

RICE PAPER



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

JUNE 2005



President's Message by Gloria Kumagai

The last time I wrote, the weather was unusually warm. Now, it seems unusually wet! In spite of the weather, it has been a busy spring with our major fundraiser - The Festival of Nations. This year, we had three booths - Bazaar, Food, and Origami and Ribbon Fish. A huge thank you to all of the board members who put hours of their time into these booths. Because of their commitment and involvement, we are able to raise the funds needed by our chapter for our programs and activities.

"The Board hoped to break even with this booth. We did better - we made a profit of \$4,000"

The food booth was a new venture chaired by board member, John Nakasone with assistance from his wife, Jacqueline. We learned how it takes many people - like 12 workers/shift - to work in the food booth, unlike the other booths which are staffed by 2 - 4 workers/shift. John did an outstanding job of running the booth. When I stopped by the booth on Sunday evening, he was still able to smile and be his even-tempered self!

The board hoped to break even with this booth. We did better - we made a profit of \$4,000. Thank you to everyone who helped John in this first year

venture. A huge thank you to John! Please come out and help us in the food booth next year!

The Scholarship Banquet is always a highlight on my calendar. It was wonderful to meet the sixteen graduating seniors and marvel at their accomplishments. Hopefully, they will remember JACL after college and become active members of our chapter.

I attended the screening of "Beyond Barbed Wire" at the Minnesota History Center on May 15. This well-done documentary features the stories of those who were in the 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. Watching it evoked strong emotions from the treatment of our fathers who so bravely fought in the war. Afterwards, there were displays about the MIS, and veterans, including my father, who were available to answer questions. Thank you to Cheryl Hirata-Dulas for her work on this event.

continued...

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TC JACL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Joanne Kumagai

763-420-6639

Scholarship Committee holds one seat

TC JACL WEBSITE:

www.twncitiesjacl.org

Rice Paper

President's Message Cont...

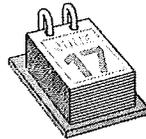
Also in May, the annual Asian Pacific Heritage Month banquet was held. This event is sponsored by the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans and recognizes those individuals who have made remarkable contributions to the Asian Pacific Community. Again, thanks to Cheryl, who nominated Tom LaVenture, writer and editor of the Asian American Press newspaper, for such an award. Tom was selected. JACL bought a table to show its support of this event. It was a lovely evening.

We have an upcoming sushi making class and Super Seniors Luncheon in June and the summer picnic in July. We are already deep into planning the annual Chrysanthemum Banquet. Our board members work very hard to plan and organize these activities for the membership. Don't forget to give them a word of thanks when you see them. We are very fortunate to have such committed and hard-working individuals who truly believe in the importance of maintaining a viable Japanese American community for you, your families, and your friends.

JACL Calendar of Events

June 18 - Craft and Culture Classes. Rachel Matsumoto.

June 21 - Board Meeting



June 25, Noon - SUPER SENIOR LUNCHEON
Grand City Buffet, 8912 Highway 7, St. Louis Park, MN (northeast corner of Hwy 7 and Hwy 169. Sam Honda (651) 429-3410. For more info, see Upcoming Events.

July 10, Noon - 4:00 pm - Summer picnic- Rosland Park in Edina. Picnic chair: Lisa Shakerin (763) 537-6829. For more info, see Upcoming Events.

July 21-24 - Bi-District Conference, Chicago, IL, Attending: Gloria Kumagai

August - Obon Festival, Como Park

September 18 (tentative date) - Golf Tournament, Francis Gross Golf Course, Chair: Dale Wakasugi

November 5 - Chrysanthemum banquet, Holiday Inn West



Kogen Taiko Calendar

June 19, 7:00 pm - St. Louis Park, Summer Park-tacular, Veterans Memorial Amphitheater, free outdoor performance

July 28, 7:00 pm - City of Coon Rapids, Dam Regional Park, free outdoor performance

August 13 and 14 - Midwest Buddhist Temple Ginza Festival, Chicago, IL, performances throughout the weekend

August 18, 7:00 pm - City of Plymouth, Parkers Lake Open Air Stage, free outdoor performance

August 21 - Como Park Lantern Lighting Festival, 4:00 pm

September 24 - Owatonna Culture Festival, free outdoor performance

* See our website for updated performance times and information: www.kogentaiko.org.



Nak Nak News by John Nakasone

It all started when Linda Van Dooijewert called to tell me that the St. Paul Nagasaki Sister City Committee was giving up the food booth at Festival of Nations. She urged me to see if the JACL board might be interested in taking it over. I brought it up to the board, and after lengthy discussion it was rejected. Too much work, too many people already working the bazaar and ribbon fish booths, not enough time etc. etc. I told this to Linda and thought this was the end of it. A couple of weeks later, Linda called me again and urged me to reconsider, noting that the Filipino booth had made record profits the year before, this opportunity rarely surfaced, and promised to come up with the necessary workers to staff the booth, and help with the setup. Based on her enthusiasm and willingness to help, I volunteered to help her if she co-chaired. We brought the idea back to the board, and with a little arm twisting, they agreed to try it for a year. They were mostly concerned that we not tap into

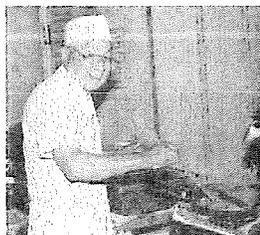


Jacqueline Nakasone

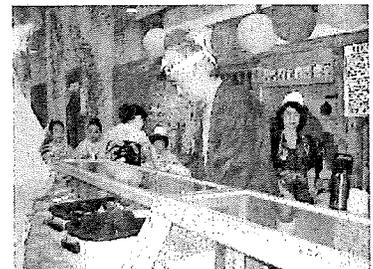
the existing labor force, and that we serve a product that people would like. Knowing that time was running out, I decided to try and tap into my wife's extensive catering and restaurant experience and she "cheerfully" agreed to help. We picked a somewhat simple menu

of beef teriyaki on rice, gyoza chicken dumplings, teriyaki chicken sticks on rice, and prepared sushi from Sushi Express in Dinkytown. We decided to try and keep our price points under \$5.00 and make items round numbers to eliminate as much change giving as possible in order to keep up with the big rushes of people we were expecting. Linda focused on getting her volunteer list filled and away we went.

Sam Honda



True to form, Linda came through with the volunteers she had promised and the big day came. Not knowing what to expect, Jacqueline and I had taken the entire week off. Although we thought we knew what we were getting into, the amount of work to be done was far greater than expected. The first two days were unbelievable. Waves of high schoolers throwing money at you hand over fist. We were constantly busy cooking and prepping food and filling orders. I think that everybody who worked those two days wondered when the letup was going to come and it never did. When I did have a chance to look around the food court I was amazed to see that our booth had lines that seemed to be as big or bigger than any other groups. In fact the whole week seemed to fly by that way. One big surprise was how popular the sushi was. If you had told me when I was in high school that my classmates were going to stand in line to buy sushi (even though we're talking veggie and California roll), I'd have tried to sell you a bridge. But I can tell you that the Sushi-ization of America has taken place.



Even more amazing than how busy we were was how good our help was. There is nothing like a pressure situation to bring out the best in people. I have too many giving people to thank to list everybody, but we really had a lot of great help. Thank you to all of the St Paul Nagasaki Sister City volunteers who provided help, and to the Nikkei project for the equipment they loaned us. Everybody rolled up their sleeves and worked their tails off for us. Thanks to all the board members who pulled double shifts in bazaar and ribbon fish and food booth. Thanks especially to all the Nisei, who were such a joy to work with, many of whom worked three shifts and multiple days. People like Sam Honda, and Yo Matsumoto, and Jim and Pearl Kusonoki, and George

and Judy Murakami and Bill Hirabayashi-and his grandson, and Ayako Olson, Carol Hanson and family and girl scouts, and the Wakasugi clan, Linda Van D., and on and on.



When all of the dust settled, we grossed almost ten thousand and netted about \$4,200.00. Was it worth it? That's for the board to decide for next year. I know that when you add it to the rest of the monies we took in, this had to be a record year for JACL fundraising. However, it is a tremendous expenditure of time and energy. On the other hand, all of our fundraising efforts are able to be done in one week with everybody working to a common purpose during the same week and also, we are able to make enough in a week to fund our organization for an entire year. I thank everybody involved for all of their hard work, and believe we can all be proud of the job we did!!.

With sadness we announce the passing of Shigeo Hotta last month, and Mitsuo Yoneji in February. We understand that Toshi (Mitsuo's wife) is moving west to be closer to her children. Jodie Tanaka was awarded a volunteer of the year at MEDA-Metropolitan Economic Development Association for her contributions to others over the years. Any truth to the rumor that she was seen first in line waiting to purchase an HOV pass? Big Congrats to Cara Sandberg who just graduated and has been awarded the prestigious James Madison Fellowship award. This fellowship will fund up to \$24,000.00 of Ms. Sandberg's course of study toward a master's degree. She is moving to Boston to attend Tuft's University. As her mother says, "this beats working".

Carly Miyamoto Faber is now at St. Catherine's in St. Paul doing undergraduate work in Biology.

Until next quarter-jn

Greetings,

This has been quite a busy quarter for membership. A big thank you to those of you who have told your friends and family about joining JACL. I hope to have quite a few more busy months ahead.

New members this quarter:

Karen and David Tsurusaki	Family Membership
Jane Sasaki	Single Membership
Shizuye Eline Knipe	Single Membership
Grant Tsuchiya	Student Membership
Seiki and Victoria Oshiro	Family Membership
Matthew Farrells	Student Membership
Selena Moon	Student Membership

New Members!

Welcome back returning members

Terry and Cecelia Kirihara Renewal Family Membership

If you have any questions about membership or if you know anyone who might want to join JACL please contact me at 612-827-5280. Respectfully Submitted, Rachel Matsumoto



**National Association of Asian American Professionals
presents "Women and Investing: Make It Happen!" workshop**

The National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP) – Minnesota Chapter is sponsoring a workshop titled "Women and Investing - Make It Happen!" on Thursday, June 30, at 6 p.m.

Description: Through a combination of thought-provoking questions, group brainstorming, workbook exercises and advisors-led discussions, the workshop gives the participants hands-on experience in setting financial goals, overcoming hurdles and understanding why it is so critical to what you want to achieve. It is designed to address women at all levels of financial understanding (including high net worth and small business owner participants) who have a broad range of financial needs.

Location: Lurie Besikof Lapidus & Company office
2501 Wayzata Boulevard, Minneapolis (612) 377-4404
Just South of Hwy. 394, exit at Penn Ave, follow the frontage road.

Cost: Free for NAAAP members, \$5 for non-members

RSVP: The RSVP deadline is Tuesday, June 28. Sign up for this workshop on the NAAAP Web site – <http://mn.naaap.org/Welcome.do> (go to the "Events" section).

Questions: Send an e-mail to Stanley Diong – sdiong@focusfinancial.com

About NAAAP-MN: The National Association of Asian American Professionals – Minnesota Chapter (NAAAP-MN) is a non-profit, professional organization that promotes the career advancement and leadership development of Asian American professionals in all fields through networking, respecting Asian multiculturalism and supporting diversity and community service. There are currently 24 chapters, ventures, and affiliates across the country and a growing national membership of over 3,000.

NAAAP-MN offers opportunities and training in the areas of professional development, mentoring, volunteering, networking and more, to our members and to the professional Asian American community.

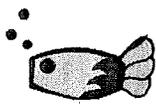
NAAAP – MN membership: If you are interested in becoming a member of NAAAP-MN, please contact Ann Phi-Wendt, president, at (612) 210-8256 or e-mail aphi@pri.org.

Submitted by Connie Fukuda



HELP WANTED:

TC JACL is looking for someone to disseminate news and event information to the membership via e-mail. The list is confidential, and is used only to relay relevant JACL, community news and events announcements. Cheryl Hirata-Dulas will assist in setting up the mailing list. Anyone interested in volunteering for this important post, please contact Gloria Kumagai at 763-377-5602.



FESTIVAL OF NATIONS: Origami and Ribbon Fish Booth

As in the past, Lil Honda and I co-chaired the origami and ribbon fish demonstration booth. The booth did a brisk business this year with volunteers who demonstrated the two art forms and sold the pre-made inventory. In January, both Lil and I turn their homes into origami and ribbon fish factories to ensure a good supply of items that can be sold at the Festival of Nations. The colorful ribbon fish and paper-folded items sell fast when they are on a stick! Interested visitors watched how to do the various paper and ribbon folds. The daring ones tried to make their own. Booth volunteers have fun working with each other and meeting new people.

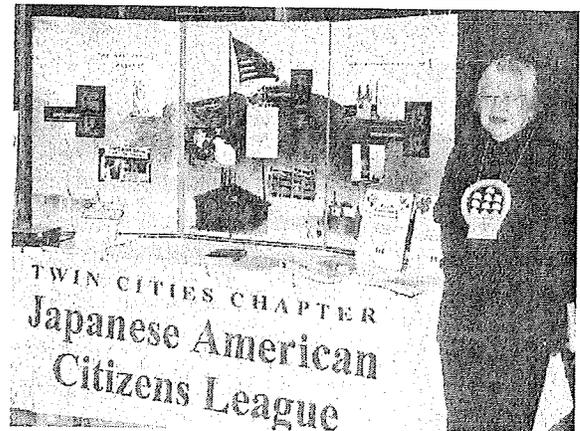
Many thanks to the following persons who helped make the booth such a success: Jean Takeshita, Laura Gpegoraro, Toshiko Newman, Sakai Hinataya, Carolyn Sandberg, Sam Shimada, Ken Oyanagi, Judy Moriguichi, Rachel Matsumoto, Ayako Chladek, and Ben, Alex, and Nick Honda, Special thanks to Jim and Yukiko Chladek who ran the booth on Saturday night, including closing it for the night. It was the first time that neither Lil nor myself could work on a Saturday night.

We hope to repeat our successful year in 2006!

Submitted by Gloria Kumagai

The TC JACL Education Committee participated in the **Annual Minnesota Council for the Social Studies Spring Conference** at the Thunderbird Hotel in Bloomington on March 3 and 4. Lucy Kirihara (pictured), Lil Grothe, and Sylvia Farrells manned the display booth, and distributed handouts of resources and had curriculum guides for sale. Sally Sudo and Jan Kirihara Monson set up the booth, and Lucy and Mikio Kirihara helped with the take down.

Submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas



The TC JACL was a community sponsor for the annual **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month banquet** held at the Marriott Hotel, Bloomington on May 20.

The keynote speaker was Hennepin County Judge Regina Chu, the first Asian American woman appointed to the bench in Minnesota (in 2002 by Gov. Jesse Ventura).

Submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas



2005 leadership awardees were honored: Richard Chantha Koy, Phuoc Thi Minh Tran, Pearl Lam Bergad, Jocelyn Ancheta, and Thomas J. LaVenture.

Rice Paper event reports

2005 High School Graduates Honored by JACL



The Twin Cities JACL's 42nd Annual Scholarship Awards Program was held on Thursday, May 12, 2005 at The St. Anthony Event Centre in Minneapolis, MN. The following 2005 high school graduates were honored at the banquet.

The evening began with dinner followed by greetings and introductions by board president, Gloria Kumagai. Fred Tsuchiya acted as the evening's Master of Ceremonies. Scholarship awards exceeded \$8000.00. The following scholarships were awarded:

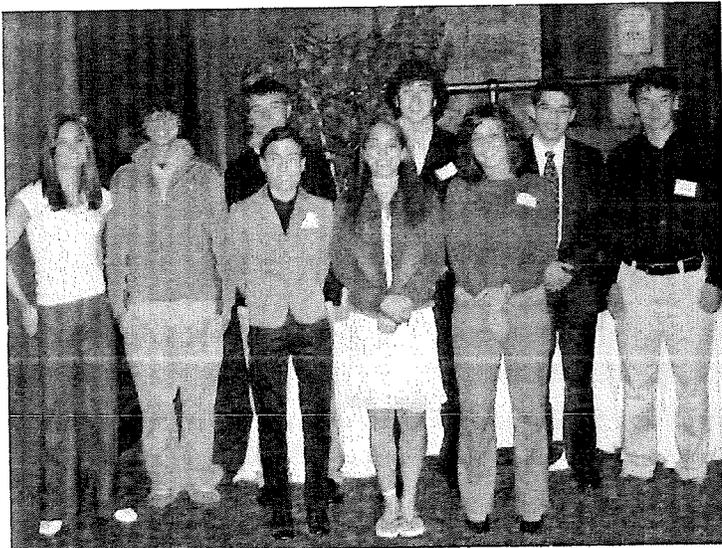
Twin Cities JACL Scholarship – Christopher Rank
Kimi Hara Scholarship (presented by Tom Hara) – Amy Kirihara
Tom and Martha Oye Memorial Scholarship (presented by Asa Oye) – Tom Kirihara
Ethel Umeda Memorial Scholarship – Matthew Girard
George Hayano Memorial Scholarship (presented by Jane Hayano) – Matthew Farrells
Tomo Kosobayashi Memorial Scholarship (presented by Sumi Kosobayashi) – Jessica Wakasugi
George Yamane Memorial Scholarship – Nicholas Miyamoto Reiter
Earl Tanbara Memorial Scholarship (presented by Tom Kurihara) – Daniel Maruyama
George Rokutani Memorial Scholarship (presented by Barb Mizuhata) – Jaime Tsurusaki
Tom Ohno Memorial Scholarship (presented by Reiko Ohno) – Grant Tsuchiya
Susan Matsumoto Memorial Scholarship (presented by Helen Tsuchiya) – Selena Moon

Congratulations and best wishes to the 2005 graduates!

If you know of any 2006 high school graduates, please contact Pam Dagoberg at 763-557-2946 or dagob001@tc.umn.edu. Local scholarship applications will be sent in January. JACL membership is required of scholarship applicants. Some of the known 2006 high school graduates are: Trenton Aoki (Eden Prairie High School), Ryan Bissonette (Andover High School), Cassandra Ann DuSold (Lakeville High School), Alexandra Ezaki, Mara Fink

(St. Louis Park High School), Tyler Kempton (Minneapolis Southwest), David Motoyoshi (Lakeville High School), Natalie Nakasone, Mariko Rank (Moundsview High School), Christine Sako, Connor Taketa (Eden Prairie High School), Danielle Tanaka (Bloomington Jefferson High School).

Submitted by Pam Dagoberg



Students from left to right: Jessica Wakasugi, Nick Reiter, Dan Maruyama, Selena Moon, Jaime Tsurusaki, Matt Farrells, Amy Kirihara, Tom Kirihara, Grant Tsuchiya

The Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota held its annual memorial service at Fort Snelling National Cemetery on May 23. Forty-five deceased Japanese American Veterans were honored, and their gravesites were decorated with flowers. Sam Honda, JAVM Vice President, led the service, Chaplain Major Jim Leston was the guest speaker, and Mary Tsuchiya and John Takekawa read the honor roll call. A luncheon at the New Century Buffet followed the service.



Chaplain Major Jim Leston and Tom Hara

Event reports and photos submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

Last year, the **Twin Cities JACL Credit Union** merged with the National JACL Credit Union. Silvana Watanabe, National JACL CU Business Developer, came to visit from the Salt Lake City headquarters for the first annual banquet/town meeting after the merger. About 60 new and old CU members attended the banquet at Buffet King in St. Paul on Feb. 27. Silvana presented the past TC JACL CU board members with plaques to recognize their years of service.



Silvana Watanabe, National JACL CU Business Developer, presenting a plaque to Ed Yoshikawa, TC JACL CU Treasurer.

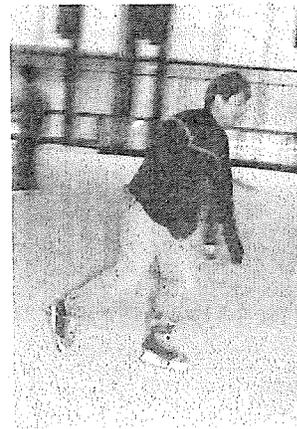


TC JACL CU members and years of service: Front row (l-r): Sam Honda (21 yrs), Ed Yoshikawa (50+ yrs) Standing (l-r): Warren Kyono (34 yrs), Jim Mizuhata (29 yrs), Dr. George Nishida (21 yrs), Mikio Kirihara (40 yrs), Ron Hirabayashi (31 yrs), Dr. George Yoshino (48 yrs). Not pictured: George Murakami (34 yrs), Roy Kyono (36 yrs).

Rice Paper event reports

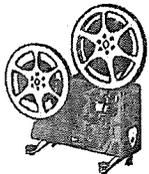


Youth Ice Skating Event! An afternoon of ice skating, hot chocolate and cookies was enjoyed by youth and parents at the Depot in downtown Minneapolis on Feb. 27.



Seated (l-r): Emi and Lianna Sako, Marissa Dulas, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Kenji Arai; standing (l-r): Eugene Sako, Natalie Nakasone, Paula Arai.

John "Speed Skater" Nakasone



The Twin Cities JACL was invited to be a co-sponsor of a showing of "**Beyond Barbed Wire**" at the Minnesota History Center on May 15. The film, narrated by Pat Morita, described the heroism of Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service and in the 100th/442nd during World War II. Local WWII veterans, Tom Kosobayashi (MIS) and Butch Kumagai (442nd), answered questions after the screening. MIS and 100/442nd displays created by the TC JACL, and Navy and Presidential Unit Citation recognizing the MIS were exhibited in the auditorium foyer.



Kathy Ohama Koch, Sam Shimada, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Tom Kosobayashi, Butch Kumagai, Gloria Kumagai and Rachel Matsumoto in front of the MIS display at the Minnesota History Center.

Event reports and photos submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

Rice Paper **upcoming events**



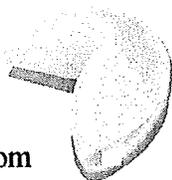
The annual JACL summer picnic will be held Sunday, July 10 at Rosland Park in Edina. Time: 12-4pm. Watch your mail for a flyer with more details. Picnic chair: Lisa Shakerin (763) 537-6829.

Dear JACLers and Friends,

Below is an invitation to the annual super senior luncheon. Please spread the word! Thank you.

TOMODACHI

SUPER SENIOR LUNCHEON



Saturday, June 25th, 12 noon

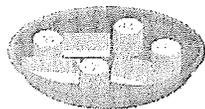
Grand City Buffet, 8912 Highway 7,
Hwy 169. Go into Knollwood Mall from
Target Store).

St. Louis Park, MN (northeast corner of Hwy 7 and
Hwy 7 on Aquila ave. and turn left, the buffet is next to

This event is sponsored by TC JACL, TC Buddhist Association and the Nikkei Project. If you are 75 plus years old (75 in year 2005) you will be our guest. Spouses, Nikkei Project, TCBA and JACL members under 75 years old, you are welcome to join our Super Seniors. Buffet lunch is \$8.00, includes tax, tip and drinks (hot tea, ice tea or pop).

For reservations call Sam Honda (651) 429-3410.

Note: Individual invitations will not be sent out this year. This event will be handled like other events. thru newsletter, flyers, and friends.



Crafts and Culture Classes

Thank you to everyone who signed up for the sushi making class on June 18 the class has been filled, YEA!! If you have signed up for this class look in your mailbox for maps directing you to Joyce's house for this fabulous event. See you on the 18th.

Rachel Matsumoto

Internment camps - shameful, forgotten part of history

My legs are beginning to cramp in the confined space of the way back seat of a Toyota Sequoia. And I wonder for a moment why we have left the comforts of my friend's posh Los Angeles home.

Seven of us Minnesotans have come to California for our annual girls' get-away. It is a respite, during which our host and former fellow Midwesterner treats us to a luxurious weekend replete with gourmet meals, tours of the city and constant chatter capped with laughter. We drink cappuccino with chocolate sprinkles in the morning and retire to a nightly ritual of margaritas in the hot tub.

But at the moment, we are 3 1/2 hours north of those creature comforts and the bustle of Los Angeles, taking a pilgrimage through the desert. The 395 Freeway parallels the snow-capped Sierra Nevada Mountain Range to the west. Our host's 9-year-old son informed us we would drive past Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the continental United States at 14,495 feet. The only other cars on the road have skis and poles atop their roofs, as avid downhillers make their way to the mountains.



CONNIE TSUCHIYA

Eden Prairie resident

We remark at the sadness on the face of the tiny towns we pass. Most are dotted with dilapidated-looking stores and trailer homes. I see my first Joshua tree - shaped like a giant piece of coral, its sprouts tufts of long, sharp looking needles.

Finally, we reach Independence, Calif., just west of Death Valley. Following an immediate left off the highway, we are greeted by a large carved wooden sign hung between two vertical logs, "Manzanar War Relocation Center."

We park our car and unload, happy to stretch our legs. But even though it is a sunlit day, we are immediately thrown off balance by powerful gusts of

desert wind. We struggle to walk as tumbleweeds roll by. I am struck by a profound melancholy sharper than the sudden sting of sand in my eyes.

Amidst the frivolity of our trip, I had almost forgotten where we were going and why.

We are at the site of one of 11 former "relocation camps," where over 110,000 people of Japanese descent (my parents and grandparents included) were interned after the onset of World War II.

Forced to sell their homes, possessions and businesses, these Americans went to the camps peacefully. They had committed no crime, but were suspect based solely on their almond-shaped eyes, dark hair and foreign-seeming customs.

The U.S. was also at war with Germany and Italy, yet only the Japanese-American men, women and children were placed inside these barbed wire-enclosed "camps."

We make our way to a cemetery where a large white monument stands in honor of people who died there. There are also markers indicating the site of barracks, a mess hall, makeshift schools and gardens.

We enter a quiet museum and watch a documentary

about the relocation process and testimonials. A rickety barracks has been preserved, once used to house multiple families. There are pictures of communal bathrooms lacking stalls for privacy, a guard tower and those ominous barbed wire fences.

A state park ranger joins us for lunch as we discuss the camp and the work of the museum. I am humbled by the struggle of my parents and all the Japanese living in America during World War II.

At the time, my father, along with other Japanese-American men eager to prove their loyalty, enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as an interpreter. True to life's circular fashion, he was trained at Fort Snelling here in Minnesota, where I would golf some 50 years later.

Over the years, I've made many acquaintances with people who, despite their honor-educated upbringing, have not been taught about this recent chapter in American history. The Manzanar museum tells the story and exemplifies the harm of racial injustice, creating hope that we Americans can learn from the mistakes of our past.

I contemplate the debt I owe the *Issei* and *Nisei*, the first

and second generations of Japanese to live in this country. They endured the camp experience without destructive hatred and rebuilt their lives.

I bow in gratitude for my American life they have made possible - picking limes from my friend's backyard trees, barbecued steak and shrimp, drinking cappuccino with chocolate sprinkles in the morning and margaritas at night.

Connie Tsuchiya of Eden Prairie is a regular contributor to the Sun-Current.

5/26/05

Rice Paper

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