



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 | August 2020

Newsletter Staff:

Sylvia Farrells
angelseyf@gmail.com

Tim Dagoberg
tdagoberg@gmail.com

Chris Noonan
noonantcb@gmail.com

TC JACL Board of Directors:

Amy Dickerson: 612-338-8405,
adickerson323@gmail.com

Matthew Farrells: 612-272-8772,
matthew.d.farells@gmail.com

Gloria Kumagai: 763-377-5602,
Gloriak377@aol.com

Karen Tanaka Lucas: 952-270-3278,
Katalucas49@gmail.com

Phil Nomura: 612-724-9360,
phnomura@centurylink.net

Lisa Shakerin: 763-537-6829,
Mincks01@aol.com

Teresa Swartz: 763-412-6736,
twarrz@umn.edu

Vinicius Taguchi 919-345-0886,
tagucoo6@umn.edu

Scholarship Committee (Holds One Seat) Pam Dagoberg: 763-557-2946,
pdagoberg@gmail.com

Education Committee (Holds One Seat) Carolyn Nayematsu: 651-492-8752,
nayemoo1@umn.edu

Youth Committee (Holds One Seat) Kendal Takeshita: 425-322-9081,
sushikentak@gmail.com

President's Remarks

Greetings!

I hope you are safe and well. The Twin Cities JACL Board members have been meeting remotely via Zoom since March 2020. This year has been very different from previous years and we are learning to adapt to new processes.

But first of all, CONGRATULATIONS to Vini Taguchi, who over the past weekend, received a JACL National Scholarship! He received the Kenji Kajiwarra scholarship from the staff of the Pacific Citizen newspaper. Vini was also married recently, so this summer has been a great one for him.

Many of our planned events for the year have been cancelled until 2021. There are a few TC JACL events we have planned. Most are virtual meetings on Zoom. Below is an internet guide for first time Zoom users and some do's and don't tips.

Joining a meeting using an invite link

Step 1: Open your browser and log into your email account.

Step 2: Find and open the email from your meeting host that contains the invite link.

Hi there,

James C. Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android <https://zoom.us/j/9181912345>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16468769923, or +16699006833

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

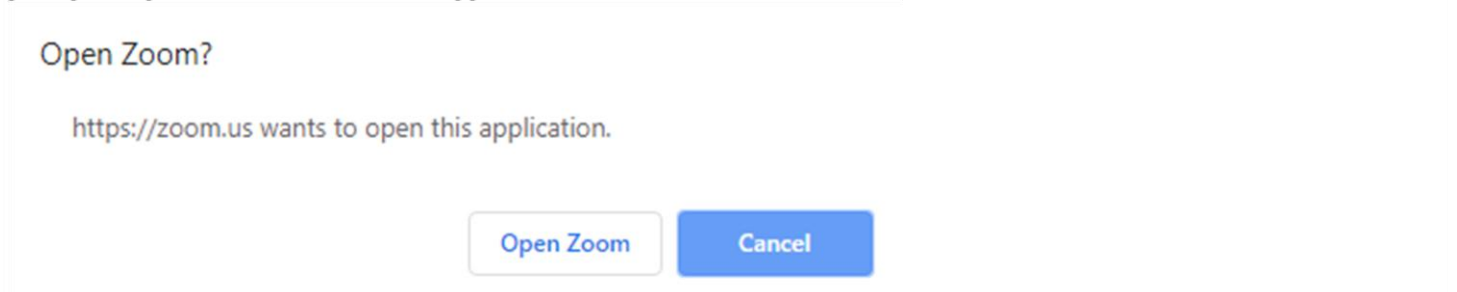
Step 3: Click on the invite link and Zoom will redirect you to a webpage. This webpage will ask you to download the Zoom app on your device whether you are using a desktop or a mobile device.

Do you want to allow this page to open "zoom.us"?

Cancel

Allow

Step 4: Once the application is downloaded on your desktop, install and open it. Zoom should automatically open to the meeting of concern. If that does not open, head over back to your email ID and click on the invite link. You will now see a prompt to open the link in the Zoom app.



Similarly, if you are a mobile user, the meeting should open inside the Zoom app as soon as it is installed. If that does not happen, you can click on the invite link again and you will be directly taken to the Zoom app.

Step 5: Grant the necessary permissions to the Zoom app to use your camera and microphone in order to get started and join the meeting.

Here are some do's and don'ts tips from Lead the Primitive website:

The Don'ts of Zoom Calls

Some things are just better left avoided when you're on a video call, like eating your lunch or blowing gum bubbles. But there might be some "don'ts" you've never thought about before that can create a poor experience for you and others on your call.

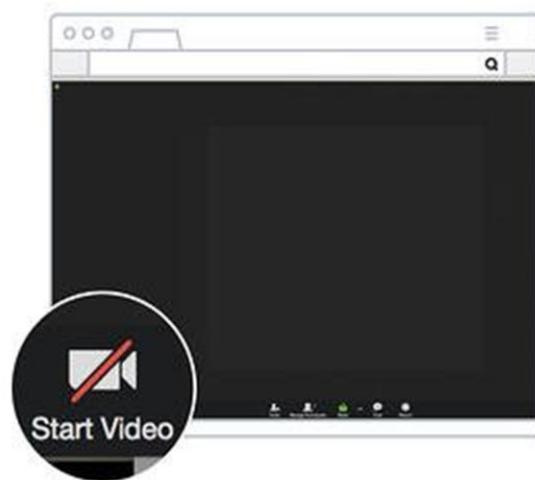
The Do's of Zoom Calls

Now that we've given you a list of things not to do on a Zoom call, let's look at the things you *should* do.

- **Check your internet connection.** Nothing will kill a video call more quickly than poor internet. Test the connection beforehand by running a quick practice call with a few coworkers or friends.
- **Mute yourself when you're not talking.** This might sound like overkill, but it's better safe than sorry. Muting yourself every time someone else is speaking prevents others from hearing any background noises around you.
- **Use headphones.** This is another "do" that might seem like too much, but wearing headphones helps you hear everyone more clearly and vice versa.
- **Dress for the occasion.** From the waist up, that is. If you're having a quick video call with coworkers, casual attire works great. But, if you're having a Zoom call with clients, just grab a more professional shirt before the call.
- **Make sure everyone is on their own video connection.** This might be difficult to execute, but as much as possible, everyone on the call needs to have their own video. Both the sound and video qualities suffer if you try to have a group of people call another person. This tip is really important for calls with customers, and it's an absolute for building a strong remote team culture.

Just to be safe, make sure you **don't do any of the following:**

- **DON'T have a Zoom call in a crowded place.** Coffee shops are a great alternative for working from the office, but they aren't always the best place to have a video call because they can have a lot of background noise. If possible, have your call in a quiet area where there won't be a lot of people behind you that end up on the call.



- **DON'T Turn off your video.** We get it. Video calls can be a little intimidating because the last thing you want to see (or have seen) is your face on a large screen. It's easy to hit the button that turns off your video, but that completely defeats the purpose. So, even though it's tempting to turn it off, leave your video on!
- **DON'T sit next to another person on the same Zoom call.** If you and a coworker are on the same video call, make sure you're not located really close together. This can cause interference for both of you, which can make a call unpleasant very quickly.
- **DON'T stray from the agenda.** The face to face connection that comes with a video call can help the conversation flow more easily than it does in an audio call. But this makes it easier to get off track from the purpose of the call.

Now that you know how to get on a Zoom meeting, check out these opportunities you might want to join in. Some of the events are listed on page 29 and on the websites listed on pages 10 and 12.

Submitted by Amy Dickerson

2020 High School Graduates Honored by Twin Cities JACL

The Twin Cities JACL's 57th Annual Scholarships were awarded in May 2020. Unfortunately, due to the situation surrounding the pandemic, the annual awards banquet was not held. The following 2020 high school graduates were honored this year.

Hannah Hintermeister (Richfield High School)
Mira Johnson (South High School)
Henry Noma (Thomas Jefferson High School)
Samuel Ogata (White Bear Lake High School)
Christian Restad (Roseville Area High School)
Caden Scales (Eastview High School)
Miles Sitcawich (East Ridge High School)



Pictured (top to bottom, left to right): Samuel Ogata, Henry Noma, Christian Restad, Hannah Hintermeister, Miles Sitcawich, Caden Scales, Mira Johnson

Scholarship awards totaled \$10,000. The following scholarships were awarded:

Bill Doi Memorial Scholarship – **Henry Noma**

Dr. Norman Kushino and Kay Kushino Memorial Scholarship – **Caden Scales**

Kiyoshi Kusunoki Memorial Scholarship – **Henry Noma**

Susan Matsumoto Memorial Scholarship – **Mira Johnson**

Tom and Reiko Ohno Memorial Scholarship – **Miles Sitcawich**

Tom and Martha Oye Memorial Scholarship – **Christian Restad**

Earl K. and Ruth Tanbara Memorial Scholarship – **Hannah Hintermeister**

Phyllis Takekawa Memorial Scholarship – **Samuel Ogata**

Congratulations and best wishes to the 2020 graduates!

If you know of any 2021 high school graduates, please contact Pam Dagoberg at 763-557-2946 or scholarship@tcjacl.org. Local scholarship applications will be sent in January. JACL membership is required of scholarship applicants. Some of the known 2021 high school graduates are: Taylor Hara (Woodbury), Thomas Hirabayashi, Iris Johnson (South High School), Robbie Knight (Delano High School), Laura Maeda (Rosemount High School), and Brady Schmitt (Waconia).

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.

The Relevance of JACL Today

(As part of their scholarship applications, graduating high school seniors are required to submit an essay on the topic, "The Relevance of JACL Today." We are sharing some of these essays in this, and future, Rice Paper publications.)

The Relevance of JACL Today - Essay by Hannah Hintermeister

"And that concludes this presentation on World War II!" I sit in shock and confusion as my American history teacher closes out of the slideshow. How did that presentation, which presumably gave an overview of the United States' involvement and experience in World War II, dedicate not even a single slide to the Japanese concentration camps? This situation in my 11th grade American History course was not an isolated event, as throughout my education I have come to notice the lack of information on Japanese American history and voice in textbooks, lessons, and curriculum.

Growing up half Japanese and with grandparents who were in the camps themselves, I know of the immense impact the camps had on many Japanese American lives. However, many of my friends and fellow classmates often know little about this history, if anything at all. As I reflected on this lack of knowledge of my peers, I wondered if maybe they just didn't have an interest in the history of racism faced by people of Japanese ancestry in the United States. But I remembered how my grandparents came to speak to my 5th grade class about their heritage and experience in the incarceration camps, and how my typically rowdy class was uncharacteristically attentive, listening with wide eyes. Or, how after that American history presentation, I expressed to my friends my disappointment in the lack of information about the impact of the war on Japanese Americans, and they responded with equal disappointment and a desire to learn more. So, I have come to realize that it was never that the Japanese American experience is boring and not interesting enough. The reason for the lack of knowledge is that these stories are already being written out of textbooks, and not always included in even a curriculum that supposedly teaches about America's history. This is why JACL plays such an important role in today's world, and especially in education. In JACL's mission statement, the organization, "works to promote and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American's

community." It is critical that there is a resistance to this tendency to forget, and a push for learning from history.

The role of JACL goes beyond the Japanese community, and is a valuable voice for all marginalized groups. As written in the description of JACL, the organization, "monitors and responds to issues that enhance or threaten the civil and human rights of all Americans." I have seen JACL's influence when Trump ordered a travel ban on predominantly Muslim countries, and JACL spoke out against the underlying racism and dangerous stereotypes that the ban brought to the surface. In today's current issue with COVID-19, JACL has been a prominent voice in calling out discrimination against Asian communities when many Americans, even top politicians, were quick to pin the blame on Asians and refer to the virus as the "Chinese Virus" or "Kung Flu."

As I continue my education and decide on my career path, I know that I want to strive to advocate for minority groups. JACL exemplifies what it looks like to be a voice for the voiceless, whether that is for the Japanese American community or another overlooked group. In order to promote equity and respect, it is essential that JACL and similar organizations continue to advocate and build a world that values all cultures, histories, and voices.

The Relevance of JACL Today - Essay by Mira Johnson

Although we are members of a minority group, my Asian American friends and I have not felt especially targeted based on our race. We have experienced the typical Asian stereotypes such as the assumption that we are smart and hardworking, but nothing that has caused me too much frustration or pain as the result of my racial identity. As many people in the world are feeling anxiety due to the recent viral pandemic however, hate crimes against Asians are increasing along with the spread of misinformation about the virus.

The other day I was hanging out with one of my Japanese American friends and she told me about a disturbing incident that she had recently experienced. She was at the US Bank Stadium train station platform and was wearing a mask to prevent her from getting sick. As she was on route to board the train, she passed a couple. The woman said to her as she walked by, "Stop breathing; don't breathe on me."

This left my friend confused at first, but after observing the other people around her realized that the comment was directed at her because she is Asian. Hearing about my friend's experience, as well as similar incidents that my mother has encountered amid this pandemic has made me realize the importance of having organizations like JACL, who work to protect the civil and human rights of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. From this crisis, fear and uncertainty has magnified some people's prejudices, enabling them to equate Asians with the virus. In times of uncertainty people often look to those in power, and it also doesn't help that our president repeatedly calls Covid-19 the Chinese virus and emphasizes an Asian origin.

History shows that when society is struggling with a crisis, it is easy to place blame on a group that can be labeled as outsiders. And it happens that the easiest means of identifying someone as an outsider is their race. Some examples of this in practice are the quarantining of San Francisco's Chinatown as a result of the bubonic plague in the early 1900's, the relocation of Japanese Americans to internment camps during World War 2, and the treatment of Muslims and those of Arab descent after 9/11. In the past, prior to institutions like JACL, the discrimination and oppression directed towards minority groups were not publicly challenged. JACL provides us a larger voice in the ongoing public conversation about racial attitudes and justice in our society. As current events show us, JACL is still needed, despite the progress we've made towards acceptance and equality. It's my hope that thanks to the continuing efforts of JACL, the racist policies of our country's past are not repeated.

Graduate Scholarships Available in September

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. To be eligible, applicants must be JACL members as of September 1, 2020. Applications will be available at <https://www.tcjacl.org/scholarships/apply/> on September 1, 2020.

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 are due 1 November 2020. For more information, please contact scholarship@tcjacl.org

**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, his/her name will be
added to the scholarship database,
and they will receive an application
during his/her senior year.**

Scholarship articles submitted by Pam Dagoberg,
Scholarship Chair

Local Events Cancelled

Two local events, usually held in August and September, have been cancelled for 2020.

The JASM-sponsored Obon Festival, held at Lake Como in August, has been cancelled. The Normandale Garden Festival, held in September, has also been cancelled.

Look for these events in 2021!

“We’re All Americans” Teacher Education Workshop

The Twin Cities served as the fourth of five host sites for the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) workshop titled, “We Are All Americans.” The three day workshop, designed for middle school and high school teachers of history and the humanities, explored the deep moral dilemma young Japanese Americans faced during WWII—the decision of whether or not to serve in the US military while their families were incarcerated without due process in concentration camps by the U.S. government.

Originally planned as an in-person conference, the workshop was successfully conducted online in three morning sessions on July 29, 30 and 31. The Twin Cities workshop was tailored to include topics relevant to the local area, such as the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling, and the resettlement of Japanese Americans to Minnesota.

Over forty teachers and community educators participated in the intensive, highly interactive workshop; the majority of teachers were from Minnesota but because of the virtual nature of the workshop, teachers from several different states were able to be included.

Participants learned about the “Loyalty Question,” discussed historical background readings, went through a hands-on inquiry assignment, and studied a variety of historical narratives, including that of Gordon Hirabayashi, who registered for the draft as a “conscientious objector,” Frank Emi, leader of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee that protested the draft, Harry Fukuhara, who served in the MIS, and Walter Tsukamoto, Legal Officer for the MIS.



Walter Tsukamoto



Gordon Hirabayashi

Frank Emi



Harry Fukuhara



Through small breakout sessions and large group discussions teachers also shared ideas on how they might introduce the topic of loyalty in their classrooms. The sessions were moderated by educational experts, Dr. Grace Morizawa, Dr. Stan Pesick, and Melissa Ayumi Bailey. One of the featured speakers was Frank Abe, author of “John Okada: The Life & Rediscovered Work of Author of No-No Boy” and producer/director of the award-winning PBS documentary film, “Conscience and the Constitution,” which detailed the largest organized resistance to the incarceration of Japanese Americans. Abe discussed how Okada’s life as an MIS veteran may have influenced his decision to write a novel about a young man who answered “no-no” on the Loyalty Questionnaire.

For the Minnesota-specific content, Kimmy Tanaka, Program Supervisor for Historic Fort Snelling, located at Bdote, screened her newly-created video tour of Historic Fort Snelling and the buildings used by the MISLS during World War II (see link below). A shortened version of the documentary, “The Registry,” was also shown. A Q/A session followed with filmmaker, Steve Ozone, and Seiki Oshiro, an MIS veteran and creator of the registry list of MIS veterans. Roi Kawai, Educational Equity Coordinator for Minneapolis Public schools, concluded by encouraging similar discussions that include women and other people of color and orientation.

“As an educator, I was deeply informed by how Grace [Morizawa], San [Pesick], and Kimmy [Tanaka] guided our inquiry into **multiple** historical narratives about the impact of incarceration on people of Japanese ancestry,” stated Kawai. “Through the stories of Japanese Americans who survived incarceration, I grappled with questions about values that carry legacy today: *As a person of Japanese ancestry, what does it mean to be loyal? Whom or what deserves my loyalty? How do I demonstrate my loyalties through acts of service and/or resistance?*” He also connected the workshop to current issues impacting our community, “particularly as related to the recent global demonstrations against state-sanctioned policing and violence that resulted in the murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and in the Twin Cities, Jamar Clark and Philando Castile, these questions continue to carry weight for me.”

Kylie, a social studies teacher at South High School in Minneapolis, reflected: “I was exposed to many new stories and narratives that I never learned when I was in school...It was interesting to learn about this group during WWII with the focus of loyalty and service because I believe many groups of people throughout American history and in the present day

have been expected to be loyal and serve this country even when this country didn't uphold their individual rights."

For Irene Mineoi Amrani, another teacher at South High School, "what definitely stuck out most to me...is being intentional in the language and vocabulary we use. Instead of calling them relocation centers or internment camps, we should call them for what they were - incarceration camps. Instead of saying Japanese Americans were evacuated, we should say they were forcibly removed." She added, "It is essential that these formerly absent narratives be brought to the forefront. There is not one story of any group, so it was refreshing to see multiple narratives in the case studies."

Teachers received a small stipend for participating in the workshop. The workshop was supported by a grant from National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites program, the JA Community Foundation, and the California Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. The Minnesota workshop was co-sponsored by the Twin Cities JACL and the Minnesota Historical Society. During the week prior to the workshop, Carolyn Nayematsu, TC JACL Education Chair, and Kimmy Tanaka met with Dr. Morizawa, who greatly enjoyed her visit here.

A special thank you to Roi and Dr. Kyle Ward of Minnesota State University, Mankato, for their help in recruitment of teachers.

Link to: Military Intelligence Service Language School Tour: Nisei Linguists at Fort Snelling
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=SMaYszBpyC8>

Submitted by the Twin Cities JACL Education Committee

Historic Fort Snelling Teacher Resources

"We Are All Americans"

Teacher Education Workshop | July 2020

- **Videos and Multimedia:**

- [Nisei Linguists at Fort Snelling Tour Film](#)
- [The Registry](#): Film by Steve Ozone and Bill Kubota
- [What Fort Snelling Means to Me with Edwin "Bud" Nakasone](#)

- **More Resources:**

[What Fort Snelling Means to Me with Sally Sudo](#)

[Virtual MISLS App](#) by the University of Minnesota

[The Story of Terry Toyome Nakanishi Video](#)

[Where the Waters Meet: Stories of Historic Fort Snelling](#)

Minnesota Historical Society Resources:

1. [Historic Fort Snelling Website](#)
2. [Northern Lights Connections](#)
History Standards - 6.4.4.21.4
Chapter 16: World War II
3. [Photographs at Fort Snelling from WWII](#) (MNHS Collections)
4. Minnesota Historical Society, Library. Research Guides, Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling.
<http://libguides.mnhs.org/misls>
5. Oral history interview with [Toshio Abe](#)
6. Oral History interview with [Bud Nakasone](#)
7. Articles:
 - a. Ano, Masaharu. "[Loyal Linguists: Nisei of World War II Learned Japanese in Minnesota.](#)" (PDF)
Minnesota 7
 - b. DeCarlo, Peter. "[Military Intelligence Service Language School \(MISLS\)](#) ." MNopedia, Minnesota Historical Society, March 19, 2018.
 - c. Hanson, Krista. "[St. Paul Resettlement Committee.](#)" MNopedia, Minnesota Historical Society. January 14, 2020
 - d. Hanson, Krista. "[Tanbara, Ruth Nomura \(1907–2008\).](#)" MNopedia, Minnesota Historical Society. January 14, 2020.

- **More Resources:**

- Hirose, Stacey Yukari. [Japanese American Women and the Women's Army Corp, 1935-1950](#). N.p., University of California, Los Angeles, 1993.
- McNaughton, James C. ["Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II."](#) Department of the Army, Washington D.C., 2006.
- Moore, Brenda L. [Serving Our Country: Japanese American Women in the Military during World War II](#). United Kingdom, Rutgers University Press, 2003.
- Nakamura, Kelli. ["Military Intelligence Service Language School."](#) *Densho Encyclopedia*. June 10, 2015.
- Nakasone, Edwin M. [The Nisei Soldier: Historical Essays on World War II and the Korean War](#). United States, J-Press Pub., 2007.
- National Japanese American Citizens League. ["A Guide to Language about Japanese Americans in World War II: Understanding Euphemisms and Preferred Terminology."](#) National Japanese American Citizens League Power of Words II Committee. July 7, 2012.
- Okada, John, and Chin, Frank. [No-no Boy](#). United Kingdom, University of Washington Press, 1981.
- Sato, Marie. ["Japanese American Women in Military."](#) *Densho Encyclopedia*. August 2, 2017.
- The Smithsonian National Museum of American History. [The Nisei Soldier Congressional Gold Medal digital exhibition](#)
- The [Stearns History Museum](#) in St. Cloud is hosting the photo exhibit, "Minnesota's Secret Language School" through 2020. Their hours may be limited due to the pandemic.
- Tsuchida, Nobuya. [Reflections: Memoirs of Japanese American Women in Minnesota](#). United States, Pacific Asia Press, 1994.
- Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League. ["Minnesota's Remarkable Secret School for Language."](#) Military Intelligence Service Curriculum Guide, TCJACL. October, 2013.
- [Eight essential Japanese American history books for young readers](#) - List by Densho.

Compiled by Kimmy Tanaka, Program Supervisor, Minnesota Historical Society, Historic Fort Snelling located at Bdote

Recent TC Board Actions

The Twin Executive Board is often asked to sign on to open letters to the community or other organizations or to sponsor events or activities that reflect our common goals. Here is a list of recent requests:

- May 5 – An open letter to the community about the recent incident on the Green Line Route
- May 29 – An open letter to the community: a call for unity and solidarity in the face of violence
- June 4 – Support of an APIA Vote Presidential Town Hall (Asian Pacific Institute)
- July 24 – A letter to the MN Dept of Health from CAAL (Coalition of Asian American Leaders) about testing and safety for low-income, limited English, and multigenerational households with regards to the coronavirus
- August 3 – A letter from AAPI (Asian Pacific Islander American) to the US Congressional leadership requesting minimal policies for the next coronavirus act

Recent National JACL Actions

- May 6-Rebuked Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Bradley who tried to make comparisons between her state's "Safer at Home" guidelines and the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII.
- May 20-JACL Executive Director David Inoue urged Judge James Boasberg to release all families being held in the Family Residential Centers due to COVID-19.
- May 21-Rebuked an Arizona state legislator for comparing COVID-19 mandates to the WWII experience of Japanese Americans.
- June 18-Celebrated the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to ban the termination for the DACA program.
- July 21-Denounced the Presidential Memorandum on Apportionment
- July 22-Applauded the passing of the NO BAN Act in the House. The passing of the

bill would put an end to the administration's Muslim ban and prevent future bans that discriminate on the basis of religion.

- July 28- Applauded Indiana U's apology for banning Japanese American students during WWII.
- August 6-Denounced the action of Judge Dolly Gee which will enable the continued detention of nearly 300 immigrant children and their families by ICE.
- August 7-Denounced the proposed early end to counting for the census. It is the Administration's attempt to change the way people will be counted.

A Virtual Wealth of Opportunities

I hope you have taken Amy's tutorial on learning how to use Zoom seriously. There are so many opportunities in the Twin Cities and all over the United States that you might take advantage of, virtually, of course, by using your computer to watch, listen, and learn. Many are free, but you might have to register ahead of time.

There are 4 local ones.

1. Histories of Anti-Blackness in Japanese American Communities, sponsored by the TCJACL. Three of the 4 workshops have already been held on July 25, August 8 and 22. The last one is on September 5, 2 p.m. CDT. Go to [twincitiesjacl](https://twincitiesjacl.org) and click on its Facebook page.
2. Yosakoi Dance Lesson, posted by JASM. This is a webinar that will be held on Thursday, August 20 at 6 p.m. Go to mn-japan.org and click on Events.
3. Theater MU – they have had evenings of virtual plays, musical acts, and artists' interviews. Go to Theater MU and find its Facebook page.

4. Twin Cities Japanese Conversation, a 5 month old group, that meets on Mondays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. twincitiesjapaneseconversation.com is their website. The purpose of the group is to practice speaking Japanese for native and non native Japanese, beginners or not.

Opportunities from across the Country

1. Densho: densho.org Its mission is to “preserve and share the history of the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans and to promote equality and justice today”; lots of videos and You Tube offerings.
2. Go for Broke National Education Center: www.goforbroke.org One of its major purposes is to provide educational programs about the history of Japanese-American veterans of WWII.
3. Japanese American National Museum: www.janm.org; its mission is to share the experiences of Americans of Japanese ancestry; there are many virtual events offered as well as videos and other online resources. It also has a wonderful store.
4. Asian American Curriculum Project: asianamericanbooks.com Its goal is to bring a variety of Asian American curriculum materials to schools, libraries, and the general public. They have the most complete selection of Asian American books. Check out their Facebook page.

Other Items of Interest

- The TC JACL is looking for someone to represent the chapter at CAAL’s monthly meetings. Let Amy Dickerson know if you are interested.
- An article of interest was published in the June 26th issue of Time magazine or go to: <https://apple.news/AMDjzWgGWR4-fOY1wJWZbxQ>
- In May, the groundbreaking documentary series, Asian Americans, was shown. Did you view it?
- A group called Act to Change presented a Solidarity Convos on June 8. The four speakers discussed what AAPI youth,

parents, educators, and community members can do in solidarity with the Black community.

- The virtual 2020 JACL National Convention planned to open its recent national meetings to the public. This decision included the August 15 Board Meeting and the August 16 Candidate Forum.
- A Fireside Chat on Racial Solidarity will occur between the leaders of JACL and the NAACP on August 19 at 6 p.m. CDT.
- Even though Tsuru’s March for Solidarity had to be cancelled this past June, the group is still very active and planning its 2021 event. Midwest Tsuru held a crane folding Zoom event on May 17. A 2-day gathering called Tsuru Rising! was held on June 6 and 7. Its website tsuruforsolidarity.com will give information on its upcoming events as well as its past newsworthy actions.

COVID-19 Entertainment Recommendation



The poster is from “Crash Landing on You” from Wikipedia as distributed by tvN.

Like me, many of you may have grown up starved for media representation of positive Asian American characters in films or on television. Often Asian women have been depicted as maids or helpless geishas and the men as misogynistic villains, gangsters or kung fu fighters. Yellow faced white actors have played mocking, comedic roles like Mickey Rooney as Mr. Yunioshi in “Breakfast at Tiffany’s.”

COVID19 social distancing has closed a lot of entertainment venues but has presented an opportunity to explore a genre of media which features strong, competent, appealing leading Asian men and attractive female leads who are bold, successful, take charge and strong. The Korean dramas which stream on Netflix (one of the better streaming services for diversity) feature characters who are often nuanced, multifaceted and complex. The plots twist and turn from historical period pieces to political intrigue to romance to comedy all rolled into one plot line (not dissimilar to the unexpected plot twists we saw in “Parasite” the Oscar winning Korean black comedy thriller of 2019).

At a recent board meeting several personal recommendations were bandied around and I share them with you here: “Crash Landing on You”, “Mr. Sunshine” and “Itaewon Class.” The top-rated Korean dramas on cable TV are listed in Wikipedia with their highest nationwide ABG Nielson ratings and here in the following table.

The World of the Married	28.371%	16 May 2020
Sky Castle	23.779%	1 February 2019
Crash Landing on You	21.683%	16 February 2020
Reply 1988	21.683%	16 January 2016
Guardian: The Lonely and Great God	18.680%	21 January 2017
Mr. Sunshine	18.129%	30 September 2018
Itaewon Class	16.548%	21 March 2020

Korean cable dramas and TV miniseries have developed an international following and popularity for their fashion, style, and culture. Exposure to media with Asian protagonists could be a healing step from the conditioned emulation of whiteness which intractably pervades our American entertainment industry. Extrapolating from studies where a computer video player utilizes an “avatar” (a graphical representation of a user’s alter ego or character), people tend to conform in behavior and attitudes to their avatar’s characteristics which influences the user’s behavior and attitudes as well as self-perception. Could it be that feasting on Korean dramas with their Asian “avatars” might have a positive impact on one’s self-perception as an Asian, might slightly raise one’s self confidence and assertiveness, and might simply make one proud?

Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas

Full article, including the following list of films, appeared in the Pacific Citizen, May 22-June 4, 2020

Jon Chu, director of the movie, “Crazy Rich Asians,” and on-demand streaming service, FandangoNOW, provided a list of watch-at-home movies with Asian American auteurs. They are:

Better Luck Tomorrow	Gook	The Farewell	The Joy Luck Club
Life of Pi	Meru	Saving Face	Searching Short Term
The Sixth Sense	Tiger Tail		

Mr. Chu also suggested streaming the following:

The Registry	Never Give Up	Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice
Picture Bride	American Pastime	The Killing of a Chinese Cookie
Days of Waiting	Untouched Business	The Mushroom Club
Toyo Miyatake	Manzanar	Mifune: The Last Samurai
The Manzanar Fishing Club		Life Tastes Good

Staying Connected During the Pandemic

The pandemic has narrowed our options for being physically active with what is happening in the Asian American community. You can access our Facebook page; <https://www.facebook.com/twincitiesjacl/> for information and events.

In addition, the below websites offer a variety of topics for entertainment and/or education:

Act to Change, <https://acttochange.org>, has videos and The Racism is a Virus Tool Kit for use by Asian Americans, https://acttochange.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/200804_PageLayout-2.pdf

Asian American Organizing Project, <http://aaopmn.org/resources/>, offers resources on COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter.

CAAL (The Coalition of Asian-American Leaders), <https://caalmn.org/minneasianstories/>, features Minnesotan Asian stories.

Japan-America Society of MN, <https://japanamericasocietyofminnesota.wildapricot.org/>, offers sessions on a variety of topics. Upcoming sessions are a Yosakoi dance lesson and an introduction to Ainu culture in Japan.

Japan Information Center, you can subscribe to the monthly Japan Journal which lists virtual events offered in the Midwest. https://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/weblett.html

Theater Mu, <https://www.theatermu.org>, presents a variety of virtual events – plays, discussion, interviews. In April, their most popular Mu-tini hour featured George Takei: <https://www.facebook.com/theatermu/videos>

Submitted by Gloria Kumagai

Open Letter to Our Readers

Since this issue is my third one, I would like some feedback from you, our readers. You can email me with your thoughts. Are the newsletters too long? Would you prefer more articles about happenings in the Twin Cities/Minnesota? Are you interested in what the Midwest District and the National JACL are doing? Is there a good balance between the political/social action items and the more light-heartedness of personal interest and “entertainment”? Since many of us are using our computers for news and other information, would you like to have more information about virtual sessions that you could access? Thank you for your input. Your editor, Sylvia Farrells, angelseyf@gmail.com

Obituaries

Unfortunately, JACL has lost a host of persons who were connected to the National JACL or the TC JACL. At the national level, Lillian Kimura, the first female National President from 1992-1994, and Helen Kawagoe, the second woman elected National President and served two terms from 1996 to 2000, passed away. Irene Hirano Inouye, Hawaii's Senator Daniel Inouye's widow, also passed away. She was instrumental in the founding of the Japanese American National Museum. Here in Minnesota, three persons with connections to JACL also passed away in May.

Elvia "Bunnie" Aaze



Elvia "Bunnie" Aaze was 90 years old when she passed away on May 15, 2020. She was a co-founder of the Normandale Japanese Garden, devoting over 53 years and countless hours to her beloved garden. She was also a self-employed wedding florist for many years and an avid gardener. She was indeed the original "Energizer Bunnie".

Bunnie was preceded in death by her husband, Clifford. She is survived by her sister and four children, Lynn, Roxanne, Karen, and Drake, as well as grandchildren Caroline, Sarah, Dan, Matt, Kelly, Vaughn, Grace, and nine great grandchildren.

A private service will be held. Donations are preferred to the Normandale Community College Foundation/Japanese Garden-Bunnie Aaze Memorial.

Peter Abraham Matsumoto



A beloved grandson, son, and brother, Peter passed away on May 5, 2020. He was 39 years old. He was the oldest of 4 children. He graduated from Lourdes High School in Rochester, completed a BS in biology at the U of M, and received advanced degrees in plant biology and library science. Peter was pursuing the study of law at Mitchell Hamline School at the time of his death.

He was a gentleman farmer and a renaissance man. He grew garlic and potatoes; raised sheep and was a friend to his llama and the family dogs. He also played jazz guitar.

Peter is survived by his parents, Jane and Joseph, his grandfather, Yoshio, his 2 sisters and 1 brother.

Memorials preferred to Assumption Church of St. Paul or Little Sisters of the Poor of St. Paul.

Tayeko Moriguchi

Tayeko was 97 years old when she passed away on May 2, 2020. She was born in Seattle, Washington. Her family was forced to move to the Minidoka Relocation Camp in 1942 due to wartime hysteria.

After she and her dad moved to St. Paul, she met her future husband, Tom, on a blind date. They had been married for more than 50 years until his death in 1999. In addition, she was preceded in death by a son and five brothers. She is survived by a sister, two daughters, Judy and Janice, two grandchildren, Jenny (Joe) and Sam.

Tayeko was known for her strong spirit, kind nature, and perseverance in the face of adversity and injustice. She encouraged others to know who they were, to stick up for their rights and the rights of others, to love one another, and to cherish the time that is spent together. She was cheerful and slow to anger.

Remembrances to Chapel View Care Center in Hopkins or to the Nikkei Project.

Japanese 148 Hemlock Place
American Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
Citizens
League TWIN CITIES

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JACL activities, relevant opportunities, and events that occur on shorter notice than the Rice Paper can communicate, please sign up for the TC JACL “Email 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 email changes.

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Thank you,
TC JACL Board of Directors

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