

RICE PAPER

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

September 1997

"Whispered Silences" exhibition visits the Twin Cities October 4 – November 29, 1997

After many months of planning and fundraising, the Twin Cities JACL, in partnership with the Minneapolis Public Library, are pleased to present locally "Whispered Silences: Japanese American Detention Camps, Fifty Years Later," featuring photographs by Joan Myers and text by Dr. Gary Y. Okihiro of Cornell University. The exhibition tour is organized and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES).

The exhibition will be on view on the second floor of the Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, during regular library hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

Admission to the exhibition is free. Call 630-6000 for directions or more information.

A flier on the exhibition and the free public programs on Japanese American life and history, presented in conjunction with the "Whispered Silences" exhibition, is enclosed with this newsletter.

If you have any artifacts related to Japanese American history and life that you would like to place on display at the library during the exhibition period, please contact JoEllen Haugo at the Minneapolis Public Library, (612) 630-6353. For a lobby window display, the library is also looking for a photograph of the Japanese American Center on 2200 Blaisdell Avenue and the Board of America Missions of the United Lutheran Churches of America at 127 Clifton Avenue in Minneapolis. Please contact JoEllen if you can be of assistance.

A limited number of copies of Myer's and Okihiro's book, *Whispered Silences: Japanese Americans and World War II* (University of Washington Press, 1996) are available for purchase (softcover edition, \$30; proceeds benefit the Twin Cities JACL). If you would like to purchase a copy, call Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, (612) 822-7198, and specify if you would like to pick up your copy at the exhibit or if you would like it sent to you (additional shipping charges required). Books also will be available at the Normandale Japanese Garden Sukiyaki Dinner Sept. 14.

Volunteers needed to assist during the "Whispered Silences" exhibition and programs.

We anticipate that the exhibition and public programs will be visited by a large number of people and receive much high-profile visibility. As you can imagine, the number of volunteers needed to ensure that we have a successful showing during the exhibition's eight weeks in the Twin Cities is huge. Can you help? Even a small amount of time is greatly needed and appreciated. Here is list of volunteer needs:

- Opening reception on Friday, Oct. 3: set up, clean up, registration, book sales and serving refreshments. Call Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, (612) 822-7198, if you can help.
- Saturday programs on Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 and Nov. 1 at 1 p.m.: set up and clean up. Call Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, (612) 822-7198, if you can help.
- Peak hours of the exhibition (11 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays during the special events): Docents who answer visitors' questions; a training orientation, background material and a list of frequently asked questions and answers will be provided. Call Lucy Kirihara, (612) 881-2866, if you can help.
- Transportation for speakers who are presenting the special programs: to and from airport, hotel and library. Call Karen Tanaka Lucas, (612) 431-1740, if you can help.

SPECIAL NOTE: If you would like to attend the Opening Reception on Friday evening, Oct. 3 and need transportation, call Kathy Ohama Koch, (612) 884-1560, and we will make arrangements to provide a ride for you to and from the reception.

(See Page 2 for information on financially supporting this exhibition and the accompanying programs.)

SUPPORT THE EXHIBIT

We invite the members and friends of Twin Cities JACL to provide financial support for the "Whispered Silences" exhibit and accompanying programs. Donors will be recognized, either by name or anonymously, on a Donor Wall in the exhibit area. The amount of donations will not be printed. Names will be listed in the order that donations are received.

RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO:

Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, JACL Secretary, 3101 E. Calhoun Pky. #305, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Please respond by Sept. 19, 1997, in order to be recognized on the Donor Wall. If you have questions, call Cheryl, (612) 822-7198. Make checks payable to Twin Cities JACL and designate "Whispered Silences." **THANK YOU!**

Your Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

How you would like to be recognized on the Donor Wall (for example, your name or "Anonymous"; memorials may be submitted "In memory of ...") **PLEASE PRINT:** _____

KANOJO

Twin Cities JACL presents

KANOJO'S MIKADO: FALL FASHION SHOW & SALE

Admission fees and 10% of sales benefit the Twin Cities JACL.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 & 28

Bloomington Education Center, 8900 Portland Ave., Bloomington

FOR DETAILS, CHECK OUT THE FLIER ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER!

FOR TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS, CALL TOM OHNO, (612) 831-5869.

CALENDAR

Just a reminder about these upcoming community events!

Sun, Sept. 7 Twin Cities JACL Golf Tournament

Sun, Sept. 14 Normandale Japanese Garden Sukiyaki Dinner

Sat, Sept. 27 Kanojo Fashion Show and Sale

Sun, Sept. 28 Kanojo Fashion Show and Sale

Tue, Sept. 30 JACL Board meeting

Fri, Oct. 3 Whispered Silences opening reception

Sat, Oct. 4 Whispered Silences exhibition opens

Sat, Oct. 4 Whispered Silences panel of internees

Sat, Oct. 11 Whispered Silences panel of veterans

Sat, Oct. 18 Whispered Silences talk with Ken Mochizuki

Tue, Oct. 21 JACL Board meeting

Sat, Oct. 25 Whispered Silences talk with Stuart D. Ikeda

Sat, Nov. 1 Whispered Silences talk with Donna Nagata

Sat, Nov. 29 Whispered Silences exhibit closes

Dec. 7 or 14 Holiday Party for Kids (Do you know of a location where we might have this year's party? Call Chris Murakami Noonan, (612) 486-9150.

MEMBER FORUM

Members provide valuable insight on chapter's future

The Coalition Committee of the Twin Cities JACL hosted a community forum on June 7, at the Lynnhurst Community Center in Minneapolis. Thirty-eight people participated in the 2 1/2-hour session. A brief presentation by Tai Shigaki and Esther Suzuki was followed by a bento lunch. The remainder of the time was devoted to discussion by the members. Tom Ohno served as the facilitator.

Many, many thanks to all who participated in the Member Forum. Your input was greatly needed and appreciated. The chapter board is in the process of implementing several of your suggestions – including obtaining a voice-mail number (see Page 6) and is planning a retreat for the winter, when we can further discuss actions on other ideas.

Following is a summary of the Member Forum discussion.

- What is the mission of the JACL?
- The Twin Cities JACL is reactive rather than proactive; activities oriented. Suggestion: Develop a work plan for the year (National JACL has a work plan).
- If we assume the need for a JACL, then we are committed to raising a minimum "housekeeping" budget each year. We have been able to do so, but it is clear that the volunteer strength in numbers is harder to maintain. Should we raise dues instead? Are other fund-raising opportunities available that are less labor-intensive?
- How to increase and encourage participation by the sansai and yonsei. Suggestion: Sponsor a seminar about raising multiracial children.
- Social activities serve an important function. Japanese American community is all over the map. Important for school-aged youth to have a reason to meet. Biracial issues are important.
- How to recruit active members. Some are members in name only. People fall into non-participatory habits. How to work with seniors and the 20-somethings in the community. Suggestions: Personal contact is important. Personal phone calls encouraged some members to attend the community forum. Contact nonmember Japanese Americans and let them know that they are still part of the community even if they are not members. Increase visibility. Conduct a survey of nonmembers to determine why they are not members. Market to own family first. Promote positive aspects of membership; social aspect.
- How to promote the common interests among various ethnic groups. Suggestion: Unification issues, including hate crimes, welfare reform, immigration policy. Increase understanding of other ethnic groups by hearing from other groups. Action: The Pan Asian conference held last year and the May 1997 Asian festival. Japanese American

participation could have been better.

- Support by more established residents of Minnesota to new arrivals. Observation: Newer arrivals more willing to speak up for their rights. JACL provided support in the mid-70s through donation of household items. Others (social service) in Minnesota were not always willing to work with the newly arrived Southeast Asians. A member was disappointed at the poor JACL representation at the Council of Asian Pacific Minnesotans banquet on May 31, 1997, when Karen Narasaki was the featured speaker.
- There have been some controversial issues (same-sex marriage, affirmative action in California, homosexuals in the military) promoted by the National JACL. Is the same-sex marriage issue a civil rights issue? Observation: Some Nisei may feel affirmative action is not in our best interest. Since affirmative action has been eliminated, enrollment of Japanese and Chinese American students in some California universities has increased. There has been a decrease in other ethnic groups. The original name of the Twin Cities chapter was the United Citizens League because the Minnesota members did not agree with National JACL on some issues. Most of National's problems are not our problems.
- How to maintain membership input on important issues. Issues arise that require prompt attention. JACL should speak up in a timely manner. The board struggles with how to best represent the membership and wants to be able to represent the interests of entire membership. Board is elected by the membership. We hardly see each other. Suggestion: Regular monthly meetings for members to get together and to promote discussion. Include meals.
- Information dissemination. Mailings need to be shared and circulated in a timely manner. Ensure JACL is on

Member Forum, continued on Page 5.

1997 Twin Cities JACL board of directors

Ben A. Ezaki III, president	472-1985
Thomas Hara, vice president	420-9562
Daryl Johnson, treasurer	728-8040
Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, secretary	822-7198
Connie Fukuda, membership	927-9126
Cheryl Miyazaki Lund, programs	884-7420
Chris Murakami Noonan, newsletter	486-9150
Lynn Yamanaka, vice president/historian	
David Hayashi, National JACL treasurer	822-3659
Joanne Kumagai, MDC governor	420-6639

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

MEMBERSHIP

Twin Cities Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

1997 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 \$ 50
_____ Couple/Family membership \$ 80
_____ Student membership \$ 15
_____ Senior membership \$ 45
_____ Senior Couple membership \$ 80

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 \$ 35

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.

Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota Seeks New Members

The Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota (JAVM) is an organization of Americans of Japanese ancestry who have served or are serving in the United States Armed Forces. JAVM is open to all Japanese American Veterans. There currently are 24 members, with veterans from the MIS and 100/442 (from World War II) and the Korean War.

Our purpose is to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members, to perpetuate the memory of the deceased veterans and to educate the general population of the contributions of Japanese Americans.

On April 5, 1997, two of our veterans, Tosh Abe and George Yoshino, presented the colors at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Twin Cities chapter of the JACL. Members Bud Nakasone, Tom Oye, Tosh Abe and Tom Ohno will be involved in a panel discussion for the "Whispered Silences" showing at the Minneapolis Public Library on Oct. 11. Other veterans have participated in panel discussions and spoken at events and schools. (Please note: These public appearances are not a requirement to be a member of JAVM.)

Meetings are held on an "as-needed" basis. There are two or three potluck meetings a year with spouses.

If you are interested in joining, please call Bud Nakasone, president, (612) 429-4102; Sam Honda, vice president, (612) 429-3410; or Kathy Ohama Koch, secretary/treasurer, (612) 884-1560. We will be having our next potluck get-together in October, so call for more information and come check us out!

National Japanese American Memorial Foundation's Major Fund-Raising Campaign Started

The mission of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation is to create a memorial in Washington, D.C. Under Congressional statute, this memorial will recognize the loyalty, courage, sacrifices and contributions to the greatness of this nation made by Americans of Japanese ancestry and their immigrant parents during World War II, despite injustice rooted in ethnic prejudice.

The memorial will be a park-like structure built on approximately 3/4 acres of land between the Capitol Building and Union Station. An estimated 30,000,000 people will pass this site during each year.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all Nikkei to leave a legacy to all Americans. It will tell the throngs visiting the nation's capital that we too are Americans who have contributed to its history and greatness.

It will take much money to establish this memorial. We will need the financial support of the Nikkei community and our non-Japanese American friends to build, for the first and perhaps only time, an enduring monument in the capital of the United States honoring the faith and loyalty of all Americans of Japanese origin.

The goal is to raise \$8.5 million. This will cover National Office administrative, fund-raising, engineering, construction and continuing future maintenance and educational costs. Directors contribute their time and all their expenses, which in many cases amounts to thousands of dollars per year.

The foundation is registered as a nonprofit corporation and is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit Section 501(c)(3) organization. Any contribution, great or modest, is tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

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Monetary contributions can be sent to:
National Japanese American Memorial
Foundation
2445 M Street NW, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20037
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Member Forum, continued from Page 3.

multiple mailing lists. Suggestion: Make the chapter more accessible through a P.O. box, e-mail or voice mail. Produce a monthly mailing. Pacific Citizen is an important tool for information dissemination, but it contains outdated information and is West-Coast based. Need to have perspectives that are relevant to various generations.

- People must change with the times. Some organizations are still operating under guidelines developed awhile ago. We are condemned to repeat our history if we don't know it. Must be willing to take action.
- Scholarships are an important opportunity to recognize members.
- Volunteers are needed for the 140-member JACL Credit Union. Board members are 60+ years of age.
- How about a senior citizen group for the Nisei? Group would be primarily social and provide an opportunity for the Nisei to gather.
- To preserve the culture, continue to have classes for the sansei and yonsei. Those cooking classes were great! What are some of the things the sansei and yonsei would like to learn from the Nisei? Suggestion: Classes to make Hapi coats.

Thank you to Kikugawa for preparing the bento, the facilitator, Tom Ohno, the volunteers who helped organize this event, and to Lynn Yamanaka for compiling this summary of the discussion.

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

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER

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**Discount tickets available for
San Jose Taiko performance**

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.
Ordway Music Theatre

\$18.50 EACH

(Tickets regularly \$19 + \$3.50 fees = \$22.50; SAVE \$4 through JACL)

**A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AND WILL BE SOLD IN
THE ORDER REQUESTS/PAYMENT ARE RECEIVED. DEADLINE IS OCT. 8.
TICKETS WILL BE MAILED TO YOU.**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Day phone _____

tickets _____ x \$18.50 each = total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Twin Cities JACL; designate San Jose Taiko.
Return this form and payment to: Chris Murakami Noonan
148 Hemlock Place, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
(612) 486-9150

**The Twin Cities JACL now has
voice-mail!**

Have a question, comment or
suggestion regarding JACL, but don't
know who to call? Want to hear a list of
upcoming events?

Call (612) 922-3828