



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 | @TwinCitiesJACL
September 2021

TC JACL Board of Directors:

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

Matthew Farrells: 612-272-2772,
matthew.d.farrells@gmail.com

Mary Kojima: 217-691-7232,
marykojima@gmail.com

Elaine Koyama: 612-940-5002
elainekoyama@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

Clara Imon Pedtke
claraimonpedtke@gmail.com

Paul Imon Pedtke: 847-612-9367,
paulpedtke@gmail.com

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

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

Vinicius Taguchi: 919-345-0886,
taguc006@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, nayem001@umn.edu

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

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

皆さん、こんにちは。

Hello, Everyone.

I hope you have all been enjoying yet another beautiful Minnesota summer with plenty of natural scenes and outdoor dining. This has certainly been another strange year. Many activities remain socially distant or virtual, but that hasn't prevented us from coming together in community.

In July, the JACL held its first virtual National Convention (<https://jacl.org/2021-national-convention>). While it was certainly a different experience, it was still an extremely special demonstration of Japanese American community from all across the US. The programming covered a variety of topics including fundraising, WWII education, community organizing, Nikkei LGBTQ+, and bringing social justice advocacy into your work life.

This year's convention culminated in the National Council Session in which chapter delegates voted to pass the National JACL budget as well as two resolutions. The first resolution was a statement in support of the Black Lives Matter movement that committed JACL chapters to building relationships with Black communities in their areas and committed National JACL to supporting the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the BREATHE Act. The second resolution was a statement condemning the recent anti-Asian violence across the US that identified this surge in violence as part of a long history of discrimination due to systemic racism and reaffirmed JACL's commitment toward advocating for mandatory ethnic studies for K-12 education. Both statements were co-written by leaders of Berkeley, Florin, and Twin Cities chapters and received co-sponsorships from several JACL chapters ahead of Convention.

Even though the virtual convention has ended, the JACL Young Professionals Caucus (YPC) has continued holding regular virtual community spaces (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/jaclypc>) and spotlighting prominent young Japanese Americans on their Speaking Nikkei podcast (<https://tinyurl.com/SpeakingNikkei>). But no matter what your interests or identities, there are always community spaces available to you. Just let us know what you're looking for! (info@tcjacl.org).

Here in Minnesota, we have also kept busy. On April 28th, the TCJACL Social Justice Committee reorganized as the Minnesota chapter of Tsuru for Solidarity (<https://tsuruforsolidarity.org>), which allows them to build their work on the exciting, intersectional platform of the national Tsuru for Solidarity organization as they build partnerships and solidarity to support social justice issues in Minnesota.

On June 12th, the Asian Minnesotan Alliance for Justice (AMAJ), a subset of the Coalition of Asian American Leader (CAAL; <https://caalmn.org>) where TCJACL participates as a core member organization, hosted its first Asian Solidarity Circle, an outdoor, in person coming together over food and crafts of different generations, identities, and ideologies across the Twin Cities Asian community. A second Asian Solidarity Circle was held on July 24th, and the third on August 28th. Sign up for our email blasts to make sure you hear about the next one!

On June 27th, the TCJACL Education Committee's Next Generations workshop series culminated with its tenth and final workshop held in person (with proper COVID-19 precautions) at the East Side Freedom Library in St. Paul (<https://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org>). This series provided tools, tips, and community for anyone interested in learning how to research his/her family history and share it in a compelling presentation. Recordings of the virtual workshop sessions will soon be made available on the TCJACL website (<https://www.tcjacl.org>) with the help of our new Webmaster, Clara Imon Pedtke! She is the sister of Board Member, Paul Imon Pedtke and lives and works in Chicago.

And lastly, please remember that we are still in the midst of a global pandemic with no end in sight. As members of COVID-19 cases begin rising again, I hope that you will take appropriate precautions to stay safe. So please vaccinate yourselves, if you can, mask up, and most importantly,

頑張ってください。
hang in there.

In solidarity,



Vinicius Taguchi
Twin Cities Chapter President
Midwest District First Vice Governor

2021 High School Graduates Honored by Twin Cities JACL

The Twin Cities JACL's 58th Annual Scholarships were awarded in May 2021. The following 2021 high school graduates were honored this year.

Taylor Hara (Hill Murray High School)
Robert Knight (Delano High School)
Laura Maeda (Rosemount High School)

Scholarship awards totaled \$6,250. The following scholarships were awarded:

Dr. Norman Kushino and Kay Kushino Memorial Scholarship – **Laura Maeda**
Susan Matsumoto Memorial Scholarship – **Laura Maeda**
Tom and Martha Oye Memorial Scholarship – **Taylor Hara**
Annie Sakai Girard and Tsyuano Sakai Memorial Scholarship – **Robert Knight**
Earl K. and Ruth Tanbara Memorial Scholarship – **Robert Knight**

Congratulations and best wishes to the 2021 graduates!

If you know of any 2022 high school graduates, please contact Pam Dagoberg at 763-557-2946 or scholarship@tcjacl.org. Local scholarship applications will be available in January. JACL membership is required of scholarship applicants. Some of the known 2022 high school graduates are: Maximillian Bly (Irondale High School), Lilliana Ewoldt (Burnsville High School), Madalyn Hintermeister (Richfield High School), Melanie Hirabayashi, Kenji Scales (Eastview High School), Zack Sikkink (Hopkins High School), Ryder Makato Sitcawich (East Ridge High School).

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 those essays in this Rice Paper publication.)

The Relevance of JACL Today - Essay by Taylor Hara

My grandfather was born in a Japanese internment camp in Utah. My great grandparents all spent time in the internment camps. The acts of social injustice are very close to me. My family shared that the bond with other Japanese Americans and support from this group was the main things that kept my family's spirits alive during that awful time period. I can't imagine being asked to round up everything I could in one suitcase and then be jettisoned from my home. The JACL meant a lot to my family then and still means a lot today.

I truly hope nothing as devastating as Japanese American internment camps ever happen again in the United States. History showed just how unjust and unfair the treatment was for Japanese Americans. Family members remember the bravery from several of my relatives that fought for our country while their families were detained in internment camps. My great uncle's 442^d battalion was one of the most decorated during WWII. It truly demonstrates that one race or one group of people cannot be universally defined as the same or all the enemy. Each individual needs to be judged by their own merit. It is a lesson that I hope will never be forgotten.

Hopefully, horrific situations like the Japanese internment camps won't happen again, but other forms of anti-Asian sentiment exist. I see it with latest generations of Asian Americans immigrating over and how they are viewed and treated as they try to assimilate. It is easy to point fingers at other Nations and its people as the reason behind global issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 3800 reported Asian hate crimes have happened since the COVID-19 pandemic. It was shameful how our own president dubbed COVID-19 as the "Asian Flu" to help drive Xenophobic views toward Asians.

It is important to think about the future, advocate for fair treatment for all races, and promote policies that help equalize the playing field for minorities. However, it is equally important to remember the past and remember situations that should never be repeated. Recklessly grouping people as "different" or the potential enemy can quickly lead to social injustice. It is up to groups like the JACL to help defend social justice of Japanese Americans and all Asians through education, policy, and voices being heard.

As my family's current 5th Japanese American generation, I see it is up to me to help remember the past and be a voice for the future. As each generation carries forward, Japanese surnames are lost and each generation moves further away from some of the traditions and values of Japanese culture. The rich traditions of my Japanese ancestors from the value of family, work ethic, education, and fair treatment of others are important lessons to ensure they are handed down to future generations. Food, arts, history, and perseverance are all part of what makes being Japanese American so unique. It is important to educate and share valuable Japanese traditions and what was endured and sacrificed to allow me to live the American dream.

I want to be an advocate to my generation and help lead and influence current and future generations to stand up for yourself and others. It is up to me to help stop the ignorance and marginalizing of minority groups especially toward the Asian community. I want to have the courage and perseverance my relatives demonstrated when social injustice and racism needed someone to take a stand. The JACL provides an audience and platform to help ensure goals of equality are met moving forward.

The Relevance of JACL Today - Essay by Robert Knight

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) was founded in 1929 with the purpose of protecting the rights of all American citizens. Although the JACL has positively impacted all Americans, the main focus has been on the Asian Pacific American community. With the increase in attacks on Asian Americans, the work of the JACL is just as relevant today. The JACL also educates people on the history of Japanese Americans, works to protect civil liberties for people of color and organizes programs intended to help other communities.

The existence of the JACL has helped me learn more about, not only the history of Japanese Americans, but my own family's history as well. As I wrote this essay, I ended up talking to my mother about the experiences of my family. Like most Japanese Americans during the time, both my grandparents were in camps during World War II. Through the information provided by the local JACL, I learned more details about the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) at Fort Snelling. I learned that my family came to Minnesota because my great uncles signed up to serve in the MISLS. We also discussed the current state of America and how Asian Americans are being treated. In general, the JACL has increased my knowledge of Japanese Americans, and I am sure it has done so with missions of others.

Along with spreading awareness of Japanese American history, JACL has also stood up for the rights of all Americans. Over the last year, JACL has issued several statements in support of the protests against police brutality towards African Americans and in support of the Black Lives matter Movement. JACL has been strong in calling out the prison camps in Texas that hold Mexican children. The JACL has used its voice to bring awareness to the victims in the recent increase in discrimination and violence towards Asian Americans.

JACL doesn't just talk about helping minorities either; they have many different programs for that exact purpose. One example is their JACL/OCA leadership summit, which is a conference that helps participants learn more about policies affecting Asian Americans. Another is the Bridging Communities Program, which combines Asian Americans with Arab Americans to discuss racial profiling. Finally, there are many different scholarships that the JACL provides that gives away over \$70,000 to students across the country.

In conclusion, the relevance of JACL today is as critical today as it was in the beginning of the organization. While the United States has come a long way from the days of the internment camps, recent events show that we still need the JACL to help spread awareness of Japanese American history and to stand up for the rights of all people.

The Relevance of JACL Today – Essay by Laura Maeda

The Japanese American Citizens League plays an important role in supporting people of color. With the increasing amount of Asian hate that has arisen over the past few months, it is more important than ever to bring awareness to the struggles that the Asian community faces everyday. Groups, such as JACL, work diligently to do just that. They are driven to withstand the forces of oppression that include racial and regional discrimination. They strive to show the general population that a Japanese American citizen is an American citizen, just like any other person. No one should feel scared to walk the streets of their neighborhood because someone may commit a violent act against them. An American citizen is an American citizen no matter the race, gender, religion, political affiliation, or socioeconomic status. We should all receive the same rights and be treated in the same way.

As a Japanese American citizen myself, I feel subjected to the stereotype of the "model minority." This stereotype can be seen positively as many Asians have the innate ability to excel in many areas of society and are often viewed as law abiding citizens. However, this stereotype places an incredible amount of pressure on our community. Not only that, but it is often unrealistic expectations that are placed. Many Asians feel that they are not allowed to speak up and ask for help as that is a sign of weakness and failure to understand certain content. Being a part of a society that is constantly comparing themselves to one another, we tend to feel the need to seek approval from other communities. This is mainly accomplished by silencing ourselves and agreeing with others without having our own voices heard and opinions spoken. Especially for young people, this can have a highly negative effect on mental health and overall performance. Asian youth push themselves to the extreme in order to fulfill these unrealistic expectations so they are not looked down upon. There are many organizations working hard to ensure that Asian Americans are able to speak their minds and have their voices heard. With the ever expanding technological advancements, it has never been easier to speak out on situations that arise in our society.

Not only do I feel that the Asian American voices are neglected in some instances, but I feel like our history is also being overlooked and forgotten. In my history classes, there are many times when the concentration camps from the 1940s are described in detail over a lengthy period of time. However, some of the major events involving Asians are only briefly described. One event that stands out to me is the internment camps. My grandfather was in one of these camps when he was a teen. Although I never got to hear him tell me his story in-person, I was able to learn about his experience through the Oral History Project by the JACL and the Densho Digital Repository. It is projects and organizations like these that are making sure the past and current struggles of the Asian American community are never forgotten and neglected.

Graduate School Applications Available in September

The Twin Cities JACL is pleased to announce the availability of two graduate level scholarships to be awarded later this year. Applications are due November 1, 2021. Scholarship applications will be available on September 1, 2021 for students currently enrolled in a post-secondary educational or a graduate level program. To be eligible, applicants must be JACL members as of September 1, 2021. Applications will be available at <https://www.tcjacl.org/scholarships/apply/>. 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. For more information, please contact scholarship@tcjacl.org. Submitted by Pam Dagoberg

A BUSY 7 MONTHS FOR THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE “Next Generations” Project Concludes with an In-Person Gathering in June

The Twin Cities JACL Education Committee received a grant from the 2020 JACL Legacy Fund for “The Next Generations: A New Telling of the Japanese American WWII Experience.”

With the aging of our Nisei community, the project was proposed as a way to expand the chapter’s speakers bureau by training our younger generations to carry on efforts to educate the broader community about the Japanese American WWII experience and its relevance today. Because younger generations lack first-hand experience, the workshop sessions were designed to provide a foundation on Japanese American history and assist in creating impactful PowerPoint presentations that integrate historical background with personal family history and stories.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, planned in-person workshops were changed to a virtual format. This modification enabled us to expand the number of workshop sessions, increase accessibility to participants outside of the Twin Cities

Cities area, and collaborate with two non-profit organizations. Twenty-three registrants represented the Sansei, Yonsei, and Shin-Issei generations. The Sudo family, consisting of Sally, her son Rich, and grandson Ryan, spanned three generations.

Ten workshops were held from December 2020 through June 2021. The first nine sessions were virtual, and the last session was held in person. Densho and the Go For Broke National Education Center each presented a workshop. The other workshops were presented by members of the TCJACL Education Committee who have expertise on specific topics. To view the recorded Zoom sessions, visit:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OPoC0BuiPvVpCnWnnVnC5xZclNr7uCJH-xBJR0VMLMw/edit?usp=sharing>

Workshop 1: Introductory/informational meeting was facilitated by Carolyn Nayematsu.

Workshop 2: Densho 101 was presented by Densho staff from Seattle, WA: Danielle Higa, Fund Development Manager; Caitlin Oiye Coon, Digital Archivist; and Sara Beckman, Asst. Digital Archivist.

Workshop 3: Sample PowerPoint. Sally Sudo presented her PowerPoint, which served as a model or template that could be used by others. Along with information about her family's immigration to the US, settlement in Seattle, incarceration, service in the MIS, and re-settlement in Minnesota, Sally incorporated background on the root causes of the Japanese American incarceration and concluded with a discussion of how the WWII experiences of Japanese Americans relates to the present.

Workshop 4: How to Prepare a Presentation. Karen Tanaka Lucas presented, "Customizing an Off the Shelf Talk: A Short-cut to Telling Our Own Story." She explained where she used the slides and captions from Sally Sudo's presentation and where she substituted Sally's slides with her own photographs and graphics in order to tell the unique story of her family's WWII experiences. She ended with a discussion of parallels to today and a call to action.

Kimmy Tanaka gave a tutorial on using Google slides/PowerPoint.

Workshop 5: Historical Background was presented by John Matsunaga in his presentation titled, "Why Did the Japanese American Incarceration Happen? Pre-war Anti-Asian Racism."

Workshop 5: Historical Background was presented by John Matsunaga in his presentation titled, "Why Did the Japanese American Incarceration Happen? Pre-war Anti-Asian Racism."

Workshop 6: Military Intelligence Service Language School. Peggy Doi presented her PowerPoint titled, "Saburo (Bill) Doi: Influences that Shaped the Man, Husband, Father, Provider, Human Rights Activist." She showed how she added a video clip to personalize her presentation, and shared her father's WWII experiences including training and work at the Fort Snelling MISLS.

"Nisei Linguists at Fort Snelling," a video tour created by Kimmy Tanaka, showed the MISLS buildings used for classes and housing. The rigorous training and daily life of the Japanese American men and women who received Japanese language instruction were described.

Workshop 7: Resettlement in Minnesota & Genealogy 101. Krista Hanson shared her research on "Japanese American Resettlement to St. Paul during WWII: Less Than Six Degrees of Separation between Japanese Minnesotans." Contributions of Japanese American pioneers, including Ruth and Earl Tanbara, Kimi Yamada Yanari, and Reverend Daisuke Kitagawa of the Episcopal Church were presented. She also gave tips on searching for genealogical/family history and how to manage the information.

Workshop 8: Japanese American Redress. Andrew Aoki presented a historical overview of the redress movement, including the influence of governmental and legislative leaders and organized efforts. He concluded with a discussion of the current reparations movement for African Americans.

Workshop 9: Contributions of Japanese Americans in the Military during WWII. Andie Kimura, Education Manager of the Go for Broke National Education Center in Los Angeles, CA, talked about the critical role played by Japanese American men and women in the MIS, 442nd/100th, Army Nurse Corps, Cadet Nurse Corps, Women's Army Corps and other units during WWII. Gloria Kumagai presented the PowerPoint she created about her father titled, "Sharing the Story of Hisashi (Butch) Kumagai: 442nd Regimental Combat Team G Company."

Workshop 10: Final meeting/reception at the East Side Freedom Library in St. Paul. Carolyn Nayematsu facilitated a wrap up of the project. The final meeting was a chance for participants to meet face-to-face for the first time.

This project had a positive impact in several ways. It helped to strengthen relationships within our Japanese American community, provided tools for participants to delve deeper into their family histories, and increased the number of speakers who could fulfill requests by schools and community groups. Future opportunities to showcase PowerPoint presentations include the “Day of Remembrance” program in February 2022 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, Smithsonian Institution’s “Righting A Wrong” traveling exhibition at the future Minnesota History Center in Spring 2022, and the opening of the new visitor center at Historic Fort Snelling at Bdote

In the concluding remarks of her presentation, Karen Tanaka Lucas encouraged community members to learn, to be vigilant and to use their voices to speak up and educate others. The overall objective and the importance of this project is encapsulated in her statement: “The Japanese American WWII story is one about racism and the blatant violation of equal justice under the laws laid out in our Constitution. Our experience compels us to call out those violations whenever they resurface, one story at a time.”

We are grateful to the JACL Legacy Fund for supporting this project. Core organizing committee members were: Carolyn Nayematsu (chair), Sally Sudo, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Kimmy Tanaka and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas. Others who assisted with the project were Yuichiro Onishi for giving the core committee a tutorial on Zoom, and Patti Kameya for translating archival letters, postcards, and photo captions, some of which were written in obsolete forms of Japanese. Submitted by Carolyn Nayematsu

Zoom Workshop Participants -June 8, 2021



. Participants at the final meeting/reception, East Side Freedom Library, June 27, 2021



Thanks to Recent Donors of the Education Committee

The Education Committee would like to extend a thank you to the following generous donors who have supported the educational activities of TCJACL in the last year. While we have had some amazing and generous gifts over the past years, we would like to begin to more regularly acknowledge our current donors publicly.

The Education Committee recently completed a series of 10 workshops to develop the next generations of public speakers who will go on sharing our community's experiences. We participated in the production of "Armed with Language" a public television documentary special on the MISLS aired this spring. We will begin planning soon for 2022 events which include the Minnesota History Center's opening of the Smithsonian Exhibit "Righting a Wrong" about the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans. We will plan programming around the exhibit as well as the opening of the new Visitor Center at Historic Fort Snelling which will feature the stories of the Military Intelligence Service Language School and the Nisei WACs who trained there. Education Committee Members have worked with museum staff over the last two years to develop the visitor center exhibits.

Thank you to our most current donors:

Les and Karen Suzukamo

Stearns County History Museum in honor of Hannah Semba

James and Ann Widtfeld in memory of Mikio Kiriara

Cheryl Hirata-Dulas and Dan Dulas in memory of Marian Kikuchi

Cheryl Hirata-Dulas and Dan Dulas in honor of John and Jacqueline Nakasone

Cheryl Hirata-Dulas and Dan Dulas in memory of Yoshio Matsumoto

Cheryl Hirata-Dulas and Dan Dulas in memory of Peter Matsumoto

Amy Dickerson in memory of Kristen Barwick

Steve and Karen Lucas in memory of Marian Kikuchi

Steve and Karen Lucas in memory of Yoshio Matsumoto

Also, a big thanks to older funds which have been used for programs in the last year:

Don Maeda Funds

Helen Tsuchiya Funds

Albert Tsuchiya Funds

Mikio Kiriara Funds

Jim Kiriara Funds

Kogen Taiko and St. Olaf Taiko

And our deepest appreciation to all the individuals and groups who have made donations and koden contributions over the previous years to the Educational Funds of the TCJACL. Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas

U.S. Army General Nakasone on Wall of Fame

U.S. Army 4-star General Paul Nakasone, son of Bud and Mary Nakasone, returned to his hometown this spring to be honored as the 2021 inductee to the White Bear Area High School 's Wall of Fame.

On May 20, 2021, the Class of 1982 graduate was recognized for his service and accomplishments. Promoted to 4-star general in May 2018, General Nakasone has served our country for over three decades, including deployments to Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

In his current roles as the Commander of the U.S. Cyber Command, Director of the National Security Agency, and Chief of the Central Security Service, General Nakasone's responsibilities include conducting cyberspace operations to defend the U.S. and overseeing the protection of national communications systems.

The full article, "High School Honors 4-star Grad" was written by Debra Neutkens and published in the May 5, 2021 issue of the *White BearPress*. The article can be found at: https://www.presspubs.com/white_bear/news/high-school-honors-4-star-grad/article_7ccae0a0-ad56-11eb-80ee-3b5240d4b4b4.html.

Congratulation to General Nakasone and his family!



World War II History Round Table- Upcoming Programs

The World War II History Round Table, in its 35th year, has an interesting schedule of speakers who will be presenting on various topics related to WWII, including a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor to be held on December 14, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Programs are held at the Minnesota History Center on the second (and fourth) Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. with student outreach beginning at 6 p.m.

The 2021-2022 schedule can be found at www.mn-ww2roundtable.org. The first program is on September 14. Richard Frank, author of *tower of Skulls*, will show the origins of the conflict in the Pacific Theater.

The organization is also planning a victory tour to Europe, visiting areas/cities such as Luxembourg, Rothenburg, Nuremberg, Munich, and Dachau.

For more information, contact Colonel (Retired U.S. Army) Don Patton at 612-867-5144

A New Book on World War II

Retired Colonel Don Patton (see contact information above) has received a notice from the University of Nebraska Press called *Enemies among Us: Relocation, Internment, Repatriation of German, Italian, and Japanese Americans during WWII*. The author is John Schmitz.

Colonel Patton has not yet read the book, but if you like World War II history, you might want to read the book and then contact him with your opinions.

The *Rice Paper* would also welcome a review of the book. Contact the editor at angelseyf@gmail.com

Articles on page 9 submitted by Cheryl Hirata Dulas

Condolences to the Matsumoto Family



Yoshio Matsumoto, a long-time member of the Twin cities JACL, passed away on June 3, 2021 at the age of 99 years. He lived a remarkable life an active member and contributor to any cultural, educational, church, and community organizations.

Written with heartfelt care by his granddaughter, Molly, Yo's obituary states: "His family mourns the loss of their beloved patriarch, Yoshio, which means 'Righteous Man'. He embodied this quality throughout his life in his devotion to Alice and

Will remember his quiet and dignified presence, his unflappable nature, his sharp mind, his discerning taste, and his generous hospitality."

An intimate memorial service was held in June at St. Paul's United church of Christ where Yo and his late wife, Alice, were members for sixty years. A larger memorial service will be held later this year in Berkeley, CA, prior to Yo's final journey to Colma Cemetery in San Francisco where he will be reunited with Alice who passed away in 1997. Below are links to Yo's obituaries:

<https://memorials.muellermemorial.com/yoshi-matsumoto/4637026/service-details.php>

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/twincities/name/yoshio-matsumoto-obituary?pid=199039445>

Submitted by Cheryl Hirata Dulas

Children's Program Interest Survey

The TCJACL board is putting together ideas for a children's program (to occur when it is safe to do so). The goal is to connect kids and parents in the Twin Cities Japanese American community. Please complete this 2-minute survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/52S336X> so we can gauge interest and hear your thoughts.

Please reach out to Paul Imon Pedtke (paulpadtke@gmail.com) or Amy Dickerson (adickerson323@gmail.com) with any questions or comments.

New Books for Children - Check these out!

The JACL NY Chapter celebrated Children's Day with a special reading by author/illustrator Katie Yamasaki! She read her book, *Fish for Jimmy*, about one Japanese American family's story of love and devotion while incarcerated during World War II. She is currently working on her 8th published book for children. Visit her website at <https://www.katieyamasaki.com/>

Remember the Olympic ice-dancing sister/brother duo who won Olympic medals? The Shibutani siblings (Maia and Alex) are now WRITERS of a series of books called *Kudo Kids*. The second book in the series is *The Mystery in Manhattan* features middle schoolers, Mika and Andy, who are called upon to help their Aunt Kei find a dress, stolen before their aunt's fashion show.



Upcoming Events – Local and National Save the Dates!

Densho Anniversary Gala

2021 is Densho's 25th anniversary! [Save the date for Saturday, October 23rd from 5-6:30 p.m.](#) as we celebrate our roots and find new ways to shepherd our community's history into the future. Join us for an evening of storytelling, art, music, and community. This even will be virtual so that our supporters from across the country and world can participate. Stay tuned for program announcements and exciting opportunities to get involved.

In honor of our 25th anniversary, please take a moment to share a special message or memory on our [Dedication Wall!](#) More about the wall soon.

The National Education Committee of JACL Presents

The Japanese American Experience Curriculum and Resource Guide

An Edcamp-Style Teacher Training
On Zoom

Saturday, September 18, 2021
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
FREE

Learn more and register here:
<https://forms.gle/puXUVH1rrFzGeBsS6>

National Social Studies Convention Coming

The annual convention of the National Council of Social Studies teachers will be held in Minneapolis on Friday, November 19, and Saturday, November 20. Several of TCJACL's Education Committee will be participating.



Author Talk – Susan Kamei Saturday, September 25th 4:00-5:30 p.m. (CDT)

In this virtual program, Susan Kamei will discuss her new book, *When Can We Go Back to America?: Voices of Japanese American Incarceration* during WWII and the lessons that she hopes readers of all ages will take from it.

JACL members should email publicprograms@janm.org with the subject line "JACL tickets – When Can We Go Back to America?" to receive FREE admission to the program. Zoom information will be sent directly to all who register.

Registration is now open
www.jampilgrimages.com/tadaima2021



In 2018, two filmmakers, Kimiko Marr and Marissa Fujimoto, were awarded a Japanese American Confinement Sites grant to produce Tadaima. They have been able to visit all 10 WRA camps and 16 assembly centers and then created a virtual pilgrimage of their experiences because all of the in-person pilgrimages had been canceled. Proceed at your own pace in any order you want.



SAVE THE DATE

SUKIYAKI Lunch

Saturday, November 13, 2021

Noon – 2 p.m.

Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church
9920 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington

The Twin cities JACL Board is bringing back the Sukiyaki Lunch that we used to prepare annually, selling up to 1000 meals. This year we are starting out with serving a modest 100 meals. We invite you to join us and celebrate a traditional lunch, consisting of sukiyaki, rice, cucumber salad, and dessert. This event is replacing the Chrysanthemum Banquet we have held in past years.

The cost will be \$10 for TCJACL members, \$12 for non-members, and \$5 per child under 10

There will be a boutique sale at the lunch, so come, browse, and purchase! It has been several years since an in-person event has been held, so plan to catch up with friends and make new acquaintances.

Because we want to limit the number of meals to 100, please reserve your spot starting October 1. Email Sylvia Farrells at angelseyf@gmail.com (preferred) or call her at 952-888-8771.

We Need Volunteers!

We need volunteers for this event. Please contact Amy Dickerson at adickerson323@gmail.com or at 612-554-5023, if you can help. The different volunteer positions are:

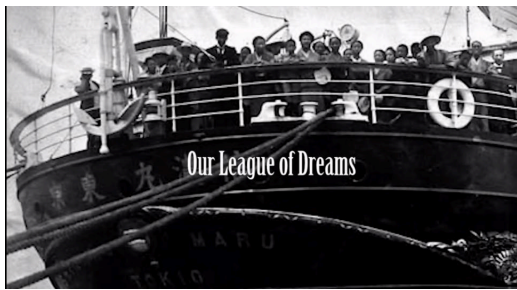
Friday, November 12	9 a.m. to noon	meal prep, table set up
Saturday, November 13	10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	meal prep, cooking
	10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.	set up
	11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.	boutique sales, servers and bussers
	1:45 p.m.	clean up

We are carefully watching the COVID numbers and will let you know if we need to change the date of the event.

Ongoing Programs

“Our League of Dreams – Documentary of the JACL” Fundraiser

JACL National and film producer Lane Nishikawa have agreed to work together to produce the first educational documentary film about the 90-year history of the JACL. The film received a \$25,000 JA Community Foundation Grant Award to cover the costs of shooting in the first 5 cities. More dollars are needed to shoot in 12 additional cities. Once the film is completed, JACL and Lane will work with any JACL chapter that wants to hold a public film screening event. PLEASE DONATE ON [GoFundMe](#).



JACL Announces Centennial Education Fund Campaign to Raise \$3 Million



On Friday, July 16, David Lin, JACL VP for Planning and Development, launched this fund to raise \$3 million for JACL. “We will raise the much-needed funds to sustain the JACL in furthering its mission to educate Americans about the tragic lessons of Japanese American incarceration during World War II, and in envisioning the next 100 years of civil rights in America...”

Former Secretary of Commerce and Transportation, Norman Mineta, encouraged JACL members to give to the campaign to reaffirm the commitment to its mission of public education.

Japanese American Museum of Oregon

Portland, Oregon recently celebrated the grand opening of the Japanese American Museum of Oregon which is located in the heart of what was once the city’s historic Nihonmachi. The virtual ceremony took place on May 6 with participation from special guests, actor George Takei and Consul General of Japan Masaki Shiga.

The JAMO staff who were interviewed said, “It was always a dream to secure a permanent home with the boundaries of what was once Portland’s large and vibrant Nihonmachi. The importance and commitment to remain in this culturally significant neighborhood couldn’t be stressed enough as the museum and the Japanese American Historical Plaza are the only vestiges left” of a once 10-12 blocks of Old Town. The purchase of the Old Town Lofts was made; it took over a year to complete the renovations.

Open hours are Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. by reservation only. Call 503-224-1458. Cost for adults is \$8 and \$6 for seniors. Masks required

Go for Broke Stamp Officially Issued

The long-awaited U.S. forever stamp honoring Nisei soldiers who valiantly fought during World War, is now available for purchase, as of June 3, 2021. Several dedication ceremonies were held across the country, including one on June 4 in Los Angeles, the first City of Issuance.

Shiroku “Whitey” Yamamoto of Hawaii, a U.S. Army Pvt. 1st class, is the soldier depicted on the stamp. The movement to have such a stamp began over 15 years ago. The founders of the Stamp Our Story organization - Aiko King, the late-Chiz Ohara, and Fusa Takahashi – began the grassroots campaign to recognize the veterans after seeing displays of nisei soldiers at the Japanese American National Museum. A special state Senate resolution was presented to The SOS (Stamp Our Story) organizers.



“Exiled to Motown”

“Exiled to Motown” is JACL Detroit’s new exhibit which opened on July 16 at the Detroit Historical Museum.. It reflects the Japanese American community in metro Detroit.

For over 10 years, Mary Ishino and Soh Suzuki discussed the fact that a Japanese American community did not exist in Detroit. However, in 2015, a book of oral histories, collected by Mary, was published. The book became the precursor of this 2021 exhibit.

“Exiled to Motown” refers to a large number of previously incarcerated Japanese and Japanese Americans who were leaving camp to settle in the Midwest/East Coast.

A JACL Legacy Grant is funding this traveling exhibit, comprised of more than 160 wall panels, in addition to documents, photographs, and over 50 personal objects.

The exhibit ends in Detroit in mid-October.

Every Day Is a Gift

Every Day Is a Gift, a 288-page memoir, written by U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, was published in March 2021. The book tells how Tammy was born in Thailand in 1968, grew up in Singapore and Indonesia, and spent her teen years in Hawaii.

She explains why she joined the Army and trained to become a helicopter. In 2004 her helicopter was shot down in Iraq by a rocket-propelled grenade, resulting in the loss of both her legs and a severe injury to an arm. She retired from the Army National Guard as a lieutenant colonel.

Also included in her memoir is her comeback – to the U.S. Senate from Illinois in 2017 and then motherhood. She has two daughters, the oldest born in 2014 and the second in 2018. Her stories contain much adversity in her life at first, but then recalls the triumphs she has experienced so far.

Should you read the book and want to write a review or commentary, send to angelseyf@gmail.com.

b

Spring and Summer Happenings

Highlights from Recent Board Meetings

May 18, 2021

- Marissa Dulas and Hannah Hintermeister, TCJACL summer interns, have been hired to work on digitizing our newsletters, photos, and news clipping in preparation for organizing our chapter’s history timeline for its 75th anniversary next year.
- TPT aired the MISLS documentary, “Armed with Language”, featuring several TCJACL members.
- Chosen as delegates for July’s National Convention are President Vini Taguchi and Haruko Yukioka.
- As the National Convention is virtual, the TC chapter will pay the registration fee for any TC chapter member who would like to virtually participate in any of the sessions and workshops.
- Cheryl Hirata Dulas is handling the public relations role on behalf of TCJACL.
- The Tsuru for Solidarity subcommittee of the TCJACL’s Social Justice Committee organized as “Tsuru for Solidarity – Minnesota”. This action allows more flexibility and autonomy to youth and social justice programs.
- Membership has grown 12% since April; Facebook has 352 followers, Instagram has 235

June 15, 2021

- The National Youth Council is hosting IGTV (video app by Instagram) - live recordings of interviews with prominent AAPI. Our youth representative, Kendal, and his group, is examining the area of L.A.'s Little Tokyo.
- Vini and Hana Maruyama drafted a letter to a Boston auction house objecting to the sale of a sacred Ojibwe scroll. The scroll was returned to White Earth after a nationwide action and letter writing campaign.
- A June 24th "Towards Freedom Messaging Workshop" on the criminalization of immigrants and detention was announced.
- Membership has grown 12% since April; Facebook has 352 followers, Instagram has 235
- The Tsuru for Solidarity subcommittee of the TCJACL's Social Justice Committee organized as "Tsuru for Solidarity – Minnesota". This action allows more flexibility and autonomy to youth and social justice programs.
- Membership has grown 12% since April; Facebook has 352 followers, Instagram has 235

July 20, 2021

- Todd Tsuchiya spoke at an unveiling and blessing of a piece of sculpture called "Angels Unawares". The ceremony and celebration occurred on Sunday, August 1, at the Basilica of St. Mary's in Minneapolis. The sculpture depicts migrants and refugees from all cultural and racial backgrounds
- Kendal, our youth representative, reported that the workshops planned by youth, such as working under the oppressive lens (our president, Vini, was a speaker) and advocating for change in one's own community
- Membership-154 active members; Facebook – 361 followers, Instagram – 304 followers
- Rio Saito of JASM would like to sponsor a panel to discuss "Cultural Appropriation". Discussion continues on who the panelists should be, besides white identity artists who do Japanese art. She would like TCJACL involved by suggesting JA artist(s) who are social activists who would speak on the topic.
- The Chrysanthemum Banquet Committee has decided to hold a sukiyaki dinner in preparation for next year's anniversary. See the flyer on page 13.
-

August 17, 2021

- TCJACL is interested in collaborating with smaller, less active chapters in MDC. One suggestion is to include them in our activities when they occur on Zoom. Our chapter would also like a newsletter exchange.
- There is a concern about the loss of a dedicated Midwest District Director. Now the job is being handled, part time, by Phillip Ozaki, who has responsibilities to the National Office as well. The issue will be discussed at the upcoming MDC meeting on September 25. The MDC will be open to members who are interested in its working meeting and business. A commemoration later that day will be held for the anniversary of Redress Hearings in Chicago.
- Membership-156 active members; Facebook-362 followers; Instagram-316 followers
- Plans are being made to show the film, "Manzanar Diverted", about the Japanese American incarceration and the displacement effects on Native Americans.
- Regarding the discussion on cultural appropriation – it has been suggested that an academic viewpoint is needed. CAAL would promote this event and handle registration and advertising. TCJACL needs more details before a financial commitment can be made.
- The Board was made aware of a training program for non-profit development called Raise MN. More information will be forthcoming.
- A strategic planning session is planned for Saturday, September 18 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Newsletter Staff

Editor – Sylvia Farrells Webmaster – Clara Imon Pedtke Mails newsletters – Chris Noonan

Two \$10 Million Gifted

The Japanese American National Museum and the East West Players, both located in Los Angeles's Little Tokyo area, were recently gifted with \$10 million each by MacKenzie Scott, the billionaire philanthropist and ex-wife of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. The announcement was made on June 15.

Two hundred eighty-six organizations received \$2.7 billion this year. Scott noted that the organizations were of "high-impact" with emphasis on the arts, racial justice, higher education, and combating domestic violence.

Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of JANM, said that "we are greatly grateful for this landmark gift. Snhal Desai, producing artistic director of the East West Players, replied, we are "incredibly honored to be a recipient of...the extraordinary philanthropy

T-shirt Sale raises over \$1000

Owner Emi Nijiya of the Jackalope Tattoo Shop in northeast Minneapolis had an idea for a fund raise. This commercial establishment then held a dedicated fund raiser for JACL. More than 30 T-shirts were sold and the amount made was \$1210!

Our heartfelt thanks go to Emi and their shop for having the idea and then making it happen.



"Communities Forged under Fire" The 51st JACL National Convention



Despite the virtual nature of the three day convention, delegates and members with computers in hand, were able to participate of National Council sessions, plenaries, and workshops as well as the Sayonara Gala. President Jeff Moy related that the last year and a half taught him that "it's that we are more resilient as ever...are willing to pull together and continue to learn so that we can continue to support each other as a community...to dream about what you want JACL to be and then take those dreams and made them reality."

JACL Executive Director David Inoue then reported on the work JACL has done in the past year, such as helping to pass the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, advocating that education is a key for reducing hate incidents, supporting the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program, HR 40, and establishment of a commission, similar to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, and collaborating with Tsuru for solidarity and the Kakehashi Program. Staff expansion is also needed for expanding work in civil rights.

JACL Secretary/Treasurer Matt Farrells outlined three key business items: 1) 2021-22 budget surplus-\$18K in 2021, \$90K in 2022; 2) Revenue-\$1.75 million in 2021, \$2.04 million in 2022; and 3) Expenses- \$1.73 million in 2021, \$1.95 million in 2022. He also mentioned having a separate reserve and not having to draw from the endowment.

On Sunday, July 28, the convention concluded with a nearly seven hour deliberative session of its members. There was thoughtful and respectful discussion and 2 resolutions passed with overwhelming majorities.

See the two resolutions on the next page.

Two Resolutions Passed by Convention Delegates

Resolution One-Reaffirmed JACL's commitment to support Black and other communities whose civil rights, liberty, and well-being are denied by white supremacy and systematic racism. It further committed the organization to seek to be actively anti-racist in its actions and policies. The resolution also commits its membership and chapters to work towards the passage of legislation such as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the BREATHE Act which remain under consideration by the United States Congress.

Resolution Two-Passed by the National Council in response to the escalating hate crimes and incidents targeting Asian Pacific Americans in the past year; Called upon media, elected officials, and community leadership to denounce racial discrimination, white supremacy, and xenophobia, that is often at the root of anti-Asian incidents. The resolution affirmed the need for mandatory ethnic studies curriculum in K-12 education as a means to mitigate and to prevent future racially motivated violence.

For the full statement go to the JACL website.

First Female BSA Scout Honored

Michigan's Isabella Hom was honored as one of the first female Eagle Scouts at an official national recognition ceremony this past spring. Her troop is from Troy, Mi, and she served as the bugler for the national BSA ceremony webcast "Be the Change".

Isabella said, "I am proud to represent the next generation of scouting...I learned the value of...organization and communication...I am glad that girls now have the chance to participate in the same Boy Scout program that their brothers and fathers have experienced.

Attaining the rank of an Eagle Scout is a rare feat. Only 4% of all scouts attain this achievement. Isabella had 2 years to obtain 31 merit badges (13 required for Eagle), 6 months as a Life Scout, and lead and complete a community service project.

Isabella's twin brother and uncle are Eagle Scouts. Her dad and grandfather were Boy scouts. Her family are long time Detroit JACL members.

Congratulations to All Olympians – Especially Those Who Are Japanese-Americans

Were you aware of the Olympians who shared at least one thing in common with us who read the Rice Paper and are JACL members? Our common bond is the fact that we are all Japanese American. Some of the athletes were swimmers Erica Sullivan and Jay Litherland. There were Kawila and Eric Shoji, brothers from Hawaii on the volleyball team, Colin Morikawa (golf), Nyja Huston (skateboarding), Jani Redd (softball), Johnny Hooper (water polo), and Sakura Kokumai (karate). I know that were a few Japanese American athletes in track, but couldn't find their names. Articles about Sakura were quite abundant as she reported being racially harassed during a training session in Orange County, California. As a result, JACL has created an anti-Hate page on its website that contains vital resource information.

Let's not forget the Paralympic Games now being held in Tokyo. I found a young man who participates in judo – Robert Tanaka. And of course, there is Minnesotan, Chuck Aoki on the wheelchair rugby team. He is the son of Andrew Aoki, a professor at Augsburg College and a JACL member, who has given presentations to various community groups.

Chuck is participating in his 3rd Paralympics. He has already won bronze and silver medals. The Americans won a silver medal, losing to Great Britain in the finals.