

RICE PAPER

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

June 1995

Outstanding high school graduates recognized with Twin Cities JACL scholarships

Graduating high school students received scholarships from the Twin Cities JACL in recognition of their outstanding scholastic records and participation in extracurricular activities. The students were honored at a May 11 banquet at the Campus Club in Coffman Memorial Union on the University of Minnesota campus. This marked our chapter's 32nd annual scholarship awards program.

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

Congratulations to these 1995 Twin Cities JACL scholarship award recipients, and good luck in your future endeavors:

General Scholarship Awards

- *Leah Dale*
Cretin Derham Hall
- *Jenna Kumagai*
Edina High School
- *Natalie LeCuyer*
Roseville Area High School
- *Gabriel Lucas*
Burnsville High School
- *Monica Oyama*
Park Cottage Grove High School
- *Marcus Tanabe*
Hill Murray
- *Rochus Voeller*
St. Thomas Academy

Special Scholarship Awards

- *Maya Tsuchida*
Robbinsdale Armstrong High School
Recipient of the James Kurata,
Harumi Matsuura, Gladys Ishida
Stone Memorial Scholarship
- *Tiffany Waki*
Fridley High School
Recipient of the Susan Matsumoto
Memorial Scholarship



1995 graduating high school seniors (from left to right): Jenna Kumagai, Tiffany Waki, Gabriel Lucas, Maya Tsuchida, Monica Oyama, Natalie LeCuyer, Marcus Tanabe, Chris Mizuhata, Rochus Voeller. Not pictured: Leah Dale. Photo by Charissa Uemura.

Many, many thanks to the Twin Cities JACL Scholarship Committee

Sylvia Farrells
Kimi Hara
Lucy Kiriara

Tom Ohno
Pam Ohno Dagoberg

Sally Sudo
Fred Tsuchiya

A special thanks to **Lucy Kiriara**, who is retiring from the committee after 26 years of service, and to **Tom Ohno**, who is retiring after 34 years of service. Welcome to Pam Ohno Dagoberg and Fred Tsuchiya, the newest members of the committee.

Scholarship news,
continued on Page 5.

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WELCOME

We would like to welcome these people who recently joined, or rejoined after an absense, the Twin Cities JACL.

Sharon Akimoto Gibson, Northfield

Lori Aoki, Eden Prairie, is a reporter with Channel 9 here in the Twin Cities.

Judy Moriguchi, Golden Valley, was a Twin Cities JACL board member in the late 1980s and early '90s. She works as a technical supervisor in the Chemistry Laboratory at the University of Minnesota. Her interests include gardening.

Laura Shirley, Minneapolis, is married to Bill Kempton and has two children, 11-year-old Mari and 6-year-old Tyler. She works as a library aide at the circulation desk at Walker Public Library, Minneapolis. She is interested in educational issues and volunteers on several committees at her children's elementary school.

Tommy, Sharon and Tiffany Waki, Fridley. Tommy is a project scheduler at Sims Deltec. Sharon works in the accounting department at Zeos. Tiffany graduated from Fridley High School this spring and will attend Hamline University in the fall to study biology or chemistry and plans to pursue a medical career. Another daughter, Tracy, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, also lives in the Twin Cities.

Jay Yamashiro, Eagan, was a Twin Cities JACL board member in the 1980s. He is married to Rita and has two children, Peter and Amy.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Community outreach and networking was focus for first half of 1995

by Joanne Kumagai
Twin Cities JACL president

The last several months have been quite busy for the Twin Cities JACL board, filled with not only JACL events, but many opportunities to network with and outreach to the community.

In January our chapter helped celebrate the new year with a bazaar booth at the Japan America Society of Minnesota celebration. This was followed by a very successful Chrysanthemum Banquet featuring George Takei.

In February I had the pleasure of attending a luncheon for Eiji Oe, the new music director of the Minnesota Orchestra. The event was co-sponsored by WAMSO, the JACL and several Asian organizations.

Chicago was the site of the annual spring Midwest District Council (MDC) meeting held in March. It was invigorating to meet with other chapter leaders to share ideas on both the chapter and district levels. We were fortunate to have Bill Yoshino, Jim Miyazaki, Tom Hara and David Hayashi, representing National JACL, attend our business meetings to give us firsthand updates regarding what is happening on the national board.

The Festival of Nations and the annual Sukiyaki dinner to raise funds for our scholarship and operating programs tied up most of April. We greatly appreciate the time and energy of the many volunteers who helped make these events so successful.

We have begun a dialogue with the Minnesota Chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans and its president,

Paul Gam. Together we are working on issues that could have an effect on the Asian community.

Recently the Twin Cities JACL sponsored a preview screening of the movie *Picture Bride* at the Walker Art Center. Chapter board member Chris Noonan and I had the pleasure of meeting the film's director, Kayo Hatta, an exciting, vibrant woman and one of the few women directors in the movie industry. I think those who attended the special screening and heard Kayo's insightful remarks would strongly recommend that everyone see the film when it is released in June. [See insert for details.]

In addition, our chapter has been involved in sponsoring a reading by David Mura at the Loft, participating in the Asian Media Access Japanese Film Festival currently going on, and lending support to local libraries applying to host the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution." (Unfortunately of the 68 applicants representing 35 states, the Twin Cities was not one of the 20 chosen sites.)

As we look forward to the summer and fall, I hope to see you at our chapter's annual summer picnic July 9 or at the golf tourney Aug. 6 or at our MDC meetings this fall.

Until next time ...

Addressing your concerns about National JACL

by David K. Hayashi

Midwest District Council Governor and National JACL board member

Many of our members have expressed great concern over the events taking place within the organization over the last year. I would like to state that, in my opinion, much of the media coverage of these events has been presented in what I would consider a "tabloid mentality." Emotions and egos have been running wild. Worrying about who did what and pointing fingers are easy to do, as is making excuses for mistakes of the past, but why air this "dirty laundry" in public through the media? A perception exists that media is power, that you can attack personalities in the name of the organization and influence the masses to take action against those people. I agree that the media is a very influential and powerful tool, but it should be used with care and foresight. Attacks on personalities and the onslaught of negative press with the intent of degrading the credibility of a few individuals have only damaged the image and integrity of our organization.

Yes, mistakes have been made. There have been misrepresentations, accusations, oversights, breaches of confidentiality, complacency and so forth. No one person is to blame; it was a progression of events and emotions, and it has been an unfortunate learning experience for everyone involved. We have begun to move forward, and this we must do in order to preserve the rich legacy and history of JACL and to be prepared to face the challenges of the '90s and beyond.

Across the nation, members are wondering what is going on at the national level. People are asking questions such as: Are our leaders incapable? Are we going to pull out of this? Why should I renew my dues? If JACL does not survive, will I be out the money? What am I supporting? Does JACL have a purpose after redress?

Members have been withholding their membership renewals because of unanswered questions. I totally under-

stand this hesitation to renew membership in an organization that has had the chain of events such as ours. I must appeal to you by saying that JACL needs your support, and the organization is far too important to let recent events close our doors. My following summary will probably not answer all of your questions, but I hope to shed some light on where we are as an organization and foster some hope in our future.

First of all, I must point out that in my travels as governor, I have met hundreds of our local volunteers and board members at the grassroots level. Throughout the Midwest, and from California to the East Coast, there are countless dedicated, outstanding people donating their time and efforts to JACL. There are numerous achievements and success stories of Japanese Americans and JACL chapters in all of our respective communities. JACL has historically made – and continues to make – a positive difference for communities and individuals across the nation. This I have seen and experienced, and it has had a great impact on my pride as a Japanese American and on my own personal motivation and beliefs in the future of JACL.

I would like to point out three individuals from the Midwest working with me at the national level. Tom Hara, from Minneapolis, is our national legal counsel. Bill Yoshino, from Chicago, is our Midwest District director and also is serving as acting national director. Jim Miyazaki, from Milwaukee, is our national vice president of operations. All three of these individuals are key players in the work to rebuild and improve the inner works of the organization. They are sacrificing many, many hours of personal time and energy to ensure the viability of JACL. I have the utmost admiration and respect for these three individuals. Their dedication, professionalism and

willingness serves as inspiration for me. JACL will become a stronger, more solid organization because of their efforts.

I arrived in San Francisco a few days early for the National Board meeting in early May. My intent was to satisfy my own curiosity about our current financial status and to help out in preparation for the coming weekend of meetings.

I was able to review the 1994 year-end audit work papers as submitted to Grant Thornton. I spent some time talking with our bookkeeper and got an overview of the manual ledgers and filing systems, as well as the general financial operation. Unfortunately, I did not have time to do an in-depth assessment of details, but I was able to get the flavor of the accounting operations. At the very least, I was able to arrive at a level of satisfaction that the organization is fiscally sound. However, in my opinion, there are many opportunities for improvement at the operational and fiscal management levels. Updating/automating our accounting system, putting in place documented procedures and improved accounting controls for our daily operations and endowment fund management, setting standards for timely reporting, review and sign off of all fiscal documents, record keeping and file management are some of the areas that I feel can be improved.

There are some volunteer professionals who have come forward to help the board arrive at some specific recommendations to address improvements. I view these as being necessary to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness. A CPA is volunteering to compile the first quarter numbers, as well as prepare a projected 1995 income/expense forecast. The 1994 audit is now being completed, and I expect to review those findings soon. The auditors will make specific recommendations regarding accounting controls and operations. The audit firm recommendations, the findings of

National JACL, continued on Page 8.

JACL RESPONDS

February 15, 1995

Stanley Hubbard
Hubbard Broadcasting Inc.
3415 University Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55114

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

We, the Coalition Committee of the Twin Cities Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), are writing in support of the American Indian community. We are distressed by the racist comments made by talk show host Mark Zelenovich and producer Matt Michalski directed at American Indians during your KSTP morning talk show on Jan. 25, 1995.

Obviously, Mr. Zelenovich and Mr. Michalski are just a small part of a larger systemic problem. Organizationally, Mr. Zelenovich and Mr. Michalski have gotten the message from their superiors that racist attitudes and remarks are acceptable at KSTP. Through their careless and unkind remarks, they helped reinforce negative stereotypes, perpetuate discrimination and fuel animosity toward other human beings based on

race. Racism hurts all of us.

Fifty-three years ago, an entire racial group of primarily American citizens of Japanese ancestry were removed from their homes, subjected to illegal searches and seizure in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution in the name of national security during World War II. The fact that German Americans and Italian Americans were not targeted further highlights the racism that motivated this unjust act.

What is Hubbard Broadcasting doing to address racism? People in the media have a responsibility to the public to provide intelligent and unbiased reporting without racial, sexual and religious undertones.

While we are not advertisers through Hubbard Broadcasting, we are consumers. How would your advertisers react if they knew substantial numbers of people were no longer listening to or watching your station? We plan to show our support of the American Indian community by sharing this letter with our membership as well as other organizations and ask them to do the same.

The mission of the JACL is to increase public awareness, the understanding of racism and the importance of preserving civil liberties for all people.

Your timely response will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Joanne Kumagai, president
Lynn Yamanaka, vice president
Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, secretary
Charles Tatsuda Jr., Treasurer
Thomas Hara, legal counsel
Charissa Uemura, Coalition Committee co-chair
Cheryl Lund, Coalition Committee co-chair

cc: Virginia Morris, KSTP-AM Radio, All Nations Indian Church, American Association of Advertising Agencies, American Indian Center, American Indian Chamber of Commerce, American Indian Business Development Corp., American Indian OIC Inc., Asian American Chamber of Commerce, Asian American Renaissance, Asian American Press, Asian Media Access, Asian Pages, Filipino American Women's Network, Insight, KFAI, KTCL, Korean Multiservice Center, La Prensa, Minnesota Public Radio, Organization of Chinese Americans, Saint Paul Pioneers Press, Star Tribune, Treasure Island Casino, Chao Vang, United Cambodian Association of Minnesota, Vietnamese Minnesotans Association.

March 20, 1995

Ms. Joanne Kumagai and Others
Japanese American Citizens League
Twin Cities Chapter

Dear Ms. Kumagai and Others:

I share your concern, as does everyone at KSTP, about what happened on January 25. The person in question, Mr. Zelenovich, is not an employee of Hubbard Broadcasting or KSTP. He was brought in at the last moment to fill in for the host of our morning show, Jesse Ventura, who was out sick. Because of this incident, Mr. Zelenovich will never do any work for us again. Matt Michalski is a young producer who has never shown inappropriate behavior before, and he was taken up with what he very wrongly thought was humor. He has

been admonished. Virginia Morris has put Mr. Michalski in charge of producing an apology, which will appear on our air.

I am distressed, Ms. Kumagai, to think that after all the years that our company has tried to do what we can to help promote understanding and good relations between all Americans, that we would be subject to such charges as you have leveled in our public letter. The American Indian community should be distressed, because they were the recipients of Mr. Zelenovich's remarks, but you certainly were not. To suggest that the management of our stations would encourage any of our employees to do anything that could be remotely conceived as racist is irresponsible and unfounded. Quite the contrary, I believe our company, among all others in the Twin Cities

broadcasting community, has led the way in trying to create better relations between people.

It was our company which won an Emmy for a year-long campaign which was entitled *A World of Difference*. The campaign was comprised of a 60 minute program entitled *Eye to Eye*. The program ran once in primetime and twice on weekends. In addition, the campaign ran a heavy schedule on KSTP-TV during a twelve-month period, which was aimed at endeavoring to improve relations between people of all races. The campaign also included stories within our various news casts which were positive in regard to race relations. The campaign was hailed nationally as a milestone in trying to use broadcasting to break down prejudices. KSTP-TV and I, in 1991, were the recipients of the ADL Civic Commitment Award for out-

JACL RESPONSES

ending programming, "A World of Difference Campaign."

Which station was it, during the height of the American Indian Movement controversy, which gave the Movement one hour of prime-time television free of charge? It was KSTP-TV, and we did that to try to help the American Indian Movement get its message across to the general public. In the words of our former news director, Harold (Bud) Meier, "Long before multiculturalism was the trendy path to follow, KSTP was out there in the field, helping the least fortunate of American citizens (in terms of power and prestige) despite pressure from the cynical surrounding media and embarrassed bureaucrats of Washington, D.C." Have you seen our *Future Hero's* campaign which is currently running on KSTP-TV, which is about young people of multicultural backgrounds who have overcome tremendous personal obstacles in

order to succeed in school? Their stories range from terrible to horrifying, yet they have been determined to improve their lot in life.

I am especially disturbed by your letter because of our company's and my family's personal relationships and close friendships with people of Japanese origin here in America and with business relations and friends in Japan. For example, my dear Japanese friends would be highly insulted if they were to become aware of your accusation. Mr. Hoa Vu, who is an American citizen of Vietnamese descent and was sponsored by the Hubbard family and lived in our home for two years, who considers the Hubbards to be his "family" in America, would also be offended by your irresponsible charges.

What is also disturbing is the fact that you sent copies of your letter to all of the organizations listed. I can think of nothing more unfair or unkind than

what you did. Do you not think it might have been better had you called me or Virginia Morris, the General Manager of KSTP-AM Radio, or some other responsible person at KSTP to discuss what had transpired and why? Is it possible that your act might stem from a racist attitude on your part in that you were very quick to take one unfortunate circumstance out of context and thereby label us as racists?

I hope you will take this letter very seriously, and I hope if you do wish to be fairminded people, that you will carefully consider the appropriateness of an apology to us, and I hope you will also consider sending the same to all those people to whom you mailed your first letter.

I will look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Stanley S. Hubbard

April 27, 1995

Stanley Hubbard
Hubbard Broadcasting Inc.
3415 University Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55114

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

Thank you for your timely response to our letter. The Japanese American Citizens League strives to secure and uphold human and civil rights for all people. Therefore, our intent was, and is, to demonstrate our support of the American Indian community. Our letter was written in response to an action by employees of Hubbard Broadcasting Inc., and was not intended, nor should be construed, as a personal attack.

Though our community was not directly targeted, we feel that every individual has a Constitutional right, as well as a civic responsibility, to express his or her thoughts specifically regarding matters that affect all of us

as American citizens.

As members of the Japanese American community, whose civil rights were suspended during World War II, we are understandably perhaps more sensitive to and aware of incidents such as the one that took place on KSTP morning talk radio on January 25, 1995. History has shown us that silence from the broader community has allowed violations of Constitutional rights to occur.

Sincerely,
Joanne Kumagai, president
Lynn Yamanaka, vice president/Coalition Committee member
Charles Tatsuda Jr., treasurer
Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, secretary/Coalition Committee member
Thomas Hara, national legal counsel
Charissa Uemura, Coalition Committee co-chair
Cheryl Lund, Coalition Committee co-chair
Penelope Haru Snipper
Coalition Committee member
Elaine Lyford Nojima, Coalition Committee member
David K. Hayashi, Midwest District Governor

Scholarship news, continued from Page 1.

The Twin Cities JACL Scholarship Committee currently is looking for 1996 high school graduates of Japanese descent. Some of the known 1996 graduates are: Jenny Connelly, Eagan; Thomas Hara Jr., Osseo; Yoshiji Katagiri, Academy of Holy Angels; Marissa Matsumoto, Minneapolis Southwest; Mark Metoki, Blake; Lucy Rollins, Minneapolis South; David Scott, Minneapolis Southwest; Naomi Taniguchi, Bloomington Kennedy; and Yuki Kaneko, Tartan.

If you know of other graduates or would like more information about the scholarship program, call Pam - Ohno Dagoberg, (612) 557-2946. Applications will be mailed next spring to students interested in applying for these scholarships.

AT A GLANCE

Highlights of JACL board meetings

Following is a summary of the major items discussed at the Twin Cities JACL board meetings on March 14 and April 11, 1995.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership chair Connie Fukuda reported that, because of staff reorganization on the national level, members have not been receiving automatic renewal notices; locally 42 memberships have lapsed. Additionally, some new members have not been receiving the Pacific Citizen. Our chapter is aware of the national situation and hopes our members will be patient as the processes are re-established.

JAYs

Zaidee Rollins, youth chair, is considering planning a second annual Halloween party for youth. In addition, she has compiled a list of 30-40 high school and college-age students.

MDC UPDATE

Midwest District Council governor David Hayashi updated the board on district- and national-level business.

The Twin Cities chapter will host the fall MDC meeting Oct. 6 to 8, 1995.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The committee began researching workshops on fundraising, grants and sponsorships. The committee also is soliciting program ideas..

ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS OF MINNESOTA

Paul Gam, president of OCA Minnesota met with the board to discuss several issues affecting Asian Americans locally and nationally. OCA and JACL will explore working together on several of these issues.

SUKIYAKI DINNER

The board discussed plans for the Sukiyaki Dinner April 2.

Following the dinner, the treasurer reported that the turn out was very

good – preliminary count is 598 dinners served; however expenses, including costs for vegetables, which recently escalated due to the floods in California – were much higher than last year. A final report by event chair Tom Hara will be forthcoming.

COALITION COMMITTEE

Co-chair Cheryl Lund reported that committee drafted a letter to KSTP/Stanley Hubbard regarding comments made about American Indians during a KSTP-AM Radio broadcast. [Letters and responses are reprinted on pages 4 and 5.]

A letter and survey were drafted to find out more about other civil rights organizations in Minnesota.

Committee has also discussed developing a list of organizations and individuals who specialize in specific Japanese American cultural and educational areas.

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

Plans for Festival, which was April 27-30 at St. Paul Civic Center were discussed. Chuck Tatsuda Jr. was event chair.

Board meetings are held 7 to 9 p.m. once each month.

Upcoming meetings are June 21 and August 22. The meetings are preceded by a potluck dinner. The board welcomes any visitors. If you would like to attend, call Joanne Kumagai, (612) 537-8076.

THANKS, PILLSBURY!

Many, many thanks to the Pillsbury Co. (and Twin Cities JACL member Scott Takekawa) for its support of the Sukiyaki Dinner. The very generous \$500 donation will greatly expand support of the chapter's scholarship program and operating budgets.

1995 Twin Cities JACL board of directors

| | |
|--|----------|
| Joanne Kumagai, president | 537-8076 |
| Lynn Yamanaka, vice president/historian | |
| Charles Tatsuda Jr., treasurer | 724-7264 |
| Cheryl Hirata Dulas, secretary | 822-7198 |
| Zaidee Rollins, youth representative | 647-5666 |
| Connie Fukuda, membership chair | 927-9126 |
| Chris Murakami Noonan, newsletter editor | 486-9150 |
| Charissa Uemura, coalition co-chair | 690-4193 |
| Cheryl Lund, program chair, coalition co-chair | 884-7420 |
| Thomas Hara, national legal counsel | 420-9562 |
| David Hayashi, MDC governor | 822-3659 |
| Lance Yoshikawa, program committee | 487-6314 |

If you have questions, concerns or suggestions for the Twin Cities JACL, please feel free to call a board member.

"RAVISHINGLY BEAUTIFUL! HIGHLY SENSUAL!"

By KEVIN THOMAS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Los Angeles Times

Friday, May 5, 1995

Between 1907 and 1924 more than 19,000 Japanese women immigrated to Hawaii to marry Japanese sugar-cane workers. These couples knew little of each other beyond an exchange of photos. Drawing upon the actual experiences of many such women, some of them still living in their 90s, director Kayo Hatta and her sister and co-writer Mari have created the exquisite "Picture Bride," a gentle and eloquent tale of perseverance that blossoms finally into the most tender of love stories.

Diminutive Youki Kudoh, who was one-half of the funny punk couple in Jim Jarmusch's "Mystery Train," plays a traditional Japanese girl, the 16-year-old Riyo. Arriving in Hawaii in 1918 full of apprehension, she quickly decides she's made a terrible mistake. Her soon-to-be-husband Matsuji (Akira Takayama) proves to be 43, a good 20 years older than the photo of himself he sent her.

A virile man of the soil, he attempts to take her roughly on their wedding night in his modest cottage. He repels Riyo, who rejects his clumsy advances, to the extent that she becomes determined to save up her earnings to pay for her way back to Japan. We know very well that with a pay rate of 65 cents a day, *minus* expenses, that she is as unlikely to attain this goal as she is to give it up, so badly does she need it to sustain her in her first rugged months in the cane fields.

Once Riyo has taken considerable ribbing for being a "city girl"—she's from Yokohama—she begins to gather strength from the earthy camaraderie of the other women, forging a friendship with the beautiful but dis-

illusioned Kana (Tamlyn Tomita), whose handsome husband Kanzaki (Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa) has degenerated into a drunken wife-beater.

Kanzaki has given in to the bitterness and frustration of a particularly vicious and racist cycle: The fieldworkers are supervised by a lethally brutal Portuguese, who in turn can never rise above his own station because

the natural and the supernatural blend effortlessly, as they so often do in Japanese films. "Picture Bride" unfolds as a series of ravishingly beautiful, highly sensual images captured by "Like Water for Chocolate" cinematographer Claudio Rocha and accompanied by Mark Adler's shimmering score, which incorporates motifs from both Japanese and Hawaiian music.

It's the scope and depth of Hatta's vision, combined with its intense particularity of time and place, that gives Riyo's story such universality; "Picture Bride" couldn't be more Japanese—or more American. Hatta's perspective, furthermore, allows her to be fair-minded to the disappointed, well-meaning Matsuji, even to the hateful Portuguese. The film glows with a feminine sensibility—a sensibility that reveals that strength and delicacy can go hand in hand.

Hatta is not only a visionary but also a fine director of actors. Who could have guessed at the depths Kudoh is capable of from off-the-wall character in "Mystery Train"? Like Kudoh, Takayama shows us an individual in the process

of growing, changing, adapting. Tomita makes the kind of impression you hope will be indelible with the award-givers. And Tagawa, although on screen only briefly, conveys Kanzaki's torment fully.

Like the cherry on an ice cream sundae, "Picture Bride" is topped with a genial cameo by Toshiro Mifune as a *benshi*, or narrator, of the silent films he presents to the workers right smack in the fields.



PICTURE BRIDE

of Anglo discrimination. Meantime, he refuses to pay Filipino workers as much as the Japanese. In short, Hatta reminds us that the racial harmony so vaunted in today's Hawaii was not so long ago far from the norm. (Shortened considerably from its showing at Cannes last year, "Picture Bride" curiously tells of a brewing strike only to pull away from it completely.)

Hatta and her collaborators, however, bring to Riyo's odyssey an epic vision in which

"PICTURE BRIDE" OPENS JUNE 2 AT THE UPTOWN THEATER,
2906 HENNEPIN, MINNEAPOLIS, (612) 825-6006.

WINNER • AUDIENCE AWARD • 1995 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

MEMBERSHIP

Twin Cities Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

1995 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 membership chair:

Connie Fukuda
4300 Eton Place
Edina, MN 55424

Phone: (612) 927-9126

Make checks payable to Twin Cities JACL.

Congress moves to deny benefits to legal permanent residents

The following information is from the Organization of Chinese Americans (March 3, 1995). If you have any questions, please call Vicki Shu at the Organization of Chinese Americans, (202) 223-5500.

The house subcommittee on human resources has approved legislation that would prevent legal permanent residents (LPRs) from obtaining numerous important benefits. This is an extremely serious issue to the Asian Pacific American (APA) community, as 66 percent of APAs are foreign-born and a significant number are not U.S. citizens. In addition, this action scapegoats legal immigrants for the economic woes of this country, despite the fact that LPRs pay state and federal taxes and serve in the military. LPRs are being targeted simply for their immigration status and national origin.

Specifically, legal permanent residents will be denied from Medicaid, community health services, housing loans, preventive health care services, job training services, children health services, emergency food and shelter loans, among others.

Recall that until the Chinese Exclusion Act was lifted in 1953, APAs also were blamed for the problems of the country, and Asians were not allowed to immigrate to the United States in significant numbers, and those who were here were restricted from most federal programs. It has not even been 50 years, and APAs again are being blamed. We can't allow such racist history to repeat itself.

The Organization of Chinese Americans is urging everyone to sign and mail a letter [such as the one below] to your respective Representative. Be sure to also clearly print your name, address and phone number underneath your signature. Please do so as soon as possible.

If you would like to call or fax your Representative, the number for the Capital Switchboard is (202) 224-3121.

Sample Letter

The Honorable [insert name]
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

I am writing to urge you to vote against the Personal Responsibility Act, HR 5, unless the provisions against legal immigrants are removed. These provisions would make legal permanent residents and other legal immigrants ineligible for child welfare and nutrition programs, housing, emergency relief, senior citizen assistance programs, health programs and other federal services. The act takes away these important services from legal residents who pay federal, state and local taxes, serve in the military and otherwise contribute to the country's economy and society.

I am especially concerned about the attempt to prevent legal immigrants from participating in Medicaid and other health programs. Denying their access to Medicaid is both inhumane and a bad public policy. In fact, cutting these preventive health programs will result in higher costs to our nation's health care system because legal immigrants will be forced to resort more often to expensive emergency care. Those most in need – children, the disabled and the elderly – will suffer the most under the proposed legislation.

These discriminatory provisions are of great concern to the Asian Pacific American community, 66 percent of whom are foreign born. Asians have been allowed to immigrate to this country on an equal basis with Europeans only for the past 25 years. Almost half of recent legal immigration is from

Asian countries. This legislation appears to be a direct attack on our community.

I appreciate your attention to this very vital matter. The proposed legislation is grossly unfair to the Asian Pacific American community. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your address and phone number]

[Also clearly print/type your name and address]

National JACL, continued from Page 3.

Cynthia Campbell's consulting firm, and input from other professionals will all be reviewed and considered when developing and finalizing our action plan.

Improving fiscal management is only a piece of a bigger effort currently under way. As you know, we are in search of a national director. As a member of the personnel committee, I assure you that our selection process is not one to be taken lightly. We realize that filling this position with the right person is crucial to the organization. The process is under way; however, we are still accepting applications, as we want all qualified candidates to be reviewed. We hope to present our recommendations for the position at the fall 1995 National Board meeting.

We have hired Amy Yamashiro as a temporary membership coordinator. She and other volunteer technical experts are working to bring our computerized membership data-

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Charitable Giving: Options that offer additional tax advantages

by Cynthia Kocher

Personal Financial Planner, American Express Financial Advisors

This is the third of four articles on financial planning provided to our chapter by American Express Financial Advisors (formerly IDS Financial Services). The remaining article will appear in the next issue of the Rice Paper.

When most of us think about giving to charity, we think of writing out a check or perhaps donating clothing, furniture or time to a charitable organization. While most of us know that gifts of money, clothing and furniture to a tax-exempt charity are tax-deductible, few of us are aware of the advantages of more complicated ways to donate.

For those who can afford it, these other options may offer significant tax saving to donors, while at the same time giving charitable organizations access to much-needed funds. Here are a couple of possibilities:

Charitable lead trust

This type of trust pays out interest income to a charity for several years and then, when the specified term is over, the principal goes to the donor's heirs. Obviously, the donor foregoes investment income from the donated asset, but the advantage is that the property or principal eventually gets transferred to the heirs with reduced or even eliminated estate or gift taxes.

A donor can place an asset such as a house or security, for example, in a charitable lead trust. After the donor's death, the asset is sold and the proceeds are reinvested to make annual

payments to the charity. The longer the payments to the charity – 15 years is a recommended minimum – the greater the tax advantage to the donor. Also, heirs don't have to pay taxes on appreciated value of the asset; for estate tax purposes, they pay only on the value placed in the trust.

Once the trust is established, however, no one can get at the principal until the trust expires. Donors should use attorneys and accountants who are experienced in estate planning to ensure the trust is properly set. Further, substantial initial and maintenance costs are involved, so assets probably should be at least \$250,000 or it may not be worthwhile.

Charitable remainder trust

This is the exact opposite of a charitable lead trust. A remainder trust gives the asset to charity and then pays the donor an income for life. Donors can give investment property (stocks, real estate, etc.) to the charitable trust. They then may take a tax deduction for the gift based on an age-related IRS formula and also can receive investment income.

This trust works well for people who have acquired several properties that have appreciated significantly but

might not have enough liquid assets to support themselves comfortably during retirement. The major disadvantage is that the gift is irrevocable. If for any reason the donor needs to cash in the asset, there's no way to get at it.

Anyone who is considering setting up a charitable remainder trust definitely should consult an attorney who specializes in this area; one wrong word can upset the tax deduction. Also, have an expert compare the income potential from the trust with the moneymaking potential from the property your children would have inherited if you hadn't made the gift. For those who can afford it, the ability to give to charity combined with the potential tax savings is often the motivation for setting up either of these two trusts. A word of caution, though – be careful not to give away too much too soon. There are too many uncertainties in life – don't get caught short.

Again, people considering something more complicated than simply giving money outright – such as either of these two trust options – would do well to consult an attorney, a professional tax adviser or other expert specializing in estate planning.

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base up to date. Please encourage your local membership chairs and board members to maintain communication with the national office during the membership and renewal process. Membership revenue is currently down and is a serious concern.

Karyl Matsumoto is our temporary office administrator. She has proven invaluable to Bill Yoshino, who is acting national director. It has been difficult for Bill to "take care of business" flying

back and forth to Chicago. She brings with her many years of administrative experience in both the public and nonprofit sector. Karyl has been instrumental in recruiting local volunteers to help out at the office in San Francisco.

Jim Miyazaki, a retired senior vice president in the insurance business, has been reviewing the organization's insurance records. He will make recommendations for any changes in our coverage necessary to protect the

organization's assets.

Bill Mukai, an investment executive for Smith Barney Shearson, has been reviewing the investment portfolios, procedures and policies. His input will be important as we develop procedures and policies to ensure proper handling and growth of our over \$5 million in our various endowment funds.

There are other volunteers and many other efforts that are making a

National JACL, continued on Page 11.

SUPER SENIOR LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1 P.M.

Dragon House Restaurant
3970 Central Ave. N.E.,
Columbia Heights

A special get-together for seniors who will be 75 years or older in 1995. The luncheon is **free** for seniors 75+.

Reservation deadline is June 10.

Sponsored by Nikkei Project, Twin Cities Buddhist Association and the Twin Cities JACL.

FOR RESERVATIONS AND MORE INFORMATION, CALL SAM HONDA, 429-3410.

Golf outing for retirees and seniors

Would you like to join your fellow retirees and seniors in a morning of golf? An informal golf outing will be held Tuesday morning, June 13, at Gross Golf Course, Minneapolis. The first tee time is at 7 a.m. Golfers should pay their green fees at the course.

Space is limited. Call Sam Honda, (612) 429-3410, to reserve your place.

Asian American Renaissance Cabaret features debuts of local artists highlighting the diversity within the Asian American community

Wednesday, June 28, 7 p.m.

At In the Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater, 1500 East Lake St., Minneapolis. Tickets are \$5. For reservations, call (612) 641-4040.

Contemporary Japanese Cinema highlights June programs of Asian Media Access

"The Legend of Zipang"

Tuesday, June 6, 9:45 p.m.
Oak Street Cinema, 309 Oak St,
Minneapolis

An action/fantasy set in the Edo period, this fast-paced tale of romance and bravery is a spectacular combination of humor and legendary heroism. The bandit, Jigoku, and his four comrades are on the run from relentless bounty hunters after a daring heist of treasures from an ancient burial ground. The spoils of their thievery include a magical sword which opens the gateway to a mythical kingdom of otherworldly chaos. Directed by Kaizo Hayashi, this film is a non-stop action thriller. 1990, 95 min.

"Innocent Eyes and Lenses"

Saturday, June 10, 8 p.m., and
Sunday, June 11, 2 and 8 p.m.
Red Eye Theater, 15 W. 14th St.,
Minneapolis

As part of the 7th Japanese Experimental Film/Video Tour, these short video and film pieces feature women filmmakers from Japan, including "Endless Love" by Yoko Oguchi (35 min.), "What All Women Have and Don't Have" by Noriko Umamo (35 min.), "SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)" by Natsuko Otsuki (20 min.), and "Dressing Room" by Mari Terashima (50 min). Tour curator, Tatsu Aoki, will host a special seminar on the development of experimental film in Japan, on Sunday, June 11, at 2 p.m.

General admission is \$5. For more information, call Asian Media Access, (612) 349-2549.

The Twin Cities JACL is proud to have given financial support to Asian Media Access for "Contemporary Japanese Film."

See back page for upcoming JACL events!

Three-tiered program develops skills of Asian American writers, educators and students

Building on the momentum created by last year's Writers' Bloc mentoring workshops and readings, Asian American Renaissance is offering a three-tiered writing program August through October 1995. The three components of the program are:

- A two-week writing workshop with writer and educator Meena Alexander focusing on writing skills development.
- A two-week writing and writing education/training workshop with David Mura designed to strengthen writing skills and to assist Asian American writers in developing skills to teach writing.
- A four-week workshop in which Asian American writers work with Asian American high school students.

Asian American writers, educators and high school students interested in participating in Writers' Bloc II should call Asian American Renaissance, (612) 641-4040.

As part of her residency, Meena Alexander will present a free public reading and informal discussion at 7 p.m. Aug. 1 at the Weyerhaeuser Chapel, Macalester College, St. Paul.

Theater Mu presents 1995 New Eyes Festival

Featuring workshop productions and staged readings of the freshest work by Asian American playwrights from the Twin Cities and beyond.

June 15 to 18, 1995

At the Playwrights' Center
2301 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis

For information, call Theater Mu, (612) 332-5763.

Seeing isn't always believing:

Asian American young people and educators gain critical eyes and create their own images in Lens Media Literacy workshop

Despite the power and prevalence of media images – photos, television, film and video – few of us are “media literate,” able to step back and critically analyze and understand what we experience through media.

Lens Media Literacy, a month-long workshop program (July 31 to Aug. 25, 1995), brings together Asian American young people, Asian American film and video makers and instructors, and Asian American secondary school educators. Working together on media literacy provides an opportunity to help each other explore how to negotiate identity and a place in American society and to interpret and value their personal experiences.

Lens Media Literacy has four components: Classes in media literacy, writing and storytelling, photography training, and video training.

For registration information, call Asian American Renaissance, (612) 641-4040. The deadline is June 30.

“A Day in the Life of Asian America”

Community members and photographers creatively explore their own realities and visions

Titled *A Day in the Life of Asian America*, this project joins Asian American photographers with Asian American community members to create images of Asian America as experienced by the community participants. Each photographer will work with the community members who will spend several weeks during fall 1995 photographing images that define their identities and their lives.

If you are interested in participating *A Day in the Life of Asian America*, call Asian American Renaissance, (612) 641-4040. The registration deadline is July 31, 1995.

Kogen Taiko performs at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts

As part of the Family Day, Sunday, June 11, held in conjunction with the *Rivers Merging* series of cross-cultural installations and performances at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Kogen Taiko will present “Growing Beyond,” a performance based on the histories of families interned during World War II. An accompanying installation, *Joyce Yamamoto: Her Story*, appears in the Minnesota Gallery.

The Family Day is noon to 5 p.m. Call for performance time, (612) 870-3131.

Rivers Merging, presented by The Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program and Asian American Renaissance, runs through July 16.

Japanese picture books subject of talk by visiting professor

Professor Shigeo Watanabe, author, translator and now retired from Keio University in Tokyo, will speak about Japanese picture books on Thursday, July 27, at 2:15 p.m., at Walter Library, Room 109, 117 Pleasant Street, East Bank Campus, at the University of Minnesota.

Following Mr. Watanabe's talk he will autograph his English language children's books, available for sale. Among them is *Ice Cream is Falling* (Philomel, 1989) and *Where's My Daddy?* (Philomel, 1991).

A reception will follow his presentation, from 3:15 to 5 p.m., in the Walter Library foyer, to honor him and the 17 Japanese children's book experts visiting the Kerlan Collection July 27 through August 2 at the University of Minnesota. Because of the limited number of spaces, call (612) 624-4576, by July 10 to make reservations if you wish to stay for the reception.

JACLers invited to participate in OCA tennis tourney

The Organization of Chinese Americans of Minnesota invites JACLers to participate in its annual tennis tournament. (Please note: This is a doubles tournament only!)

The tourney will be held Saturday, June 24, at the Midwest Club, 7300 Bush Lake Road, Edina. Registration is at 5:30 p.m.; play runs from 6 to 11 p.m. The cost is \$18 per person, which includes refreshments, court fees, T-shirts and trophies.

The deadline to register is June 16, 1995. Checks should be made payable to OCA-MN and registration forms should indicate which division the pair would like to compete in (Division A – NTRP rating 8.0 to 9.0; Division B – NTRP rating 7.5 and below).

OCA-MN reserves the right to refuse late entries and a release must be signed before play.

For more information, call Marie Ouyang, OCA-MN, (612) 773-0602 (evenings).

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difference at the national level. I wanted to mention at least a few to give you an idea of the magnitude of the task at hand and a feel for the progress we are making. I would like to also mention that I felt the national board meeting in early May was very positive and productive. A sense of healing was in the air. I am hopeful that our journey is heading down the right path. Again, it is important that you support JACL in any way possible during this crucial time. If you have not renewed your membership or if you have any specific concerns you would like to discuss with me or any other board member, please feel free to call.

Peace and prosperity be with you.

TWIN CITIES JACL UPCOMING EVENTS!

Twin Cities JACL

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

SUNDAY, JULY 9, NOON TO 6 P.M.
(LUNCH SERVED 12 TO 2 P.M.)

Lake Cornelia Park Pavillon,
Edina

We'll provide the pig roast, soda
and games and prizes for kids and
adults! You provide something to
share as part of our potluck lunch.

FREE!

*We need your help at the picnic!
Can you help set up, clean up, plan
the games or other much-needed
tasks? Please volunteer.*

**TO VOLUNTEER OR MAKE RESERVA-
TIONS, CALL JOHN NAKASONE,
(612) 646-6999.**

Mark your calendars now!

JACL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sunday, August 6, 1995

Tee times start at 11 a.m.

Gross Golf Course, Minneapolis

For more information, call Sam
Honda, (612) 429-3410, or David
Hayashi, (612) 822-3659. Organiz-
ers have promised yet another
tourney with spectacular prizes!

Twin Cities JACL hosts fall MDC meeting

October 6, 7 and 8

At the Holiday Inn Airport

Make plans to join us for get-
togethers, workshops and business
meetings.

Tri-District meeting July 20 - 23

Joanne Kumagai and David
Hayashi from the Twin Cities
chapter will attend this meeting in
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Coalition Committee host June Retreat/Potluck

Any JACL member who is interested
in the work of the Twin Cities JACL
Coalition Committee is invited to attend
a retreat 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday,
June 3, at Asian American Renaissance,
1564 Lafond Ave., St. Paul.

The agenda consists of revisiting the
committee's mission statement,
establishing goals and boundaries, and
setting priorities for next year.

For more information, call Penelope
Haru Snipper, (612) 827-7299.

*The mission statement of the committee:
"The Coalition Committee will pursue
JACL's commitment to eradicate bigotry
and prejudice and promote a society that
values diversity."*

Twin Cities JACL Board Meetings

Wednesday, June 21

Tuesday, August 22

**See Pages 10 and 11 inside for details
on other JACL-related events!**

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 four times a year. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue!

The Twin Cities JACL Rice Paper

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**Japanese
American
Citizens
League**

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