

RICE PAPER

Newsletter of the Twin Cities chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League

February 1999

Newly elected Hennepin County Attorney is annual banquet keynote speaker

The 52nd annual Twin Cities JACL Chrysanthemum Banquet and Installation of the Board of Directors will be held Sunday, Feb. 28, 1999, at the Holiday Inn West. (See enclosed flier for details.) The keynote speaker will be newly elected Hennepin County Attorney, **AMY KLOBUCHAR**, sworn in on Jan. 4, 1999. She is serving a four-year term.

The Hennepin County Attorney administers an office of 160 lawyers and serves as the chief prosecutor of all adult felony and juvenile crimes in Hennepin County. The County Attorney is also responsible for advising the County Board of Commissioners and departments of county government, as well as representing the county in civil lawsuits and bringing child support and child protection actions. Hennepin County includes Minneapolis and 45 other municipalities with a population of more than one million residents.

Prior to her election as County Attorney, Klobuchar was a partner with the Minneapolis law firm of Gray, Plant, Mooty. She was earlier a partner with Dorsey & Whitney, the largest law firm in Minnesota, where she served as an advisor to former Vice President Walter F. Mondale.

Klobuchar has been a community leader serving in elected leadership positions on a number of community boards and organizations. She was a leading advocate for state legislation that ensures a minimum 48-hour hospital stay for new moms and their babies. In 1996, Klobuchar was a recipient of the *CityBusiness* "40 Under 40" Award for business and community leaders in the Twin Cities.

She is the author of a book, *Uncovering the Dome*, which chronicles the political history behind the building of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome. In its third printing, it has been used as a course book at more than 50 colleges and universities. Klobuchar is a graduate, *magna cum laude*, of Yale University and the University of Chicago Law School, where she was associate editor of the *Law Review*.

Klobuchar grew up in suburban Hennepin County and now lives in Minneapolis with her husband, John, and their three-year-old daughter.

Reservations for the Twin Cities JACL's annual banquet are due Monday, Feb. 22. For more information, call Kathy Ohama Koch, event coordinator, (612) 884-1560.

Teacher Workshop sponsored by Twin Cities JACL

The Twin Cities JACL is sponsoring a teachers workshop, titled "The Japanese American Internment Experience and World War II," to be held on Feb. 11, 1999, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Bloomington National Armory in Bloomington, Minn.

Supported by grants from the JACL Legacy Fund and American Express Financial Advisors East-West Exchange Employees Network, the workshop targets teachers in Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts. According to Sally Sudo, Twin Cities JACL Education Committee Chair, "The workshop is timely because the Japanese American internment is a required topic in newly implemented grade level expectations for Minneapolis Public Schools, grades 5, 8 and 11."

Speakers will include local educators Tom Ohno, Sylvia Farrells, Sandy Rubenstein and a panel of internees. There is no fee to attend the workshop, and continental breakfast and bento lunch will be served.

Interest in the workshop was generated when Ohno and Sudo gave a one-hour presentation to Minneapolis Public Schools grade 11 social studies teachers this past fall. Most teachers present had never covered the internment topic and requested additional information.

This workshop will be similar to one held in Minneapolis last June as part of the NISEI project, funded by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF). Speakers were Greg Marutani, Teresa Maebori, Daniel Teraguchi and Jackie Kuwada (intern). Internees Sudo, Ohno, Lucy Kirihiro and Esther Suzuki provided attendees with firsthand experiences.

The Twin Cities Chapter is continuing in its commitment to educate the community about the Japanese American internment. The chapter received funding from the JACL Legacy Fund and CLPEF to cosponsor an eight-week run of Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibition, "Whispered Silences: Japanese American Detention Camps, Fifty Years Later" in fall 1997. Accompanying programs included panels by local internees and veterans, and presentations by exhibition photographer Joan Myers, historian Dr. Gary Okihiro, children's author Ken Mochizuki, novelist Stewart David Ikeda and psychologist Dr. Donna Nagata. The Twin Cities Chapter recently donated three classroom sets (105 copies total) of

Workshop, continued on Page 2.

