

RICE PAPER

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

April 1998

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 30 – Sunday, May 3	Festival of Nations
Thursday, May 7	Scholarship Banquet
Saturday, May 9	Generations Dinner
Saturday, May 16	Lasertag/Pizza Youth Event
Saturday, June 6	Nikkei Project Open House
Saturday, June 13	Community Forum
Wednesday, July 1 – Sunday, July 5	Natl Convention, Philadelphia
Sunday, August 2	Summer Picnic
Sunday, August 30	Golf Tournament
Saturday, September 19 Sunday 13	Headwaters Fund "Walk for Justice"

CALLING ALL KIDS!!

Spring is here, and it's time for fun. The JA CL Youth Group is having a pizza/lasertag party! Strap on some armor, grab your laser gun and meet other kids from our local JA CL community. We'll meet at Laserport, 8914 Hwy 7, St. Louis Park (near Target), at 5 p.m. (til about 8 p.m.) on Saturday, May 16, for an evening of fun. Pizza and pop are provided, but you can bring quarters for the video games. Call Liz Hara at 420-9762 to R.S.V.P.

(If you're not a youth yourself, but you know of some kids who might be interested in joining us, please pass the info on, or call Liz and she'll call the kids to invite them.)

Generations Dinner Returns!

Remember those fun-filled, informal intergenerational dinners of JA CL years past? Well, this very popular event is back. Look for details on the enclosed pink flier or call Kathy Ohama Koch, 884-1560. The big day is Saturday, May 9, at noon, at Union Congregational Church (the location of the Sukivaki Dinner).

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS FUNDRAISER IS HERE AGAIN! Please volunteer.

Minnesota's largest multiethnic event, held annually at RiverCentre (formerly the St. Paul Civic Center), is our chapter's largest fundraiser this year. Our bazaar and demonstration booths require many, many volunteers in order to adequately cover this four-day event. No prior experience needed!

Most shifts in our booths are 4-5 hours long. Benefits of volunteering include: free admission to the festival, breaks so you can wander around and sample the food and entertainment, discounted parking and shuttle service, and camaraderie-building with your fellow volunteers.

Hours of the festival are:

Thursday, April 30	9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (students only)
Friday, May 1	9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (students only) 5 to 11 p.m. (general public)
Saturday, May 2	11 a.m. to 11 p.m. (general public)
Sunday, May 3	11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (general public)

We need 4 to 5 volunteers to be in the bazaar booth at all times. Volunteers working the first shifts each day may need to arrive 45 minutes before the festival opens. We also need volunteers to help set up the booth on Wednesday, April 29, from 4:15 to 8:30 p.m.

If you can help, please call Chris Murakami Noonan, 282-3027 (w) or 486-9150 (h).

For general information on the festival, call the International Institute of Minnesota, 647-0191 or go to www.iimn.org/festrations.

Community Forum focuses on hapa issues.

In the last two chapter-wide surveys conducted by the board, one of the topics of most interest to members related to hapa (mixed heritage) issues. JA CL members and friends are invited to the second annual Community Forum, planned for Saturday, June 13, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lynnhurst Community Center, Edina. Lunch provided. More details on the discussion topics are coming soon. For information, contact Lynn Yamanaka, 735-6124.

(continued)

Wrap-Up

- Tosh Abe tabulated the evaluations of last fall's "Whispered Silences" exhibit. In his summary to the board, he wrote: "Keep up the good work! The present JACL people are (in my opinion) doing a commendable job. ... In looking at the above numbers, it appears that the exhibit accomplished what it was intended to do should be considered a successful endeavor. The people who worked on so devotedly to present the exhibit should be thanked and congratulated on their efforts."
- Minneapolis Public Library gave our chapter all the supplemental materials that were in the lobby display cases and on the exhibit walls during the "Whispered Silences" exhibit there last fall. The materials are available to JACL members who would like to use them for educational purposes. Please contact Lynn Yamanaka, 735-6124, if you're interested.
- Many thanks to all who helped with the children's holiday party last December. Once again it was a rousing success. A special thanks to Kogen Taiko, who presented a wonderful, interactive and fun program for the kids and their families. Our chapter received the following letter dated December 22, 1997, from Kogen Taiko:

The Kogen Taiko Group would like to thank the JACL for the invitation to perform at the JACL Children's Holiday Party. At our practice session last night, I presented the \$200 honorarium given to us by the JACL for the performance. We were all so impressed with what a wonderful party you folks put together. And in talking with various parents at the party, we found that this party draws people not only locally, but from out of town. We see the importance of the children being able to mix with other children of their ethnic background. In other words, this party is a good thing! We would like to donate our honorarium back to the JACL, to be used for future children's parties.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Ono Kimitch, Kogen Taiko

THANKS

Many thanks to these outgoing board members who have served our chapter well for several years: Connie Fukuda, Tom Hara, Joanne Kumagai, Cheryl Miyazaki Lund. Thanks for all your hard work!

Donations from our chapter

- The Twin Cities chapter has donated \$300 to the **Sansei Yonsei Kai Japanese Dance Group** to help them purchase supplies needed to perform at the Festival of Nations.
- The Twin Cities chapter has donated \$100 to **Asian Women United** toward the organization's capital campaign to build a shelter for battered Asian women.
- The Twin Cities chapter has purchased 100 copies of *Journey to Topaz*, a book describing the internment experience. Because there are not enough copies of this book in the Minneapolis Public Schools and through the Hennepin County Library system for teachers who wish to include this book in their curriculum, at the request of Sylvia Farrells, the chapter will make these books available to teachers who wish to use them. The expense of the books and book covers will be taken from the chapter's general operating fund and the Whispered Silences budget.
- The Twin Cities chapter has donated \$100 to the **Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota** to help fund the activities of the group.

Last chance to get copies of the cooking class videos and the 50th anniversary cookbooks.

Only a limited supply remains! For information on the videos, call Kathy Hara, 420-9562. For information on the cookbooks, call Kathy Ohama Koch, 884-1560. Videos and cookbooks will be sold at the Festival of Nations.

MISC.

A pair of blue leather gloves was found on the coat rack at the Chrysanthemum Banquet February 22 at the Holiday Inn. Call Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, 822-7198, to claim them.

Did you know?

Of the 112 local chapters of the JACL, California, Oregon and Washington have a total of 84 chapters, constituting 80% of the JACL membership. This compares with nine Midwest chapters that comprise 8% of the total JACL membership. Yet states covered by the Midwest chapters have a total of 91 U.S. representatives or 21% of the membership of the U.S. House of Representatives, compared to 66 or 15% of the membership of the House representing the three West Coast states.

MEMBERSHIP

Twin Cities Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

1998 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:

Ben Ezaki
5932 Hillcrest Road
Mound, MN 55364

Phone: (612) 472-1985

Make checks payable to Twin Cities JACL.



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