

# RICE PAPER

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

October-November 1993

## Students receive Twin Cities JACL scholarships

by Connie Fukuda  
JACL member

Seven graduating high school students received scholarships from the Twin Cities JACL in recognition of their outstanding scholastic record and participation in extracurricular activities. The students were honored at a May 20 ceremony at Coffman Union on the University of Minnesota campus.

The scholarships were given in two categories: general scholarship awards and special scholarship awards.

Congratulations to these 1993 JACL scholarship award recipients:

### General Scholarships

- **Chieko Katagiri**  
Academy of the Holy Angels,  
Richfield; attending Normandale  
Community College.
- **Amy Kaneko**  
Tartan High School, North St. Paul;  
attending the University of  
Minnesota.
- **Zaidee Rollins**  
South High School, Minneapolis;  
attending Hamline University.

### Special Scholarships

- **Naomi Fujioka**  
Stillwater High School, Stillwater;  
attending the University of  
Minnesota.  
Recipient of the Susan Matsumoto  
Memorial Scholarship
- **Tetsunori Ishida**  
Woodbury High School, Woodbury;  
attending the University of  
Wisconsin - Madison.  
Recipient of the Kiyoshi Ishibashi  
Memorial Scholarship



Recipients of Twin Cities JACL's 1993 scholarships (from left to right): Zaidee Rollins, Chieko Katagiri, Tetsunori Ishida, Amy Kaneko, Kevin Taniguchi, Naomi Fujioka.

- **Kevin Taniguchi**  
Kennedy High School, Bloomington;  
attending Vanderbilt University,  
Nashville  
Recipient of the Mrs. Yasuyo  
Kawamura Memorial Scholarship

interested in applying for these  
scholarships.

Call Tom Ohno, (612) 831-5869, for  
more information about the JACL  
scholarship program.

The JACL Scholarship Committee is currently looking for other promising students who will graduate from high school in 1994. Students must be a son, daughter or other relative of a Twin Cities JACL member.

Scholarship applications will be mailed in March 1994 to students

## INSIDE

Welcome to new JACL members .....	2
Summary of board meeting minutes .....	2
Notes from the chapter president .....	3
Historical marker at Camp Savage .....	4
Wrap up of past JACL events .....	5
Happenings around town .....	6
John Nakasone wins SBA award .....	9
A few extra dollars? .....	10
Holiday party for kids .....	14

## THANKS

A special thank you to **Chester Fujino** for doing the beautiful Japanese calligraphy on the T-shirts recently purchased by the Twin Cities JACL.

As part of chapter fundraising efforts, these T-shirts, previewed at the Aki Matsuri fall festival Sept. 12 at Normandale Community College, will be sold as part of the chapter's bazaar booth at various events throughout the year. The T-shirts available in adult sizes feature the Japanese characters for "Aki Matsuri" and "Long Life" and sell for \$13. T-shirts in children's sizes feature the Japanese character for "Treasure" and sell for \$10.

A special thank you to those hard-working individuals who put so much time and effort into the Twin Cities JACL's exhibit "Behind Barbed Wire: The Japanese American World War II Experience," which was part of the "Anne Frank in the World" exhibit in St. Paul: **Shirley Horn, Cheryl and Mark Lund, Karen Schmitt, Yoshi Tani and Charissa Uemura**. Thanks for helping our chapter contribute to community-wide effort to display the realities of past and present discrimination and to present ideas of how we can make a difference.

## WELCOME

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

Mari Somekawa, Plymouth  
Gary and Pat Ujifusa, Plymouth

***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 July 13 and Aug. 17, 1993.

#### **AKI MATSURI**

The board discussed plans for the chapter's fall festival held Sept. 12 in conjunction with the Sukiyaki Dinner to benefit the Normandale Japanese Garden. (See page 5 for a wrap-up report by event chair Joanne Kumagai.)

#### **EXHIBIT AS PART OF "ANNE FRANK IN THE WORLD"**

After hearing a presentation by Karen Schmitt and Shirley Horn, the board voted to allocate \$115 to develop a display to be part of the "Anne Frank" exhibit in St. Paul Aug. 27 to Oct. 8. Charissa Uemura served as board liaison to the volunteers work-

ing on the display, which featured photos on loan from the National Japanese American Historical Society.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

At the July 13 meeting, membership chair Sam Honda reported that our chapter membership had reached 210!

#### **COALITION-BUILDING MEETING**

The chapter is inviting representatives from other local Japanese American organizations to a get-together on Sept. 17 to talk about beginning coalition building.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE**

JACL has been asked to serve as a resource to a spring conference sponsored by the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies. Bud Nakasone is interested in participating.

#### **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Thanks to the hard work of Sam Honda, John Nakasone and Jay Yamashiro, 51 golfers enjoyed a great day of golf on Aug. 15. (See page 5 for a wrap-up report by Sam Honda.)

#### **HAYASHI FOR GOVERNOR**

At the Aug. 17 meeting, Twin Cities JACL president David Hayashi announced his plans to run for governor of JACL's Midwest District Council. (David was subsequently elected MDC governor at the Tri-District meeting Aug. 19 to 22. Congratulations, David!)

*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.*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Oct. 1, 1993

Dear Friends:

Many events have taken place since our last issue of the *Rice Paper*. I'm sure you have read in the *Pacific Citizen* about our Tri-District meeting in Cleveland and other significant events of JACL at the national level.

At the chapter level, I would like to point out some of our own accomplishments and milestones:

- All of our members should have now received our new membership directories.
- We have surpassed our chapter goal for Legacy Fund donations (only nine of 114 chapters have accomplished this!) Thanks to the many people who have donated to this worthwhile fund. And many thanks to Sam Honda for coordinating our local effort.
- Congratulations and thanks to Zaidee Rollins for representing the Twin Cities and the Midwest District in taking honors in the oratorical contest at the Tri-District convention in August. Zaidee has expressed interest in getting more involved with the JACL and spoke with Emily Durham, MDC youth representative, about becoming our Twin Cities youth representative. Zaidee is attending Hamline University.
- As seen in other parts of this issue, we organized and participated in several successful community events.

One of these events was the first community forum sponsored by our Coalition Committee. This meeting was held Sept. 17 at the College of St. Catherine. Invitations were extended to local Japanese American organizations.

Our primary goals for this forum and others in the future are: to introduce the JACL to the Japanese American community in the metropolitan area; to create awareness and understanding of the JACL and of our committee; and to start a dialogue with our community.

Thanks go to Penelope Haru Snipper of our Coalition Committee for her fine job in organizing this event.

Last week I was in San Francisco for the national JACL board meeting. While there I was able to visit my family in Sacramento. My brother-in-law Jerry and I were discussing some of the recent controversial topics on which JACL has taken an official position. We touched on how this has caused some dissension among some of the membership. He then made a comment that has been on my mind all week. He said, "Maybe JACL should not take a public position; maybe it is better to be neutral."

Ah, yes, the traditional "do not make waves" syndrome. I did not know quite how to respond. We continued on to other topics and did not revisit this one. Jerry's comment stayed with me until last Friday night, when some of our board members and spouses met to view the Anne Frank exhibit. As I walked through and read the text of the plays, I was very moved by the tragedies of the past and the theme of hope for the future. I was able to gain some insight and perspective on what had been bothering me all week. I have been aware that in our chapter, as well as

other chapters across the country, national JACL's support of gays in the military has unfortunately resulted in many people not renewing their memberships. I believe that JACL as an organization must speak out against any civil and human rights injustices. We must support other groups in their struggle for equality. We will not always agree on what is the right thing to do— that can't be helped; however, we, as Japanese Americans, know the pain of hate and discrimination, and it is in our JACL mission statement to strive to eradicate bigotry and prejudice against not only Japanese Americans, but all human beings.

I also believe that to take action, at the risk of being wrong or upsetting a few, is better than to not do anything, hoping things will get better on their own.

I now know what my response will be if this topic should arise again ...

As you know, I was elected Midwest District governor at the Tri-District meeting. I will continue as chapter president through the end of the year, but will need to step down in order to better fulfill my responsibilities to MDC. I will continue to stay involved with our chapter board while serving as governor. I mention this because it is time to start recruiting board members for the coming term. The current board has had an excellent year, and I hope to see this momentum continue. Please consider getting involved! If you are interested or would like some more information, call me. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Peace.

David Hayashi, Twin Cities JACL president  
4709 Oakland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 822-3659

### **JACL office in Sacramento fire-bombed** **Surge of hate crimes and violence in Sacramento, Calif.**

*The following items were taken from the Sacramento Bee newspaper.*

- Sacramento JACL office was fire-bombed at 1 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 2 causing \$20,000 to \$30,000 in damage. A phone call was received at 2 a.m., and a man said the Aryan Liberation Front (a white supremacist group) was claiming responsibility for the violent action.
- That same weekend, in what police are calling an unrelated event, two Asian children, ages 12 and 13, were found shot in the head at a Metro Transit station in North Sacramento.
- The Sacramento NAACP office was fire-bombed on July 27, completely destroying the office. Last month the temporary office was robbed and ransacked.
- The Congregation Banai Temple of Israel Synagogue was fire-bombed on July 25. Minimal damage resulted.
- On Oct. 4, the home of Jimmy Yee, a local city council man and supporter of JACL, was fire-bombed. Fortunately, he was awakened and was able to extinguish the fire with minimal damage.

# CAMP SAVAGE

## *Historical marker at site of Military Intelligence Service Language School to be unveiled Oct. 30.*

by Bill Doi  
JACL member

Camp Savage is coming back ... well not exactly. But the site of the old Military Intelligence Service Language School is to be memorialized with the erection of a permanent historical marker near the former entrance to Camp Savage. According to Del Stelling, editor/publisher of the *Savage Review*, the project is being coordinated with the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, owner of the land.

Since early last year the Savage Chamber of Commerce committee of Stelling, Joe Cade and Mark McNeill began a fundraising drive seeking money to finance construction and placement of the historical marker. Details of the wording on the marker are being coordinated by the Savage Chamber, the MIS Club of Southern California, and Tosh Abe.

Recently the local veterans of the MIS began their own drive to assist the Savage Chamber in this very worthwhile project. Our goal is \$250, the same amount already given to the chamber by the MIS Club of Southern California.

Stelling said that all money collected will be used toward the marker and site. The more money received, the more elaborate the setting. Shrubs and a bench, for example, could be added. Five Japanese cherry trees, donated by the MIS Club of Southern California, already have been planted. That planting ceremony took place on May 15 of this year.

Oct. 30, 1993, is the date set for the unveiling of the Camp Savage historical marker. Ceremonies commemorating the occasion are set to begin at 10 a.m. City officials, including Mayor Egan, city administrator McNeill and Stelling, a Veterans Color Guard and Tosh Abe are scheduled to take part. It is the wish of the Savage chamber

and its committee that many MISers and their friends be present for the unveiling, even though a formal dedication is to take place sometime next spring.

Grace Ohama says that James Mita, president of the MIS Club of Southern California, Sho Nomura and Vic Abe – all of California – also will be present. Please call Grace, (612) 545-7614, if you feel a dinner, meeting or other activity would be appropriate for the visitors.

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Mixed feelings surface when looking back at what was once such a beehive of activity at Camp Savage 50 years ago. Only one small building remains. The gym is gone. The theater is gone. The rec room and administration buildings are no more. All of the barracks and classrooms ... gone. Thousands of young men went through there, studying as perhaps many had never done before or after.

Those cold mornings standing in sub-zero weather for reveille. Then standing shivering even more for breakfast. Classes started at 8 a.m. – or was it 7 a.m.? Felt like 6 a.m. After an hour for lunch, classes resumed until a break at 5 p.m. Following dinner it was back to the classrooms for another two hours until 9 p.m. Lights out was at 10 p.m., but that caused only a slight movement. No pun intended, but that just meant a shift to the latrines for more study on one's own. For those fortunate enough to get to bed on time, that didn't necessarily mean a good night's rest. You could have your bell rung by the night fireman. If you think an angry door slam is loud, you should hear the sound of a cast iron door on the pot-belly stove being shut by a disgruntled private at 2 a.m.

Wednesday mornings were for marches. Hup, two, three – up and down Highway 13, across and along the hills overlooking the Minnesota River. Frozen noses and ears were common. And upon returning to camp – it didn't help the feet much – but, oh, did the hot chocolate, coffee and donuts provided by the mobile Red Cross unit taste great!

Weekends could mean a visit to the cities, but not for all. Passes were restricted. Then, too, \$21 a month didn't offer much with which to celebrate. Popular eating places were John's Place and Kin Chu, both Chinese restaurants. A climb up a narrow stairway on Sixth Street led one to John's Place. Unforgettable were the heavily ornate, high stone-top tables. For the mostly short Nisei, eating was little more than sliding the food from bowl or dish to the mouth and a hungry stomach aching for a change from Army mess – sorry, Army mess hall.

Kin Chu was something else. One has to wonder if the draw wasn't the two very attractive young daughters of the proprietor. Many GIs tried to interest them. How successfully? Who knows. Their father was no dummy. This is all hearsay of course. Those of us who celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this year were, shall we say, ineligible.

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To get back to the present. As of this writing, 19 checks and four confirmed commitments bring contributions locally to a total of \$325; this is well above the \$10 each suggested in the soliciting letter, which was sent only to MIS veterans. A great showing, vets!

*Hope to see you at the unveiling Oct. 30!*

## WRAP UP

### *Fifty-one golfers tee off in annual JACL tourney*

by Sam Honda  
Golf Tournament committee member

After a heavy rain Saturday night, Gross Golf Course was in perfect condition for *ahiru* (da ku). Our annual chapter tourney was held on Sunday, Aug. 15, when the club used most often was the ball retriever (to retrieve the balls out of the casual water).

Well, inouye ... the sun did shine at times so it was considered a good day.

#### RESULTS

##### *Women's Flight*

First	Mari Somekawa
Second	Emi Sako
Third	Carol Reitz

##### *Men's Flight*

First	Akio Kuga
Second	Taka Miwa
Third	Rob Ohno

##### *GHIN Flight*

First	Eddie Morioka
Second	Frank Tanaka
Third	Tak Osada

Since I didn't keep a record, I can't remember who won the special prizes. Sorry, my memory isn't gonna get any better. In Japanese, it's called *O-ba hiru*.

I do remember who chaired this event: John Nakasone, the painter, the picnic chef, the purchasing agent; John bought all the prizes. I hope everyone who won prizes enjoyed the kome, shoyu, wine and golf balls.

Our thanks also goes to the rest of the committee – Frank Yanari and Jay Yamashiro – and to Bud Nakasone and Gilbert Miyazaki for helping at the tournament. Thank you!

Lastly, this was the smoothest-run JACL tournament ever. Everyone who signed up showed up; only four golfers paid their fee on Sunday; and only one golfer showed up unannounced. Next year will be perfect! Cheers until then!

### *Hundreds enjoy fourth annual Aki Matsuri performances, exhibits and demonstrations*

by Joanne Kumagai  
Event chair and JACL board member

Our fourth annual Aki Matsuri, held in conjunction with the Normandale Japanese Garden Club's Sukiyaki Dinner on Sunday, Sept. 12, was yet another success – thanks to the many participants and volunteers who made it happen.

If standing-room only at the performances is any indication of what the audience enjoys, we may need a larger facility for next year. In addition to the rave reviews of the dance, taiko and judo programs, attendees made many wonderful comments about the origami, language table, flower arrangement, book display and bazaar.

It is the desire of the JACL to

continue to make this an annual event – as a way we can contribute to our community.

Have any suggestions or comments on how we can make next year even better?

**Please send your ideas to:**

Joanne Kumagai  
6418 Lee Ave. N.  
Minneapolis, MN  
55429



Just two of the many performers at this year's Aki Matsuri, presented by JACL, held at Normandale Community College Sept. 12. Photo by Charissa Uemura.

## AROUND TOWN

NOV. 5 & 6 8:00 P.M.

(Friday, Saturday)

O'Shaughnessy Auditorium  
The College of St. Catherine  
St Paul, Minnesota

For more  
information call  
**627-4444**

# Cycles of Life

## The Many Traditions Of Asian Dance

Tickets are \$7. Group prices are available.  
Reservations can be made at all TicketMaster  
Ticket Centers including Dayton's and Great American  
Music Stores. To charge by phone, call 612/989-5151.  
Tickets also are available through the O'Shaughnessy  
Ticket Office, 612/690-7600.



Presented by the  
**ASIAN AMERICAN RENAISSANCE**

### Featuring:

Keomony - Thyra Dance Group (Cambodia)  
Chinese American Dance Theatre (Chinese)  
Cultural Society of Filipino Americans (Filipino)  
Tub ntxhais hmoob vam meej (Hmong)  
Sansei Yonsei Kai (Japanese)  
Nata Sinh Lao of Minnesota (Laotian)  
Nritya Jyoti Kathak Center (North Indian)  
Ragamala Dance Theatre (South Indian)

Following the performance, Peggy Choy, a  
professional dancer and dance scholar who  
teaches at the Center for Southeast Asian  
Studies at the University of Wisconsin-  
Madison, will facilitate a discussion with  
dancers and the audience.

### Kogen Taiko to perform at Mini U.N. event Oct. 28

The Mini United Nations, Oct. 24 to  
29, is a series of cultural events spon-  
sored by the City of Edina. The  
programs will be held at Edinborough  
Park, 7700 York Ave. S., Edina.

As part of the celebration, Kogen  
Taiko will perform at 7:30 p.m. on  
Thursday, Oct. 28.

For more information, call  
(612) 893-9890.

### Call for papers on anti-Asian violence

An invitation has been extended to  
submit written works – including  
poetry, fiction, short stories and non-  
fiction – for a projected volume on  
anti-Asian violence.

The submissions should concern  
anti-Asian violence and Koren Ameri-  
cans, Filipino Americans, Vietnamese  
Americans, East Indian Americans,  
Japanese Americans, Chinese Ameri-  
cans, and other Asian Americans, as  
well as the role of Asian Americans in  
the 1992 riots in South Central Los  
Angeles. A university press has  
expressed interest in this project.

The collected papers will be edited  
by Patricia Wong Hall, president and

founder of the Arizona Asian Ameri-  
can Association – Northern Arizona  
Chapter, and Dr. Bruce M. Sullivan,  
professor of Asian Studies, Northern  
Arizona University.

Contributions should be typed,  
double-spaced and no more than 30  
pages. The deadline for submissions is  
**Dec. 31, 1993.**

Mail submissions as soon as possible  
to:

Dr. Bruce M. Sullivan  
P.O. Box 2995  
Flagstaff, AZ 86003-2995

Phone: (602) 523-2055 (messages)

## *The Many Sins of "Miss Saigon"*

*This article, written by Mary Suh, appeared in "Ms." magazine (November/December 1990).*

For those of you who don't travel to London regularly for hit musicals, here's a synopsis of the epic saga *Miss Saigon*: A Vietnamese virgin, turned prostitute, falls in love with Chris, an American G.I. They pledge undying love, but are separated when Saigon falls. After bearing his child, Kim pines away until she finds out that he has married a sweetie back in the U.S.A. She promptly kills herself, and as the curtain falls she sings to Chris – happy to die in his arms.

And from Broadway, the main action from *Shogun*: Mariko, a Japanese maiden, attempts to cure her lovesickness (this time for the English seafarer Blackthorne) by stabbing herself in the heart.

Sound familiar? From *Madame Butterfly* to *Twin Peaks*, Asian actresses are trapped in the entertainment industry's ying and yang world of stereotypes – portraying either duplicitous "dragon ladies" or pretty prostitutes performing hari-kari for their white lords.

It doesn't take a whiz kid to recognize the stereotype reincarnated in *Miss Saigon*. But that wasn't at issue in the recent controversy, which was over the casting of the male lead – the Eurasian brothel owner played in the London production by Jonathan Pryce, a Caucasian. When Actors' Equity first decided to bar Pryce from the New York musical because Asian actors had never been auditioned for the part, *Miss Saigon*'s producer, Cameron Mackintosh, killed the Broadway show, claiming that the Equity position hopelessly compromised his artistic freedom. With thoughts of jobs and money dancing through their heads, actors' Equity members reversed themselves, inviting Pryce and Mackintosh to Broadway this fast fall.

In these days of government censorship, artistic freedom is an obvious and necessary rallying cry. But far from demonstrating skillful invention, Mackintosh is simply following the tradition of casting whites in leading Asian roles. Directors have let loose an epidemic of black eyeliner abuse among white actors, including Marlon Brando, Alex Guinness, Katherine Hepburn, Amy Irving, and Angie Dickinson. Indeed, history shows that *Asians* playing Asians would be downright *creative* casting.

Even when real Asian women are cast, their roles are often variations on the stereotype. Kim Miyori, a Japanese American who has featured on *St. Elsewhere*, says, "I'm always doing similar things. I've been on numerous television episodes – like *T.J. Hooker*, *Airwolf* – where I've played the seductive Asian woman who has another agenda. I think I've killed my father twice, my husband once, that sort of thing."

On those rare occasions when the premise is plausible, the female characters are often shallow. In *Casualties of War*, a Vietnamese teenager is kidnapped, raped and stabbed to death by U.S. soldiers. Director Brian DePalma depicts the

situation brutally, but we learn nothing about the women except that she is, in the words of the hero, "a poor farm girl." Human thought, human agony, belong to the G.I. played by Michael J. Fox.

In *Miss Saigon*, almost all the roles for Asian actresses are gratuitous; most of the show takes place in a brothel, which must explain why the show's promotional photographs feature bikini-clad actresses doing hip grinds. The lyrics are no better: "Tonight I will be Miss Saigon/ Tonight you'll be Miss Jumped Upon/ I'll win a G.I., and be gone/ He'll screw you with your crown still on."

The compromise with Actors' Equity required Mackintosh to cast an Asian woman in the role of Kim, but the union allows him to hire the actress from outside the United States. Reportedly, this permission was given because the role's special requirement – a woman 17 to 19 years old – created a limited pool of Asian American actresses. But why would Mackintosh – who thought an audience could believe a white man playing an Eurasian – be so nitpicky about the actress?

"They say they have a difficult time finding talent," Miyori muses. "But maybe we're not Asian enough. I don't know how many times I've been asked to speak with an Oriental accent."

When she chooses her roles, Miyori is "as selective and as practical as I can be. But I can't always afford to turn work down." Others find it hard to even get work. Natsuko Ohama is a recognized talent – a senior artist with New York's Pan Asian Repertory Theater, who was nominated for a Drama Desk Award in 1984. In film and TV, she says, "I have no problem finding chorus or extra work, but then the glass ceiling hits you on the head."

Clearly, there are cries for freedom of artistic expression here, and not from Cameron Mackintosh. With a few exceptions (notably *M. Butterfly*), alternative theater and film producers are the only one creating new material about Asians and Asian Americans.

The commitment of Asian artists, even while on the fringes of mainstream entertainment, makes Actors' Equity's statement – acknowledging "the artistic integrity of the creative team of *Miss Saigon*" – doubly insulting. Cameron Mackintosh, as the producer of the \$10 million spectacle, can *buy* his artistic freedom.

But artistic integrity? Mackintosh's vision of Asian women is racist and redundant, sexist and simple-minded. The man hasn't conjured up anything new; it's just the same, sick love affair.

*Editor's Note: "Miss Saigon" is playing at the Orpheum Theatre, Minneapolis, Jan. 11 through March 6, 1994.*

# 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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.*

## PEOPLE

### ***Sticking to house painting business pays off big for Nakasone, whose revenues near \$3 million***

#### ***Company's success leads to minority SBA award for owner***

*This article contains excerpts from the Star Tribune ("Sticking to house painting business pays off big for Nakasone, whose revenues near \$3 million," by Darlene DePass, Sept. 17, 1993), and the St. Paul Pioneer Press ("Painting company owner wins minority business award," by George Beran, Sept. 17, 1993).*

John Nakasone was broke when he attended the University of Minnesota in 1978.

To pay the bills, he started painting houses in a money-making venture that today has become Painting by Nakasone Inc., a \$2.2 million business with 42 employees in St. Paul. He projects \$3 million in revenues for next year.

For his efforts, Nakasone, 36, was named Minnesota Minority Small Business Person of the Year on Thursday, Sept. 16 by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

The entrepreneur overcame numerous struggles and made many mistakes, but today he is a St. Paul success story, said SBA spokesman George Saumweber. Nakasone admits that painting wasn't his first love, and he wasn't serious about his business.

Cash flow was tough. Employees and suppliers were paid late, and he

got behind in his taxes. But once he joined a trade organization he realized that other painters were making it.

"The problem wasn't the economy, wasn't the unions, the problem is you, Jack," he recalled telling himself. "I wasn't an effective manager and I had to get with it."

He joined the SBA's minority contractors program and developed the technical business skills he needed to help him succeed. "They force you to look at quarterly statements and they are always tracking profitability. I do that regularly now, but it was a good prod to begin with."

Once he became serious about his business, "It just kind of fell into place," said Nakasone. "And it just kept growing and growing."

The firm does commercial, industrial and residential painting and wall covering as well as remodeling. It focuses on offices, light industrial

facilities, government buildings and churches. The Minnesota Senate chamber and the dome in the Basilica of St. Mary were painted by the firm.

Two years ago he borrowed \$135,000 from the SBA and St. Anthony Park State Bank and purchased his shop on Marshall Avenue.

Nakasone has since leased space to two tenants, doubled his staff and expanded his business to include interior remodeling. Clients include restaurants, theaters, 3M, Ecolab Inc. and First Bank System.

His 15-year-old company was honored by the General Services Administration as regional quality contractor of 1992.

*Editor's note: John Nakasone serves on the board of the Twin Cities JACL.*

**Congratulations, John!**

## FOOTBALL FUN

### ***How well do you know the 28 pro football teams?***

Now that football season is upon us, here is a fun puzzle to test your knowledge of the pro teams.

Match one football team name to each description.

**Example:**

747 ..... *Jets*

*Watch the next issue of the Rice Paper for the answers! Many thanks to Sam Honda for sending us this piece of football fun.*

Helps to relocate .....  
A class of Boy Scout .....  
Various iron workers .....  
Lubricant .....  
Army insects .....  
Seven squared .....  
Corn for a dollar .....  
Six shooter .....  
Fish arm for girl's toy .....  
Henry's first compact .....  
Fundamental rule .....  
Hot epidermus .....  
Suntanned bodies .....

Streakers are this .....  
Midnight snackers .....  
Six rulers .....  
Rodeo horse .....  
Half bovine - half man .....  
IOU .....  
Indian feline .....  
King of beasts .....  
Credit card user .....  
Peter and Paul .....  
Irish goes wild .....  
Indian leader .....  
Opposite of ewe .....  
Ocean-going bird .....

## What do we do with a few extra dollars?

by Stogie Toki

*This is an excerpt from an article that appeared in the "The Grains of Rice" (July 1993), the newsletter of the Cincinnati chapter of JACL.*

What do we do with a few extra dollars?

Splurge on a new car? Some do that. Remodel the den or kitchen? Some do that. Take that long-delayed dream vacation to Hawaii or even Japan? Some do that. Great ways to spend extra money.

Other great ways in which to use extra money: education funds for our children; downpayment for a house; a nest egg for our retirement years; or donations to our favorite charities.

Despite the adversities, the frustrations and the discouragements, first, of the evacuation from my home in Tacoma, Wash., then of the two years of incarceration behind barbed wires in Pinedale, Tule Lake and Minidoka, and finally of the subsequent relocation to Cincinnati, I must admit, life in the post-World War II period has been good. My wife and I have celebrated our 37th wedding anniversary. We have a home in the suburban city of Madeira, just northeast of Cincinnati, where everyone is a neighbor. Our family has been enthusiastic and accepted participants in the affairs of the city, the schools and our church.

I missed going to college after high school graduation because of the evacuation, but thanks to the University of Cincinnati's excellent Evening College program, I was able to raise a family and get a degree in business. Our kids, a son, now deceased, and three daughters have benefited from the excellent programs of the Madeira school system; the daughters have also experienced the benefits of higher education, two at Miami in nearby Oxford and one at the University of Cincinnati. The two elder daughters live in Madeira – they each have a child, our wonderful grandchildren – and the youngest is freelancing in San Francisco in graphic design.

We are now retired and enjoying – not luxuriously, but comfortably – the "busy" life of the doting grandparents.

Perhaps, with a few changes here and a few changes there, I have described the lives of many of our readers. Life has been good to most of us.

As we reminisce about our lives since World War II, we can credit much of our good life to our own doing. We worked hard ... we were good citizens ... we accepted the opportunities ... But, back in 1942, as we boarded those ancient train cars and creaked our way to the assembly center – Pinedale (a treeless, 120-degrees-in-the-shade desolate camp), for us, Tanforan and Santa Anita and the stalls of famous race horses for some others – there was no indication of this good life to come. We wondered when some in the government recommended the use of the

interned Japanese, not withstanding the 60 percent who were U.S. born citizens, as exchange for American POWs held by Japan.

But today we can say we enjoy a good life. Our children are leading good lives. There a people even from Japan, a World War II enemy, leading a good life here in the U.S.A. Just why is this?!

During the days of pre-WW II, most of the Japanese American community was too young or they scoffed at the need for an organization such as the JACL to represent us on a national basis. This lack of a national voice was a factor in the evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the western states. Then, throughout the "camp" days, JACL leaders were persecuted as the cause of our incarceration. But fortunately this small band of JACLers, despite the handicaps of youth, numbers and a general lack of support from the Japanese American population, began to pave our road back to fully participating citizenship.

They encouraged successfully the release of young men and women for colleges and universities, for employment, to help in the farm harvests, and eventually for relocation out of the camps, first to areas outside the Western Military Command, and later back, to the West Coast. They petitioned the government to permit Nisei enlistment in the military, resulting in the formation of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Battalion, the most-decorated unit in U.S. military history; the fall-out from the accomplishments of these Nisei soldiers and the thousands more who served gallantly in the Pacific theater in the G-2 intelligence units was a major factor toward the restoration of our full citizenship respect.

A national voice was now in effect for the Japanese American – the National Japanese American Citizens League.

JACL advocated the passage of the 1952 Immigration and Naturalization Act, which allowed citizenship for the Issei. Japanese nationals were ineligible for U.S. citizenship until then, despite the fact that many, like some of our parents and grandparents, had been permanent residents of this country for some 50 years. The fact that our Issei parents had not attained U.S. citizenship was a major propaganda item for those who advocated internment; the fact that our parents were ineligible for citizenship because of the laws of this nation was conveniently overlooked in the hysteria of war. Perhaps some of you are beneficiaries of this JACL effort.

JACL led the successful effort to repeal alien land laws in 15 western states which prevented individuals ineligible for citizenship from acquiring land or benefiting from the land – e.g., living on the land. Property purchased in the name of U.S.-born children was seized since the ineligible parents received benefits from the land. Perhaps some of you are direct beneficiaries of this JACL effort.

JACL successfully eliminated discriminatory barriers in determining immigration quotas from Asian and Pacific

# LEGACY FUND

nations. The 1924 ban on immigration from Japan and several other Pacific nations was rescinded, in part because of JACL's efforts. Perhaps some of you are beneficiaries of this JACL effort and are now enjoying the good U.S. life.

JACL led the successful effort to repeal miscegenation laws that were common in many of our states. These laws had forbade marriage or sexual relations between a man and woman of different races. Even couples married in states without miscegenation laws were vulnerable to arrests on immorality grounds if passing through a state with the law. Japanese spouses of U.S. soldiers were victims. And, today, most of our children are partners in mixed race marriages – what problems would they have encountered without this JACL effort?

JACL campaigned successfully for the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which provided the unexpected redress payments and an apology from the government for Japanese Americans interned during World War II. Perhaps you are one of the beneficiaries of this JACL effort.

The national JACL continues to represent the interests of Japanese and other Asian Americans through its Washington, D.C. office. JACL monitors the rising incidents of violence and sentiments toward Japanese and other Asian Americans, and responds with the promotion for passage of state and local anti-hate crime legislations and vigorous prosecution of hate crime offenders. JACL monitors and responds to the negative effects of increasing Japan-bashing, the negative portrayal of Asian Americans in the media, and continued barriers to advancement in the workplace for minorities. Isolation from these problems is not possible for any Asian American.

Life has been good to us and to our children, but the reasons start with the JACL – the JACL has paved our life paths void of "potholes" and "traffic jams," and continues to do so through its national organization, our watchdog and voice for a safer and better America, whether you realize it or not. JACL gave us the chance to seek the good life in this great nation, so that we could work hard, study hard and be good citizens.

JACL is the only organization established to respond to the general interests of Asian Americans at the national level, and this need is not finished. Violence and sentiments which are anti-Asian American and anti-Japan are regular headlines in today's media, and when civic and governmental leaders must still be alerted to the repugnance of the use of ethnic slurs, JACL's work is far from a done deal. If Marge Schott had to be told that "Jap" and "Nigger" are taboo in today's culture, can you be surprised when the same comes from the less informed? And, today, will the heated exchanges and demands in the trade war and the balance of payment talks between the U.S. and Japan result in violent confrontations against the Japanese in America?

Take for example the Iraq-U.S. confrontations which are spilling into anti-Arab American sentiments and violence in U.S. cities with large Arab American communities. Just as they cannot hide their physical features, the Asian American cannot; therefore, what can we expect? Will it come to evacuation, again? Far-fetched? Let's make sure that it doesn't.

JACL, as you know, has embarked on a program to insure the future well-being of our next generation of Asian Americans. The Legacy Fund was established to create a strong financial base to enable the JACL to continue to function successfully and actively as a national and local voice for our children and for their children, just as it has for us.

So, now, what shall we do with our redress money or the money realized from the good life we have? If you are a recipient of a redress payment, why not make a contribution to the JACL Legacy Fund to recognize JACL's major role in your good life? It's great that you may have been able to help your children or grandchildren with the unexpected money, but to assure real security and well-being for them in the year 2000 and years beyond, the best investment is a financially sound JACL.

If you are not a redress recipient, I hope that I have convinced you that JACL has had a major role in the good life you and your family enjoy, and you would want to see that JACL never loses that capability to respond to the interests and welfare of your children and their children – the future generation of Asian Americans. A contribution to the JACL Legacy Fund would be appropriate, beneficial and rewarding.

J A C L



LEGACY FUND

Yes, I want to help build the future for Japanese Americans. Please accept this contribution to the "Gift of the Generations." My contribution to the Legacy Fund:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor – \$20,000 and over | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend – \$1,000 - \$4,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron – \$10,000 - \$19,999   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor – \$5,000 - \$9,999    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____             |

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(Honoree) \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

JACL District/Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

***This form can be returned to:***  
***Japanese American Citizens League Legacy Fund,***  
***1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115***

## OPPORTUNITY

### *Isn't it about time?*

by Chris Murakami Noonan  
JACL board member

Every Sunday I scan the newspaper for the best sales. If only Target would have a sale on time. Okay, time wouldn't even have to be on sale; if it was full price, I'd still stand in line to buy some.

In these hectic times, so many of the choices we make are governed by time – or the lack of it. How do you spend your valuable time?

JACL is one of the organizations to which I have chosen to give some of my time.

For awhile I volunteered at various JACL-sponsored events. I met many people and learned much about the Japanese American community here. Four years ago I took my involvement one step further and became a member of the board.

Let me tell you what the past year on our chapter board has been like:

Once a month the nine of us got together at 6:15 p.m. for an informal potluck (I've eaten a ton of great take-

out food from a dozen or so restaurants I would never have tried otherwise!). We laughed a lot, caught up on what's been happening, and became good friends.

At about 7 p.m. David Hayashi called the board meetings to order. The agenda usually included discussion about upcoming events and JACL's involvement in other community activities. During these discussions it was quickly evident how committed the board members were to programming that promotes a sense of community among local people of Japanese descent and that works to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Japanese Americans.

We talked often about education and civil rights issues. I learned much from listening to and sharing ideas with fellow members about Japan-bashing, the portrayal of Asian Americans in the media and on stage, how the World War II experience can be brought to Minnesota schools, the challenges facing other Asian American groups, and more.

At 9 p.m. when the meetings concluded, I drove home invigorated and

sometimes tired from the thought-provoking discussions. Most of the time, each board member left with a short list of things to do, but each knowing that his or her part was contributing to a whole effort that we all have decided was worth the time and effort.

So often we all want to "make a difference," but perhaps don't know where to start or don't think we have the time. I have felt privileged to be a part of an organization that is working very hard at "making a difference."

As we approach the end of the year, it is again time to begin seeking people to serve on the chapter board of directors. I encourage each of you to consider spending some time during the next two years contributing to the efforts of the JACL. Only interest – no experience – is necessary.

New two-year board terms begin in January. If you are interested or have any questions, please call David Hayashi, Twin Cities JACL president, (612) 822-3659.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

## INSIGHT

### *From relocation to redress to scholarly recognition*

by Marianne Cianciolo

*This article first appeared in "University Currents," a publication of the University of Cincinnati, and was reprinted in "The Grains of Rice" (July 1993), the newsletter of the Cincinnati JACL.*

Sifting through hundreds of thousands of pieces of paper to piece together the history of Asian Americans and other aspects of American history has been a tedious but often rewarding task for history professor Roger Daniels, winner of the 1993 George Rieveschl Jr. Award for Excel-

lence in Scholarly or Creative Works. Satisfaction has come from those "aha" moments when he found the memo or the letter that helped him to understand something he did not comprehend before. But most satisfying has been the knowledge that his scholarship on Asian American history "actually did some people some good."

Daniels' research on World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans played an instrumental role in the U.S. government's decision, in the 1980s, to formally apologize and pay \$20,000 to each of the 60,000 survivors of the World War II detainments.

"About one-half of those who had

been relocated in camps by the United States were dead by the time the apology came, but at least it was something. I am pleased," said Daniels, one of the world's most prominent authorities on American immigration history and the author of 10 books, most of them on the experiences of Asian immigrants in America.

Daniels, who joined the University of Cincinnati faculty in 1976, served as a consultant to the Presidential Commissions on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), which in its 1983 report, "Personal Justice Denied," issued recommendations for relocation redress to the

*Continued on next page.*

surviving Japanese Americans.

Aside from what he had read in *Life* and *Time* magazines as a teenager growing up, Daniels during World War II was little aware of the 10 camps the U.S. War Relocation Authority opened in 1942 to keep its eye on people who had lived on the West Coast and happened to have a Japanese ancestry.

In 1944-45, between trips in the Merchant Marine, he became acquainted with the relocation issue more personally. A young Japanese American lawyer in New York City asked Daniels to accompany his sister to a ceremony, where she was to receive a medal for her husband, who had died in the war in Italy. The young widow had been recently released from a relocation center. "At the time I thought it was not a proper thing - that people were put away for no particular action," Daniels recalls.

Not until 1957 did the issue become a scholarly endeavor for him, when he began studies for a post-baccalaureate degree at the University of California at Los Angeles. A faculty member advised him that if he was interested in the topic, there was plenty of research to pursue.

Daniels originally had intended, in the midst of the emerging civil rights movement, to concentrate on African American history, but a faculty member at Johns Hopkins University with whom he had hoped to work resigned before he enrolled. Opting for the West Coast instead, he decided to do his dissertation on the internment camps.

Most of the important documents he needed for his research, however, were under government seal for 25 years. Instead he had to focus his attention on the earlier anti-Japanese period from the 1890s to 1924. "It turned out to be good, because it gave me the understanding I would need later," said Daniels. The dissertation led to the publication of his first book, "The Politics of Prejudice: The Anti-Japanese Movement in California and the

Struggle for Japanese Exclusion," first printed in 1962.

Daniels, the son of Europeans who came to the United States as toddlers, never expected his detour into Asian American history to last for more than 30 years. "Once you get to know a lot about a topic, you have a certain amount of intellectual capital invested. It has been a fascinating and variegated story," said Daniels, whose career has also focused on general late 19th and early 20th century American history, particularly the age of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Once Daniels obtained permission to view the hundreds of government documents, camp rosters and other papers he needed on Japanese relocation, he published several works on the issue, among them, "Concentration Camps, USA: Japanese Americans and World War II" (1972); "The Decision to Relocate the Japanese Americans" (1975); "Asian Americans: Emerging Minorities" (1988); and "Prisoners Without Trials: Japanese Americans in World War II" (1993). He also has published works on general immigration history, including "Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life" (1990).

In the process of reviewing the stacks of records that had been sealed, Daniels happened upon one of the most exciting discoveries of his career: the proverbial smoking gun, the transcript from a telephone conversation quoting John J. McCloy, the assistant secretary of war who helped to organize the relocation, and other military and justice department officials. According to the transcript, which appears in full in "Concentration Camps, USA," McCloy said the Constitution "is only a scrap of paper."

A former journalist with a New York City daily, Daniels has gained a reputation for writing in a way that appeals to the general audience. "I have always felt it is very important to write for as wide an audience as possible," said Daniels. "I can write as complex prose as anybody, but I don't see any sense to

it."

Writing stock market reports for a Hearst news service taught him lessons he still uses in writing today. "The stock market closed at 3 p.m. and the telegrapher sent the story out in takes to start moving over the wire by 3:15. I would peak at the market during the day a few times and by 2:45 I would pull everything off the ticker. You could have your lead done before the market closed, but that was only if there wasn't some big sale at the last minute. It taught me the two most important things in writing: speed and accuracy."

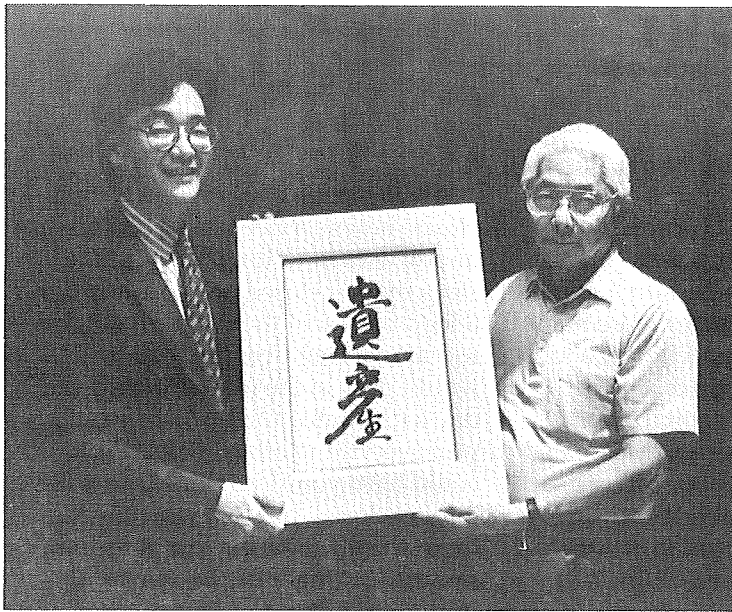
His desire to make his work accessible to a wide audience also has involved him in a number of television projects, including "Refugee Road," a one-hour documentary on PBS, and "Executive Order 9066: 1942 to 1982," a three-hour National Public Radio program on the 40th anniversary of Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order authorizing the relocation of Japanese Americans.

When a producer once complained that a TV program in which Daniels was involved reached only four million viewers, Daniels decided the figures were nothing to be ashamed of. "To have gotten something across to that many people seemed to me very impressive," he said.

While he plans to keep his hand in immigration history, Daniels' future publishing agenda includes topics such as FDR, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the history of American deportation.

He is serving as the editor of a four-volume oral history series on Eleanor Roosevelt, which needs to clear some minor legal hurdles before it is published. A number of books he has written or edited are currently in press or due by summer's end, including "American Immigration Policy Since 1924," from Johns Hopkins University Press. He also hopes to write one-volume biographies of both FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Dr. Roger Daniels was honored at the All-University faculty meeting May 19.



David Hayashi, Twin Cities JACL president, and Sam Honda, Twin Cities JACL Legacy Fund chair, display the artwork sent from national JACL congratulating the Twin Cities chapter for reaching its Legacy Fund goal. Many thanks to those who made contributions. Photo by Charissa Uemura.

## HOLIDAY PARTY FOR KIDS!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:  
SUNDAY, DEC. 5, 2 TO 4 P.M.**

This is the date for the fifth annual holiday party for kids, hosted by the Twin Cities JACL. This free, fun-filled event will again be held at the Shoreview Community Center, 4580 North Victoria, Shoreview.

There will be lively entertainment, refreshments, goody bags for each child, and more!

**We'll need lots of help preparing for this event!**

If you can make a run to the paper goods store or the bakery, or can spare an hour or two to help wrap gifts or set up or clean up the room, please call Chris Noonan, 484-8678.

Watch your mail in November for more party details.

*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. Rice Paper is published bi-monthly. 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) 484-8678

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