unfettered by the threat of sexual assault.

It is particularly worth noting that the greatest champion for passage of Title IX in Congress was Rep. Patsy Mink, a Japanese American who lived through World War II. Living in Hawaii, she was not subject to incarceration, though faced the sting of suspicion and continuing discrimination because of her ethnicity during and after the war. Title IX was named the Patsy Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act in 2002, 30 years after its initial passage.

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JACL/OCA Leadership Summit Now Accepting Applications!



JACL is now [accepting applications](#) for the 2018 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit! The summit will take place April 7th-10th in Washington, D.C. It is part of a longstanding OCA-JACL collaborative effort to build ties between local chapters. The summit trains future OCA and JACL leaders in how to lobby and communicate with their government officials, as well includes briefings on important issues. Acceptance to the summit includes airfare to Washington D.C., lodging, and organized Hill visits. This is an excellent opportunity for members who want to be more involved with the advocacy aspect of JACL.

The deadline to apply is February 12th. The application can be found [here](#).

Further questions can be directed to Elle Kurata (ekurata@jacl.org) or Kenzie Hirai (mhirai@jacl.org).

2018 OCA-JACL Leadership Summit is made possible through the generosity of Southwest and State Farm.

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Items in the News by Stan Kusunoki



I met Stan not long ago through his father, Jim Kusunoki who I met through his long-time friend and mine Bill Hirabayashi. During our conversation Stan told me he had just published his second book of poetry and later graciously gave me a copy. I must say I was moved even to tears by some of the poems and captivated by them all. Most of them I could understand and identify with directly, while others I was given to my own devices to ponder about. The poems in this book include experiences of his grandparents and parents incarceration in internment camps during WW II and bring home the present day events that might be leading some to consider such a thing again. As was so excellently depicted in the 75 Year Anniversary of the Japanese Incarceration; Day of Remembrance program “Could It Happen Again” we hope the answer is no.

I learned a lot about Stan and his family through his poetry. I would highly recommend this book to everyone; (yes, even those who may say poetry is not their thing) this poetry is readable and can be appreciated by all. In addition, he uses his journalist background to set up a unique format for the book which adds interest.

Stan is a sansei and teaches elementary “high achieving” students in Shakopee in addition to being a poet and musician. He was a recipient of Loft “Asian Inroads” Mentorship and Asian American Renaissance’s “Writers Block” award and taught creative writing classes to children under these programs. He was also a mentor for Intermedia Art’s “Exchanges” program.

Submitted by Peggy Doi

OBITUARY



Mikio Kirihara

Died peacefully at his home on November 30, 2017. Mickey was born on May 21, 1929 in Oakland, CA. Survived by wife, Lucy; children: Jay (Deborah Lea), Jan Monson, Peter (Bruce Erickson); brother, Jim; step-grandchildren, Katelynn Harrington and James Harrington (Angela); step-great-grandchildren, Dylan Boe and Morgan Harrington; many nieces and nephews and his special dog, Mochi, who still sits on Mickey’s spot on the couch. He grew up in Oakland and as a child was interned at the Topaz concentration camp in Delta, UT from 1942 to 1944. Near the end of WWII, he moved with his family to Minneapolis, MN. He graduated from the U of MN majoring in architecture and was a Korean War veteran. In his career, he became a VP for Wold & Associates (Architects). The family wants to extend special thanks to Dr. Brian Rank for his compassion that extended and improved Mickey’s quality of life. The memorial celebration of

Mickey’s life will be held at 5:00 pm on Friday, December 15. A tribute to his life starts at 5:15 pm. It will take place at the St. Mary’s Lake Calhoun Event Center (Greek Orthodox Church), 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408. No flowers and no memorials please.

Published in the Star Tribune on December 10, 2017

Submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas



P.O. Box 592, Lincoln, MA 01773

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2017 • PACIFIC CITIZEN

IN-DEPTH

Pictured (from left) are photographer Paul Kitagaki Jr. with Yuichiro Onishi, Sophia Kim and Romare Onishi (front) at the opening reception of "Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit: Japanese American WWII Incarceration, Then & Now" at Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center on May 23.



PHOTO: CHERYL HIRATA-DULAS

PHOTO: RANDY KIRIHARA

Dr. Gordon Nakagawa moderates the Day of Remembrance program on Feb. 19 at the Minnesota History Center.

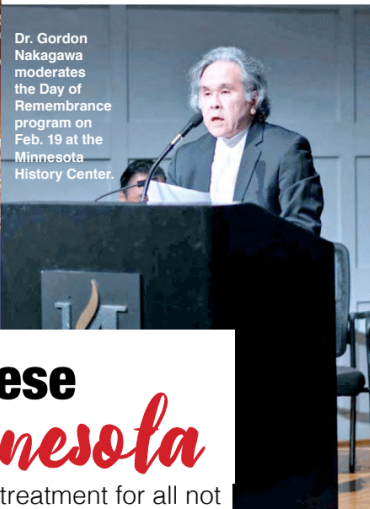


PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHERYL HIRATA-DULAS

A New Beginning for Japanese American Activism in Minnesota

The Twin Cities chapter of the JACL hopes to bring equal treatment for all not just in the Land of 10,000 Lakes but throughout the U.S.

By Yuichiro Onishi,
Contributor

The Twin Cities chapter of the JACL marked the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 in its activities throughout 2017. This year gave us an opportunity to reflect on our stance as an organization for justice and civil rights. The collective sentiment is that the chapter is on the cusp of ushering in a new beginning.

On Nov. 18, a half dozen members drove northwest, an hour from Minneapolis/St. Paul, to take part in educational outreach in St. Cloud, another Mississippi River city located in central Minnesota. The chapter members set out to engage the people of St. Cloud on why the wartime experience of the Japanese American incarceration matters more than ever today.

The Education Committee of TC JACL has been doing this type of outreach activity for several years. The committee's work typically involves issuing a reminder to the public that the Japanese American incarceration was a tragedy of democracy that was far-reaching, and that it ought to not

happen again to other vulnerable and marginalized people.

Sally Sudo, a steadfast local Nisei activist-leader, has been the cornerstone in the committee, doing much of the speaking engagements to all ages and constituents. Sudo shares with her audience her first-hand accounts of being imprisoned for three and half years, first in the Puyallup detention facility, and later in Minidoka as a little girl with her family.

She and her Issei parents and Nisei brothers and sisters were forcibly uprooted and removed from Seattle when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. Her story is archived in the Densho Digital Repository and a myriad of other projects, including the St. Olaf College's digital humanities project called "Beyond the Barbed Wire: Japanese Americans in Minnesota."

The Education Committee has also taken some key initiatives in the past to lead TC JACL to become an advocacy group. Particularly noteworthy was its work with the Minnesota Department of Education. In 2003, Sudo and her colleagues, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas and Lucy Kirihara, as well as other Asian American leaders and

PHOTO: CHERYL HIRATA-DULAS



The TC-JACL Education Committee with CAIR-MN in St. Cloud. Pictured (from left) are Gordon Nakagawa, Ben Hartman, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Yuichiro Onishi, John Matsunaga, Jaylani Hussein, Sally Sudo, Teresa Hartman and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas.

educators, tackled head on the Minnesota K-12 History and Social Studies Standards, which in its initial version did not include a single standard related to the Japanese American World War II incarceration experience.

The committee successfully lobbied to update the draft. Because the Military Intelligence Service Language School that was located first in Camp Savage and later Fort Snelling in Minnesota from 1942-46 was included under Minnesota History, the committee created a curriculum guide for teachers to highlight the Japanese American military service as one of the key contributions that Minnesota and its people made during WWII.

Most recently, the TC JACL Education Committee, co-chaired by Janet Carlson and Carolyn Nayematsu, spearheaded planning for a yearlong commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

The committee showcased Roger Shimomura's iconic prints at Macalester College in St. Paul, as well as brought Paul Kitagaki Jr.'s photo

Day of Remembrance, which was held on Feb. 19 at the Minnesota History Center. A sense of urgency surely abounded in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential campaign. Against the backdrop of Trump's triptych to build a wall, deport immigrants and bar refugees and Muslims from entering the United States, Gordon Nakagawa, a local Sansei activist and educator, stepped up.

Nakagawa is of the generation of Japanese American activists that honed political consciousness in the milieu created out of Japanese American struggles for redress in the 1980s, specifically the work of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations. He drafted a statement of solidarity in collaboration with Executive Director Jaylani Hussein of the Council on American-Islamic Relations of Minnesota (CAIR-MN) to articulate a shared commitment to push back the rising temper of racial nationalism.

While the chapter did break new ground politically at the Day of Remembrance ceremony, there is much



IN-DEPTH

PHOTOS: CHERYL HRATA-DULAS



Panelists at the TC-JACL/CAIR-MN Forum "Japanese American Incarceration: Could It Happen Again?" which was held at the St. Cloud Public Library on Nov. 18. Pictured (from left) are Yuichiro Onishi, Sally Sudo, John Matsunaga and Executive Director of CAIR-MN Jaylani Hussein.

The chapter has inserted itself in the nerve center of white resistance regarding the integration of Somali American and Muslim American people. St. Cloud, a small white majority city with a population of 67,000 residents, is such a place. Somali Americans are often targeted, and their small yet growing community is perceived as a threat to the existing racial status quo.

Racist and bias incidents have been persistent in the last several years, while statewide and nationally, the number of such cases has gone up noticeably. To further heighten the alarm, when a stabbing incident that wounded 10 people occurred at a local mall in St. Cloud in September 2016 and the assailant was identified as a young Somali American man, it fueled the already potent xenophobia and racism.

Even as a group of local residents, #UniteCloud, stood together with Somali neighbors to prevent this incident carried out by a single individual from being wrongfully cast as a collective one, white backlash ensued. Unfounded claims and misleading assertions proliferated.

Just a month prior to the chapter's co-sponsored event, for instance, a local councilman introduced a resolution calling for a moratorium on refu-

gee resettlement in St. Cloud. It was decidedly anti-Muslim and racist. Although it was rejected on a 1-6 vote, it revealed the coordinated exercise of power buoying the campaign of Islamophobia at the grassroots level.

Cognizant of this political climate, the chapter chose the path of moral suasion, all the while amplifying the power of Sudo's storytelling. Members also drew a parallel between Asian exclusion enacted through racist fears and violence commonly known as "Yellow Peril" in the past, which were buttressed by laws and policies, as well as the current demonization of Muslim people in America.

Both John Matsunaga, a Sansei visual artist/photographer, educator and activist whose parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles were all incarcerated during World War II, and CAIR-MN's Hussein sharply presented just how the tragedy of the past is playing itself out today. Together, TC JACL has made known the cultural, legal and political forces, then and now, that make racial and religious minority groups to be treated as perpetual foreigners, if not criminals, terrorists and enemies.

A handful of people at the forum refused to link the past to the present. In one exchange, a Muslim American man stood up to convey his loyalty to



Sally Sudo engages the audience at the TC-JACL/CAIR-MN Forum "Japanese American Incarceration: Could It Happen Again?"

this country by emphasizing his contribution to the local economy as a businessman and successful assimilation through educational attainment. But an elderly white woman snapped, shouting, "Show me your tax forms!"

In another exchange, a white woman lamented, "I don't want them (Muslims) to take away from Christianity." The most recalcitrant and abrasive reaction came from two white women sitting in the front row. Presenting a trumped-charge against CAIR and speaking directly to Hussein, they demanded, "Are you tied to Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood? I am asking a yes or no question!" The majority of the audience was thoroughly cognizant of the irony of it all.

After the event, Sudo reflected, "I have spoken about my experiences during WWII countless times to schools and community groups, but rarely have I had an opportunity to

see first-hand the fears and concerns of people who have Muslims living in their community. It is so reminiscent of my experiences facing racial hatred and misunderstanding growing up as a Japanese American. In my experience, so much of the hatred toward me and my community was based on rumors, misinformation and outright lies. It took many years of people getting to know us on a personal basis for us to gain the acceptance we have today.

"The vast majority of the population agrees that what happened to us in World War II was a tragic mistake made by our government," Sudo continued. "And yet, many of the same people cannot see the parallels to what is happening to the Muslim American community today. When will people learn that looking like the enemy does not make you the enemy? Looking like a terrorist does not make you a terrorist."

Yet, strikingly, these same people that exhibited enormous contempt toward local Somali Americans would turn to Japanese Americans on the panel and offer an apology for harms done. They would not speak ill of Japanese Americans. In fact, in their eyes, Japanese Americans are the rehabilitated, the embodiment of the model minority, and the antithesis of Somali and Muslim Americans.

Sudo also said searchingly, "I hope the day will soon come when [everyone] among us can gain the same acceptance that we as Japanese Americans enjoy today."

This hope, at its core, is a matter of human liberation — what it is to be human. While its fulfillment is a challenge, all Americans play an important role. ■

SACRAMENTO SPAGHETTI AND CRAB FEED SET FOR JANUARY

The Sacramento JACL, in conjunction with the Sacramento Senator Lions Club, is set to hold its 2018 All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti and Crab Feed on Jan. 27 at the Sacramento Buddhist Church in Sacramento, Calif.

From its beginnings in 1981, the chapter has held this event to raise money for scholarships, support for the Japanese American Community and civil rights education. This event, drawing between 200-250 people yearly, serves as the chapter's primary fundraiser.

The dinner, which begins at 5 p.m., will also feature a performance



The 2017 Spaghetti and Crab Feed

by Bakuatsu Taiko Dan from the University of California, Davis, a raffle, dessert silent auction and the popular paper airplane contest. Participants — which in the past have ranged in age from 2 to 100 — are invited to fold a paper plane to see whose plane travels the farthest in the church gym. Trophies will be awarded by age bracket.

Dinner tickets are \$50 for adults and \$10 for children ages 6-10.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Janice Luszcak at (916) 903-6645 or email Janice.Luszcak@gmail.com.

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