

RICE PAPER

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

August-September 1993

Reflections on the movie "Rising Sun"

by Karen K. Narasaki

JACL Washington, D.C. representative

I had the opportunity to preview Twentieth Century Fox's summer big-budget movie "Rising Sun," which was released on July 30. JACL has been concerned about the potential effect of the movie, which is based on Michael Crichton's controversial best-selling novel. The book was criticized by many as Japan bashing. Even those who defended the book were concerned about how it would play as a big-budget Hollywood movie, since such movies by their nature depend on visual cues and appeal to emotion rather than dry economic discourse.

Unfortunately, those concerns have proved to be warranted. The movie is indeed worse than the book. Asian Pacific American community leaders are very concerned since the movie is coming at a time when the phrase "yellow peril" is already in the air because of the negative public attention on the Chinese immigrant smuggling cases and on Asian organized crime.

Philip Kaufman, the director and screenwriter for "Rising Sun," maintains that efforts were made to be sensitive to the potential charge of Japan bashing. That may well be true. Unfortunately, the efforts were not successful. I believe that audiences will leave the theaters fearing the "yellow peril" more than ever.

There are so few images in film or television of Asian Pacific Americans that one movie can have an immense impact on how we see ourselves and how others see us. We know from

painful experience that the general public has trouble distinguishing between foreign Asians and Americans of Asian descent. We have struggled for generations to overcome the still prevalent stereotype that Asians are invaders in America to be feared and distrusted. "Rising Sun" only serves to reinforce that stereotype.

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masters at manipulation and engage in perverse sexual practices with white women. In fact, the "violation" of caucasian women seems to be symbolic of the "invasion" by the Japanese into our economy. One of the characters even notes that "they're plundering our natural resources" after spying the Japanese playboy with two naked caucasian women.

Racial slurs, such as "nip" and "Jap perp," and sweeping derogatory comments abound unchallenged, most of which are uttered by a cop played by Harvey Keitel. The Keitel character is clearly meant to be

an acknowledged racist. However, he is a "likeable" racist in the Archie Bunker style, so his comments invite chuckles rather than any adverse reaction. Audience members are much more likely to identify with him than with the Japanese.

The movie also plays on racial tensions. In one scene, the yakuza are chasing the heroes. The character played by Wesley Snipes calls on his friends in South Central Los Angeles to stop the yakuza. The African American youths surround the yakuza's car and slice open the convertible top. The comically frightened gangsters flee. In one preview, the audience cheered. The underlying message is that America should band together to drive out the invading Asians.

At this point, Twentieth Century Fox and those involved in the production are very defensive. They just don't see the problem. After all, they gave Asian American actors and film technicians a chance to work, hired a composer from Japan and taiko drummers from San Francisco.

"Rising Sun," continued on page 2.

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It is troubling, but not surprising that the issues are not more readily understood by the movie industry. Why do Asian American actors only get to play stereotypical roles, like gangsters, businessmen, computer nerds and coroners? Why do they only get to play main roles if the character is foreign? Are we to believe that all Japanese get off on having sex with white women while strangling them? Or using white women as sushi platters and sake receptacles? Why does using "authentic" Japanese music ameliorate the problem of racist images – particularly when the use of the taiko and shakuhachi are mainly used to engender foreboding or add a sinister quality to the scenes?

Kaufman did change the ending so that it is left unclear that the killer is Japanese. However, after two hours of fairly nonstop negative depictions, one would be hard pressed to leave that theater thinking anything but that the Japanese are people to be feared and distrusted who will stop at nothing to win. Now where have we heard that before?

I have tried to examine my feelings carefully. After all, my brother and sister-in-law are both actors, so I want to make sure I am not taking any unfair shots at a movie that at least provided Asian Americans with employment. However, I believe that whatever its intentions might have been, the movie does push the audience to view Asians in an extremely negative way, and the result will be further discrimination and violence against Asians in America. We must strongly challenge these narrow negative images and fight for more accurate and balanced portrayals.

A coalition of almost 30 civil rights, media and community organizations agree. These organizations, along with JACL, will be staging informational picket lines and other educational activities in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and other major cities. Contact the JACL National Office, (415) 921-5225, for more information.

"Rising Sun" Talking Points

Written by JACL's Washington, D.C. representative Karen K. Narasaki

Why are you protesting this movie?

It perpetuates the tired and degrading negative stereotypes of Asians as cold, calculating, inscrutable and sinister. It is yet another movie that promotes the idea that Asians are to be feared and distrusted – that they are sneaky invaders who don't belong in America. These stereotypes have real consequences of discrimination, prejudice and hate crimes.

How is this movie Japan bashing?

We are not here to defend Japan's trade practices or the business of Japanese companies. The problem lies in the movie being so one-sided. It lays all U.S. economic problems on the Japanese. It makes no mention of the fact that English and German companies also have extensive holdings in the U.S. It depicts the Japanese as a people who are all cold, greedy, unfeeling and sneaky. It also insinuates that the Japanese are only winning because they are "cheating," which is not even what the book was saying.

What are some specific problems?

- The lack of any positive Asian main characters.
- The fact that the Japanese men are portrayed as engaging in perverse sex and as treating women like objects. There is a lot of heavy symbolism of Japanese men violating white American women (e.g. sushi scene with Eddie).
- The fact that no one really challenges the numerous racial slurs made by the likeable "Archie Bunker" type cop.

Isn't this just entertainment? Why are you concerned?

Media images play a powerful role in our society. Negative stereotyping perpetuates discrimination, and depictions of Asians as inhumane and the use of inflammatory images make Asian Americans vulnerable to hate violence.

What about First Amendment rights – aren't you asking for censorship?

No. We are concerned about the First Amendment as well. However, the media wields an immense power to affect the way society views itself and, consequently, must exercise its rights and responsibility. The media has acknowledged this responsibility in other areas, such as its efforts to address the effect of television violence on children.

How come the Asian Americans working on the film don't feel that the movie is about Japan bashing (or is racist or sexist)?

The artists are entitled to their opinion. After all, they need to work and there are few roles available to them. We are not criticizing their opinions or actions.

What do you think of Twentieth Century Fox's position that the community should be pleased about the opportunity for Asian Americans to work on a major Hollywood production as artists and technicians?

First, the production roles were fairly limited. Second, the film companies always use that as a justification – even where the roles simply reinforce old, ugly stereotypes. Hollywood should be more open to casting Asian Americans in "non-traditional" roles. Asian Americans are people after all and shouldn't always be thought of as only able to play roles that require an Asian or Asian American.

Rising Sun," Hollywood and Asian stereotypes

by Charissa Uemura
Twin Cities JACL board member

The new Twentieth Century Fox film "Rising Sun," based on the novel by Michael Crichton, is expected to fuel an increase in anti-Japanese sentiment that will lead to more hate crimes against Asian Americans, according to the Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA). The group's expectation is based on an examination of the film's script and "past experience," the group said in a statement issued recently.

"This \$40 million movie – starring Sean Connery, Wesley Snipes and Harvey Keitel – portrays Japan, its cultural and business practices, and its people in a very negative and misleading way," said the statement.

According to MANAA, the script has one of the characters constantly refer to Japanese as "Nips" and "Japs," yet he is never reprimanded by his colleagues, including a "Japanophile" played by Sean Connery, for his racist attitudes.

"MANAA feels that this is a '90s version of the 'yellow peril' as the movie shows Japan not only buying the United States block by block, but insidiously controlling the media, police department, politicians and other institutions," MANAA said.

MANAA's statement goes on to say that there apparently are "no positive Asian or Asian American characters to provide balance":

"MANAA is concerned with how the portrayals in this movie can fuel racial paranoia, resentment and violence against Asian Americans because of the confusion many Americans have with differentiating between Asian Americans and the fictional images in the media."

Defenders of the film, as reported in the cover story of the current issue of Premiere magazine, downplay the "Japan-bashing label."

"All the Japanese American actors

interviewed for this story praised (director Philip Kaufman) for his sensitivity to their concerns," reported Premiere. The magazine also reported that one of the heroes of the film is a Japanese American computer "hacker" played by actress Tia Carrere, who helps solve the crime at hand.

"To mollify the book's largest group of critics, Kaufman and his son, Peter, the film's producer, sat down with Japanese American organizations and discussed their concerns," the story said.

"Philip Kaufman points out that his film employed many Asian American actors – some 25 in speaking parts (including Carrere, Cary Hiroyuki Tagawa and Mako)," it said.

MANAA characterizes the filmmakers' meetings with community organizations quite differently from the Premiere story. Representatives from MANAA and other groups did meet with the producer and others associated with the movie, MANAA reported: "None of the parties involved, however, were given any assurance that any (suggested) changes would be made to the movie."

MANAA president Guy Aoki also was unsatisfied with the consultant hired by the studio to represent the views of the Asian American community on the set. Aoki credited the consultant, Steve Clemons of the Japan America Society, for his knowledge about issues between Japan and the U.S. and about Japanese culture.

"(However) he has less understanding of the ways in which Japanese Americans and Asian Americans in general are affected by the relationships between the two countries, and of why movies like this are so alarming to us. From my conversation with Clemons, he was more concerned about getting technical details of the film right," Aoki said.

The MANAA statement was based on a thorough reading of the film's shooting script, not on a screening of the finished film, because producers refused MANAA's requests for a screening.

"(Twentieth Century Fox president Strauss Zelnick) accused us of trying to censor his film, saying that they were protected by First Amendment rights. We agree on the principle of freedom of expression. We were merely trying to sensitize the filmmakers to the one-sidedness of 'Sun' in the hopes that they would make a more responsible film," Aoki said.

"The First Amendment also allows us to speak out against a film we have concerns over," Aoki said.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Coalition Committee of Twin Cities JACL begins work

by Elaine-Lyford Nojima
Twin Cities JACL board member

In a recent conversation with a thirtysomething African American law student from Washington, D.C. who has lived here for year, a Sansei asked her how she liked the Twin Cities. She replied rather scornfully, "I hate it here – a bunch of bigots."

The same Sansei cited conversations with an African American male who reported that a walk around Lake Harriet resulted in being stopped and "shaken down" three times (in one walk) by the police. Because of the racism he experienced here, that male has since returned to Chicago.

Or what about the thirtysomething Sansei who went to Juster's in Southdale and noted that two salespeople "were helping everyone else coming in the door while I looked around for 20 minutes, and neither of them ever approached me."

And have you noted the recent articles in the Star Tribune that describe drive-by shootings against Asian Americans in north Minneapolis?

While we would like to believe that racism and prejudice happen elsewhere – as in Washington, D.C. or Chicago or Los Angeles, where police recently arrested white supremacists who plotted to kill Rodney King as well as other African Americans – we must recognize that racism and bigotry are very much alive in Minnesota. "Minnesota

Nice" often covers a multitude of beliefs, thoughts and emotions that many of us would rather believe exist elsewhere.

Yet the reality of experiences, as cited above, has been the instigation for a group of us involved with JACL, both board members and volunteers, to meet and discuss civil rights and racism and our response to it. Our group has met three times and has generated some ideas and plans, which include meeting initially with other Japanese American groups to create relationships and discuss concerns and possible actions. We have generated a mission statement that reads:

The Coalition Committee will pursue JACL's commitment to eradicate bigotry and prejudice and promote a society that values diversity.

We are seeking your input, ideas and comments regarding this direction that JACL is pursuing. Please feel free to contact Joanne Kumagai, (612) 537-8076, or Elaine Lyford-Nojima, (612) 724-9578, with your comments. Other committee members include Cheryl and Mark Lund, Penelope Haru Snipper and Charissa Uemura.

Please join us on Friday, Sept. 17 for our meeting with other Japanese American groups. Sometime after that meeting, we hope to meet with other Asian American groups and to expand our connections with additional groups. More information regarding meeting time and location will be forthcoming.

AROUND TOWN

**Friends for a Non-Violent World
present**

"Walk and Roll for Peace"

**The 5th annual
Hiroshima/Nagasaki Days
5K Walk of Remembrance and Hope
A fund raiser for peace education
Saturday, Aug. 7
Lake of the Isles, Minneapolis**

Participants: Walkers, wheelchairs, rollerbladers/skaters, wagons and baby strollers (please leave pets at home).

Course: 5K walk around Lake of the Isles on walking and rolling paths

(rain or shine). Meet at Newton Avenue and Lake of the Isles Parkway.

Time: 9 to 9:40 a.m. Check in and last minute registration; 9:45 to 10 a.m. Storytelling – Walk and Roll peace education; 10:45 a.m. to noon Traditional Japanese dance and music, crane making and more.

Pledges: Please collect money as you obtain your pledges and turn in all money and pledge forms when you check in at the walk. T-shirts will be given to all participants raising at least \$15 in pledges.

For more information: (612) 870-1501.

Minnesota Folk 1993

A day-long family festival celebrating Minnesota's heritage through folk art, music, dance and food.

Sunday, Aug. 8, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Minnesota History Center
345 Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul**

There will be Vietnamese Chamber Music, Swedish fiddling, Ojibway basketry, African dance, and insights into ethnic cooking – such as the uses of rice in Asian cooking. Free admission, on-site parking. For more information, call (612) 296-6126.

Minneapolis to host America Japan Week May 28 to June 4, 1994

The City of Minneapolis and the State of Minnesota were recently awarded the opportunity to host America Japan Week 1994. This eight-day event is the largest Japanese cultural event held in the United States.

Over 2,000 Japanese participants (dancers, musicians, athletes and artisans) will attend this cultural exchange in Minneapolis. Twin Cities residents will have a rare opportunity to attend cultural activities ranging from martial arts demonstrations to traditional kite-making, all free to the public. In addition, there will be a daily exhibition held at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The Greater Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Association will coordinate this event with the assistance of both host and steering committees.

According to Greg Ortale, "America Japan Week gives us an opportunity to experience the Japanese culture and at the same time increase the awareness of the Twin Cities and Minnesota in the mind of the Japanese traveler."

This article was published in Asian Pages, July 15, 1993.

Children's Literature Summer Forum

Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2:15 p.m.

**109 Walter Library on the campus of
the University of Minnesota**

Shigeo Watanabe, a leading expert on Japanese children's books and a translator of children's books into and from Japanese, will present "Questions and Answers Related to Japanese Children's Literature." Mr. Watanabe studied library science in the United States and worked at the New York Public Library; Anne Pellowski, author and donor to the Kerlan Collection, will introduce him.

*Presented by the Children's Literature
Research Collections and Summer Session.*



ASIAN AMERICAN RENAISSANCE

"Celestial Celebration"

**A fundraiser for Asian American
Renaissance, Theatre Mu
and Asian Media Access**

When: Saturday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.

Where: Theatre de la Jeune Lune,
Minneapolis

Tickets: \$40

*For more information: Asian American
Renaissance, c/o Intermedia Arts,
(612) 627-4444.*

"The Cycles of Life: The Many Traditions of Asian Dance"

When: Friday, Nov. 5 and
Saturday, Nov. 6, 8 p.m.

Where: O'Shaughnessy Auditorium
at The College of
St. Catherine, St. Paul

Tickets: \$7

Dancers from several traditions of Asian dance – including Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Indian, Japanese, Korean and Lao – will present an evening of dances portraying the cycles of life such as birth, marriage and death, and the cycles of nature.

*For more information: Asian American
Renaissance, c/o Intermedia Arts,
(612) 627-4444.*

PBS airs Rea Tajiri's video essay

**A chronicle of her search
to uncover the history
of her family's
experiences in the
internment camps
during World War II.**

Aug. 12, remember that date.

"History and Memory: For Aikiko and Takashige," by film and video artist Rea Tajiri, shares the lessons of a personal journey into her family's painful hidden history. This deals with the experience of Japanese Americans "relocated" in internment camps during World War II, questions ways that popular media color perceptions of history, and realizes the artists' intent of envisioning a history that is largely undocumented. The film employs traditional documentary elements – newsreels, archival film, photographs, clips from Hollywood films, film that was illegally shot by a camp internee – but Tajiri uses them to texture a poetic and personal recreation of the buried past.

"'History and Memory' is a mission to try to uncover my family's history, not so much even just for my family and myself, but as a symbolic gesture to the larger community ... who had similar experiences, and to other communities, especially people of color, where there is undocumented history," Tajiri has said about the film.

Check local listings for details.

*This is an excerpt from Asian
American Press.*

JACLEVENTS

Join your fellow JACLers at the annual JACL golf tournament!

No matter what your skill level is, you're sure to have a good time – and the chance to win one of many fabulous prizes!

When: Sunday, Aug. 15, 1993

Where: Gross Golf Course, Minneapolis

Entry fee: \$5 JACL members, \$7.50 non-JACL members (Entry fee includes \$.50 course registration fee) Pay your green fees at the course.

R.S.V.P. By Aug. 5. Your check is your reservation. Make checks payable to JACL.

Send to: Sam Honda, 3935 Lakewood Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110 429-3410

Also send:

- Foursome preference, if you have one.
- Choose one:
 - ☐ For golfers with GHIN USGA Handicap Index, your handicap index as of July 15.
 - ☐ For non-Minnesota Golf Association members, your average golf score or handicap for 18 holes.

Tri-District Conference to be held in August

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, long-recognized as a leader in the women's movement in the United States, will be the keynote speaker. In 1988, Natividad was named by Ladies Home Journal as one of the "100 Most Powerful Women in America." She was the first Asian American ever to head the National Women's Political Caucus, a bipartisan organization dedicated to electing and appointing women to public office.

A variety of workshops will be held as part of the conference.

Twin Cities chapter president David Hayashi and vice president Joanne Kumagai will attend the conference on behalf of our chapter.

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, workshops, mixer, banquet and dance, and Sunday brunch is available for \$145. Special events, including a golf tournament at the Hilldale Country Club and a tour of Chicago, are available at additional 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.

Aki Matsuri

This fall festival to celebrate the Japanese culture will be held Sunday, Sept. 12 at Normandale Community College in conjunction with the Sukiyaki Dinner to benefit the Normandale Japanese Garden.

See back page for details.

"Behind Barbed Wire: The Japanese American World War II experience"

Part of the "Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945" exhibit Aug. 27 to Oct. 8. *See page 7 for details.*

Coalition Committee meeting with Japanese American groups

The Twin Cities JACL's newly formed Coalition Committee will host a meeting with other Japanese American groups Friday, Sept. 17. All members of the JACL community are welcome to attend. More information regarding meeting time and location will be forthcoming.

If you are interested in attending, call Joanne Kumagai, (612) 537-8076, or Elaine Lyford-Nojima, (612) 724-9578.

See page 4 for more information about the Coalition Committee.

JACL Midwest District Council Fall Meeting in Minneapolis

The Twin Cities chapter will host the Midwest District Council's fall meeting Friday through Sunday, Oct. 1 to 3, at the Airport Marriott, Bloomington.

As part of the weekend's activities, the chapter is planning an informal get-together Friday evening to welcome JACLers from the other Midwest chapters. Plan now to attend!

"In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart."

— Anne Frank

"Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945"

An international exhibit comes to Minnesota for the first time, and JACL takes part.

Minnesota Friends of Anne Frank, a coalition of diverse community organizations and individuals, is pleased to announce that the internationally acclaimed "Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945" exhibit will be coming to Minnesota for the first time from Aug. 27 to Oct. 8, 1993. It is estimated that more than 200,000 visitors will view this exhibit.

As an expansion to the Anne Frank exhibit, the Minnesota Friends of Anne Frank has commissioned a **Contemporary Exhibit** designed to support — through the eyes of Minnesota experiences — the universal message of the Anne Frank exhibit. Artists and organizations — including the Twin Cities JACL — will display works portraying Minnesota's experiences with oppression resulting from prejudice and discrimination.

"Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945"

Aug. 27 to Oct. 8, 1993

***The Great Hall
First Trust Center
180 East Fifth St.
St. Paul***

Exhibition hours:

***9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Monday to Friday***

***9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday***

Admission is free.

***If you have questions,
call (612) 962-4351.***

The International Exhibit

"Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945" is composed of more than 600 photographs and documents (many never before published), excerpts from Anne Frank's diary and workbooks, and a model of the Secret Annex. The award-winning videotapes "Just a Diary" and "Dear Kitty" also are shown with the exhibit.

Created in 1985 by the Anne Frank Center in Amsterdam, the exhibit currently is on tour throughout Europe, the former Soviet Union, South America, Japan, Canada, and the United States. This is the first time the exhibit will be in Minnesota.

The Anne Frank exhibit carries on Anne's struggle for a better world. It presents a broad picture of historical developments during the Nazi era and then focuses on daily life in both Nazi Germany and occupied Holland. The exhibit highlights the choices people made: to vote for Hitler or against; to collaborate or resist; and to protest or remain silent and do nothing.

Anne Frank's personal family history, reconstructed through photographs, serves as a powerful example of what happened to one "ordinary" family during those tragic years.

This exhibit challenges each of us to explore our own experiences with discrimination and our responsibility in a democratic society.

The Minnesota Exhibit

With the addition of contemporary display panels, the "Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945" exhibit in Minnesota has been expanded to extend into our community. These panels, produced by artists and community organizations throughout the region, display realities of past and present discrimination, and they present ideas of how we can make a difference.

The contemporary display panels further highlight the four themes around which the Anne Frank exhibit is organized:

- Discrimination is cruel and irrational.
- It is the ordinary citizen who discriminates.
- Discrimination is a matter of personal choice.
- Discrimination, prejudice and racism not only existed in the past, but still exist today.

"Behind Barbed Wire: The Japanese American World War II experience"

***The display of the Twin Cities JACL,
part of the Minnesota Exhibit.***

***The display sponsored by Twin
Cities JACL will be mounted in an
area adjacent to the Anne Frank
exhibit.***

***The display will feature 12 to 16
photographs on loan from the National
Japanese American Historical Society
in San Francisco, Calif.***

***This project is being coordinated by
Karen Schmitt and Twin Cities JACL
board member Charissa Uemura.***

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.

Festival of Nations is once again a fundraising success – thanks to our volunteers' tireless help!

by Chuck Tatsuda Jr.
Chairperson of JACL's Festival of Nations booth

Our chapter's major fundraising event at this year's Festival of Nations, held April 29 to May 2, 1993, at the St. Paul Civic Center, was again a financial success. In fact, despite an 11 percent decrease in sales revenues, our volunteers' hard work combined with our restrained spending on merchandise inventory to push our bottom-line profit to its highest total ever!

The impact of the economic recession was evident for the second straight year, as Festival visitors tended to eschew



Amongst origami cranes on sticks, fans, paper boxes and other items, Judy and George Murakami staff JACL's bazaar booth at the Festival of Nations.
Photo by Charissa Uemura.

higher-priced items in favor of less-expensive items. While we are always searching for new low-priced items to offer at the booth, our sources for merchandise are limited, and we do not want to

compromise our selections by expanding to items of non-Japanese origin. (Admittedly, some of our items are made in other countries, but we cannot determine that at the time

we order the goods.) Hence, we are making efforts to expand our list of suppliers for next year.

We also need to expand our supply of volunteers for next year's Festival (for both the bazaar and demonstration booths). If you have never worked in one of our booths, it is truly an enjoyable experience (plus, you receive free admission to the Festival so you can enjoy the exhibits, performances and food). We will be asking many of you for your time again next year, and urge you to help!

Many thanks to all of this year's volunteers. A special thanks goes to Lil Honda, Gloria Kumagai, Mark Honda, and the Sansei Yonsei Kai Japanese dance group. Your time and efforts made our chapter's largest fundraiser of the year a major success!

Military Intelligence Service Cherry Tree Dedication

by Kathy Koch
JACL member

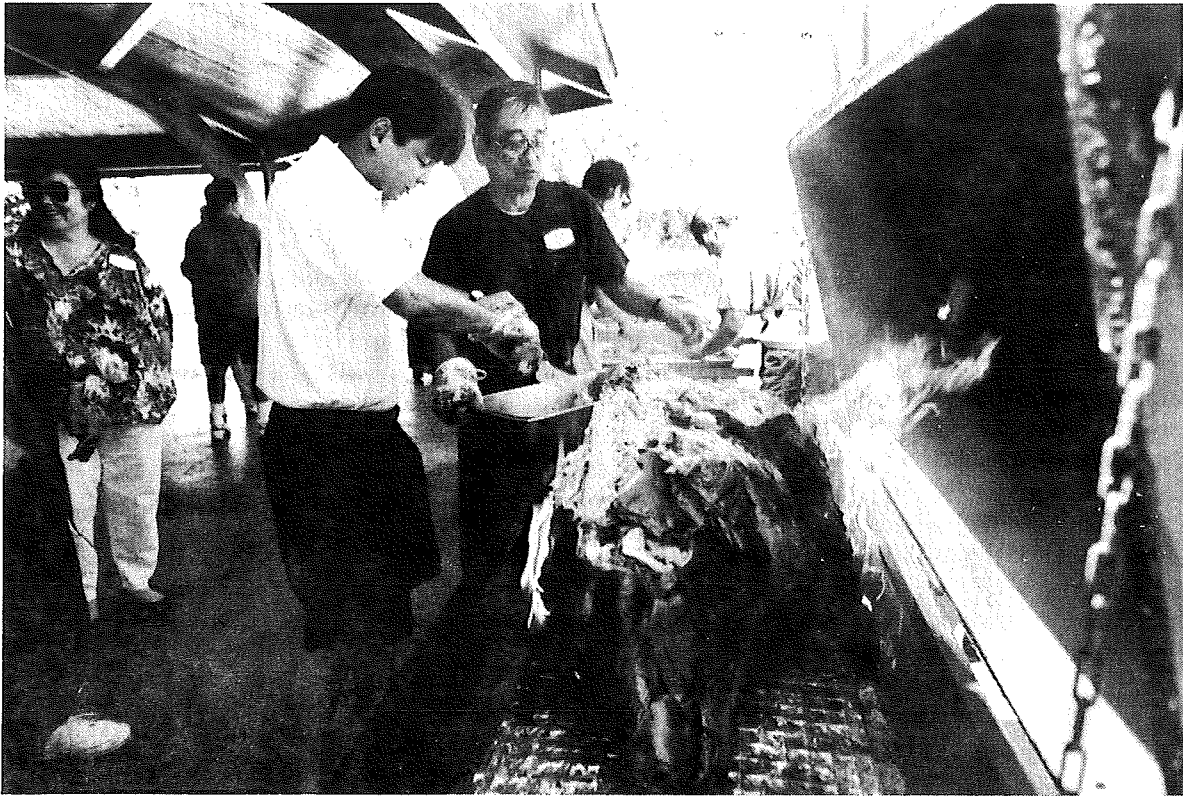
On Wednesday, May 12, 1993, a delegation from the MIS Club of Southern California came to Minneapolis for a four-day stay. The members who made the trip were: Ken and Alice Akune, James Mita, James Ogawa, George and Misao Kobayashi, Frank and Stella Kishi, Sho and Florence Nomura, Shig and Beverly Iba, Cathy Tanaka, and George and Toy Kanegai. The trip was made to dedicate the cherry trees that were given by the club last year to the Normandale Japanese Garden, Fort Snelling, and the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Savage.

On Friday evening the Minnesota MIS Committee hosted a potluck. After dinner everyone present shared a story about their time at Camp Savage/Fort Snelling or why they participated in the MIS clubs. It was very touching and sometimes sad, but extremely interesting.

MIS Cherry Tree Dedication, continued on page 10.

Festival of Nations Summary

	<u>1993</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>
Revenues: Bazaar Booth	\$4,944.35	\$5,282.79	\$ 5,319.80	\$ 4,740.54
Demonstration Booth	<u>1,324.80</u>	<u>1,805.64</u>	<u>2,192.65</u>	<u>1,162.01</u>
Total Revenues	6,269.15	7,088.43	7,512.45	5,902.55
Expenses: Merchandise	2,258.10	3,033.29	3,578.81	2,012.56
Booth Fee	375.00	375.00	375.00	325.00
Insurance	30.00	35.00	30.00	30.00
Volunteer Admissions	40.00	65.00	10.00	5.00
Supplies/Miscellaneous	<u>80.17</u>	<u>114.75</u>	<u>71.90</u>	<u>137.67</u>
Total Expenses	2,783.27	3,623.04	4,065.71	2,510.23
Profit after Expenses:	<u>\$3,485.88</u>	<u>\$ 3,465.39</u>	<u>\$ 3,446.74</u>	<u>\$ 3,392.32</u>



Chefs John Nakasone and Clarence Ikeda begin serving pork after the pig was roasted for seven hours. Photo by Charissa Uemura.

JACL pig roast starts at 5 a.m.!

by Kathy Koch
JACL member

On Sunday, June 27, the Twin Cities JACL's annual summer picnic was turned into the JACL Pig Roast – thanks to Clarence and Mieko Ikeda, who so graciously donated the pig and roasting equipment.

As chef, Clarence was at Lake Cornelia Park in Edina (the site of this year's picnic), at 5 a.m. to start cooking the pig. About 150 people gathered at noon to eat pork and a variety of salads, sushi and desserts (it was delicious!) and to play games for all ages. (By the way, the women and children won the tug-of-war match against the men!)

This year, the picnic was free to all attendees. The reason for this was three-fold; JACL hoped to attract new members, thank current members who worked so hard during the year on various JACL events, and to get acquainted with members whom we haven't seen for awhile. Judging by the happy faces and positive comments, a good time was had by all!

Picnic chairs John and Jacqueline Nakasone and David and Kathy Koch would like to thank Chuck Tatsuda Jr. for taking charge of the prizes for all the games, and Sam Honda for hauling the ice machine and Bingo game.

And, saving the best for last, a very special thank you to Clarence and Mieko, who made this year's picnic one to remember.

MIS Tree Dedication,
continued from page 9.

Saturday was a full day of tree dedications. It started in the morning at the site of Camp Savage, where the MIS was stationed. The mayor of Savage, Don Eagan, was present, as was the City Council president and heads of the local VFW and American Legion. The trees were planted at the site of Camp Savage. The town of Savage is working on raising funds for a plaque to be placed on the site. Toy Kanegai made and presented a beautiful framed turtle, made of gold yen coins, to the city

of Savage. Last year, she made and presented the turtles to the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The Normandale Japanese Garden was the next stop. Kimi Hara helped plan a luncheon for the group and the Normandale Garden Club. The architect of the garden was present from Japan. Five trees placed in various locations in the garden. Minneapolis mayor Donald Fraser was present and told the audience that the trees sent to Minneapolis were already planted in the Peace Garden across from Lake Harriet. A trip to the Peace Garden followed the luncheon. The St. Paul trees were received and were planted in the Ordway Japanese Garden at Como Park.

The last stop was Fort Snelling. The trees were planted in front of the Fort Snelling dedication. The MIS of Southern California also donated \$250 to the Fort Snelling Historical Museum. A display of a classroom at Camp Savage will be among the exhibits. The museum will be opened in October 1994.

The tree dedication was planned by George and Toy Kanegai in California and Grace Ohama in Minnesota, with the help of the MIS Committee of Minnesota: Min and Shizuko Tsuchimochi, Frank and Kimi Yanari, Ken and May Tanaka, Kimi Hara, Sam Honda, Chuck Tatsuda, Tosh and Mary Abe, Tom and Tayeko Moriguchi, Bud and Mary Nakasone, and Dave and Kathy Koch. We also had help from Paul and Helene Shimizu, Chester and June Fujino, Mits and Toshi Yonegi, and Min and Mary Yoshida.

Items and pictures pertaining to the MIS are needed for the display at Fort Snelling. If you would like to donate something, please call Steve Osman, (612) 726-1171.

An MIS trip to Washington, D.C. in October is being planned. Call Kathy Koch, (612) 884-1238, for details.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome these people who recently joined (or re-joined after an absence) the Twin Cities JACL.

Susan Kumagai Fink, St. Louis Park
David and Lisa Hintermeister, Richfield
Steve and Sarah Kumagai, Edina
Toshiko Nishida, Golden Valley
John Omori, Minneapolis
Audrey Kaye Oye, Minneapolis
Zaidee Rollins, Minneapolis
Eugene and Emi Sako, Bloomington
Scott and Sue Takekawa, Eden Prairie
Dr. Todd and Connie Tsuchiya, St. Louis Park

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.

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 May 10 and June 8, 1993.

LEGACY FUND

Sam Honda, chair of the Legacy Fund drive for our chapter, reported at the May 10 meeting that the Twin Cities chapter has achieved 92 percent of its Legacy Fund goal.

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

DONATIONS

The Twin Cities JACL received a donation of \$210.13 in memory of Nori Hangai. This donation will be placed in the chapter's general scholarship fund.

The chapter also approved the following donations:

- \$300 to the Sansei Yonsei Kai Japanese Dance Group, in appreciation of their performances during the Festival of Nations.
- Children's toys to the Nikkei Project Open House June 5.

SUMMER PICNIC & PIG ROAST

The board discussed plans for the chapter's annual summer picnic, held Sunday, June 27 at Lake Cornelia Park in Edina. This year the picnic was free in order to encourage more people to attend; therefore an increase in the picnic budget to \$350 from \$150 was approved. John Nakasone reported that Clarence and Mieke Ikeda have offered to donate the pig and roaster. (See Kathy Koch's report on page 10.)

AKI MATSURI

Plans are underway for the chapter's fall festival to be held Sept. 12 in conjunction with the Sukiyaki Dinner to benefit the Normandale Japanese Garden. Joanne Kumagai is event chair. (See back page for details.)

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Zaidee Rollins, a 1993 high school graduate and a recent recipient of a JACL scholarship, is interested in competing in the Tri-District Oratorical Contest Aug. 21 in Cleveland. Board approved sponsoring Zaidee if she does compete.

Chapter membership

directory published

A directory of Twin Cities JACL members is at the printer! Members should receive their directories in mid-August.

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The committee held meetings May 15 and 28 and began establishing short- and long-term goals. Joanne Kumagai and Elaine Lyford-Nojima reported that the committee will begin efforts in coalition building in the Asian community. (See page 4 for more information on this committee.)

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES

The board approved reprinting the chapter's membership brochure. Chris Murakami Noonan will coordinate this.

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.

University of Minnesota honors Dr. Gladys Stone and Bill Doi

*by Carolyn Nayematsu
Director of the Asian/Pacific American Learning Resource Center
at the University of Minnesota, and a JACL member*



Dr. Gladys Stone, retired professor emeritus of sociology, and Bill Doi, retired buyer with the Campbell Mithun advertising agency, were honored for their outstanding service on behalf of Asian American students, faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. They were named Distinguished Service Award recipients for 1993 at the annual Asian American Heritage Graduation Banquet on May 21, 1993. This annual award is presented by the Asian/Pacific American Learning Resource Center, and it honors community leaders who give their time and expertise to help make the University of Minnesota a better environment for Asian Americans.

The University of Minnesota has received approximately 23 years of combined service from Gladys and Bill. They were members of the original Concerned Asian Americans Committee, and they currently serve on the President's Asian Pacific Islander Committee. They have worked on issues such as lobbying for Asian American Studies courses, advocating for more professors and instructors so that the Japanese and Chinese language programs can be improved, and ensuring that Asian Americans are considered for all programs. In addition, they have served on numerous University of Minnesota committees and task forces. Although they are "retired," Gladys and Bill have never stopped working. They have continued to provide a valuable service to the community, and we thank them for their dedication and continued support.

College of St. Catherine honors Akiko Sako

The following article appeared in Asian Pages, June 15, 1993.

The College of St. Catherine has presented Akiko Sako with its medal of honor for her years of service dedicated to strengthening relations between the U.S. and Japan. The award was presented during the college's commencement ceremonies on May 22.

Sako – a native of Tokyo, Japan – is vice president of the St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee. Her accomplishments in this role include facilitating the installation of Paul Granlund's sculpture "Constellation Earth" into the Nagasaki Peace Park last year.

Since 1970, Sako has been protocol adviser for the Minnesota Honorary Consulate General of Japan. She is a former lecturer with Intercultural Communication Inc., where she taught American business people about Japanese culture.

Sako is a founding member of the College of St. Catherine's Distinguished Women's Advisory Council, and also has worked extensively with the college's summer foreign language program.

In addition, she does volunteer work for a number of organizations, including: the Japan America Society of Minnesota, the Como-Ordway Japanese Garden, and the Asian Art Council of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Sako is married to retired surgeon Yoshio Sako and has three sons.

Educator needed to make presentation at 1994 Great Lakes Regional Conference sponsored by the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies

Allan Hida, JACL's Midwest District Governor, has notified our chapter that there may be an opportunity for JACL to make a presentation at the 1994 Great Lakes Regional Conference to be held next spring in St. Paul and sponsored by the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies.

"I feel this is an opportunity to get the story out about the Japanese American experience," Hida wrote.

Are you – or do you know of – a secondary social studies teacher or professor or academician or educator who would be willing to volunteer to make a presentation?

If you would like more information, call David Hayashi, (612) 822-3659.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

July 16, 1993

From the land of 10,000 lakes (which are almost turning into one huge bog!) I bid you all greetings! I hope everyone is enjoying a safe summer and keeping somewhat dry.

For anyone who was not able to attend the JACL annual summer picnic, it was a great event! The weather was beautiful, the crowd numbered at least 150 – probably more – and the food was phenomenal, with good conversation and fun in abundance! Congratulations for the success of the well-planned event goes to John Nakasone, who also volunteered to chair next year's picnic. Thanks to John and all those who helped in the planning and executing. Special thanks go to Clarence and Mieko Ikeda for donating the pig, bringing the biggest barbecue pit I have ever seen, and showing up at 5 a.m. at the park to start the coals. It was delicious, as were all of the great potluck dishes. We had everything from sushi to hot dogs, senbe, tasty salads, homemade brownies and more! What a spread! I also enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk with so many people from our community and even a few visitors from out of town. I look forward to next year's picnic and encourage everyone to come and enjoy.

As we go on with our everyday lives, it is sometimes difficult to take the time to contemplate the issues that surround the Asian American communities; it is sometimes difficult to imagine the struggles of others, or to even realize how these issues and struggles might affect us, our families, our friends and the community as a whole. If you are anything like me, the tendency is to only think about these things when they are laid out in front of you, in the paper, or on the television, etc. The tendency seems also to be that maybe you feel distant from the issues and develop an "it can't happen to me" attitude. And yet, we hear stories like the one about someone accidentally walking in on a white supremacist group meeting at a Bloomington restaurant after hours. Or experience times when you know you were the first one at the counter, but the last one to be helped if helped at all ... Minnesota nice? The reality is that anti-Asian sentiment, Japan-bashing, racism, oppression and just plain ignorance are very close to home, and whether or not we chose to acknowledge it, "it can happen to you to me." My purpose is not to alarm anyone, I am just dishing out some food for thought.

I recently invited David Mura to speak at IDS for Asian Pacific Heritage month. The topic was race and multiculturalism. David did an eloquent job of presenting his experiences and learnings to the audience. He shared many personal examples of conflict in his life and examples of what it took for him to gain further acceptance and understanding of his own identity. He mentioned how racism is similar to some of the other "isms" such as alcoholism. Many alcoholics cannot be helped because they and/or their families are in a state of denial. Denial is simply not recognizing and/or not admitting that a problem exists.

The first step of the 12-step recovery program is to admit that there is a problem. David continued by relating that one must explore his or her own beliefs and values and admit to his or her own prejudices and racism, before any understanding and healing can take place within yourself and/or other people. I agree with David; I feel that self-exploration and self-realization are key elements in learning to value and accept yourself as well as people who are different than you.

I know that I have lived portions of my life emulating "mainstream" society, striving to become totally "assimilated," wanting to reap the so-called benefits of doing so. In retrospect, I see that I was willing either consciously or subconsciously to deny my identity, my heritage, my Japanese ancestry, to become something I could never be. Of course, denial is a strong word. I could rationalize that I was just "acting as if" or that I was doing what I needed to do in order to survive; however, bottom line is that denial is denial, and more often than not destructive, rather than constructive. It is also interesting to consider how people learn lessons at different points during their life's journeys. We as individuals and as a community must communicate about our differences, as well as our commonalities. We must explore the issues, be tolerant of others, and practice acceptance and patience. This does not preclude acting on opportunities where one can have an impact for change, in educating and raising awareness, and in making the quality of life better for yourself and others. You can make a difference!

Speaking of making a difference, I serve on the Steering Committee as the secretary/treasurer for the Asian American Renaissance. David Mura is the artistic director of this group, and many JACL members have been involved in its development, including Dr. Gladys Stone, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Chris Murakami Noonan, Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, Charissa Uemura, Carolyn Nayematsu, and Amy Osajima. It has been a truly rewarding and enriching experience for me to be a part of developing the foundation for this organization. AAR is making a difference for our local Asian American community. I urge your support and recommend attending any of their many events.

The JACL board has continued to meet monthly. We seem to unanimously have decided in favor of keeping our earlier start time with a potluck dinner as the first thing on the agenda.

Please check out the calendar of JACL events on page 6. As you can see we have a busy schedule ahead of us.

Until next time ...

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

(612) 822-3659

AKI MATSURI IS COMING!

MARK SUNDAY, SEPT. 12 ON YOUR CALENDAR!

This is the date for this year's Aki Matsuri, held in conjunction with the Normandale Japanese Garden Sukiyaki Dinner at Normandale Community College. The event will run from noon to 6 p.m.

Enjoy performances by:

Bando School of Classical Dance

Kogen Taiko Drum Group

Midway Judo Club

Sansei Yonsei Kai Japanese Dance Group

Kathy Suzuki will demonstrate origami. Orr Books will again display and sell a wide range of Japanese books. These are just a few of the many events to be featured this year.

The performances and arts and crafts demonstrations are all free and open to the public.

Attention pet owners:

The Twin Cities JACL is pleased to announce a new benefit for local JACL members who are pet owners. We have arranged for JACL members to receive the following discounts at:

Pet Central
2106 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis
(612) 879-0709

- 5 to 10 percent discount (depending on brand names) on pet foods, and
- 15 to 20 percent discount on pet supplies

JACL members should present their membership card to receive these discounts.

The Pet Food Delivery Company, an offshoot of Pet Central, offers free delivery with a minimum purchase within the metropolitan area. Pet Food Delivery can be reached at (612) 870-7551. The same discounts apply.

We appreciate hearing from readers with comments and suggestions on improving this bi-monthly 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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