

# RICE PAPER

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

March 1993

## Introducing the 1993 Twin Cities JACL board

**DAVID K. HAYASHI**

**President**

I have been a JACL member all my life, but have only been active in the organization since moving to the Twin Cities from California. I have served on the board for four years, the last two years as first vice president and civil rights chair.

At first I had a selfish reason for becoming involved in JACL - I wanted to get to know the local Japanese American community. I since have discovered that I enjoy working on the board, and I realize that we as an organization can be effective in making a difference. Being Asian American in America today has given rise to so many issues that we must work to resolve. JACL continues to have an impact on not only Japanese Americans, but on America in general.

I am employed as an accounting supervisor at IDS Financial Services Inc., where I am involved in diversity awareness efforts. I serve as treasurer for the Asian American Renaissance steering committee. In my spare time, I enjoy tennis, golf, skiing, music and spending time with my significant other Sara and our golden retriever Samson.

**JOANNE KUMAGAI**

**Vice President**

I joined JACL so that I would gain a better understanding of my Japanese heritage and because I have a desire to contribute to the Japanese American community.

I have very high hopes for our chapter and would like to see us: expand our membership; through coalition building, bring an awareness of the Japanese American community to the Twin Cities area and Midwest region; and preserve social and cultural enrichment for future generations.

I work at Medical Arts Press, located in Brooklyn Park, as telemarketing manager and currently serve as vice president for the Telemarketing Managers Association. My hobbies include traveling, the arts, cooking and outdoor activities.

**CHARLES TATSUDA JR.**

**Treasurer**

I became involved in JACL to maintain contact with the Japanese American community, to help preserve a sense of cultural heritage for my family, and to give something back to the organization that supported my parents and family in times of greater need.

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**Sukiyaki Dinner to benefit the  
Twin Cities JACL Scholarship Fund  
Sunday, March 28.  
See back page for details.**

## 1993 Twin Cities JACL board of directors

The following people were installed Feb. 14 as board members for 1993. All are serving two-year terms except where noted. Officers are elected by the board each year.

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Term expires</u>
David Hayashi <i>President</i>	822-3659	1993
Joanne Kumagai <i>Vice president</i>	537-8076	1994
Chuck Tatsuda Jr. <i>Treasurer</i>	724-7264	1993
Tom Hara	420-9562	1993
Mark Honda	458-5258	1994
John Nakasone	698-3647	1993
Elaine Lyford-Nojima	724-9578	1994
Chris Murakami Noonan	483-3897	1993*
Charissa Uemura	225-8219	1993

\* Appointed to fill remaining one year of David Koch's unexpired term.

# WELCOME

We would like to welcome these people who have recently joined (or rejoined after an absence) the Twin Cities chapter of JACL.

Yoko Breckenridge, Apple Valley  
Rita Nakashima Brock, St. Paul  
Barbara Kumagai, Brooklyn Center  
Elaine Lyford-Nojima, Minneapolis  
Noriaki Metoki, Columbia Heights  
Taka Miwa, Minneapolis  
Amy Osajima, Minneapolis  
Hiroko Spees, Brooklyn Center  
Kazuyoshi Taniguchi, Bloomington  
Kim Tsujimoto, Woodbury  
Lynn Yamanaka, Minneapolis  
Lance Yoshikawa, St. Paul

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*Board member introductions, continued from page 1.*

*Charles Tatsuda Jr., continued.*

I live in south Minneapolis with my wife, Jennifer, and two-year-old son, Peter. I am a credit review manager at Norwest Mortgage. My interests include travel, golf, tennis, bridge, "fantasy" sports leagues and collecting wine. I have served as treasurer of the Twin Cities JACL since 1986.

## THOMAS HARA

I am impressed with the youth and vitality of our new board; I feel that my age has caught up with me when the younger board members describe me as an "asset."

Like most Midwest District Council (MDC) chapters of JACL, the Twin Cities chapter is poised on the edge of the Nisei-Sansei transition, which is potentially a problem. However, I feel more confident about our ability to manage this change than other JACL chapters – even those in California. There are, I think, two components to this: the willingness of the Nisei to accept change without withdrawing support, and the recognition by the Sansei that the changes they think necessary must achieve demonstrable support among the entire membership and greater community from which new participants may be drawn. This country, and the Japanese American community, have changed dramatically since my first involvement with JACL, and we must be able to adapt to these changes if we are to remain viable into the 21st century.

I am an attorney in private practice in Brooklyn Center. I live in Maple Grove with my wife, Kathy; children, TJ and Elizabeth; and mother, Kimi Hara. In addition to my current term, I was a chapter board member 1977-1984 and chapter president 1980-1982. I was MDC governor 1985-1987 and second vice governor 1987-1989.

## MARK HONDA

Participating in cultural events that bring the Japanese American community together to educate the greater community is the most important reason why I am a part of

JACL. JACL events remind me of my cultural heritage, they give me a sense of identity I can be proud of, and they provide the public with a better understanding of Japanese and Japanese Americans.

I joined the JACL board in 1987 and since then have been involved in many of JACL's programs, Midwest District meetings, and in 1989, I attended National JACL's Leadership Conference. I served as chapter president 1991-1992.

I am a native Minnesotan and the son of two well-known JACLers Sam and Lily Honda. I reside in Cottage Grove with my wife, Andrea, and two sons, Benjamin and Nicholas. I am a University of Minnesota graduate and currently work for the Urban Traveler stores. Some of my interests include music, jogging and bowling. But I most enjoy my free time "hanging out" with my very energetic sons.

## ELAINE LYFORD-NOJIMA

I joined JACL and the board because I agree with the board's intention and interest in dealing with racism and its steady growth in our time. In the past, I've found serving on the boards of other nonprofit organizations to be very enriching and enjoyable, and I look forward to the coming two years on the JACL board. It is important for my husband and I, especially in this white landscape, to be connected with people of color.

I moved to Minneapolis two and a half years ago from Ventura, Calif., so that my husband, Dana Nojima, could pursue his Ph.D. studies at the University of Minnesota. I work as a psychologist for an HMO. Dana and I enjoy Minnesota a great deal – especially the winter, when we skate, cross-country ski and do a yearly dog-sledding trip.

## JOHN NAKASONE

I joined JACL primarily so that my children would be exposed to the Japanese community, our heritage, culture and past achievements. I want our children to associate

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*Board member introductions, continued on page 3.*

## meetings!

I have to share this incident with you all. As you know my last name is Hayashi; and granted, this is not your typical mainstream Midwestern name. I received a certificate of recognition at work last week and the calligrapher had spelled my name as "Hayaski." Did he or she assume that I was of Polish heritage and not Japanese? I often receive junk mail with the "ski" spelling. I find it amusing. Oh, well, just one of those things that makes you go "Hmmm!"

Special thanks to Kathy and David Koch, whose planning made the Installation Dinner a wonderful success. Thank you to Amy Osajima

for her rendition of our national anthem. Also, a thank you to the Tom Hara family and to Kimi Hara for hosting installation dinner guest speaker and national JACL president Lillian Kimura. I hear she had a great time at the Mall of America!

Well, the new board is off to a running start! Here is a brief update on what has been happening.

- On Feb. 9, board members met with Pat Finnegan, a manager in the Human Resources Organizational Development department at IDS. She graciously volunteered to help us with some team building and to lead us in a discussion on goal setting, organization, commu-

nication, where and how to start setting priorities, and more. As part of the workshop, Pat helped us interpret our Myers-Briggs Type Indicators, learn how to appreciate the strengths of our colleagues, and she illustrated ways we can use our personality types to more effectively work together to make a stronger organization. All board members in attendance felt that Pat's guidance was very beneficial.

- Our first board meeting was held on Feb. 16 at Tom Hara's house. Our main discussion focused on the upcoming Sukiyaki Dinner, as well as the chapter's goals and the board's structure. Joanne Kumagai was elected vice president.

*Notes from the president, continued on page 7.*

*Board member introductions, continued from page 2.*

*John Nakasone, continued.*  
with other JACL families because of the emphasis the Japanese community places on education, family, social responsibilities and strong work ethic. The events that we now organize or sponsor go a long way toward achieving these goals.

A resident of St. Paul, I am married to Jacqueline Nakasone, and we have three children, Jacob, 12; Mariko, 9; and Natalie, 5. My parents are Bud and Mary Nakasone, long-time residents of White Bear Lake. I enjoy handball, skiing and tennis.

Since 1978, I have been president of Painting by Nakasone, a commercial painting and wallcovering contractor. Among my professional and community service activities, I have served as president of the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America - Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter.

## CHRIS MURAKAMI NOONAN

Although I was active in the Japanese American Youth group (JAYs) in my high school days, my decision to be a part of the JACL board was not an easy one. But, I chose to serve on our chapter board because, even though there are not enough hours in the day to do and be everything, I decided to place a high priority on working to make the world just a little more of an understanding and loving place for my children - just as my grandparents and parents have done for me. Self esteem, confidence, individualism, a sense of belonging, pride, empathy, and the importance of doing for others without expecting anything in return are some of what I think I can give to my children as a result of my involvement in JACL.

My husband, Terry, and I have spent most of the last two and a half years watching in wonder as our son, Alex, grows and develops into his own person. The three of us enjoy playing football and baseball, listening to rock 'n' roll, going for walks and reading books. I work at the University of St. Thomas Graduate School of Business as marketing communications manager.

## CHARISSA UEMURA

My name appeared on last year's slate for the JACL board after I said I might consider running for a seat on the board. I didn't actually decide to join the board; I simply didn't decide not to. Sometimes not to decide is to decide. I feel privileged to have had that decision made for me!

I have enjoyed getting to know my fellow board members and working on the cultural and social events. It's been a new introduction to the community for me. Moreover, I was impressed by the progressive nature of the workshops I attended at JACL's 32nd Biennial National Convention in Denver last summer.

Themes of the convention mirrored my own hopes for the Twin Cities chapter in 1993: a broader definition of "community involvement" for JACL members, including building ties with other communities of color, maintaining vigilance against anti-Asian violence and continuing involvement in education and the arts. This coming year I am looking forward to the challenge of beginning this work while keeping up with our annual special events.

In college I studied English literature; in grad school, journalism. So naturally, now I am a photographer. I have discovered a vital, growing Asian arts community here, and I am active with the Asian American Renaissance.

## **Chapter offers scholarships to high school seniors**

by Tom Ohno

For the past 30 years, the Twin Cities chapter of JACL has made scholarships available to graduating high school seniors of Japanese descent.

The awards have been given to those students who have excelled academically, given outstanding service, or who may have made an unusual contribution to their school and/or community.

### **This year we know of seven graduates:**

Naomi Fujioka, Stillwater High School  
Tetsunori Ishida, Woodbury High School  
Amy Kaneko, Tartan High School  
Chieko Katagiri, Academy of Holy Angels  
Stephanie Miller, Bloomington Kennedy High School  
Zaidee Rollins, Minneapolis South High School  
Kevin Taniguchi, Bloomington Kennedy High School

### **Scholarships are granted on the following basis:**

- 1) To children whose parents are members of the Twin Cities JACL.
- 2) To children who are relatives of a member of the Twin Cities JACL.
- 3) To children who are recommended by a member of the Twin Cities JACL and who are of Japanese ancestry or whose parents are of Japanese ancestry.
- 4) To children who are made known to the Scholarship Committee and who are of Japanese ancestry or whose parents are of Japanese ancestry.

We are asking for help from JACL members to locate other students who are graduating from high school this year. If you know of other graduating high school seniors who are of Japanese descent, please contact any of the scholarship committee members.

The 1993 scholarship awards will be presented at a buffet dinner on Thursday, May 20, at the Campus Club (fourth floor of Coffman Union) located on the campus of the University of Minnesota.

### **Scholarship Committee**

Kimi Hara	420-8139
Tom Ohno	831-5869
Lucy Kirihara	881-2866
Sylvia Farrells	888-8771
Sally Sudo	835-7374

## **1993 National JACL Scholarship and Awards Program accepting applications**

Through the Japanese American experience, past generations have always encouraged their children to pursue knowledge, recognizing that education was the door to greater opportunities and new horizons.

JACL continues this valuable legacy through its National Scholarship and Awards Program. Since the program's inception in 1946, JACL has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars to deserving students.

The 1993 National Scholarship and Awards Program offers awards to outstanding and qualified students at the freshman, undergraduate and graduate levels, and to individuals involved in creative projects that reflect the Japanese American experience and culture.

JACL members, their children or any American of Japanese ancestry may apply for a JACL scholarship or award. Preference may be given to those with JACL affiliation.

### **Freshman Awards**

Applicants must be graduating high school seniors who are planning to enter a trade school, business school, college or university, or any institution of higher learning.

### **Undergraduate Awards**

Applicants must be currently enrolled or planning to re-enter a trade school, business school, college or university, or any institution of higher learning at the undergraduate level.

### **Graduate Awards**

Applicants must be either currently enrolled or planning to enter an accredited graduate school.

### **Law Scholarships**

Applicants must be currently enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited law school the following semester.

### **Special Awards**

These awards include the Creative Arts Award, the Student Aid Award, and the Performing Arts Scholarship.

Applications for the Freshman awards were due at the local chapters March 1. All other applications, accompanied by all supporting documents, are due at the JACL National Headquarters by April 1. Scholarship awards are announced in August.

For more information on the national awards, call a member of the Twin Cities Scholarship Committee (phone numbers are listed in the left column on this page).

## 40th ANNIVERSARY

### T-C JACL Credit Union celebrates 40 years!

by Edward Yoshikawa, Treasurer/Manager

For 40 years, the T-C JACL Credit Union has served members of the Twin Cities JACL.

Our credit union is the fourth-smallest credit union in Minnesota, but we have the most enviable record of having just **one bad debt in 40 years of serving our community!**

Here are some interesting facts about your credit union:

- We have 142 members with \$198,222 savings. (Our members include Issei, Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei and others.)
- Currently we have 34 borrowers totaling \$143,241. During our 40 years we have issued 981 loans totaling \$2,010,653.
- We have paid 40 consecutive years of dividends totaling \$196,907.

For more information about the T-C JACL Credit Union, call Edward Yoshikawa, Treasurer/Manager, 822-8982.

Forty years of successfully serving T-C JACL members and family with financial assistance can be attributed to men and women who have served on our credit union board. Many have served continually for several decades.

#### Directors

Roy Kyono  
Jim Mizuhata  
George Murakami  
Edward Yoshikawa  
George Nishida

#### President

Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer/Manager  
Consultant

#### Supervisory Committee

Warren Kyono, chair  
Mikio Kiriara  
Ron Hirabayashi

#### Credit Committee

George Yoshino, chair  
Sam Honda  
Wayne Yamaguchi

#### Financial statement after closing of the book Dec. 31, 1992:

##### Assets

Cash	\$ 8,668.88
Personal loans	143,240.93
Other credit union	69,558.86
NCUSIF (Nat'l. Cr. Un.)	1,688.99
Perm. capital investment	1,017.00
	<u>\$ 224,174.66</u>

##### Liabilities

Shares	\$ 198,221.51
Reserve funds	13,292.52
Undivided earnings	10,573.15
Allowance for loan loss	2,087.48
	<u>\$ 224,174.66</u>

At its annual meeting Feb. 21, the T-C JACL Credit Union declared dividends of 4 percent for 1992.

## WRAP - UP

### 94 JACLers attend KODO performance

The Twin Cities chapter reserved a block of 50 top-price tickets at the Ordway Music Theatre for the March 2 performance by KODO, a world-renowned taiko drum troupe from Sado Island, Japan. JACL received a group discount and passed the discount along to members and friends. JACL tickets were \$17.85 (plus \$.25 handling charge); the regular ticket price was \$21.

At first, the chapter board was concerned that we would not be able to sell the 50 tickets we had originally reserved. But, the response was overwhelming – 94 people ordered tickets through JACL! Fortunately the Ordway was able to accommodate our increased order.

Many thanks to Joanne Kumagai for coordinating the ticket purchase and distribution.

# WRAP - UP

## 1992 financial summary of the Twin Cities JACL

The following report was presented at the Installation Dinner and Annual Meeting, held Feb. 14, 1993, at the Holiday Inn West in St. Louis Park.

<u>Chapter Funds</u>	<u>December 31, 1992</u>	<u>November 30, 1991</u>
Operating Funds:		
JACL	\$ 8,694.40	\$ 12,732.98
JAYS	<u>1,373.34</u>	<u>1,318.36</u>
Total Operating	10,067.74	14,051.34
Scholarship Funds:		
Earl Tanbara	1,475.42	2,105.19
Susan Matsumoto	2,986.97	3,037.53
Kay Kushino	--	889.34
Yasuyo Kawamura	1,296.14	2,183.52
Kiyoshi Ishibashi	993.08	922.62
GENERAL	<u>29,634.23</u>	<u>29,230.06</u>
Total Scholarship	36,385.84	38,368.26
Total Funds:	\$ <u>46,453.58</u>	\$ <u>52,419.60</u>

<u>Festival of Nations Summary</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>
Revenues: Bazaar Booth	\$ 5,282.79	\$ 5,319.80	\$ 4,740.54
Demonstration Booth	<u>1,805.64</u>	<u>2,192.65</u>	<u>1,162.01</u>
Total Revenues	7,088.43	7,512.45	5,902.55
Expenses: Merchandise	3,033.29	3,578.81	2,012.56
Booth Fee	375.00	375.00	325.00
Insurance	35.00	30.00	30.00
Volunteer Admissions	65.00	10.00	5.00
Supplies/Miscellaneous	<u>114.75</u>	<u>71.90</u>	<u>137.67</u>
Total Expenses	3,623.04	4,065.71	2,510.23
Profit after Expenses:	\$ <u>3,465.39</u>	\$ <u>3,446.74</u>	\$ <u>3,392.32</u>

<u>Sukiyaki Dinner Summary:</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>
Dinners Sold	389	510	506
Revenues:	\$ 3,998.70	\$ 5,734.10	\$ 5,302.40
Expenses:	<u>2,361.71</u>	<u>3,296.12</u>	<u>3,155.36</u>
Profit After Expenses:	\$ <u>1,636.99</u>	\$ <u>2,437.98</u>	\$ <u>2,147.04</u>

Respectfully submitted,

*Charles Tatsuda Jr.*

Charles Tatsuda, Jr.  
Treasurer

## Chapter holds 46th annual installation dinner and annual meeting

by Tom Hara

More than 90 members and friends of the Twin Cities JACL met on Feb. 14, at the Holiday Inn West, St. Louis Park, for the chapter's annual meeting and installation dinner.

In a break with past practice, this event was scheduled as a midday brunch to accommodate those who prefer not to drive at night during the winter.

National JACL president Lillian Kimura, from New Jersey, came as our invited guest to speak on the evolving issues JACL is confronting and the changes now in motion with the national organization. She also acted to install the 1993 board of directors: David Hayashi (president), Joanne Kumagai, Tom Hara, Mark Honda, Elaine Lyford-Nojima, John Jakasone, Christine Murakami Noonan, Charles Tatsuda Jr. and Charissa Uemura. Following the dinner, the newly constituted board had an opportunity to meet with Lillian to discuss the issues and challenges facing our chapter.

By a unanimous voice vote of the members attending the dinner, the size of the board of directors was reduced in number from 15 members to nine members by the adoption of a by-law amendment.

New president David Hayashi and outgoing president Mark Honda shared presenter duties for several certificates of recognition given by the chapter. Those honored for their services to chapter and community included author and poet David Mura; outgoing board members Linda van Dooijeweert, Kathy Ohama Koch and David Koch; outgoing board member and past president Jay Yamashiro; and outgoing secretary Joyce Miyamoto.

Amy Osajima, a graduate student in music performance at the Univer-

sity of Minnesota, was presented with a \$1,000 graduate scholarship by members of the chapter's scholarship committee, Kimi Hara, Tom Ohno and Sally Sudo. Amy also opened the dinner program with the singing of the national anthem.

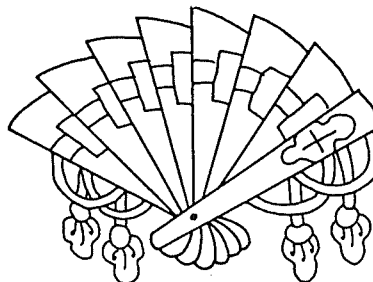
In a new and fun dimension added to the usual order of business, door prizes - ranging from rib dinners to theater and museum admissions - were given away to several lucky winners.

Some logistical problems notwithstanding, your board was extremely pleased with the success of this event, which was ably and creatively chaired by Kathy Ohama Koch and David Koch.

The board is most interested in your comments on this year's new format for the installation dinner and annual meeting. Do you prefer the midday scheduling, as opposed to an evening event? Did you enjoy the idea of a brunch buffet, as opposed to the traditional dinner? What about cost? (This year we charged \$14 per person, although the actual cost was closer to \$16 per person.) How about a new emcee? If you don't speak up, your board will have to act in a vacuum.

Address your comments to:

Kathy Ohama Koch  
2256 Overlook Dr.  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
(612) 884-1238



Notes from the president, continued from page 3.

- I have asked Elaine Lyford-Nojima, along with Kathy Ohama Koch and Connie Fukuda, to start reviewing our member benefits and make recommendations for improvements. We as a board feel that one of the keys to increasing our membership is to improve the perceived benefits package.
- Joanne Kumagai is formulating a plan to start a coalition-building campaign to establish and maintain contacts with other human and civil rights organizations here in the Twin Cities.
- Chris Murakami Noonan, Connie Fukuda and I met for lunch recently to discuss communication, media contacts and public relations efforts for our chapter. Connie is a public relations consultant for IDS, and as you know, Chris is the editor of the Rice Paper and has been handling most of our communication needs to date.
- Sukiyaki Dinner planning is in the works. Jay Yamashiro is organizing the kitchen side, and Joanne Kumagai is coordinating the dining room side.
- Chuck Tatsuda Jr., Lillian Honda, Gloria Kumagai, Linda van Dooijeweert and Mark Honda have started the planning process for the Festival of Nations coming up at the end of April and beginning of May.

Well, that's enough for now. Please feel free to contact me or any of the above mentioned people if you have any ideas, concerns - or would like to volunteer to help!

David Hayashi  
Twin Cities JACL president  
4709 Oakland Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

(612) 822-3659

# MEMBERSHIP

## Twin Cities Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

### 1993 Membership Application

Thank you for your interest in the Twin Cities JACL. If you would like to become a member of this chapter, please check which membership category you would like, and complete the information at the bottom of the form. Membership is in effect for 12 months. If you currently are a member, your 12-month membership begins from your previous expiration date.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Trial membership (for first-time JACL member) .....\$ 20
- \_\_\_\_\_ Regular membership .....\$ 40 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse of a regular member .....\$ 30 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family membership .....\$ 70 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student membership .....\$ 15 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Youth membership .....\$ 5 \*

For those who are interested in making a larger contribution to JACL,  
these membership options are available:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Thousand Club membership .....\$ 60
- \_\_\_\_\_ Century Club membership .....\$120
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse of Thousand/Century Club member .....\$ 29

*\* Rate has not increased since 1989.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ISSUES/CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS OR OTHER COMMENTS FOR THE TWIN  
CITIES JACL BOARD: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send this form to 1993 membership chair: **Sam Honda**  
3935 Lakewood Ave.  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Phone: (612) 429-3410

*Make checks payable to Twin Cities JACL.*



## 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 Sept. 15 and Nov. 17, 1992, and Jan. 19 and Feb. 16, 1993.

#### MEMBERSHIP

The chapter surpassed its 1992 membership goal of 150; we had 173 members by Dec. 31, 1992. The board approved a goal of 200 members by Dec. 31, 1993.

A membership brochure was developed and an initial printing run of 400 was done in January. Pending revised membership benefits, a larger print run will be done in mid-1993.

The board decided to publish a membership directory in 1993. A decision on format and distribution will be made in spring 1993.

The board also discussed the feasibility of board members calling every chapter member. This might offer the opportunity for board members to introduce themselves and for the general membership to discuss any matters of concern.

#### CURRICULUM GUIDE FOR TEACHERS

National JACL is developing a curriculum guide for teachers focusing on the Japanese American experience. Our chapter received a first draft from National JACL. We now need to consider how to distribute the curriculum guide locally. The board discussed several alternatives, including contacting the Minnesota Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, as well as grant/funding organizations. Several chapter members involved in education may be asked to critique the curriculum guide and assist in getting the guide into schools.

#### PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE

Sam Honda coordinated chapter participation in the Pacific Citizen's holiday issue. Advertising in this issue is used to help fund the PC.

The chapter advertisement, which

included a holiday greeting from 1992 board members, was purchased for \$90. Individual chapter members were asked to purchase a one-line greeting for \$7 as part of an additional Twin Cities listing.

#### HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

The board has discussed at length various options for responding in a timely and effective manner to current human and civil rights issues. A response team may be formed in the near future. A survey of members to determine JACL positions on controversial issues also was suggested.

Regina Lai from the Minnesota Heritage Task Force Committee spoke to the board regarding JACL's involvement in the legislative process. The board indicated to her that it is interested in becoming more involved in social and political issues and such a process is a goal of the board.

#### JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY'S NEW YEAR'S PARTY

JACL participated in this event by selling bazaar merchandise, donating to the silent auction and providing demonstrations of children's games.

#### GATHERING OF THE GENERATIONS DONATION

The board learned that a donation has not been made to First Christian Church as a thank you for allowing Gathering of the Generations dinners to be held there. (The custodial staff, however, has received payment.) The board voted to make a donation of \$300 to the church on behalf of the Generations Dinner from JACL.

#### BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The board sought membership approval of a change in bylaws regarding the number of people needed to serve on the board. The proposed change allows for nine board members, instead of 15. This amendment was passed at the annual meeting held Feb. 14.

#### EVENTS

The board discussed and evaluated the past months' events, including Fall Festival, Kids' Holiday Party, and Installation Dinner.

The groundwork was laid for several upcoming events, noted below.

*Board meetings are held 7 to 9 p.m. on the second Tuesday each month. The board welcomes any visitors. If you would like to attend, call David Hayashi, 822-3659.*

### Mark your calendars now!

#### JACL Sukiyaki Dinner

Sunday, March 28. Event chair Jay Yamashiro. See back page for details.

#### Festival of Nations

Thursday, April 29 to Sunday, May 2. Event chair is Chuck Tatsuda Jr.

#### Scholarship Dinner

Thursday, May 20. Event chair is Kimi Hara.

#### Summer Picnic

Tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 27.

#### Golf Tournament

Scheduled for August. Event chairs are Jay Yamashiro and John Nakasone.

#### Fall Festival

Date to be determined.

#### Kids' Holiday Party

Tentatively scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 5. Chris Murakami Noonan will coordinate the event.

*If you are interested in becoming involved in any of the above events, please call David Hayashi, 822-3659.*

## ***The Arts of Japan: Interactive Videodisc at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts***

*The following appeared in Asian Pages,  
Jan. 15, 1993.*



Visitors to The Minneapolis Institute of Arts now have an opportunity to experience and understand Japanese art. An interactive videodisc program, *Arts of Japan*, focuses on the objects on display and demonstrates what these works of art meant to the people who created them. The program complements the labels and wall panels in the gallery and provides a compelling context for the works of art.

*Arts of Japan* features three short video segments that help visitors gain a greater historical and cultural understanding of the objects in the galleries. In "Pictures of the Floating World," the pleasures and pastimes of plebeian culture during the Edo period (1600-1868) are revealed in paintings and woodblock prints. "Buddhist Art" examines belief in the gentle and compassionate nature of Amida, the Buddha of Infinite Light, as shown in sculptural imagery and paintings of Amida's paradise. "Screens and Scrolls" examines the traditional formats used by Japanese artists. By moving through a computer-generated architectural interior, viewers can see how these formats were used in daily life.

Although each segment concentrates on objects from the museum's permanent collection, computer animation and video footage taken on location in Japan help to provide a context for the works of art.

The interactive multimedia programs are designed to involve visitors in the process of accessing information. By using the touch-screen monitor they can start the program and navigate their way through the segments, pursuing their own interests. They can also access a suggested reading list, explanations of Japanese terms, production credits, and instructions on how to use the touch-screen program.

*Arts of Japan* was produced entirely by the staff of The Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Additional footage of Japanese landscapes was provided by NHK, Japanese National Television.

For more information on this and other multimedia programs at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, call Scott Sayre, (612) 870-3211.

## ***Asian Media Access airs roundtable discussions***

Asian Media Access has teamed up with the Star Tribune to sponsor two Roundtables, which will be broadcast in part on four consecutive Sundays in March on the cable access program, "East Meets West" (Cable Ch. 6, Saturday, 8 to 9 p.m.).

The citizen discussion groups, which were part of the Star Tribune's "Minnesota's Talking" Roundtables, were held on Feb. 19 and 20. The discussions were open to all people interested in discussing racism and its impact on Asians.

For more information, call Asian Media Access, (612) 223-5493.

## ***St. Matthew's School to hold Japanese culture open house***

St. Matthew's School, located in the historic West Side of St. Paul, has been a vital part of this vibrant community for more than 100 years.

St. Matthew's School provides children with a first-class education and more. Part of the "more" is found in the pride the school takes in its cultural and racial diversity.

This year St. Matthew's School has been privileged to be one of five Minnesota schools to host an international intern from Japan. Miss Yoko Oigawa has been at St. Matthew's School since October 1992. She has worked with each class, helping them to learn about Japanese language, custom and culture.

Faculty and students, with the help of committed parents, are presenting an open house at St. Matthew's School to enable students to demonstrate what they have learned and now understand about Japanese life.

The dates for the open house are:  
Sunday, March 28, 12:30 to 4 p.m.  
Monday, March 29, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 30, 6 to 8 p.m.

As part of the open house, students will demonstrate their understanding of Japanese literature, song and dance, toys and games, money, haiku, commitment to peace (Sadako and the Thousand Cranes), calligraphy and religion.

Each of the three days will conclude with a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

The times of the tea ceremony are:  
Sunday, March 28, 3:30 p.m.  
Monday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call St. Matthew's School, (612) 224-6912.

## **"Rainbow Collection" recommends multicultural books for kids**

Rainbow Collection, a 26-page booklet highlighting multicultural books for children of all ages, is now available for parents, teachers and other interested adults to pick up at any Minneapolis Public Library. The books illustrate the rich cultural fabric of our community, our country, our continent and lands beyond. About 200 books are listed, with author, title, call number, publisher and a brief description.

Produced by the Minneapolis Public Library, the booklet is organized under the categories "Picture Books and Fiction," "People and Places," "Families Together," "Seasons and Celebrations," "Folk and Fairy Tales" and "Poetry, Arts and Crafts." In a variety of ways, these books can help children – as well as adults – learn about cultural diversity and grow in awareness, understanding and appreciation of others. For young people, especially, books can make a world of difference.

All of the books on the list are available for loan at Minneapolis Public Libraries. Anyone with a valid library card from any participating public library in Minnesota may borrow Minneapolis Public Library materials.

To find the Minneapolis Public Library nearest you, call (612) 372-6500.

Here is just a sampling of the Japanese-related books listed in Rainbow Collection.

### **Morimoto, Junko My Hiroshima**

A Hiroshima child, grown to adulthood, chronicles for other children what it was like before and after the bomb, with a plea for peace and value for life.

### **Uchida, Yoshiko The Invisible Thread**

A respected children's author describes growing up as a Nisei in California and living through her family's internment in the WWII Utah concentration camp.

### **Friedman, Ina How My Parents Learned to Eat**

A young girl tells about the courtship of her culturally different parents, an American sailor and a Japanese schoolgirl.

### **Say, Allen Tree of Cranes**

Exquisite watercolors reveal a young boy in Japan experiencing the celebration of Christmas for the first time with his American-born mother.

### **Red Dragonfly on My Shoulder**

Extraordinary collages provide unique interpretations of 13 haiku poems about animals translated from the original Japanese.

## **Shiatsu school in Minneapolis**

Thanks to Karla Pratt for letting the Rice Paper know that there is another Shiatsu school in Minneapolis, in addition to the one previously written about in this newsletter.

Minnesota Center for Shiatsu Study  
P.O. Box 8061  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
(612) 822-6262

### **What We Are Made to See:**

#### **Questions from Asian America**

A six-week program of performance, photography and media arts by Asian Americans, presented by the Asian American Renaissance in co-sponsorship with Intermedia Arts Minnesota and the Walker Art Center. March 12-April 24.

See brochure insert for details, or call (612) 627-4444.

1993

**50th**  
Year of the  
**442nd**

## **"I Can Never Forget" Men of the 100th/442nd**

This new book by Thelma Chang includes stories of extraordinary heroes of World War II who rose above the binds of war and racism – the highly decorated Japanese American soldiers of the U.S. Army's 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team. The award-winning, 208-page hardbound book contains original artwork plus more than 100 color and black and white photos.

*"Moving and poignant ... a must read book."*

– Daniel K. Inouye, U.S. Senator and 442nd veteran

*"The author reveals human side of most decorated unit in U.S. military history."*

– San Francisco Examiner

*"A tremendous achievement. The book touches you deep inside. I had moments of gut-wrenching feelings and emotional explosions."*

– Richard Kurohara, 442nd veteran

To order the book, send \$34.95 (includes priority postage and handling charge) check or money order to:

SIGI Productions Inc.  
P.O. Box 26390  
Honolulu, HI 96825

## ***Interracial children pose challenge for classifiers***

*The following appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 27, 1993.*

The U.S. had more than 1.1 million interracial married couples in 1991, up seven times from 157,000 in 1960, the Census Bureau says. The children of these couples pose a challenge to those who would classify them.

Before 1989, the National Center for Health Statistics tabulated the races of children born in the U.S. from data about the parents' races on birth certificates. A child born to a white and a minority parent was assigned the minority race. If neither parent was white, the child was assigned the father's race.

In 1989, the NCHS stopped looking at the father's race and assigned the mother's race to the child. This makes sense, because 13 to 15 percent of birth certificates have no data about fathers at all; the share is much higher for children of black mothers. However, it avoids the problem of designating a child's race, something that concerns demographers and others interested in tracking America's growing diversity.

Claudette Bennett and J. Gregory Robinson of the Census Bureau looked at decennial census data to learn how mixed-race couples have chosen to identify their children. In the 1980 census, 66 percent of children with one black and one white parent were listed as black; 56 percent of American Indian/whites were listed as American Indian; and just 35 percent of Asian/whites were listed as Asian.

Some people write in mixed-race responses to themselves or their children, but current census practice is to code only the first race mentioned. This may change in the future as the number of interracial marriages and children grows.

## ***For interracial kids, growth spurt: Cultures often clash with society***

*by Margaret L. Usdansky*

*The following is an excerpt from an article that appeared in USA Today, Dec. 11, 1992.*

Births of interracial children, though still rare, have risen 26 times faster than all births, soaring from 22,100 in 1968 to 110,500 in 1989.

Mixed-race children now make up 3.2 percent of all annual births in the nation, up from 0.7 percent in 1968, says a new analysis of data from the National Center for Health Statistics.

The largest group of mixed-race children — 45,000 — have one black and one white parent. The next biggest group: children with one Asian and one white parent, at 38,900.

The enormous rise in the number of interracial children underscores their dilemma in contending with a society in which it seems everyone — whites and minorities alike — wants them to choose one race as their own.

Maj. Marvin Arnold, 47, a researcher at the Walter Reed Army Institute in Washington, is a black man married to a white woman. He wrote his doctoral thesis on the racial identification of mixed-race children. His findings: that most of the children preferred an interracial label.

"They by far chose that over being black or white," Arnold says.

Terry Wilson, who teaches a class on people of mixed-race descent at the University of California, Berkeley, sees those students everyday.

Wilson, the son of a "full-blood Indian father and a French-Canadian mother," has seen his class go from 20 to 235 students in the last 12 years.

Demand is so high, he says, because many mixed-race students are troubled by society's reluctance to accept them.

Wilson believes biracial people have four choices. "You either identify with your mother's race or identify with your father's race or identify as mixed race or you experience denial," he says. "Many people go through all four of those, often more than once."

Such concerns have led to the formation of groups like Project RACE, which wants the government to create a new category on Census and school forms called "multiracial" that could be used by everyone of mixed race.

## ***Japanese-white marriages now the norm***

*by Margaret L. Usdansky and Patricia Edmonds, USA Today.*

When Ron Takaki and his wife, Carol Rankim married in 1961, some states still barred interracial marriages.

A generation later, Japanese-white marriages have become the norm in the USA: for every 100 children now born to two parents of Japanese ancestry, 139 are born to one Japanese parent and one white parent.

In the future, "it's possible that there may not be a Japanese-American community," says Takaki, a professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, Berkeley. "We'll be blended in."

Although interracial births of all combinations are on the rise, what's happened to Japanese-Americans may be the most extraordinary, the result of low immigration, high inter-marriage and families having been in the USA for four or five generations.

*Many thanks to Connie Fukuda for sending these articles to the Rice Paper.*

## **tidbit about gift-giving in Japan**

*The following is an excerpt from Understanding Japan, published by the Inter-Pacific Institute for Communication, Denver, Colo., as reprinted in Bamboo Heritage, the newsletter of the Hoosier JACL, Indianapolis, December 1992.*

About gift-giving practices in Japan, Americans have a lot to say.

Edwin O. Reischauer, the late U.S. Ambassador to Japan, said, "On presents, no one can keep up with the Japanese." Dr. Harumi Befu, professor of anthropology at Stanford University, added, "Indeed, Japanese give, receive and return gifts with obliging compulsion with which Marcel Mauss (1954) made primitive gift exchange immortal." Tom Moran, executive editor of the American magazine M, guaranteed ways to mortally offend a Japanese businessman. He ranked as No. 2 "neglect to bring him a present when you come to visit"; and as No. 3 "refuse to accept a present from him when you come to visit."

When do Japanese give gifts?

- At annual events such as O-Toshidama, O-Chugen and O-Seibo, Mother's Day and St. Valentine's Day.
- At the initiations of a person's life such as a child's birth, entering schools, graduation, employment, marriage, birthdays of the 60th (Kanreki), the 77th (Kiju) and the 88th (Beiju).
- After accidents such as gifts for the victims of disasters, including a fire, typhoon, earthquake and sickness; and at important events such as building a new home, starting a new business, moving, traveling and visiting.
- On religious occasions such as a funeral and a visit to temples and shrines.
- To return favors such as returning gifts for a child's birth, sickness and a funeral, and also as tips, inheritance and bribery.

In the situation in which the Japanese have difficulty communicating with someone in English, giving gifts may be one of the fastest ways to express their hospitality. Generally speaking, in a non-verbal society like Japan where language plays a less important role in communication than in most Western countries, gift-giving can be regarded as supplemental means for helping communication even among people who speak the same language. The custom of giving and returning gifts fits neatly into the Japanese social order of Joretsu, and fosters hierarchical relations among people. This custom has a part of its roots in pre-modern Japanese society in which farmers paid tax and the lord, in return, let them use his land and guaranteed their safety. Even today, many gifts are given by seniors to their seniors, to people of status and to family, rather than to an individual.

## **Japanese researchers find crisis in chopstick use**

*The following, a Los Angeles Times wire service article, appeared in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and was reprinted in the Bulletin, the newsletter of the Cleveland JACL, July/August 1992.*

Do you fumble with chopsticks, dropping food midway between plate and mouth before surrendering to the good old fork?

If so, take heart. Research shows that even the Japanese are forgetting the ancient art of eating with two sticks.

"Japanese have been using chopsticks for more than 1,300 years, and it's a representative cultural asset," said Masaaki Yatagai, a children's education specialist at Mejiro Gakuen Women's College. "Yet, Japanese today can't use chopsticks properly at all."

He even has statistics to prove it. According to a 1990 study by the Children's Life Science Research Center in Tokyo, where Yatagai is a representative, only 10.6 percent of elementary school students could correctly use chopsticks, compared to 15.7 percent in 1984. The success rate varies from 1.8 percent among first graders to 17.8 percent among sixth graders.

In 1936, he says, nearly 75 percent of three-year-olds used chopsticks correctly.

To Yatagai, it all adds up to a national chopstick crisis that threatens not only Japan's cultural foundation but also the fabled dexterity of its people. He won't go quite so far as to say that chopstick use has helped the Japanese become masters of precision, contributing to their economic success, but plenty of other scholars do.

For instance, Kisou Kubota, director of Kyoto University's Primate Research Institute, claims there is a link between chopsticks, manual dexterity and the ability to think. Kubota's special area of study is the relationship between physical movement and the brain.

For the uninitiated, the major taboos of chopstick usage include crossing the implements or gripping them so tightly that they touch, leaving no space in between the sticks. Spearing food with a chopstick is the ultimate horror.

Bad form is not only an eyesore but it also limits the size and scope of objects that can be picked up.

According to Children's Life Science Research Center, children with correct form are far more successful in picking up particularly thin or slippery food such as sliced cucumbers and a small gooey mushroom known as nameko.

The ideal form, according to chopstick experts here, is to anchor one stick down with the base of the thumb and rest it on the fourth finger. This chopstick should never move. The second stick is held with the thumb, second and third fingers. This stick should move freely.

# SU KI YA KI

TWIN CITIES JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
ANNUAL SUKIYAKI DINNER

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3700 ALABAMA AVE. S., ST. LOUIS PARK

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Sweep  
Haul**

The success of this Sukiyaki Dinner fundraiser depends on your help. If you can help with any of these, please let us know.

We will set up the dining hall and prepare the food on Saturday, March 27. We will serve the dinner on Sunday, March 28.

Call Jay Yamashiro, 698-4926, if you can help.

*We appreciate hearing from readers with comments and suggestions on improving this newsletter. We also appreciate news items and articles from the Japanese American community. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue!*

**The Twin Cities JACL Rice Paper**      *Chris Murakami Noonan, editor*      209 Dennison Ave., Shoreview, MN 55126      (612) 483-3897

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