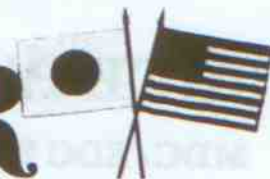


THE RICE PAPER



SEPTEMBER 2009

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER OF
THE JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE

WEBSITE:
WWW.TWINCITIESJACL.ORG



TC JACL UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

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

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

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

NEWSLETTER

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952-432-2055

Scholarship Committee holds one seat

My First Bi-District Conference

By Matthew Farrells

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

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MDC/EDC Bi-District Conference



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

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

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

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

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

Thanking the Twin Cities for hosting the National Youth Conference at Macalester College.

Chapters are asked to identify if there is an interest in establishing a Planned Giving program at the local level
Chapter partnership with other organizations

JACL/University affiliation groups

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

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

Election of District Officers

Governor---Sharon Ishi-Jordan, Omaha Chapter

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

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

Secretary---Steve Mitori, St. Louis Chapter

District Youth Chair---TBD at our October meeting

District Youth Representative---Stephanie Nitahara, Chicago Chapter

The joint meeting, MDC/EDC, covered:

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

Update on legislative actions

Proposed resolutions to be presented in Chicago

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

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

RICE PAPER

CHRYSANTHEMUM BANQUET

A MOST UNLIKELY

Hero



SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2009

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

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

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

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

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

Gloria Kumagai
Board Member



RICE PAPER

TC JACL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT/DENSHO GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale



Twin Cities JACL Oral History Project Update

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

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

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

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

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



