

RICE PAPER

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

June 1993

608

Most successful Sukiyaki dinner in five years raises funds for JACL

by Tom Hara

First, the good news. The March 28 version of the Twin Cities Chapter's annual Sukiyaki Dinner fundraiser, again held at Union Congregational Church in St. Louis Park, was a resounding economic success.

Serving an estimated 608 meals, we generated revenues of over \$6,300; \$5,421.50 in meals and \$887.40 from gift shop sales (as of April 5, 1993).

With expenses of just over \$3,000, this translates into a profit

of about \$3,200, which your board has allocated to the chapter's scholarship fund and general operating account.

The board is most appreciative of the hard work of those involved in the production of the dinner and, of course, of our membership for their ticket sales and personal purchases, which made this such a successful event.

After reviewing the financial summary of the event (see page 2), a few observations and conclusions are possible:

- The event last year (1992) was disastrous. The board has largely attributed this to poor date selection (in 1992 the event was held in June, when vacations and graduation and wedding events create natural competition).
- Attendance each year is subject to severe fluctuations. Is it possible that we take our successes for granted, leading to a less-intensive ticket sales program the next year or two after a successful fundraiser?

Overall, our expenses have remained level, although there are some line item peculiarities: Meat prices, for instance, have decreased over time, while fruit and vegetable costs have generally gone up. (We replenish paper supplies as needed.)



Many, many people pitched in to help out at the JACL's annual Sukiyaki Dinner fundraiser in March. Photo by Charissa Uemura.

While we like congratulating ourselves on our 1993 achievement, your board – in looking forward to the scheduled March 20, 1994, event – also is aware of other difficulties that have become apparent.

- Due to the much-higher-than-expected turnout, those diners who came later in the day, say 4:30 to 6 p.m., encountered delays in service and, probably, a slight shortage of

shiitake and various other vegetables in their meals.

- The number of meals served by hour varied greatly: noon to 1 p.m., 153; 4 to 5 p.m. 57; 5 to 6 p.m., 144! Should we go to "reserved sittings?"
- The kitchen staff complained of congestion in work space.
- The servers uniformly experienced delay in filling orders.

Sukiyaki Dinner, continued on page 2.

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Although some of the specific logistical problems identified are correctable, others may not be changed very easily. Finding a facility with a larger kitchen could be a cure; on the other hand, it also could be a risk: March 28 was an unusually nice day, and bad weather has hurt our turnouts in the past.

Beyond these issues, however, your board sees some larger problems in the future. For instance, anyone who has ever taken part in a Sukiyaki dinner, in any capacity, is aware of how incredibly labor-intensive it is to produce. While we have always enjoyed great community support for staffing the many jobs required to host the dinner, how long can we expect this to continue? Should we be looking for an "easier" menu – and if we find one, will anybody come? Should this fundraiser even be a meal?

To a large degree, I think these pressing questions arise from the generational transition we are experiencing – not unlike JACL nationwide – from Nisei to Sansei and beyond. I believe we have smoothly and successfully transformed organizational and administrative tasks into Sansei responsibilities – and done so better than other JACL chapters. And that transition has been accomplished even though the numbers of active Sansei members are substantially less than Nisei.

It is with membership events like the Sukiyaki Dinner, however, that we are having trouble. It's not for lack of trying; Jay Yamashiro, Joanne Kumagai and David Hayashi have spent many hours attempting to learn "the ropes" in order to relieve the burden from the Nisei.

But the reality seems to reflect our (the Sanseis') more-limited scope of knowledge ("I know what sukiyaki is supposed to taste like, but I also know that 'aji' is a moving target that I can't hit") and limited knowledge of the community ("I know there are Nisei who will respond to a request from my mother to chop vegetables, but from me?"). Maybe our numbers and demographics are against us; perhaps our growing up as Japanese Americans in post-war society has altered the situation irretrievably. Perhaps we can't even agree on the "situation."

This was supposed to be simple report on the 1993 Sukiyaki Dinner, and I sense it is getting rather cosmic in scope. But these are issues and questions that trouble me and ones with which your board is grappling continuously. Bear with us. Or better yet, feel free to let us know what you think about the specifics of the dinner or my more metaphysical musings.

I will be the general chairperson for the 1994 fundraiser dinner, so be prepared for more musings, one way or the other.

With the meticulous assistance of our treasurer, Chuck Tatsuda Jr., we have some comparative figures to present. (Please note that the 1993 numbers are still tentative as of this writing; 1989 detail is unavailable; and there has been a change in the method of accounting for merchandise inventory after 1990).

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Dinners Served	597	506	510	389	608
REVENUES	\$5,373.85	\$5,302.40	\$5,734.10	\$3,998.70	\$6,308.90
EXPENSES	\$2,900.20	\$3,155.36	\$3,296.12	\$2,361.71	\$3,039.61
PROFIT	\$2,473.65	\$2,147.07	\$2,437.98	\$1,636.99	\$3,269.29
Profit to Scholarship Fund:	\$1,236.82	\$1,073.52	\$1,218.99	\$818.50	\$1,634.65
Profit to Operating Fund:	\$1,236.83	\$1,073.52	\$1,218.99	\$818.49	\$1,634.64
Revenue Summary:	n/a				
Dinner/After-sales		4,553.65	4,730.80	3,491.35	5,421.50
Gift Shop		748.75	1,003.30	467.20	887.40
Shaved Ice		---	---	39.75	---
Total Revenues		5,302.40	5,734.10	3,998.70	6,308.90
Expense Summary:	n/a				(so far)
Publicity (incl. tkts/postage)		166.59	180.06	213.01	201.02
Misc. groc./supplies		44.24	68.62	194.46	91.64
Paper supplies		504.34	115.11	233.14	326.79
Meat/shrimp		706.02	936.44	646.70	634.04
Fruit/vegetables		910.05	1,097.40	729.40	912.25
Fortune cookies		---	32.40	---	---
Gift Shop merchandise*		524.12	666.09	---	528.87
Rent (Union Congreg.)		300.00	200.00	345.00	345.00
Total Expenses		3,155.36	3,296.12	2,361.71	3,039.61

WELCOME

We would like to welcome these people who have recently joined the Twin Cities chapter of JACL.

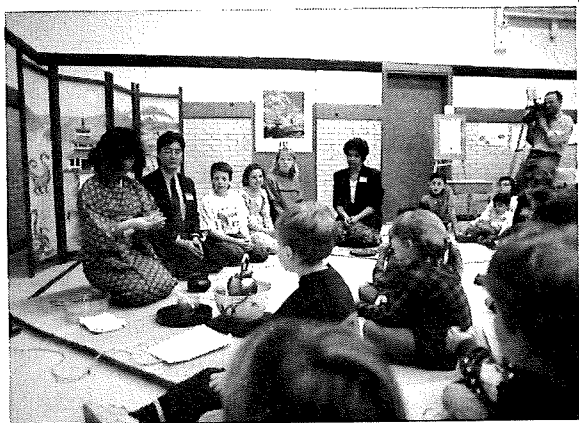
Rene Judkins, New Richmond (Wisconsin)
James P. Lassegard, Plymouth
Penelope Haru Snipper, Minneapolis

Just a reminder: Current JACL members will receive renewal notices from the national office of JACL via a new computerized membership system. Payment for membership renewal can be made directly to the national office. People wishing to join the Twin Cities chapter can complete the membership form contained in this newsletter or contact Sam Honda, Twin Cities membership chair, (612) 429-3410.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a busy spring!

Greetings! Much has happened since our last issue of the Rice Paper, and I have trouble keeping up with all of the events. March, April and May traditionally have been very busy months for our chapter. Here are some of the highlights:



I, along with board member Charissa Uemura, recently attended the St. Matthew's School open house, and I participated in a tea ceremony performed by Yoko Oigawa. Yoko is a guest teacher from Japan. She has been teaching children at the school about Japanese language, customs and culture. The kids have learned much from her, including origami, the value of the yen for common goods, Haiku, song and dance, and an introduction to some traditional foods. What did I learn? During a ceremony one's feet tend to go numb while sitting on one's calves for extended periods! It is not healthy to try to get up too fast ... Photo by Charissa Uemura.

• WE HAVE SURPASSED OUR 1993 MEMBERSHIP GOAL OF 200!

Actually, we are at 204 as of May 10th. This will not stop us from inviting even more people to join our chapter. If you are on our mailing list and are not a member, please consider becoming a member – we need your support! It is very exciting for me to meet the new members, especially since many have expressed that they want to get actively involved in JACL and believe in JACL's purpose and mission.

- Our Sukiyaki Dinner in March was a phenomenal success! To underscore what Tom Hara wrote in his article on the dinner (see page 1), many thanks to the volunteers who helped chop and prepare food and set up on Saturday, and serve, cook, wash dishes and clean up on Sunday. Also many thanks to those of you who sold tickets and came to enjoy the food and social atmosphere – the event's success depends on you! Special thanks to Kimi Hara, Jay Yamashiro, Joanne Kumagai and Chester Fujino for their help and experience in organizing the event. Tom Hara has volunteered to chair next year's planning committee.
- The Festival of Nations bazaar and demonstration booths also were successful this year and raised a

significant amount of funds for JACL. (Watch for a summary of this fundraiser in the next Rice Paper.) Hats off to Chuck Tatsuda Jr., Mark Honda, Lil Honda and Gloria Kumagai for organizing the volunteers and for all the long hours of work in the booths. Great thanks to all who also gave of their time – and energy – to help out. A special note of gratitude goes to the Sansei Yonsei Kai dance group for the beautiful performances.

- Special thanks to Chuck Tatsuda Jr. and Mark Honda for delivering lunch and being the JACL chapter hosts at the Nikkei Project luncheon on May 5. Approximately 35 to 40 people were served.
- We are in the process of planning upcoming events, including the summer picnic (June 27), the golf tourney (Aug. 15), and the Aki Matsuri Fall Festival at the Normandale Japanese Garden (Sept. 12).
- Joanne Kumagai organized a meeting of the coalition-building and civil/human rights committee. This committee will comprise several board members and volunteers from the general membership. The first meeting was a brainstorming session to determine the purpose and direction of the group.
- Elaine Lyford-Nojima and Kathy Koch have been meeting to discuss ways to enhance membership

Notes from the president, continued on page 9.

JACL member profile: KIMI HARA

by Connie Fukuda

Kimi Hara is a fountain of knowledge – not just about JACL, but also about nursing careers. An active member of the Twin Cities JACL chapter since its inception in 1949, Kimi's support and involvement in the chapter has spanned 45 years.

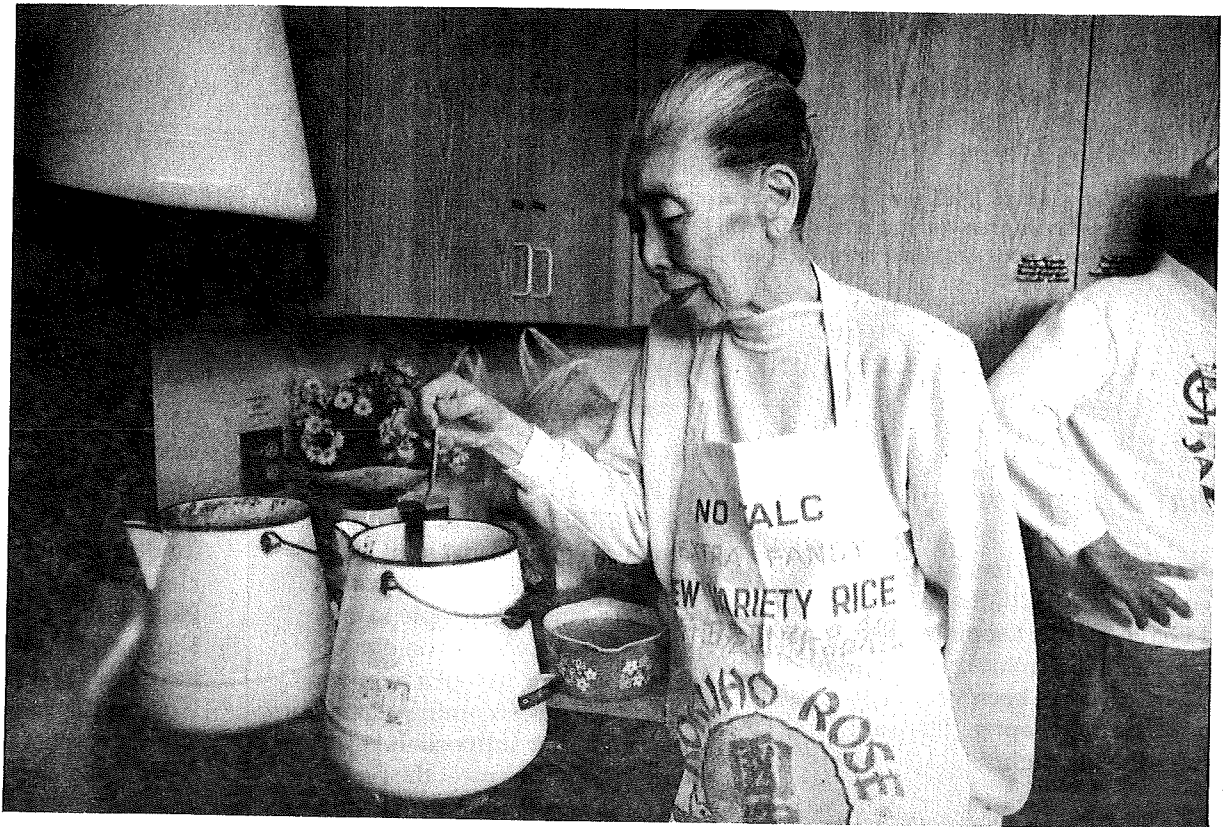
Her life has been devoted to twin interests: JACL and nursing.

Originally from the Seattle suburb of Green Lake, Kimi moved to Minnesota in 1942 as a voluntary evacuee following the Pearl Harbor attack.

Even before she came to Minnesota, Kimi was involved with the JACL in Seattle. It was in Minnesota, however, that she truly became a leader and advocate of the JACL. In 1949, the Twin Cities chapter was still in its infancy and known as the Japanese American Community Center (JACC). Located at 22nd Street and Blaisdell Avenue, the center served as a multid denominational church for local Japanese Americans. JACC also became a nucleus for social gatherings, sukiyaki dinners, memorial services and weddings.

Twenty years later, the JACC building was sold as more Japanese Americans began attending churches in their own communities. "JACC certainly served a great purpose for Twin Cities Japanese Americans," Kimi said. "I have nostalgic feelings about the center."

Her leadership in the JACL coincided with her 40-year career as a nurse. Kimi began her nursing career at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. When she retired in 1981, she was a nursing instructor at Fairview Hospital and St. Olaf Department of Nursing. Specializing in maternity nursing, Kimi served as a consultant with the Minnesota



This year, as in many years past, Kimi Hara was working hard in the kitchen helping to make sure the spring JACL Suki-yaki Dinner was a success.

State Health Department and as associate executive with the Minnesota State Board of Nursing. She earned a master's degree in nursing from the University of Minnesota in 1957 and was active in the Minnesota Nurses Association.

Kimi also is a founding member of the Japan America Society of Minnesota.

Kimi's family life also has kept her busy. She married her husband, Sam (a World War II veteran), in 1945, and they have one son, Tom, who now is an attorney and who serves on the Twin Cities JACL chapter board of directors. A widow, Kimi lives with her son, daughter-in-law Kathy, and two grandchildren in Maple Grove. She has two brothers who live in Alaska, another brother who lives in St. Louis, and a sister who lives in St. Louis Park.

Since her retirement, Kimi is as busy as ever. She continues to lend a hand at various JACL functions and thinks that JACL is important to all Japanese Americans because "you can't lose sight of your heritage. We have a certain spirit that enables us to get along with many other people in the community because we're *Nippon-gin*." One thing is certain: Kimi definitely has that "certain spirit" as a loyal Twin Cities JACL member.

MEMBERSHIP

Twin Cities Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

1993 Membership Application (for new members only)

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.

Japan-U.S. relations addressed by former vice president

by Dawn Johnson

The following article appeared in *Asian Pages*, May 1, 1993.

Walter Mondale, former vice president of the United States, says good sense and maturity will help maintain the Japan-U.S. relationship.

Fostering good relations should be the most important task for the U.S. and Japan as the countries test a long-standing relationship, one that now hangs like thread rather than bonds like rope.

"It would be a tragedy if the world's two largest economic powers slipped into a pattern of petty bickering and mutual distrust just as the Cold War comes to an end and just as we do our best work," Former Vice President Mondale told members of the Japan America Society of Minnesota April 19 at the Minneapolis Hilton Hotel. "We are partners. This relationship is the most important one we have in the world. Let's have the good sense and the maturity to make it work."

As honorary guest at the group's anniversary banquet, Mondale addressed business and community leaders who are committed to maintaining a strong Japan-U.S. relationship. Trade tensions between the countries during the past year have chewed away at the economic cord that has held them together for decades. Locally, Northwest Airlines is involved in a dispute with Japan over aviation rights, which could exacerbate trade issues. On a national level, Japan's bilateral trade surplus with the U.S. rose 14.3 percent, to \$43.7 billion last year. And, as chair of the current round of Group of Seven (G-7) talks, Japan is coming under increasing pressure to take a more accommodating position regarding the economic crisis in Russia.

Although he identified tensions between the economic powers, the 65-year-old Democrat from Minnesota also commended their actions. He praised the local group of Japanese Americans, saying that nobody contributes more to Minnesota than they do. Mondale also supports President Clinton's foreign policy, saying the new leader "appreciates a special relationship with Japan and considers the U.S. to be an Asian Pacific country. I do not believe Bill Clinton is an isolationist. I do not believe he's a protectionist. He supports free trade," he said.

During the presidential campaign, the Japanese were anxious about President Clinton because he did not discuss foreign policy. "There was an empty blackboard they needed filled," Mondale explained. "Many wondered if he knew about Japan's stability problems. Many said he was too young."

Japan has taken new steps to move away from its own isolationist tendencies, Mondale said. Japan is participating in the United Nation's peacekeeping efforts in Cambodia and soon will host the International Summit in Tokyo. Japan is the world's leading contributor of foreign economic aid.

To continue to foster their relationship, one that goes beyond economics to military, political, educational and cultural interests, the two countries must begin to solve their domestic problems, Mondale said. The U.S. must attack its \$4 trillion deficit while Japan tackles its persistent trade surplus.

Working together to solve international problems should also be a priority, Mondale added. The end of the Cold War is not the world's band-aid. The fighting in Bosnia, instability in Russia, and dangerous flow of

weapons in Asia attest to the healing that must take place.

While both countries believe in democracy and freedom, and are committed to private enterprise and an international system of cooperation, they do have their differences, Mondale said.

"We are two independent, sovereign nations and are bound to see things differently from time to time. We don't run Japan, and Japan doesn't run us," he said. "When we have frictions we do no good by ignoring them. We must be civilized in the way we work and manage conflict."

Did you know?

The population of Asian-Pacific Minnesotans is 77,886.

Among the 42 Asian-Pacific ethnic communities in Minnesota are:

Afghanistan, Asian-Russia, Australia, Bangladesh, Belau, Bhutan, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, China, Gilbert Islands, Guam, Hmong, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldive Islands, Maori, Marianas, Melanesia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nepal, New Guinea, New Zealand, Okinawa, Pakistan, Philippines, Polynesia, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet, Tonga, Vanuatu, Vietnam.

This partial list of Asian-Pacific communities in Minnesota was published by the State Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.

AROUND TOWN

Luncheon for Issei and Nisei super senior citizens

The Twin Cities Buddhist Association and the Minnesota Nikkei Project will host a luncheon on Wednesday, July 14 for super seniors – senior citizens who, in 1993, are 75 years old and over.

For details, call Sam Honda, (612) 429-3410.

U.S.-Japan Business Dialogue program

JETRO, the Japan External Trade Organization, is a nonprofit, government-supported organization dedicated to promoting trade and economic relationships between Japan and other nations. In cooperation with local export promotion organizations, JETRO annually offers the U.S.-Japan Business Dialogue program in several U.S. cities. The luncheon program reaches out to opinion leaders, business people and other individuals interested in promoting understanding and closer relationships between the U.S. and Japan. The audience can exchange views with Japanese experts on U.S.-Japan business, including a comparison of business customs, Japan's distribution system, differences in management styles, women's roles in Japanese business, and the perception gap between the U.S. and Japan. One of the Japanese speakers will be Toshio "Tom" Aizawa, who recently joined the Minnesota Trade Office for two years to assist the state export promotion program to Japan.

When: Thursday, June 10,
noon to 2 p.m.

Where: Minneapolis Convention Center

Cost: \$25 (including lunch)

Cosponsors: Minnesota Trade Office, JETRO, Japan America Society of Minnesota

Registration contact: MTO events
Hotline, (612) 297-4265

Host families needed for Japanese students

The International Education Center at the University of St. Thomas once again will welcome more than 35 Japanese students from Osaka, Japan, to the St. Thomas campus July 29 to Aug. 20. These students from Osaka Gakuin University and Osaka Gakuin Junior College will come to St. Thomas to study the English language and American culture.

Program assistants and host families are needed. Program assistants will work approximately 15 hours per week while students are here, leading small groups of Japanese students on various planned activities. Host families will share their home and family life with one or two Japanese students on the weekends of Aug. 6 to 9 and Aug. 13 to 16.

If you are interested in being a program assistant or a host family, call Gudrun Terrell, (612) 962-6452.

This notice was published in the St. Thomas Bulletin, May 3, 1993.

Workshops announced for JACL Tri-District Conference

The JACL Tri-District Conference of the Midwest, Eastern and Mountain Plains district councils has been scheduled for Aug. 19 to 22 in Cleveland. The following workshops have been scheduled:

- **Asian American Retirees** will focus on concerns of housing, health care, socialization and personal finances. The workshop will be led by Barbara Iwanaga King, professor of social work at Case Western Reserve University.
- **Young Adult Issues** will explore the impact on our youth of drug abuse, discrimination in education, and the glass ceiling. The work-

shop will be led by Sharon Ishii-Jordan, professor of special education at the University of Nebraska.

- **Women in the Workplace** will explore the stereotyping of Asian women and the problems faced by women in employment. The workshop will be led by Karen Suzuki-Okabe, executive director of the Department of Human Resource Management for the State of Utah.
- **Multicultural Education** will focus on the work of the JACL national education committee, which is developing a comprehensive teacher's curriculum guide on the Japanese American internment. The workshop will be led by Teresa Maebori, a Philadelphia elementary school teacher, and Sharon Ishii-Jordan.
- **JACL Membership Development** will focus on the recruitment and retention of membership, especially of our younger generations. The workshop will be led by Alan Nishi, JACL vice president for membership.
- **Training of New Leaders** will focus on leadership training and skill development for our younger generation of leadership. JACL national president Lillian Kimura will lead this workshop.

According to Henry Tanaka, chair of the Tri-District Conference, the workshops were selected because they focus on concerns being faced by specific constituencies within the JACL membership. In addition, Tanaka stated, "It is important that we also discuss things that are basic to the JACL such as membership and the development of new leadership."

For more information on the Tri-District Conference, see page 10.

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 March 9 and April 5, 1993.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At a previous board meeting, the board had established a membership goal of 200 to be reached by Dec. 31, 1993. Sam Honda reported at the March board meeting that the membership count had risen to 193. (He subsequently reported at the May board meeting that the membership count was now 204!)

Elaine Lyford Nojima and Kathy Koch are meeting to discuss ways to enhance membership benefits and to increase membership involvement in various events. Elaine and Kathy have developed a plan for board members to personally invite several prospective and new chapter members to the JACL summer picnic, and serve as hosts, introducing these prospective and new members to other JACLers.

1993 BUDGET

At the March board meeting, the board approved its 1993 budget, which projected a deficit of \$950. This compares to 1992's projected deficit of \$2,140 and actual deficit of \$2,735.

The board approved the budget after discussing each line of the budget and giving careful consideration to each

program expense and fundraising project outlined in the budget.

LEGACY FUND

Sam Honda, chair of the Legacy Fund drive for our chapter, was recognized by the national fund because the Twin Cities chapter has achieved at least 75 percent of its Legacy Fund goal.

Sam will launch a campaign this summer to ask for donations, so that this year the chapter will reach 100 percent of its goal.

SUKIYAKI DINNER

The board spent a considerable amount of time discussing the plans for the 1993 Sukiyaki dinner. (See Tom Hara's report on page 1.)

The 1994 fundraiser dinner was set for March 19 and 20 at Union Congregational Church. A task force, headed by Tom Hara, will closely examine the logistics of the event prior to 1994.

LIAISON WITH THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

Board member Charissa Uemura was appointed chapter liaison to the Pacific Citizen, the weekly national newspaper of JACL. Charissa will work to publicize chapter news in the PC.

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

At its March and April board meetings, the board heard reports from event chair Chuck Tatsuda Jr. on the

Chapter membership directory to be published

This summer a directory of Twin Cities JACL members will be published. Members should watch their mail in June for a postcard requesting verification of name, address and phone information.

status of the volunteer schedule and the bazaar booth merchandise orders.

PICNIC PLANS

Plans are underway for the chapter's annual summer picnic, to be held Sunday, June 27 at Lake Cornelia in Edina. Event chair is John Nakasone.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

For the purpose of coalition building, the board is compiling a resource directory of community organizations and businesses.

MDC BUSINESS

David Hayashi and Joanne Kumagai reported on the MDC spring convention April 23 to 25.

The fall MDC meeting will be held in the Twin Cities.

Board meetings are held 7 to 9 p.m. one Tuesday each month. The board welcomes any visitors. If you would like to attend, call David Hayashi, (612) 822-3659.

PEOPLE

Dr. Joseph Uemura honored

Hamline University philosophy professor (and JACL member) Dr. Joseph Uemura is the recipient of the 1992 Outstanding Educator Award, sponsored by the United Methodist Foundation. The award carries with it a grant of \$5,000. Uemura became Hamline's candidate for this award when he received the Exemplary Teacher Award, sponsored jointly by the General Board of Higher Education and

Ministry of the United Methodist Church and Hamline University. The Exemplary Teacher Award was accompanied by a grant of \$1,000. More than 120 teachers were then entered into the nationwide contest for the Outstanding Educator Award.

Uemura has taught at Hamline for 27 years.

Thanks to Tom Oye and Charissa Uemura for sending this information to the Rice Paper so that the JACL community can join in congratulating Dr. Uemura.

As part of a series looking back at news stories from the past, this article from 51 years ago recently was reprinted in Newsweek magazine.

Thanks to Sam Honda for sending this article to Rice Paper.

Japs Transplanted

In California's Pasadena Rose Bowl, bereft of its usual noisy New Year's Day football crowd of 90,000 this year for fear of Japanese air raids, some 500 somber Japanese assembled March 23. Then they set out as half the vanguard of the greatest forced migration in American history. Escorted by highway patrolmen and soldiers in Army jeeps, the Japs trekked 235 miles in their own cars and trucks to Manzanar, in windy Owens Valley. Another 500 entrained from Los Angeles for Lone Pine, where buses and trucks took them the last 10 miles to the same detention camp in the shadow of the Sierra Nevadas.

On the 6,000-acre tract in Inyo County the Army had erected pre-

fabricated wooden dormitories, a headquarters, mess hall, and 150-bed hospital. Eventually it will mushroom with 912 buildings covering 48 city blocks with a population capacity of 20,000 — about 10,000 of them expected within three weeks. On the arable but dry land in Owens Valley, source of Los Angeles' water supply, Japanese will be put to work digging irrigation ditches and growing crops for their own subsistence. Reports last week that the Japs would get up to \$94 a month aroused citizens in Los Angeles, many of whom asked their congressmen why aliens were to be paid more than four times the wage of American soldiers. Washington denied that any wage scale had been determined.

April 6, 1942

JACL seeks participants in oratorical competition

The JACL Midwest District Council is sponsoring an oratorical competition, which will take place at the Tri-District Conference in Cleveland Aug. 19 to 22.

Eligibility: The competition has two categories of participants, who must be JACL members: 1) High school participants at least 16 years old at the time of application, and 2) College-level participants enrolled full-time at the undergraduate level.

Topic: The speech topic must be selected from the following:

- Discuss your experience and feeling about growing up in an Asian American family. Do you feel that being an Asian American has affected you positively or negatively?
- What is the value of civil rights and organizations such as the JACL in the United States? What should JACL's role and priorities be, and what can organizations such as the JACL

do to cultivate and inspire young people like yourself to become active in our organization?

Length: Presentation should be five minutes.

Presentation: It is preferable to commit the speech to memory; however, an outline or notes on 4" x 6" cards is acceptable.

Evaluation criteria: Participants will be evaluated and selected on the basis of:

- Delivery: Verbal and non-verbal (gestures, use of voice).
- Content: Introduction, conclusion, logical flow, style.

Awards: The JACL MDC will award a total of \$200 in savings bonds for both categories of the competition.

Sponsorship: Each participant must be sponsored by a JACL MDC chapter. If you are interested in participating in the competition and would like to seek sponsorship from the Twin Cities chapter, please call David Hayashi, (612) 822-3659.

Notes from the president, continued from page 3.

benefits. The topics have included items such as having board members take a more active role in helping new members feel "a part of" our organization.

- Special thanks to Chris Murakami Noonan for her work as editor of the Rice Paper. I'm sure everyone agrees she is doing an outstanding, professional job.
- Joanne Kumagai and I attended the Spring Midwest District Council (MDC) meeting in Chicago in April. The chapters represented were Detroit, Cleveland, Dayton, Hoosier, St. Louis, Wisconsin, Chicago and the Twin Cities. Lillian Kimura, our national JACL president, also was in attendance. It is always a pleasure to share thoughts and exchange ideas with other chapters.

Many of the issues we discussed remain the same: the decline in membership; programs to solicit more youth involvement; lack of support from the West Coast chapters; issues surrounding non-U.S. citizens being non-voting JACL members and therefore not able to serve on boards; and issues particular to interracial marriages and multicultural families.

- The Fall MDC meeting will be here in Minneapolis during the first weekend in October. The location is yet to be determined.
- Our chapter is about 5 percent away from reaching our goal of donations to the Legacy Fund. Many thanks to Sam Honda, our Legacy Fund chairperson and committee.
- The August Tri-District meeting will be in Cleveland (see page 7 for details on the great workshops planned). If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

Elections for district officers will take place at the Tri-District meeting. Nominations for governor, first vice and second vice governor currently are being considered.

I must say that it has been a pleasure thus far to serve as president of our chapter. I am still optimistic that we are doing the right things. We have great people serving on the board who will accomplish much during our terms. I am always interested in any feedback and questions from members, so please feel free to write me or call. Thanks!

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

(612) 822-3659

Mark your calendars now!

JACL SUMMER PICNIC – A PIG ROAST!

Sunday, June 27, noon to 4 p.m., at Lake Cornelia, Edina
A free event! Bring a dish to share. Games for all ages.

RSVP by June 22 to John Nakasone, (612) 646-6999, or
Kathy Koch, (612) 884-1238.

JACL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sunday, Aug. 15 at Gross Golf Course, Minneapolis
Watch your mail for details.

AKI MATSURI

Sunday, Sept. 12 at Normandale Community College

JACL MIDWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL FALL MEETING

October in Minneapolis

TRI-DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The JACL Tri-District Conference of the Midwest, Eastern
and Mountain Plains district councils will be held Aug. 19 to
22 in Cleveland. The biennial conference is expected to

attract 200 participants from the 20 chapters represented by
the three district councils. Irene Natividad, former chair of
the National Women's Political Caucus, will be a featured
speaker. Other speakers will include national JACL presi-
dent Lillian Kimura. A variety of workshops also are being
planned (see page 9). The conference will be held at the
Sheraton Cleveland City Centre Hotel.

If you are interested in attending the Tri-District confer-
ence, call David Hayashi, (612) 822-3659.

SIXTH NATIONAL JACL SINGLES CONVENTION

The Chicago New Horizons – Nikkei Singles of Greater
Chicago – invites you to the Sixth National JACL Singles
Convention on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 3 to 5, at the
Chicago Marriott Hotel.

A convention package including registration fee, work-
shops, mixer, banquet and dance, and Sunday brunch is
available for \$125 if you register before July 1; \$145 after July
1. Special events, including a golf tournament at the Hilldale
Country Club and a tour of Chicago are available at addi-
tional expense. Hotel rooms are \$95 per person per night.

If you would like an information packet, call David
Hayashi, (612) 822-3659, or Elsie Ogawa, (708) 679-4710.

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

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209 Dennison Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55126

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