

Japanese American Citizens League

NEWSLETTER

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER

President / Matt Abe

Editor / Eleanor Taniguchi

Coordinator / Sam Honda

November, 1985

CONGRATULATIONS

...are in order to JACL board member Gloria Kumagai, who in September was appointed by Gov. Perpich to the newly-formed state Council on Asian/Pacific Minnesotans. Gloria was featured in an article on the council in Asian Business and Community News in October.

The voluntary, nine-member council will advise the governor's office on affairs affecting the Asian/Pacific community in Minnesota.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE...

Uh-oh, it's that time of year again, but you don't want to repeat the mistake of buying a paisley tie for your Uncle Willy, the guy with a closet full of plaid sportscoats. What to do?

Give art for Christmas! Reiko Originals is holding a Pre-Holiday Art Sale, with 15 per cent off original paintings, silk items, and calligraphy and sumi-e supplies. Sale dates are Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 from 1 to 7 p.m.; Dec. 1, 2-7 p.m., and Dec. 6, 4-9 p.m. Reiko Originals is at 1820 25th Ave. N. (corner of Morgan Ave. N. and 25th Ave. N.) Minneapolis, phone 521-2593.

General Meeting & Installation of Officers

70 members attended the banquet at Calhoun Beach Club on Nov. 9th. Tom Hara, MDC Governor, spoke of JACL as a Nisei oriented organization with few Sanssei s involved. After attending one national board meeting, he encounter some conflict with some board members and the organization.

Some old guards, some relatively new members and some new members were sworn in as board member of our chapter by Tom Hara. New board members are: Roger Somekawa, David Doi and John Nakasone.

Gloria Kumagai was awarded JACL's Silver Pin for her outstanding service.

REMINDER: Pacific Citizen Holiday issue one liner. If you have not sent in your donation of \$5.00 (check payable to TC JACL) please send it to Sam Honda 3935 Lakewood Ave. White Bear Lake, MN 55110.

It's my pleasure to report to you on the Chapter's success this year. I think this has been a year of real growth for the Chapter, in a number of areas.

First, the Board has undertaken a serious appraisal of the future of the organization. A Long Range Planning Committee was formed and charged with the responsibility of determining the directions that members and potential members wanted the Chapter to go. The Committee met throughout the year, and received Board approval to conduct a survey of members to evaluate their needs and opinions. An initial analysis of the results of the survey is attached. The next step will be to look beyond our current membership, find out what programs and activities would attract new members, and develop our goals, directions, and programs from the combined knowledge. I believe we are well on our way to making Twin Cities JACL a viable organization for the years ahead.

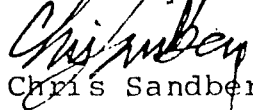
Second, the Board has put into place a budgeting process that should bring more financial stability to the Chapter. We have faced the problem of membership dues not covering expenses, and have begun moving to a self-sustaining operating fund.

Third, on the social side, we had a financially rewarding Sukiyaki Dinner, and a very well attended Summer Picnic this year.

Fourth, looking beyond our local Chapter, we were able to elect Tom Hara as Governor of the Midwest District, and to subsequently host the MDC fall meeting in the Twin Cities.

It has been my very great pleasure to work with all the members of the Board, the Committee chairs, and all the wonderful members of the Chapter who time and again gave their personal efforts to make the organization a success. The Chapter's success is their doing. I have enjoyed this year, and look forward to the future.

Sincerely,


Chris Sandberg

TREASURER'S REPORT

Scholarship Fund:

Balance at Oct. 31, 1985

Tanbara	\$ 1,005.79
Matsumoto	2,260.16
Hara	9,800.26
General	<u>12,703.26</u>
	17,769.47

Operating Account:

2,394.66

TOTAL:

\$20,164.13

Thanks to all who made scholarship gifts this year! Special thanks to Steve Iwago for his generous donation to the JACL's operating account.

MINNESOTA NIKKEI PROJECT.....Project would like to acknowledge the ladies for preparing lunch for our Wednesday Day-Out Program. On Oct. 16th, Debie Tsuchiya. On Nov. 6th, Ginko Lundin. And on Nov. 20th, Kimi Hara, Reiko Sumada & Takako Sakamoto.

Project received donations from Warren & Fumi Kyono, Paul Tsuchiya and from the Hangai family in memory of their mother.

Project lost a dedicated volunteer, Helen Tanaka. We are in our 6th year with the Day-out Program and Helen did not miss one session. Our condolence to Ron and relatives.

MATSUI ON ASIAN AMERICANS AND POLITICS

On October 18, 1985 Congressman Bob Matsui (D., Calif.) spoke at Carleton College in Northfield during its annual Asia Week. The core of his speech, titled, "The Asian American Agenda: Mainstream or Minority?", was an anecdote concerning Matsui's efforts to get on the House monopoly and antitrust subcommittee when he returned to Congress in 1978. Peter Rodino, then in charge of committee appointments, asked Matsui why he didn't apply for the immigration and naturalization committee so he could deal with Southeast and East Asian immigrants coming to the U.S. We excerpted his reply and reasoning for it from his speech, courtesy of a taped transcript from Carleton College.

"I said, I don't want to be restricted by whom you think I happen to be, or what I happen to be. And he said, oh, okay! and he put me on the monopoly and antitrust subcommittee. And from there I went on to the energy and commerce subcommittee, and now I'm on ways and means.

"Now, I don't think of myself as a Japanese American politician or an Asian American politician. I'll deal with those issues undoubtedly, like redress and others, because I have a background and have sensitivity to those issues. But I want to make national policy in the area of taxation, in the area of trade, in the area of economic expansion of our plants and industries, as well as anybody else in the United States Congress. I resent it when a black member of Congress is told only he can deal with civil rights issues and he can't be involved in other issues; or a woman member of Congress, when she is only supposed to be concerned about abortion and ERA---why can't Barbara Cannelli, the congresswoman from the state of Connecticut, make national policy in antitrust enforcement or taxation? Why should she be limited, no more than myself, by the fact that she is a woman and I happen to be an Asian? That's a dilemma I think you as Asian Americans have today. Are you going to go to that law firm in New York City or Los Angeles and be hired so you can deal in international trade with Japan or with China? Or are you going to be hired by that law firm...because they want you to meet with their corporate leaders like Chrysler Corporation, GM and others? That's the choice you have to make and that's the dilemma you face, because some people will attempt to peg you in certain categories, just as Mr. Rodino in good faith and in honesty attempted to peg me in a particular category and determine my future in the House of Representatives, which I resented.

"I think you have a responsibility to go beyond yourself because that next generation will be right after you and your responsibility doesn't go just to you. It goes to them as well.... And that's your challenge: to make sure a good-intentioned Peter Rodino doesn't hold you back."