



THE RICE PAPER

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

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website: www.tcjacl.org | [@TwinCitiesJACL](https://twitter.com/TwinCitiesJACL)

January 2023

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

明けましておめでとうございます。

Happy New Year to everyone!

It's been great seeing folks in the early days of 2023 as we look forward to what the new year will bring. I can say that we're off to a strong start so far, having wrapped up our largest online fundraising campaign to date with an amazing 60 donations from 52 unique donors totaling over \$4,000! I can't begin to tell you how grateful we are for the generosity all of you demonstrated, as well as how important crowdfunding efforts like these have become since so many of our major annual events have been canceled indefinitely. Thanks to you, we can continue to provide the quality programming you have come to expect and support our beautiful Twin Cities community.

Our next program will be our Day of Remembrance program in observance of the 81st anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. The program will take place on Saturday, February 18th from 3-5 pm and will be offered in a hybrid format, available both online over Zoom and in-person at the East Side Freedom Library. This year, we will hear from NY Times best-selling author Bruce Henderson about his new book, *Bridge to the Sun*, on the thousands of Nisei who were trained in the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage and Ft. Snelling in Minnesota as interpreters and interrogators, whose actions shortened the war by two years. Afterward, we will have a multigenerational and multiethnic discussion on the significance of the Japanese American incarceration experience today in the quest for justice.

The last thing I want to share is that the Twin Cities JACL Board met bright and early on Saturday, January 14th for our annual Strategic Planning meeting. We had a vibrant discussion on all of the great activities we're hoping to put on this year. We have a dedicated team of creative individuals to get the ball rolling, and thanks to your support we have the funding to cover the costs, but we still rely on the active participation of members like you to help plan, carry out, and attend all of the great events we're working on. So please consider volunteering at an event, joining a project committee, or even just sending us an email with your thoughts and ideas. We welcome any input that helps us better serve you.

v今年もよろしくお願ひします。

We look forward to working with you this year.

In solidarity,

Save the Date – Local Events

The Twin Cities Chapter of JACL has planned the following event for February 18

To register: <https://tinyurl.com/tcjacldor2033>

Twin Cities JACL Day of Remembrance

A MULTIGENERATIONAL AND MULTIETHNIC LOOK AT THE LEGACY
OF WWII INCARCERATION,
81 YEARS SINCE EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 3-5 PM CENTRAL
ONLINE AND AT THE EAST SIDE FREEDOM LIBRARY
SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY AUTHOR BRUCE HENDERSON
PANEL DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW
REGISTER NOW!

2023 High School Graduate Scholarship Applications Available

Twin Cities JACL scholarship applications for 2023 high school graduates are available on the tcjacl.org website under the Scholarships tab. Please contact Pam Dagoberg at scholarship@tcjacl.org if you are interested in receiving a local chapter scholarship application or would like to recommend someone for a scholarship.

Applications will be sent to the following students no later than January 31, 2023:

Suzy Higuchi (Blake High School)

Yuha Ikeda Hwang (Orono Senior High School)

Emily Kraby

Kaylen Schmitt

Sophia Klepp (St. Paul Central High School)

In addition to completing the application form and submitting a transcript, students must write a short essay entitled “The Relevance of JACL Today.”

Applications are evaluated based on:

- Scholastic achievement
- Extracurricular activities
- Community Service
- Essay

In addition to other available scholarships, students may apply for the Twin Cities JACL Service Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding JACL volunteerism. Students may choose to apply for this specific scholarship. If applicants are not selected for this scholarship, they will be considered for other awards.

Scholarship recipients must be current Twin Cities JACL members (individual student membership or family membership is required). Membership information can be found at www.tcjacl.org. Completed applications for Twin Cities JACL scholarships must be postmarked by April 1, 2023.

2022 Undergraduate / Graduate Scholarship Awards

Undergraduate and Graduate level scholarships were recently awarded to three Twin Cities JACL members currently pursuing Bachelors, Masters and/or PhD programs.

Misa Westby was awarded the **2022 Japanese American Citizens League Twin Cities Chapter Undergraduate Scholarship**. Misa is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in History specializing in premodern Japanese history, Japanese American transnational history, and social activism with a Computer Science minor from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Misa believes that studying history (Japanese and American history, in particular) is a way to further understand who she is culturally. This is the first step in figuring out how to make reparations and rebuild relationships with those who we have hurt. Misa is the Vice President and co-founder of the University of Minnesota’s Japanese Social Justice Organization. This student group is her first attempt to make change as a history major. Misa believes that historical knowledge and people uniting for a common cause can prevent “evil” from repeating itself.

Erik Dagoberg was awarded the **2022 Japanese American Citizens League Twin Cities Chapter Tom and Reiko Ohno Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship**. Erik is a senior in the University of Michigan’s School of Music, Theater, and Dance pursuing his Bachelor of Fine Arts – Theatre Performance Acting degree. Erik believes everyone has a unique and complicated story that explains the choices they make. His own story includes the internment of his grandparent’s families during World War II. He would like to continue to learn more about the story of his family background, including his Japanese American family history. His goal as an actor is to tell stories like these for people who are unable to tell them themselves.

Matthew Farrells was awarded the **2022 Japanese American Citizens League Twin Cities Chapter Graduate Scholarship**. Matthew is pursuing his Master of Business Administration degree from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Matthew’s interest in furthering his education in business is driven by his desire to make an impact on the colleagues and teams at work, clients served, and the communities in which we live and work. It is his passion, not only to continue to learn and develop personally and professionally, but to also give back to the communities who, through overcoming great adversity, have provided him the opportunities he would not have had otherwise.

If you are interested in learning more about available scholarships, please contact scholarship@tcjacl.org. Donations may be sent to TC JACL Scholarship c/o Fred Tsuchiya, 5311 Scenic Heights Drive, Minnetonka, MN, 55345.

History of the Twin Cities JACL Scholarship Program

The Twin Cities JACL scholarship program had modest beginnings. The Twin Cities Chapter of the JACL, formed in 1947, awarded the first scholarships in 1962. The scholarship program for graduating high school seniors began with the goal of recognizing the generation of Sansei and Yonsei for their accomplishments and service to their school or community. The original scholarship applicants had the following traits in common: a willingness to learn, a desire to succeed and the ability to demonstrate this through their accomplishments. Each year, multiple scholarships have been awarded to graduating high school seniors.

Over the years, scholarship funds originated from a variety of sources. The Eastern District and Midwest District Convention, hosted by the Twin Cities Chapter of the JACL, was the initial source of scholarship funds. The convention was very well attended and financially very successful. Kimi Hara had an idea to start a scholarship program with the convention profits because the young Sansei and Yonsei did not qualify for other minority scholarship programs that existed at that time. Many Issei donated money to our Chapter so that the scholarship program would continue.

In the 1970's the Twin Cities JACL Scholarship program received a large sum of money from the Twin Cities Independent Church, a Japanese Christian church in Northeast Minneapolis, after its sale. It was the wish of the church members that the money be used to encourage further education.

Many of the scholarships that followed were established in memory of the loved ones of Twin Cities JACL members. One of the earliest and longest awarded memorial scholarships was the Earl Tanbara Memorial Scholarship, made in memory of Earl Tanbara, who passed away in 1973. The Earl Tanbara Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to close to 50 students through the years. Another long-standing memorial scholarship was established in memory of Susan Tsuchiya Matsumoto who passed away at the young age of 26 in 1980 after a 15-year battle with cancer. This scholarship continues to be awarded to a young person who, like Susan, demonstrates outstanding academic accomplishments, excellence in the arts, and community service. Many other memorial scholarships have been made possible through the generous donations of Twin Cities JACL members.

In addition to the scholarships awarded to graduating high school seniors, the Twin Cities JACL recently added annual undergraduate/graduate level scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to a student currently enrolled in a post-secondary educational program and a student currently enrolled in a graduate level program. Applicants must be active JACL members and are required to write an essay describing their area of study and how their education will be leveraged in the future. Past recipients represent a range of studies including undergraduate and graduate degrees in Business Administration, Education, History, Theatre Performance - Acting, PhDs in Economics, Sociology, and Civil Engineering, and Jodo Shinshu Masters in Divinity.

Since the first year the Twin Cities JACL scholarships were awarded, the young people that applied have shared the same traits as their predecessors: a willingness to learn, a desire to succeed, and the ability to demonstrate this through their accomplishments. The criteria for the scholarship have remained essentially the same over the years: scholastic achievement, community service and extra-curricular activities.

2023 National JACL Scholarship Program Guidelines

Please note: The National JACL Scholarships are not the same as the Twin Cities JACL scholarships. Each program has its own application form with different requirements.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. -- The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) announced that the 2023 National Scholarship and Awards Program is now underway. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, and those specializing in law and the creative/performing arts. There are also financial aid scholarships for those demonstrating a need for financial assistance.

Scholarship Program guidelines, instructions, and applications have been posted on the JACL website, www.jacl.org, and can be accessed by clicking the “Youth” tab on the menu bar.

Following previous years, the application forms for the scholarship program will be completely online. **Freshman applications** must be submitted directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than **March 6, 2023, 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST)**.

These freshman applications will then be disseminated to their respective chapters for review. Chapters will have one month to evaluate their applications and forward the names of the most outstanding applicants to National JACL. It is these applications that shall be forwarded to the National Freshman Scholarship Committee for final selection.

Applications for the **non-freshman scholarship categories** (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts, and financial aid) are also to be sent directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than **April 3, 2023, 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST)**.

These freshman applications will then be disseminated to their respective chapters for review. Chapters will have one month to evaluate their applications and forward the names of the most outstanding applicants to National JACL. It is these applications that shall be forwarded to the National Freshman Scholarship Committee for final selection.

Applications for the **non-freshman scholarship categories** (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts, and financial aid) are also to be sent directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than **April 3, 2023, 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST)**.

All those applying to the National JACL Scholarship Program must be a youth/student or individual member of the JACL; a couple/family membership held by a parent does NOT meet this requirement. Applicants must be enrolled in school in Fall 2023 in order to be eligible for a scholarship. If a student has received two National scholarship awards previously, they are no longer eligible to apply as the limit is two national awards per person.

For more information on the National JACL Scholarship Program, contact Scholarship Program Manager, Matthew Weisby at scholarships@jacl.org

Submitted by Pam Ohno Dagoberg

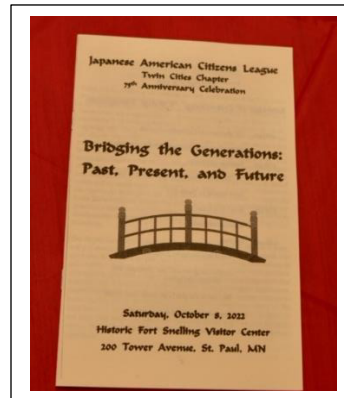
Recent Events – Local

Celebrating TC JACL's 75th Anniversary!

Twin Cities JACL 75th Anniversary Celebration

Submitted by Carolyn Nayematsu & Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

Photo Credits: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas & David Clark



On October 8, 2022, over 100 members and friends gathered at the newly renovated Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center for the Twin Cities JACL 75th Anniversary Celebration. The visitor center and museum were relocated to a rehabilitated 1904 cavalry barracks that had been used to house soldiers, including Nisei MISLS students during World War II.

After check-in, attendees could explore the new museum and exhibit areas, peruse a wide variety of items at the boutique area, and have books signed by renowned writer Frank Abe. Abe is author of the new graphic novel, *We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration*, and of the award-winning book, *John Okada: The Life and Rediscovered Work of the Author of No-No Boy*.

Carolyn Nayematsu and Ryan Sudo served as co-hosts. The program began with a video greeting from Brazil by chapter president Vinicius Taguchi, followed by a presentation by Frank Abe titled, "Three Takes on the Midwest." Past presidents, Nisei audience members, donors and other special guests were recognized, then attendees were treated to a preview of Rick Shiomi's new play, *Fire in the New World*. It was an enjoyable evening of reconnecting and celebration!

Photos Taken at the 75th Anniversary Event



Past chapter presidents: Gloria Kumagai, Tom Hara, Matt Abe, Amy Dickerson, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, and Ed Hara



Pam and Tim Dagoberg



Jim Faber, Joyce Miyamoto, and Emily Faber-Densley



Dennis Nishida, Emi Sako, and Toshiko Nishida



Daniel Dulas, Frank Abe, and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas



Jon and Amy Dickerson



Patty Kameya (left) at boutique



Staff and members of the TC JACL Board- Nancy Cass, Doug Raney, Gloria Kumagai, Frank Abe, Ammanda Neitz, Carolyn Nayematsu, Amy Dickerson, Elaine Koyama, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Ryan Sudo, Sylvia Farrells, Lisa Shakerin, Kimmy Tanaka with baby Akio, and Patrick Naidl



Martha Johnson and Rick Shiomi



Ammanda and Koko Neitz with Frank Abe



Frank Tsuchiya and Steve Savitt



Three generations of the Sudo Family – Rich, Sally, and Ryan



Elaine Koyama, Lea Kirihara, and Lucy Kirihara



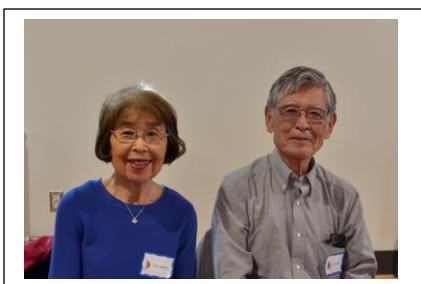
Steve Ozone and Brenda Kazar



Colorful and beautifully bento boxes from JK's Table



Kathy and Tom Hara



June and Nobu Sugisaka



Karen and Les Suzukamo



Chris Noonan with George and Judy Murakami



Karen Tanaka Lucas and Steve Lucas



Sharon Shimomura and Diane Wells



Kesha and Eli Tanabe with Jamie Cork



The Ed Hara Family-Kristen (Hara) Pehl, Jamie Pehl, Frankie Pehl (front), Kathy Hara, Harper Pehl, and Ed Hara



The Doi Sisters – Sandi, Peggy, and Dede



Lucy Kiriwara and Alice Hirabayashi



Ron Hirabayashi and Amy Kelley (St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee)



Connie Fukuda-Clark and David Clark



John and Lani Bennett



Matt and Lynn Abe



Jon Dickerson, Carol Dean, Christine Ogata, Dick Dean
Submitted by Carolyn Nayematsu; Photo Credits: David Clark & Cherly Hirata-Dulas



Stephanie and Jasmine Tatak



Yuichi Onishi, Sally Sudo, and Sophia Kim

Twin Cities Awarded JACL Chapter Citizenship Award

On August 4, 2022, from the JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, NV, Vice-President Ryan Sudo sent an email to the TCJACL google group with the announcement “Our chapter has been recognized with the George J. Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award! Just announced at convention, Vini accepted the award on behalf of our chapter and gave some remarks. Congrats to everyone who worked so hard on putting the application together!



Pacific Southwest District Governor Ryan Yoshikawa presenting Vini with the George J. Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award



Close up view of the award



Zara Espinoza with Vini and Ryan; Zara serves as the Midwest District Council Young Professional Representative

Several days later, Vini made these remarks. “This was so exciting! Thank you all for your incredible work that has earned this prestigious recognition. I specifically named the Education, Scholarship, and social Justice Committees in my brief remarks, since they are the ones responsible for the commendable efforts that earned this award. Even prior to receiving the award, several individuals had already approached me and expressed how impressed they were with the robust programming that our chapter has produced over the years. I would like to also specifically thank Cheryl Hirata-Dulas and Carolyn Nayematsu for their diligent effort in producing the lengthy application our chapter submitted in order to receive this award...

Secondly, I would like to share this video of our very own chapter delegate, Ryan Sudo, eloquently sharing the important progress our chapter is making in teaching the Japanese American incarceration experience. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZReLjSHQRfSX5oSU7> “

“I also wanted to share a compliment I received for the Education Committee. Sheldon Arakaki of the JACL Spokane chapter is on the Legacy fund Grants Committee and reviewed our Next Generations project proposal. He expressed sincere gratitude for our proposal and especially appreciated how detailed the budget was. He said he really loved the concept of developing new speakers on the WWII incarceration history and wants other chapters to replicate this effort.”

Investiture of the Honorable Kesha Tanabe

The investiture of the Honorable Kesha Tanabe, the newest U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in the District of Minnesota, took place on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at the Diana E. Murphy United States Courthouse. Judge Tanabe comes to her new position with extensive experience as a board-certified bankruptcy practitioner, Subchapter V Trustee and law professor. She is also the first Asian American woman appointed to the Federal bench in the Eighth Circuit.

Judge Tanabe earned a bachelor's degree from the University of St. Thomas, a master's degree from the London School of Economics, and a law degree from the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law. She also studied business and international trade at the Tec de Monterrey in Guadalajara, Mexico and Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. Judge Tanabe began her legal career in the Budapest office of White & Case and the Honors Program for the Attorney General of New York. She returned to Minnesota to enter private practice, where she was elected partner at Maslon, Faegre, and ASK. Judge Tanabe founded her own law firm in 2015, where she practiced until joining the Bankruptcy Court.

Judge Tanabe was appointed on January 8, 2022, upon the retirement of former U.S. Bankruptcy Judges Kathleen Sanberg and Robert Kressel. Judge Duane Benton, who chairs the Bankruptcy Committee of the Eighth Circuit Judicial Council, presided over the ceremony, and Judge David Stras administered Judge Tanabe's oath. The ceremony began with a presentation of the colors by the Minnesota Asian Police Officers Association and a land acknowledgement from Magistrate Judge Leo I. Brisbois, a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe. The ceremony filled the 15th floor courtroom in Minneapolis and her heritage was featured throughout, including the presentation of lei and a traditional taiko drum performance. Speakers included the Honorable Charles L. Nail, Jr., Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Dakota and Chief Judge of the Eighth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, as well as the Honorable Gail Chang Bohr, Senior Judge and the first Asian American woman to be elected to the District Court in Ramsey County.

Judge Tanabe takes to heart the trust that people put in bankruptcy courts and expressed her gratitude for the chance to do impactful work for those "looking for solutions to their most difficult challenges." In her remarks, Judge Tanabe credited her mentors and trailblazers in the legal community for their support and encouragement. She acknowledged the resilience and robust citizenship of her family who resettled in Minnesota after their incarceration at Topaz War Relocation Center during WWII. She also thanked the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court, Clerk's office staff, her Courtroom Deputy and law clerks, saying "when you transition from private practice to the bench, you go from having a couple dozen matters, to a couple thousand cases quite literally overnight. It's only possible because a judge is surrounded by dedicated people every day."



Kesha Tanabe raises her right hand during the Administration of Oath by Judge David R. Stras of the Eighth Circuit (left). Her father, Dr. Curtis Tanabe, and her uncle, Don Oshima, are on the right.



Kesha speaks during her investiture ceremony in the 15th floor courtroom.



Jamie Cork, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Don Oshima, Gloria Kumagai, and Ryan Sudo in the 15th floor atrium reception area.

Submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas; Photo Credits: Anna Lin and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

Film Talk on *Armed with Language*

When local film producer Katie O'Rourke learned about the crucial role played by over 6,000 Nisei soldiers who trained at the highly-classified Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) in Minnesota during World War II, she felt compelled to share their story. Her documentary, *Armed with Language*, incorporates interviews of MIS veterans and their children, historians, military experts and others. Archival and in-person interviews were used in the film and included Twin Cities JACL members Bill Doi, Peggy Doi, Krista Finstad Hanson, Bud Nakasone, Sally Sudo, Kimmy Tanaka, and Karen Tanaka Lucas. The one-hour documentary was screened on PBS stations throughout the country and received a prestigious 2021 Upper Midwest Emmy in the category of "Military – Short or Long Form Content."

On October 20, 2022, O'Rourke facilitated a reflective conversation with the film's writer, David Mura, and Karen Tanaka Lucas, whose father trained in the first MISLS class at Camp Savage. Along with viewing excerpts of the film, the three panelists explored why this history has remained hidden from public knowledge, their personal stories and connections with MISLS, and the complicated histories that intertwine at the site of Historic Fort Snelling.

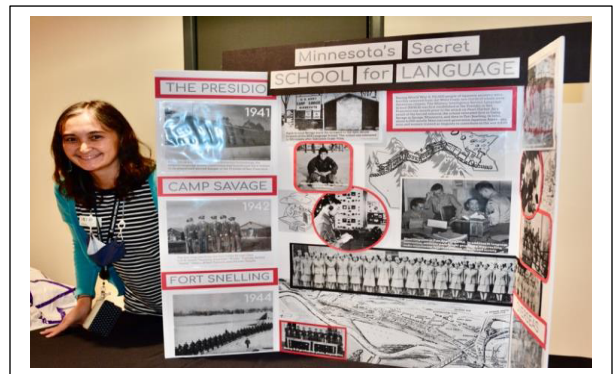
The free public program was held at Historic Fort Snelling's new Plank Museum and Visitor Center. The program was sponsored by the Minnesota Humanities Center in partnership with Historic Fort Snelling/Minnesota Historical Society, TPT Twin Cities, and the Twin Cities JACL.

To view *Armed with Language*, visit <https://www.tpt.org/armed-with-language/>

A community screening toolkit that includes discussion questions, facilitator information, and resource materials can also be downloaded from the website above.



Panelists David Mura, Katie O'Rourke and Karen Tanaka Lucas participate in a film talk and screening of excerpts from the documentary film, *Armed with Language*, the story of the Nisei soldiers who trained at the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling during World War II.



Kimmy Tanaka, formerly Program Supervisor at Historic Fort Snelling, staffed a display table with information and resource materials on the MISLS.

Submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

Photo credit: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas and Kimmy Tanaka

Getting to Know Samantha Sencer-Mura, Minnesota’s First Japanese American Legislator



Photo credit: Zoe Prinds-Flash

The 2023 legislative session will bring historic diversity to the State Capitol, including at least 35 people of color. Among them is Samantha Sencer-Mura, a Yonsei (fourth-generation Japanese American from south Minneapolis). Elected as a Democrat to represent District 63A, which covers the neighborhoods of Seward, Cooper, Howe, Longfellow Hiawatha, Standish, and a small portion of Prospect Park. Representative Sencer-Mura is the first Japanese American legislator in Minnesota history.

“It’s both, of course there hasn’t been a Japanese American legislator in Minnesota’, and ‘I can’t believe there hasn’t been a Japanese American legislator in Minnesota,” Sencer-Mura remarked while reflecting on this historic moment. The Minnesota Legislative Reference Library lists 5,410 representatives in the history of the body since the first legislative session convened in 1857.

Like many in our community, Sencer-Mura’s family had their lives upended by forced removal and incarceration during World War II, with Grandfather Tom Mura interned at Jerome, Arkansas, and Grandmother Teruko (Terry) Nakauchi in Minidoka, Idaho. And while Sencer-Mura intends to be a representative for all in her district, the Japanese American experience holds an undeniable influence on how she views her role as a policymaker.

“Internment impacted the trajectory of my family and led to migration across the country and businesses lost. Seeing how intergenerational trauma has psychologically damaged family members and disconnected us from our culture... shows the impact that fear-based and misguided policymaking can have. It matters who is in the room and who makes decisions,” she said.

Sencer-Mura is the daughter of local writer and performer David Mura, who helped develop and narrate the Emmy award-winning documentary *Armed with Language* for Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) in 2021. Through the film, Sencer-Mura learned about her great-uncle Tadashi Nakauchi’s training as a Nisei linguist at the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage, Minnesota.

“Being able to connect the history of Japanese American service, specifically in Minnesota, to my upcoming role as a legislator is really special,” Sencer-Mura comments. Her 1-year-old son, Tadashi, is named in honor of this legacy.

Sencer-Mura grew up attending Twin Cities JACL picnics and received the Tom and Martha Oye Memorial Scholarship as a graduate from South High School in 2007. Beyond the JACL, she credits her father’s work with local movements including the Asian American Renaissance as what most helped her develop a strong sense of racial solidarity.

Sencer-Mura studied Critical Theory and Social Justice at Occidental College in Los Angeles, California, and later worked as an educator on both the East and West Coast. After further graduate studies at Harvard University, Sencer-Mura returned to Minneapolis in 2017 to serve as executive director of 826 MSP, a nonprofit that seeks to amplify K-12 BIPOC students through writing, publishing, and leadership programs. Combined with her previous service on the board of the Minnesota Education Equity Partnership and the Coalition of Asian American Leaders, her career has centered on educational equity and is reflected in her policy goals as an incoming legislator.

“Fully funding public education is one of my biggest priorities,” Sencer-Mura confirmed, hoping to leverage the state’s reported \$17.6 billion dollar budget surplus. “We have an abundance of resources at the state level... and we need to use as many resources as we can to invest in institutions that meet the needs of our young people.”

Sencer-Mura also hopes to work with fellow legislators to advance ethnic studies legislation, a proposed bill that would expand access to topics like Asian American history in public schools by making ethnic studies a high school graduation requirement.

“I still meet people who have never learned about Japanese American incarceration in school... and students both need and deserve to benefit from learning about all of our country’s diverse histories,” she said.

As Minnesota’s first Japanese American legislator, Sencer-Mura brings our community’s story to a new platform, but recognizes that she cannot do it alone.

“I believe in co-governance, which means that even though I will be the person sitting at the State House, I can only do my work by connecting with community organizations like the JACL,” Sencer-Mura said.

She plans on connecting with as many partners and groups as possible to advocate for her district’s diverse constituencies in the upcoming legislative session.

Submitted by Ryan Toshio Sudo

Lane Nishikawa Interviews for The League of Dreams

November 3, 2022, filmmaker Lane Nishikawa visited Minnesota to interview members of the Twin Cities Japanese American community for his upcoming documentary on the history of the JACL in the United States, “The League of Dreams”.

Lane spoke with Gloria Kumagai, George and Judy Murakami, and Sally Sudo on their experiences with the Twin Cities JACL. Also included were Seiki Oshiro and Bud Nakasone to talk about history of the Military Intelligence Language School at Fort Snelling. Ryan Sudo was also interviewed by Lane.

Gloria grew up in Minneapolis and is a long-time member of the TCJACL, former board president and present board member.

George Murakami is an early Twin Cities resident and former president of the TCJACL Credit Union.

Judy Murakami’s family has a long history in the Japanese American community. Her father, Howard Nomura, was one of the founders, along with Ed Yoshikawa and Earl Tanbara, of the TC JACL Credit Union

Seiki Oshiro, MISLS veteran, is featured in the documentary film, “The Registry”. He compiled a list of over 7,000 names of Japanese American veterans who attended the Military Intelligence Language School at Camp Savage, Fort Snelling and the Presidio Monterey.

Bud Nakasone, MISLS veteran and JACL member, is also featured in “The Registry”. He is active with the JA Veterans of Minnesota, a former history professor and author of “The Nisei Soldier: Historical Essays on Japanese American Participation in WWII and the Korean War”.

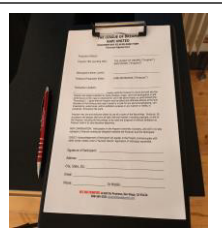
Sally Sudo founded the TCJACL education committee and has spoken extensively about JA internment throughout the state of Minnesota.

Submitted by Steve Ozone

Steve Ozone's Photos during the Interviews with Lane Nishikawa at Fort Snelling



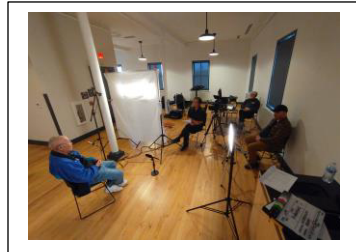
Clapperboard used to begin the shoot and the release to be signed before the interview



Gloria Kumagai's interview



Seiki Oshiro's interview



Bud Nakasone's interview



Gloria Kumagai, Carolyn Nayematsu, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Steve Ozone, Lane Nishikawa, and Sally Sudo*



(clockwise from top) Lane Nishikawa, Sally Sudo, Seiki Oshiro, and Bud Nakasone

*Lane brought a replica flag with 48 stars (the flag of the 1940's). The flag was flown at the ten concentration camps and was used by the 100th/442nd Battalion and MIS during World War II. Judge Johnny Gogo has been going around the country collecting signatures of Japanese Americans interned during the war.

Sally Sudo Receives the 2022 Tom Oye Human Rights Award

The City of Edina's Human Rights and Relations Commission (HRRC) recently announced the selection of Sally Sudo as the recipient of the 2022 Tom Oye Human Rights Award. Michael Epstein, HRRC chair, presented Sally with a framed certificate at the Edina City Council meeting on December 6, 2022 in recognition of her far-reaching and impactful contributions to the community.

Nominees were evaluated on the basis of their efforts "to foster respect and dignity for others, model courage and / or compassion in the advancement of human rights, and demonstrate leadership by example for improving human relations and / or advancing human rights."

Sally is a long-time member of the TCJACL, past member of the Scholarship Committee, and past Chair of the Education Committee. Her contributions beyond the TCJACL are vast. Over the nearly 30 years since her retirement from teaching, Sally has served as the organizer for the TCJACL's Speakers Bureau, as well as a volunteer speaker. She has fulfilled requests to speak all over the state to share her first-hand incarceration experiences during WWII, impacting thousands of people of all ages from students in elementary school and college to senior citizen groups, community organizations, businesses, and more. She has participated in numerous panel discussions, workshops, interview projects, and documentary films, and has helped to plan and implement many community educational programs on the Japanese American WWII experience.

On a number of occasions, Sally has been the voice for the TCJACL and Asian Pacific American community. She played a pivotal role in 2004 by testifying at a Minnesota Department of Education hearing to call attention to the omission of the WWII incarceration experience in the draft version of the Minnesota K-12 academic standards. Sally has also spoken publicly to address misconceptions and misuses of the incarceration experience.

The nomination submission stated: “Motivated to use the lessons of the past to prevent other groups from being subjected to such violations of Constitutional rights, human rights and civil liberties based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, orientation/identity, or other group characteristic, Sally works to prevent history from repeating itself with her efforts to impart the message, “never again,” especially to the younger generations.”

Sally received a standing ovation when presented with the award. In her acceptance remarks, she shared, “my message always when I go out and give my talks is: ‘whenever you see injustice, you must be willing to stand up and speak out.’”

Edina's Human Rights Award has been presented annually since 2006 and honors the late Tom Oye, a founding member of the Edina’s HRRC. Oye was drafted into the U.S. Army in February 1942. While serving in the highly decorated 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team that fought in the European Theater during WWII, Oye’s family was incarcerated at Amache WRA camp. In 2003, Oye received the Prize for Humanity by the Immortal Chaplains Foundation. He and his late wife Martha were active members of the TCJACL.

The video of the award presentation to Sally Sudo can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHgndgHjAu4>

(beginning at 28:44 minute mark).

Agenda Edina also aired a video news segment that featured an interview with Sally:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbQP5MV_n5E

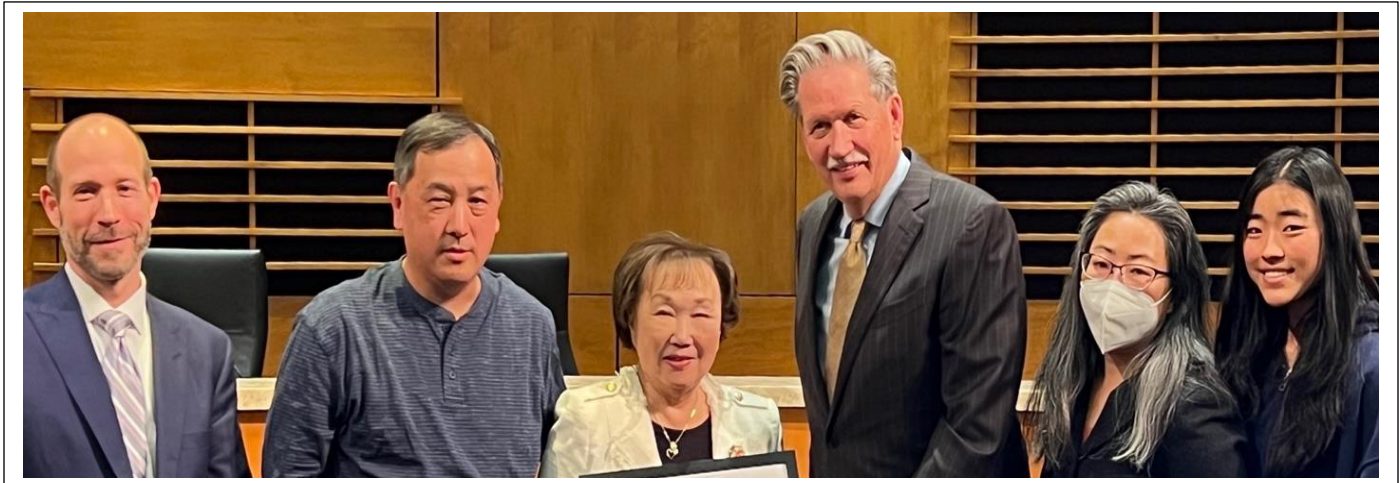
The nomination submitted on Sally’s behalf can be viewed at:

<https://edina.novusagenda.com/AgendaPublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=14147&MeetingID=2036> (then click on “Sally Sudo”).



Sally Sudo giving her acceptance remarks at the Edina City Council meeting on December 6, 2022.

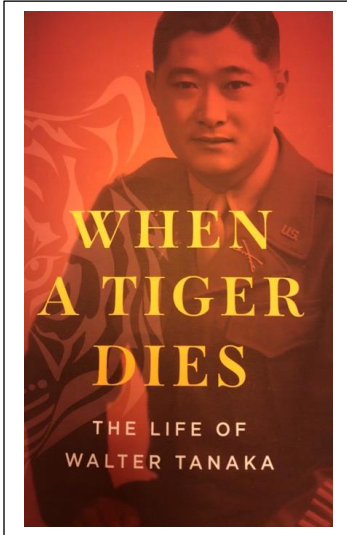
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission Chair, Michael Epstein & Edina Mayor, James Hovland



HRRC Chair Michael Epstein, Rich Sudo, Sally Sudo, Mayor James Hovland, Myounghee Hanson, and Molly Hanson-Hilton

Submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas; Photo credits: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

Using the National Archives for Family Research



I was startled to discover that Eleanor Roosevelt had a direct role in getting my grandfather released from an Immigration and Naturalization prison during WWII. This information and other documents held in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) helped my family to reconstruct and self-publish my father's autobiography this year, "When a Tiger Dies: The Life of Walter Tanaka."

I credit the TCJACL and our events and programs for prodding me to uncover this hidden history. In addition to hours of interviews I had done with my father in 1999-2001, I found there were even more archived on <https://goforbroke.org/> website under their Hanashi Oral History collection and the <https://densho.org/> digital repository. In July of 2019, Rosalyn Tonai, who is the director of the National Japanese American Historical Society, attended one of our last exhibits.

She encouraged me to look into NARA and provided me with my grandfather's alien registration number which facilitated that. Since then, I have discovered this number is easily found on line in the Densho.org website which contains the War Relocation Authority documents on internees including questionnaires they were required to fill out with family and background information.

NARA suspended response to all but emergency requests for records during the pandemic so I was fortunate to make my inquiry just before this happened. Rosalyn sent me a simple 1-page form (World War II Alien Enemy Internment Case File Request Form) to be sent to their address in College Park Maryland and I was informed it would cost 75 cents per page if anything were to be found. They found 80 pages. When I received the documents, including letters written in my father's and grandfather's handwriting, they spoke to me from out of the past.

I've never had to navigate or research the NARA site, archives.gov, because I printed and filled out a form and someone there did it for me. This is what I would suggest if this relates to you and you are interested—paste this in your browser:

“Search the WWII Alien Enemy Detention and Internment Case Files Index”

This takes you right to the appropriate page in the National Archives site.

Scroll down and click on **“How to order page”** and then

Scroll down and click on **“Proceed to the file request”**

Print this out, fill out as much information as you can (for example it was good to have my grandfather's birthdate as it turned out there were 2 Tsunejiro Tanakas) and e-mail or mail it to the address provided.

NARA should be back up to near pre-pandemic functioning.

Connecting to our family's history and preserving it for our descendants has given us a grounding, passed on a stronger sense of an ethical legacy, forged a broader sense of community and a pride in being Japanese-American.

Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas

Sign ons-As the National JACL has signed on to the following, the TCJACL chapter has done the same.

1. The National Nikkei Reparations Coalition (NNRC) has sent a letter to President Biden urging him to create a Presidential Commission to study the legacy of enslavement and racist government policies with the intent to develop and implement practical solutions for reparations.

2. *Why We Can't Wait* reparations coalition members have sent a letter urging the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to prioritize reparations by 1) lobbying the white House to enact a H.R. 40 federal Reparations commission via executive order immediately and 2) passing H.R. 40 out of subcommittee and out of the House with a floor vote in the first 100 days of the 118th congressional session.

Bridging the Generations Cookbook – 75th Anniversary edition on sale!

Thank you for purchasing the 75th Anniversary Bridging the Generations cookbook and supporting the Twin Cities JACL. We have sold over 100 books since releasing this cookbook.

This is a perfect gift for you, your family, and friends!

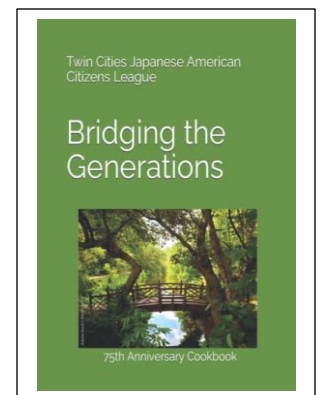
This commemorative cookbook was written and published in honor of the Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League's 75th Anniversary. The title, Bridging the Generations, was chosen because the recipes in this book span generations of Japanese Americans: Issei, Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei, and Gosei.

We dedicate this cookbook to the Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League members past and present, and hope it provides pleasant memories of friends and family for years to come.

Go to this [Amazon Link](#) to order your copy.

Bridging the Generations Potluck Club!

We are putting together a cooking club in 2023. Each club member will make a recipe from the Bridging the Generations cookbook. We will meet and share the dish with the other members. It will be a great way to test out the recipes and to gather with others. If you are interested in participating in this group or have any questions or suggestions, please contact Amy Dickerson at adickerson323@gmail.com



Good News about GiveMN

Treasurer Elaine Koyama reported that because 2022 was the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, that fact prompted the Give MN goal of 75 donors. Over \$4000 in donations was received from 58 unique donors. 2022 was the second year that the TCJACL participated in the statewide non-profit fundraising event Give MN. We thank you, our generous donors and friends of the chapter.

A donation of \$700 was given to TC JACL through GiveMN in memory of Yoshi Tani. The gift was given by Yoshi's seven granddaughters – Sarah Green, Karen Tani, Ellen Tani, Stephanie Hahlbeck, Jessica Tani, Autumn Montville, and Emily Bahnson. Thank you very much for your very generous donation.

Visit to MN Military Museum

Karen and Steve Lucas visited the Camp Ripley Military Museum in November to see TCJACL's exhibit, Minnesota's Secret Language School. Due to lack of space, only 25% of what they have can be shown. The new museum in Little Falls will open in 2025 and will be 3 times larger. Our exhibit might become a permanent part of the collection.

In Memoriam

George Suzuki

George Suzuki, of Minneapolis, recently passed away peacefully in December 2022 at 100 years of age. He was born in Astoria, Oregon and raised in Portland.

In the midst of the internment experience that was occurring along the West Coast in the 1940's, he was accepted at and attended Macalester College in St. Paul. His college education there was interrupted when he was drafted to serve in the US Military. More recently in 2010, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to his MIS unit along with two other units in recognition of their dedicated service during WWII.

After his military service, he completed his education, graduating from the University of Minnesota. Since retiring from his long career with the US Department of Agriculture, he enjoyed many memorable years among his dedicated family, close relatives, and friends.

George was preceded in death by his wife, Esther, and survived by his two children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and brother. According to his wishes, no services are planned at this time. Given that he was a generous supporter of philanthropic organizations, memorials may be sent to the organization of your choice.

NOTE: Condolences to the family of George Suzuki, a long-time TCJACL member. George had a remarkable life, and he contributed greatly to our chapter. His presence at events will be dearly missed. George's biography is included in the TCJACL MIS Curriculum Guide. To read more about his training and service in the MIS during WWII, visit tcjacl.org, click on the Education tab, download the MIS curriculum guide, and scroll down to pages 30 and 31.

Submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

Yoshiko (Yoshi) Tani

Long-time TCJACL member, Yoshiko (Yoshi) Tani, age 101, passed away on December 3, 2002. She was preceded in death by her husband, George, who was a renowned Twin Cities ophthalmologist and University of Minnesota clinical professor for over 30 years. Her two sons, Doug and Paul, followed in their father's footsteps and also have practiced ophthalmology in the metro area. Yoshi studied dietetics at the University of Washington before WWII and graduated from Milwaukee-Downer College with a BS in Foods and Nutrition.

Yoshi met her husband while both were forcibly relocated with their families and imprisoned in the Minidoka WWII camp for Japanese Americans in Idaho. George and Yoshi were married at Ft. Snelling Chapel on February 10, 1945 where he volunteered with the Military Intelligence Language School, later serving interrogating prisoners of war in the Philippines. Following WWII, they settled in St. Paul.

While George served in the US Army and subsequently studied to obtain his Medical Degree and specialization in Ophthalmology, Yoshi worked to support their family. She was a lifetime volunteer in many organizations, including the St. Paul YMCA, Ramsey County Medical society, Metropolitan Committee on aging, the Red Cross, and worked as a consultant dietitian for nursing homes.

Golf was one of her passions, and many hours were spent at Mendakota CC. Her other hobbies were china painting, writing tanka and haiku poetry, and travel. She took pride in supporting activities of the St. Paul/Nagasaki Sister City Committee, the Japanese American Citizens League, and the Japanese American Society of Minnesota. She had been a member of Centennial United Methodist Church for 60 years. Memorials are preferred to Centennial United Methodist Church or the Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League.

Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas

Did You Know?

- Board meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6 p.m., via Zoom
- There are 2 openings on the board – one for Membership Chair and one for Youth Representative
- The next Book Club discussion will be in April. The group is reading [How High We Go in the Dark](#) by Sequoia Nagamatsu, a Japanese American writer. He currently lives in Minnesota. Questions? Contact Ammanda Neitz at amneitz@gmail.com
- The board's planning session on January 14 focused on membership and their involvement
- Check out an article on Jun Fujita's 1920s cabin on Rainy Lake, on the National Register of Historic Places at <https://www.mnopedia.org/structure/jun-fujita-cabin-rainy-lake>