



# THE RICE PAPER

A newsletter of the Twin Cities Chapter  
of the Japanese American Citizens League

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## April 2022

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### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

It may not feel like it yet, but spring is just around the corner. And with spring comes a variety of exciting programming including an exciting return to in-person events!

On February 19th, TCJACL held its Day of Remembrance event in partnership with the East Side Freedom Library. The event included an asynchronous screening of the locally-produced PBS documentary "The Registry," which highlights the US Army's Military Intelligence Service (MIS) that trained Nisei soldiers as Japanese language interpreters at nearby Fort Snelling, and featured a live panel discussion with film creators Bill Kubota and Steve Ozone and the MIS veteran who compiled the registry of program graduates, Seiki Oshiro. Watch the panel discussion recording here: <https://youtu.be/CPBw1iIkMj8>

The next day, on February 20th, I was invited to speak on a panel as part of the National Day of Remembrance programming organized by the Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service on inspiring the next generation of leaders and empowering communities in the fight for social justice. Watch the panel discussion recording here: <https://youtu.be/iQJgtpnfxs4>

On March 1st, JACL National released a statement co-written by TCJACL condemning the use of "no-knock" warrants as a response to the recent police killing of Minneapolis resident Amir Locke. Read the full statement here: <https://jacl.org/statements/killing-of-amir-locke-shows-need-for-legislation-to-end-no-knock-warrants>

On April 23rd, we hope you will join us for the grand opening of the "Righting a Wrong" Smithsonian exhibit at the Minnesota History Center featuring a screening of the film "And Then They Came for Us" and special performances by Mu Daiko and Sansei Yonsei Kai! Read more about the event here: <https://www.tcjacl.org/event/minnesota-history-center-tc-jacl-righting-a-wrong-japanese-americans-and-world-war-ii-exhibit-opening/>

And please remember to reach out to the Asian Minnesotan artists in your life to submit their work to the Connections exhibition in partnership with the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center by the May 10th deadline. Read more about the exhibition here: <https://www.tcjacl.org/connections-exhibition/>

*continued on p. 2*

Please check out the rest of this issue of the Rice Paper to make sure you don't miss any of the other exciting events and opportunities we have in store!

お大事に。  
Please take care.

In solidarity,



Vinicius Taguchi

## YOUR NEWSLETTER STAFF

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Clara Imon Pedtke

**Mailer-Printed Newsletter:** Chris Noonan

## Save the Dates – Local Events

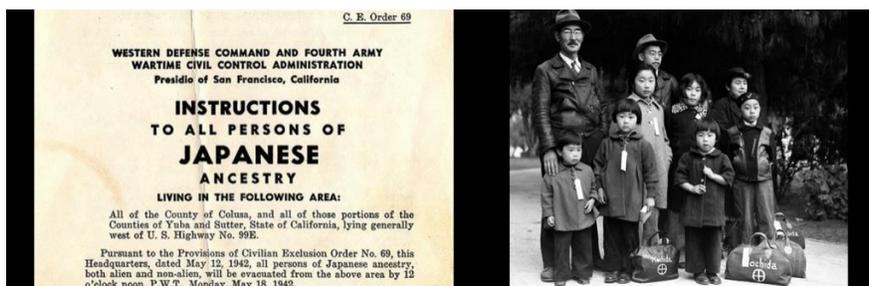
The Twin Cities Chapter of JACL has planned the following events for the next few months.

### RIGHTING A WRONG: JAPANESE AMERICANS AND WORLD WAR II

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit

April 23 - July 3, 2022

Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd W, St. Paul



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMS

Visit [www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org) for information on events



Saturday, April 23, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Exhibit Opening Program  
Minnesota History Center

Join us on exhibit opening day for a taiko drum performance by TaikoArts Midwest, traditional Japanese dancing by Sansei Yonsei Kai, origami with the St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee, and film screenings of the documentary *And Then They Came for Us* at noon and 2 p.m.



**Saturday, May 21, 11:30 a.m.**

**“Echoes of History: The Japanese American Imprisonment Resounds Today”**

Minnesota History Center 3M Auditorium

Dale Minami, Senior Counsel with Minami Tamaki LLC, San Francisco, CA, is a renowned lawyer and activist who headed the legal team that reversed the wartime convictions of Fred Korematsu, Min Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi. He co-founded the Asian Law Caucus and the nation’s first Asian American bar association.

Reception for TC JACL members and guests will follow the presentation. More details to follow.



**Saturday, June 18, 1:30 p.m.**

**“Minnesota Connections: The WWII Military Intelligence Service Language School and the building of a Japanese American Community”**

Minnesota History Center

Panelists: Kimmy Tanaka, Matt Abe, Peggy Doi and Karen Tanaka Lucas

The Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) was established in Minnesota in 1942 for training soldiers as Japanese linguists to support the Allied Forces during World War II. The contributions of the MIS became a source of pride for Japanese Americans who faced discrimination before and in wartime. Join us for a discussion with the children of soldiers who were part of the program.



**Film Screening of *Manzanar Diverted***

**Date and program details to follow**

Minnesota History Center

*Manzanar Diverted* provides a fresh interpretation of the Japanese American confinement site by examining its environmental and political history.

## JOIN THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Twin Cities JACL has been collaborating on programs with the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) since 1999.

Events at the Minnesota History Center include Day of Remembrance observances in 2000 and 2017, Camp Savage 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration in 2002, and numerous film screenings.

The Twin Cities JACL also co-sponsored major exhibitions at Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center:

- *Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service during WWII* (2015)
- *Gambatte! The Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration, Then and Now* (2017)
- *Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American WWII Experience* (2018)
- *Minnesota’s Secret Language School* (2019)

With the multitude of past and upcoming programs this year, please consider supporting MNHS by becoming a member.

Membership levels are: Individual (\$50/yr), Individual Plus (\$69/yr), Household (\$79/yr) and Household Plus (\$99/yr). Seniors (65 years and older) and K-12 teachers/administrators receive a \$5 discount on membership.

Joining MNHS gives you free general admission to 26 historic sites and museums, including the Minnesota History Center and Historic Fort Snelling, as well as discounts on events, gift shop purchases, and more. Receive the *Minnesota History magazine*. The Spring 2022 magazine features an article by Kimmy Tanaka and Krista Hanson titled: *Japanese Americans During WWII: From Incarceration to Service for Their Country*.

For more information, visit: [mnhs.org/support/membership](https://mnhs.org/support/membership)

Because **OUR** history matters!

## HISTORIC FORT SNELLING TO OPEN NEW VISITOR CENTER

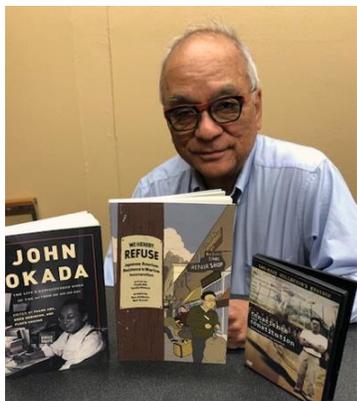
Building 18, a former **1905 cavalry** barracks building, has been remodeled into the new Plank Museum & Visitor Center. **The building also housed MISLS student companies during WWII.** Extensive remodeling included interior demolition and hazardous material abatement and the rehabilitation of the historic wood floors and wood windows. Windows were reinstalled, new walls went up, new stair structures were built, and existing plaster walls and ceilings were repaired. Grading and landscaping with native Minnesota plants has been completed, and new pathways along the bluff were created.

**The new visitor center will open Memorial Day weekend.**

*Submitted by Kimmy Tanaka*



*Tom Kurihara, Judy and George Murakami in front of Building 18 near completion of its renovation into the new Plank Museum and Visitor Center.*



Saturday, October 8, 4:30 p.m.  
Twin Cities JAACL 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chrysanthemum Celebration  
Historic Fort Snelling Plank Museum and Visitor Center

More details to come

Keynote speaker, Frank Abe, is co-author of a new graphic novel on Japanese American resistance to wartime incarceration, *We Hereby Refuse*. He won an American Book Award for *John Okada: The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of No-No Boy*, and directed the award-winning PBS documentary, *Conscience and the Constitution*, about the largest organized camp resistance. His current work involves co-editing an anthology for Penguin Classics on The Literature of Japanese American Incarceration.

Submitted by Carolyn Nayematsu

Saint Paul Civic Symphony

## Music of Home & Hope

Sunday, May 8, 2022, 1pm/ Landmark Center, Saint Paul, MN

Jeffrey Stirling, conductor

Jacob Taggart, piano

HEITZEG	<i>Green Hope after Black Rain (Symphony for the Survivors of Manzanar, Hiroshima and Nagasaki)</i>
GRIEG	Piano Concerto in A Minor, Opus 16
DVORAK	Symphony No. 9, <i>From the New World</i>

**TICKETS: Free**

In addition to standard orchestral percussion instruments, the piece includes a wide array of symbolic percussion instruments: branches from an A-bombed tree in Hiroshima; eucalyptus leaves from an A-bombed tree in Nagasaki; ginkgo seed pods from an A-bombed tree in Hiroshima; a Taiko drum; stones from Hiroshima and the Manzanar Japanese Internment camp; a string of origami peace cranes from Hiroshima; and dried cherry tree blossoms from an A-bombed tree in Hiroshima.

As part of the world premiere, the Saint Paul Civic Symphony will incorporate photographs of A-bombed trees of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and images of the Manzanar Japanese Internment Camp in California by the acclaimed Toronto-based photographer Katy McCormick. McCormick is known for photographing all the A-bombed trees of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, work she has documented in her book *Rooted Among the Ashes (Hibakujumoku—the A-bombed Trees)*.

More descriptive program notes are available at [steveheitzeg.com](http://steveheitzeg.com) ([link](#))

Following the concert, Music Director Jeffrey Stirling will be joined by Heitzeg, McCormick and Christina Ogata, acting principal viola of the SPCS, for a discussion of the music, images and themes of the performance.

“It is a privilege to have the Saint Paul Civic Symphony and Jeff Stirling commission and premiere this symphony that is a protest against war and inhumanity,” says Heitzeg. “I am thrilled to have Katy McCormick’s remarkable photographs included in the performance. These images were very influential in shaping the symphony and helping me to uncover some of its larger themes about the hopefulness that flickers in humans and the natural world, even in the aftermath of great tragedy.”

The concert also features Grieg’s *Piano Concerto* performed by Jacob Taggart and Dvořák’s *New World Symphony*.

### MORE about the Saint Paul Civic Symphony

Founded in 1945, the **Saint Paul Civic Symphony** performs free concerts from the symphonic repertoire throughout Saint Paul and the surrounding area. Among its fundamental objectives is to deepen ties with its sister orchestra, the Nagasaki Symphony, and to nurture cultural exchange between Saint Paul and Nagasaki. Led by Jeffrey Stirling since 2007, the SPCS supports solo performances by emerging young artists, collaborates frequently with other performing arts organizations and regularly performs 20<sup>th</sup> century music and commissions new works.

Emmy Award-winning composer **Steve Heitzeg** is known for evocative and lyrical scores frequently including naturally-found instruments, such as stones, driftwood, Joshua Tree branches, manatee and Beluga Whale bones. Heitzeg has written more than 150 works for orchestra, chorus, solo and chamber ensemble, ballet, theater and PBS films, which have been performed by ensembles ranging from the Atlanta Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra and Philadelphia Orchestras to the Daedalus Quartet, VocalEssence and James Sewell Ballet. His body of compositions address human rights, peace and environmental issues with vision and compassion, including works such as *American Nomad*, *Aqua*, *Blessed Are the Peacemakers*, *Blue Liberty*, *earthbird*, *Fanfare for a Weapon-Free World*, *Long Walk to Freedom*, *Nobel Symphony*, *Wild Songs*, and *Wounded Fields*.

Submitted by Gloria Kumagai



The funny Asian Women Collective (FAWK) is a comedy group that uses comedy to combat the invisibility and dehumanization of Asian women. For the first time since 2019, FAWK will be performing in a live comedy show indoors the lineup includes Naomi Ko, May Lee-Yang, saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay, Tsuab Yang, Patti Kameya, Houa Moua, and Jamie Schumacher with special guest star Robin Tran. The show will include stand-up, sketches, and videos that center on Asian women’s stories.

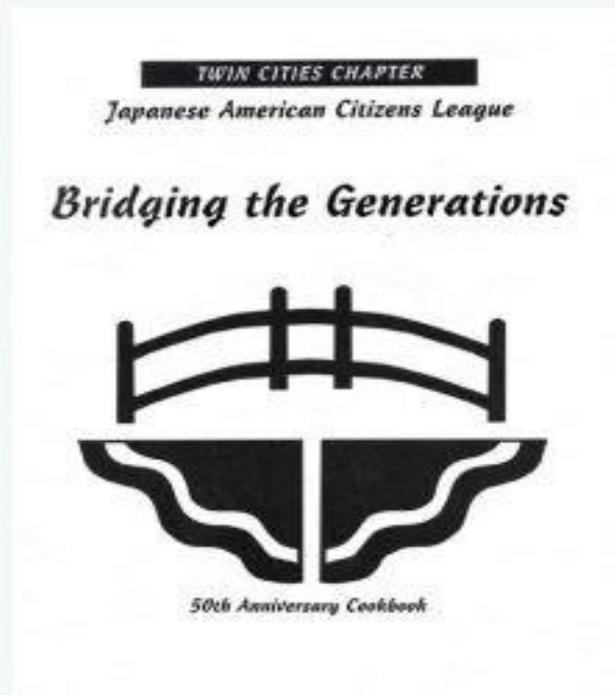
When: Saturday, April 16, from 7:30-9 p.m.

Where: The Ordway Center for Performing Arts, 345 Washington Street, St. Paul

Tickets: <https://ordway.org/events/funny-asian-women-kollective/>

More on FAWK: <https://www.fawkollective.com/>

Student discounts: [fawkollaborative@gmail.com](mailto:fawkollaborative@gmail.com)



## BRIDGING THE GENERATIONS COOKBOOK

# Call for Recipes!

Submit your recipe by **May 31st, 2022!**

Send recipe(s) to Amy Dickerson: [adickerson323@gmail.com](mailto:adickerson323@gmail.com)

The Twin Cities JACL is updating the 50th Anniversary Cookbook. The new cookbook will be the Bridging the Generations 75th Anniversary Cookbook. We are planning to roll out the updated version at the Fall Chrysanthemum Banquet!

This is a call for recipes to be considered for the new addition:

- We are interested in a family recipe that you want to share and/or pass on to the next generation. Please include a short paragraph why this recipe is special
- We are interested in recipes that you have adapted to "new" technology (ie, Instant Pot, Air Fryer, Rice Cooker), or a current Bridging the Generations recipe that you have adapted
- If you remember a dish, but don't have the recipe, let us know! We will see if we can find it.

# Recent Events – Local

## Twin Cities Day of Remembrance 2022

### “Minnesota’s Role in Incarceration and Transcendence”



This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Executive Order 9066, issued by Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942.

A “Day of Remembrance” virtual program was held on Sat., Feb. 19, 2022 in partnership with the East Side Freedom Library. Its co-executive director, Peter Rachleff welcomed the approximately 75 attendees, including family members of MIS veterans who participated in *The Registry* documentary.

The first speaker, Frank Abe, a renowned author, activist, and broadcast journalist, joined the Twin Cities’ program from the west coast for the second year in a row. He set the stage with a history of how the “Day of Remembrance” came about. “We’ve been observing Days of Remembrance for so long now that people can be forgiven for taking it for granted that we’ve always had it,” Frank noted.

Frank was instrumental in helping to produce the first event on Nov. 25, 1978, under the leadership of the Seattle JACL chapter. The first event was organized to build popular support for the burgeoning call for redress and reparations.

Event notices were tacked up on telephone poles in the same way the original incarceration notices were posted and called people to “remember the concentration camps” and “stand for redress with your family.” A car caravan was to dramatize the forced eviction starting in Seattle and ending at the Western Washington Fairgrounds, site of the old Puyallup Assembly Center.

“We had a sense that people were interested, but nothing prepared me for the scene when I arrived that morning...and found hundreds of cars waiting for us with close to a thousand people eager to register for the event,” he recollected. “The energy was so electric.”

Celebrities such as Pat Morita and Mako came to support the event. Military trucks escorted the car caravan, which stretched as far as the eye could see. “Inside the cars, something happened,” Frank recalled. “The physical memory of being forced to leave Seattle in 1942 triggered something inside the Nisei. Parents opened up to their children about what happened to them during the war, many for the first time.”

Anthropologist Yasuko Takezawa called it the event that “burst open the tomb of Japanese American history.” The commemoration garnered national media attention and shifted the public narrative, and the community backlash that people feared never happened. Since that inaugural event, “Day of Remembrance” commemorations continue to be observed annually now for 44 years. “We’ve come a long way,” Frank concluded.

The next speaker, Vinicius Taguchi, president of the Twin Cities JAACL chapter, gave a brief statement about the significance of the day. In addition to remembering the past, he also acknowledged how this story continues to be important as we move forward.

Karen Tanaka Lucas has been active in getting the history of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and Language School (MISLS) recognized at Fort Snelling and in other public spaces. February 19 also has special significance for her because it is her father’s birthday; he would have been 104 this year.

In her presentation on the MISLS at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling, Karen shared that when she moved to Minnesota in 1970, she had no idea that her father, Walter Tanaka, had been here or that he had trained at a secret school during World War II because it was still classified military information.

Karen’s father was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1941, six months before the U.S. entered World War II. He had completed training in heavy weapons infantry and was stationed at Fort Ord, CA when the war broke out. After Pearl Harbor, many of the 5,000 Nisei enlisted in the U.S. Army were discharged without cause. Those remaining were disarmed, moved inland, and assigned to labor details. Tanaka was sent to Fort Custer, Michigan to shovel coal into the furnaces.

While stationed at Fort Custer, two significant events occurred. First, Tanaka’s family was rounded up and incarcerated at Poston. Secondly, Tanaka was tested and selected for the MISLS and started in the first class of 200 at Camp Savage, when it was moved from the Presidio in San Francisco to Minnesota, a credit to the generosity of Gov. Harold Stassen and his faith in the welcoming attitude of its residents, when other governors had refused.

The 132-acre state-owned site was formerly used as a home for elderly indigent men. “Many of the Nisei came from families who had lost businesses and homes in the mass incarceration, so it was a stinging reminder when the early arrivals were greeted at Camp Savage by a sign made out of white rocks spelling out ‘homeless men’s shelter,’” Karen explained. During the Depression, Tanaka had been pulled out of school to work on his family’s farm and got a language immersion hearing his Kyoto-born and educated mother speak a high form of Japanese rather than a rural dialect, which gave him an added advantage.

After six months of rigorous and accelerated language training at the MISLS, Tanaka was shipped out in Nov. 1942 to perform prisoner interrogation in Australia with the Allied Translator and Interpretive Service (ATIS), with the Advanced ATIS in New Guinea, and in the Philippines. Following Japan’s surrender in Aug. 1945, Tanaka served during the Occupation of Japan, which continued until April 1952. He later served in counterintelligence.

During World War II, MIS soldiers interrogated 14,000 prisoners and translated two million documents. Among their many significant accomplishments were the interception of radio communications that resulted in the shooting down of Admiral Yamamoto, Commander of the combined Imperial Japanese fleet, and translation of the famous Operation Z of the battle plans for Japan’s entire air and naval defense for the

South Pacific. These intelligence coups prompted General McArthur to state that “never in military history did an army know so much about the enemy prior to actual engagement.”

Karen concluded by saying that Seiki Oshiro’s registry of MIS veterans corrects the omission from official military records of their service. “We are here today to remember,” she affirmed.

Next was a panel discussion with *The Registry* directors/producers, Steve Ozone and Bill Kubota, along with 90-year-old MIS veteran Seiki Oshiro, whose tireless dedication and efforts to document the service of MIS soldiers during World War II is the inspiration for the documentary film.

After working with the Twin Cities JACL on an oral history project, cousins Steve and Bill wanted to do a story about the Midwest Japanese Americans. “I always knew that the MIS was here, but I didn’t know if there were a lot of people still around from those days,” said Bill, participating from his home in Detroit, Michigan.

Seiki Oshiro’s name kept popping up on the internet. Steve contacted Seiki, went to his house and got a look at all of the research Seiki had been doing for years. “We knew we probably had the basis for a film and that’s where it all started,” explained Bill. They received a National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites grant to document the work of Seiki and the lives of other MIS veterans, many of whom are no longer alive today.

Seiki, who was born in Hawaii in a sugar plantation town and now lives in Savage, served in the MIS during the Occupation of Japan. He talked about how he started his work researching the 5,704 MIS graduates from Nov. 1941 through Nov. 1945.

“The list of names was very strange,” Seiki noted. From the *MISLS Album*, a rare copy of which is housed at the Minnesota History Center, the initial list was ten pages long, but with last names and only first initials, which made researching the MIS veterans even more challenging. Tracking down each MIS veteran required extensive research, including three trips to view archives in St. Louis, MO. The work took from 2001 until 2018.

Expanded to include graduates who trained at the Presidio of Monterey after the school was transferred there when Fort Snelling closed in 1946, the current list includes over 8,000 veterans and includes their MIS training class, Army Service Number, residence, awards received, campaigns, assignments and other miscellaneous Information.

“The name, ‘Registry,’ came from the leader of the work we were doing, Grant Ichikawa,” Seiki explained. “He wanted to show that these people were real people, and we wanted to tell the families that they were there in that school.”

In addition to his extensive work on the Registry, Seiki created a remarkable, comprehensive flow chart that traces the distribution of the 157,905 Japanese Americans in the Territory of Hawaii and 126,947 living on the continental US from the 1940 census through World War II. His document also lists the battle zones where MISLS graduates served throughout the Pacific.

During the Q/A session, an attendee asked Seiki what he told his family, since the MIS was secret. He responded, “those of us who had sensitive assignments were told to keep our mouths shut, and I am one of them. At the time of my discharge, before they handed me my discharge papers, the officer said, ‘you cannot talk about your experience.’ When my kids used to ask me, ‘what did you do,’ I said, ‘I pushed pencils.’”

The service of MIS soldiers who assisted the British and other units were not documented by the US Army in an official way as with the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion/442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. “So there’s a lot of these stories, that unless we talk to the veterans, we would never hear them. We only talked to a few people,

so that's why this was a kind of story about lost history...a lot of it will never be known," lamented Bill.

To watch *The Registry*, visit: <https://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/events/day-of-remembrance-minnesotas-role-in-incarceration-and-transcendence/>

To view the Day of Remembrance program video, visit:

[https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=664706134950462](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=664706134950462)

To access the Registry listing of MIS veterans, visit:

[https://java.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/WWII%20MIS%20Registry%20\(Merged\)%20July%202007.pdf](https://java.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/WWII%20MIS%20Registry%20(Merged)%20July%202007.pdf)

*Submitted by Cheryl Hirata Dulas*

## **Legislation to End “No-Knock” Warrants**

The National JACL and our Twin Cities chapter both condemned the use of “no-knock” warrants by the Minneapolis Police Department, who fatally shot 22-year old Amir Locke on February 2, after a botched raid. On March 1, U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar from Minnesota introduced the Amir Locke Stop Deadly No-Knock Warrants Act in Congress. JACL supports this bill as well as more comprehensive reforms including the BREATHE Act and the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which are stalled in the U.S. Senate

## **Asian Minnesotan Day at the Capitol**

CAAL (Coalition of Asian American Leaders) hosted Asian Minnesotan Day at the Capitol on Monday, March 7. Ryan Sudo, the TC JACL’s vice-president, gave a very enlightening testimony. His words, as well as others, gave an indication on what is going on with legislative advocacy for Asian Minnesota issues. The TC JACL’s president, Vini Taguchi, also testified during a hearing on Asian Minnesotans in the state legislature. Check it out on <https://fb.watch/bCdNHjJARh/>. His part begins around the 22:15 mark.

*Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas*

## **Remembering the Metro Atlanta Spa Shootings**

President Vini Taguchi signed a group statement in early March, requested by Phi Nguyen, executive director of an organization called Advancing Justice-Atlanta. The statement asked partner organizations to join his group in solidarity on March 16, as a sacred day for quiet reflection. The National JACL also released a statement which reads in part, “Today, we honor and grieve the lives of those lost, and reaffirm our commitment to confronting the pernicious stereotypes that lead to violence against AANHPI women.”

## **Combating “Hate Budget” in State Senate**

In late March, President Vini Taguchi signed onto a coalition letter, written by Brandon Schorsch, Outreach and Engagement Director of Jewish Community Action. The letter was delivered to MN state senators to consider the governor’s proposed budget, which earmarks fund to 1) improve Bias and Discrimination Data Gathering and Reporting and 2) create a Bias Response and Community Equity Outreach Team. These two items were not contained in the Chair’s current omnibus recommendations. Stay tuned for updates.

# Righting a Wrong

## Minnesota History Center Education Department Workshop



On Thursday, March 31, 2022, the Minnesota History Center Education Department presented a teacher workshop titled “Righting A Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II.” The workshop was open to K-12 teachers. This workshop was the first program in conjunction with the upcoming Smithsonian exhibit “Righting A Wrong.”

Speaker Kimmy Tanaka, program supervisor at Historic Fort Snelling, opened the workshop with an overview of the Military Intelligence School. Speaker Sally Sudo, retired educator, spoke about her family’s experience of growing up in Seattle, incarceration at Minidoka, and her family’s experiences living in Minneapolis.

MNHS staff Jessica Ellison and Jessica McMahon ended the workshop with a discussion of resources including the curriculum guide related to the exhibit. Participants received the books We Hereby Refuse by Frank Abe and Journey to Topaz by Yoshiko Uchida, and the Spring 2022 MNHS **Minnesota History** magazine. The magazine features an article written by Krista Hanson and Kimmy Tanaka: Japanese Americans During WWII: From Incarceration to Service For Their Community.

*Submitted by Carolyn Nayematsu*

## Minnesota Japanese & Japanese American History Resources

Annotated Bibliography  
Prepared by Krista Hanson

### **Primary Resources:**

Abe, Toshio, Oral history interview:

[Minnesota's Greatest Generation Oral History Project: Part I: Interview with Toshio Abe : Collections Online: mnhs.org](https://www.mnhs.org/collections/oral-history/interviews/abe-toshio)

Committee on Resettlement of Japanese Americans. Minneapolis Chapter (1942-1944). Manuscripts Collection, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

<http://www2.mnhs.org/library/findaids/01311.xml>

- Description: Correspondence, applications, reports and related papers of the Minneapolis chapter of a volunteer organization to assist in finding employment for loyal Japanese-Americans (Nisei) evacuated from the Pacific Coast during World War II...

International Institute of Minnesota records

Immigration History Research Center Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

<https://archives.lib.umn.edu/repositories/6/resources/4884>

- Description: Records (ca. 1920–1971) of the International Institute of Minnesota include minutes of the membership Council and Board of Directors (on microfilm), administrative records, educational program information, department records, materials documenting group services and activities, special programs, projects, and publications, community and national contacts, publicity, music, travel literature, case files, correspondence, photographs, and miscellany.
- Note: Information in these records would pertain primarily to the Japanese groups participating in the Festival of Nations and other Japanese cultural events held throughout the history of the organization. There is a folder of materials from the St. Paul Resettlement Committee as well.
- Japanese American Citizens' League, Twin Cities Chapter [tcjacl.org](http://tcjacl.org)

Japanese American Citizens' League, Twin Cities Chapter. Manuscripts Collection, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

- Description: Correspondence, some minutes, issues of "JA Journal" (newsletter) and a scrapbook of the Twin Cities (Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.) chapter of the Japanese American Citizen League. The Twin Cities chapter of the JACL instituted formal organization procedures in 1946, eventually choosing the name United Citizen League (UCL) in 1947. In 1962, the UCL changed its name to the Twin Cities Chapter, Japanese American Citizens' League. [jacl.org](http://jacl.org)

Military Intelligence Service Language school historical material, 1943-1946

Manuscript Collection, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

- Description: Two photocopied reports and a set of orders for the Military Intelligence Service Language School.

Nakasone, Bud, oral history:

<http://collections.mnhs.org/cms/display?irn=10803266&return=brand%3Dcms%26q%3Dedwin%2520nakasone>

*Reflections: Memoirs of Japanese American Women in Minnesota*, ed. John Nobuya Tsuchida, Pacific Asia Press, Covina, Calif., 1994.

- Ruth Nomura Tanbara encouraged other Minnesota Japanese American women to tell their stories of WWII incarceration and resettlement in this book. Book is out of print but can be found on the secondary market.

Sickels, Alice. *Around the World in St. Paul*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1945

- Sickels was the Executive Secretary of the International Institute in St. Paul. The IIs were founded by the YWCAs. The St. Paul II separated from the YWCA and incorporated in 1938 but remained housed in the YWCA building until 1942 when they had their own building on Kellogg Avenue. Sickels tells the story of her work starting the Festival of Nations (an II program) but also gives several pages to telling the story of Japanese American resettlement during WWII in this book. She was also the original chair of the St. Paul Resettlement Committee which was a committee of the St. Paul II. Book is out of print but can be found on the secondary market.

St. Paul Resettlement Committee (St. Paul, Minn.), 1942–1953  
Manuscripts Collection, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

- Description: Correspondence, minutes, reports, clippings, records of its St. Paul Hostel (1945-1948), and other papers of this organization formed to help provide homes, work, financial aid, and social services to Japanese Americans evacuated from the Pacific Coast during World War II. After 1948 it devoted some attention to living conditions among urban Native Americans. Correspondents include Ruth Gage Colby, Ruth Tanbara, Martha Magraw, and officials of the US War Relocation Authority, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), and the International Institute of St. Paul.

Ruth Tanbara papers, 1906–2008  
Manuscript Collection, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

- Description: Correspondence, biographical materials, photographs, newspaper clippings, and printed material related to the forced removal of Japanese Americans from the West Coast during World War II, memoir correspondence and drafts for Reflections, an oral history transcript for the St. Paul–Nagasaki Sister City Project, and a manuscript copy of her cookbook, Ruth Tanbara's Japanese Food Recipes. Included are official pamphlets regarding restrictions placed upon Japanese Americans and letters from friends in concentration camps describing conditions in various camps.

### **Secondary Resources:**

Albert, Michael. "The Japanese." In *They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups*, edited by June Drenning Holmquist (558–571). St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1981. Sickels, Alice. *Around the World in St. Paul*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1945.

Ano, Masaharu. "Loyal Linguists: Nisei of World War II Learned Japanese in Minnesota." *Minnesota History* 45, no. 7 (Fall 1977): 273–287.

<http://collections.mnhs.org/MNHHistoryMagazine/articles/45/v45i07p273-287.pdf>

Festival of Nations MNopedia article

<https://www.mnopedia.org/event/festival-nations>

- Note: The Japanese group first participated in the Festival in 1947

Historic Fort Snelling. World War II (1941–1945).

<http://www.historicfortsnelling.org/history/military-history/world-war-ii>

Hirose, Stacey Yukari. *Japanese American Women and the Women's Army Corp, 1935-1950*. N.p., University of California, Los Angeles, 1993.

Ichinokuchi, Tad, ed. *John Aiso and the M.I.S.: Japanese-American Soldiers in the Military Intelligence Service, World War II*. Los Angeles, CA: The Military Intelligence Service Club of Southern California, 1988.

Ishimaru, Stone S. *Military Intelligence Service Language School, US Army, Fort Snelling, Minnesota*. Los Angeles, CA: Tec Com Production, 1991.

International Institute of Minnesota MNopedia article

<https://www.mnopedia.org/group/international-institute-minnesota>

McNaughton, James C. "Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II." Department of the Army, Washington D.C., 2006.

Military Intelligence Service Language School MNopedia article

<https://www.mnopedia.org/group/military-intelligence-service-language-school-misls>

Minnesota Historical Society, Library. Research Guides, Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling.

<http://libguides.mnhs.org/misls>

Miss Miyazaki Japanese Friendship Doll MNopedia article

<https://www.mnopedia.org/thing/miss-miyazaki-japanese-friendship-doll>

Moore, Brenda L. *Serving Our Country: Japanese American Women in the Military During World War II*. United Kingdom, Rutgers University Press, 2003

Nakasone, Edwin M. ed. *Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota*. White Bear Lake, MN: j-Press Publishing, 2002.

Nakasone, Edwin M. *The Nisei Soldier: Historical Essays on World War II and the Korean War*. J-Press, 1999.

- Edwin "Bud" Nakasone was with the MISLS at Fort Snelling. He stayed in Minnesota and was a history professor at Century College. He is featured in the Greatest Generation exhibit at the Minnesota History Center.

Nomura, Carl. *Sleeping on Potatoes: A Lumpy Adventure from Manzanar to the Corporate Tower*. Erasmus Books, 2003.

- Nomura lived in Minnesota after service in World War II including a short stint at Fort Snelling.. He retired to Washington.

St. Paul Resettlement Committee MNopedia article

<https://www.mnopedia.org/group/st-paul-resettlement-committee>

Tanbara, Ruth Tokuko Nomura (Mrs. Earl K.). Biography card file. Manuscripts collection, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.

Ruth Nomura Tanbara, MNopedia article

<https://www.mnopedia.org/person/tanbara-ruth-nomura-1907-2008>

*Unsung Heroes: Military Intelligence Service; Past, Present, Future*. Seattle, WA: Military Intelligence Northwest Association, 1996.

NOTE:

JACL member Sally Sudo's collection of books is part of the Asian and Asian American collection at St. Paul's East Side Freedom Library

<https://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/41845-2/>

## Theodore Y. “Ted” Hirabayashi

“Ted” Hirabayashi of Eden Prairie, MN passed away on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at the age of 91. He was a Korean War veteran (Air Force) born in Kent, Washington.

He is preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Helen (Kay) Ujifusa; five brothers, Martin, Grant, Bill, Sam, and Dan. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Alice; daughter, Sue; son, Alan (Joyce); three grandchildren, Matthew, Grant, and Kaiya; and sister, Ruth Yoshihashi.

A Celebration of Life at the Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel will take place on Saturday, May 21, 2022, with visitation at 11 am, a service at 12 noon, followed by a reception.



## “Sachiko: The True Story of a Child Survivor of the Bombing of Nagasaki”

Minnesota author Caren Stelson shared her relationship with Sachiko Yasui who survived the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in 1945. Sachiko was then a six-year old child. Stelton discusses Sachiko’s journey from one of trauma to a pathway to peace. Stories of the *hibakusha*, the Japanese word for atomic bomb survivors, are important for us to know just as we must know and never forget the stories of Holocaust survivors. Sachiko’s and others’ stories should inspire our own actions for peace in the future.

The sponsor of the program is Hadassah Minneapolis St. Paul. Hadassah was found in New York in 1912 by Henrietta Szold, a Jewish scholar, editor, and Zionist. The major projects of Hadassah were medical and educational aid to Palestine and later to the Jewish state of Israel. In the 1930’s and 1940’s, it work included the rescue and transportation of children to Palestine from Germany and other Nazi-controlled parts of Europe.

In December 2021, the Minneapolis and St. Paul groups merged. The merged groups are still dedicated to health care and medical research, but are also involved in advocating for women’s and civil rights, education, youth services, and international refugee and immigration assistance in Israel and the U.S.

## Save the Dates – National Events

### “Connections” Digital Exhibition Submissions Now Open

Heart Mountain Interpretive Center and the Twin Cities JACL are hosting a digital exhibition “Connections” to capture an artistic profile of Minnesota’s Asian Pacific residents. The deadline for accepting submissions for artwork is **May 10**. There is no submission fee. Artists may submit up to 3 pieces.

To be considered eligible, any artistic mediums (including poetry) are accepted as long as they can be photographed. Applicants must be of Asian Pacific identity and reside for most of the year in the state of Minnesota. There is no age restriction and the subject matter can be anything related to the artist’s identity, personal history, activism, or culture.

Three winners will be chosen by juror Emi Nijiya. Prizes are \$200 for first and \$100 for second. An additional prize are tickets to the Heart Mountain pilgrimage 2022. Winners will be notified by May 25. For questions, email [connectionsgallery@gmail.com](mailto:connectionsgallery@gmail.com)

## **The Art of Inclusive Communication**

The San Diego Chapter of JACL is hosting a free, virtual dialogue-focused workshop on inclusive communication provided by the National Conflict Resolution Center. Part A is May 25 from 6-8 p.m. Part B is on June 1 from 6-8 p.m. Both are on Zoom Online Workshop.

The interactive workshop involves small group discussion, facilitated dialogue, and self-reflective activities. Participants will look at their own personal and cultural identities and then how their identities are related to different styles of communication, especially through intercultural awareness.

Contact JACL at [sandiegojacl@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegojacl@gmail.com) or Dania Brett at [dbrett@ncrconline.com](mailto:dbrett@ncrconline.com) for more information.

### **JACL National Convention “Strengthening our Community through Action”**

**August 3-7 in Las Vegas**

**Check out the website at [jacl.org/convention](http://jacl.org/convention)**

## **Recent Events – National**

### **Campaign for Justice – Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans**

Phase 2 of the Japanese American redress campaign has started. The signing of the civil Liberties Act of 1988 gave redress to Japanese Americans, but Japanese Latin Americans were excluded. Now, after a major victory with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), Japanese Latin Americans are urging everyone who supported Phase 1 to call or write to the Biden administration to honor the rule of international law and give redress to them, too. (more in the March 18-31 issue of the [Pacific Citizen](#))

### **Loss of Historic Wintersburg**

A fire and unpermitted demolition of the 1910 Wintersburg Japanese Mission’s parsonage at the Historic Wintersburg property occurred on February 25 in Huntington Beach, California. JACL submitted a letter to the city’s mayor and city council regarding the future of this 2015 National Treasure, as designated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The goal for many is to allow purchase of the property by preservationists who want to turn it into a heritage park. (more in the March 18-31 & April 1-14 issues of the [Pacific Citizen](#))

## **House Passes the Japanese American Confinement Education Act**

The JACL applauded the March 15 unanimous passage of the Japanese American Confinement Education (JACE) Act in the House of Representatives. Representative Doris Matsui provided much leadership in authoring and championing the JACE Act. Many others guided the act to passage, including 67 bi-partisan co-sponsors. The senate now has to pass the Senate to ensure continued funding to the Grant Program - \$32 million in funding towards the preservation and interpretation of incarceration sites, as well as \$10 million for the creation of educational materials.

## **Japanese Eyes on America: 150 Years since the Iwakura Mission to the U.S.**

On March 24, the Digital Museum of the History of Japanese in NY/Japan History Council of NY presented **Japanese Eyes on America: 150 Years since the Iwakura Mission to the U.S.** Discussion at the event focused on the significance and impact of the mission, as the Japanese delegation visited the U.S. and Europe for many months to bring back to Japan fundamental ideas and philosophies of “Western culture” as Japan was being opened up at the beginning of the Meiji Restoration.

## **JACL Condemns Passage of Anti-LGBTQAI+ Laws**

On March 30, JACL issued a statement which condemns the Governor DeSantis of Florida and many others who are in favor of laws that attack the LGBTQIA+. Florida now has a “Don’t Say Gay” law. In Utah, transgender youth are banned from participating in girls’ sports. This vulnerable community, and especially, its youth have long faced discrimination and violence. Since 1994, when JACL passed its first national resolution in support of same-sex marriage, there has been amazing support for the LGBTQIA+ community by our society. The JACL demands inclusion and acceptance for this community in order to help nurture our youth and future generations.

## **.Amache National Historic Site Act Signed**

JACL applauded President Biden’s signing of the Amache National Historic Site Act. The signing designates the Amache site in Granada, Colorado (also known as the Granada Relocation center) as part of the National Park System. The site is now permanently protected and will help tell the history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II. Currently the Amache site consists of a historic cemetery, a monument, concrete building foundations, and several reconstructed and rehabilitated structures from the camp-era. Amache is open to the public. Granada High School students provide tours of the site and a nearby museum. (more in the April 1-14 issue of the [Pacific Citizen](#))

## **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom Walk**

A free virtual event, the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom Walk, was held on Saturday, April 2. The theme this year was “Dissenting Voice to EO 9066: Eleanor Roosevelt”. The keynote speaker was David B. Woolner, Resident Historian, Senior Fellow and former Executive Director of the Roosevelt Institute. One of the sponsors was the DC Chapter of JACL, along with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF), the Japanese American Veterans association (JAVA), and Ekoji Buddhist Temple.

## MDC District Meeting and Youth Summit

This past weekend, the JACL Midwest District Council and the JACL National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) Summit met in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Although they met separately, both groups toured America's Black Holocaust Museum together.



Kendal Takeshita is in the back row, third from the right. He is the Youth Representative on the TC JACL Board and the NY/SC Representative on the Midwest District Council.

### To learn more... and be able to participate...check out the following:

**Densho:** [densho.org](https://densho.org) Click “searches elated to densho”, then pick one of the items

**East Side Freedom Library:** [eastsidefreedomlibrary.org](https://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org) Click “events”

**Go for Broke:** [goforbroke.org](https://goforbroke.org) Click “learn”, “exhibit”, “Hanashi oral history archives”, “what’s to come”

**JACL’s Weekly Digest:** [jacl.org](https://jacl.org) Click on “news”, then “statements”, “weekly digest”; click on “events”, then any one of the 4 drop down items

**JANM (Japanese American National Museum)** [janm.org](https://janm.org) Click “Education Resources”, “Events”

## Recent Board Happenings

### TC JACL Board Meeting – February 15, 2022

- The TC JACL Military Intelligence School photo exhibit which was hanging in the Stearns County History Museum has been moved to the Camp Ripley Military Museum. The opening for the exhibit is May and will run through the summer.
- The showing of the film “Manzanar Diverted” (planning is being done by the TC JACL Social Justice Committee) will be coordinated with a presentation by Hana Maruyama and members of the History Center staff.

### TC JACL Board Meeting – March 15, 2022

- Ryan Sudo reported that Social Justice Committee is planning two virtual events with Selena Moon of the East Side Freedom Library. One event will be on “happa” issues and the other on disabilities in the JA concentration camps.