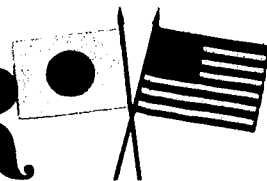


THE RICE PAPER



SEPTEMBER 2009

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER OF
THE JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE
WEBSITE:
WWW.TWINCITIESJACL.ORG



TC JACL UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

October 11, 2-4 p.m. - Minnesota History Center 3M Auditorium - Film screening of "**Most Honorable Son.**" Writer and director, Bill Kubota, will be present after the screening to answer questions about the film.

November 14 - Chrysanthemum Banquet
Featured speaker Bruce Yamashita, author of Fighting Tradition: A Marine's Journey to Justice.

Also, Tom Ikeda, Executive Director of Densho, will present excerpts from the interviews of Minnesota Nisei elders at the Chrysanthemum banquet.

NEWSLETTER

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952-432-2055

Scholarship Committee holds one seat

My First Bi-District Conference

By Matthew Farrells

My first JACL Bi-District Conference was one that I very much enjoyed. I was able to see how JACL operates and conducts business on a district and national level- how the overall vision and direction of the organization is developed, packaged, and dispersed to all of the chapters within the Midwest and Eastern districts. One of the topics discussed that I thought was particularly interesting included how to attract new, younger members (the yonsei's) to keep our organization thriving. We touched on the creation of a new symbol, different tools that chapters could use to promote membership to a college demographic and how to streamline operations and information sharing to improve efficiency via new web based mediums (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). I had the opportunity to give my input on newly developed policies that will positively impact student groups at colleges and universities across that nation in hopes of generating new interest in JACL. Being a relatively young board member, the exposure to district (and national) operations of JACL helped me to better understand what needs to be done here at home, within my own community, to achieve the challenging goals the organization faces as a whole.

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MDC/EDC Bi-District Conference



Summary of MDC/EDC Bi-District Conference - July 24-26, 2009
Submitted by Joanne Kumagai

Cincinnati was the site of our Bi-District held in July. It was a great opportunity to visit with old friends and new. But all was not fun and games....down to business.

The primary objective was to learn and bring back to our chapters a snapshot of what other chapters are doing and the tools for success as we move forward...Partnering for Change: Building Bridges in Our Community.

Available were many workshops for example, using photos effectively for news letters, websites, and historical documentation. Sheldon Arakaki, National Vice President for General Operations, presentation on "Dynamic Chapters Equals a Dynamic JACL" focused on using existing tools available to officers to help them organize the chapter and themselves, plan the year and to build a membership support group. "Smart Coalition Building That Grows Membership" provided ways chapters could use web resources to build partnership. Jacqueline Mac, JACL Ford Fellow, workshop was designed to establish a strong personal and collective foundation for participants to become future community leaders.

Leilani Savitt, outgoing MDC Governor and Twin Cities member, called the District meeting to order, followed by reports from our District Council and Regional Director Bill Yoshino.

Thanking the Twin Cities for hosting the National Youth Conference at Macalester College.
Chapters are asked to identify if there is an interest in establishing a Planned Giving program at the local level
Chapter partnership with other organizations

JACL/University affiliation groups

Future conventions are to be held in LA in 2011 and Seattle in 2012

October 10th and 11th in Milwaukee are the dates and site of the Fall meeting

Election of District Officers

Governor---Sharon Ishi-Jordan, Omaha Chapter

1st Vice Governor---Matthew Teshima, Chicago Chapter

2nd Vice Governor---Sherri Fujihira, Wisconsin Chapter

Secretary---Steve Mitori, St. Louis Chapter

District Youth Chair---TBD at our October meeting

District Youth Representative---Stephanie Nitahara, Chicago Chapter

The joint meeting, MDC/EDC, covered:

2010 National Convention to be held in Chicago over the July 4th holiday

Update on legislative actions

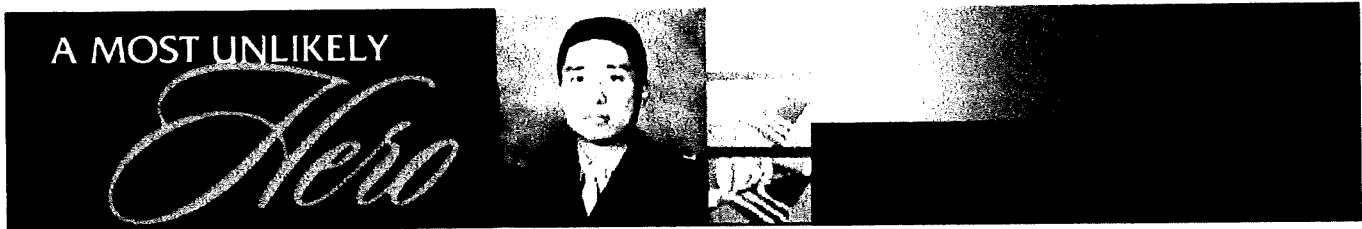
Proposed resolutions to be presented in Chicago

Closing remarks by Floyd Mori, Nation Executive Director and Larry Oda, National President

Once again, a lot was covered in a day and half but well worth attending. Matt Farrells and I left with much to share with your board and the JACL community.

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CHRYSANTHEMUM BANQUET



SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2009

The Twin Cities JAACL Annual Chrysanthemum Banquet will be held on Saturday, November 14, in the evening. Our featured speaker will be Bruce Yamashita. Bruce is a Sansei, born and raised in Honolulu. After law school, he entered the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, where he was subjected to racial taunts, physical abuse, and unfair treatment. He will share his story of how his dream of becoming a Marine Corps officer was ended by racial discrimination.

Bruce went on to fight a lonely five-year-long legal, political, and media battle, which he won. He was commissioned as a captain in the Marine Corps Reserves in 1994. Most important, with regard to the treatment of minorities, Marine Corps policy and procedures were changed forever.



Currently, Bruce lives in Washington, D.C. where he practices immigration law and criminal defense. We will be selling his book, Fighting Tradition: A Marine's Journey to Justice, which you will be able to purchase for \$20 when you send in your reservation. Bruce will autograph your copy(ies) at the end of the night.

In addition, Tom Ikeda, last year's speaker, will return to show a compilation video of the ten interviews that the Densho project did this summer.

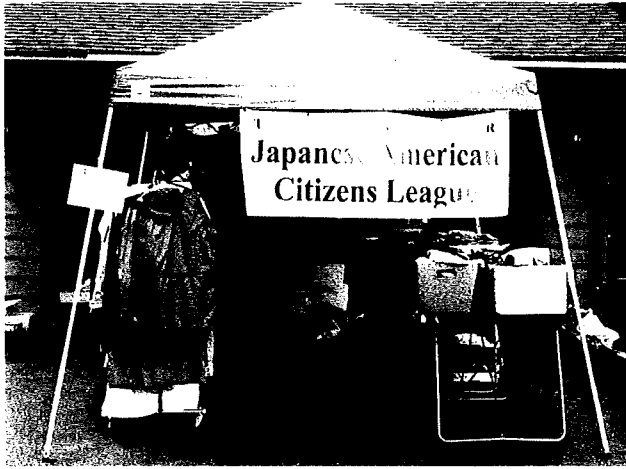
This year's banquet will be an exciting evening and will include a silent auction. So, SAVE the date – November 14 - and plan to attend!

Gloria Kumagai
Board Member

RICE PAPER

TC JACL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT/DENSHO GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale



Twin Cities JACL Oral History Project Update

Since the last Rice Paper in June, there has been much activity, with another garage sale, interviews, and more plans put in place.

Garage sale #3, held at the home of Cheral and Brian Tsuchiya on June 18 and 19, was another successful fundraiser for the Oral History project. We are grateful to the Tsuchiya family, including sons Aaron and Evan, for volunteering their home and for their hard work in organizing the sale. Thanks also to Connie Tsuchiya for her help, as well as Todd and Kyle Tsuchiya.

Additional garage sale volunteers (in addition to those listed in the June newsletter), are: Mitch Monson, Carmel Oshima, George Yoshino, Pam and Tim Dagoberg, and Lynn Yamanaka and Mari Yamanaka Thompson. Additional donors are: Pat Mcallister and Karen Tanaka Lucas.

During the week of June 15 - 18, the Densho crew of Tom Ikeda (Executive Director and interviewer), Megan Asaka (interviewer) and Dana Hoshide (videographer) flew from Seattle to Minnesota to conduct interviews. Carolyn Nayematsu and Vincent Platt hosted a reception for the Densho crew, interviewees, and planning committee members. Thank you to Bill Hirabayashi, Yo Matsumoto, Yo Matsuura, Isao Oshima, Helen Tsuchiya, Mit (Mary) Tsuchiya, Joe Uemura, Harry Umeda, Mary Yoshida, and George Yoshino for participating in the interviews and sharing their life stories. At the Chrysanthemum banquet on November 14, Tom Ikeda is planning to return to the Twin Cities to share excerpts from the interviews, so mark your calendars.

Also mark your calendars for Sunday, October 11, 2-4 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center 3M Auditorium, for a screening of "Most Honorable Son," a film written and directed by award-winning filmmaker, Bill Kubota. The documentary details the life of Ben Kuroki, the first Japanese American war hero, from enlistment after the U.S. was attacked at Pearl Harbor through his distinguished military career, and on to his long-overdue honoring with the Distinguished Service Medal in 2005. After the film screening, a question/answer session with Kubota will be held.



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TC JACL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT/DENSHO GARAGE SALES

Kubota will also be helping to complete a second phase of interviews of our Minnesota Nisei elders, to be funded by a \$16,000 grant recently awarded by the National Park Service. While the additional interviews will follow Densho's format, we will be adding a focus on the Minnesota resettlement experience.

We are grateful for the continuing support of the Japanese American community and beyond, and look forward to the next phase of our project, so that more of our community's precious stories can be documented and preserved.



Submitted by the Twin Cities JACL Oral History Project Committee
Steve Ozone, Lucy Kirihara, Sally Sudo, Carolyn Nayematsu, Penelope Snipper, and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

RICE PAPER

JACL NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE



JACL NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

The JACL National Youth Conference, IMPACT! Your Community, Your Generation, Your JACL, was held on June 26-28, at Macalester College. Approximately 70 youth from across the United States attended the conference. The conference's success was due in large part to the many volunteers who helped out with it.

Twin Cities JACL chapter involvement was wonderful. The following volunteers served as drivers, picking up and dropping off youth at the airport: Sylvia Farrells, Connie Fukada, Katie Igowsky, Joanne Kumagai, David Motoyoshi, Natalie Nakasone, Carolyn Nayematsu, Leilani Savitt, and Steve Savitt.

The Mentor Lunch involved volunteers who served as representatives of their professions. Youth were able to meet and network with these mentors to learn about professions/careers:

Local government - Nhia Vang
Medical doctor - Lisa Shakerin
Dentist - Kevin Nagagaki
Teacher - Rachel Matsumoto
Grant writer - Cheryl Hirata-Dulas
Computer technology - Yas Motoyoshi
Manager of Engineers - Pam Dagoberg
Fine arts - Iris Shiraishi
Business - John Nakasone
Marketing/sales - Chris Noonan
Medical school admissions representative - Theresa Baultrippe
Law school admissions representative – Julie Tigges

Volunteers who helped with conference registration and sessions were: Mary Dennison, Sylvia Farrells, Joanne Kumagai, Judy Murakami, Natalie Nakasone, Leilani Savitt, and Sherrie Fujihira and Margaret Igowsky from Milwaukee JACL.

Volunteers who conducted conference sessions were Tom Hara – Midwest JA History and Rachel Matsumoto – Savor the Taste: Sushi Making. (Rachel conducted her workshop three times!)

This conference was the last one to be held where youth meet on their own. Future youth meetings will be held during the annual JACL conventions. Our chapter involvement helped create a memorable experience for youth who attended it.

Again, a huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers!

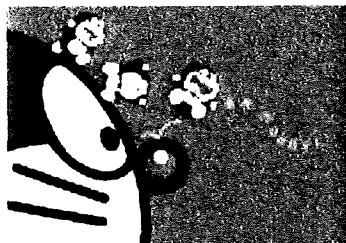
Gloria Kumagai,
National Youth Conference Liaison
Twin Cities Chapter

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JACL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Reflections on the JACL Youth Conference at Macalester College

By Jeff Yamashita



When you think about the Midwest, images of farmland stretching as far as the eye can see covered with wheat, corn, and livestock fills the mind, but gazing upon the National JACL Youth Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota this past summer, the farmland is replaced by scores of young Japanese Americans from across the nation. This was my very first JACL event and Youth Conference, and I was both excited and nervous to meet other Japanese Americans primarily from the mainland. Being born and raised in Hawaii and attending college in the Midwest, I missed the interactions and relationships of other fellow Japanese Americans and felt participating in JACL would further my knowledge and strengthen my ties to the

Japanese American community. Ultimately, the National JACL Youth Conference fulfilled my desire to explore issues related to the Japanese American youth and develop bonds with other JACL members.

I was quite impressed at the workshops held at the National JACL Youth Conference because it gave me a sense of empowerment as a Japanese American and collectively as an Asian American. One particular workshop which pertained to the detrimental stereotypes assigned to Asian Americans was informative and well organized. The group broke into smaller groups and dove into issues of the predominant narrative of Asian American stereotypes with regards to education, sexuality, gender, and citizenship. Our group was appointed the task to look at printed commercial ads, comic strips, and magazine articles which concerned the stereotypes of Asian American sexuality and gender roles. There was this specific magazine article in *Details* magazine which described and depicted the Asian American male as effeminate in appearance which also furthered the long-standing mentality of the weak, inferior Asian American male. Besides dissecting the different forms of media which perpetuated the Asian American stereotype, the group also discussed ways in which we as Japanese Americans can effectively resist and combat these malicious stereotypes.

More importantly, the National JACL Youth Conference served as an outlet for the support of networking with other Japanese Americans. When we first arrived and registered at Macalester College, the staff gave each youth participant a bag filled with distinct items, one of them being business cards. The idea of having your own business card was shockingly new to me, forgive my individual ignorance, but I was amazed that the National JACL Youth Conference staff took the time to make a set of business cards for each person. The thrill of making connections with the other youth was memorable and exchanging the business cards solidified the experience as unforgettable. I felt quite mature and I can attest that many others felt the same, but what I was sensing during the exchanges was not only the maturity of the other youths but a sense that the JACL wanted us to begin to develop skills and attributes in order for us to be able to lead JACL into the future. By immersing us with ideas, materials, and topics on Japanese culture led by intelligent and thoughtful facilitators and staff, I was able to truly connect with my Japanese American heritage.

Ultimately, the connections and friendships that I formed during the National JACL Youth Conference and especially during the luncheon were special. The luncheon was structured in a manner which allowed the youth participants to talk to prominent leaders and experts in the community in various fields. My passion and goal is to obtain a PhD in Ethnic Studies and particularly, Asian American studies, and at the luncheon, I was fortunate to meet some PhD candidates and they were able to shed some advice and wisdom on the graduate school process. I am very grateful and appreciative that the JACL cares about the growth and livelihood of the youth participants and I can truly say that I had a blast and look forward to next year's combined JACL Convention in Chicago.

Jeff attends Macalester College, where he found out about the conference through an email the college sent to students. He is the nephew of Bruce Yamashita, this year's Chrysanthemum Banquet speaker.

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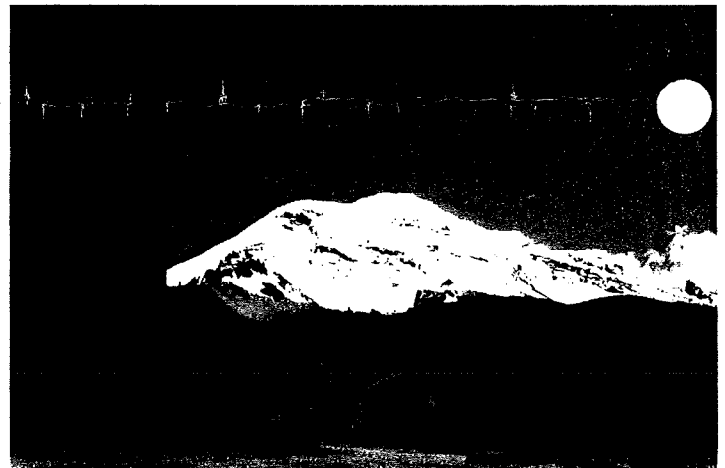
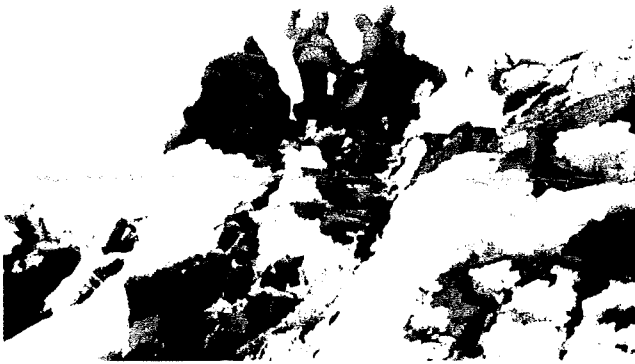
DR. RANK CLIMBS ECUADOR

A Member's Big Adventure: Dr. Brian Rank Climbs Ecuador

Submitted by Jan Monson

Dr. Brian Rank traveled to Ecuador in July & reached the summits of Rucu Pichincha, Guagua Pichincha, Iliniza Norte, & Cayambe. To climb Cayambe, they had to start at midnight when hard snow conditions exist & there's a lower risk of avalanche. Twelve hours & 19,000 ft. later, they reached the summit. Dr. Rank stated that a couple of good meals, hot sulfur springs soaks & a good sleep at Papallacta hot springs helped him contemplate climbing Cotopaxi (19,300 ft.) & Chimborazo (20,700 ft.) which is the highest summit in Ecuador. Both climbs started around midnight but due to weather & time constraints, they reached 18,900 ft. of Cotopaxi & 19,800 ft. of Chimborazo. Congratulations!

Iliniza Norte summit (16,800 ft.)



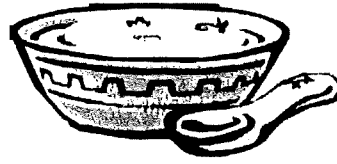
Chimborazo is Ecuador's highest summit at 20,700 ft.



Dr. Brian Rank on Chimborazo.

RICE PAPER

SUPER SENIOR LUNCHEON



The annual **super senior luncheon** was held on July 11 at the Grand City Buffet in St. Louis Park. The event, hosted by Sam Honda, is sponsored by TC JACL, TC Buddhist Association and the Nikkei Project. Guests 75 and older were treated to a free Chinese buffet. *Photos courtesy of Kodo Kawamura.*



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