President’s Remarks

Congratulations to the board members who are returning to the board for another two-year term. They are Phil Nomura, Teresa Swartz, Amy Dickerson, Gloria Kumagai and Matt Farrells. The remaining board members are Karen Tanaka Lucas, Lisa Shakerin, Vinicius Taguchi, Carolyn Nayematsu and Pam Dagoberg. Thank you to Janet Carlson who resigned in 2019 for her past service on the board.

The 2020 Officer have been selected:
- Amy Dickerson – President
- Matt Farrells – Vice President
- Karen Tanaka Lucas – Secretary 1st half of year and Lisa Shakerin – Secretary 2nd half of year
- Phil Nomura – Interim Treasurer

The TC JACL Board met this weekend to plan the 2020 event calendar. Mark your calendars because we have the following events planned for the first three months of 2020. The events are:
- Saturday, February 22, 2020 – Day of Remembrance and Book Launch event at Eastside Library
- Saturday, February 29, 2020 – Book Club meeting – American Sutra
- Thursday, March 5, 2020 – Duncan Ruyken Willams Lecture at the U of MN
- TBD March 2020 – Cooking Class
- March 2020 – Volunteer opportunity to help TC JACL board prepare for the Festival of Nations

The Twin Cities JACL Board’s strategic plan objectives are: 1) Historical Preservation, 2) Social/Community, 3) Cultural Preservation, 4) Social Justice, 5) Leadership, and 6) Scholarship. Many thanks to the board members and JACL members for participating and supporting these events.

The chapter is always looking for new members, new board members, volunteers and new ideas! Please feel free to contact Amy Dickerson if you have any interest in being a more active TC JACL member or you can contact any of the current board members for more information.

Thank you!

Amy Dickerson
President of the Board
Book Launch and Annual Day of Remembrance Event

Saturday, February 22, 1-3 PM

East Side Freedom Library
1105 Greenbrier St, St Paul, MN 55106

Please join us for an event marking the seventy-eighth anniversary of Executive Order 9066 and the release of John Matsunaga’s photobook, Kazoku No Tame Ni, which addresses his family’s incarceration history and its transgenerational impact. Copies of John’s book will be on exhibit and available for purchase. This event will feature a panel discussion with members of the Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League who will discuss the incarceration experiences of their families and how this connection has motivated them to educate the public about this past and engage with social justice issues.

Free and open to the public
Refreshments will be served

Submitted by John Matsunaga

American Sutra: A Story of Faith and Freedom in the Second World War

Thursday, March 5, 2020, 3:30-5 PM
Best Buy Theater, Northrop
Free and open to the public

The mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II is not only a tale of injustice; it is a moving story of faith. In this pathbreaking account, Duncan Ryuken Williams reveals how, even as they were stripped of their homes and imprisoned in camps, Japanese American Buddhists launched one of the most inspiring defenses of religious freedom in our nation’s history, insisting that they could be both Buddhist and American.

This event is organized by the IAS (Institute for Advanced Study) Research and Creative Collaborative Group called Historical Injustices. Co-sponsors are the Immigration History Research Center, the Religious Studies Program, the Asian American Studies Program, and the Department of History.

An ordained Buddhist priest in the Soto Zen tradition, Duncan Ryuken Williams has spent years piecing together the story of the Japanese American community during World War II. A renowned scholar of Buddhism, he has taught at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of California, Irvine, and Trinity College. He is now the Director of the Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture at the University of Southern California. He has published five other books, including The Other Side of Zen.

Submitted by Yuichi Onishi

Book Club Meeting
Contact Amy Dickerson if you are interested in attending the February 29 event. American Sutra will be discussed.
Festival of Nations 2020  
Thursday, April 30-Sunday, May 3

Please save the dates to attend and volunteer to work a shift at our merchandise booth Thursday, April 30 - Sunday, May 3, 2020.

Volunteer shifts will be:

- Thursday 9:00-12:00 and 12:00-3:00
- Friday 9:00-1:00, 1:00-5:00 and 5:00-9:00
- Saturday 10:00-2:00, 2:00-6:00 and 6:00-9:00
- Sunday 10:00-2:00 and 2:00-6:00

Help will be needed 6-8:00 pm Sunday, May 3 to take down and pack merchandise into the truck. Help will also be needed from around 4 pm until 8 pm Wednesday, May 1 to set up the booth.

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 Amy Dickerson at 612-554-5023 or adickerson323@gmail.com to be added to the festival volunteer contact list.

Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas

Learn Japanese Classic Dancing Free  
Participate in Festival of Nations Performances April 30-May 3, 2020

Japanese dance instructor Linda Hashimoto van Dooijeweert will be providing free instruction and directing a group of performers for this year's Festival of Nations. They will be rehearsing weekly in Roseville from now until the Festival in May. Linda will provide kimonos for performances and practices and there is no charge for lessons!! If you know of anyone (adult or child, male or female) 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@urbantraveler.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. For some families with children, this has become a family tradition and an introduction to Japanese culture. The Sansei Yonsei Kai dance group represents the Japanese ethnic community in dance performances. These performances enable the TCJACL to enter a sales booth in the International Bazaar.

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. Then stop by our booth and check out our unique Japanese merchandise.

Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas
2020 TC JACL High School Graduate Scholarship Applications Available

Twin Cities JACL scholarship applications for 2020 high school graduates are available on www.tcjacl.org under the Scholarships tab and will be mailed by the end of January. Please contact Pam Dagoberg at 763-557-2946 (scholarship@tcjacl.org) if you are interested in receiving 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, 2020:

Cole Jourdan (Jefferson High School)
Hannah Hintermeister (Richfield High School)
Erika Kay-Tsumagari (Onalaska High School)
Samantha Kraby
Henry Noma (Jefferson High School)
Samuel Ogata (White Bear Lake Area High School)
Christian Restad (Roseville Area High School)

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

In addition to other available scholarships, students may apply for the Twin Cities JACL Service Scholarship. 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 must be current Twin Cities JACL members (individual student membership or family membership is required). Membership information can be found at www.tcjacl.org.

Completed applications for Twin Cities JACL scholarships must be postmarked by April 1, 2020.

History of the Twin Cities JACL Scholarship Program

The local scholarship program had modest beginnings. The Twin Cities Chapter of the JACL was formed in 1947. In 1960, the Twin Cities Chapter of the JACL hosted the Eastern District and Midwest District Convention. The convention was very well attended and financially very successful.

Kimi Hara had an idea to start a scholarship program with the convention profits because the young Sansei and Yonsei did not qualify for other minority scholarship programs that existed at that time. Many Issei donated money to our Chapter so that the scholarship program would continue.

The scholarship program for graduating seniors began with the goal to recognize the generation of Sansei and Yonsei for their accomplishments and service to their school or community. The original scholarship applicants had the following traits in common: a willingness to learn, a desire to succeed and the ability to demonstrate this through their accomplishments. The first scholarship awards were made in 1962.

In the 1970's the TC JACL Scholarship program received a large sum of money from the Twin Cities Independent Church, a Japanese Christian church in Northeast Minneapolis. After its sale, it was the wish of the church members that the money be used to encourage further education.

Many of the scholarships that followed were established in memory of the loved ones of JACL members. One of the earliest and longest awarded memorial scholarships was the Earl Tanbara Memorial Scholarship, made in memory of Earl Tanbara, who passed away in 1973. The Earl Tanbara Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to over 40 students through the years. Another long-standing memorial scholarship was established in memory of Susan Tsuchiya Matsumoto who passed away at the young age of 26 in 1980 after a 15 year battle with cancer.

(continued on next page)
This scholarship continues to be awarded to a young person who, like Susan, demonstrates outstanding academic accomplishments, excellence in the arts, and community service. Many other memorial scholarships have been made possible through the generous donations of TC JACL members.

Since the first year the TC JACL scholarships were awarded, the young people that have applied for these scholarships shared the same traits as their predecessors: a willingness to learn, a desire to succeed and the ability to demonstrate this through their accomplishments. The criteria for the scholarship have remained essentially the same over the years: scholastic achievement, community service and extra-curricular activities. 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 Fred Tsuchiya, 5311 Scenic Heights Drive, Minnetonka, MN, 55345.

2020 National Scholarship Program Guidelines

Please note: The National JACL Scholarships are not the same as the Twin Cities JACL scholarships. Each program has its own application form with different requirements.

SAN FRANCISCO -- The 2020 National JACL Scholarship Program informational brochure and applications are now posted on the National JACL website (www.jacl.org). Click “Youth” on the menu bar to access the scholarship program webpage. The scholarship categories offered are Freshman, Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Creative Arts, Performing Arts and Student Aid.

FRESHMAN -- All freshman applications must be postmarked no later than Monday, March 2, 2020. Freshman applicants must mail applications to:

Twin Cities JACL Scholarship Committee
c/o Pam Dagoberg, 4365 Kingsview Ln N, Plymouth, MN 55446

OTHER GRADE LEVELS -- The Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Creative Arts, Performing Arts and Student Aid applications must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2020 and are to be mailed directly by the applicant to:

National JACL Scholarship Committee
c/o JACL Midwest District Council
10604 Killarney Drive
Union, Kentucky 41091

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To All Applicants: All applications must be on the 2020 application form that is posted on the JACL website (www.jacl.org). Note: the required Personal Statement essay prompt changes each year, so students must use the 2020 application for consideration by the National Scholarship Committees.

One must hold an individual or youth membership in the JACL. Family membership under one’s parent(s) is NOT accepted.

All applications must be complete at the time of submission and meet the stated deadlines in order to be considered. Applications and required materials must be submitted in one packet; materials may NOT be submitted separately. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered by the committees.

Students are allowed to apply to ONE CATEGORY ONLY: Freshman, Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Creative Arts or Performing Arts. The exception to this rule is that any applicant may also apply for the Student Aid Scholarship in addition to another category. However, a successful applicant will only receive the higher of the two awards applied for.

Applicants are judged on the basis of their JACL involvement, scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, community involvement, personal statement and letter of recommendation.

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Requirements:
- JACL Membership (Individual or Youth/Student)
- Personal Statement
- A Letter of Recommendation
- Official transcripts (only one copy required from each school)
- The original, plus 2 copies, of the application and all required materials (except for required transcripts).

In August 2020, the scholarship recipients will have been determined and electronic notification will be made to those selected. The JACL chapters to which the awardees belong will be notified as well. In the Fall of 2020, the JACL national newspaper, the Pacific Citizen, will publish its annual Scholarship Edition highlighting all of the award recipients.

One must be enrolled in school in the Fall of 2020 in order to receive a scholarship. Past recipients are limited to a total of two National JACL Scholarships.

If you have any questions, please contact JACL Regional Director Patty Wada at pwada@jacl.org or National Vice President Matthew Farrells at mfarrells@jacl.org

Submitted by Pam Dagoberg

Tsuru For Solidarity

We are members of the Tsuru for Solidarity Steering Committee. We are a nonviolent, direct-action project of Japanese American activists who are working to end detention sites and support immigrant and refugee communities who are being targeted by inhumane policies. We stand on the moral authority of our families who suffered the atrocities of WWII U.S. concentration camps and say: “Stop Repeating History!”

On June 6, 2020, Tsuru for Solidarity will lead a historic solidarity protest in Washington, D.C. We plan to bring camp survivors, descendants, allies and 125,000 paper cranes, or tsuru, to the White House.

We need your support! In late November, we met the Nanbu family's generous $25,000 match in only 10 days. We are excited to announce a second $25,000 match, thanks to the generosity of several new donors.

All donations made by January 31 will be matched up to $25,000. Please consider donating today! Our goal is to raise at least $125,000 in individual contributions -- or one dollar for each person incarcerated during WWII, toward the overall goal of $270,000. We ask that 1,000 people donate at least $125 toward this goal.

Your contributions will pay for the D.C. march, travel support for survivors and students, the national Freedom Caravan and intergenerational Healing Circles for Change. We are an all-volunteer organization and are endorsed by numerous national and regional organizations. Learn more at www.tsuruforsolidarity.org.

All donations are tax-deductible. Densho, our fiscal sponsor, is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax number 91-2164150.

Please join us as we take collective action together and share widely with your family and friends. Change begins with us. Thank you for your support.


Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas
“Callie Trautmiller’s Becoming American is an engaging and important addition to the literature preserving this difficult-and inspiring-time in our history. Highly recommended!”


Who is Callie Trautmiller?

Book Overview
A family torn apart by war

It’s 1941 and America is in the heat of war. When Pearl Harbor is bombed during World War II, suspicions run high and having the wrong color of skin makes you the enemy. Especially if it is Japanese skin.

Allu Noguchi is a young Japanese American girl who finds her family the target of Executive Order 9066. When her father is taken away on suspicions of aiding the enemy, Allu is sent to live in the harsh conditions of Camp Manzanar with nothing more than a seed bag of belongings.

With her heritage under scrutiny, she strives to maintain hope and finds an unlikely friendship that will urge her to question her own pre-judgments.

With their father gone, Allu’s sibling, Robbie, takes over as head of household, but struggles with a hunger for independence as he watches his friends go off to fight in World War II. When the 100th Battalion calls for reinforcements among camp internees for the military, he must choose between the family he is responsible for and the sense of duty which fills his heart. But what will Allu do without Robbie to protect her?

Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas

Callie sent a message to the TC JACL - She wrote:

I am a local author who resides in River Falls, Wisconsin and have just released by debut novel, Becoming American. After realizing how many people in Wisconsin were unfamiliar with the Japanese American experience during World War II, I became passionate about bringing this aspect to light. This includes not only the Japanese American internment camps during World War II, but the role our local area played in the secret training of the highly-decorated Japanese American 100th Battalion, who trained at Fort McCoy and the Military Intelligence Service Language School, relocated to Savage and then Fort Snelling. In my research, I had the opportunity to meet with the 100th Battalion Veteran’s Club, the 442nd Regiment Club, and the Japanese Cultural Center. They have been of fantastic support. I’m humbled to report that upon release, Becoming American hit #1 in the Young Adult Historical Fiction category on Amazon for over a week. It has been my honor to speak about these great contributions and sacrifices of the Nisei during World War II and my utmost goal to be sure the youth in our area are educated on these events surrounding World War II, which sadly, is often not mentioned in great detail in their school books, if at all.

If there are any book clubs, organizations, or events in which you feel this might be of interest, or if you are willing to submit it into a circulation, please let me know how I can help.
Congratulations to these JAs in our community!

TC’s Newest Japanese American Author

Kimmy Tanaka
Tanaka Awarded Solon J. Buck Award at MNHS Dinner
At the Minnesota Historical Society’s annual meeting, MNHS Director and CEO Kent Whitworth presented the annual Solon J. Buck Award, which recognizes originality, excellence, and creativity in research and writing articles published in Minnesota History magazine. The awardees for best article in 2018 are Kimmy Tanaka and Jonathan Moore for “Fuji-Ya, Second to None: Reiko Weston’s Role in Reconnecting Minneapolis and the Mississippi River”, Fall 2018 issue. The judges admired the skillful storytelling that wove intricate elements together to tell the story of restauranteur, Reiko Weston, within the larger context of Japanese American immigration and development in Minneapolis. Tanaka works as a site supervisor at Historic for Snelling. Moore works as a cultural resources program manager for the National Park Service at the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

Let Me In
A Japanese American Woman Crashes the Corporate Club

CelebrAsian: A Toast to Elders
David Mura and Carolyn Nayematsu were honored as community elders at the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) lunch in October, 2019. Other honorees were Amanya Chatterjea, Dr. Bruce Corrie, Elsa Batica, and Mao Hew Thao.

Memberships!
Are you a Twin cities JACL member? Are you a CURRENT member? Have you let your membership lapse? To join the chapter, renew your membership, or have other questions about the TC chapter, contact Teresa Swartz, Membership Coordinator, for the answer. 651-489-8978 or at tswartz@umn.edu.
Art at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport

Steve Ozone will have seven portraits covering the south end of the new Silver Ramp at the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport. Rising three stories and spanning four hundred feet, the installation has begun, with two of the portraits completed. Representing the diversity of the Twin Cities, people from Japan, Syria, Croatia, Poland, Mexico, Kenya, and U.S. Completion is scheduled for early 2020 and can be viewed from Concourse G.

Submitted by Carolyn Nayematsu

Normandale Garden Festival

The Normandale Garden Festival was held on Saturday, September 21, 2019. JACL sold various items and featured folding cranes for Tsuru for Solidarity.

“Tsuru for Solidarity is a nonviolent, direct action project of Japanese American social justice advocates working to end detention sites and support front-line immigrant and refugee communities that are being targeted by racist, inhumane immigration policies.” (https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/)

Tsuru plans to bring 125,000 origami cranes - symbolic of the 125,000 Japanese Americans imprisoned during World War II - to Washington D.C. in June 2020 as part of its national pilgrimage to close the camps. Many youth stopped by our tables to fold cranes. Most of them kept their cranes as they were so proud of their paper folding. All donated cranes will be sent to Tsuru for Solidarity.


Submitted by Gloria Kumagai

Exhibits: Righting a Wrong and Minnesota’s Secret Language School

The Smithsonian traveling exhibit, “Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II” was at the Stearns History Museum in St. Cloud from September 2019 until January 5, 2020. Our exhibit on Minnesota’s Secret Language School accompanied this exhibit and will be at the museum through March. JACL was a sponsor of the Smithsonian exhibit and provided speakers: Hannah Semba shared her camp life experience and Bud Nakasone shared his MIS experience. Both speakers were very well-received. If you missed visiting Righting a Wrong, this Smithsonian traveling exhibit will be at the Minnesota History Center in February 2022.

Submitted by Gloria Kumagai

You might have noticed that there is a new editor of The Rice Paper. My name is Sylvia Farrells. I moved to Minnesota in 1968 to attend graduate school at the University of Minnesota. I have been a member of the TCJACL since 1976 and was the secretary for a few years. After teaching in the Minneapolis Public Schools for 30 years, I retired in 1999. My husband’s name is James. We have two sons, Timothy, who lives in St. Peter and Matthew who is quite involved in JACL at the local and national levels. For comments and questions, contact me at angelseyf@gmail.com.
TC JACLers Speak at Stearns History Museum

Hannah Semba and Edwin (Bud) Nakasone give their first-hand accounts of their World War II experiences.

From September 3, 2019, through January 5, 2020, “Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II” was displayed at the Stearns History Museum in St. Cloud. The exhibition was developed by the National Museum of American History and adapted for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

In conjunction with the Smithsonian traveling exhibition, the museum also displayed the “Minnesota’s Secret Language School”. This photographic exhibition, created by the Twin Cities JACL Education Committee, details the history of the U.S. Army’s Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling, and the key role that the Japanese American servicemen and women who trained at the MISLS played in the Pacific War.

Both exhibits examine the impact of World War II on the lives and rights of Japanese American citizens and promote conversation about how the broader community treats those that are viewed as “different”.

As part of accompanying public programs, two Twin Cities JACL members shared their personal World War II experiences.

On October 19, 2019, Hannah Semba related the story of her family’s incarceration at Tule Lake, California. Hannah was in high school in Mt. Vernon, Washington at the time her family was incarcerated. She lived behind barbed wire for two years; then she was allowed to leave camp when she was accepted to attend Macalester College in St. Paul. Hannah’s family joined her and her sister in the Twin Cities after they were released from camp at the end of the war. Hannah’s daughter, Dr. Laura Semba, opened the program with a historical background, integrating early photographs of her parents’ families.

Hannah stated that the reason she shares her experiences is to bring awareness to the community so that what happened to her and the other 110,000 civilians, mostly Japanese American citizens, would not be allowed to happen again to any other groups.

On November 23, 2019, retired U.S. Army Colonel Edwin (Bud) Nakasone talked about witnessing the attack on Pearl Harbor from his home on the island of Oahu as a 14 year old. Four years later, he arrived at Fort Snelling on Christmas Day 1945 to hone his Japanese language skills at the MISLS. Bud served in Asaka, a city north of Tokyo, during the post-war occupation of Japan. He returned to the Twin Cities to continue his education, get married, raise a family, and enjoy a career as a professor of history and international relations at Century College in White Bear Lake.

Bud’s presentation included an engaging and informative history lesson on the military leaders and events leading to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Local radio station KVSC (88.1 FM) Arts & Cultural Heritage producer, Jeff Carmack recorded the presentation for the station’s “Untold Stories of Central Minnesota” series.


“Minnesota’s Secret Language School” remains on display at Stearns History Museum for an indefinite time. For questions or information, contact the museum at (320) 253-8424 or visit http://stearns-museum.org

Submitted by Cheryl Hirata Dulas

Photographs submitted by Cheryl Hirata Dulas
Photographs from the First-Hand Accounts of Hannah Semba and Edwin (Bud) Nakasone

Taken at the Stearns History Museum, October and November 2019

Hannah Semba’s daughter, Dr. Laura, Semba, provides insights and historical background on the Japanese American incarceration during World War II.

Hannah Semba answers questions from the audience.

Bud Nakasone at the Stearns History Museum.

Bud Nakasone with Jeff Carmack of Station DVSC 88.1 FM.

Left to right: Hannah’s son-in-law, Dr. Pat Tosetti, Hannah, Carie Essig, Executive Director, Dr. Laura Semba.

Left to right: Caitlin Carlson, Stearns History Museum program curator, Bud Nakasone, Carie Essig, Executive Director.
To receive information on JACL activities, relevant opportunities and events that occur on shorter notice than our Rice Paper can communicate, please sign up for the TC JACL "E-Mail Blast" by contacting us at info@tcjacl.org or by visiting www.tcjacl.org/subscribe. Sign up now. Don't miss out. Update us when your e-mail changes.

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