

Notes from the Chapter Board



Scholarship Deadline Approaching!!

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There is still time for Omaha JACLers to apply for chapter scholarships! The deadline for Scholarship applications for the Omaha JACL Chapter is **May 1st, 2009**. This should not be confused with the Incoming Freshman applying for National JACL Scholarships who had to have materials in by March 1st, and other National JACL Scholarship Deadline is April 1st. Eligible students for Omaha Chapter scholarships include incoming college freshmen and currently enrolled full-time college students who plan to enroll as full-time students for the 2009-2010 year. The same application and supporting materials which

National JACL uses is required for Omaha. Please visit the National JACL website to obtain:

<http://jacl.org/edu/scholar.htm>

Completed applications & supporting materials should be mailed to:

Omaha JACL Scholarship
c/o Sheri Uno
13008 Taylor Circle
Omaha, NE 68164

If you have any questions about the application process or eligibility requirements, please contact Rachel Endo at r@rkendo.com.

In June, the Omaha JACL will hold its annual graduation luncheon which will honor any students successfully completing the **12th, 8th, and 6th** grades. Please contact any board member to give us the names of any graduating students indicated above so that we can be sure we have a complete list and include them in the event so that they receive all the honors they deserve! More details will follow soon on the date and location of the luncheon.

Survey on the back of this sheet!

Please clip this page above!

- There is a survey on the reverse of this page!
- Please fill it out with your honest ideas, thoughts and comments.
- Please return to Andrea Butler.

Please Plan to attend the next Omaha JACL Event: Spring Picnic!



Instead our the traditional Easter Egg Hunt, the Omaha JACL will hold a **Spring Picnic on Saturday, April 11, 2009 from 11:00a.m. until 2:00p.m. at Elmwood Park: 802 South 60th Street.** We will meet in the picnic area directly in front of the purple "Sun Dawgs" shack. Please join us with your family and friends! We will have a small egg hunt as a children's activity. Omaha JACL will provide our favorite grilled hot dogs, along with the buns,

condiments and drinks. We would like members to contribute side dishes and/or desserts. We will also have some yard games out (Bocce Ball, Frisbee, Ladder Golf, etc) for all to enjoy. We would like to see a large turn out for this new event so we hope you can make it!

We Need YOU!! Input from our members



The current economic situation is even hitting JACL. During these tough times the board has had to make some tough decisions with regard to budgeting. We have, for the first time, implemented a limit on reimbursements to attending district/national events. It will be reviewed on an annual basis. The board also unanimously voted to have a membership dues increase in the couple/ family category to make up for the subsidy to National JACL. The current actual charge for this membership category is \$105, but Omaha has been charging \$80. A formal letter will be mailed to each

affected member to announce this change: as of July 1, 2009, Omaha cost of couple/family JACL membership will be \$90. We understand that this is not a favorable solution for everyone, but this was the best solution with the biggest impact on lowering expenses. We also believe that the new price is still reasonable in that two individual memberships would be \$104 (\$52 each) so the couple/family price of \$90 still maintains a discount.

Because many of our events are not currently well attended, we are attempting to re-think what we do.

As a member-driven organization, we want our members to be excited and participate in our events and feel they gain value from their membership. This is why we are asking for your input on the following survey. We want to focus on what our members think is important. Additionally, there is a current board position open that we are actively looking to fill and we will potentially have another position vacated this summer. Please lend us your time and effort in gaining this info! It is highly appreciated!

Omaha JACL Member Survey

The last Omaha JACL event that I attended was: _____

Things I enjoyed about that event: _____

Things that I would have improved about that event: _____

I plan to attend one or more of Omaha JACL's upcoming events (spring picnic, Hana's Suitcase play, graduation luncheon): _____ YES _____ NO

If no, please provide brief explanation why: _____

For a fall event, I would be interested in the following type of activity (check all that apply):

- Workshop – Topic: _____ Social Event – Idea: _____ Other: _____

Other Comments/Suggestions/Thoughts/Ideas for the board: _____

I would like to receive my JACL correspondence/announcements via email from now on to save on postage and printing costs. My email address is: _____

I would be interested in being a Board Member! My Name: _____

I would recommend this person as a Board Member: _____

Optional-Name:

*Please detach sheet, complete and return to
Andrea Butler:
10658 Potter St
Omaha, NE
68122*

“Hana’s Suitcase” to play at JCC

The Institute for Holocaust Education will present the play “Hana’s Suitcase” at the Jewish Community Center on Thursday April 23rd and Sunday, April 26th.

The Omaha JACL is a co-sponsor of this wonderful event and we would like as many members there to attend and support the event as possible.

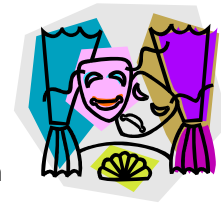
The play was written by Emil Sher, based on the book by Karen Levine. It tells the story of a

Japanese teacher who receives an artifact from a German concentration camp and the journey which it leads her and her students on to find out more about its owner.

Please encourage all you know to consider coming to this public showing. Tickets are only \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 18 and under. The Thursday show is at 7pm and the Sunday show is at 3pm. The JCC is at 333 South 132nd Street.

Omaha JACL has previously partnered with the IHE in 2007 for the showing of the PBS documentary “Sujihara: Conspiracy of Kindness.” That event was very successful and we look forward to this sponsorship again with a local community organization.

A flyer for the play is enclosed with further details and ticket purchasing information. Please share and spread the word of the event.



The Institute for Holocaust Education and Creighton University are great partners of the Omaha JACL.

4th Annual DOR event at Creighton

On February 19, 2009, a local Day of Remembrance event was held at Creighton University. The Omaha JACL was a co-sponsor of the event with the Creighton American Studies program and the Creighton Office of Multicultural Affairs. The night started with a screening of the film “THE CATS OF MIRIKITANI” which depicts the life of a homeless man’s survival

in New York City. Jimmy Mirikitani is a survivor of the WWII internment camps and of 9/11.

There were approximately 60 people in attendance and after the film, refreshments were served. Omaha JACL secretary and Creighton professor Sharon Ishii-Jordan attended the event and said “There was a lot of good conversation and discussion [of the film] afterwards.”

Because 2010 will mark the 5th year of Creighton’s putting on a DOR event, plans are already in the works for a potential double event! We are excited about this and will keep the members updated as further details become known.

JACL’s semi-annual NY/SC Conference in St. Paul

JACL’s National Youth/Student Council will hold its biennial conference June 26-28, 2009 at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. This year’s conference theme is: “IMPACT: Your Community, Your Generation, Your JACL.”

The youth focus in JACL is great and any of our young/student members who would like to attend are encouraged to do so. Please contact the board if you would like further information and details, or to let us know the names of any youth you think should attend. The

conference includes many workshops as well as a mentorship luncheon and the Vision Awards banquet. It is a great opportunity for networking among peers with the same focus of culture, civil rights and education.



**OMAHA JAACL
BOARD MEMBERS**

President: Richard Takechi
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V.P. Membership:
Rachel Endo
r@rkendo.com

V.P. Programs:
Andrea Butler
andreakparker@hotmail.com

V.P Scholarships: **OPEN**



Mark Your Calendar!

April 3-5: MDC Spring Meeting in St. Louis, MO

Saturday, April 11: Spring Picnic at Elmwood

Thursday, April 23: "Hana's Suitcase" at JCC

Sunday, April 26: "Hana's Suitcase" at JCC

Saturday, June - TBD: Graduation Luncheon

June 26 – June 28: National Youth/Student Council Conference in Minnesota

Summer: MDC/EDC Bi-District Conference – location TBD

Sep/Oct: NEW Fall event for Omaha JAACL – stay tuned!

About Our Organization...

<p>Founded in 1929, the JAACL is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. The JAACL monitors and responds to issues that enhance or threaten the civil and human rights of all</p>	<p>Americans and implements strategies to effect positive social change, particularly to the Asian Pacific American community. Founded in June 1946, Omaha was the 51st chapter in the JAACL.</p>
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OMAHA JAACL
C/O ANDREA BUTLER
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OMAHA, NE 68122

