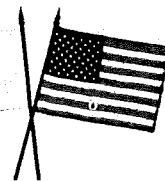


THE RICE PAPER



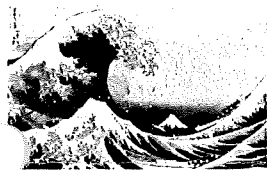
APRIL 2009

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER OF
THE JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE

WEBSITE:
WWW.TWINCITIESJACL.ORG

Chapter to Host National JACL Youth Conference: Volunteers Needed

Our chapter will host the National JACL Youth Conference, to be held June 26-28, 2009 at Macalester College. Over 100 youth from across the country, ages 13 – 25, are expected to attend. We need at least 40 volunteers to drive youth to and from the airport, and help with check-in and check-out as well as during the conference. If you can give any time, please contact Gloria Kumagai, 763-377-5602 or at Gloriak377@aol.com.



Please encourage our local youth to attend the conference. The chapter will fund up to 10 youth registrations. Information and registration can be found on <http://www.jacl.org/youth/conference-youth.htm>. For registration funding, contact Gloria Kumagai, 763-377-5602, Gloriak377@aol.com.

Please support this wonderful opportunity for Japanese American youth locally and nationally.

TC JACL UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Thur-Sat, April 23-25: GARAGE SALE #1 (details inside)

Fri, April 30 - Sun, May 3:
Festival of Nations, St. Paul RiverCentre

May 28-30: GARAGE SALE #2 (see details inside)

June 26-28:
National JACL Youth Conference, Macalester College

Sunday, August 2, 8 am - 5 pm:
Annual Picnic! Edina Rosland Park Pavilion

MEMBERSHIPS:



Please welcome our
newest member: Ellie Satoh - Edina MN

For more information about our chapter, membership and upcoming events go to our website at HYPERLINK "<http://www.twincitiesjacl.org>"
www.twincitiesjacl.org

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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David Motoyoshi: 952-435-7991
Jacob Nakasone: 612-248-1896
Steve Ozone: 612-789-0660
Lisa Shakerin: 763-537-6829
Cary Yamanaka (Treasurer):
952-432-2055

Scholarship Committee holds one seat

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TC JACL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT/DENSHO GARAGE SALES

SPRING CLEANING TO PRESERVE OUR COMMUNITY'S HISTORY

In order to provide funds to preserve our community's history through interviews of some of our members, the TC JACL Oral History Project, in collaboration with DENSHO, is sponsoring two garage sales. We need your help to meet our goal of \$20,000. Please donate and shop. Bring your family and friends.

GARAGE SALE #1

Date: Thursday-Saturday, April 23-25, 2009

Time: 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Where: Carolyn Nayematsu's porch

1446 Summit Avenue

Saint Paul, MN 55105

651-699-7407

GARAGE SALE #2

Date: May 28-30, 2009

Time: 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Where: Steve Ozone's garage

2319 Cleveland Street

Minneapolis, MN 55418

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

Gently used clothing (all types-baby, children, women, men)

Small household items and kitchen items, including tableware such as dishes and sheets, towels


Decorative items and collectibles, including Asian/ethnic clothes, art

Baby items, such as toys, clothes, car seats, high chairs

Tools, Books, CDs, Jewelry, Plants

Craft items such as yarn, needles, kits

Toys, games, puzzles, sports items



NOT ACCEPTED ITEMS:

Electronics, such as computers or printers, and large furniture, or equipment

HOMES RECEIVING DONATIONS:

Lucy Kiriara, 9943 Columbus Avenue S., Bloomington, Mn 952-881-2866

Carolyn Nayematsu, 1446 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 651-699-7407

Please call ahead before dropping off your items.. You will receive a donation slip for tax purposes.

Donations will be accepted March 25-May 27, 2009.

NOTE:

If you are unable to drop off your donation, have questions and/or would like to volunteer, please contact Cheryl Hirata-Dulas at 952-925-2429 or dulas001@msn.com

The TC JACL Oral History Committee thanks you in advance for your support in this important endeavor.

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NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE



IMPACT! Your Community, Your Generation, Your JACL

By: Jacqueline Mac, Ford Fellow

The 2009 National Youth Conference will be held from June 26 to June 28 at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Anticipated to be one of the greatest Youth Conferences in the history of JACL, I conducted a short interview with National Youth/Student Council Representative Brandon Mita to elaborate.

Jacqueline: Why should JACL youth members attend this year's conference?

Brandon: For JACL members, in most instances, we think of JACL as being something like the photos that fill picture frames at our grandparents' house. These are photos from forty or fifty years ago when our grandparents were young and engaged in the social atmosphere of their time. The color on the photos has started to fade, but for them, those memories remain as happy ones. However, how do those memories of JACL then relate to our time now? Today, we no longer need to cling to our ethnic roots because we have expanded our horizons and let our leaves branch out towards the American dream. However, in branching out, we still require some of that same social interaction in order to continue to remain alive and vibrant. This youth conference serves to build and expand your network of friends and colleagues. You'll look back on this conference and the memories you created here while thinking..."those were good times..."

Jacqueline: Great. Well, what about youth who are not yet JACL members? What would attract them to the Conference?

Brandon: For non-JACL members, we awake in the morning and take a good look in the mirror to see that we're not all that different. As Asian Americans and even more simplistically, as Americans, we have dreams we want to see accomplished--for ourselves, for our family, and for our friends. With the social network of over 20,000 members and the experience of an EIGHTY year old organization, we have the tools necessary to create the future leaders of tomorrow. As a participant, you will be able to make friends with a national network of individuals just like you, as well as have the opportunity to learn about you, your community, and essential skills that are becoming more of a prerequisite to survive in this nation's tough economic times.

Jacqueline: Any last thoughts?

Brandon: This conference will be the sounding bell on over fifty years worth of tradition, culture, and fun. We, the National Youth/Student Council, are expecting this conference to be its most successful ever. With individuals traveling from all across the country to attend, this conference will bridge history and our future. This conference will assist you on road to accomplishing your dreams. **IMPACT! Your Community, Your Generation, Your JACL.**

Please visit the National JACL website for more interviews, information about the Conference, or to learn more about the National Youth/Student Council.

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HELP WANTED

Festival of Nations Volunteers

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help at this years' Festival of Nations. We're in need of more people to help us and if you could give Joanne Kumagai a call at 763-420-6639 or by email to [HYPERLINK "mailto:joannekumagai@comcast.net" joannekumagai@comcast.net](mailto:joannekumagai@comcast.net).

The following shifts are open:

Thursday, April 30th 12:30-3:00 pm

Friday, May 1st 9:30-2:00, 2:00-6:00 pm and 6:00-10:00 pm

Saturday, May 2nd 10:00-2:00 and 2:00-6:00 pm

Sunday, May 3rd 2:00- 6:00 pm

With set-up on Wednesday evening and/or take down on Sunday



This is our major fund raiser and we greatly appreciate all who have contributed to its success in previous years.



Wanted: Volunteers for the **Origami and Ribbon Fish**

Booth at the Festival of Nations, Friday, April 30 –

Sunday, May 3. We especially need volunteers for

Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers sell items and

demonstrate simple origami folds, such as the paper cup!

If you are able to help us, please contact Gloria

Kumagai, 763-377-5602 or at Gloriak377@aol.com.

HELP WANTED

To whom it may concern:

My name is Tammy Solum and I am a Client Services Specialist for Tempforce. One of my clients is in need of an Executive Assistant who is a native Japanese speaker and comfortable with the Japanese culture. I am reaching out to you to see if you have any recommendations or any referrals of people who may be interested in this opportunity.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Tammy Solum

Senior Client Services Specialist

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Helen Tanigawa Tsuchiya

Life-altering circumstances brought Helen Tsuchiya and her family to Minneapolis in 1946. "In California someone else was farming our farm and living in our house. We didn't want to go back to California.... They hated us there because we were Japanese. Minnesota saved us. I didn't run into prejudice here." At the prompting of a friend, Tsuchiya has recently begun telling students about her experiences.

On August 6, 1942, under Executive Order 9066, the Tanigawa family left Parlier, California, for Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona, where they lived in a 20-foot-square room for the next three years.

"It was so dusty it was difficult to breathe. The bathrooms had no privacy," Tsuchiya remembered. "All

these people came to our farm.... They knew that we were going to be evacuated. We had all our stuff out trying to sell. We must have gotten maybe \$2.00 for our refrigerator, \$2.00 for our stove. It was very sad. Just before we left to go to the internment camp... my mother said, 'This war is not going to last very long, so I'm going to leave some of these pictures here that would protect our home.' She had her beautiful wedding picture and I said, 'No, Mom, we need that.' She said, 'No, we're going to put it in a box and we'll leave it here and it will protect our farm... our home,' and we left.

"The next day, my older sister, who was married with two children, came to check the house before they, too, were evacuated. Everything was gone, even the upright piano that we couldn't sell was gone. The photographs were gone. We finally had to tell my mom, and it just broke her heart.... Naturally, we couldn't make the payments, so we lost the farm. It was 40 acres of beautiful land. It just killed my dad and mom."

Tsuchiya's school memorabilia attest to her academic and athletic success and popularity, all of which continued at the internment camp—with encouragement. The teachers "were so compassionate; they were good to us. They came because they felt sorry for us." Losing three years of her life and all that the family owned, though difficult, did not cause bitterness. "I am a Buddhist. Buddhism teaches you to be compassionate and kind to people. You must be compassionate, patient, and think of others in a good way," Tsuchiya works as medical secretary near her home in St. Louis Park, a job she has held for 50 years. —Ben Petry



The Tanigawa family (Helen, third from left) leaving home, August 6, 1942: "It was the last picture at our home. We wanted to take a nice picture, so we are smiling. It's not saying that we're happy." (Helen Tsuchiya)

Ben Petry is an exhibit developer at the Minnesota Historical Society. This essay is based on interviews conducted by Petry for the Minnesota's Greatest Generation Project and by singer-songwriter-activist Larry Long for the Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song™ Songbooks Project.



Minnesota's
Greatest
Generation

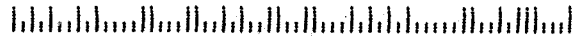
The Minnesota Historical Society is in the midst of a long-term project to preserve and present the history of "Minnesota's Greatest Generation," the men and women who grew up during the Great Depression and came of age during World War II. This essay is part of a series that spotlights the experiences of generation members from all walks of life. For more on the MHS project, visit www.mnsgreatestgeneration.org.

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