



THE RICE PAPER

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

e-mail: info@tcjacl.org

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

October 2023

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write message in box)

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

お疲れ様でした。

Thank you for all you've accomplished.

We had an excellent turnout at our Chrysanthemum Banquet on October 7th. We heard from our esteemed guest, Curtis Chin, who shared his powerful new book [*Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*](#). We also heard from many of the impressive youth in our community who represent our inspiring next generation of leaders. Speaking of next generation, we have an exciting slate of members running for terms on our Executive Board, so look out for those ballots being sent out very soon. You'll notice several familiar names among the candidates, and we're extremely excited to have so many passionate individuals joining us.

At our Banquet, we also watched a [*Year in Review*](#) video that our chapter Historian, Steve Ozone, created, which highlighted some of the exciting things we've accomplished this year. If you missed it, the recording is now available on our [YouTube channel](#). One of our recent accomplishments has been our Social Justice Committee's powerful discussion series [*Appreciation vs Appropriation: A Nuanced Discussion on Cultural Ownership*](#), which wrapped up this past Saturday. In this collaboration with [Made By Yuki](#), we heard from six incredible artists and writers who have diverse experiences and perspectives related to Japanese culture and cultural appropriation.

And lastly, as we approach the holiday season, I ask that you all keep in mind those who are encountering tremendous difficulties right now. There are a great number of violent conflicts at the moment, some of which we see on the news and some of which fly under the radar. I won't diminish the complexity of these crises, but I want to make sure we do not lose sight of the fact that millions of our fellow human beings are suffering unimaginable violence and being denied their basic rights and necessities. The JACL has always and will always stand with all those who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. As we know from our own community history, it's governments and organizations that wage war, but it's people and families who suffer.

一緒に頑張りましょう。

Let's persevere together.

In solidarity,



Vinicius Taguchi
Chapter President

Upcoming Events

Save the Dates

JACL Twin Cities Chapter Annual Meeting Thursday, December 7, 2023, 6 pm

- The annual meeting of the Twin Cities JACL will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2023, starting at 6 pm. The meeting will be a virtual one.
- If you are interested in attending virtually, please RSVP to Vini Taguchi at president@tcjacl.org by Tuesday, December 5. The zoom meeting invite will be sent only to those who RSVP.
- The agenda will include both the annual meeting and the regular December board meeting.
- During the annual meeting, the members of the Board, including the new members, will be introduced and sworn in.
- The ballots of this annual election will be mailed out within the next week. The ballot must be completed and received by Tuesday, December 5, either by mail or by email. Send to:
 - Karen Tanaka Lucas
 - 8625 Hunters Way
 - Apple Valley, MN 55124
 - katalucas49@gmail.com

Japanese American Veterans Memorial Service at Fort Snelling National Cemetery

Thursday, May 16, 2024
10:00 a.m.

More details to follow

The Twin Cities JACL received partial funding from the Japanese American Community Foundation to reinstitute the annual Japanese American veterans memorial service, last held in May 2010. Services were previously organized by the Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota.

The hour-long program will include speakers and an Honor Roll call to give tribute to local Japanese American veterans and others connected with the Minnesota Japanese American community. Attendees will then help to decorate the gravesites of honored veterans who are buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Please refer to the July 2023 issue of the *Rice Paper* (pages 10-11) for the list of veterans and currently serving military personnel:

<https://www.tcjacl.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Rice-Paper-2023-July.pdf>

To-date, there are 113 veterans on the Honor Roll list. To add a veteran to the list, contact Cheryl Hirata-Dulas at chiratadulas@tcjacl.org.



Submitted by Cheryl Hirata Dulas

Committee Reports

Social Justice Corner – Hmong Repeating History

Many of the Hmong who immigrated to Minnesota in the 1970's were already experienced farmers back in Laos. However, like the early Japanese, access to land here has been a problem without the stability of ownership. The Hmong American Farmers Association formed in 2011 as an attempt at self-reliance. The Hmong were trying to compete with white farmers who have access to capital and resources which allow them land and wealth consolidation with large-scale farming. The average farm in our state is more than 370 acres. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture reports that half of vendors at Twin Cities farmer's markets are of Hmong descent but 99% of Minnesota farms are operated by white Minnesotans. Hmong farmers have been at a disadvantage dealing with agencies like the US Dept of Agriculture, banks and local landowners who have hiked up rents for Hmong farmers.

In 2014, an anonymous benefactor granted a 10-year lease on 150 acres of farmland to HAFA on Hwy 52 south of the Twin Cities in Vermillion providing 5 to 10-acre plots for small scale farming. HAFA staff provide technical assistance, training in modern agricultural and ecologically sustainable methods and provide a pool of shared equipment in a cooperative model. Like the Issei farmers, they mostly focus on variety, specialty crops and more intense hand labor for greater yield per acre. They provide produce for restaurants, CSA programs, schools and farmers' markets. Like the early Japanese, hard work and family cohesiveness are learned community values.

HAFA has lobbied for and was allotted \$2 million from the State to help buy the land which they were able to close on a year ago. They have had to endure racist vandalism and graffiti. Historically communities of color and low income have borne the brunt of the violations of road construction and the Hmong are no exception. Just as the Black middle class Rondo neighborhood was destroyed by Hwy I-94, the MN Dept of transportation decided to renovate the highway that bisects the HAFA land, taking some of the land and reducing access for farmers to cross or transport farm equipment. MnDOT has been allotted money to construct a culvert under the highway but there is currently no movement on this. More recently HAFA successfully protested, with the help

of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, the building of a highway interchange that would have further encroached on their land. It took legislative lobbying and representation in a bonding bill this year, to block local government from forcibly taking more Hmong farm land for use in the highway interchange expansion project.

“If you see something, say something.” Consider submitting a short report of a social justice issue which moves you and which you would like to see our community made aware of. Perhaps this could become a regular column.

Condensed from Dakota County Tribune Sept 22, 2023 article

This story originally appeared at mprnews.org/story/2023/09/15/hmong-immigrants-put-down-roots-on-dakota-county-farmland.

Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas

Scholarship

2024 High School Graduate Scholarship Applications Available Soon

Twin Cities JACL scholarship applications for 2024 high school graduates will be available on the tcjacl.org website under the Scholarships tab in January 2024. Applications will be mailed to candidates listed below no later than January 31, 2024.

Hakuto Higuchi (Blake High School)
Rowan Klepp (Hudson High School)
Simon Kutz (Decorah High School)
Sammy Knight (Delano High School)
Lauren Restad (Roseville Area High School)

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.

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 applicants 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 Wednesday, April 3, 2024.



Who Do You Know?

Help us identify young people between high school and pre-school for our scholarship program!

Send the following:

Name, address, expected graduation year

to: scholarship@tcjacl.org

Names will be added to our database and applications sent to individuals to apply their senior year!

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 are awarded to graduating high school seniors based on the number of applicants.

Over the years, scholarship funds have come 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 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 more than 50 students over 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 two annual 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 Twin Cities 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 Education and Fine Arts, PhDs in Economics, Sociology, and Civil Engineering, and Jodo Shinshu Master's 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.

If you are interested in learning more about these 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

Submitted by Pam Ohno Dagoberg, Scholarship Chair

Recent Events

Summer Picnic

Sunday, August 6, 2023, Rosland Park Shelter

TC JACL PICNIC

FAMILIES+FOOD+ENTERTAINMENT+FRIENDS=A WONDERFUL DAY

Rain did not stop over 125 people from attending the JACL picnic. John Nakasone and family made their now famous Bulgogi beef and hot dogs Others contributed many dishes. No one went home hungry!



John Nakasone working hard at the grill



Three generations of the Nakasone family



The grillers from Nakasone's Bar-B-Q



Hmm...what should I try!

COTTON CANDY WAS A HIT

Asia O'Neil and brother, Jordan, brought the machine and the candy. The rest enjoyed!



Lisa Shakerin gave a thumbs up!



Thank you, Asia!



Steve Ozone-I'm not sharing!



Paul Imon Pedtke with his children and brother, Joey



I'm eating it all and I'm not sharing, either!

ENTERTAINMENT

Provided by Taiko Arts Midwest and Sansei Yonsei Kai



The drumming was fantastic!



The dancing was beautiful!



I can dance, too; even without a kimono!



The picnic goers learned how to dance, too.

GAMES

Rain eliminated tug of war, but Lisa Shakerin organized fun games. The Wizards, freshmen at Central High School, provided a robotics demonstration.



Organizer Lisa calling numbers for Bingo



Whoops! I just dropped the balloon!



The guys showing their skill



Members of the Central High School Robotics Team

BINGO – A FAVORITE!



An excited Peggy Doi – did she win?



I hope they call my number next!

FOR YOUR FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

Generations of families and friends enjoyed the day.



The Steve Lucas/Karen Tanaka Lucas family



The Steve Savitt/Gloria Kumagai family



Les and Karen Suzukamo with their daughter



Antonio Perez, Kimmy Tanaka, and Akio

MORE PHOTOS OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS



George and Judy Murakami with their children and grandchildren



Lucy Kiriara & Dan Dulas



Patty Kameya and Bob Hetzel



Asia O'Neil and her brothers



The John and Lani Bennett Family



Vince Platt and Carolyn Nayematsu with family and friends



Nobu and Kumiko June Sugisaka with their family



Jon and Amy Dickerson



Sally Sudo with grandchildren

AND STILL MORE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS



Jon Dickerson with Eri Isomura and her husband



Selena Moon with her parents



**PLAN TO ATTEND THE 2024 TC JACL
PICNIC – LOOK FOR THE SIGN &
THE DELICIOUS FOOD**



Photos arranged and submitted by Carolyn Nayematsu

Teacher Training Workshop

The National Japanese American Historical Society held a teacher training workshop on August 9, 2023 at Historic Fort Snelling. The all-day workshop titled “Through Our Through Our Eyes: People of Japanese Ancestry from Mass Incarceration to Segregation in 1940s America” was co-sponsored by the TCJACL Education Committee who recruited the participants, arranged the site, provided the history of the MIS at Fort Snelling, and provided a tour of the site.

There were 24 teachers who participated. Most were from the Twin Cities area, but there were participants from the outstate area. NJAHS staff Grace Morizawa, Miles Ginoza, and Eileen Lamphere conducted the workshop.

After the land acknowledgement by Kimmy Tanaka, a community Engagement Manager with the Minnesota Historical Society and a member of the TCJACL Education Committee, the workshop participants were given this introduction:

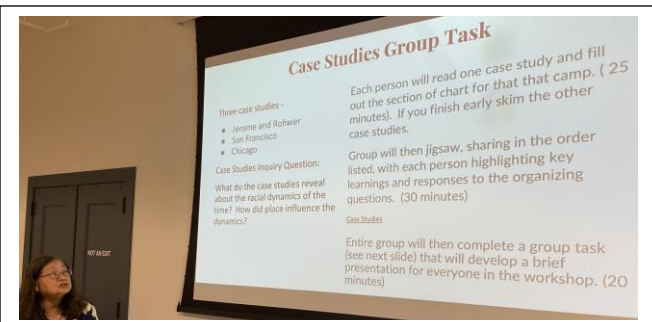
In 1942, Japanese Americans on the West Coast were forcibly removed from their homes on the West coast. They were incarcerated in eight camps established in remote locations throughout the inland West and two camps in Arkansas, a state in the Jim Crow South. While in camps and when the camps closed, the incarcerated were confronted with decisions about where they might restart their lives.

The speaker was Dr. John Howard, a professor at King's College, London and the author of the book, Concentration Camps on the Home Front - Japanese Americans in the House of Jim Crow. Howard spoke about how the two concentration camps of Jerome and Rohwer in Arkansas were locations that put Japanese Americans right in the heart of a much older, long-festering system of racism. He covered the basic facts about the Japanese American concentration camps and talked about how the internees had to cope with living in the deep south. In addition to racism, Howard talked about the government's aggressive campaign to Americanize the inmates and even convert them to Christianity.

After the talk, students were presented with thought provoking case studies which they discussed in groups. The day ended with a tour of Historic Fort Snelling by Kimmy Tanaka.

Workshop Trainer Grace Morizawa explaining a Case Studies Group Task that the teachers will be working on.

Participants in the 2023 Teacher Training Workshop



Submitted by Carolyn Nayematsu

Obon Festival

On August 22, 2023, the TC JACL participated in the Obon Festival in Como Park. There were 8200 people that attended the Festival. We had a booth and sold various goods and items. We were able to raise over \$2,250. Of course, this could not be done without the volunteers that helped make this a successful event. Thanks to the volunteers that helped that day: Carolyn Nayematsu, Jon and Amy Dickerson, Lisa and Chris Shakerin, Haruka Yokioka, Asia O'Neil, Romare Onishi, Patti Kameya and Bob Hetzel, Steve Ozone, and Paul Imon Pedtke.

In July, we made a call for donated item to sell. Thank you to those individuals who donated. Their support helps us continue our work and programs. The donors are Lucy Kiriara, Jan Kiriara Monson, John and Kathy Suzuki, Laura McClean, Martha Ohno, Tery and Cecilia Kiriara, Phil Nomura, Joyce Miyamoto, Lorrie Saito, Amy Kelly and the Sister City Nagasaki Committee, and an anonymous donor.



Asia O'Neil and Jon Dickerson



Shoppers

Carolyn Nayematsu, Lisa Shakerin, Amy Dickerson

Submitted by Amy Dickerson

Annual Chrysanthemum Banquet

Saturday, October 7, 2023

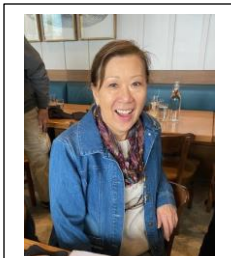
Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center

The evening was named “Celebrating the Year of Our Youth” and featured guest speaker, Curtis Chin, author of the book, Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant. Following his presentation, a youth panel (Asia O’Neil, Kendal Takeshita, Misa Wesby, and Haruka Yukioka) participated in a question and answer session about growing up in a mostly white community. Steve Ozone served as Master of Ceremonies and served as moderator for the Q and A. There were 75 banquet attendees.

Three JACL members received special recognition. Matt Farrells received a ruby pin from the National JACL for his 12 years of service at the national level. Elaine Koyama, previous treasurer and fund raising chair of the chapter, was recognized for her service on the board. Karen Tanaka Lucas then recognized Sally Sudo whose latest contribution is the MANY talks that she has given in classrooms and to church and community groups about her and her family’s experiences in the concentration camps during World War II. Since November 3, 2022, she has spoken eleven times!



Sylvia Farrells



Elaine Koyama



Sally Sudo

Left to right: Sylvia Farrells receiving a ruby pin on behalf of her son, Matt, for his 12 years of serving with the National JACL. Elaine Koyama, the chapter’s former treasurer and fund raising chair, now living in New Mexico. Sally Sudo latest contribution to the Twin Cities JACL is her speaking with groups about the experiences of those in camps.

Banquet Photos



Ammanda Neitz & Carolyn
Nayematsu at the check-in table



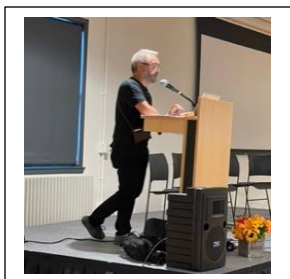
Sylvia Farrells at the sales
table





The 75 attendees at their tables, sitting with family and friends, having enjoyed a bento box meal, catered by JK's Table.

Asia O'Neil served dessert.



On Sunday, October 8, Curtis also spoke at the Minnesota History Center who sponsored his presentation.



Steve Ozone was the MC



Curtis with youth panel, Haruka Yokioka, Misa Westby, Asia O'Neil, and Kendal Takeshita



Steve, Curtis, and Kimmy Tanaka



Curtis with Steve and Karen Tanaka Lucas



Curtis with Peggy Doi



Curtis & friend



Sophia Kim & Yuichi Onishi with Curtis & Steve

New Exhibit at Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center

Banquet attendees also had the opportunity to view a new permanent exhibit at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center. The exhibit features the MISLS (Military Intelligence Service Language School) and includes contributions from local families who had loved ones who attended the MISLS.



Standing at the entrance to the exhibit – Patty Kameya, Peggy Doi, Karen Tanaka Lucas, and Carolyn Nayematsu



Matt Abe, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Patty Kameya



Matt Abe standing in front of his dad's picture.



Matt and Mary Abe

Photos submitted by Cheryl Hirata Dulas and Steve Ozone

Military Intelligence Service Language School: Fall Walking Tour

On a blustery Saturday (Oct. 21) a group of 31 participated in a walking tour of the upper post of Ft. Snelling led by Kimmy Tanaka and a driving tour of Savage seeing traces of the Military Intelligence Service Language School there led by Karen Lucas. Half of the entire group had relatives who had been affiliated with the Military Intelligence Service.

The compelling background leading to the formation of the first Japanese Language Intelligence School at the Military Presidio of San Francisco was told, the frantic scouting and recruitment of qualified Nisei in the army, Hawaii and the concentration camps was presented, and the historic brick buildings which housed the Ft. Snelling classrooms, headquarters, hospital, gymnasium and recreation center were displayed accompanied by actual voice recordings of Nisei veterans who experienced these places. In Savage, we visited the commemorative plaque erected to honor the MIS on the former site of Camp Savage. We toured places frequented by the Nisei soldiers such as the Old Train Depot as well as barracks buildings moved and repurposed into residences in town.

After the fascinating guided tours, the entire group was treated to a lunch of Hawaiian/Japanese food at Pau Hana (means “done with work” in Hawaiian) Restaurant in Savage. The owner, Chris Ikeda, is Yonsei and a descendant of Dr. Kano Ikeda, who was The first Japanese national to become a U.S. citizen in Minnesota. Dr. Ikeda was also a personal physician to Hubert Humphrey and Chris read a letter from then Senator Humphrey congratulating Him on his achievement. The Ikeda family history, as told by Chris, includes a grandfather in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was appreciated by our entire group.



Chris Ikeda addressing MISLS tour participants

This event, which exceeded participation limitations, drew individuals and groups from outside the Twin Cities Metro area. It was supported in part by funds from George and July Murakami of the Murakami Family fund. Watch for more photos in the next edition of the Rice Paper.

Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas

Sally Sudo Receives Standing Ovation at the SALT* Fall 2023 Program *(Seniors Learning Together)

Twice a year the SALT Program presents a series of workshops for seniors. This is hosted by the Church of the Risen Savior in Burnsville and consists of a coalition of seniors’ groups from neighboring churches who come together to hear a range of speakers on a number of interesting topics. October’s talks were on “The Electoral College”, “The History of the Statue of Liberty” and “The Japanese American Experience During WWII.”

Sally Sudo educated 98 attendees of her talk on the Japanese American Concentration Camps. The room was packed and after the engaging Q&A session following, one regular participant commented, “I’ve never seen a speaker here receive a standing ovation before!” Steve Ozone attended to videotape the event and Karen Lucas, Sally’s chauffeur for the day, fielded a question when one gentleman interjected his misperception that nearby Savage had also housed an “internment camp” referring to the Military Intelligence Service Language School and the thousands of Nisei linguists in the U.S. Army trained here in Minnesota.

For more information about the SALT series, go to www.risensavior.org/events/salt
Thank you to Sally for again enlightening our communities.



Sally (in white tennis shoes) before being introduced before her talk. Steve Ozone (in light blue jeans) videotaped her presentation this past Monday, October 23. *Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas*