



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 | April 2020

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President's Remarks

"These are crazy times!" "This is the new normal!" "When will we get back to normal life?" These are frequent comments I hear these days. I miss my "freedom and liberty" to be able to attend a JACL event, to go to the store, to go a sporting event, or the theater, or to just socialize with my friends.

The Twin Cities JACL Board realizes that we all need to work together in "flattening the curve" of the Covid-19 virus. After much discussion, the board decided to cancel or postpone the 2020 JACL summer, and possible, fall events. You may be wondering about why we are canceling fall events? The reason is that we are unable to plan and prepare for these events in the foreseeable future. We regret the need to take the necessary steps, but the safety and good health of the community is very important to us.

The 2020 event schedule started out strong. In January, the Twin Cities JACL board members attended a strategic planning session for the upcoming year. On January 26, the Youth and Young Professional members participated in the Shinnenkai event.

In February, all four of our scheduled events were held: The Japanese American Experience during WWII Minnesota, Day of Remembrance at the Eastside Library, a Knife Sharpening class, and discussion of the book American Sutra, by the JACL Book Club. The monthly board meeting was held at Carolyn Nayematsu's.

On March 5, Duncan Ryuken Williams talked about his book, American Sutra, at the University of Minnesota. The following week, seven women met at the home of Gloria Kumagai, to learn how to prepare Japanese foods. On March 17, the board held a virtual monthly meeting due to social distancing.

Future events already cancelled are: the Festival of Nations, the Spring Book Club discussion, the next cooking class, the Sam Mihara Lecture, the Summer Picnic, and the Scholarship Dinner. For now, the board plans to continue its monthly meetings virtually or via email.

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.

Be safe, and take care of yourself! Amy Dickerson, President, TC JACL Board.



Festival of Nations 2020

CANCELLED

For the first time in the 88 years that the International Institute of Minnesota has hosted the Festival of Nations, it has been cancelled and will not be rescheduled for 2020. The highest priority of this event is the health and safety of all participants, volunteers, and communities. The Twin Cities JACL looks forward to reconnecting next year and continuing a long tradition of partnership dating back to the earliest years of our organization. To all our treasured volunteers: Take care, keep safe, stay healthy. Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas

Press Release from National JACL

April 2, 2020

JACL Joins Congress in Condemning All Forms of Anti- Asian Sentiment as Related to COVID-19

David Inoue, Executive Director

We applaud the introduction by Senators Harris, Duckworth, and Hirono, of the Senate Resolution, "Condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19." This companion to Rep. Meng's House resolution 908 is much needed with the increasing discrimination and violence towards Asian Americans and minorities as the threat from COVID-19 similarly increases.

In the first week of operation from March 19-25, the website [StopAAPI Hate](#) collected 673 reports of anti-Asian discrimination [an Asian woman pursued and attached in the NY subway; brutal knife wounds on a young boy's face, whose family was attacked while shopping in Midland, TX] These acts of intimidation are considered hate crimes and must be stopped.

Last week, ABC News reported that the Houston office of the FBI issued a report..."that hate crimes incidents against Asian Americans likely will surge across the

United States, due to the spread of coronavirus disease...endangering Asian American communities [based on the theory that some people will associate COVID-19 with China and AAPIs.]

We join the Senate and House resolutions in calling for full enforcement of the law in all matters of discrimination. We joined nearly 200 organizations in calling upon the White House to form a Task Force to protect the civil rights of AAPIs. The FBI must act on its own internal memo recognizing the threat to AAPIs and prioritize this area for enforcement. Other federal agencies must be included to ensure there is no discrimination in the areas of education, housing, employment, or public commerce.

We thank our elected leaders who have taken concrete action through the introduction of these resolutions calling for action. Congress must act to pass the resolutions condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19 so that the President may take action through the full force of the federal government to protect the civil rights of AAPI people.

Reply-To: JACL policy@jacl.org

MEMBERSHIP

Has your membership lapsed? Did you mistakenly throw away the reminder notice? Please contact Teresa Swartz (her contact info is on page 1) for answers to your membership questions.

COVID-19: Canceled and Postponed Events

This is a challenging time for us all as a nation as we all seek to do our part to reduce the impact of COVID-19. We must all do our part to keep safe those who might be more vulnerable.

Because of the directives from local public health departments and governments, JACL staff are now teleworking. Although we will not be in our physical offices, JACL is still committed to serving the community. Please direct all phone calls to our Washington, D.C. Office at (202) 223-1240 and we will get back to you as quickly as possible. Otherwise, we will all be available via email.

We remain vigilant for how the disease spread progresses, particularly in consideration of our convention scheduled for June 24-28. At this time, we continue to plan towards holding the convention as scheduled. We will notify you should there be any change in 2020 Convention plans.

In light of COVID-19 and recommendations from the CDC, many events have been cancelled or postponed. The JACL will do its best to keep these events for the larger Japanese American community up to date. To add to this list please email ccheng@jacl.org

JACL Statements

[From the Executive Director: Keep Calm, Wash Your Hands — and Don't Be Racist](#)

[Kakehashi Participants Return to Discrimination from Schools and Employers](#)

[From the Executive Director: COVID-19 to Xenophobia: What Would a Reasonable Response Be?](#)

[Asians- People are Not a Disease](#)

Legislative

JACS Legislative Days March 31-April 2

[Postponed]

JACL/OCA Leadership Summit April 25-28

[Postponed]

Tsuru for Solidarity June 5-6 [Postponed]

Pilgrimages

Jerome/Rohwer Pilgrimage April 16-19

[Postponed]

51st Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage April 21

[Postponed]

All Camps Reunion May 2 [Postponed]

Tule Lake Pilgrimage July 3-6 [Canceled]

From the JACL Weekly Digest for March 31, 2020

If you would like to receive the JACL Weekly Digest, here is how to get your own copy online:

1. Go to jacl.org
2. Click “JACL.org” (underlined in blue)
2. Click the “News” tab.
3. Click “Digest”

Definitions

In the articles on knife sharpening and the Japanese cooking class (pages 5 & 6), some Japanese words were used. Here are definitions from Wikipedia.

arare – bite-sized crackers made from glutinous rice flavorings with shoyu (soy sauce)

furikake – a dry seasoning meant to be sprinkled on cooked rice, vegetables, and fish; made with nori (dried seaweed), sesame seeds, sugar, and salt

natto – made from fermented soybeans; known by a slimy, sticky, stringy texture; has a pungent smell

udon – thick and wide noodles made from wheat flour

Day of Remembrance February 19, 2020 East Side Freedom Library

Over 80 community members attended the Day of Remembrance program on Saturday, February 22 at the East Side Freedom Library in St. Paul. Commemorating the 78th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, the program featured an all-Sansei panel who shared their families' incarceration stories during WWII. The speakers each recounted that in learning about their grandparents' and parents' experiences, they have become motivated and inspired to educate the public about this history and engage in social justice issues.

At the event, John Matsunaga launched his newly published photobook, *Kazoku No Tame Ni* ("*For the Sake of the Family*"), which documents the remains of all ten War Relocation Authority incarceration camps and addresses his family's incarceration history and its transgenerational impact. Karen Tanaka Lucas shared how she discovered, through her Issei grandfather's government incarceration records, that he had written a letter to Eleanor Roosevelt appealing to be released from Sharp Park Detention Facility near San Francisco, a temporary holding station for enemy aliens, and received aid from the First Lady's office.

Peggy Doi spoke about her late father, Bill Doi, and how his incarceration at Tule Lake was instrumental in motivating him to fight for human rights throughout his life wherever and whenever he saw the need. She also shared an aspect of the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) where her father volunteered from camp for training that few others at Fort Snelling experienced: serving in Special Services operations with responsibility for morale of the MISLS students. Lastly, Todd Tsuchiya related stories about religious discrimination that his Buddhist grandparents and parents endured during their incarceration years.

Some of the Doi family members traveled from the West Coast to attend the program, including Bill's son, Dave Doi, and his wife, Sue Miller,

from Oregon, and April Smith, one of Bill's nieces, from California. Joining the other siblings (Sandi Doi Paulbick and Dede Doi) were Chris Doi, a grandson, and Tamara Simons, Bill's golf partner. The Doi family also brought examples of Bill's artwork to display at the Day of Remembrance program.

The program was videotaped, courtesy of the East Side Freedom Library, and can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/87muDiD6mmY>.

(Note: another way to access the video, go to the East Side Freedom Library's Facebook page; click "videos", then click on *Kazoku No Tame Ni*. The video is 2 hours 20 minutes in length.)

Our chapter thanks the East Side Freedom Library and its Co-Executive Directors, Peter Rachleff and Beth Cleary, for collaborating on this program with the Twin Cities JACL

Top: Panelists-Peggy, John, Karen, Todd
Middle: Display of Bill Doi's medals; Peggy, Chris, Sandi, Dede, Dave
Bottom: Peggy, Chris, April, Tamara, Dede, Sue, Dave



Submitted by Cheryl Hirata Dulas



Bill was quite an artist. Above are two examples of his artwork.

Day of Remembrance Follow up and Asian-American Discrimination Helpline

Bill Doi's son, Dave Doi, emailed this *New York Times* article to his siblings and family. The article, published on March 29, 2020, is titled "How Asian-American Leaders Are Grappling With Xenophobia Amid Coronavirus," by Matt Stevens.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/29/us/politics/coronavirus-asian-americans.html>

Dave wrote in the email to his family:
 "...This NYT article discusses just that [bringing out more anti-Asian sentiment in America]. It is why presentations like the one that Peg made are so important, not just in helping us remember Dad, but in helping keep alive how very close we are today to the same racist beliefs that led to the Internment Camps. So, thank you Peg. You could not have known how relevant that entire program was."

In response to the increasing reports of discrimination against Asian Americans in Minnesota due to COVID-19, Gov. Tim Walz, and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan launched a Discrimination Helpline on April 6 to report racist behavior.

The helpline can be reached at **1-833-454-0148**, and will allow anyone who experiences discrimination or witnesses an incident of hate to report it to the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. The hotline is staffed Monday-Friday from 8 am-4:30 pm.

To report incidents online, visit:

<https://mn.gov/mdhr/intake/consultationinquiryform/>

Other Local Happenings

Knife Sharpening Class

TCJACL sponsored a Japanese knife sharpening class on February 27, 2020. The instructor was Eien Hunter Ishikawa from Portland, Oregon. Eien is a musician and educator based in Portland, Oregon. He is a very active instructor of percussion, taiko, and shinobue and has presented workshops all over the world. In addition to his wide musical collaborations, he teaches Japanese knife sharpening and natto making. There were 20 participants who worked very hard for two hours on one knife. At the end of the workshop Eien talked about natto and why natto is considered a super food.

The class at work



Eien works with April Dennison

Submitted by Carolyn Nayematsu

American Sutra Lecture

Professor Duncan Ryuken Williams' lecture on his book American Sutra, was held on March 5, 2020 at University of Minnesota.

Professor Williams talked about Japanese American Buddhism and how Buddhists were the first to be targeted after World War II began. He spoke about how Japanese Americans showed they could be both Buddhists and American. He also spoke about his efforts on behalf of the Tsuru for Solidarity Pilgrimage, as one of its board members.

Williams is busy compiling a list of the approximately 125,000 Japanese Americans incarcerated during WWII. Williams and his staff are trying to finish the project before the pilgrimage where all the names will be read.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Duncan, Todd Tsuchiya and Gail Wong took part in a panel discussion about their families' experiences during WWII. Yuichiro Onishi served as moderator.



Left to right: Carolyn Nayematsu, Duncan Williams, Steve Lucas, Gail Wong, Todd Tsuchiya, Yuichiro Onishi, Teresa Swartz, and Karen Tanaka Lucas. Submitted by Carolyn Nayematsu, photo by Karen Lucas.



Japanese Cooking Class

On March 14, 2020, the chapter held its third cooking class taught by Rachel Matsumoto. The participants learned how to make Japanese rice crackers, broiled sushi rice, tofu balls, udon suki, and a rice noodle salad. In addition, Rachel brought arare cookies and furikake chex mix for us to sample and provided the recipes for them and the other dishes. Our cooking classes are a fun way to connect with other chapter and non-chapter members and enjoy an afternoon eating homemade Japanese food.

The plan to offer a cooking class this summer will depend on the shelter in place order.



Susie cooking udon suki in a wok.



Judy and Sylvia enjoying their meal. In the foreground are arare cookies and the furikake chex mix.

Pictured in the photo to the left are Rachel Matsumoto, Gloria Kumagai, Cece Cope, Sylvia Farrells, Susie Osaki Holm, Judy Moriguchi. Linda Marek took the photo.

Submitted by Gloria Kumagai, photos by Cece Cope

Obituaries



Shirley Eloise Huskins

Shirley was 92 years when she passed away on Friday, December 27, 2019. She was preceded in death by her husband, William E. (Bill) Huskins, Jr. in 1985. She is survived by a son, a daughter, three grand-children, and a great granddaughter.

She was born on December 26, 1927 in Cosmos, MN. After attending Gustavus Adolphus and the U of M, she worked at Northwest Airlines, where she met Bill. They lived in Tokyo, Japan, in the 1950s and 60s.

Shirley volunteered in a variety of organizations including: the Japan America Society of MN, receiving the Mondale Award for Japan-MN Partnership in 2009; the Normandale Japanese Garden, serving on its Board, and Mount Olivet Lutheran Church.

Shirley lived her life with grace and dignity, guided by the values of her faith and her respect for all people. She had a loving, kind, generous, humble, engaging and adventurous spirit that was recognized and appreciated by all who knew her. A memorial service was held on January 25, 2020.

In keeping with Shirley's passions, donations are preferred to Mount Olivet Cathedral of the Pines Camp, Friends of the Boundary Waters, or the Normandale Japanese Garden.

Published in Pioneer Press from Dec. 29, 2019 to Jan. 12, 2020



Chiyo Fukuda

Chiyo Fukuda peacefully passed away on January 20, 2020, at the age of 98. She was the beloved wife of the late John Takeo Fukuda, loving mother of Connie Fukuda-Clark and Cynthia Fukuda, and grandmother of Sachi Williamson. A memorial service was held on February 21, 2020, at Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose, CA.

Chiyo was born on June 21, 1921, in San Jose and graduated from San Jose High School. During World War II, she and her family were sent to Heart Mountain Internment Camp in Wyoming.

After her release from Heart Mountain, Chiyo married John, a World War II veteran, who had served in the Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

While her daughters were growing up, Chiyo was a stay-at-home mom. Later, she attended beauty school, becoming a beautician. She had a salon in a back room of her house.

When John tragically passed away from a fatal heart attack, Chiyo realized that she needed to find a better job with benefits. She worked at Hewlett Packard as an assembler for several years.

Chiyo will always be remembered for her thoughtfulness to family and friends as well as her active participation at Wesley Church. She saw the best in people and retained a lifelong optimism in humanity.

She will be missed by everyone who knew her.