

RICE PAPER

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

February 1996

"Life in the Interstices: Bi-Racial, Bi Cultural Americans" highlights speech by renowned professor and scholar

Twin Cities JACL's 49th annual Chrysanthemum Banquet and Installation Program is Sunday, Feb. 25

The Twin Cities JACL will hold its 49th annual Chrysanthemum Banquet and Installation Program on Sunday, Feb. 25, at the Holiday Inn West, 9970 Wayzata Blvd., Minneapolis. A social hour begins at noon; a buffet lunch starts at 1 p.m.; followed by the keynote speech, installation of the 1996 board of directors, recognition of outgoing board members and a door-prize giveaway.

The cost for the banquet is \$18.50 per person. **Reservations are due Feb. 16.** See the back page of this newsletter for a reservation form. For more information, call Kathy Koch, (612) 884-1560.

About the speaker

Rita Nakashima Brock has held the Endowed Chair in the Humanities at Hamline University, St. Paul, since 1990. She earned her B.A. in religion from Chapman University and a Rel. M. from the School of Theology at Claremont. Upon receiving her M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy of religion and theology from the Claremont Graduate School, Calif., she became the first Asian American woman to do so.

Born in Fukuoka, Japan, to a Japanese mother and Puerto Rican father, Prof. Brock came to the United States at age six. She has taught in the religion departments of numerous colleges and universities across the country, and directed the Women's Studies Program at Stephens College, Missouri, from 1985 to 1989.

Prof. Brock's book, *Journeys By Heart: A Christology of Erotic Power*,



Rita Nakashima Brock, the keynote speaker at the Chrysanthemum Banquet, is a renowned author, lecturer and professor, and is a member of JACL.

won the 1988 Crossroad/Continuum Press Award for the most outstanding manuscript in women's studies. Her keynote lecture for the 1993 ecumenical women's conference, "Re-imagining," won the 1994 Associated Religious Press Award for excellence in theological reflection. Dr. Brock also has published a number of essays and sermons on feminist theology

and Asian American women. She is a co-editor of *Setting the Table: Women in Theological Conversation*, a collection of essays introducing feminist theology. In September 1996, Fortress Press will publish a book she has co-authored, *Casting Stones: Prostitution, Liberation and Society in Asia and the United States*. She currently is working on a book proposing theological categories for understanding the religious experiences of Asian American women.

Active both in the academy and the church, Prof. Brock sits on the board of directors of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), and in 1994 was appointed to a three-year term as chair of the AAR's Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession.

In 1991 she delivered the Centennial Baccalaureate Sermon at Stanford University. She has lectured in such places as Princeton Theological Seminary, Yale University Divinity School, the University of Chicago Divinity School, Harvard Divinity School, and Northwestern University, to name just a few.

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WELCOME

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

Mark Gleason, Burnsville, works at Rosemount in Burnsville in the marketing department. He is finishing up his final year at William Mitchell College of Law and plans to take the bar exam this summer and then pursue a career in patent law. A graduate of St. Cloud State University, Mark grew up in Minnesota and currently plays trumpet in a brass quintet, The Matterhorn Brass. He and his wife, Barb, and their 8-year-old son, Sam, are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their infant daughter from Korea. She'll be in Minnesota in the next couple of months.

Akio Kuga, Minneapolis, is a travel agent with Minne International Travel Agency, 2221 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. He has many hobbies, including golf.

Phyllis Ono-Kimitch, Eden Prairie, is the business manager and a player with Kogen Taiko. She is the mother of three and is busy helping out at her kids' schools. A native Minnesotan, she grew up in St. Louis Park. She is active in the Twin Cities Buddhist Church and works part-time as a dermatology nurse at Park Nicollet Medical Center. In addition to playing the taiko and Japanese dancing, her hobbies include breadmaking.

Les and Karen Suzukamo, Vadnais Heights, are parents to 5-year-old Allison and 3-year-old Louise. They moved to Minnesota in 1984 when Les began working for the St. Paul Pioneer Press. Les and Karen met while attending the University of California - Berkeley. Their primary interest is their children, but they also enjoy eating and traveling, and Les' hobbies include tae kwon do.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Twin Cities JACL will award scholarships to high school seniors for 33rd year

Since 1963, the Twin Cities Chapter of the JACL has made awards to hundreds of outstanding high school graduating seniors in the area. Some of these awards were large amounts (\$1,000), and others of lesser amounts have been given to deserving students who have excelled academically, given outstanding service, or who have made an unusual contribution to their school or community.

To be eligible, the applicant must be:

- 1) A son/daughter of a member of the Twin Cities JACL, or
- 2) Be a relative of a member and reside in Minnesota, or
- 3) Be a person of Japanese ancestry who is recommended by a member and who resides in Minnesota.

Here is a list of known 1996 high school graduates: Jenny Connolly (Eagan), Ian Dale (Cretin Derham Hall), TJ Hara (Osseo), Yuki Kaneko (Tartan), Yoshiji Katagiri (Academy of Holy Angels), Marissa Matsumoto (Southwest), Mark Metoki (Blake), Kelly J. Miller (Kennedy), Lucy Rollins (South), David Scott (Southwest), and Naomi Taniguchi (Kennedy).

If you know of any other graduates, contact Pam Ohno Dagoberg, (612) 557-2946, as soon as possible. Applications have been mailed to known high school graduates and are due March 17. A banquet honoring the graduates is tentatively scheduled for May 9. Scholarship awards will be presented that evening.

Application deadlines approach for 1996 National JACL Scholarship Awards

Through the Japanese American experience, past generations have always encouraged their children to pursue knowledge, recognizing that education was the door to greater and new horizons.

The Japanese American Citizen's League, a national organization committed to the social and cultural development of the individual, continues this valuable legacy through its National Scholarship and Awards program. Since the program's inception in 1946, JACL has awarded thousands of dollars to outstanding students.

The 1996 National Scholarship and Awards Program offers awards to students at the freshman, undergraduate and graduate levels, and to individuals involved in creative projects that reflect the Japanese American experience and culture.

JACL members and their families may apply for a JACL Scholarships or Award. JACL student memberships are available.

Scholarships are one-time awards and are non-renewable.

Application forms and additional information are available through the Twin Cities JACL chapter by calling Pam Ohno Dagoberg, (612) 557-2946.

The deadline for freshman application is Feb. 20, 1996; all other applications are due March 20, 1996.

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 October 25 and November 14, 1995, and January 8, 1996.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Twin Cities JACL board approved these contributions: \$150 toward the "Unpacking Our Bags: 150 Years of Building Asian America" Pan-Asian Conference to be held April 11-13; \$25 to the Japan America Society's New Year's celebration in January.

Also, the Twin Cities JACL received a \$500 donation from the East West Exchange of American Express Financial Advisors. Thank you!

KANOJO FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER

Twin Cities JACL began plans to present a two-day fashion show and

boutique fundraiser for the chapter's operating and scholarship funds. This event will take place in lieu of the traditional spring Sukiyaki Dinner fundraiser. Sally Sudo is the event chair. Some of the board members along with other committee members met with Eileen Tabata Fitzpatrick and Bob Fitzpatrick of California-based Kanojo USA.

NATIONAL JACL BUDGET

The Twin Cities JACL board discussed the National JACL's proposed 1996 budget, which National has asked the chapters to review. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve National JACL's proposed 1996 budget.

1996 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following have terms that expired at end of 1995 and will not seek another term: Chuck Tatsuda, Charissa Uemura and Zaidee Rollins. The following seek 2-year terms commencing January 1996: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Ben Ezaki III, Connie Fukuda, Tom Hara, Daryl Johnson, Chris Noonan. The following have terms ending December 1996: David Hayashi, Joanne Kumagai, Cheryl Lund, Lynn Yamanaka, Lance Yoshikawa.

IMMIGRATION WORKSHOP AND CELEBRATION

Twin Cities JACL was one of several Asian American community organizations who supported the Jan. 26 Immigration Workshop and Celebration coordinated by Asian American Renaissance.

CHRYSANTHEMUM BANQUET

Board discussed plans for the 49th annual banquet to be chaired by Kathy Koch. Date was set for Feb. 25 to accommodate keynote speaker Rita Nakashima Brock.

A benefit for the Twin Cities JACL Scholarship and Operating funds

Kanojo
USA



"TWO AFTERNOONS OF AN ASIAN AMERICAN FASHION PERSPECTIVE"

SAT & SUN,
APRIL 13 & 14

See enclosed
flier for details!

For more
information:
(612) 831-5869

How can you get a 15% discount on Kanojo fashions at the boutique? Volunteer to be a model for the fashion show. All generations are needed (and no modeling experience required)! For more information, call Joanne Kumagai, (612) 420-6639.

JAPANESE COOKING CLASS

Kathy Hara is coordinating this program. Three to four classes will be offered during spring or summer 1996 at Kelvin Lee's catering facility. Chapter is considering videotaping the classes.

PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE

Many thanks to all those who placed ads and one-line greetings in the Pacific Citizen Holiday issue.

Board meetings are held 7 to 9 p.m. once each month. Upcoming meeting is Feb. 26. The meetings are preceded by a potluck dinner. The board welcomes any visitors. If you would like to attend, call Joanne Kumagai, (612) 420-6639.

When you're in the mood for a good Japanese dinner, which of the following do you do?

- a) Make reservations at Saji-ya, Kikugawa, Sakura, etc.?
- b) Head for the kitchen and whip something up?

Do you always pick "a" because you can't do "b"? Then we have something for you!

Twin Cities JACL is in the process of putting together a series of cooking classes to be offered this summer. The instructors will be the experts in cooking Japanese food - our mothers! Don't think you can fit cooking classes into your schedule? Not to worry - we're also planning to videotape the classes and sell the tapes as a fundraiser for JACL.

We'll have a lot more details for you in the next Rice Paper.

Japanese in America Looking Beyond Past to Shape Future

by Norimitsu Onishi

This article appeared in the Dec. 25, 1995, issue of The New York Times.

When Kathleen Kamatani married Robert DeMeulemeester this fall, their friends were somewhat startled when the Kamatani family yelled out the traditional Japanese cheer of "Banzai!" or "May you live 10,000 years!" Some of them had scarcely realized that Ms. Kamatani, who met her husband at the Columbia University Business School, was Japanese American.

This made her mother, Fuji Kamatani, somewhat wistful since she had once sent her daughter to Japanese school in the hopes of imparting something lasting. But she was fully accepting of the marriage. All three of her daughters have married white men; intermarriage, she said, is simply a fact of life in Japanese American culture, which has the highest intermarriage rate of any ethnic group in the country.

"Because we are not living in Japan, because we are living in America, we have accepted that our children will not marry Japanese," said Mrs. Kamatani, who was interned during World War II because of her ancestry. "As the second generation, being Japanese was the thing that held us together. Perhaps now there's nothing cohesive to hold us together any longer."

From New York to Los Angeles, Japanese Americans, the most integrated of Asian American groups, are at a turning point in their century-long history in the United States. Many fear that their culture is dying and that there will never be enough new immigration from Japan to reinvigorate it.

The demographic picture is stark: not just a high rate of intermarriage, but one of the lowest birthrates in the country and a paltry trickle of about 5,000 new Japanese immigrants a year.

Politically, Japanese Americans are still the best organized and most powerful of Asian American groups, with the largest number of elected officials. But after winning a

Presidential apology from Ronald Reagan and compensation in 1988 for their wartime internment, they have lost the one issue that united them.

Largely as a result, the Japanese American Citizens League, the largest Asian political group in the nation, has been riven by infighting between older and younger Japanese Americans as it gropes for a new, unifying purpose. While older members want to build a legacy of the internment, younger members are pushing the league to become a civil rights group for all Asians.

"If we insist on keeping our focus on Japanese Americans, we are just preserving the sanctity of the historical archives," said one younger member, Ron Uba, 37, president of the New York chapter. "It's like proselytizing a religion that no one practices."

Across the country, Japanese American community centers, newspapers and churches are struggling to survive. And some are failing. New York *Nichibei*, a bilingual weekly, folded in 1993, following newspapers in Los Angeles and Salt Lake City.

The strongest supporters of these institutions have been the nisei, or the children of Japanese immigrants. These Japanese Americans are now in their 70s and 80s, but few of their children and grandchildren, who are assimilated into mainstream America, are stepping forward as new leaders.

"If we don't prepare ourselves," said Paul Asaki, 35, whose grandparents immigrated from Japan and who is executive director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center in San Francisco, "in the next five or 10 years, when the last of the niseis die, there will be a chain effect that will devastate and cripple our community."

Separated by Culture and Internment

Many older Japanese Americans believe that their particular ethnic

identity is sacrosanct: they just do not feel bonds with other Asians, particularly recent arrivals, whose culture, language, education and income are different. For them, the wartime internment is particularly hard to forget, especially because they see it as linked to the very decline in their communities that they mourn.

After their release from the camps, Japanese Americans were not permitted to return en masse to the West Coast towns that had been their homes. Instead, they fanned out across the country, and were discouraged by the government from rebuilding their communities.

"When we left camp, the edict was, 'Don't gather in corners, two or three of you,'" said George Yuzawa, 80, vice president of the Japanese American Association of New York. "Don't go to the same restaurants. Don't live in apartment buildings with the same people."

Many Japanese Americans agree that a positive legacy of the internment was to integrate them into mainstream American society, which contributed to the educational and professional achievements of the children of nisei. But the psychological scars were deep: because their ancestry had singled them out and humiliated them, many nisei reacted by denying it. They did not teach their children Japanese, or send them to Saturday school, or even give them Japanese middle names.

Ilene Miyahara reacted against that mind-set. When her three sons were born three decades ago, she and her husband made them join a Japanese American basketball league and attend a Japanese American church. Eventually, they even moved to Monterey Park, Calif., where four out of the five families on their block were Japanese American.

"We moved," said Mrs. Miyahara, 55, "because we were very conscious that we wanted our children to marry Japanese."

Only one of the three did.

Who Will Cook for New Year's?

Between 1980 and 1990, the population of Asians and Pacific Islanders in this country doubled, to 7.3 million, according to census figures. Those of Japanese ancestry accounted for only about 847,500. The largest Asian group in the United States until 1970, Japanese Americans are now dwarfed in number by Chinese and Filipinos. And in the next five years they will be surpassed by Asian Indians, Koreans, and maybe Vietnamese, said Jeffrey Passel, the chief demographer at the Urban Institute in Washington.

Japanese Americans have one of the lowest birthrates of any group – about 1,470 children born per 1,000 women, according to 1990 figures, compared with more than 1,900 for the general population. What is more, because of ethnic and racial intermarriages, a rising number of these children are of mixed ancestry – more than two thirds, or 8,000 of the 12,000 children born to at least one Japanese parent in 1993.

All this has raised fears that, in a generation or two, Japanese Americans will lose their ethnic identity and culture, a process that began in the 1870s, when the first Japanese arrived.

Today even most of the elderly do not speak Japanese. Instead, in many Japanese American households, the use of Japanese is limited to a few words – like “nihongo,” meaning the Japanese language, or “hakujuin,” meaning “Caucasian” – sprinkled in English conversations.

But even these few verbal relics are vanishing.

David Miyahara, 31, whose great-grandparents were Japanese, married a Chinese American woman in May. Mr. Miyahara, one of Ilene Miyahara's three sons, worries about the survival of the rituals that have kept his large family close. His mother's sister and his father's mother kept up a Japanese tradition of celebrating the New Year over three days, cooking traditional Japanese food and receiving relatives from all over Los Angeles who came to

pay their respects on the second or third day.

But since his aging grandmother stopped preparing the feasts, the tradition has died on his father's side of the family. On his mother's, an aunt keeps it alive – for now.

“The real challenge is whether my generation – me and my brothers and cousins – will learn how to make the food and continue the tradition,” said Mr. Miyahara, a sociology professor at Azusa Pacific University. “I used to think my twin brother, Derek – he's the one who married Japanese – would. He likes cooking. But he moved to San Francisco.”

A New Role: Pan-Asian Rights

If many Japanese American parents view intermarriages with benign fatalism, unprecedented political disputes have recently pitted fathers against sons against grandsons.

The fight has been fiercest inside the Japanese American Citizens League, and recalls the strife inside the much larger National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The Citizens League helped start the public careers of several Japanese American officials, including Representative Norman Mineta of San Jose, Calif., who recently announced his plans to retire from Congress. About two-thirds of the Citizens League's members in its 112 chapters are aging nisei, and they are also the largest donors.

The generational tensions rose to the surface last year when, in keeping with the younger members' goal to take on broader civil rights issues, the national board endorsed same-sex marriages. The move alienated many of the older members, and many are expected to cancel their membership, said Carol Matsumoto, the interim national director. Already, membership is down from a peak of 31,719 in 1977 to about 25,000 today.

An example of how some Japanese institutions are remaking themselves to embrace other Asians can be found in the sororities and fraternities at the University of California at Los Angeles. Those founded by Japanese

Americans have become Asian American, said Harry Kitano, a sociology professor there who is the son of Japanese immigrants. The trend reflects the ease with which young Asian Americans mix, unhindered by the ethnic differences that may have kept their parents apart.

The Evergreen Baptist Church just outside Los Angeles – founded as the Los Angeles Japanese Baptist Church in 1925 – is another example. It was built in East Los Angeles, where many Japanese Americans lived before – but not after – the war. So when the Rev. Cory Ishida became its pastor in 1977, only 35 worshipers came on Sundays – mostly elderly, and only one family with young children. Slowly, though, some young Chinese Americans began trickling in, attracted by the church's services, which are entirely in English.

“We knew then our calling was beyond Japanese Americans,” said Mr. Ishida, 48, whose grandparents were Japanese immigrants.

In 1988, the church moved six miles to suburban Rosemead. To attract younger Asian Americans, changes were made, with the blessing of the older Japanese Americans, and they included switching to contemporary songs and instruments. Now an equal number of Japanese and Chinese Americans make up the bulk of worshipers, joined by Koreans, Filipinos and Southeast Asians. Between 1,100 and 1,200 attend Sunday services.

At the Japanese American Association of New York in midtown Manhattan, six women and one man, most of them in their 70s, sat for lunch around a kitchen table. Resting from an hour of tai chi, they talked softly of how their children had grown up. Of how many had moved away. Of how many had found non-Japanese spouses. And of how in their busy lives, their heritage was forgotten.

“It's sad to me because Japanese things are important to me,” said Ei Suzuki, an energetic woman who gave her age as over 80.

“The niseis are disappearing,” she added, “because we are of that age.”

The effect of pending immigration legislation on Asian immigrants and their U.S. citizen families will be severe

The following was taken from an information sheet distributed by the Washington, D.C.-based National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (Karen Narasaki, executive director)

H.R. 2202 in the House and S. 1394 in the Senate would drastically reduce the number of immigrants coming to the U.S. by eliminating most family preference categories, including adult unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents, married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens and siblings of U.S. citizens. Because of the annual restrictions on the number of immigrants permitted to enter, Asian immigrants have up to a 17-year wait, depending on the category and country of origin. The bills cut off even those who have already been approved and are waiting in the backlogs for their visa. In addition, both proposals would make it almost impossible for U.S. citizens to be reunited with their parents. The effect of these bills on Asian immigrants and their U.S. citizen families will be severe, as approximately 55% of Asian immigrants utilize these categories.

It is extremely unfair to change the rules for those who have been patiently waiting in line for years to reunite with their families. Congress should, at a minimum, grandfather in those already approved for immigration. Many of the families on the waiting list filed the petitions and paid filing fees and attorneys fees with the legitimate expectation that the U.S. would honor its own laws. Many Asians made the decision to immigrate to the U.S. justifiably believing that their families would be able to eventually join them. Their relatives have not been able to visit them in the U.S. for many years because of these pending applications. For an average of 10 to 17 years, these Americans and their families have arranged their lives and made decisions and sacrifices in the belief that they would be reunited with their family members.

The proposed eliminations will harm one in five Asian Pacific American families. Of the 770,000

adult children of U.S. citizens in the backlog, over 300,000 are from Asian countries; of the 1.6 million siblings of U.S. citizens in backlog, over 1 million are from Asian countries. There are approximately 9 million Asian Pacific Americans in the U.S.

Siblings, parents and adult children help stabilize the family as an economic and social unit. The ability of immigrants to become economically stable and socially integrated into society increases when families are reunited. Siblings and adult children provide economic and emotional support to parents and to each other. Parents help with childcare and provide emotional stability to their adult children. It is not uncommon for family members to provide critical financial support to each other in times of economic crisis, including help with educational costs, purchases of new homes and the opening of new businesses.

For many U.S. citizens, particularly for those who came to the U.S. as refugees, leaving relatives behind was not a choice. In many cases, because of political turmoil in a country, an adult child, sibling or

parent may be the only close family member still alive. Congress will strip these citizens of the ability to reunite with their only remaining family members and, particularly when the relative is left behind in a communist country, will put emotional and psychological burdens of guilt and separation on these citizens.

These proposals are unfair to the Asian Pacific American community.

From 1882 to 1943, the Asian exclusion laws severely restricted immigration from Asian countries. It only has been since the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 that Asians have been able to come to this country in significant numbers. Over the past 30 years, Asian Pacific Americans have made significant economic, social and cultural contributions to the U.S. For Asian Pacific Americans, the passage of these bills would be equivalent to the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, after the Chinese and other Asians helped to build the Transcontinental Railroad and cultivate the lands of California into rich farmland.

Citizens statistics in Minnesota (1990)

Compiled by the Urban Coalition

Major Asian groups	Population estimate*	Number of non-citizens	Percent non-citizens
Chinese	8,283	3,659	44%
Filipino	4,284	1,181	28%
Japanese	3,708	1,052	28%
Asian Indian	7,220	3,237	45%
Korean	12,262	1,965	16%
Vietnamese	9,543	4,332	45%
Cambodian	3,209	2,030	63%
Hmong	17,764	11,028	62%
Laotian	6,247	4,162	67%
Racial/Ethnic groups	Population estimate*	Number of non-citizens	Percent non-citizens
African American	94,798	3,708	4%
American Indian	49,507	303	0.6%
Asian/Pacific	76,771	34,287	45%
Hispanic	49,664	5,483	11%
White	4,133,189	21,350	0.5%

**Estimate is from the long-form census sample completed by about one of every four households in Minnesota.*

MEMBERSHIP

Twin Cities Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

1996 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.

How well are your investments performing? Here are two important ways to measure your returns

by Ben A. Ezaki III
Dean Witter, Minneapolis

Whatever your investment goals are, the ultimate success of your portfolio depends upon the returns it provides. Your returns come from two sources, capital appreciation and income. You can measure your portfolio's performance in terms of both by calculating "total" return. It is also important to keep track of how well your investments preserve your purchasing power. "Real" return tells you how well your investments stack up against inflation.

WHAT IS "TOTAL" RETURN?

Total return measures how much an investment appreciates annually in terms of two factors:

- 1) Capital value, and
- 2) Dividend or interest payments.

The formula is as follows:

$$\text{Total return} = \frac{\text{Annual capital appreciation}}{\text{Annual yield (dividend or interest)}}$$

For example, let's say you purchased a stock for \$50 and one year later the stock's value had risen by \$10 to \$60 and you had received a \$2 dividend during the year.

Step 1 – Calculate capital appreciation:

$$\text{Capital appreciation} = \frac{\$10 \text{ (rise in value)}}{\$50 \text{ (your cost basis)}} = 20\%$$

Step 2 – Find your annual yield:

$$\text{Annual yield} = \frac{\$2 \text{ (dividend payment)}}{\$50 \text{ (your cost basis)}} = 4\%$$

Step 3 – Calculate total return:

$$\text{Total return} = 20\% + 4\% = 24\%$$

HOW DOES INFLATION AFFECT INVESTMENT RETURNS?

Although there are many definitions, inflation is usually defined as rising prices. As prices rise, each dollar buys less and less. Over time, the value of your portfolio's returns can be severely diminished if they are not higher than the inflation rate. Ideally, your portfolio returns should be consistently higher than the inflation rate so that the purchasing power of your money is preserved.

WHAT IS "REAL" RETURN?

Real return shows you what portion of an annualized return represents preserved purchasing power and what portion was needed to compensate for purchasing power lost to inflation. To calculate an inflation-adjusted, or "real" return, subtract the inflation rate from your rate of return. For example, if an investment earns a 10% return for the year and the inflation rate is 7% for the period, the investment's "real" rate of return is 3%.

Information and data in this report were obtained from sources considered reliable. Their accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed and the giving of the same is not to be deemed a solicitation on Dean Witter's part with respect to the purchase or sale of securities or commodities.

Women and finances: How to take control

by Cynthia Kocher
Personal Financial Planner, American Express Financial Advisors

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

Too many women today still have what might be described as a detached attitude about financial matters. If they're married and earn less than their husbands, they may believe that they shouldn't have a say in how money is spent or invested. And single people, male or female, often take a laissez faire, short-term approach to finances.

Women, however, must make sure their futures are protected financially. They simply can't assume that someone else will take care of everything for them.

Women who leave the work force to focus on family issues lose earning potential and benefits – benefits that could make a difference between a comfortable retirement and one spent in relative poverty.

If you are married, it is extremely likely that you will live longer – perhaps much longer – than your husband. If you divorce, you will have to make do with smaller discretionary funds, particularly if you are the primary caretaker of children. Ultimately, marriage does not ensure a secure retirement.

Set up your own pension plan, whether or not you're working outside of the home and whether or not you're married. Even if the contributions aren't tax-deductible, the earnings can grow tax-deferred. If you're considering

Financial matters, continued on next page.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Marriage, discuss budgetary issues early on in the relationship. Come to an agreement on spending priorities and financial issues before it's too late to do anything about huge differences in points of view.

Here are some steps you can take to control your finances:

Learn about money management.

Read everything you can find. Take classes. Talk to friends. Ask questions if anything seems unclear to you. Find out what you need to know about your company's benefits. Learn about the various investment options available, such as mutual funds, stocks, government bonds, annuities and passbook savings.

Establish a credit history.

Being able to get credit will allow you to buy a car or house, go back to school or start your own business. If you've never used credit, open a savings or checking account, get a credit card from a bank or store and arrange for a credit line at your bank.

Set goals.

Decide where you want to be financially in five years, 10 years and at retirement. A qualified financial planner can help you determine how much money you'll need for retirement and how you can reach your goal.

Follow your plan.

Make saving money your number one priority. Don't spend money impulsively with the excuse of "just this once." Give priority to things that appreciate in value: real estate, education, retirement accounts.

Make certain that you're adequately insured.

You need to provide for dependents, if any, in the case of death or disability. Again, a financial planner can help you fit your insurance needs into your overall financial plan.

Start now.

Waiting for the "right time" to tackle your financial situation won't make it any easier; it will only make it harder to reach your goals. Simply failing to plan is the biggest reason that people don't get their finances under control.

Pass it on.

Teach your daughters about the importance of taking control of their financial futures. Get them started on budgeting, making choices and setting goals. Help them open a savings account or investment fund. This will be one of the most useful tools you can give to them.

WRAP - UP

Flying bats, fire, a bird made from a cake mix and disappearing dollars delight kids at Twin Cities JACL's annual holiday party

The Twin Cities JACL hosted its seventh annual Holiday Party for Kids on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Como Lakeside Pavilion in St. Paul. The party was free again this year to all attendees.

Forty kids, ranging in ages from three months to 14 years, enjoyed a visit from Santa (a.k.a. Min Tsuchimochi), and each child received a personalized gift bag filled with surprises.

This year's entertainment featured "Eric the Juggling Magician," who "wowed" the crowd with his daredevil juggling antics and his amazing slight of hand.

Families were encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys to be donated to Toys for Tots. Cash donations received at the party were also donated to Toys for Tots.

A big thank you to the many people who helped with the party. If you are interested in chairing or co-chairing the 1996 party, please call Chris Murakami Noonan, (612) 486-9150.



Lots of "oohs and aahs" filled the room as Eric the Juggling Magician juggled baseball bats at the Twin Cities JACL's Holiday Party for Kids.

Beautifully restored "home movies" from the internment camps to be shown at Walker Art Center April 17

Twin Cities JACL co-sponsors special screening

As part of its Pan-Asian Film Festival in April, the Walker Art Center presents *Something Strong Within* at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, in the Walker auditorium.

Through never-before-seen "home movies" shot by inmates themselves, *Something Strong Within* (directed by Bob Nakamura and produced by Karen Ishizuka, 1994, U.S.A., 40 minutes) offers a rare inside view of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Beautifully restored prints enhanced by moving first-person accounts reveal a unique insight into the experience of being unjustly accused and detained. This documentary received the Silver Muse Award from the American Association of Museums and the WorldFest Bronze Award at the Houston International Film Festival.

The April 17 program also will feature *Halving the Bones* (produced, written and directed by Ruth Ozeki Lounsbury, 1995, U.S.A., 70 minutes). In this film, a three-part autobiographical odyssey into the hidden patterns in family life and the nature of memory, Ozeki Lounsbury documents her attempts to bring the bones of her grandmother to her mother, who has cut herself off from most of her past. Through original footage, home movies and archival films, we are shown the grandmother's life in Hawaii as a picture bride, and then we hear her daughter's story in her own words. In the final part of the film, the mother accepts the bones – her part of them – and then mother and daughter attempt to reconcile, strangers no more.

In a separate program at 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, the Walker

presents an encore screening of *The Year of My Japanese Cousin*.

JACL and Walker Art Center members will receive a discount on tickets. For more information and reservations, call the Walker box office, (612) 375-7622.

Media Artist-in-Residence Spencer Nakasako screens new student videos at the Walker Art Center

In March, the Walker welcomes Spencer Nakasako as a media artist-in-residence. Nakasako has worked in nearly every facet of film and video production – from producing and editing award-winning documentaries to writing narrative features, most notably for director Wayne Wang. Since the early 1990s, he has worked in the Southeast Asian community, training at-risk refugee youth in video production. For the Walker screenings, Nakasako introduces work created by some of his video/film students.

VYDC Videos, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, in the Walker Lecture Room, showcases work by Nakasako's students at the Vietnamese Youth Development Center (VYDC) in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1992-1995. U.S., approx. 60 min.

A.K.A. Don Bonus, to be shown at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 22, in the Walker Auditorium, is an award-winning documentary focusing on Sakly "Don Bonus" Ny, a Cambodian-born teen who had been a participant in Nakasako's media workshop. Using a Hi-8 camcorder to compile a video diary of his senior year in high school, Ny creates a powerful self-portrait of growing up amidst the challenges of poverty, racism, violence and loneliness. Ultimately *A.K.A. Don Bonus* is an empowering tale of struggle and personal triumph among the uncertainties and hardships of America in the mid-1990s. 1995, U.S., 55 min.

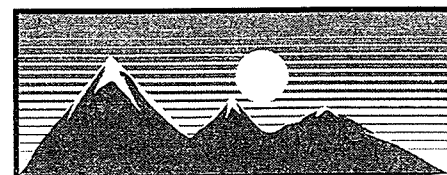
For more information, call the Walker box office, (612) 375-7622.

Acclaimed writer David Mura presents an overview of Asian American literature in a one-night Asian American studies "class"

On Monday, March 11, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Asian American Renaissance, David Mura presents an engaging, informal survey overview of the Asian American literature movement. This presentation delineates the historical waves of Asian American literature, explores some of the most prominent issues regarding the field, surveys some of the key authors, and assesses the current state of the field. Resources, bibliographies and information about publishing Asian American work also will be distributed.

About the speaker: David Mura is an award-winning poet, critic, playwright and essayist, as well as a performance artist. He is the author of five books, including *Turning Japanese: Memoirs of a Sansei* and his forthcoming *Where the Body Meets Memory: An Odyssey of Race, Sexuality and Identity*. In 1995 he was the Edelstein-Keller Visiting Professor at the University of Minnesota, where he taught a class on Asian American literature.

This "One-Night Stand" on Asian American literature will be held at the Asian American Renaissance, 1564 Lafond Ave., St. Paul. Tickets are \$5. For more information and reservations, call the Renaissance, (612) 641-4040.



Yuri Kochiyama, one of the most distinguished Asian American activists in the U.S., discusses Asian American history and activism

On Sunday, March 31, 7 to 9 p.m., Asian American Renaissance presents Yuri Kochiyama and a "One-Night Stand" overview of Asian American history and activism.

This whirlwind survey of "where we've been," takes a look at three aspects of Asian America: The history from 1850 through World War II; the Asian American Movement, 1968 through the 1980s, and the impact of the civil rights and black movements; and the diverse, expanded Asian American population in the 1990s – how can we unite and work together?

About the speaker: A community activist in Harlem since the 1960s, **Yuri Kochiyama** is one of the most distinguished Asian American activists in the country. Her history-making work for human and civil rights has inspired a generation of Asian Americans.

Kochiyama also is known for her close association with Malcolm X, her consistent support of political prisoners, and her work on behalf of reparations for Japanese Americans interned during World War II. Her life was the subject of a recent documentary by award-winning film-video maker Rea Tajiri.

This "One-Night Stand" on Asian American history and activism will be held at the Asian American Renaissance, 1564 Lafond Ave., St. Paul. Tickets are \$5. For more information and reservations, call the Renaissance, (612) 641-4040.

Sticky Rice: The Power of Community

Asian American Renaissance publishes the first annual issue of its community journal



The Journal of the Asian American Renaissance is a place of intersection for Asian Americans; a printed meeting place where the ideas, opinions, creative expressions and personal journeys from the community coincide, mingle, cross-over and sometimes collide.



This created space is important to the Asian American community. Our community is made up of several ethnicities. There is not one Asian American voice. There is not one Asian American aesthetic. Most of us are still learning about each others' culture. This journal is one way that we can learn about each other, to foster new understanding amongst us. It also is a way to contribute to the notion of pan-ethnicity.

The journal is not simply a literary journal. It is a place where Minnesota writers, community workers and artists can express their ideas and create dialogue in their own ways.

Here is a preview of some of the writing included in this issue:

Esther Suzuki's documentation of her experience in the internment camps more than 50 years ago reveals her knowledge as a teenager that the "relocation camps" were really concentration camps and that one could escape them to find their own kind of freedom. In *A Transforming Hmong Community*, May Kao Yang believes that the current generation of Hmong students will carry the Hmong community into the future. Sara Ryung Clement, Ami Hall and Kari Smalkoski explore the thorny identity issues as women who were adopted from Korea. Bao Phi imagines a relationship with Ricky, a real-life character whose tumultuous life was documented on film, both here in the

United States and back in Vietnam; in *Working-Class Culture: Not an Oxymoron*, Joanna Kadi examines the need for an analysis of class oppression. Mai Neng Moua describes buying "food-stamp groceries" at an upscale grocery store. Nhien T. Nguyen writes this about her piece, *Sour Rice*: "I hope this story not only relates to those who have experienced divorce, but also to those who understand the complexities of being in an Asian family and community." Demian Hess, who's mother is Chinese and father is Jewish, remembers vignettes of his life in *"But, you don't look Chinese."* David Mura, Andrew K. Kim, Dipankar Mukherjee and Veena Deo reflect on Asian American art and aesthetics. Minna E. Hong's performance excerpt deals with race issues as well as sexuality issues. Immigration status, physical space and distance are themes in Sunaina Maira's *Geography*.

In all, *Sticky Rice: The Power of Community* encompasses the work of 23 Minnesota Asian American writers who have contributed many different kinds of writing, including critical perspectives, fiction, creative non-fiction, memoir, poetry and playwriting. The genres are as varied as the writer's backgrounds and represent some of the complexities, differences and commonalities within the Asian American community.

Copies of the *Journal of the Asian American Renaissance* are available for \$5 plus \$2.50 postage by calling the Renaissance, (612) 641-4040. The journal also is being sold at these book stores: Hungry Mind, Orr Books, Border's and Baxter's.

You are invited to an afternoon of fun and fashion.

"Asian Accents"

by *Kanojo*
USA

*Echoes of Japanese heritage recrafted in modern fashions
with a dramatic Asian flare*

*≈ This fashion show and boutique is a benefit for the
Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League Scholarship and Operating funds ≈*

*Saturday & Sunday,
April 13 & 14, 1996*



*Airport Marriott Hotel Ballroom
2020 East 79th St., Bloomington*



*Special advance tickets for either day are
\$20 through March 15; \$25 from March 16.*

Reservation deadline is April 1.

*Reserved seating will be assigned
in the order reservations are received.*

*For more information about this event,
call Sally Sudo, (612) 835-7374.*



**Kanojo fashions wardrobe you for ALL
aspects of your busy '90s lifestyle:**

- ❖ Casual weekend and travelwear – wonderful washable cottons and playwear of all types!
- ❖ Daywear for busy moms: lots of mix-and-match options!
- ❖ Professional workingwear for career women on the go!
- ❖ Special occasionwear for that event or function where you really want to look your most spectacular! We call this our Heritage Collection.

Reservation form and more details
on the other side!

"Asian Accents" by *Kanojo* USA

Saturday, April 13

- 11:30 a.m. Registration
- Noon Luncheon (reserved seating)
- 1 p.m. Fashion Show (reserved seating)
- 2 to 5 p.m. Shop, try on and purchase Kanojo fashions (about 2,000 available) from the Spring Collection of Playwear, Daywear and Special Heritage garments.

Sunday, April 14

- 10:30 a.m. Registration
- 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Buffet Brunch (open seating)
- 1 p.m. Fashion Show (open seating)
- 2 to 5 p.m. Shop, try on and purchase Kanojo fashions (about 2,000 available) from the Spring Collection of Playwear, Daywear and Special Heritage garments.



Kanojo USA makes its Minnesota debut in two exciting days this spring!

Owned and managed by two third-generation Japanese American women, California-based Kanojo USA is a five-year-old company dedicated to blending ancient designs with modern styles to create "wearable art." Kanojo clothes are individually sewn, produced in limited editions, and many feature heirloom silks and hand-painted designs. Not sold in any stores, the affordable, high-quality Kanojo designs suit both career and weekend activities as well as special occasions.

In 1993 Kanojo was recognized and honored by the prestigious Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., for its commemorative design work featuring the use of antique Japanese kimonos and obis reformatted into contemporary fashions.

The Kanojo fashion show begins by telling the story of the Japanese migrating from Japan to America, continues through the generations and ends with a wedding celebration. This walk through history shows how fashion has changed and become integrated over the years, and celebrates the past and present, blending all that is rich and beautiful about the Japanese culture with modern-day energy and excitement.



"ASIAN ACCENTS" BY KANOJO USA ❖ RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

☐ **SAT., APRIL 13:** # of seat(s) _____ @ \$20 each if you make reservations by March 15 (\$25 March 16 to April 1) = \$ _____

(For April 13, reserved seating closest to the fashion show runway will be assigned in the order reservations are received.)

☐ **SUN., APRIL 14:** # of seat(s) _____ @ \$20 each if you make reservations by March 15 (\$25 March 16 to April 1) = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Sorry no refunds. Make checks payable to Twin Cities JACL. Those who wish to be seated together should submit their reservations together.

Tables seat 10 people. Requests will be accommodated in the order reservations are received.

Mail this form & payment to: Tom and Reiko Ohno
3520 Beard Curve, Bloomington, MN 55431

For reservation information: (612) 831-5869

Twin Cities JACL Chrysanthemum Banquet & Installation Program

The 49th annual Installation Banquet will be held Sunday, Feb. 25, 1996. Social hour (cash bar) begins at noon. At 1 p.m. a buffet lunch features Chicken Dijonnaise, Beef Bourignonne, assorted salads, assorted breads and rolls, dessert and beverages.

Rita Nakashima Brock will be the keynote speaker and discuss "Life in the Interstices: Bi-Racial, Bi-Cultural Americans" (see Page 1 for more details). The luncheon program also will include the installation of new Twin Cities JACL board members, recognition of outgoing board members, and a door-prize give-away.

The banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn West, 9970 Wayzata Blvd., Minneapolis, near 394 and Highway 169, (612) 593-1918. Directions: From the east on 394, take 169 north to Betty Crocker drive; go left. From the west on 394, go north on the Hopkins Crossroad; take first frontage road on right.

Tickets are \$18.50. Reservations are due Friday, Feb. 16. For more information and reservations, call Kathy Koch, (612) 884-1560.

Chrysanthemum Banquet Reservation Form

Your name (please print) _____

Phone number () _____

Names of other people included in your reservation _____

Return this form & payment by
FEB. 16 to:

Kathy Koch
2256 Overlook Dr.
Bloomington, MN 55431

(612) 884-1560

Make checks payable to
Twin Cities JACL.

Number of reservations _____ x \$18.50 each = _____ Total enclosed

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

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