



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 | September 2019

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The Stearns History Museum in St. Cloud, Minnesota, is hosting the below exhibit. A grand opening will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2019. The chapter will be coordinating a visit of our members to the grand opening. In addition, our photo exhibit, Minnesota's Secret Language School, will be a regional companion to the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, "Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and WWII."

The Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, "Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II,"

September 3, 2019 – January 5, 2020

Discover the complicated history and impact of Executive Order 9066, the reaction of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, that directed the incarceration of Japanese Americans into camps for the remainder of the war.

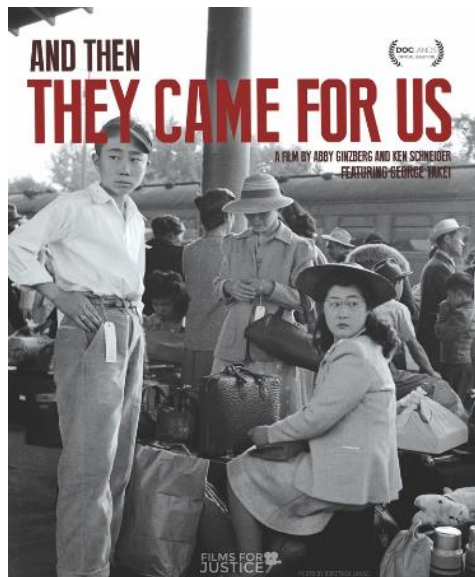


**Please join us for a Special Screening of this timely film
at Pangea World Theater.**

Followed by Q&A with TC JACL members including
Sally Sudo and Janet Carlson

"A cautionary tale about the fragility of our Democracy during times of crisis and a call for resistance to the dismantling of our checks and balances system."

--Dale Minami, Lead Attorney, Korematsu v. United States



View the trailer for the film at <https://www.thentheycamedoc.com/>

**2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 22, 2019
Pangea World Theater, 711 W Lake St # 101, Minneapolis, MN 55408**

"And Then They Came for Us demonstrates the importance of speaking out against today's efforts to exile DACA children, to build walls, to exclude and register Muslim Americans, to demonize Mexicans, Jews, journalists, climate scientists, and transgender service members, and to elevate violent Klansmen, avowed Nazis, and racial terrorists onto the same moral plane as protesters of good conscience.

Knowing our history is the first step toward 'Never Again.' In these dark times, And Then They Came for Us is a call to remembrance and positive action."

--Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento

Please share this announcement with teachers. Teachers who send a lesson plan about the WWII experience of Japanese Americans to mnsansei@comcast.net by midnight 9/19/19 and bring a copy to the screening will be entered into a drawing for one of ten DVD's of the film.

Twin Cities JACL Chrysanthemum Banquet



Please join us at the **Annual Chrysanthemum Banquet on Saturday, November 9, 2019**. Our guest speaker is a regular contributor to the Pacific Citizen and author of *Two Spirits One Heart*, **Marsha Aizumi**.

Where: Normandale Hylands Methodist Church, 9920 Normandale Blvd, Bloomington, MN 55437

Date: Saturday – November 9, 2019

Time: 11:00 AM Silent Auction

Noon: Banquet program

After banquet: Book Club discussion Marsha's book: *Two Spirits, One Heart*

Price: To be announced soon.

All are welcome to join the book club discussion after the banquet program. Please contact Amy Dickerson to RSVP.

Marsha has sent a reader's guide that can be emailed to you. Amy's contact information is: adickerson323@gmail.com or 612-338-8405.



Marsha is an author, national speaker, educator and advocate for the LGBT community. She serves on the National Board of Directors for PFLAG and is on the Parents for Transgender Equality Council for HRC. Marsha is co-founder and current President of PFLAG San Gabriel Valley Asian Pacific Islander. *Two Spirits, One Heart* is a memoir that chronicles Marsha's journey from fear, shame and sadness to unconditional love and acceptance as she navigated the transition of her son from female to male. Marsha has received honors from Congresswoman Judy Chu as a Community Activist, Logo TV as Trailblazer Parent for 2015 and a Children's Hospital of Los Angeles Angel of Change Ally.

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Historic Fort Snelling Update

The current Historic Fort Snelling Visitor's Center will close permanently and a new one, slated to open 2021 or 2022, will be built in the 1905 cavalry barracks that also served as housing for Nisei students stationed at Fort Snelling for training at the Military Intelligence Service Language School during WWII. While there is a definite need for an updated visitor center, this present building, soon-to-be demolished, has served as an unofficial center for TCJACL programs and exhibits. Over the past six years, the TCJACL has co-sponsored with the Minnesota Historical Society/Historic Fort Snelling, four exhibits on the Japanese American WWII experience and many accompanying programs.

We hope that the new visitor center will continue to serve our organization well. Currently Sally Sudo, Karen Tanaka Lucas, and Carolyn Nayematsu are serving on the Minnesota History Society Exhibits Advisory Group for the development of exhibits in the new space.

The name "Historic Fort Snelling at Bdote" was temporary, and Minnesota History Society is asking for input on the name or to submit a new name. We encourage our members to give their input at: www.mnhs.org/naming

Alternatively, input can be provided at public meetings. The dates, times and locations will be posted on the website on Sept. 9.

The Minnesota Historical Society governing board will be considering the public's responses to determine a course of action by early 2020. If the board recommends a formal name change, the proposal would then be presented to the legislature. The deadline to give input is November 15, 2019.

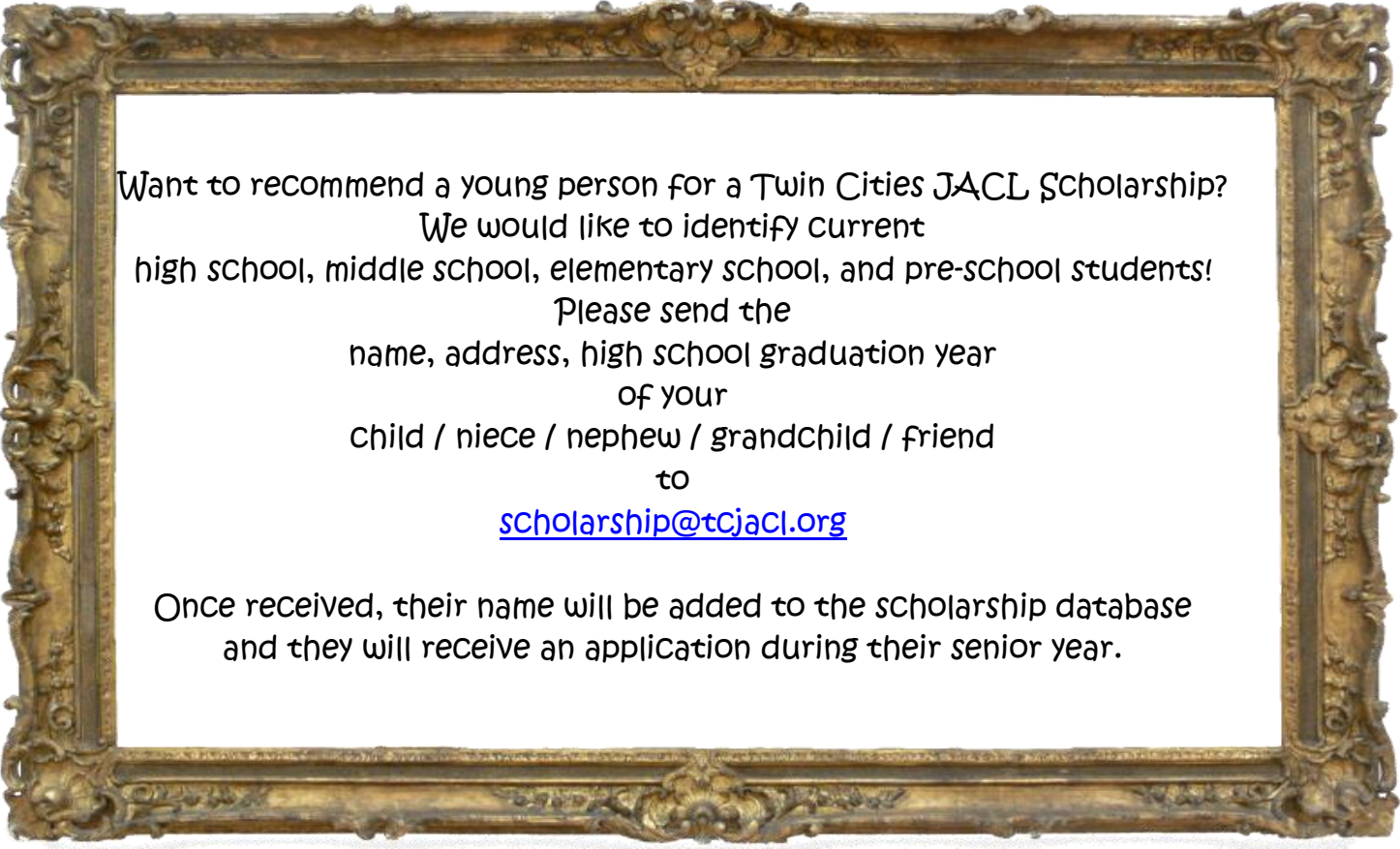


TCJACL book club met on August 24, 2019 to discuss the book *Obasan* and enjoy a delicious potluck dinner.

In attendance were Les and Karen Suzukamo, Sylvia Farrells, Amy Dickerson, Cindy Tamaki, Rachel Matsumoto, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Gloria Kumagai, Elaine Koyama, and Carolyn Nayematsu.

The next book club will be after the Chrysanthemum Banquet on November 9th.

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Want to recommend a young person for a Twin Cities JACL Scholarship?
We would like to identify current
high school, middle school, elementary school, and pre-school students!

Please send the
name, address, high school graduation year
of your
child / niece / nephew / grandchild / friend
to

scholarship@tcjacl.org

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

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 students currently enrolled in a post-secondary educational program and students who are currently enrolled in 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 2019.

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Como Park Obon Festival: Raising Funds, Folding for Freedom

By Teresa Swartz

On August 18, the TCJACL once again participated in the Como Park Obon Festival.



Formerly called the Lantern Festival, this event is the largest Japanese festival in Minnesota and is inspired by summer Obon festivals held all across Japan when families and communities come together to remember and honor their ancestors. The event was co-sponsored by JASM, St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee, and the Como Park & Conservatory.

As it has in the past, this year's festival attracted thousands of people, young and old, and featured cultural performances including taiko and dance groups, martial arts demonstrations, children's games, lantern making, vendors selling Japanese related items, service and educational groups, and Japanese food.



The beautiful weather added to the joyous atmosphere. As in the past, the TCJACL sponsored a booth where we sold Japanese cultural merchandise. This year's booth sat near the butterfly garden and right across from the Frog Pond where attendees released their floating lanterns once the sun went down. The location not only provided the volunteers with a gorgeous, shady spot to spend the day, but also contributed to good profits that can now be used for JACL programming and events throughout the year.

In addition to selling merchandise, JACL youth and friends from Macalester and other local colleges led an effort to fold paper cranes for *Tsuru for Solidarity* at the booth.

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Their poster with slogans such as *Fold for Freedom* and *#StopRepeatingHistory*, and a hanging string of colorful paper cranes attracted attention and drew people to the booth.

These young people educated passersby about the connections between Japanese American wartime incarceration and contemporary incarceration of migrants and the separation of migrant families, while inviting them to make paper cranes as a symbol of their solidarity with these families.

They shared their goal of folding 1000 paper cranes in the next few months to contribute towards the 125,000 origami cranes that Japanese American activists will take to Washington D.C.—one for each person of Japanese ancestry who was incarcerated during World War II—in solidarity with migrants in U.S. concentration camps today, to call for more humane treatment of migrants and refugees, and to protest the separation of families.

This was a very popular activity and festival attendees enthusiastically joined in. While some kept the cranes they folded, many more donated them to the effort. In all, the youth, in collaboration with the festival attendees, have made 700 paper cranes thus far.

They will continue their efforts in the upcoming months and will contribute the folded cranes to *Tsuru for Solidarity*. If you are interested in helping with this, contact Emma Hartmann at ehartma1@macalester.edu



Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make this such a successful event including Karen Lucas, Steve Lucas, Steve Savitt, Carolyn Nayematsu, Phil Nomura, Amy Dickerson, Doug Hartmann, Emma Hartmann, Teresa Swartz, Aileen and Myron China, and the youth who staffed the paper crane table including Emma, Liv, Sadie, Katie, Will, Meagan, Sophie, Elena, and Kai.

Youth Perspectives from the 2019 National Convention



Kendal Takeshita:

As a first-time convention participant and voting delegate for the Twin Cities, I was enlightened by the dedication put into setting up the National JACL Convention.

Throughout the convention, Vini and I met hard-working members from all over the country, participated in the National Council Session, and learned about how the JACL is working to prevent child incarceration in places like Fort Sill.

My favorite moments were when the Midwest District Council gathered together to discuss future plans for promoting the JACL to the public. Each member of the Council had the zeal to actively improve on previously planned events; I knew that this was a community that I could rely on.

In addition to the MDC, I also met a lot of members of both the youth and the NY/SC who were very accommodating to me as a new member. Each person had their own reasons and goals for joining the organization which inspired me to become more involved in civil rights. Because of this, I am proud to say that I am going to run for the MDC Youth Representative in September. But the convention didn't always proceed smoothly. Resolution 3 of the National Council Session proposed to make an apology to the Tule Lake resisters known as the "No-No Boys."

This voting process was filled with heated discussions from those who had been incarcerated to those who had never experienced the war. Many spoke of the critical decision that former JACL President Mike Masaoka made during World War II while others emphasized the shame that the No-No Boys felt when they had been betrayed by their fellow Americans. After about a 2-hour deliberation, the resolution was passed with mixed feelings among both sides. As the great-grandson of a former Tule Lake incarcerated, I was able to learn much more about the context of my lost family history. Nevertheless, the JACL community was able to come together in this critical time and finally make a decision on the resolution that had pressed the organization for decades. Iconic moments like this are why I continue to pursue relations with the JACL — to see how our generation will work together to support the JACL in its coming years.

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Vinicius Taguchi:

This was an amazing opportunity to meet many other Nikkei, both energetic youth members at their first convention and experienced veteran members from the days of Redress and even Incarceration. The experience was all the more meaningful because Kendal and I were designated as voting delegates representing the Twin Cities chapter. This enabled us to testify on the floor and directly participate in the democratic process by which JACL determines its operating procedures, budgetary spending, and political standing.

The main highlight for this year was the vote on whether to issue a formal apology to the Tule Lake Resisters, or "No-No Boys." This subset of those incarcerated during World War II included anyone who did not respond in the unconditional affirmative on the infamous loyalty questionnaire where incarcerated were asked whether they would be willing to serve the US armed forces if presented with the opportunity and whether they would renounce all allegiance to the Emperor of Japan. At the time, these resisters were branded as disloyal by the US government and the JACL, although we now recognize civil disobedience to make a principled stand against injustice as a patriotic act embodying much of what it means to be American.

At the convention, the JACL was deeply divided on the question of whether to apologize because of the strong desire to not detract from the honor of the Nisei soldiers who did serve the armed forces and the resentment felt against those few Tule Lake Resisters who violently attacked JACL leaders during incarceration. In a powerful showing of what the democratic process can accomplish, the floor debates led to amended language that apologized to those Tule Lake Resisters wrongly branded as disloyal, recognized the unique sacrifices made by Nisei soldiers, and condemned the use of violence by incarcerated. And the amended resolution ultimately passed with an overwhelming majority in favor, 7 votes against, 3 votes split, and 5 votes abstaining.

Another, less contentious resolution that passed was the decision to release and annual stipend of \$5,500 to the Midwest District Council until the still-vacant Midwest Regional Directory position is filled. And the last resolution was to have the JACL Executive Director send a letter to Midwestern colleges encouraging them to research and share their histories regarding the admission or refusal of Japanese American students during World War II, as this history is often overlooked and has not been addressed in the same way as at most Western colleges.

The convention also carried a profound personal significance. I had the opportunity to meet fellow alumni of the Kakehashi program and discuss ways to improve the program, I had the opportunity to be mentored by the President of the St. Louis chapter of JACL, Ron Sakai, and Kendall and I had the chance to visit the Topaz incarceration site and learn about the stories of some of the survivors.

One last special part of an emotionally charged convention was Tsuru for Solidarity. This organization collects donations of folded origami cranes and delivers them to sites of civil rights injustice as a form of protest. Most recently, they had a strong presence at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, which has imprisoned Apache Native Americans and Japanese Americans, and is now being considered for imprisoning the children of refugees attempting to legally seek asylum in the US at its southern border. Throughout the convention, JACL members folded tsuru to go toward the 125,000 tsuru to be presented in Washington DC and represent all the Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. Never before have our stories been more relevant, and never before have we felt a stronger need to stand in solidarity with other victims of racially-motivated injustice and incarceration.

One of our Twin Cities JACL members, Emma Hartmann, recently organized a booth to collect origami cranes for Tsuru for Solidarity at the Obon Festival. It was a huge success, and we are looking forward to folding more tsuru together at the Normandale Japanese Garden Festival in September.

A Great Success! Photo Exhibit: Minnesota's Secret Language School

Minnesota's Secret Language School, the TCJACL exhibit on the Military Intelligence Service Language School closed on Labor Day. There were many positive comments and attendance was excellent. The guest book filled and additional pages had to be added. Visitors came to Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center from out of state specifically to see the exhibit. One such visitor was Paul Masao Matsuoka from Kansas City, Missouri. Education Committee members visited with Paul and he wrote the following about his family:

My father Yoji Lewis Matsuoka was honorably discharged as Technician third grade (sergeant) on October 3rd, 1946, from the Headquarters of the MISLS after serving for 19 months on the administrative staff at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling. A portion of his duties included being the official court martial reporter, and transcribing Board of Officers meetings, investigations, and Courts of Inquiry. After the war, he became the first Nisei Certified Court Reporter. Another interesting fact is that my maternal aunt, Toshi Hirata, became the first Nisei U.S. Army W.A.C. and she met her husband US Army Eugene Hattori (U.S. Army MIS) while serving in occupied Tokyo.

For the committee putting together the exhibit was challenging but very rewarding. Education committee members who worked on this exhibit were Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Steve Ozone, Sally Sudo, Karen Tanaka Lucas, John Matsunaga and Carolyn Nayematsu. The graphic designer was Susan Binkley and Yuichiro Onishi served as a consultant.

Thank you to the donors who helped make the exhibit: Les and Karen Suzukamo, and the memorial funds of Donald Maeda, Helen Tsuchiya, Albert Tsuchiya, Mikio Kiriara, and Jim Kiriara.

If you missed the exhibit this summer, Minnesota's Secret Language School will be in St Cloud as a regional companion to the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, "Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and WWII," from Sept. 3, 2019 through Jan. 5, 2020 at the Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud, MN; phone (320) 253-8424.



(r-l, Sally Sudo, Paul Masao, Karen Lucas, Carolyn Nayematsu)

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The 27th annual Super Senior Luncheon was held on Saturday, July 27 at the [Hibachi Buffet](#) in Minneapolis. This annual event, co-hosted by the TC JACL, Nikkei Project and the Twin Cities Buddhist Association, is an opportunity to show the senior community our gratitude and to give them an opportunity to gather for a happy event. Seventy-two people were in attendance with 35 of them super seniors. It was nice to visit with so many smiling and grateful faces. Thank you to the three organizations for supporting this event.

Photos by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas



Grace Kyono, Minnie Kimura, Roy Kyono, Nancy Kimura Fuller

Judy Murakami (standing), Mari Somekawa, Steve Savitt, George Murakami, Chris Noonan, Noriko Freeman



Jan Kiriara Monson, Sally Sudo, and Lucy Kiriara



Mie Noma and Fumi Kyono

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