



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 | November 2018

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Retrospective: the state of JACL's next generation

By Eric Langowski, Midwest Youth Representative

With the support of this communities and my friends, I have been able to accomplish much as your District Youth Representative and I offer these parting thoughts.

Together, we have reimaged JACL's Creed, created spaces to discuss Midwestern Japanese American identity, and better understood how the model minority concept is an instrument of anti-blackness. Your work before and alongside me has been the foundation upon which I have built up two stories important to me: the effects of incarceration on Yonsei (through an intergenerational haunting) and the systematic denial of education to Nisei at Midwestern colleges. In youth spaces and intergenerational spaces, in service and in solidarity, together, we have remembered our ancestors and reimagined our past.

During incarceration, our communities were broken, and our bodies criminalized. Today we stand much absolved from that trauma after redress, but "never again" still happens every day.

Entrusted with the legacy of incarceration, my generation grapples with how to truly "remember." Can we remember our ancestors without embracing racial solidarity? For example, during Day of Remembrance, should we say that incarceration was a fluke in an exemplary America or one (egregious) act in a long line of oppression and dismemberment of minority communities? Does a true remembrance of what happened to my ancestors in Amache (a camp my great-grandfather never left) include causes like Black Lives Matter, net neutrality, abolishing ICE, and questioning the same government which stripped our citizenship due to "military necessity" compared to the "national security" justification of the Muslim Ban?

In remembrance, I invite you to explore these questions and be open to dialogue as we work to create a space which affirms the exemplary work done by life-long volunteers and appeals to young activists weary of an organization set in its ways.

In my work, often bridging these two spaces, I have seen how much more we have in common than not and I am excited to see what we do next.

Rice Paper

Join us for a JACL Book Club event

Potluck (bring a dish to share, and join in a book discussion)

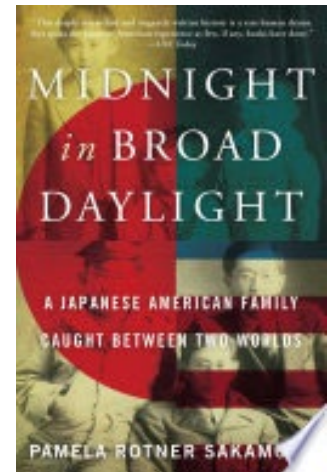
Book: **Midnight in Broad Daylight** by Pamela Rotner Sakamoto

November 3, 2018

Saturday at 4:00 PM

Address: 325 West River Pkwy #105

Minneapolis, MN 55401



RSVP: adickerson323@gmail.com or call 612-338-8405. **Space is limited to 10 participants.**

“Midnight in Broad Daylight is the true story of a family divided by war. After their father’s death in Seattle, the Fukuhara children — all born and raised in the Pacific Northwest — moved to Hiroshima with their mother. Eager to go back to America, two of the children — Mary and Harry — returned in the late 1930s. Then came Pearl Harbor. Despite being sent to an internment camp with Mary, Harry volunteered to serve his country. Back in Hiroshima, their brothers Frank and Pierce became soldiers in the Japanese Imperial Army.

As the war raged, Harry, one of the finest bilingual interpreters in the United States Army, island-hopped across the Pacific, moving ever closer to the enemy—and to his brothers. But before the Fukuharas would have to face each other in battle, the U.S. detonated the atomic bomb over Hiroshima, gravely injuring tens of thousands of civilians, including members of their own family.

Alternating between the American and Japanese perspectives, *Midnight in Broad Daylight* captures the uncertainty and intensity of those charged with the fighting as well as the deteriorating home front of Hiroshima—as never seen before in English—and provides a fresh look at the dropping of the first atomic bomb. Intimate and evocative, it is an indelible portrait of a resilient family, a scathing examination of racism and xenophobia, an homage to the tremendous Japanese American contribution to the American war effort, and an invaluable addition to the historical record of this extraordinary time

Rice Paper

“No-No Boy” Telling Our History Through Song

Several members of the Twin Cities JACL enjoyed a performance of “No-No Boy” on Oct. 4 at The Whole Music Club in Coffman Union at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Campus.

This event was co-sponsored by the TCJACL and drew a crowd of about 75. The beautiful vocal harmonies and musical virtuosities of guitar and keyboard were augmented by projected archival photographs and film from the Asian American experience.

Julian Saporiti, a hapa Vietnamese American, and Erin Aoyama, hapa Japanese American, are PhD students in American Studies at Brown University who perform songs inspired by stories from their families and communities. Erin is the granddaughter of a Heart Mountain incarcernee and one of the songs performed was the poignant “Instructions to All Persons of Japanese Ancestry”.

Their music is reminiscent of folk singers of social justice from the 60’s but also aspires to break stereotypes and teach stories not always included in the telling of American history. Saporiti and Aoyama teach workshops on weaving oral histories into song writing and performance. Saporiti, the songwriter, uses music to process his research and family legacy. Uniquely, this work and his collection of around 60 musical compositions constitute part of his doctoral dissertation in ethnomusicology.

They performed “Pacific Fog” written for John Okada, author of the book “No-No Boy” who is considered to be the first Japanese American novelist. Another song was entitled “Only What You Can Carry”. Saporiti’s mother was a refugee from Saigon and while she came to the U.S. as a student, married and settled in Tennessee, the song “Boat People” is about the harrowing and often fatal flight from Viet Nam of less fortunate refugees.

You can hear more of this music on soundcloud.com/juliansaporiti on the internet.

This event was promoted via flyers handed out at recent JACL events and via e-mail blast. Due to expense and timing, it was not announced in a mailing or in the last Rice Paper. If you wish to be added to the “TCJACL e-mail blast” list for short lead time announcements, please contact: Matt Walters at matthew.walters@gmail.com.



Rice Paper

Tom Pfannenstiel Retires from the Minnesota Historical Society/Historic Fort Snelling

On October 3, 2018, Carolyn Nayematsu, Sally Sudo, Yuichiro Onishi, Karen Tanaka Lucas and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas represented the Twin Cities JACL at the retirement reception for Tom Pfannenstiel, Historic Fort Snelling Site Director, at the Minnesota History Center.

The Education Committee worked closely with Tom on co-sponsoring three exhibitions and accompanying programs at Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center: "Minnesota's Secret Weapon: Japanese Americans in the MIS" in 2015, "Gambatte: Legacy of an Enduring Spirit" in 2017, and "Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience" this summer.

The Twin Cities JACL is grateful for Tom's tireless dedication in ensuring the success of the exhibitions and programs, and we wish him well in his retirement and future endeavors.



Tom Pfannenstiel (back center) with (counter-clockwise from the left) Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Carolyn Nayematsu, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Sally Sudo and Yuichiro Onishi at Tom's retirement reception on Oct. 3, 2018.

Rice Paper



Congratulations to **Gigi Bocek** for submitting the winning design to the TC JACL T-Shirt Contest! Gigi's design has been formatted for two-color printing and is now available for purchase.

To order yours, please contact youth@tcjacl.org for details.

RGHS History Revealed

Krista Finstad Hanson, a local writer, historian and teacher, will present her research findings about largely untold accounts of Japanese Americans' efforts to begin their lives anew in St. Paul, and the local people that aided these efforts during World War II.

For more information about the event, visit: <https://www.rchs.com/event/japanese-american-resettlement/>

Rice Paper

A Report from the 2018 JACL Convention

By Janet Carlson

I appreciated the opportunity to be one of the Chapter's Delegates to the annual Convention. Having attended two conventions, I now have a better insight into how JACL is organized and works both on the National and District levels.

This year's convention had many of the same features as last year's: business meetings with reports from the National Board officers, receptions, workshops, and opportunities to meet with delegates from across the country, some of whom are also treasurers.

One of the most noteworthy announcements came from the Smithsonian's Museum of American History. Noriko Sanefuji, who curated the current exhibit "Righting a Wrong," revealed that "Righting a Wrong" will be traveling to sites across the country. She invited TC JACL to bring the exhibit to MN. Information is available at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/righting-wrong-japanese-americans-and-world-war-ii>



Rick Shiomi (left) speaks during a panel while Executive Director David Inoue (right) listens.

[The TCJACL Board is beginning to explore the possibility of accepting the Smithsonian's invitation which is good through 2022. Unfortunately, the gallery at Fort Snelling which has hosted recent exhibits in collaboration with TCJACL is moving to another building which may not open until 2020 or later. (If you are interested in being a part of the group working on bringing "Righting a Wrong" to MN, please contact me at mnsansei@comcast.net or 651.436.6036 or info@tcjacl.org.) The MN Historical Society has expressed interest in hosting the exhibit.]

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Rice Paper

Convention report continued

The 2018 convention had a slightly different focus than last year's because National Board officers were elected. All of the officers we elected are under 40 years old which signals a generational shift for JACL. Judging from their statements and previous activities in their home Chapters, our new officers are especially focused on the civil rights emphasis in our mission. They are also committed to increasing the organizations membership. Two TC JACL members, Matt Farrells (who is the Board Vice President) and James Kiriara were elected to office. Matt is continuing as VP for Planning and Development while James is the new Secretary/Treasurer.

Convention related material including schedule, resolutions, nominations materials, etc. can be found at <https://jacl.org/2018-convention/>.



Delegates from the Midwest (MDC) participate in a meeting of the National Council

Four important resolutions were passed.

The first creates a Young Professionals group within JACL with National Board representation. It was noted that National Youth/Student Council group has an upper age limit that may be responsible for the numerous young people who let their memberships lapse upon reaching age 25. Separately, the new officers had each said that they had come through the NY/SC and had highlighted the importance of the NY/SC in establishing and maintaining their connection to JACL.

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Rice Paper

Convention report continued

The second resolution condemned the Presidential Executive Order known as the Muslim Ban. It called on national staff and National Board members to strengthen ties with Muslim American Civil Rights organizations such as CAIR. (Note: TC JACL has affirmed its support of the local chapter, CAIR-MN, and the Education Committee received a grant to support, in part, a partnership with CAIR-MN to hold a day-long conference on Islamophobia that took place last summer.)

The third resolution calls for the National Board, districts and chapters to support revisions to the US immigration policy to uphold Constitutionally protected due process, equal protection rights of all persons, and to end indefinite detention of immigrants with pending immigration proceedings. This resolution also calls for the end of separation of families seeking asylum. Finally, the resolution calls for a ban on building detention centers and the conversion of military bases and WWII incarceration centers that held Japanese Americans into detention centers.



TCJACL's Vice President and JACL's Vice President for Planning and Development, Matt Farrells and JACL's Vice President for 1000 Club, Membership and Services Haruka Rodebush

The fourth resolution had been passed at the 2017 convention but the affected Districts, Midwest (to which we belong) and Pacific Southwest decided that as there had been no action to implement the resolution, the resolution should be re-introduced. This resolution calls for the hiring of Directors to replace directors lost to retirement for the two districts. Before this resolution was introduced, Delegates from chapters in the Midwest District met to strategize ways to guide the discussion of the resolution.

Because there seemed to be limited local knowledge of the work of the Director, I asked for some background to be able to explain to TCJACL why we pay dues to the Midwest District. Apparently, the Director had supported youth activities, educational workshops, fundraising, and, had forged relationships with Representatives and Senators in Congress. Fundraising is considered important work by delegates from other Midwest chapters because such a large percentage of Fortune 500 companies have headquarters within a 75-mile radius of the District office. Relationships with those in Congress is important because the Midwest, which for JACL reaches from Houston to Ohio to Minnesota and Nebraska, is home to a large fraction of the nation's Representatives and Senators.

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Rice Paper

Convention report continued

The delegates from the Midwest requested a meeting with Executive Director David Inoue to discuss our concerns and invited the delegates from the Pacific Southwest to attend. Inoue, who will be speaking at the Chrysanthemum Banquet, explained that he did not hire replacements for the retired Directors because he wanted to be sure the new staff could be paid for at least two years. He did express interest in moving the new Midwest Director to the Washington, DC office and re-writing the job description to include more of a national focus.



TAJACL Youth Committee Board Member Elizabeth Fugikawa second from the right in the second row. Also in this picture is Fred Korematsu's daughter, Karen, third from the right in the front row. Karen is the Founder and Executive Director of the Korematsu Institute (<http://www.korematsuinstitute.org>). She is a keynote speaker for this year's CAIR-MN Banquet, December 15.



TCJACL member and JACL Secretary/Treasurer James Kiriara

We also adopted a two-year budget for the national organization at the Convention. The *Pacific Citizen* continues to be a drain on resources having run a large deficit for (at least) the second year in a row. Inoue announced that the PC staff had released funds for next year that should address the problem. I learned that while the national office is owned by JACL, the PC staff rent space. One surprise was that the National Education Committee budget is smaller than our chapter's Education Committee's expenditures in both 2017 and 2018. In his role as National Board VP for Planning and Development, Matt Farrells introduced a new brochure designed to generate financial support for creation of "an educational program to teach everyone about the injustices of...illegal imprisonment."

Rice Paper

“Japanese American Resettlement to St. Paul: the International Institute, the War Relocation Authority, and Ruth and Earl Tanbara” was the title of the presentation on August 18, 2018 by Krista Finstad Hanson, a local teacher, writer, and historian, who shared her research findings on largely untold accounts of Japanese Americans’ efforts to begin their lives anew in St. Paul, and the people who aided their efforts during World War II. The presentation was the last of a series of four programs at Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center in conjunction with Go For Broke National Education Center’s “Courage and Compassion” traveling exhibition.



Krista Finstad Hanson and her mother, Marie Grewal.



Left photo: Mayor of Savage, Janet Williams, and her husband Will Williams in the exhibit area.

Right photo: Tanbara relatives in the exhibition area next to the panel on Ruth Tanbara. Back row: George Murakami, Tom Kurihara, Jaymee Murakami, Dave Hintermeister, Steve Murakami. Second row: Mari Somekawa, Judy Murakami, Chris Noonan, Lisa Hintermeister. Front row: Charlie Murakami, Max Murakami, Madalyn Hintermeister.

**The World War II History Round Table, Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League,
and Historic Fort Snelling/Minnesota Historical Society Present**



**The Epic World War II Story of the Japanese American Contribution
to the Allied Campaigns in Italy and France**



Author Presentation & Panel Discussion

Saturday, October 27, 2018

1:00–3:30 p.m.

Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center

200 Tower Avenue, St. Paul

Doors open at noon

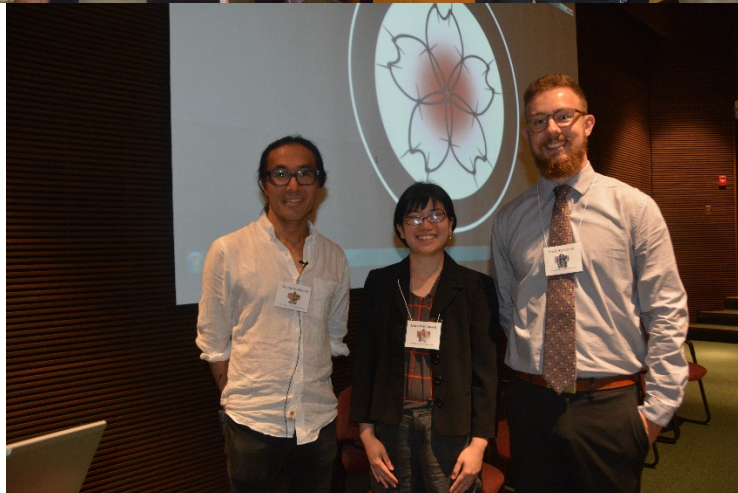
Author **Scott McGaugh** unveils the remarkable story of the Japanese American soldiers who served in the segregated 442nd Regimental Combat Team/100th Infantry Battalion and their contribution to the Allied campaigns in Italy and France during World War II. The 442nd/100th, whose motto was "Go For Broke," is renowned for its rescue of 211 American soldiers from the 1st Battalion of 141st Texas Regiment who were surrounded by German troops in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France, while suffering hundreds of casualties. The 442nd/100th is the most highly decorated regiment in the history of American warfare. Following the presentation, military museum curator **Doug Bekke** will moderate a panel with **Japanese American World War II veterans**, including **Edwin (Bud) Nakasone**, who will share personal wartime experiences.

\$5 Donation Suggested

Info: www.mn-ww2roundtable.org, tcjacl.org, or mnhs.org/fortsnelling

Rice Paper

On August 11, 2018, St. Olaf College professor Ka Wong and two students who worked on the project as undergraduates, Hikari Sugisaki and Paul Sullivan, presented their film, "Beyond the Barbed Wire: Japanese Americans in Minnesota." The film featured interviews of Twin Cities JACL members, Bill Doi, Peggy Doi, Bill Hirabayashi, Jim Kiriara, Lucy Kiriara, Mikio Kiriara, Jim Kusunoki, Stanley Kusunoki, Yoshikawa Matsumoto, Jane Murakami, Edwin (Bud) Nakasone, Hannah Semba, Sally Sudo, Yoshiko Tani and Albert Yamamoto, who shared their experiences from World War II and beyond.



Rice Paper

Leadership and Program Development Opportunities for Youth & Young Professionals

By Eric Langowski, Midwest District Youth Representative

As part of JACL's commitment to youth and young professionals (all those between 18 and 35 years of age), I have been able to serve the Midwest District of JACL for over two years as Youth Representative. From Minneapolis to Omaha to Indianapolis, I have been able to meet young Japanese Americans (and allies) from seven different states and organize events in five. As my time in this role ends, my final responsibility---to secure a replacement---remains unfulfilled. Here are three opportunities which can be transformative:

Youth Representative

This role instantaneously provides an opportunity to connect with a national network of AAPI organizers and a platform to gain real-world experience with non-profit program management as a member of the National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC), JACL's National Youth Board. Expectations include three weekends of travel per year (all expenses covered) for meetings and conferences (in 2018 travel was to Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and San Jose) and organizing an event around an issue you are passionate within about 12 months of beginning the role (training and event funding included). This is a unique opportunity for those interested in civil rights organizing and is only available to those between 18 and 25 years of age.

Youth Chair

This position is typically for organizers with some previous experience looking for further resources or connections to promote their advocacy on a local level. Expectations include two weekends of travel per year within in the Midwest (reimbursement available) for meetings (in 2018 travel was to Milwaukee and Minneapolis) and organizing a local event around an issue which you are passionate (event funding included). If you are looking for additional resources to expand your impact, are interested in building a network within the Midwest Japanese American community, and are between 18 and 25 years of age, this is a great opportunity. Expect also to collaborate (with me) on a trip to Rohrer Concentration Camp in early 2020 for district youth.

Young Professional's Caucus Representative

A new position on a new board, the Young Professional's Caucus (YPC) is a national board of organizers and activists who have begun their careers (~22 years and up). This position offers a great opportunity to become more involved in JACL with a relatively low commitment and gives you access to funding and a national network to support your advocacy.

Please contact me at nysc@jacl.org with any questions (or interest!) in any of these opportunities and to subscribe to the NY/SC newsletter to stay updated with youth programming. The main ingredient for success in these roles is enthusiasm not experience.

Rice Paper

The Registry

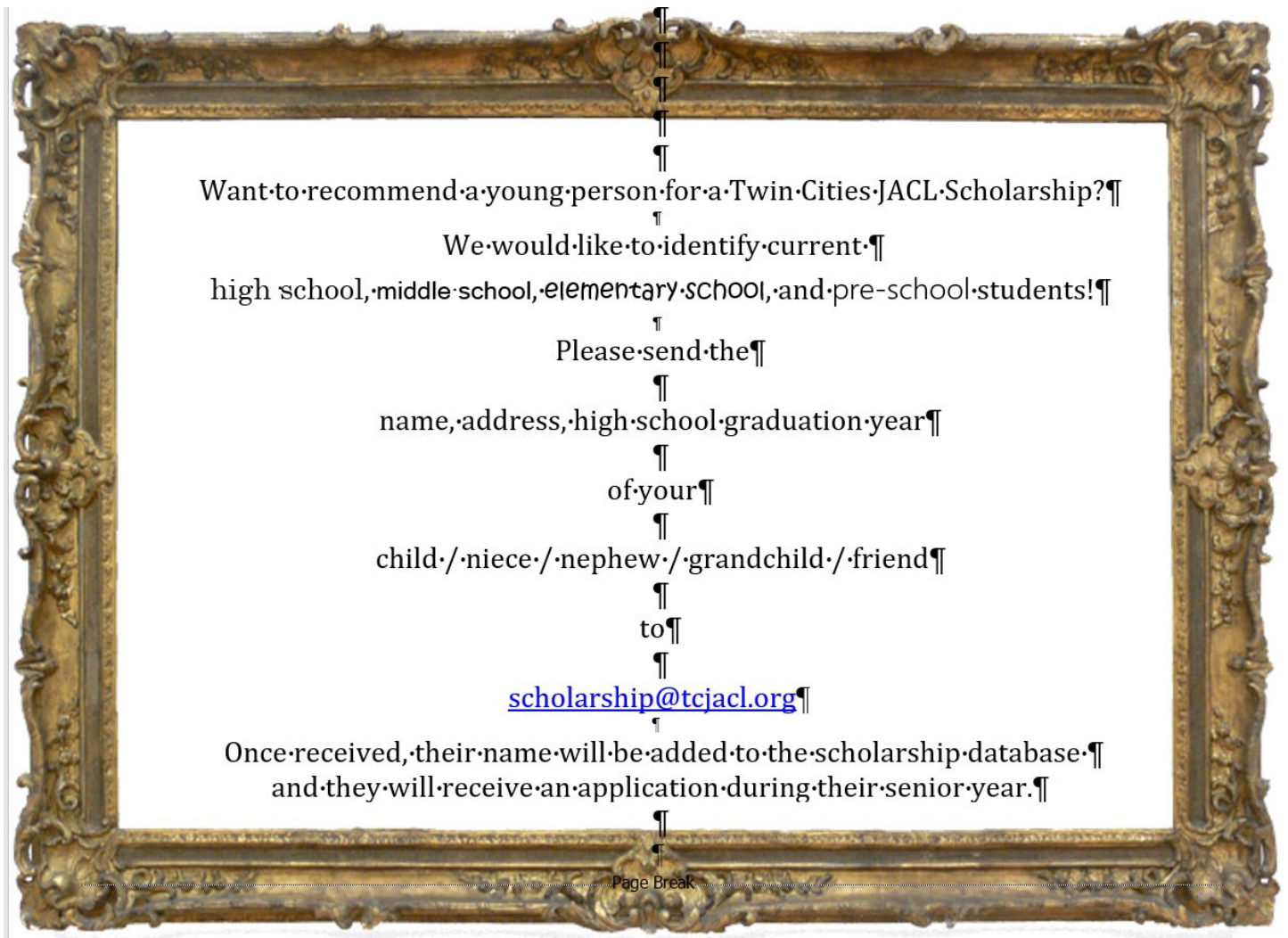
Over 300 community members attended the screening of “The Registry,” a film about efforts of a local MIS veteran, Seiki Oshiro, and others, to document the names and service details of the 6,000 Japanese American soldiers who served in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II. Complete records were not kept by the government due to the MIS’s highly classified designation. The film was created by local/area filmmakers Steve Ozone and Bill Kubota with funding by a grant from the Japanese American Confinement Sites program of the National Park Service and the Center for Asian American Media. The film will be shown on PBS on Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11; check listings for time.



After the film screening and Q/A with the filmmakers, Japanese American service personnel from World War II and onwards were honored. Pictured (L to R): Front row: Dennis Nishida, Yo Matsumoto, Ed Yoshikawa, Kaye Matsumoto, John Takekawa, George Murakami. 2nd row: Butch Kumagai, John Ikeda, Jim Kusunoki, Seiki Oshiro, John Nakasone, and Bud Nakasone. (Not pictured: Dr. Paul Shimizu). (Photo credit: Randy Kiriara).



(L to R): Steve Ozone, Tom Pfannenstiel, Historic Fort Snelling Site Director, and Bill Kubota at the “Courage and Compassion” exhibit. (Photo credit: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas)



Graduate Scholarship Applications Available

The Twin Cities JACL is pleased to announce the availability of two graduate level scholarships to be awarded later this year.

Scholarship applications are available to JACL members currently enrolled in a post-secondary educational program or a graduate level program.

As part of their application, students are required to write an essay describing their program and how their education will be leveraged in the future.

Applications can be found at www.tcjacl.org on the Scholarship page and are due 30 November 2018.

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