

RICE PAPER

The newsletter of the Twin Cities chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League

Fall 1991

Chapter takes proactive stand on 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor

Media contact is top priority

by David K. Hayashi

The news media is planning a full week of coverage for the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. This coverage has become a focal point of concern for Japanese Americans and the JACL.

On the national level of JACL, a formal statement was released that expressed concerns regarding what kind of coverage might occur and what impact it might have. In particular, this statement highlights these concerns:

- The possibility of exploitation of racial fears based on wartime animosities and current Japan/U.S. economic relations.
- A rise in anti-Asian violence, hate crimes, Japan-bashing.
- The need to sensitize people to the potential damage that can be caused by racial slurs, name calling and race-based joke telling.
- The concern that a balanced, fair and equitable story be presented, including coverage of the incarceration of more than 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry and the many Japanese-American men who served in the 442nd Battalion or in the Military Intelligence Service.

Your local chapter has initiated efforts to prepare a media packet to send to Twin Cities media. This packet will include a cover letter outlining our concerns and will offer the media our services as a resource for information and perspectives.

It is important that the truth be told in a fair and equitable manner. We would like to offer facts, statistical information and insight on the local Japanese American community.

With this in mind, we would like to offer a list of possible local interviewees to the media; we know there are many people in the local community who were interned in a relocation camp and/or served in the armed forces during World War II.

Our chapter's board members may be calling some of you to ask if you are interested in being on our list of possible interviewees for the media packet. If you would like to be an interviewee, or if you would like to contribute any information that may be helpful, please call David K. Hayashi, 372-3337 (day) or 822-3659 (evening).

David Hayashi is first vice chair and civil rights chair of the Twin Cities JACL. He recently attended a JACL-sponsored workshop in Chicago addressing the impact of publicity surrounding the Pearl Harbor anniversary and how to take a proactive stance with the media.

Resolution cautions against racial exploitation

The following is a resolution cautioning against racial exploitation on the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The board of the Twin Cities chapter passed this resolution at its board meeting Sept. 17.

Whereas, December 7, 1991, will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; and

Whereas, This 50th anniversary commemoration will result in considerable public attention both before and after ceremonial activities scheduled in Hawaii and at other sites around the nation; and

Whereas, The occasion of this 50th anniversary has the potential for racial exploitation by some individuals or groups based on wartime animosities, the perception of Japan as an unfair economic superpower and the perpetuation of the view of Japan as an "enemy"; and

Whereas, The 1980s has witnessed a dramatic increase in hate crimes directed at Asian Americans caused by various factors including "Japan-bashing," which results primarily from the economic and trade frictions between the United States and Japan; now, therefore,

Be it resolved, That the Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League abhors any attempts to exploit racism that would adversely affect Japanese Americans or Asian Americans as a result of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor must be strongly deplored; and

Be it further resolved, That we must remain ever mindful that because of racism and America's entry into World War II, the United States government initiated actions which resulted in the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans causing a Constitutional failure and a denial of justice to an entire group of Americans, notwithstanding their loyalty and their subsequent courageous military service in behalf of the United States during World War II.

Installation Dinner postponed.

The annual Twin Cities chapter JACL Installation dinner, tentatively scheduled for late November, has been postponed until January or February. Watch your mail around the holidays for details.

OPPORTUNITIES

*lend a helping hand,
please!*

Our chapter needs your help. JACL programs depend on the support of its members for success. If you can volunteer your time, we'd appreciate it!

Holiday Party for Kids
Sunday, Dec. 8, 2-4 p.m.

We need lots of people to help us decorate the party room, wrap Santa's gifts, set up, clean up, serve refreshments, help Santa deliver his gifts, and much more. If you can help before, during or after the party, call Chris Noonan, 483-3897.

WANTED

Enthusiastic people willing to give time and energy to worthy community service organization. No experience necessary. Only requirements are willingness to share ideas and contribute to Japanese American community. Rewards are plentiful.

If you are interested in serving on the board of directors of the Twin Cities JACL or one of its committees such as education, membership, civil rights, programs, etc. - or if you'd like more information- contact Mark Honda, 735-5464.

Board terms are two years. The board meets once a month.

WELCOME

Welcome to the following who are new JACL members in 1991:

Michiko Anderson, Minneapolis
Dr. Kenneth Barklund, Edina
Kaori Koya, Maplewood
Christine Lowell, Rapid City
Adrian Matsunaga, Roseville
Leah Nishimura, Shoreview
Tom Oye, Edina

GOLF NEWS

48 golfers vie for prizes

August 18 was a perfect day for the annual JACL Golf Tournament at Gross Golf Course in Minneapolis. The field was filled with 48 participants going for individual prizes. Congratulations to these winners:

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Score</u>
A-flight		
1st place	Nobi Kuga	68
2nd place	Rob Ohno	70
B-flight		
1st place	Tom Ohno	68
2nd place	John Takekawa	69

C-flight		
1st place	Curt Nelson	67
2nd place	Chester Fujino	69

Women's flight		
1st place	Nora Westman	72
2nd place	Kitty Fujimoto	74

Additional prizes also were awarded for the longest drive, closest to the pin and the longest putt.

This year's golf committee owes their thanks to John Nakasone, Sam Honda, Frank Yanari and Jay Yamashiro. Special thanks to the

group from Hawaii, who donated a dozen golf balls (sorry, we don't know your names). And, thanks to all who participated!

We hope that next year will be a bigger and better event. See you next year!

OUTLOOK

President discusses JACL's future

by Mark Honda, Twin Cities JACL president

Serving as president and on the board of directors of the Japanese American Citizens League has been a very exciting, informative and enlightening experience. It also has been a very frustrating one, and I feel the organization and our chapter have come to a very important crossroad in their history. The context JACL is in has changed, so we must re-focus our direction to compensate for these changes.

I believe some of the important changes are:

- With the success of the Redress campaign, the focus of JACL has become unclear to some members. Issei and Nisei generations, who make up the majority of our membership, are getting older, fewer in number, and less interested in participating in JACL activities.
- Sansei and Yonsei generations, who have grown up with very "American" values and little contact with other Japanese Americans, perceive very little need to join a Japanese-American organizations.
- Interracial marriages have blurred some parents' guidance of their children's cultural identity.

These changes in demographics and interest have brought some JACL chapters to near non-existence. Will this happen to the Twin Cities chapter?

The crucial questions to ask are "Should the Twin Cities chapter of JACL exist, and can it continue to exist?"

My personal answer is "Yes, yes," but we need to change and need more participation of our members.

I would argue:

- The JACL's mission is to secure and uphold human and civil rights. The fight against racism and anti-Asian

violence goes beyond redress and is important to all Americans.

- The experiences of the Issei and Nisei are very important pieces of history that must be taught to younger generations of Japanese Americans and all Americans. JACL has and can be an important educational vehicle.
- Cultural identity is something we all try to find during our lives. JACL can help in the discovery process by providing cultural classes and events to attract more of the Sansei and Yonsei.
- JACL is an important social group for Japanese Americans living in the Midwest. JACL events provide some of the few opportunities Japanese Americans and their families have to get to know others who have had similar experiences and backgrounds.

I believe if the Twin Cities JACL can produce programs that follow in these directions, it can be a very successful and meaningful organization to the community. The crucial key to the survival of this organization is its members' continued support, participation and ability to attract others.

JACL board prioritizes goals

As part of its efforts to address the evolution of JACL, the Twin Cities board met Oct. 27 to discuss the chapter's direction and goals. Board members identified a number of important reasons why the Twin Cities JACL chapter should exist, the major obstacles that face the chapter, and some new ideas for future programs.

These findings are listed below. The board needs your input on this important matter, especially if you do not agree with us or if you have other suggestions that are not discussed. Please let us know your thoughts on the role of that JACL should take in our community.

What is the purpose of the Twin Cities JACL? (in order of priority)

1. Represent the Japanese American community.
2. Educate the Japanese American community about the Japanese American experience.
3. Act as a social group for the Japanese American community.
4. Educate the greater community about the Japanese American experience.
5. Educate the community about minority issues.
6. Provide cultural heritage education.
7. Combat racism.
8. Network Japanese American resources.
9. Support Japanese American social events.
10. Support Japanese American businesses.
11. Provide a scholarship program for Japanese Americans.
12. Support other minority groups.
13. Support Japanese American candidates for leadership positions.
14. Support community events.

What are the major obstacles facing the Twin Cities JACL?

1. Lack of an organized, active membership.
2. Lack of members' available time.
3. Lack of JACL presence in the community and understanding of JACL.
4. Existing personality conflicts.
5. JACL's involvement and actions during World War II.
6. Prejudices existing within the Japanese American community.
7. Lack of funds.

(Goals, continued on page 4)

AT A GLANCE

Highlights of JACL board meetings

Following is a summary of the major items discussed at the Twin Cities JACL board meetings on Aug. 13, Sept. 17 and Oct. 27.

AKI MATSURI FALL FESTIVAL

This event, which JACL co-sponsored with the Normandale Japanese Garden Club, was very successful. 1,318 Sukiyaki dinners were served; this is a 30 percent increase over last year. Hundreds people also enjoyed the performing events, especially the taiko drum performance. Thanks to all who helped with this event.

INSTALLATION DINNER

This event, previously scheduled for late November, will be postponed until after the new year.

BOARD MEMBER SEARCH

Efforts are underway to search for people interested in serving on the board of directors. Several two-year terms need to be filled. Names of people interested should be forwarded to Mark Honda.

RESOLUTIONS DISCUSSED

- A resolution encouraging sensitivity during the upcoming 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor was passed. This resolution has already been adopted at the national JACL level. (See page 1 for more information.)

- The Wisconsin JACL chapter is leading an effort to change the JACL membership requirements that state JACLers must be American citizens. A resolution in support of allowing non-citizens to vote and hold office was discussed; at the Fall MDC meeting, the Chicago chapter volunteered to refine the resolution. There is an effort to have the membership requirement changed at the national level, but first the support of MDC chapters is being sought.

FALL MDC MEETING

This one-day meeting was held in Chicago, Sept. 28. David Hayashi was the Twin Cities representative. The two main items on the agenda were: election of the MDC governor (Al Hida, Wisconsin); workshop on combating the negative effects of the Pearl Harbor 50th anniversary.

PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE

Sam Honda is coordinating solicitation to members. He will send letters asking members to purchase either a one-column ad or a one-liner. The board will purchase a four-column.

HOLIDAY PARTY FOR KIDS

The date is Sunday, Dec. 8, 2-4 p.m., at the Shoreview Community Center. Joyce Miyamoto has arranged for a juggler to provide the main entertainment. Event is co-chaired by Joanne Kumagai and Chris Noonan.

MEMBERSHIP

Min Yoshida reported that chapter membership to date in 1991 is as following: 77 singles, 12 family, 2 student, 29 Thousand Club.

FOCUS MEETING

The board will hold a focus meeting to discuss "In what direction should we move the Twin Cities JACL?" The meeting will be held Sunday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Sheraton Midway. All current board members will be attending. Guests include Kimi Hara, Sam Honda and Min Yoshida.

Board meetings are held on one Tuesday each month. The board welcomes any visitors. If you would like to attend, call Mark Honda, 735-5464.

Lost and found

JACL has lost two copper tea pots. If you know of their whereabouts, please call May Tanaka, 934-9238.

A new home

The Twin Cities JACL now has a permanent mailing address:

**Twin Cities JACL
P.O. Box 580499
Minneapolis, MN
55458-0499**

This address will be used for the majority of chapter correspondence. However, if you need to send urgent correspondence to a JACL member, we suggest you send your item directly to that person's home address.

Goals, continued from page 3

What kinds of programs should we offer to meet our purpose?

Currently existing programs:

- Festival of Nations
- Spring Sukiyaki dinner
- Fall Festival
- Golf Tournament
- Summer Picnic
- Holiday Party for Kids
- Installation Dinner

New program ideas:

- Mochi-making party
- Japanese cooking class
- Day of Remembrance
- Japanese arts and crafts day
- Coalition-building programs with other organizations
- Recognition program

Operational/staffing positions:

- Education committee
- Resource center
- Historian
- Membership program
- Network facilitator
- Civil rights program

AROUND TOWN

State of Minnesota Asian-Pacific Learner Task Force Public Hearing

Thursday, Nov. 14
6-8 p.m.
Central Lutheran Church
333 12th St. S., Minneapolis

Wednesday, Dec. 4
7-8:30 p.m.
McDonough Homes
Community and Recreation Center
1544 Timberlake Rd., St. Paul

The Minnesota State Board of Education appointed a task force of citizens to hear about the educational needs and concerns of Asian-Pacific students and their parents. The information will be used to make recommendation to the State Board of Education to improve the quality of education for all Asian-Pacific students. All Asian-Pacific Islanders are urged to attend and share concerns and needs.

For more information, call the Minnesota Department of Education, 296-1447.

The Police and the Community

Thursday, Nov. 14, 7-9 p.m.
Minnesota Council of Churches Building
122 West Franklin St., Minneapolis

Do you know how the law enforcement process works? What is the role of the police? What are your rights? What should we do to reduce crime? Do we have a mutually supportive relationship between the police and the community? What should we do to improve the relationship?

Your comments and attendance are welcome at a community meeting.

For more information, contact Dr. Albert deLeon, 296-0538.

Don't miss the Holiday Party for Kids

Hosted by the Twin Cities JACL

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2-4 p.m.
Shoreview Community Center
4580 N. Victoria St., Shoreview

The whole family is invited! See enclosed flier for details or call Joanne Kumagai, 537-8076, or Chris Noonan, 483-3897. R.S.V.P. deadline is Nov. 27. There is no charge.



Warriors and Dragons

Living Traditions in Chinese Opera

Sunday, Nov. 17
Noon-5 p.m.
Family Day at the
Minneapolis Institute
of Arts
2400 Third Ave. S.,
Minneapolis

- Han Sheng Chinese Opera Institute from Washington, D.C., performing Peking, Wu and Kung Fu opera styles at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Chinese opera face-painting demonstration.
- Dragon robe design workshop.
- Exhibition of "Imperial Silks of the Ch'ing Dynasty," including dragon robes from the Forbidden City (nominal charge).
- Free admission to the museum.

For more information, call 870-3131.

"The Pros and Cons of Doing Business in Japan"

Thursday, Nov. 21, 7:30 - 9 a.m.
Minneapolis Convention Center

What does it take to succeed in Japan? Is the effort worth the investment?

Come and hear William Strang, director of corporate marketing for Tennant Co. and former vice president and representative director of Fuji-Tennant, Japan. Strang started with Tennant in 1966. He has moved up through the organization, holding several managerial positions, and spent four years in Japan with Fuji-Tennant.

With annual sales exceeding \$200,000,000, Tennant is considered the world's leading manufacturer of industrial floor maintenance equipment and has had a strong presence in Japan for more than 25 years.

This program is part of the Meet the Expert Breakfast Series presented by the Midwest Asia Center.

Cost for the breakfast program is \$15. Reservation deadline is Nov. 14. For more information, call 228-3702.

INSIDE

Twin Cities JACL takes proactive stand on 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor	1
Opportunities to help	2
Welcome new members	2
Golf news	2
Chapter president and board of directors discuss Twin Cities JACL's future	3
Highlights of JACL board meetings	4
Cultural events happening around town	5

In the red: A holiday party for kids!

**Japanese
American
Citizens
League**

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TWIN CITIES CHAPTER

