

RICE PAPER

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

Summer 1991

Spring Fundraisers a Success

Festival of Nations booths bring record revenues

Record revenues were achieved at the Twin Cities chapter's bazaar and demonstration booths at this year's Festival of Nations, which took place April 25-28, 1991, at the St. Paul Civic Center. Preliminary figures show that sales were up 29 percent over last year!

For the first time, the Festival opened on a Thursday. According to the International Institute, the sponsor of the event, this move was made because of the Festival's overwhelming popularity among school groups that previously had only attended on Friday. Now, Thursday and Friday during the day were open only to school groups. As usual, Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday were open to the public. Our sales were aided this year by the Festival's early opening.

The bazaar booth again featured a variety of merchandise, which included many items for children: wooden peddler drums, fans, "cheater" chopsticks, Japanese games and tricks, robot arms, hachi makis, happi coats, kites, and other gift items.

The origami and ribbon fish demonstration booth doubled its sales this year due to a great location that meant high visibility for the colorful ribbon fish, swans and birds, and the many origami shapes and figures. More than 20 volunteers demonstrated and sold a variety of the handmade crafts to a constant crowd of young and old who appeared to be fascinated by how to weave ribbon fish and fold a paper iris.

On June 25, the Twin Cities chapter board of directors hosted a Festival wrap-up meeting. All JACL Festival volunteers were invited to discuss this year's booth activities – and enjoy delicious desserts. We received many valuable comments and suggestions, all of which will help JACL improve future fundraisers at the Festival.

We still need to expand our volunteer list for next year's Festival of Nations fundraising activities. If you have never worked in one of our booths, take it from this year's volunteers – it is a truly enjoyable experience (100 percent of this year's volunteers who responded to our post-Festival summary said so). Plus, you receive free admission to the Festival so you can enjoy all the exhibits and performances. We will be asking many of you for your time again next year, and urge you to help if you can!

Many thanks to all of this year's volunteers! Your time and efforts made our chapter's largest fundraiser a great success.

Festival of Nations Gross Revenue Summary

<u>Bazaar Booth</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>
Thursday	\$1,068.10	—
Friday	\$1,965.25	\$3,031.00
Saturday	\$1,505.10	\$1,218.04
Sunday	\$ 781.35	\$ 491.50
Bazaar booth total	\$5,319.80	\$4,740.54
<u>Demonstration Booth</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>
Thursday	\$ 420.20	—
Friday	\$1,046.40	\$ 621.00
Saturday	\$ 486.80	\$ 332.26
Sunday	\$ 239.25	\$ 123.75
Demo. booth total	\$2,192.65	\$1,077.01
GRAND TOTAL	\$7,512.45	\$5,817.55

Annual Sukiyaki Dinner feeds 510

The chapter's annual Sukiyaki Dinner was once again well attended. Held on May 19, 1991, at the Union Congregational Church in St. Louis Park, the dinner attracted 510 diners, compared to 506 last year. The dinner raises funds for the Twin Cities JACL's scholarship fund and chapter operating fund.

In addition to the sukiyaki dinner, which included sukiyaki, rice, salad and a fresh fruit dessert, JACL sponsored a gift shop featuring many kinds of merchandise.

Although the financial summary is still being finalized, it appears that revenues hit an all-time high due to strong gift shop sales.

Thanks to all the volunteers and attendees for making our annual scholarship fundraiser a success again this year.

A new name!

"Rice Paper" is now the official name of the Twin Cities chapter's newsletter. Our new name was selected from among several entries submitted by chapter members. Congratulations to the creative David Hayashi. And many thanks to those who submitted entries to the "Name the Newsletter" contest.

Mark your calendars now!

❁ AKI MATSURI ❁

JACL's Second Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, September 8, 1991 12-6 p.m.

Normandale Community College, 9700 France Ave. S., Bloomington

❁
Performances by local groups: Twin Cities Bukkyo Kai Taiko Group, Sansei Yonsei Kai Dance Group, Hiroko's Group, and others.

❁
Origami demonstrations by Kathy and Kae Suzuki and Mrs. Kimi Yanari.

❁
Silk flower demonstrations by Mrs. Ando and Mrs. Mit Tsuchiya.

❁
Continuous showing of video tours of Japan and a video highlighting the JACL's struggle for redress.

❁
Tours of the Normandale Japanese Garden.

❁
A gift shop featuring a variety of merchandise.

❁
Sukiyaki Dinner to benefit the Normandale Japanese Garden. For dinner tickets, call May Tanaka, 934-9238.

❁
Watch your mail in August for more details.

**Japanese
American
Citizens
League**

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TWIN CITIES CHAPTER

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