

RICE PAPER

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

September 1995

Twin Cities hosts Midwest District Council Fall Meeting Oct. 6 to 8

Twin Cities JACL members invited to attend!

Twin Cities JACLers are invited to attend all or part of the Midwest District Council (MDC) Fall Meeting to be held Friday to Sunday, Oct. 6 to 8, at the Holiday Inn International Airport, Bloomington. JACL representatives from the nine Midwest chapters will be participating in business meetings, workshops and social activities. Registration fee of \$30 covers items noted below with a * (Theater Mu play is free). *If you would like to attend any or all of the activities, call Chris Murakami Noonan, (612) 486-9150, by Oct. 1 if possible.*

FRIDAY, OCT. 6

Afternoon Golf (pay green fees at the course)
6:30 p.m. Welcome reception at Holiday Inn International Airport, Bloom.*

SATURDAY, OCT. 7

8:30 a.m. Business meeting*
11:30 to 12:30 p.m. Buffet lunch*
12:30 to 1:50 p.m. "The Japanese American Experience": Dr. Mace Ishida (Dayton, Ohio, chapter) leads an education workshop on how to present and market the JACL curriculum guide*
2 to 2:50 p.m. MDC Priorities - "Coalition Building and Civil Rights": Elaine Lyford-Nojima and other members of the Twin Cities JACL Coalition Committee lead the discussion*
3 to 4 p.m. Writer/performance artist David Mura presents a talk and leads a discussion*
7:30 p.m. Free preview performance of Theater Mu's "SAM I Am," a sitcom by Garret Omata about being a SAM (Single Asian Male), which received rave reviews when performed by East West Players in Los Angeles. At Hennepin Center for the Arts.

SUNDAY, OCT. 8

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Business meeting*

Top 15 reasons to become a JACL board member

15. Work with great (modest) people.
14. Enjoy tantalizing and delicious low-fat (but we didn't say low-sodium) food like SPAM musubi at the board meetings.
13. Wearing kimonos and yukatas to the meetings is optional.
12. No one does mock Asian accents or tries "kung fu" moves on you.
11. Help us to ensure that the civil rights of our communities and others are upheld.
10. Learn what a "hot dish" is.
9. People will probably be able to spell your Japanese name correctly.
8. Lessons on crane folding, ribbon fish weaving, sukiyaki making and other cultural activities can be provided.
7. Thought-provoking discussion on all sorts of cultural topics and current civil rights issues.
6. Learn where to buy Asian food for cheap.
5. No one will ask you where you learned to speak English so well.
4. Two kinds of pie at every meeting.
3. No one will ask you what country you REALLY came from.
2. (Get the idea that board meetings mix business with food, friends and fun?!)
1. *We need you, your energy and your great ideas.*

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Explore the possibility of serving on the board

If you would like to consider serving on the board, call Joanne Kumagai, (612) 537-8076. We'd like to answer your questions and invite you to visit one of our meetings. Two-year terms begin in January. Thanks for your consideration.

Internment camps left a bitter legacy to reconcile

The following article by Chip Johnson appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Aug. 14, 1995.

George Nishida and Tom Ohno have a lot in common. Both men are retired and in the golden years of their life. They've grabbed their piece of the American dream: raised families, become homeowners and grandfathers and enjoyed prosperous careers.

Both of them were among the 120,000 Japanese Americans sent to internment camps during World War II, and both describe the deep psychological scars inflicted upon them by the U.S. government.

Ohno's family, his parents and 10 children, were sent in 1942 from their Seattle home to an internment camp in Minidoka, Idaho. At 14 years old, Ohno accumulated a bitterness that would take years to overcome.

"After all, Germany was at war with the U.S., and German Americans weren't interned. Italian Americans weren't interned," Ohno, 67, said. "I hate the word 'racism,' but it comes to your mind."

He was allowed to leave the camp at age 16 and made his way to Minneapolis. After working as a houseboy for two years while earning a high school diploma, he was reunited with his family. He went on to join the U.S. Army, attend Augsburg College and become a high school teacher.

The key to his understanding, he said, came from the movie "Tora, Tora, Tora," an account of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The film relied on previously unreleased military documents and interviews from participants on both sides of the war.

"That got me to do a lot of reading, and I saw all the hate that was created by politicians and the media," Ohno said. "After that, I started to get a better feeling about myself."

The thing that really upsets him these days is when people suggest that the \$20,000 redress check authorized by former President Reagan in 1988 to those held in the camps can atone for everything that happened.

"I tell them that I will give them \$20,000 right now if I can take away everything they own and have worked for except for what they can carry with them."

George Nishida lost something at Camp No. 2 in Poston, Ariz., that can never be replaced - his father. The man was not allowed to seek the medical attention he needed because no Japanese American was allowed outside the gates.

Two of Nishida's three sisters were interned more than 1,000 miles away in a camp in Arkansas, and they never lived together as a family again. He was released from camp in 1944 at age 24 with his new bride after he found a job as a dental technician in Davenport, Iowa.

It was a big victory for Nishida, who was yanked out of dental school when the executive order to intern Japanese

Americans was issued in February 1942. He later made it back to school at the University of Minnesota, earned his degree and went on to become the first Japanese American dentist in the Twin Cities. Now 75, he said it was years before he could reconcile what had happened.

"They took away our citizenship, you know, and gave us alien status," he said. "We felt a little betrayed, because we were U.S. citizens and we were born in this country."

Nishida vividly remembers the day he boarded a train for the internment camp. Members of a local Quaker community brought the internees lunches. Nishida remembers the apple butter sandwiches well because it was the only food anyone received during the two-day train ride.

"At the moment, I didn't know what would happen to us, when we would eat again or if we would eat again," he said.

The years since, Nishida has talked with many people about the internment. He can't accept the answer he's heard.

"I've asked a lot of people, especially military people, and they said that if a war started again against a certain group, they would do it again," he said. "I can't believe that."

Thank you to Emi Nomura for submitting this article to the Rice Paper.

Faculty recognizes Dana Hangai

The following excerpt from an article by Gina Kim appeared in the Spartan Scroll, June 16, 1995, a publication of Schurr High School, Montebello, Calif.

Dana Hangai [son of former Minneapolis residents Nob and Barbara Hangai] was named valedictorian [of Schurr High School] on May 31.

Hangai has a grade point average of 4.0, unweighted. He is the editor-in-chief of the Spartan Scroll, California Scholarship Federation (CSF) president, marching band secretary/treasurer and senior class treasurer. Hangai is also a member of Interact Club, Key Club and National Honor Society (NHS).

He was named an Advanced Placement Scholar, CSF Life Member, October Junior Citizen of the Month, Sylvan Scholar, one of the 10 Seymore Award Finalists in the area and the only National Merit Scholar in the district. [Hangai placed among the top 10 percent of all Merit Scholars in the country.]

Some of Hangai's awards include a Bank of America plaque in liberal arts, CSF Book Scholarship, Harvard Book Award and the NHS Certificate of Merit. He plans to attend Stanford University in the fall.

"Becoming valedictorian is a great responsibility. I feel privileged that the faculty felt I was qualified to receive this distinction," said Hangai.

Thank you to Richard Kushino for submitting this article to the Rice Paper.

AT A GLANCE

Highlights of JACL board meetings

Following is a summary of the major items discussed at the Twin Cities JACL board meetings on May 23, June 21, Aug. 22 and Sept. 13.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Twin Cities JACL board approved these contributions: \$100 advertisement for Twin Cities JACL in Asian Media Access program in support of Japanese Film Festival; \$200 to purchase door prizes for June 13 Super Senior Luncheon (for seniors 75 years and older) sponsored by Nikkei Project, Twin Cities Buddhist Association and Twin Cities JACL; \$14 to cover reservation fees for 28 golfers participating in June 13 senior golf outing.

KAYO HATTA'S FILM PICTURE BRIDE

Twin Cities JACL helped Walker Art Center publicize the special screening of Kayo Hatta's film *Picture Bride*. The event was very successful; Walker auditorium was full; board members introduced the film and had dinner with Ms. Hatta.

CHAPTER HISTORIAN

Lynn Yamanaka will serve as chapter historian. Projects will be forthcoming. In the meantime, Lynn is collecting chapter materials.

COALITION COMMITTEE

Committee held retreat June 3. Among the items discussed were: review of the mission of the coalition committee; the relationship of the coalition to the chapter board; identifying issues in which the committee should become involved or respond to; procedures to follow when responding to an issue; building coalitions; priorities for the upcoming year; developing a workshop to present at the Midwest District Council meeting in Twin Cities Oct. 6 to 8.

LETTERS TO LEGISLATORS

Board voted to send letters to Minnesota Congressmen for the

following (see pages 8 and 9 for copies of the letters): Urging confirmation of the nomination of members of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund Board of Directors; Urging a vote against the Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 1995; Urging opposition of H.R. 1915, the Immigration and National Interest Act of 1995; Urging opposition of any anti-Affirmative Action legislation that may be proposed in the following weeks. A letter also was sent to President Bill Clinton, congratulating him on his speech in defense of Affirmative Action.

MIDWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

Board discussed plans for hosting the MDC meeting in the Twin Cities Oct. 6 to 8. Workshop ideas and receptions plans were discussed (see Page 1 for details). Twin Cities members are encouraged to attend all or part of workshops and other activities.

KANOJO FUNDRAISER

Sally Sudo presented board with idea of doing a fashion show featuring clothing designs by Kanojo, a company founded by two Sansei women in California.

Kanojo specializes in clothing for Asian women. Some fashions incorporate kimono cloth. Board approved pursuing the idea. Tentative plans are to present show in April 1996 as a fundraiser for the chapter.

NORMANDALE JAPANESE GARDEN BOUTIQUE

Twin Cities JACL sold more than \$780 of merchandise at its boutique at the Sept. 10 Normandale Japanese Garden Sukiyaki Dinner. This is an all-time high.

CHRYSANTHEMUM BANQUET

Kathy Koch has graciously agreed again to serve as program chair. Board discussed ideas for guest speaker. Members will be asked via survey for their ideas for speakers. Date was tentatively set for Feb. 4, 1996.

JAPANESE COOKING CLASS

Board members are investigating the possibility of offering a Japanese cooking class.

PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE

See back page for details on this fundraiser.

Board meetings are held 7 to 9 p.m. once each month. Upcoming meetings are Oct. 25 and Nov. 14. 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.

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.

What you should know about mutual funds

by Cynthia Kocher

Personal Financial Planner, American Express Financial Advisors

This is the fourth in a series of articles on financial planning provided to our chapter by American Express Financial Advisors (formerly IDS Financial Services). Additional articles will appear in future issues of the Rice Paper.

The amount invested in mutual funds has increased substantially in recent years. Investors have turned to mutual funds seeking higher returns than they could receive with savings accounts and certificates of deposit. Total assets invested in funds grew from \$95 billion to nearly \$1 trillion during the 1980s – an annual average increase of 26 percent. So far during the '90s, assets in mutual funds have continued to increase at a healthy 20 percent annually.

Recent increases in interest rates, however, have pressured stock prices and chilled the performance of many mutual funds. Not surprisingly, the result has been a slower movement of investment monies into the funds.

Mutual funds, however, continue to be one of the best ways for individual investors to increase their savings over the long term. These funds allow you to diversify your investments without having to commit large sums of money to purchase individual shares.

Mutual funds are collections of from 30 to 300 separate stocks or bonds managed by a professional fund manager working for an investment company. The manager is trained to select investments that fit the fund's objectives and to decide when to buy and sell those holdings. Many inves-

tors in mutual funds figure that it's easier to let a professional make those kind of decisions rather than try picking individual investments themselves.

Investors earn money through the rising values of fund shares, dividends and payouts of capital gains from profits made on the sale of individual stocks or bonds. The net asset value per share of the fund reflects changes in the prices of the stocks or bonds.

To invest in mutual funds, you can buy shares through financial planners, stockbrokers, insurance agents or directly from the fund company. Many funds require minimum initial investments of \$250 to \$2,000; all charge fees and/or sales commissions, some when you make transactions and others that are paid indirectly and reflected in the fund's value. If you buy funds that are one of many operated by a particular company, you often can switch among funds easily – it may take only a phone call.

There are thousands of mutual funds from which to choose. The ones you select will depend on what you want your money to do for you. A number of publications list the funds that are available and rate their performance. Specific information

about what types of investments the fund can and cannot make, and under what conditions, are spelled out in the fund's prospectus.

Diversity is the main advantage. By owning shares in a mutual fund – rather than the individual shares – you are cushioned against changes in the price of an individual stock or bond and you're spreading the risk: While the price of one stock declines, for example, the price of another may rise. Liquidity is another advantage; your money can be withdrawn easily and, thus, is readily available.

A word of caution: Investments in mutual funds aren't guaranteed or insured by the U.S. government. Mutual funds are, however, heavily regulated under federal and state securities laws, most importantly the Investment Company Act of 1940. Although you can lose money by investing in mutual funds, not a single fund has "gone bankrupt" in the more than 50 years since the passage of the act.

You may want to seek advice from a professional in making your decision. A personal financial planner can answer any questions you might have about investing in mutual funds and how they can fit into your overall financial objectives.

DONORS NEEDED

Bone Marrow Donors Needed

We are asking for participants in the Bone Marrow Donor Program. Our grandson, Brendan Smith, age 10, son of Dr. Dean and Lori (Kita) Smith, has acute leukemia and in need of a bone marrow match for a transplant. He is on a computer both nationally and internationally, but to date, no match has been found.

Participants must be 18-55 years old. Brendan is Eurasian, therefore, a Eurasian donor will be the most likely to match.

Because donors from minority groups are especially difficult to find, testing for them is always free.

The procedure takes 10 minutes and 30 ml of blood, equal to two tablespoons, collected from a vein in your arm.

If you have questions or concerns about the National Marrow Donor Program, please contact the NMDP, 1 (800) 526-7809. They will be able to locate the closest NMDP to you. We deeply appreciate your efforts.

Roy and Yuri Kita, West End, North Carolina

WRAP-UP

0 golfers faced ruff-'n-tuff day at annual JACL tourney

by Sam Honda
Golf Tournament committee chair

It was an all-around tuff day at our annual golf tourney – Sunday, Aug. 6, at Gross Golf Course in Minneapolis: It began with a summer storm approaching; 15 golfers didn't send in their entry fee; five golfers appeared unannounced; no riding carts were allowed because of the rain-soaked course, which meant line-up changes; delays; mix-up in the rules. But, JACL tournaments always manage to be completed without too many upset golfers.

One of the reasons it was all worth it: the very worthwhile prizes. Our thanks to George Sanada for donating the dozen Pinnacle golf balls, and to David Hayashi and Chuck Tatsuda for purchasing the prizes.

RESULTS (under the Honda rules, lower handicap breaks ties)

Flight AA

Dan Kelly net 67
Noriaki Metoki net 67
Noname Koba net 67
Ruff flight: John Murakami scored 77 with 9 handicap to net 68 and placed 7th

Flight A

Matt Matsui net 65
Jim Ige net 66
Toke Semba net 67

Women's Flight

Akiko Uneta net 65
Rci Sumada net 65
Toshi Nishida net 66

JACL pig roast another huge success!

On Sunday, July 9, the Twin Cities JACL's annual summer picnic was again – by popular demand – turned into the JACL Pig Roast.

The pig began roasting before dawn, and at noon, about 125 people gathered at Lake Cornelia Park in Edina to eat pork and a variety of salads, sushi and desserts (it was delicious!) and to play games for all ages.

This year the picnic was free to all attendees as a "thank-you" to members who work so hard during the year on various JACL events.

Judging by the happy faces and positive comments, a good time was had by all!

Picnic chairs John and Jacqueline Nakasone deserve our heartfelt thanks for yet another great get-together.

PERSPECTIVE

What will it take for us to be united?

by Lee Pao Xiong
Executive director, State Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans

The following is an excerpt from the newsletter of the State Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, September 1995. To contact the Council, call (612) 296-0538.

According to projections by the Minnesota Planning State Demographer's Office, currently there 121,840 Asian-Pacific Islanders living in Minnesota. We are one of the largest ethnic minority groups in the state. It is projected that by the year 2020, the Asian-Pacific Islander population will have grown by 181 percent to 219,000. The Asian American community in Minnesota represents more than 44 Asian language groups.

In a report published by Asian American Renaissance, 32 percent of the Asian Americans in Minnesota and 54 percent of the Asians in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area live below the poverty line. Twenty-four percent of the student population in the St. Paul Public School system, and 12 percent in Minneapolis, are Asian-Pacific Islanders. Accordingly, 45 percent of the Asian-Pacific Islanders in Minnesota are persons under the age of 18!

What do all of these statistics mean? They mean that we are a growing population and a population in need. We

need to come together to address issues that are challenging our diverse communities.

As the new executive director of the State Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, I am committed to working to bring us together. We are large enough that we can make a major impact on policies that are affecting our community here in Minnesota. All of us are politically active in one form or another within our community. If we transfer some of our political energies from our community to the mainstream political system, we can have major impact. However, before we can do that, we need to think beyond the "me," "I" and "my community" mentality. We need to think of "us" as Asian-Pacific Islanders. But by saying this, I'm not indicating that we should not focus on our individual communities. We need to do that. We do need to respect each other's differences, but at the same time we need to look at the larger picture of the Asian-Pacific community. We need to, for instance, recognize the fact that 32 percent of the Asian community in Minnesota lives in poverty.

I hope you will join us as we try to move our community forward. There are many issues such as Federal Welfare Reform, the continuous attack on Affirmative Action and Block Grants that have a huge impact on our community.

I look forward to working with all of you and hearing your suggestions on how the council can be more effective.

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.

Children's books: 'I Am' looks at harsh truth of Japanese internment

The following review by Jane Resh Thomas appeared in the Star Tribune, March 12, 1995.

In the past 20 years, children's nonfiction has become artistically respectable, written with authority and produced attractively enough to draw readers in and hold them. During the same period, Americans' sense of ourselves and respect for our children's intelligence and powers of discrimination have matured sufficiently for us to tell our children the truth about America as a nation.

These two profound developments meet in *I Am an American: A True Story of Japanese Internment*, by California history professor Jerry Stanley, illustrated with photographs (Crown, 102 pages, \$15, ages 8 and up). This book for older children follows the fictional picture books about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, "Baseball Saved Us" and "The Bracelet."

Stanley recounts the experience of one young man, Shi Nomura, when the U.S. government imprisoned him behind barbed wire in a desert camp guarded by riflemen in watchtowers. His family suffered financial devastation, and Nomura lost beloved possessions, educational opportunity, security and confidence, and the years of his early manhood. Stanley uses Nomura's story to exemplify what happened to nearly 120,000 other Issei and Nisei (Japanese American immigrants, prevented by law from becoming citizens, and their American-born families) who were shipped in 1942 to the 10 concentration camps America established for its own people.

Their ethnicity alone was taken as proof of disloyalty. Absence of evidence that Japanese Americans had committed sabotage proved that they were cunning saboteurs. Given only a few days' warning that they would be rounded up and relocated, they stored belongings that were subsequently stolen or took huge losses on their property: "One Nisei family sold its 26-room hotel for \$500." (My own family had paid \$3,500 for a modest three-bedroom clapboard house during the Depression, five years earlier.)

Japanese Americans destroyed their music, books and artifacts in fear that they would be taken as evidence against them. Children whose whole experience had been American, who knew no language other than English, were treated as foreigners. They were insulted, bullied and attacked by their neighbors before being herded into trucks, held in the manure dust of the Santa Anita racetrack stables, and finally sent to the desolate camps.

Stanley establishes the context for this racist episode in America by describing the abuse that preceded the war, expressed in restrictive immigration and land laws. He quotes the political geniuses whose prejudice brought about the internment. (Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt: "A Jap's a Jap, and

it makes no difference if he is an American citizen." Earl Warren, later chief justice of the United States: "No one will be able to tell a saboteur from any other Jap.") And, Stanley summarizes the recent efforts of Congress to make amends.

The illustrations are snapshots from family albums and news photographs. Those of tagged children, peering between the rough wooden slats of a canvas-covered truck are all too similar to photographs of the Nazis' cattle cars.

At last in 1990, Nomura received an apology from President George Bush. "One of the great things about America," said Nomura, "is that it admits its mistakes." One of our mistakes has been to deceive our children and ourselves, idealizing our history, pretending that our actions always have been as noble as our principles.

Xenophobia and selfishness have not disappeared, as immigration conflicts in California show. And the controversy about the Smithsonian exhibit of the Enola Gay suggests that some of us continue to idealize our past. At the same time, a new willingness to consider our human frailty raises questions that will enable us more successfully to match our walk to our talk.

'A Bridge Between Us':

A novel by Julie Shigekuni chronicles four generations in a matriarchal Japanese American family

In March Anchor Books published Julie Shigekuni's first novel, *A Bridge Between Us*, described by The New York Times as an "artfully evocative first novel." [Julie is the daughter of long-time San Fernando Valley JACL members Phil and Marion Shigekuni.]

Rick Simonson, of the Elliot Bay Book Company, writes: "In language eloquent and exact, Julie Shigekuni makes a remarkable debut with a novel that centers around four generations of women within a Japanese American family. In varying the narrative voices – shifting the 'I,' allowing for some 'yous' – she insightfully explores the gaps and gulfs that divide and almost dissolve family links, and, quite movingly, those few bridges that connect."

JACL RESPONDS

Twin Cities JACL appeals to Minnesota's U.S. Congressmen on several key issues

August 24, 1995

*The Honorable Rod Grams
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510*

Dear Senator Grams:

On behalf of the Twin Cities Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, I strongly urge you to oppose any anti-affirmative action legislation that may be proposed in the following weeks.

The Twin Cities Chapter of the JACL has approximately 250 members and is dedicated to protecting the civil rights of Japanese Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans and all Americans.

Affirmative action programs have been one of the most effective ways to ensure equal opportunities for women and minorities. Although many advances have been made, ours is not yet a color-blind society, nor is there a level playing field for all. It is clear that discrimination persists and must be remedied. Moreover, there is an inherent value in diversity in schools, government and business. We oppose attempts to turn back the clock on this country's progress toward racial and gender equality.

Please keep us informed of your thoughts on affirmative action and how you intend to vote on the bills that will be introduced in Congress. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,
Joanne Kumagai
President

August 24, 1995

*The Honorable Rod Grams
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510*

Dear Senator Grams:

On behalf of the Twin Cities Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, I urge you to vote against the Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 1995, the welfare reform bill that makes it difficult or impossible for legal immigrants to be eligible for means-tested benefits and programs.

The Twin Cities Chapter of the JACL has approximately 250 members and is dedicated to protecting the civil rights

of Japanese Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans and all Americans.

The welfare reform bill removes the safety net for legal residents who pay taxes and otherwise contribute to our economy and society. These discriminatory provisions are of great concern to the Asian-Pacific American community, 66 percent of whom are foreign-born. Asian have been allowed to immigrate to this country on an equal basis with Europeans for only 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.

Please let us know how you intend to vote on the welfare reform legislation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,
Joanne Kumagai
President

August 23, 1995

*The Honorable Paul Wellstone
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510*

Dear Senator Wellstone:

On behalf of the Twin Cities Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, I strongly urge you to confirm the nomination of the members of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund Board of Directors.

The Twin Cities Chapter of the JACL has approximately 250 members and is dedicated to protecting the civil rights of Japanese Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans and all Americans.

The Civil Liberties Public Education Fund was created by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, signed into law by President Reagan "to sponsor research and public educational activities ... so that the events surrounding the evacuation, relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II will be remembered, and so that the causes and circumstances of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood."

The Fund will make it possible for all Americans to have a better understanding of the tragic injustices that can occur when individuals are judged solely on the basis of their race. The Fund also will validate our nation's commitment to fairness and justice. Few, if any, other countries in the world would have had the courage to recognize the injustices it committed during World War II, as the United States

JACL RESPONDS

did with the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

We ask that the confirmation process begin and that hearings on the nominations be held as soon as possible before the Committee on Governmental Affairs. Please let us know if you will be able to offer any assistance in this regard. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,
Joanne Kumagai
President

August 24, 1995

*The Honorable William Luther [similar letters also sent to Representatives Jim Ramstad, Bruce Vento and Martin Sabo]
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

Dear Representative Luther [Ramstad, Vento and Sabo]:

On behalf of the Twin Cities Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, I urge you to oppose H.R. 1915, the Immigration in the National Interest Act of 1995.

The Twin Cities Chapter of the JACL has approximately 250 members and is dedicated to protecting the civil rights of Japanese Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans and all Americans.

H.R. 1915 calls for drastic reductions in legal immigration, from the present level of 830,000 to 330,000. Of greatest concern to us is the elimination of three of the four family preference categories. H.R. 1915 will have a severe impact

on Asian-Pacific American families who wish to reunite, since most Asian immigrants come to the United States under the categories proposed for elimination.

H.R. 1915 will also place onerous restrictions on immigration by parents of U.S. citizens. Parents will be permitted to immigrate only if a majority of their children have already immigrated to the U.S. Citizens will be required to purchase health insurance for their parents comparable to the comprehensive coverage available under Medicare and the long-term coverage under Medicaid – coverage that may not be available in the private market.

Our nation has an unfortunate history of agitation against Asian immigrants. Chinese and Japanese immigrants were denied the right to become naturalized citizens by the 1870 amendment to the Nationality Act of 1790. In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act to prevent further immigration from China, and the Immigration Act of 1924 cut off immigration from Japan. It was not until the Immigration Act of 1965 that Asians have been able to come to the U.S. in significant numbers. Since 1965, the Asian-Pacific American community has made substantial economic, cultural and intellectual contributions to this country. H.R. 1915 insults our community by ignoring our contributions and signaling that we are no longer welcome here.

H.R. 1915 takes us back to a climate of nativism and xenophobia that we thought we had left behind. Please vote against this misguided legislation.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Very truly yours,
Joanne Kumagai
President

AROUND TOWN

Everything you ever wanted to know about Japan travel

The Minneapolis-Ibaraki City Cultural Association (MICCA) and the Japan National Tourist Organization of Chicago invite you to attend a travel program being held at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Sunday, Oct. 1, from 2 to 5 p.m. The program is being held in conjunction with the celebration of the 15 years of sister-city friendship between Minneapolis and Ibaraki, Japan.

Program highlights include the showing of award-winning films of the area surrounding Ibaraki and other popular travel destinations, and travel tips and hints regarding Japanese customs, culture and etiquette.

The event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited so people are encouraged to come early. In addition to the program, there will be cultural activities and complimentary refreshments.

MICCA and the City of Minneapolis will be sending a delegation to Ibaraki in November to celebrate the 15-year anniversary of the sister city relationship. Students from Mounds Park Academy and Hill Murray will be joining the delegation.

For more information, contact Greg Fishbein, (612) 771-2648, or Janet Beahen, (612) 536-9828.

To all JACL members,

The JACL Board of Directors is interested in learning what issues or concerns are important to you. Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey. Mail the completed survey to Lynn Yamanaka, 403 Totem Rd. St. Paul, MN 55119. If we don't hear from you, we may be contacting you. The results of this survey will appear in a future edition of Rice Paper.

Name _____

1. What are your primary reasons for becoming a JACL member?

2. Describe or list three civil rights or related issues that are of importance to you that JACL should be actively involved.

3. Describe or list three cultural activities that are of importance to you that JACL should be actively involved.

4. What kind of entertainment, activity or speaker, if any, would you prefer for the 1996 Chrysanthemum Banquet (Installation)?

5. As a member of the Twin Cities JACL, ^{participation in} you are eligible to receive the Pacific Citizen, student scholarships, a quarterly newsletter and numerous activities throughout the year. Are there any additional benefits you would like us to provide?

6. Any additional comments or concerns????

Thank you for your time!

CHILDREN'S PAINTINGS OF THE KOBE EARTHQUAKE

Seven months have passed since the Kobe earthquake, but life in the affected area has not yet returned to normal. Nevertheless, we wish to communicate a message of hope from the children of quake-stricken Ashiya, a message that those children have survived the catastrophe and are courageously striving to recover from this disaster.

At the same time, it is our great desire that the people of America gain a deeper and better understanding of the earthquake through the artwork of the disaster as experienced by these children. We hope that as a result, the youth of Ashiya and indeed all the victims of this tragedy might receive the support and encouragement from those attending this exhibition. This ambition has been the basis of our project.

New York: September 17, Sun. - September 30, Sat. 1995 (closed September 27)

10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. (- 6:00 p.m. on Sep. 30)

Kinokuniya Bookstores (Rockefeller Plaza)

10 West 49th Street, New York, NY 10020, Phone: (212)765-7766

Chicago: October 3, Tue. - October 13, Fri. 1995 (closed October 7 & 8)

8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

The Chicago - Tokyo Bank

40 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60602, Phone: (312)236-1200

Note: October 16 - 20 on display at the Elk Grove High School.

Minneapolis - St. Paul:

October 25, Wed. - October 31, Tue. 1995 11:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Sakura Restaurant B.F. Hall

Phone: (612)224-0185

Garrick Ramp Building, 34 West 6th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102

November 2, Thu. - November 5, Sun. 1995 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Union Congregational Church U.C.C.

Phone: (612)929-8566

3700 Alabama Avenue, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Special thanks to:

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Chicago and the Chicago-Tokyo Bank for helping organize the Chicago exhibition; Kobe College Corporation for helping organize the Minneapolis - St. Paul exhibition; the Consulate General of Japan in New York, the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago, and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of New York for their support; New York Kinokuniya Bookstores, the Elk Grove School District, Sakura Restaurant, Union Congregational Church U.C.C. and Normandale College for generously providing space for the paintings; the Greenwich Japanese School for aiding preparation of the New York exhibition and Goda & Associates Inc. for providing panels for the Chicago exhibition; the Sankei and Osaka Newspaper Social Welfare Association, Hasegawa Art, Sakura Color Products Corp., WRA Japan Ltd., Ochi Komuten and Tawara Museum of Art for the funding; Hyogo Prefecture, Ashiya City, the Ashiya Board of Education, the Ashiya Culture Promotion Foundation, the Ashiya Cosmopolitan Association, the Sankei Shimbun, the Asahi Shimbun, the Mainichi Shimbun and the Kobe Shimbun for their assistance.

The exhibition is organized by Ashiya Junior Art Education Society.

Contact: Masae UEZUMI Address: 2-3-504, Niihama-cho, Ashiya City, Hyogo, 659 JAPAN

Phone/Fax: 81-797-23-5467

阪神大震災児童画展

阪神大震災から7ヶ月経ちますが、被災地の中ではまだまだ元通りの生活には戻ることは出来ません。被災地・芦屋の子供たちも震災にめげずに頑張っているというメッセージを発信するとともに、エネルギーなニューヨーク、および力強いアメリカから元気をもらって帰り、被災地の子供たちはもちろんのこと被災地の人々を元気づけるため企画しました。また子供たちが体験し、感じた震災を外国の方々に感じとっていただきたく、アメリカで阪神大震災の児童画展を開催いたします。

ニューヨーク展

1995年9月17日(日)～9月30日(土)

A.M. 10:00 - P.M. 7:30 (27日休み・30日はP.M. 6:00迄)

ロックフェラープラザ 紀伊國屋書店

10 West 49th Street, New York, NY 10020 Tel:(212)765-7766

シカゴ展

1995年10月3日(火)～10月13日(金)

A.M. 8:30 - P.M. 4:45 (7, 8日休み)

シカゴ東京銀行

40 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60602 Tel:(312)236-1200

*10月16日(月)～10月20日(金):エルクグローブハイスクール

ミネアポリス・セントポール展

1995年10月25日(水)～10月31日(火) A.M. 11:30 - P.M. 11:00

サクラレストラン地階ホール

Tel:(612)224-0185

Garrick Ramp Building, 34 West 6th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102

1995年11月2日(木)～11月5日(日) A.M. 10:00 - P.M. 7:00

ユニオンCongregational Church

3700 Alabama Avenue, St. Louis Park, MN 55416 Tel:(612)929-8566

*11月13日(月)～11月17日(金):ノーマンデルカレッジ

[主催] 芦屋児童美術教育研究会

[共催] シカゴ日本商工会議所・シカゴ東京銀行/コウベカレッジコーポレーション

[後援] 在ニューヨーク日本国総領事館・在シカゴ日本国総領事館・ニューヨーク日本商工会議所・
兵庫県・芦屋市・芦屋市教育委員会・芦屋市文化振興財団・芦屋市国際交流協会・
産経新聞社・朝日新聞社・毎日新聞社・神戸新聞社

[協力] ニューヨーク紀伊國屋書店・ニューヨーク日本人学校/エルクグローブハイスクール・ゴードアンド
アソシエーツ/サクラレストラン・ユニオンCongregational Church・ノーマンデルカレッジ/
産経新聞大阪新聞厚生文化事業団・(株)ハセガワアート・(有)ダブルアールエイジャパン・
(株)サクラクレパス・(株)越智工務店・(財)俵美術館

(連絡先) 芦屋市新浜町 2-3-504 Tel/Fax:0797-23-5467 上住 雅恵

SUPPORT OUR CHAPTER AND THE "PACIFIC CITIZEN!"

Participate in the Holiday Issue of the "Pacific Citizen" – a fundraiser for our chapter and JACL's newspaper.

Yes, it's time to start thinking about the holidays!

The Holiday Issue of the Pacific Citizen (PC), national JACL's biweekly newspaper, is an important fundraiser for the PC – and our chapter receives **15 percent commission** on any ads we place through our chapter.

You can help by participating in an ad in *one or both* of these ways:

1. List your name or family's name and address in our chapter advertisement extending holiday greetings to JACLers across the country. **Cost for your one-line listing is \$7.50.**
2. Advertise your greetings in a display ad. For example, a 1 column x 1" ad is \$16; a 2 column x 2" ad (ideal for business cards) is \$64; larger sizes are available at \$16 per column inch. You can design your own ad or provide what you would like to say, and the PC staff will lay out your ad for you.

Example:
1 column x 1" ad
= \$16.

*Season's
Greetings!*

*John Doe
Minneapolis*

If you are interested in participating in the PC Holiday Issue, please send your listing or ad information and check to:

Chris Murakami Noonan
148 Hemlock Place
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Make checks payable to Twin Cities JACL.

If you have questions or would like more information, call Chris at (612) 486-9150.

*Please let us know if you are
interested in participating in
the PC Holiday Issue by
Oct. 15. Thanks for your
support!*

Mark your calendars now!
The annual JACL Holiday Party for Kids will be
Sunday, Dec. 3,
featuring Eric the Juggling Magician!

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 Chris Murakami Noonan, editor 148 Hemlock Place, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127 (612) 486-9150

**Japanese
American
Citizens
League**

RICE PAPER
148 Hemlock Place
St. Paul, MN 55127

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