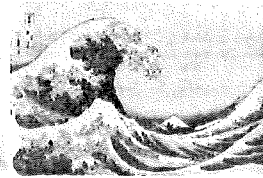


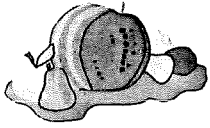
RICE PAPER



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

OCTOBER 2008

Chrysanthemum Banquet:



The 62nd Annual Chrysanthemum Banquet will once again be held at the Chateau on Medicine Lake, Saturday November 15, 2008 beginning at 5pm.

Our keynote speaker will be Tom Ikeda of the Densho project. Densho is a Japanese term meaning "to pass on to the next generation," or to leave a legacy.

It's mission is to preserve the testimonies of Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated during World War II before their memories are extinguished.

The Densho Digital Archive holds more nearly 300 visual histories (600 hours of recorded video interviews) and over 9,500 historic photos, documents, and newspapers.

The archive is growing as Densho continues to record life histories and collect photos and documents. To see what the Densho project is all about go to www.densho.org

Tom is the founding Executive Director of Densho. He is a sansei (third generation Japanese American) who was born and raised in Seattle. Tom's parents and grandparents were incarcerated during World War II at Minidoka, Idaho.

For the past eleven years Tom has volunteered his services to work at Densho. Prior to working at Densho, he was a Product Group General Manager at Microsoft Corporation where he developed multimedia CD-ROM titles. Tom also worked as a research engineer developing hemodialyzers (artificial kidneys) with Cordis Dow Corporation and as a financial analyst at the Weyerhaeuser Company.

Tom graduated from the University of Washington with a BS in Chemical Engineering, BA in Chemistry and an MBA. Recent awards include being the 2004 recipient of the Humanities Washington Award for outstanding achievement in the public humanities and a 2004 recipient of the JACL Japanese American of the Biennium award.

Tickets are \$30 for JACL Member, \$35 non-members and \$20 for children 12 and under. For reservations see insert in this month's Rice Paper or contact Joanne Kumagai at 763-420-6629.



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Rice Paper ... in the news

The following article is reprinted in its entirety - courtesy of the St. Paul PioneerPress 9/8/08.



Each crane marks a life interrupted: 2 teens' goal: 120,313 origami figures to honor Japanese-Americans interned during WWII.

By Frederick Melo, fmelo@pioneerpress.com

It began with enforced curfews, shortly after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Before long, tens of thousands of Japanese-Americans were forced into ramshackle camps spread across the country from Oregon to Arkansas.

Some American history books devote little space to the forced internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, when more than 120,000 men, women and children — two-thirds of them U.S. citizens — were "relocated" under government orders.

This often-overlooked period of U.S. history hasn't escaped the notice of a handful of authors, artists and filmmakers intent on recognizing the suffering of the uprooted. It also has found voice in Eagan, where two 14-year-old girls — with no personal connection to the Japanese-American experience — have embarked on a massive remembrance project certain to take years to complete.

Michelle Reed and Carly Gutzmann are collecting origami paper cranes — one for each of the 120,313 internees. They've folded hundreds on their own and have received hundreds more from the children and grandchildren of the interned.

That's 3,200 down — and nearly 117,000 to go.

"That's pretty much everyone in Minneapolis and St. Paul," said Mary Reed, Michelle's mother. "Get 'em all to make one."

Michelle and Carly, who started their project more than a year ago, have invited anyone to help. Their hope is that many non-Japanese-Americans will connect with the effort and study up on the period. Their goal is to spread the cranes to museums, remembrance groups and the camps themselves — some of which have been reconstructed as memorial sites.

They've found a willing crane folder in Michelle's half brother, Staff Sgt. Christopher Baxter of the Minnesota Army Reserve. Baxter, 30, is at Fort Dix in New Jersey with the 353rd Transportation Unit deployed from Buffalo, Minn., and he expects to ship out to Iraq within the next month or so.

"I'm going to be contributing cranes while I'm over in Iraq and then get the rest of the unit — as many people as I can — to make cranes," said Baxter, who has already found some takers. "It's for a good cause."

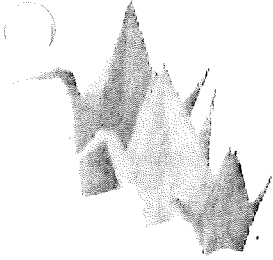
As a soldier with experience in hotspots such as Kosovo and Kuwait, he said he recognizes the U.S. was reeling after Pearl Harbor and felt the need to take decisive action. "I can understand where the government's mind frame was," he said.

"But now, looking back, I don't think it was the best way to handle that, (even though) we'd just been bombed," he said. "The people who were put into those Japanese camps, they had everything taken from them."

Michelle and Carly, friends since grade school, trace their efforts back to seventh grade.

That's when they decided to work together on an entry for National History Day, a statewide competition sponsored by the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society. The theme was "Triumph and Tragedy in History."

Rice Paper ... in the news cont...



Their entry — a 10-minute documentary they called "The Art and Soul of the Topaz Relocation Center" — focused on the work of Chiura Obata, a former internee and Japanese-American painter featured in the book "Topaz Moon."

The video, which took the girls eight months to produce, earned them a competitive ranking and has been played at conferences and museums as far away as Los Angeles.

Later, they saw the documentary film "Paper Clips," about a Tennessee school that collected a paper clip for each Jewish person killed in the Holocaust. Inspired, they folded and mailed 350 paper cranes — each no more than 3 inches tall — to the Topaz Museum, a nonprofit attempting to build a history center at Topaz, Utah's largest Japanese-American relocation center.

Children and grandchildren of internees gather there (and at other centers) annually for a summer pilgrimage. A crane-making booth was set up, and soon their 350 birds were mailed back after having multiplied into more than 1,200.

Through conferences and word of mouth, the folding continues.

Some cranes arrive by mail with tiny, handwritten inscriptions on the wings, remembering parents who have passed away. Some families have a difficult time with the origami. They send the girls the names of loved ones and ask them to fold a crane on their behalf.

Among the cranes the girls have folded, one is for Dan Tani, a U.S. astronaut whose mother, a former internee, died while he was in space.

The girls, who have European roots, said though they have no personal connection to the internment camps, they've learned much about history, injustice and forgiveness.

Some internees died because of spotty medical care. More than one were killed or injured by sentries.

Unless they could find friends and neighbors to look after their farms and businesses, many Japanese-Americans lost their crops or were forced to sell properties overnight for far less than they were worth.

Some internees went on to become household names. Among those interned as infants or children were "Star Trek" actors George Takei and Robert Ito, comedian Noriyuki "Pat" Morita and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

The girls still have a lot of work to do.

"We, hopefully, want to have this done by the time we graduate high school," Carly said. "Hopefully."

Frederick Melo can be reached at 651-228-2172.

MAKE A CRANE

Origami cranes no larger than three inches can be mailed to: Paper Cranes c/o SGI 2750 Blue Water Road Eagan, MN 55121

For more information, e-mail cranes@120313cranes.org or visit 120313cranes.org.

Rice Paper announcements



Floyd Mori Meets with TC Board

Floyd Mori, National JACL Director, was in town during the Republican National Convention. On August 31, he met with board members Joanne Kumagai, Rachel Matsumoto, Steve Ozone, and Gloria Kumagai. Leilani Savitt, MDC Governor, was also at the meeting. This was a good opportunity to update Floyd and Leilani on our chapter's activities.

Floyd shared the following information about youth programming: The JACL is placing an emphasis on further developing programs aimed at the youth in our community. We have had in place a college program that focuses on Leadership and Empowerment of youth through understanding the issues that we deal with from day to day, including Hate Crimes and the Internment. A new high school program has identified issues facing the AA community and allows these youth to understand what our "community" means through looking at history, present issues, and recommendations for the future. This is called Project Community and began with a successful pilot project in Los Angeles that looked at the issues involved with trying to preserve Little Tokyo's. A last program in the proposal state is the Heritage Academy for pre-adolescent youth where this summer camp program will help to instill a better sense of what an Asian American is in today's society as well as developing a feeling about the historical legacy of early Asian Americans. We have funding for the college and high school programs and are making applications to fund the latter.

Floyd also offered his assistance in obtaining speakers for future Chrysanthemum Banquets.



NEW MEMBERS! Please join me in welcoming the following new members:

Travis Mizuhata
Glencoe MN

Nelson and Leslie Soken
Hugo MN

James Farrells
Bloomington MN

Alison Tsuchiya
Minnetonka MN

Sachi Williamson
Edina MN

Bailey Kimitch
Eden Prairie MN

Bob and Barbara Sellstedt, Miyuki Sellstedt
Woodbury MN

If you know of individuals wishing to join JACL or participating in future events please contact me at 763-420-6639 or joannekumagai@comcast.net. Submitted by Joanne Kumagai.



Leilani Savitt, JACL National Youth Representative, Steve Ozone, Twin Cities JACL delegate, and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas at the Sayonara Banquet, 2008 JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City



Leilani Savitt has been

elected as the MDC governor filling the vacancy caused by Ron Katsuyama's election as JACL Vice President for Public Affairs.

Leilani's e-mail address is:

leilak3@aol.com

This picture (and caption) of Marissa Dulas, daughter of Dan and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas appeared in a Star Tribune article on June 15, 2008. It is about a group of Edina moms hoping to set an example for their kids by working to protect the Earth. The full article by Mary Jane Smetanka is available on-line at www.startribune.com/local/west/19962324.html?page=1&c=y.



Playtime is learning time. Seven-year-old Marissa Dulas, 6-year-old Lily Jones and 4-year-old Erik Helgeson watched a toad in his toad house outside a tepee made from branches from a felled tree in the Joneses' back yard. In the background were Jan Helgeson, left, and Julie McMahon Jones.

Rice Paper TC JACL scholarships

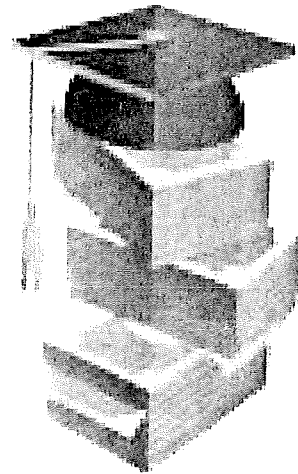
2009 High School Scholarships

Scholarship applications for 2009 high school graduates will be available in January 2009. Please contact Pam Ohno Dagoberg (763-557-2946, dagob001@tc.umn.edu) if you are interested in obtaining a scholarship application or would like to recommend someone for a scholarship.

Scholarship recipients must be current JACL members. Individual Student or Family membership status is required (Individual membership of a parent does not qualify the student to receive a scholarship). To obtain a membership application, please contact Joanne Kumagai at 763-420-6639.

Applications will be sent to the following students:

Kaia Fink (St. Louis Park High School)
Sarah Hobein (Wayzata High School)
Miki Rank (Moundsview High School)
Chelsea Reiter (Stillwater High School)
Ellie Satoh (Edina High School)
Emmaline Soken (Liberty Classical Academy)
Evan Soken (Liberty Classical Academy)
Jessica Sudo (Forrest Lake High School)
Sachi Williamson (Minnehaha Academy)



In addition to completing the application form and submitting a transcript, students must write a short essay entitled "The Value of Further Education." Applications are evaluated based on scholastic achievement, extra curricular activities, community service and the essay.

Completed applications must be mailed by March 31, 2009.



15 JACLers practiced making sushi and manju on June 21 and took home their own shamoji, sushi mat, and a plateful of food! Rachel Matsumoto taught sushi preparation and microwave manju at the home of Joyce Miyamoto. Thanks to Reiko Ohno for sharing her manju recipe - we have all enjoyed Reiko's special treat at many JACL events. The great turnout included Lisa Shakerin, Lisa Tsuchiya and friend, Tamiko Saame and Stella, James Harrold, Mary and April Dennison from Rochester, Aida Taniguchi, Gloria Kumagai, Sharon Miyamoto, Tom Reiter, Haruko Miyamoto, Kathy Hara, and Cindy Tamaki.

Rice Paper Banquet Reservation Form

Reservations for the Twin Cities JACL 62nd Anniversary
Chrysanthemum Banquet with Guest Speaker Tom Ikeda
 Saturday, November 15, 2008
 at the Chateau in Medicine Lake

Name (please print): _____ Phone: _____

E-mail (if this is a convenient way to contact you about your reservation): _____

I would like to make reservations for _____ number of individuals.

Names of people included in your reservation (including yourself)	Prices: \$30 for JACL Members, \$35 non-members and \$20 for children 12 and under
TOTAL ENCLOSED	

Rides provided for those in need. Contact Rachel Matsumoto (612) 877-5280

Return form and payment by **Monday, November 3rd** to:
 Joanne Kumagai (763) 420-6639
 14362 91st Place North
 Maple Grove, MN 55369

Make checks payable to Twin Cities JACL
 Sorry, no late reservations accepted

Dinner Menu**

Oriental Salad
 Grilled Salmon with Plum Ginger Sauce
 Chicken Teriyaki
 Stir-fried Vegetable Medley
 White Rice
 Vanilla Cheesecake with Fresh Seasonal Berries
 Green Tea and Coffee

Child's meal (12-years and under): Crispy chicken strips, macaroni and cheese, potato triangle, fruit, milk, dessert.

**Vegetarian meal available upon request.

WANTED: Silent Action Donations

A silent auction will be held during this year's Chrysanthemum Banquet on Saturday, November 15. If you would like to donate an item, please contact Rachel Matsumoto at ramat001@gmail.com.

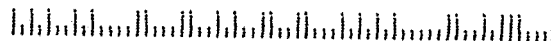


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