

# J A C L news

## *Report From the President*

I'm pleased to make this first President's Report of 1990, since I think this is going to be an exciting year for JACL and the Twin Cities Chapter. There will be a lot going on, and I appreciate the trust the board has placed in me.

At the national level, this is a convention year, and all the National JACL executive offices are up for election. If you are interested in running for president, for any of the four vice president positions or for secretary/treasurer, please let either me or Mark Honda know right away. Nominations for these offices are due by March 19.

At the chapter level, we will be focusing on both cultural and civil rights issues this year. Our calendar for the year includes participation in the multicultural Festival of Nations, our own Fall Cultural Day and a Holiday Party for all the kids of the chapter. On the civil rights side, we will monitor the first set of Redress payments as they are made, and we urge all members to educate their state senators and congressmen about the need for legislation to 1) make the Redress payments exempt from state income tax and 2) prevent Redress recipients from losing eligibility for any assistance programs in which they may otherwise participate. We have also begun discussions with the local chapter of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association about anti-Asian violence in the Twin Cities, such as the incident involving the shooting of two Hmong boys in St. Paul.

The Chapter's finances remain solid, and our scholarship funds will be able to help students once again this year. We have an ambitious program set out for 1990, and we'll need the enthusiastic support of all chapter members to make it happen, particularly in our fund-raising events, which include the Spring Suki-yaki Dinner and our Bazaar Booth at the Festival of Nations.

Our chapter will be hosting the Midwest District meeting in May. Mark Honda is coordinating that event and welcomes any assistance from members of the chapter. We have a great tradition of hospitality for JACLers from around the Midwest, and I'm sure that tradition will continue this year!

I always welcome your suggestions, questions and ideas for chapter events, programs and focus. Please call me with any thoughts. My home number is 425-0105.

Sincerely,

*Chris Sandberg*

## *1990 JACL Calendar of Events*

- Sun, April 1 . . . . . Suki-yaki Dinner
- Fri, Sat, Sun, April 27, 28, 29 . . . Festival of Nations
- Fri, Sat, Sun, May 4, 5, 6 . . . . MDC Meeting in Mpls.
- Thurs, May 10 . . . . . Scholarship Dinner
- Sun, June 10 . . . . . Summer Picnic
- Late August . . . . . Golf Tournament
- TBA . . . . . Fall Cultural Day
- Sat, November 10 . . . . . Installation Dinner
- Sat, December 1 . . . . . Holiday Party for Kids

## *1990 JACL Board of Directors*

- President . . . . . Chris Sandberg
  - President Elect/Newsletter . . . . . Mark Honda
  - Treasurer . . . . . Charles Tatsuda
  - Secretary . . . . . Joyce Miyamoto
  - Publicity . . . . . Chris Murakami
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Phil Nomura
  - Newsletter . . . . . Jay Yamashiro
  - Scholarship . . . . . Kimi Hara
  - Festival Coordinator . . . . . Linda van Dooijeweert
  - Redress . . . . . Sam Honda
- Kay Kushino



## Minnesota Nikkei Project, Inc.

For 12 years we have enjoyed financial support from the community, and we hope this will continue. If you did not receive our 1989 financial report at our annual meeting, our balance is \$6958.76. Our large balance is due to a substantial donation received from the Issei Independent Church.

Much of our contributions in materials to the Wednesday Day-Out Program is not recorded in our financial report: Fumi and Warren Kyono donate all the paper goods for the Day-Out Program and Mieko Ikeda donates much of her delicious dessert. In addition, we had donations from our JACL chapter, and the young adults provided food baskets for the Issei at Christmas.

During the year, lunch was provided by Steve and Ted Abe, Yahanda & Takata with help from Mari Uchida & Molly Yamaguchi, May Tanaka & Mary Tsuchiya, Matsuyama & Kimura, Debie Tsuchiya, Hirabayashi-Doi-Ujifusa, Ginko Lundin, Kyonos & Nagamitsus, Saito, the Takekawa family, the Miwa family, the Buddhist Association, Osada-Miyazaki, Fujimoto & Matsuura.

Thank you to all who have donated in many ways.

*Sam Honda*

## List of Donors for 1989

Sumi Teramoto	Harry & Alice Takata
Frank & Helen Tsuchiya	Junie Kawamura
Ted & Ruri Matsuyama	Duane & Toshiko Erickson
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Dr. Joe & Mae Uemura	Rev. Andrew & Kiyoo Otani
Ted Abe	Jim & Judy Tabata
Kay Kushino	
Molly Yamaguchi	

If I failed to mention a donor, please let me know.

## The Twin Cities Hosts Spring MDC Meeting May 4 - 6

This year's spring MDC meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites in Minneapolis. We invite all of our members to participate in the MDC meetings and in any of the weekend's events, which include:

- Golf with Sam Honda on Friday afternoon.
- Friday night potluck dinner at the Embassy Suites.
- Saturday night dinner with members of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.
- Sunday breakfast before the final meeting.

If you would like to spend the night at the Embassy Suites, the cost is \$89 for a large double or single room. This price includes a full breakfast, complimentary drinks 5-7 p.m. and use of the hotel's luxurious amenities.

To make reservations for any of the MDC meeting events, please call: May Tanaka (934-9238)  
or Mark Honda (333-7679)

## Community News

**Wesley Iijima** was selected by a committee of Hennepin County District Court Judges to be the presiding judge of the Hennepin County Housing Court. He is the first Asian-American judge in Minnesota. Iijima was previously the deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights where he was responsible for creating such programs as Oficina Legal, a bilingual legal services program.

**Gloria Kumagai** was on the cover of the February issue of the *Asian Business and Community News* magazine for her work as the chair of the Metropolitan Council Minority Issues Advisory Committee (MIAC). *Asian Business and Community News* is a Minnesota magazine that covers events concerning our Asian community. If you are interested in receiving a copy, call 222-1169.

## ***More Community News***

Many of the Nisei membership will be receiving an invitation to join the **Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund**. This is a National JACL-sponsored program established as a tribute to the man who was named "Nisei of the Biennium." The purpose of the fund is to recruit and train young citizens to assume leadership responsibilities for their community and country. If you have any questions or would like further information about the program, please contact Kay Kushino at 545-4061. This mailing will be done strictly through our chapter; names and addresses have not been released to any outside individuals.

## ***Priorities***

***by Hank Tanaka, MDC Governor***  
***(From the Cleveland JACL newsletter)***

While attending the LEC board meeting in San Francisco on January 6-7, 1990, I met Bob Bratt, director of the Office of Redress Administration. Mr. Bratt gave a very comprehensive and up-to-date progress report.

You will be interested in knowing that he hopes that some 25,000 checks will be issued to eligible individuals on October 1, 1990! This means that if you are at least 68 years of age, you should receive your redress payment.

This plan hinges on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) releasing the maximum of \$500 million to make these payments. Mr. Bratt was informed by OMG that all payments would be made at the same time, not spread out during fiscal year 1991 (October 1, 1990 to September 30, 1991).

Mr. Bratt reported that all living individuals 90 years old and over should have received verification letters. If not, these individuals or members of their families should call the ORA Help Line (202) 653-8360 or write to the ORA, Verification Unit, P.O. Box 66740, Washington, D.C. 20035-6740

With the entitlement program now in place, thanks to the efforts of Senator Daniel Inouye, the LEC organization will be phasing down. By July 1990, the staff will be reduced to one person. It is anticipated that much of the grassroots responsibilities will be appropriately shifted to JACL.

LEC was created to provide a strong lobbying arm in Washington, D.C. without jeopardizing the non-profit status of JACL. The phenomenal success of LEC in getting the Civil Liberties Act passed in 1988 and now the entitlement program effective October 1, 1990, will be cause for public recognition of key players at the forthcoming JACL convention in San Diego in June 1990.

## ***About the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)***

***by Terry M. Louie, Steering Committee chair***

On May 5-6, 1990, the Minnesota chapter of NAPABA will be hosting its first Central Region Conference. This will be in conjunction with the Twin Cities JACL's Midwest District Conference meeting. I want to express my appreciation of JACL's willingness to support this historic event. May 1990 will mark the chapter's first anniversary, and therefore we will have a good deal to celebrate.

The founding of NAPABA is the culmination of organizing efforts that span the past decade. In October 1988, Asian American attorneys met in Chicago to establish the governing framework of NAPABA and develop a statement of goals and purposes that include:

- Establishing a national network for resource-sharing of information relevant to the unique practices of Asian American attorneys;
- Promoting the advancement of Asian Americans in the legal profession; and
- Advocating the interests of the numerous Asian Pacific American communities.

To date, we have had to take substantive actions even while we are only beginning to establish ourselves. Some of our local projects include:

- Working with local and national groups regarding the shooting of two Hmong-American boys by an Inver Grove policeman;
- Monitoring Asian American law student admissions at the University of Minnesota Law School;
- Supporting the passage of legislation on the establishment of a Supreme Court committee to study racism in Minnesota's judicial system; and
- Developing ties with other Asian American legal organizations both locally and nationally.

I am also a member of the Japanese American Citizens League and expect that JACL-Twin Cities and NAPABA-Minnesota will have a long history of mutual support and cooperation. We share many of the same civil and human rights concerns. In the future, more of the defending and extending of our civil and human rights will be won through working with people, women and minorities than in the past 200 years of struggles for social justice.

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### ***Wanna Dance?***

If you're at least 5 years old and interested in learning some Japanese dances and performing around the Twin Cities, the Sansei Yonsei Kai Japanese Dance Group is a great place to start.

This spring, the group will be dancing in the Festival of Nations (April 27-29) as well as at some shopping centers. During the summer the group also dances at local outdoor events.

For more information, call Chris Murakami at 774-3440.

***If you'd like to submit something  
for the next issue of the JACL Newsletter,  
call Mark Honda at 333-7679.***