

# Japanese American Citizens League

## NEWSLETTER

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER

President / Chris Sandberg

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### LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER?

October, 1985

Not around here, at any rate. During the MDC/EDC conference held in Milwaukee Aug. 1-4, our own Tom Hara was elected MDC governor. No member of the Twin Cities' chapter had ever held the title before this year, so Tom's victory is a historical event for us. Congratulations Tom! (A short note from Tom to the chapter is inside this newsletter.)....Also in August, Betty Waki, president of the JACL's Houston chapter (with a grand total of 34 members) and vice-governor of the Mountain Plains district, paid a brief visit to the Twin Cities. Acting on short notice, Kay Kushino managed to round up a few of us for an impromptu gathering in honor of Betty at Kikugawa Restaurant on Aug. 22. The evening was cool and cloudy, but the hot food and lively conversation led by Betty more than made up for the weather. She filled the group in on a number of topics---being Japanese American in Texas (sometimes tough but always interesting), the antics at the Milwaukee convention, where Betty was a delegate, and how she liked the Twin Cities (the weather could have been better but it was okay otherwise). Betty now works as a graphic designer and hosts a radio show on Asian American affairs for Texas Public Radio every Tuesday evening (to date it is the only show of its kind in the South). Hats off to Betty, a real Lone Star.... Finally, the Reverend and Mrs. Andrew Otani rounded off the season with their silver wedding anniversary, celebrated Sept. 1 at the Hotel Sofitel in Bloomington. Their gift from their many well-wishers was a chokin metal relief carving of a tortoise and a crane. A beautiful way to wish them long life and happiness.... But now it's back to regular business. Again the newsletter will be bimonthly (Sept./Oct., Nov./Dec., etc.) and we welcome your news, notes, opinions, and brickbats c/o E. Taniguchi, 5257 James Ave. S., Mpls. 55419, ph.925-9816

### TO THE TWIN CITIES CHAPTER FROM TOM HARA

It is most gratifying to be able to write to you as the newly installed MDC governor. I understand that the balloting at the Milwaukee election was fairly close, which I take to be a continuing sign of the vitality and independence of our chapters. Tom Nakao of Cleveland was a strong candidate with strong beliefs, and I think he would be the first to agree that a fair and full airing of different perspectives on our future course is healthy for the district. Tom has played, and I am sure will continue to play, an active role in the leadership of JACL.

Those of you with whom I worked as Twin Cities Chapter president will recall that I approached our MDC business with the interests of this chapter as the paramount consideration; yet, I hope that I did so with a consistent view to the overall benefit of the district, as well. Having assumed the governorship, I now declare my intention to approach my role on the national board in the same fashion: vigorously to protect MDC interests as I see them, but with the desire always to act in the best interests of the entire organization. In terms of the numbers of chapters and of members, MDC has always been small; but it has always been influential, I think, in a constructive way. This is the legacy of my predecessors, and I deem it to be a valuable one.

Tom Hara.....

It is also my predecessors' experience that being MDC governor does not assure immunity from criticism within the district; probably, far from it. But this, too, I welcome as we enter upon the biennium. I plan to keep the MDC chapters fully and promptly informed of my activities, including regular material for local newsletter publication. As I so expand the lines of communication outward, I truly hope the membership will amplify them inward by having chapter presidents transmit their comments and ideas (or criticism) back to me. I am, and expect to be, fully accountable to the district during my term. I am most appreciative to all of you for my election and I look forward to working with all of the Twin Cities Chapter.

#### MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

July 1985: As of July the chapter had 134 renewals and new applications.... There were \$1,195.10 in receipts and \$6,265.81 in disbursements, with a new balance of \$17,589.13 in the treasury. Treasurer Kay Kushino also noted that Ed Hara had made a \$35 donation to the chapter so that it would receive a matching grant from his company, Equitable Insurance. He urged other members to do the same if their employers had a similar policy.... Human Rights chair Matt Abe and Nobuya Tsuchida met with a representative of the University of Minnesota's Ethnic Student Resource Center to discuss funding and policies which will affect the Asian/Pacific Resource Center. Although Asian Americans are the largest minority group on campus, the Asian/Pacific American LRC has not received a raise in funds. Tsuchida is worried that the U's current proposal to lower entrance requirements for the general college will result in overtaxing the center's resources, as many Southeast Asian students are already having problems in language skills. Either funding must be increased, he says, or the U must maintain at least the basic requirements for fluency in English. Further discussion to take place in August or September.... The JACL picnic was a success, with perfect weather and even a small profit. Kiyoshi Ishibashi was lauded for his efforts and Lake Phalen will be considered for next year's picnic.

#### REIKO'S BACK

Reiko Ito Shellum has returned from her cultural exchange trip to Ibaraki, Japan (our apologies for not being able to run an announcement before the deadline for reservations) and again is conducting courses in sumi-e (Japanese ink painting) and Japanese language and culture. There will be five sessions for the sumi-e class, each lasting seven weeks; the Japanese language class will be in varying lengths for three sessions. For schedules, registration, and other information contact Ms. Shellum at 521-2593 or write to her at 1820-25th Ave. N., Mpls. 55411. (Note: the first sessions will already have started by the time this newsletter reaches publication.)

### **Membership needs assessment survey**

If you still have this survey, please complete it and mail to:

Edward Hara  
2160 Orchard Ave. No.  
Minneapolis, MN 55422

Committee would like to have at least 80% participation.