

RICE PAPER

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

SEPTEMBER 2006



TWIN CITIES JACL BRINGS MOVIE PREMIERE TO CHRYSANTHEMUM BANQUET

-- "Only The Brave," starring Tamilyn Tomita, Lane Nishikawa, Jason Scott Lee, Yuki Okumoto and the late Pat Morita to be shown at Minnesota History Center prior to banquet.

They were farmers and merchants and factory workers, the sons of immigrants, the repositories of their families' hopes for a better life; they were Americans by birth, Japanese by blood and Nisei, second generation, by fate. And they were the most decorated soldiers of World War II.

The Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League will honor our community's "Greatest Generation" at this year's 60th anniversary Chrysanthemum Banquet on Nov. 19 with the Minnesota premiere of "Only The Brave," an account of the exploits of the all-Japanese 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The 2006 movie features stellar actors Tamilyn Tomita, Jason Scott Lee, Yuji Okumoto and the late Pat Morita, and it will be shown at the 3M Theater in the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul prior to the banquet.

The movie dramatizes the heroics of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, including their heroic rescue of the "Lost Battalion" Texans of the 141st Regiment, who were trapped behind enemy lines in the Vosges forest in 1944. The 442nd managed to save 211 of the 275 Texans but suffered more than 800 casualties of their own.

The premiere is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society, which is including the film showing among the many event of its year-long celebration of "The Greatest Generation" in Minnesota.

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Scholarship Committee holds one seat

TC JACL WEBSITE:
www.twincitiesjacl.org

MORE INSIDE

Rice Paper movie premiere and banquet



Minnesota has its own strong ties to the war effort. The Army established its Military Intelligence School to train Nisei interpreters during the war originally at Camp Savage in Savage, Minn. and later moved it to Fort Snelling. Some of them later settled in the area after the war ended.

After the movie, the JACL will hold its annual banquet celebrating its 60th year in the History Center's marble hall with its magnificent views of the State Capitol. The movie's writer and director, Lane Nishikawa and possibly one of the stars will be the keynote speakers for the banquet.

"Only The Brave" is the first motion picture to dramatize the story of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team from the perspective of the men who actually lived it, according to Nishikawa. The movie has been well-received at film festivals and exclusive showings in Honolulu, Denver, Eugene, Ore., Chicago and San Francisco.

Nishikawa, an award-winning playwright who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, is working on making the movie available for general release in theaters nationwide. He financed the filming through an initial grant of \$100,000 from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program and a partnership with the National Japanese American Historical Society to raise additional money through equity partners and donations from families of the 100th/442nd.

The chapter's board is hoping that the local families use this film as an opportunity to honor our Nisei elders who have sacrificed much for the Japanese American community. This is their story, told from our perspective. We are encouraging families to buy tickets to bring their children and parents to the banquet and make it a multi-generational celebration and an occasion to remember.

Tickets are \$50 for non-members, \$40 for adult JACL members, and \$35 for students and children. Please tell your family and your friends. Early reservations will guarantee seating at the movie. Sign-up information will come later.

You can learn more about the movie on the Web at: www.onlythebravemovie.com

WHAT: "Only The Brave" and the Twin Cities JACL Chrysanthemum Banquet

WHEN: Nov. 19. The movie will begin at 3 p.m. followed by the banquet at 6 p.m.

WHERE: The Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul

WHO: Guest speaker actor-director-writer Lane Nishikawa and actor to be announced.

TICKET PRICES: \$50 non-members, \$40 adult members, \$35 students and children.

CONTACT: Leslie Suzukamo, banquet co-chairman, with questions or for more information at: 651-653-0377 (evenings), 651-228-5475 (workdays) or e-mail at Suzukamo@comcast.net.

Rice Paper announcements

Festival of Nations Thank You



A belated thank you to Mintahoe and members Kelvin and Annette Lee for again providing the transportation and delivery of our inventory to the Festival of Nations. Mintahoe has faithfully provided this enormous service to our bazaar booth for several years and we thank you very much.

Board Nominations



If you are interested in serving on the JACL Board of Directors, please call Joyce Miyamoto at 651-636-3222. The Rice Paper gives you an excellent summary of the activities of the Twin Cities JACL, which are all coordinated through the Board. The time commitment is generally one meeting per month and assisting with events of your choosing. We are an active board and we welcome new faces and ideas!

New JACL MDC Youth website!



Congratulations to Lisa Hanasono who has put together an excellent website for the Midwest District Youth Council. Lisa's spent a great deal of time and effort to construct this site, which is attractive and packed with interesting information. This is a great continuation of the work that Leilani Savitt and Lisa have been doing to build a stronger youth council in the Midwest.

I am excited to share the link for our new JACL Midwest Youth website! The website was created to facilitate communication and interaction between JACL youth members around the Midwest and nation. In addition, a blog for MDC youth members to share ideas and thoughts in an efficient and fun way!

The website link is www.geocities.com/mdcyouth. Please encourage your MDC youth members to log on!

Thanks for your continued support of the JACL youth!

Memberships

Here we are again another quarter with some new faces to meet and greet. Join me in welcoming:



Hannah Semba - Minneapolis

Autumn Tani-Winegarden - Eden Prairie

Peter Yamashiro - St. Paul

If you know of anyone who is interested in joining the Twin Cities JACL please contact me or any board member with their contact information.

Joanne Kumagai

Membership Chair: 763-420-6639



Nak Nak News by John Nakasone

This year's picnic was one of our best with a small but happy group consuming large amounts of Teriyaki beef, chicken and shrimp shish-kabob's. Even though it was a little warm-nearly 100 degrees, we all enjoyed spending the day eating, laughing and playing together. Hope to see you next year!!

Congratulations to Dr. Gloria Kumagai who retired from the St. Paul School system and is now working at the University of Minnesota. We are grateful that she continues to be a very important part of the TCJACL board.

Congratulations to Marissa Dulas who is starting her first day of Kindergarten today. It's hard for me to remember what this was like when I just sent my baby off to college. I think it means Cheryl has a few less hectic hours in the day starting Thursday.

Hats off to Frank Tanaka who was surprised with an 80th birthday party thrown by wife Lil and kids Pat Tanaka, Laurie Wesley, and Rick Tanaka. Family members from as far away as California came to celebrate with Frank at the Canterbury Downs Race Track. They ran a race which was named in Frank's honor and in honor of this special occasion, the family and friends gathered in the Winner's circle for a group photo. That's a party that sounds like a lot of fun.

Our condolences to JACL friend Kathy Ohama Koch who lost her mother June first.

I hope you can find a way to help Yo Matsumoto and Judy Murakami and others in their efforts to help Asian students with their Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, Inc. which has awarded 400 scholarships to date.

Most importantly-we need everybody to sign up early for the Chrysanthemum Banquet showing of the newly made feature length film "Only the Brave" directed by Lane Nishikawa, which we will be presented at the MN History Center at 3pm on November 19th. This historic showing of the critically acclaimed and soon to be released motion picture is being sponsored and funded by TCJACL in an effort to help Lane raise the funds necessary to bring the movie to the format required by movie theaters so that the dramatic story of the 442nd's rescue of the Lost Texas Battalion can be brought to life for the rest of the country, while some of our Nisei vets are still alive.

Bring your spouse, parents, children, and friends to this once in a lifetime chance to understand and share the uniqueness and importance of the Japanese American Community's never to be forgotten contribution to the history of World War II.

We only have 300 seats available, and we're going to sell out early—trust me on this one. So don't mess up and miss out—we'll see you there...jn

Rice Paper

event reports

Date: Sunday, July 30

Temperature: 93s F

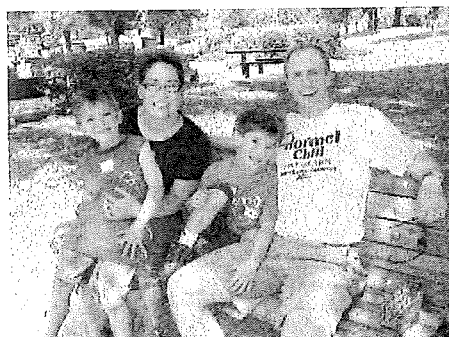
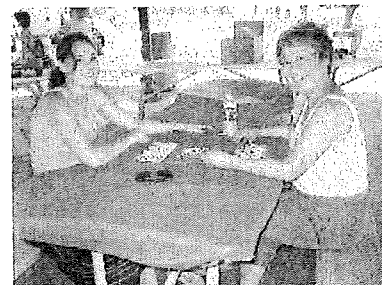
Dew Point: A sweaty 72%

TC JACL Picnic 2006: Priceless!



Thank you to John, Jacqueline, Mariko & Natalie Nakasone, Lisa (Picnic Chairperson), Chris, Duncan & Graham Shakerin/Mincks, who outdid themselves this year to provide members with a day of fun. This year was an extra special treat with the Nakasone mobile barbecue- all you could eat (& more!) shish kebabs of shrimp, beef, chicken & veggies! Many of the bingo prizes came direct from Hawaii complements of the Shakerin/Mincks' recent trip to the island. Many thanks to Cary Yamanaka who year after year arrives hours early to sweep & wash down the tables to provide us with a spotless facility. Last, but most popular, thanks to Sam Honda who was exceptionally busy this year tending to the ice-cone machine & George Murakami for calling out the many winning bingo numbers! And Kudos to all of the enthusiastic & heat-resistant members who provided many awesome potluck goodies & volunteered where needed.

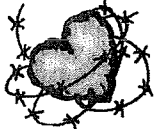
Thank you for another memorable picnic,
Jan & Mitch Kirihara/Monson
Lucy & Mikio Kirihara



Photos courtesy of Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

The Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative (NSRC) Fund Scholarship Program

From Tragic Loss Came Hope



In 1942, many Japanese Americans of college age were faced with the possibility of having their education terminated because of the mass evacuation of Japanese Americans from the West Coast and their incarceration in internment camps during World War II. Responding to this crisis, concerned educators, church groups, and service organizations formed the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council for the purpose of enabling students to leave the concentration camps and continue their education. Through the Council's efforts, over 4,000 Nisei (second-generation Japanese in America) were able to relocate to more than 500 institutions of higher learning outside the restricted areas of the Western Defense Command. A few of these students included Yo and Alice Matsumoto, Gladys Ishida Stone, Esther Torii Suzuki, Mae Oye Uemura, and Min Yoshida.

Creating Hope for Future Generations



Many of the Nisei students went on to successful and rewarding careers. But they never forgot their experience during World War II and the compassion and generosity of the Council. In 1980, a small group of former students living in New England established the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative (NSRC) Fund to honor and "repay a kindness" to those who helped them at a pivotal time, by reaching out and helping other young people. They chose Southeast Asian refugee students for assistance because of their similar experience of being uprooted by war, interned in camps, and having their education disrupted. They saw in these young students the hope and dreams they themselves carried for their families' and their communities' futures, and as such, the NSRC Fund became a symbol of their own salvation from the racism and injustices of wartime hysteria.

The NSRC Fund has grown with support from individuals throughout the United States, making it possible to award 457 scholarships totaling nearly \$400,000 to Southeast Asian students in 23 U.S. cities and regions. This program targets a different part of the country annually. In 1987, Minnesota awarded 12 scholarships, totaling \$5000. In 2007, we are pleased to once again bring this program to Minnesota when we will award \$40,000 to at least 30 deserving Southeast Asian students. The awards will include seven Named Scholarships, each given in honor of a particular individual. One of these is the Gladys Ishida Stone Scholarship established in tribute to Gladys Stone, who, with the aid of the Council, attended Washington University in St. Louis. She later became chairperson of the department of History and Social Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, and made her home in the Twin Cities.

Rice Paper new scholarship program

How to Help



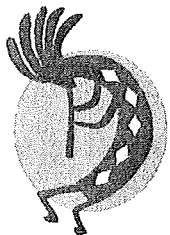
The Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization. We are dependent on donations to build our endowment fund, the interest from which supports this scholarship program. To make a tax deductible contribution to the scholarship fund or to learn more, contact: NSRC Fund, 19 Scenic Drive, Portland, CT 06480 (info@NSRCFund.org or www.NSRCFund.org). If you write a check, please indicate "MN scholarship-2007" in the memo line. This contribution will enable us to increase the Minnesota scholarships in 2007.

The local Minnesota chapter also needs assistance as we begin planning for the 2007 scholarship awards.

You can support our local Minnesota committee by:

- a) **Helping to communicate information about the NSRC Fund scholarships to potential Southeast Asian high school seniors. The local Minnesota committee plans to publicize the scholarship at schools, businesses, and community events where there are many Southeast Asians, but we appreciate your help in reaching potential candidates. The application information will be available through high school counselors, or by emailing a request to MNScholarship2007@hotmail.com or at www.NSRCFund.org**
- b) **Donating a monetary gift or pro bono service to help the Minnesota chapter cover expenses, such as printing, postage, or hosting the awards ceremony event next May to celebrate the 2007 scholarship winners.**

For more information, please contact Janet Maeda Carlson (651-436-6036, jcarlson@gw.hamline.edu); Judy Murakami (651-484-7826, gkmurakami@msn.com), Yo Matsumoto (651-739-7381, yoshiom@aol.com), Lucy Kiriara (952-881-2866, mikio29@aol.com).



JACL National Convention 2006

Rachel Matsumoto and I were delighted to serve as your delegates to the National JACL Convention held at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa, on the grounds of the Gila River Indian Community.

The National Council Meetings agenda consisted of committee reports, adoption of Program for Action, biennial budget and nominations for officers. Things went smoothly and much was accomplished. All resolutions submitted passed; and after some discussion and committee review the budget was accepted.

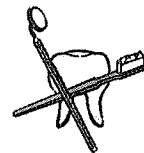
Workshops topics ranged from "American Indian and Japanese American Experiences of Internment at Gila River and Poston", "The Politics of Camp Preservation", and "Multiracial Identity: The New Face of Japanese America and the United States" to mention a few, were worthwhile attending and informative. The youth held their workshop on the topic of "What do the Youth Really Want?" Addressing issues that affect them from their perspective.

After the many long hours attending business meetings the Arizona chapter did a wonderful job acting as hosts for many events. With a Welcome Mixer held on the grounds of Rawhide, an old western town, with line dancing and a western shoot-out. A dinner theater featuring "The Camp Dance: The Music and the Memories" performed by the Grateful Crane Ensemble from Pasadena, brought many tears to those thinking back on their experiences while interned.

The Sayonara Banquet featuring Tim Terry, Jr. performing Native American ceremonies of Welcome and Closing. Hilary Shelton, Director of the Washington Bureau of the National NAACP was our keynote speaker. As awards were presented and the elected officers took the oath of office it was a moment to reflect on the future of JACL...Leadership for a New Generation.

We as a chapter and district should be particularly proud as Leilani Savitt, daughter of Gloria Kumagai and Steve Savitt, was elected as our National Youth/Student Council Representative. Congratulation's Leilani!

Submitted by Joanne Kumagai



National JACL membership benefits information

Topic: Protective Tru-Script Discount Drug Program and Dental Program

The National JACL is offering two new benefits for its members. The **Protective Tru-Script Discount Prescription Drug Program** and the **Protective or SmartHealth Dental Discount Program** is now available to **all members** who are **younger** than 65 years of age and **not under Medicare**.

A JACL member from the Chicago chapter, Cary Wong, developed these programs. They are designed to provide you, our members with discounts to many of the prescription drugs or dental services that you may be using. At the same time, the program will be providing the National JACL with revenue to help with our programs.

These programs are different from any other ever offered by us. These are not insurance programs, but a discount price programs. Therefore, there are almost no restrictions to joining. The only requirement is that you are a member of National JACL. Because these are discount price programs, there are no restrictions on income levels; health issues, no reimbursement issues, and you do not have to pass any medical tests to qualify. You may join or leave the programs at any time. For instance, if after 3 months you think that you are not saving any money, you can leave the program. But, after two more months you realize that it was a mistake or have a change in medication, you can rejoin!

The JACL realizes that prescription drug costs are a major budget factor for many of its members and their families. You can join as an individual or as a family where everyone in your household will be eligible to have their own discount price card for one low monthly price. There are also those of you that do not have dental care help. Our new dental discount program may help you with your costs. We also welcome you to have any friends and neighbors join the JACL to take advantage of these and other benefits.

Sound good? Have a few more questions? You can get more information and questions answered by accessing the JACL website at www.jacl.org and clicking the appropriate line on the home page. It will answer more of your questions, give you the list of drugs and their prices, a list of participating pharmacies and much more. The same is true for the dental program. With the dental program, there is a separate program for California members than the rest of the country.

You sign up on-line. It is easy to do from the comfort of your home. Remember there are no long term obligations. **Please check out these two programs as they really may save you a lot of money.**

If you need more help on specific information, please contact us on e-mail at jaclrxdentelpaln@jacl.org and Cary will get you your answers. Please allow a couple of days, as Cary is a volunteer as are all of us.

Rice Paper upcoming events

Filipino Hearts

A Theater Mu Original Musical - Co-presented by the Southern Theater

Written by R.A. Shiomi & Allen Malicsi

Music & Lyrics by Kurt Miyashiro

Directed by Mary Beidler Gearen

Music Direction by Anita Ruth

Choreographed by Sandra Agustin

Featuring Sandra Agustin, Francesca Dawis, Isabella Dawis, Jennifer Kelley, Allen Malicsi, Lita Malicsi, Randy Reyes, Eric "Pogi" Sumangil, Rose Le Tran, Elizabeth Truong, Ethan Xiong

A Theater Mu world premiere musical written by R.A. Shiomi and Allen Malicsi with lyrics and music by Kurt Miyashiro (The Walleye Kid: The Musical). Benny Luna, an aspiring theater artist, heads back to the Philippines to get in touch with his roots. Amidst a clash of cultures, he makes unexpected discoveries and fights for a forbidden romance. Filipino Hearts blends folktale, music, martial arts and movement with a modern story in signature Mu style.

Dates: September 23 - October 8, 2006

Venue: The Southern Theater (1420 Washington Ave. S., Mpls.)

Previews: Friday, Sept. 22 at 8pm (Tickets: \$10)

Performances: Thursdays - Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm

Monday, Oct. 2 at 8pm

Tickets: \$20

Monday, Oct. 2: Pay-what-you-can

\$2 off for students and seniors

\$4 off for groups of 10 or more

2-4-1 Preview Night and \$2 off opening weekend only when mentioning "Mu Community Partners" when making reservations

Reservations: 612-340-1720



Normandale Japanese Garden 30th Year Anniversary Celebration

Sukiyaki Sunday

October 1, 2006

Tickets

Advance Sale:

Adults \$15 — Children \$7
(10 and Under)

At the Door:

Adults \$18 — Children \$9
(10 and Under)

Proceeds Benefit the Garden

Menu

Sukiyaki with Rice
Cucumber and Shrimp Salad
Ice Cream and Fortune Cookie
Japanese Green Tea

Program

Sukiyaki Dinner, Boutique and Raffle

Kopp Student Center
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Leo Hansen and the Shakuhachi Flute

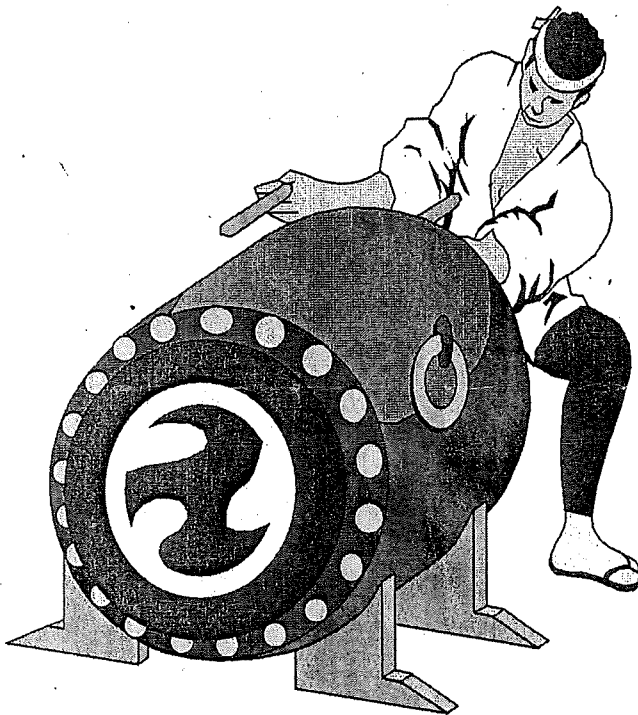
Japanese Garden
Throughout the Afternoon

Kogen Taiko Drummers

Fine Arts Auditorium
1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Martial Arts Demonstration

On the Patio
12:30 p.m.



Normandale Community College
9700 France Avenue South; Bloomington, MN 55431
www.normandale.edu/japanesegarden

For tickets or information

please call:

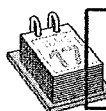
Pat Kirsch 612/866-5322 * Toshi Nishida 763/588-1742 * May Tanaka 952/934-9238

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JACL Calendar of Events

September 23 - October 8, 2006

"Phillipino Hearts" by Theater Mu
The Southern Theater (see events)

November 19, 2006 - 3:00 pm

"Only the Brave" - Chrysanthemum
Banquet and Movie Premiere (see front
page)

Minnesota History Museum



Kogen Taiko Calendar

October 1, 2006, 1:30 and 3:30

Normandale Japanese Garden
Normandale Community College
Sukiyaki Dinner (flyer inside)

November 19, 2006

JACL Chrysanthemum Banquet
Performance following the movie

**Please consult www.kogentaiko.org for up-to-date Kogen
Taiko performance and contact information.*