



# THE RICE PAPER

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

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

## February 2026

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then write message in box)

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### PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

お疲れ様です。

Thank you for your hard work.

With each new *Rice Paper* issue, I look forward to sharing the exciting things our chapter has been doing and the fun community events to come. And each time, my excitement is tempered by the reality of the world around us. Can you believe we’re only in February? It feels like years have passed since the Twin Cities came under this most recent siege by the federal government. On the one hand, we have witnessed a level of violence and abuse that rings of decades past. And on the other hand, we have seen one of the broadest and most spontaneous mobilizations of an entire community to protect its neighbors. I am so proud of the Twin Cities, and I know we will get through this together.

As we continue caring for our friends, family, and neighbors during these oppressive times, we continue to mourn the loss of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, who were murdered last month by ICE agents. Once again, the eyes of the world are on Minneapolis—on communities that are still healing from so many other unjust killings at the hands of law enforcement. At least remember that we are not in this alone. In the Twin Cities, we have such a strong network of community organizations offering whatever support they can. Among them is Asian Media Access, who invited TCJACL to partner with them on a know-your-rights webinar hosted by two local senior attorneys. Here are some of the resources shared:

1. [Dos and Don'ts Red Card](#)
2. [Judicial Warrant vs. ICE Warrant](#)
3. [City of Minneapolis Recommendations](#)
4. [Private Property Print-Out Signs](#)
5. [Hennepin County Food, Housing, and Mental Health Resources](#)
6. [AAUC Know Your Rights](#)
7. [Emergency Procedures for OC Spray, Pepper Spray, and Long-Range Acoustical Devices](#)
8. [Community Organizing Methods](#)
9. [Legal Assistance](#)

At JACL, we are also part of a national community. I have received messages from multiple chapter presidents across the country asking how they can help us. National JACL also [published a statement](#) calling for change. We are still finding ways to strengthen the response of JACL and better support those in need, so please don’t hesitate to reach out if you need specific resources for yourself or someone you know. Please also consider [donating to Minnesota 8](#) or buying their [incredible merchandise](#) to support those Asian Minnesotans bearing the brunt of ICE’s violence.

一所懸命に頑張りましょう。

Let’s keep doing our best.

In solidarity,

Vinicius Taguchi  
Chapter President

## UPCOMING EVENTS – Save these Dates

The following events have been advertised in the past and if interested in participating, must be responded to right away.

### Dancers Needed for Japanese Cultural Performance at the International Festival



The Festival of Nations will be resurrected as IFest on April 10-11, 2026, as a 2-day event on Friday and Saturday. Eight adults and 8 teens are needed for the World Stage Performances. Free lessons in Classical Japanese dance will be provided by Linda Hashimoto van Dooijeweet.

No prior training is needed. Kimonos will be provided if needed for the cultural performance. Lessons start weekends in mid-October 2025. Bring a friend or relative.

Contact Linda at [linda@urbantraveler.com](mailto:linda@urbantraveler.com) or 651-503-7995 if interested.

### International Festival of Minnesota now IFEST-MN, April 10-11, 2026

After SIX of hiatus, an international festival is being restarted at RiverCentre in St. Paul.

- Friday-STUDENT DAY-9 am-3 pm; OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-3-9 pm
- Saturday-OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-9 am-9 pm

Please save the dates to attend and volunteer to work a shift at our merchandise booth!

Shifts will be

Thurs. April 9 DRIVE IN	3:00 -4:00 pm* pick-up and delivery	4
SET UP	4:00 – 8:00 pm* set up	4
Fri. April 10 SALES	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	4
SALES	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	4
SALES	5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	3
Sat. April 11 SALES	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	3
SALES	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	3
SALES	5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	3
MOVEOUT	9:00 pm – 11:00 pm	4

\*time has been requested but not yet assigned. We will only have a single booth this year



TCJACL at our last Festival of Nations booth 2019

Admission has been increased to \$21.00 and will be provided to all volunteers.

Metro Transit and buses will provide free transportation on days of the festival. Sign up on the website: [ifestmn.org](http://ifestmn.org) and go to Free Rides in the top menu.

On site parking fees will be covered for those providing cars/vans/pickups for move in or move out.

To sign up as a shift volunteer at our merchandise booth or have other questions, please contact Karen Tanaka Lucas at [katalucas49@gmail.com](mailto:katalucas49@gmail.com) or 952-270-3278.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE 11:59 PM ON March 1, 2026

# 2026 KANSHA PROJECT



Applications open January 27 and due March 1 11:59pm CST

June 1 Pre-departure Orientation

June 4-7 Little Tokyo, LA Manzanar Site Trip

June 27 Culmination



Apply here or use the QR Code above: <https://bit.ly/Kansha2026app>

The Kansha Project is a JAACL Chicago program founded in 2011 that connects self-identified Japanese Americans, ages 18–25, from the Midwest to their identity, history and community.

Participants engage in an in-depth examination of the WWII confinement site experience through an immersive educational trip to Los Angeles' historic Little Tokyo neighborhood and Manzanar National Historic Site. Through workshops with local experts and community activists, historical tours, and group reflections, participants work to interpret and promote the stories, lessons and the legacy of the Japanese American confinement site experience.

For more information, visit <https://jaclchicago.org/programs/kansha-project>



The Kansha Project was funded, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement sites Grant Program.

## I Am American: Nisei Soldier Experience Traveling Exhibit Opening and Celebration

A three-day event in San Francisco, February 20 - 22, 2026

The traveling exhibit is scheduled to be in 11 cities over the next five years. It tells the storied history of second-generation Japanese Americans, known as “Nisei,” who demonstrated their loyalty during World War II by enlisting to serve in the U.S. Army. Nisei soldiers served in the European Theater as part of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team – one of the most highly decorated units in military history – and in the Pacific theater as linguists in the U.S. Army’s Military Intelligence Service.

(Information taken from materials provided by the Nisei soldier Experience Traveling Exhibit)

One of our TCJAACL Board members, Kimmy Tanaka, will be attending the exhibit opening and celebration next weekend. The traveling exhibit is tentatively scheduled to be in the Twin Cities, at the Minnesota History Center from September 2029 to March 2030. She has promised to take a lot of pictures and be available to share her experiences before the exhibit arrives in our area.

- **Spring semester, Thursday afternoons, 4-6 pm, University of Minnesota – Community Building for Justice: Twin Cities Japanese American Activism**

Yuich Onishi and John Matsunaga's Heritage Studies and Public History Graduate Program is designed to work with students to document the TC JACL's history of activism. Students will gather materials to prepare a book manuscript. The group will also support the Densho grant work.

- **Tuesday, April 28, 2026 – Presentation on the MIS by James McNaughton, author of Nisei Linguist**

A full evening of presentations by James McNaughton, Will Williams, and a veteran not yet determined. Don Patton, Executive Director of the WWII Round Table announced the program to be held at the Minnesota History Center 3M Auditorium. At 7 pm Mr. McNaughton will be giving a presentation on the MIS. He will be followed by Mr. Williams from the Dan Patch Historical society (Savage) who will speak about the Camp Savage site.

Earlier, at 5:45 pm there will be a student outreach program geared towards high school and college students in the Heffelfinger Room. Mr. Patton also mentioned that he will have a few copies of Nisei Linguist available to the TCJACL for no charge.

- **Tuesday, May 12, 2026 – Scholarship Banquet – applications due April 3**
- **Saturday, May 16, 2026 – Minnesota Japanese American Veterans Gravesite Decorating**

**SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, May 16, 2026  
Minnesota Japanese American Veterans  
Graveside Decorating**

**In Observance of Memorial Day, the Twin Cities JACL  
cordially invites Family and Friends to Commemorate  
the Service and Sacrifice of  
Minnesota Japanese American Veterans  
by Decorating Gravesites at Fort Snelling National cemetery**

**Pick up flowers between 10 and 11 a.m.  
Fort Snelling National Cemetery  
7601 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN  
Enter Main Gate off of 34<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
and follow signs to Mallon Road (flower pick up area)**

*Event will be held rain or shine.  
Note: There will not be a formal program.*

Families of Japanese American veterans who are buried at other local cemeteries (e.g., Lakewood Cemetery) are also invited to pick up a bouquet.

Veteran's family members/friends who will be picking up flowers please RSVP by Wed., May 13 to:  
Cheryl Hirata-Dulas at [chiratadulas@tcjacl.org](mailto:chiratadulas@tcjacl.org)

Volunteers are needed to decorate the gravesites of veterans buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery whose family/friends are unable to attend.  
To volunteer, contact Lani Bennett at [lanibennett@tcjacl.org](mailto:lanibennett@tcjacl.org)

Future events occurring in June-December 2026 are listed below.  
Details about the events will be provided in future issues of the [Rice Paper](#).

- July 29-August 2 – National JAACL Convention in Las Vegas
- July 29 – Twin Cities Buddhist Church Obon Festival – contact Cheral Tsuchiya
- Sunday, August 2 – TCJAACL Picnic at Rosland Picnic Shelter, Edina – contact Asia Oneil
- Sunday, August 16 – Obon Festival, Como Park, St. Paul – contact Amy Dickerson
- Sunday & Monday, October 10 & 11 – Ireicho Stamping of Names, Historic Fort Snelling – contact Ireicho.org for reservations; Densho will sponsor digitization services and advice on conducting historic research
- Friday-Sunday, October 16-18 – Swingposium sponsored by Midwest Taiko and Theatre Mu
- October/November – Chrysanthemum Banquet

Board meetings are usually scheduled for the second Thursday of each month.

## REPORTS

### Membership

New Membership Committee chair, Max Lambert, reported the following:

- OBJECTIVES: The primary objective of the membership committee is to attract and retain memberships. Recruitment campaigns could be done in upcoming events like Obon, the National Convention, and Swingposium.
- FUND RAISING/FUND CHANGES: There is no change in funding for the membership committee.
- MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: If you have not yet had the chance to renew for 2026 yet, please visit <https://jacl.org/member>  
The chapter also encourages you to participate in the Otoshidama Campaign by gifting a membership to a loved one!

### Chrysanthemum Banquet

The TCJAACL Annual Chrysanthemum Banquet was held on Saturday, November 1 at the Minnesota Humanities Center in St. Paul. There were 82 registrants and a number of representatives from cultural groups we are affiliated with. Our special guests were David Ono, anchor of ABC7 news, the most widely watched news in Los Angeles, and Kristen Hayashi, curator at the Japanese American National Museum.

David's excellence in journalism has been recognized with Edwin R. Murrow awards and Emmys. Thanks to David's curiosity, dedication, and creativity, we have documentaries that inform us and touch hearts. They tell the story of the Japanese American experience, particularly surrounding World War II. David's documentaries have become part of the Smithsonian and preserve an important part of our history. The banquet program consisted of two parts. Before dinner, David presented a video of his live theater production, "Defining Courage," which was powerful and well received. After dinner, David spoke about his personal and professional development. Both parts were followed by a Q&A.



David Ono responding to a question during a Q & A session.

Because David expressed an interest in learning more about the MISLS, he was given a tour the following day of Ft. Snelling and Camp Savage by Kimmy Tanaka and Karen and Steve Lucas. That evening, Carolyn Nayematsu hosted a dinner and program offering our guests an opportunity to hear from Rick Shiomi about Rick's play "Secret Warriors", from Steve Ozone about his documentary, "The Registry", and from Karen Tanaka Lucas about a TPT produced documentary, "Armed with Language".

We were also able to honor our esteemed and beloved Sally Sudo with the National JACL Silver Pin. The award recognizes her leadership with the Twin Cities JACL chapter and her long and tireless efforts to educate the community at large. Although a month early for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, we sang "Happy Birthday" to Sally.

The banquet was a rousing success and provided our participants with chance to learn and socialize.



Submitted by Lani Bennett, Banquet Chair; Photos by Steve Ozone



## Annual Reports

Some of the standing committees of the TCJACL are required to submit an annual report to its membership at the end of each calendar year. The annual reports will be published in the first issue (usually January of the following year).

### Twin Cities JACL Community Kai Program 2025 Annual Report

#### Organizers

- Vinicius Taguchi (he/him)
- Zara Espinoza (she/they)
- Misa Westby (she/her)
- Asia O'Neil (she/her)

#### Hired Program Manager

- Kathy Moua (she/her)

#### Funding sources

- JACL Legacy Fund Grant
- Karen and Les Suzukamo Fund
- Twin Cities JACL General Fund
- JACL Midwest District Council



Some of the Community Kai participants -  
Left to right: Zara Espinoza, Jasmine Tatah, Amira McLendon,  
Kathy Moua, Seiji Ikeda, and Vini Taguchi

2025 Cohort Participants: Kurt RuKim (he/him), Mai Choo Yang (she/her), Emily Harada (any), Amira McLendon (she/they), Kristen Hara (she/her), Zenas Seiji Ikeda (he/him), Jasmine Tatah (she/her), Kassian Vaubel (he/him)

#### Key 2025 Cohort Activities

- Monthly: virtual gatherings with reflective and creative activities to develop inter-community solidarity and leadership
- March: in-person workshop featuring identity colleagues and a community simulation
- July gathering: at Bichota Coffee with discussion on multicultural organizing
- August: taiko and solidarity workshop at Taiko Arts Midwest
- November: presentation of individual final projects at JACL's Chrysanthemum Banquet

#### Goals for 2026

- Secure grant funding to continue and expand the program
- Organize a 2026 cohort

Submitted by Vini Taguchi, TCJACL president and one of the organizers

## 2025 TCJACL Education Committee Report

2025 was another event filled year for the education committee. The Day of Remembrance event took place at the Minnesota History Center on February 16. In partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society, the TCJACL hosted director Kerwin Berk for a screening of his film, *KINTSUKUROI*. The film follows members of the Ito family from their pre-war life in San Francisco's Japantown to the concentration camps of the American West to the battlefields of Europe as they struggle to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. A panel discussion followed the film with Kerwin Berk, Jon Funabiki, and David Kiyoshi Tom.

March proved to be a very full month starting with the *Stories of Japanese American Girlhood* event at the Minnesota History Center on March 22. Opening the event was a presentation by Dr. Ka Wong, author of *Enmity and Empathy: Race, Resettlement, and Remembrance of Japanese Americans in Minnesota During World War II*. He was joined by panelists Sally Sudo and Anna Tanaka Murakami.

Opening night of *Secret Warriors* at the History Theatre on March 29 was very eventful starting with a pre-show panel discussion with Matt Abe, TCJACL member and descendent of MIS veteran Toshio Abe, and playwright Rick Shiomi. TaikoArts Midwest performed and partnering organizations tabling for the evening were the Minnesota Military Museum, Japan America Society of Minnesota, TCJACL, and the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). The Education Committee served as consultants to review the many drafts of the play. In partnership with MNHS, the committee developed a temporary exhibit on the history of Camp Savage and Fort Snelling with a collection of historical photographs. Two sets of banners were created and will be used by the committee for future speaking engagements and events.

Throughout the fall and early winter, the education committee took part in a series of three writing workshops, *Community Building for Justice: Twin Cities Japanese American Activism*. They were led by Yuichi Onishi and John Matsunaga in conjunction with their Heritage Studies and Public History course at the University of Minnesota. Graduate students will conduct oral histories and the writings from the workshops will eventually be turned into a book manuscript.

- **See page 15 for a May 15 event**

On December 13, as the last event of the year, the education committee sponsored, *"There is No Time Here": Jun Fujita's Legacy Through Visual Poetry*. Multi-disciplinary artist, Dawn Wing debuted her visual poetry chapbook inspired by the fascinating life and legacy of Jun Fujita, a Japanese American poet-photographer and environmental advocate. Fujita's presence in Minnesota contributed to the protection of what is now Voyageurs National Park.

All in all, for the entire year, there were 27 presentations on various topics of the WWII Japanese American experience and its legacy. Speakers from the education committee included Sally Sudo, Peggy Doi, and Karen Tanaka Lucas. Other speakers included Anna Murakami, John Suzukida, Rich Sudo, Rosie Iverson, and Cameron Asao. Presentations were held at senior living facilities, schools, community centers, places of worship and historic sites for a grand total of almost 1,200 audience members. So far in 2026, two more presentations have been given, and a third one is scheduled for February 23.

*Submitted by Kimmy Tanaka, Education Chair*

## Financial Report

Together, Amy Dickerson and Karen Tanaka Lucas, have taken on the daunting task of TCJACL's treasurer for a good part of 2025, and they have done a TREMENDOUS job. Thank you! They now leave the responsibility in the hands of Benjamin Hartmann who previously had been the chapter's membership chair. Amounts declared are as of December 31, 2025

- **TOTAL FOR CURRENT ASSETS (includes savings and investment accounts) \$310,229.93**
- **TOTAL FOR LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$310,229.23**

## Annual Membership Report for 2025 (Dec. 24, 2024 to Dec. 12, 2025)

The total active membership count of the Twin Cities Chapter fell from 119 to 104, making a total of 15 departures (-12.61%).

- Most notably, no growth has occurred across all membership types.
- Youth membership count has not changed (13 to 13)

The total active membership count of the National JACL fell from 5907 to 5542, making a total of 365 departures (-6.18%).

### Trend Analysis

The membership count of 104 is a slight decrease from the 2024-2025 peak of 114 members. The fluctuation is consistent with historical cycles, and the dip in membership count is most likely a seasonal event as a result of lapsed memberships that will soon be renewed.

	Twin Cities Chapter on Dec 24, 2024	Twin Cities Chapter on Dec 12, 2025	National JACL on Dec 24, 2024	National JACL on Dec 12, 2025
Total active memberships	<b>119</b>	<b>(-12.61%) 104</b>	<b>5907</b>	<b>(-6.18%) 5542</b>
Total active members (couples x2)	<b>164</b>	<b>(-13.41%) 142</b>	<b>7313</b>	<b>(-5.76%) 6805</b>
Active regular memberships	<b>50</b>	<b>(-24%) 38</b>	<b>2774</b>	<b>(-9.7%) 2505</b>
Active youth memberships	<b>13</b>	<b>(0%) 13</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>(-1.79%) 715</b>
Active coup/fam memberships	<b>41</b>	<b>(-7.32%) 38</b>	<b>1273</b>	<b>(-4.01%) 1222</b>
Active senior memberships	<b>0</b>	<b>(N/A) 0</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>(-17.86%) 138</b>
Active Thousand Club memberships	<b>11</b>	<b>(-100%) 0</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>(-100%) 0</b>
Active Century Club memberships	<b>0</b>	<b>(N/A) 0</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>(-100%) 0</b>
Active Millennium Club memberships	<b>0</b>	<b>(N/A) 0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>(-23.26%) 33</b>
Active Thousand Club Life memberships	<b>2</b>	<b>(-100%) 0</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>(-100%) 0</b>
Active Thousand Life Trust memberships	<b>4</b>	<b>(-100%) 0</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>(-100%) 0</b>
Active Century Club Life memberships	<b>0</b>	<b>(N/A) 0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>(-100%) 0</b>
Active Century Life Trust memberships	<b>0</b>	<b>(N/A) 0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>(-100%) 0</b>
Lapsed memberships (up to approx. 3 years prior)	<b>104</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>6119</b>	<b>7240</b>

*Submitted by Maximilian Lambert, Membership Chair*

## Other Items of Interest

### Deltron 3030 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour

This is a review about the Deltron 3030 (25<sup>th</sup> anniversary) concert at the Uptown Theater in Minneapolis, on September 24, 2025. Full disclosure, the music producer, Dan Nakamura (Dan the Automator) is my cousin. Dan and I pregame the show by enjoying a sweet treat at Uptown's La La Creamery and catching up on life. After walking back to the theater, Dan went backstage. I was lucky to have a seat in a roped off area. The album, Deltron 3030, was originally released in 2000, its lyrics describing dystopian time in the future year, 3030. Songs allude to viruses, evil, and my favorite – gray matter.

Dan was joined on stage by Del, the Funky Homosapien, who commanded the stage with rap that is imaginative, dark, and sharp with a mind-boggling amount of memorization. The trio was completed with Kid Koala (Eric San), a master of scratching who is another extremely creative artist with endless amounts of energy.

One of the things I really enjoy about Dan's music is the use of classical music and instruments – perhaps hints of Suzuki lessons we both endured as kids – shining through after all these years. The show concluded with a haunting, mic drop sneak preview of their follow up album, soon to be released. No doubt, it will be great.



Ammanda Neitz and members of the Deltron 3030



## “WAYZATA OUTRAN THEM ALL”

As the Star Tribune headlined it, the Wayzata High School Cross Country team won the Nike Cross Country Nationals in Portland, Oregon on December 6, 2025. Addison Neitz, daughter of Dan and Ammanda (Nakamura) Neitz was one of seven runners representing Wayzata High School. Ammanda is on the TCJACL Board and chairs both the Book Club and Nominations committees.

Nike Cross Country Nationals, also known as NXN, is like the Super Bowl of high school cross country. Only the best high school team qualify for regionals, and only twenty-two teams make it to Nationals. Cheers to the Wayzata Cross Country team!



Go, go, go, Addison (#25)



The Wayzata cross country team – Addison is holding the trophy

Previous two articles and photos submitted by Ammanda Neitz

## Asian American Breast Cancer Survivors

TCJACL has been contacted to request our support in distributing research flyers To our community to inform them that the University of Texas at Austin School For Nursing is conducting a study for Japanese women in the U.S. who are managing breast cancer-related pain. \$150 is being offered for participating in the online study. More information is given on the flyer to the right and the website below.

512-232-2142

[cai.help@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:cai.help@austin.utexas.edu)

<https://cai.research.nursing.utexas.edu>

### Asian American Breast Cancer Survivors

You may qualify if you:

- are 18 years or older.
- were diagnosed with breast cancer in the past.
- identify as Korean, Taiwanese, Chinese, or Japanese.
- have experienced pain and depressive symptoms.



CAI Study is an online cancer pain management program with individual optimization for Asian American Breast Cancer Survivors.



**EARN UP TO \$150  
FOR 3 MONTH  
ONLINE STUDY**

512-232-2142  
cai.help@austin.utexas.edu  
<https://cai.research.nursing.utexas.edu>

The University of Texas at Austin  
School of Nursing

## **Invitation to Join U.S. Supreme Court Amicus Brief – For Descendants of Japanese and Japanese Latin Americans Arrested/Detained Under the Alien Enemies Act During WWII**

Naoko Fujii, an attorney and Chair of the JAACL Social Justice Action Committee, is working on an amicus brief to support the ACLU's case changing the use of the Alien Enemies Act (AEA) to deport Venezuelan immigrants to El Salvador. The goal is to prevent current injustices under this antiquated law that created such devastation in our community.

The Social Justice Action Committee is in the process of identifying descendants of Issei who were imprisoned during World War II under the AEA, so their family stories can be included and their voices heard through this brief. This is an important invitation to our Japanese American community to speak directly to the highest court in the country—and to make sure the injustices our families endured are not repeated. Naoko is working with a national team of lawyers and community leaders to prepare the amicus brief for the U.S. Supreme Court. This brief is specifically for descendants of Japanese, Japanese Latin Americans, Germans, and Italians who were arrested/detained during World War II under the Alien Enemies Act of 1798—not Executive Order 9066.

### **Why This Matters**

On March 15, 2025, the President invoked the Alien Enemies Act, the same law that was used during World War II to imprison more than 31,000 noncitizens—including Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants. Now, this old law is being used again to deport Venezuelan people, without a trial, without evidence—just as it was used against our relatives.

Several lawsuits have already begun, and the issue may reach the U.S. Supreme Court later this year.

### **What Is an Amicus Brief?**

An amicus brief, also known as a friend-of-the-court brief, is a legal document submitted to a court by someone who is not a party to a case but has a strong interest in its outcome. It offers the court additional information, arguments, perspectives, or personal stories that may not be presented by the parties directly involved in the litigation. They are intended to inform and influence the Court's decision by offering personal stories, perspectives, and consequences of the Court's ruling. Our stories will help the judges understand what this law did to real people—and why it is unjust.

### **Who Can Join?**

You are invited to add your name if you are an adult descendant (blood relative) of someone who was arrested/detained during World War II under the Alien Enemies Act. Please note: This is not for the 120,000 Japanese Americans who were incarcerated under Executive Order 9066 only in War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps (Amache, Gila River, Heart Mountain, Jerome, Manzanar, Minidoka, Poston, Topaz, Tule Lake, Rohwer) and Wartime Civil Control Administration (WCCA) detention centers (Fresno, Marysville, Mayer, Merced, Owens Valley, Pinedale, Pomona, Portland, Sacramento, Puyallup, Salinas, Santa Anita, Stockton, Tanforan, Tulare, Turlock). However, this group does include Japanese Latin Americans forcibly brought to the U.S. This group also includes Japanese detained/interned in Hawai'i who were sent to Department of Justice or Army camps in the continental U.S. To determine eligibility, please do the following:

o Check for your relative's name in: <https://ireizo.org/>

o If your relative was only in WRA and WCCA camps, they are not eligible.

o If your relative was imprisoned in city/county jails and other sites instead of or in addition to WRA/WCCA camps, they are likely eligible. A few examples of these include the Los Angeles County Jail, Sacramento County Jail, Tuna Canyon, Sharp Park, Ft. Missoula, Ft. Lincoln, Santa Fe, Lordsburg, Ft Sill, Angel Island, Camp McCoy, Camp Livingston, Ft Meade, and Crystal City.

o If you are unsure or need help, for Japanese Americans contact Carol Kawase, Sonoma JACL, at [sonomacojacl1934@gmail.com](mailto:sonomacojacl1934@gmail.com) For Japanese Latin Americans brought to the U.S. contact Bekki Shibayama at [bjshibayama@gmail.com](mailto:bjshibayama@gmail.com)

### **Next Steps: Sign-Up Instructions**

- If you believe you are eligible and you would like to include your name in this important legal effort, please complete the AEA Descendants sign-on form in full. Include all required details, including your street address, city and state, as this is needed for a legal conflicts-of-interest check by the pro bono legal team.

- We kindly request that each relative, sign up using this link: Link to Google Sign-up Form: [Japanese American Descendents Amicus Brief Sign-Up \(You will be emailed a draft of the brief for a quick review before submission\)](#)

- We are looking for as many blood-related adult descendants as possible to join us to increase the impact of the brief.

- After you sign up, you will receive:

- o A final draft of the amicus brief for your review. The draft will have already been reviewed by 5 JA attorney-descendants including Dale Minami (Korematsu coram nobis attorney) and Peggy Nagae, Min Yasui's coram nobis attorney representing Min Yasui's children/niece, who are descendants.

- o You will be asked to sign a short “amici” agreement (adults only) officially confirming your permission to list your name on the amicus brief which will be a public document. Our brief will be filed to support the ACLU’s case WMM v. Trump that challenges the applicability of the Alien Enemies Act to the deportation of Venezuelan immigrants to El Salvador. The risk of who sign-on are publicly available on a case challenging the president's policies.

- As of November 15, 2025, over 175 descendants have signed on, and the goal is aiming for 200. As many blood-related adult family members as possible are encouraged to sign on, even if you have the same last name, because names will be listed in one long list and not affiliated with any particular AEA detainee.

If you are a descendant of Issei(s) and/or know of descendants who were imprisoned during World War II under the AEA, please consider sharing this information and signing on to the amicus brief.

*Submitted by Gloria Kumagai, Craft & Culture Co-chair*

## **Minnesota Historical Society Exhibits Feature Japanese American Minnesotans**

(This article is a follow-up to an announcement made in the October 2025 Rice Paper about both exhibits.)

In tandem with the “Julia Child: A Recipe for Life” exhibit at the Minnesota History Center, the historical society curators created the exhibit titled “Minnesota Cooks: Small Bites from the Collections.” This exhibit contains a display case dedicated to Ruth Nomura Tanbara and features the Japanese cookbook she wrote in 1940 for a Japanese chef while living in San Francisco. This copy was signed and dedicated to her sister, Elsie. The cookbook is in the collection of the Minnesota Historical Society.

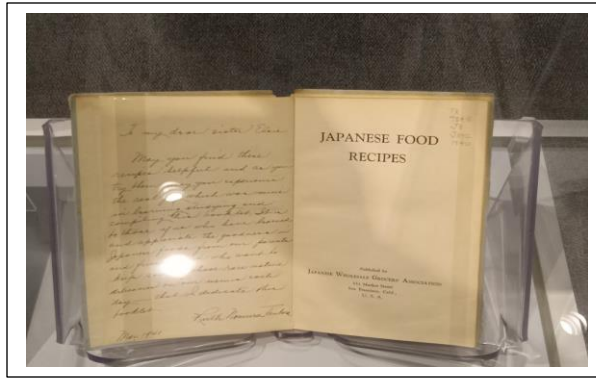
A related exhibit titled “Women with Taste: Culinary Visionaries of the Twin Cities” is on display in the entry lobby of the Mill City Museum in Minneapolis. This exhibit features several female “taste makers” such as Reiko Weston and her pioneering Japanese restaurant, Fuji-Ya. Fittingly, the exhibit features a photo of Reiko Weston with Ruth Tanbara.

Both exhibits opened September 27, 2025 and will close on May 31, 2026.

*Continued on page 12*



Ruth Tanbara exhibit with Minnesota Cooks



Ruth Tanbara cookbook



Ruth Tanbara and Reiko Weston in Women with Taste exhibit

*Submitted by Krista Finstad Hanson, Minnesota writer/historian*

## Twin Cities Buddhist Sangha Celebrates 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Twin Cities Buddhist Sangha has been in existence since 1946, when newly arrived Japanese Americans brought their culture and religion to the area. Forty-nine Nisei and Issei members signed our original “constitution” on July 5, 1946, and we have been sharing the teachings of the Buddha Dharna ever since. We are a Jodo Shinshu sangha under the Buddhist Churches of America.

To celebrate this significant milestone, we will be having a service and celebration on May 3, 2026, at Pinstripes in Edina. The Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America will join us and perform a Buddhist naming ceremony (Kieshiki). We warmly welcome members of the TCJACL to join us. Please RSVP to Cheral Tsuchiya at [cmtsuchiya@gmail.com](mailto:cmtsuchiya@gmail.com)

Our group meets twice per month, once online and once in person at Cha Ami Japanese Cultural Center under the leadership of Rev. Chiemi Onikura-Bly. We hold our Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service on the first service of the month. This is a time for family and friends to remember their loved ones each year in the month of their passing. You are welcome to add your family members’ names to this service.

For more information, please visit our website [tcbuddhist.org](http://tcbuddhist.org) All are welcome.

*Submitted by Cheral Tsuchiya*

## Camp Savage Informational Poster Meeting

There will be a meeting on Monday, February 23, 1 p.m. at the Savage Public Library, 13090 Alabama Avenue, Savage, with Janet Williams, library director and former Savage mayor, and Nancy Huddleston, author of “Images of America: Savage” and former editor of “The Pacer” newsletter.

The subject of the meeting is the form and content of a Camp Savage poster. Both women feel that the poster should primarily be images which tell the story, clarified by captions. Having limited information would result in viewers seeking more information. Karen Tanaka Lucas’ proposal would be that the poster be more informative and put up in the Heritage Room.

Anyone, but especially those from the Education Committee, is welcome to attend.

*Submitted by Karen Tanaka Lucas, TCJACL Secretary*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JACL IT'S YOUR 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!

Kimmy Tanaka looked up the official date of the creation of the Twin cities chapter of the JACL, and here it what she found! The name of the publication is Northwest Nisei, and it was published on September 28, 1946. It was No. 9, Vol. I. There is no indication about the length of the publication, nor how often an issue was printed.

Due to its typewritten form, your editor will use the computer to enlarge the font so you can read the article easily.

## **Minneapolis – St. Paul JACL Chapter Activated on September 20**

**Officially organized at an open meeting on Sept. 20 at the St. Paul International Institute, the Twin Cities chapter of the Japanese American League became the newest chapter to be activated in the Midwest.**

**As JACL's regional representative, Masao Satow spoke on the "The Unfinished Job for Japanese-Americans" before an unexpectedly**

**Announcement of the date, October 12, for the first election meeting of the newly-organized Twin Cities JACL was made by the nominating committee, composed of the representatives of sponsoring groups, after their meeting last Monday evening.**

**An open forum is expected to be conducted to outline the aims and policies of the local chapter.**

**The Saturday meeting, which will begin at 8 p.m. is expected to be held at either the Mpls YWCA or YMCA with the Minneapolis groups to act as hosts.**

**Notices will be sent out by each organization. large turnout of approximately 200 interested nisei and Caucasian friends.**

**Following Satow's presentation of the aspects of JACL's national program and its political action, Chairman Sam Rokutani led the discussion from the floor. A majority approval of the motion to activate a local chapter marked the formation of the Twin Cities JACL.**

**The public meeting was sponsored under the auspices of the following St. Paul groups: International Institute, Resettlement Committee, Council of Human Relations, and the following Mpls. groups: JA Service Co., United Christian Ministry to Japanese Americans, Y Fellowships; and the Twin Cities Buddhist group. The Jackson Hall Fellowship, Married Couples Club, and the Nisei Girls' Club, all of Mpls. gave their cooperation.**

**Two organizational meetings of representative groups were held last month to plan the public meeting.**

**Headlines for the other three articles on this page are:**

- **Japanese YWCA President Speaks**
- **Local chapter Joins Nation Wide Membership Drive by Peter Ohtaki**
- **English Classes Urged for Issei**

*Copy of the original newspaper article continued on page 14*

# MPLS AVC WANTS MORE NISEI VETERANS

## NORTHWEST NISEI

Vol. I No. 9

September 28, 1946

### MINNEAPOLIS - ST. PAUL JAACL CHAPTER ACTIVATED ON SEPTEMBER 20

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### JAPANESE YWCA PRESIDENT SPEAKS

At a special meeting for Japanese residents of the Twin Cities Area, the Rev. Mrs. Tamaki Uemura, first civilian from Japan to visit the United States since the war, spoke at the YWCA at 8 p.m. last Wednesday.

Mrs. Uemura, president of the Japanese YWCA and vice-president of the World's Council YWCA, held an interested audience with her description of current conditions in Japan.

She stressed the urgent need for aid to the people in Japan in the way of food and clothing.

With Mrs. Uemura, Josefa Ilano, M.D. from Manila, and Foh-mei Hsiang, dean of Mary Farnham School for Girls in Shanghai, form a team now on a cross-country goodwill tour. Included in their itinerary here were numerous appearances this week before church and educational groups of the Cities.

### LOCAL CHAPTER JOINS NATION WIDE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

by Peter Ohtaki

Stuart McClendon, Planning Committee head of the Minneapolis American Veterans' Committee, chapter No. 1, which campaigned with the University chapter in the recent Jon Matsuo housing case, has asked that more nisei veterans join the local chapter.

The organization's support in the Matsuo case is nothing new in AVC's policy, both locally and nationally. Even before the first nisei joined the chapter last spring, and even before any nisei had shown any interest in the organization, the Mpls. chapter had already gone on record as supporting the Twin Cities' Resettlement Committee.

The Minneapolis Chapter is now conducting an extensive membership drive in which it hopes to reach nearly a thousand members in this city alone.

Nisei veterans are welcome to attend the chapter's meeting held at the Mayor's Guest Room No. 125 City Court House, on the corner of 5th St. and 3rd Ave. Meetings are held  
(Continued on Page 4)

### ENGLISH CLASSES URGED FOR ISSEI

Indication of interest in a possible program of English Classes for issei was requested by the Japanese American Service Committee as a result of a suggestion for such classes made at the Sept. 10 meeting of the Committee. It was pointed out that with the issei naturalization bill coming to the fore and the basic need for practice in the English language, the issei might wish to improve or learn English in classes together.

Suggestions from interested parties are welcomed by the Committee through Miss Ruth Marshall who may be reached at MA 0501.

## *Addition to Annual Education Report*

On May 18, TCJACL participated in the Edina Asian American Alliance by displaying two foam core panels that had been printed (used the ones we developed for Compassion and Courage about Minnesota's Remarkable Secret School for Language). Karen Tanaka Lucas gave a five-minute presentation about the relevance of the JA WWII experience to current events and our country's current policies towards immigrants. There were games and prizes for kids and handouts about TCJACL. Also representing our chapter were Cheryl Hirata-Dulas and Sally Sudo.

### **A REMINDER – from you editor**

**As a rule, The Rice Paper contains articles (including announcements, photos, poster, etc.) that involve TCJACL activities and its members. Sometimes, National JACL, other JACL chapters, and other organizations will request that we include information that is important to them and might be of relevance to our chapter and our members.**

**However, if you are interested in what is going on at the national or other districts level, you could go to the sites listed below. You might find a program or activity of high interest that we could replicate in the Twin Cities. The TCJACL is YOUR chapter and the Board wants to know what YOU want! We welcome your thoughts, your ideas, your suggestions, etc.**

- Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)
- JACL Communications
- Japanese American National Museum (JANM)
- Individual chapter or district websites (the JACL website has a list of the districts and chapters in each district)

To be notified of JACL activities, relevant opportunities, and events that occur on shorter notice than our Rice Paper can communicate, please sign up for the TC JACL "email Blast" by contacting us at [info@tcjacl.org](mailto:info@tcjacl.org) or by visiting [www.tcjacl.org/subscribe](http://www.tcjacl.org/subscribe). Sign up now. Don't miss out! Update us when your email changes.

Also, to help the TC JACL remain prudent in its printing and mailing costs, please consider receiving your Rice Paper via email instead of print. It shows up in beautiful color, is easy to read, and you can download and save it on your computer for future reference or print it out. Please contact us at [info@tcjacl.org](mailto:info@tcjacl.org) and sign up for the TCJACL "Rice Paper:E-Delivery".

Thank you. Your TCJACL Board of Directors.

**PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM**

To be notified of JACL activities, relevant opportunities, and events that occur on shorter notice than our Rice Paper can communicate, please sign up for the TC JACL “email Blast” by contacting us at [info@tcjacl.org](mailto:info@tcjacl.org) or by visiting [www.tcjacl.org/subscribe](http://www.tcjacl.org/subscribe). Sign up now. Don’t miss out! Update us when your email changes.

Also, to help the TC JACL remain prudent in its printing and mailing costs, please consider receiving your Rice Paper via email instead of print. It shows up in beautiful color, is easy to read, and you can download and save it on your computer for future reference or print it out. Please contact us at [info@tcjacl.org](mailto:info@tcjacl.org) and sign up for the TCJACL “Rice Paper:E-Delivery”.

Thank you. Your TCJACL Board of Directors.

**PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM**