



# THE RICE PAPER

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

e-mail: [info@tcjacl.org](mailto:info@tcjacl.org)

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

## April 2024

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### CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Twin Cities JACL, PO Box 580325,  
Minneapolis, MN 55458

[www.tcjacl.org](http://www.tcjacl.org) (click on "connect";  
then write message in box)

[info@tcjacl.org](mailto:info@tcjacl.org)

## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

こんにちは！  
Hello!

I just wanted to quickly share a few quick highlights from the past few months.

On Sunday, February 18th, TCJACL held its annual Day of Remembrance program, this year entitled *Paying It Forward: Reparations*, in which we were joined by four incredible panelists to examine the parallels between the movements for Japanese American Redress and for Black Reparations. The documentary [Reparations by Jon Osaki](#) is available for free viewing on [Kanopy.com](https://www.kanopy.com) with your library card. Check out the [recording here!](#)

On Sunday, March 31st, TCJACL Youth/Student Representative Asia O'Neil and Young Professional Representative Misa Westby held a fascinating discussion *Exploring Asian American Experiences in American Schools*, which they had worked hard to plan and organize on their own! The event was a casual panel discussion joined by 3 Asian American teachers/school faculty from Minnesota in which they examined the unique challenges faced by Asian American students in the United States. In case you missed it, the [recording is now available](#) on our YouTube page!

Looking forward, we have been graciously invited by the Minneapolis Institute of Art to visit "[The Shape of Time: Korean Art after 1989](#)," a special exhibition featuring the first generation of artists of Korean descent who explore the past, present, and future, to understand their experiences and meet Korea today. We have limited tickets available for members who are interested in attending between now and June 23rd!

And save the date for our Summer Picnic date has been set for Sunday, August 4th. More details to come!

また今度にお会いしましょう！  
Let's meet again soon!

In solidarity,

Vinicius Taguchi  
Chapter President

# Upcoming Events

## Save the Dates

### Japanese American Veterans Memorial Program

Thursday, May 16, 2024  
10:00 – 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Fort Snelling National Cemetery  
7601 34th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55450

All are welcome to attend.

Over 100 local Japanese American veterans will be honored.

Recently retired 4-star U.S. Army General Paul Nakasone will be the keynote speaker.

Directions: Enter through the Main Gate off of 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue.  
Turn left at the first intersection (Pruden Dr).  
Follow road towards main flagpole.  
Program will be held on Mallon Road.

Volunteers are needed for various tasks on the day of the event.  
Contact Victor Ohno at [vohno@hotmail.com](mailto:vohno@hotmail.com)

The July 2023 issue of the *Rice Paper* contains a list of local Japanese Americans on the TCJACL/JAVM Honor Roll Call of Deceased Veterans

To access the list(s), go to the TCJACL website and click on the July 2023 issue of *The Rice Paper*

An article (in the form of a letter) entitled “Preserving the Legacy of Japanese American Veterans” appeared in the January 2024 issue of the *Rice Paper*. The letter requests your monetary support of this unifying and community-building program.

Due to seating limitations, priority will be given to veterans and families of veterans being honored.  
RSVP by May 8 (or until filled) by emailing [chiratadulas@tcjacl.org](mailto:chiratadulas@tcjacl.org)

For other questions or more information, email [chiratadulas@tcjacl.org](mailto:chiratadulas@tcjacl.org)

# It's Scholarship Time

## Scholarships for High School Graduates

Applications for graduating high school students have been received. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting on April 16 to discuss the academic achievements, extracurricular activities, community services, and essay of each student. The Awards Banquet to honor these students will be held on Thursday, May 9.

## Undergraduate / Graduate Scholarship Applications Available in September

The Twin Cities JACL is pleased to announce the availability of undergraduate/graduate level scholarships to be awarded later this year.

Scholarship applications will be available on September 1, 2024 for students currently enrolled in a post-secondary educational program and students who are currently enrolled in a graduate level program.

Scholarships are available to current JACL – Twin Cities Chapter members only. Membership must be active as of September 1, 2024.

Applications will be available at <https://www.tcjacl.org/scholarships/apply/>. Only one scholarship may be received during a degree program.

Applications are due November 1, 2024.

For more information, please contact [scholarship@tcjacl.org](mailto:scholarship@tcjacl.org)

*Submitted by Pam Ohno-Dagoberg, Scholarship Chair*



Japanese American Citizens League  
Twin Cities Chapter

**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](mailto:scholarship@tcjacl.org)

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

## More Upcoming Events

### April

- **16<sup>th</sup>** Artistic Expression Speaker Event – Join us for a discussion event featuring guest speakers Steve Ozone (from TCJACL) and James Curry (a multidisciplinary artist and educator at Augsburg University) to learn and discuss social justice through artistic expression. 5:30-7:30 pm at Bruininks Hall 512B, 222 Pleasant St SE on the University of Minneapolis campus. Steve and James will be showing various short films and other forms of art. The program is sponsored by the Japanese Social Justice Organization (JSJO) and TC JACL.
- **26th**



### FAWK

Funny Asian Women Kollektive

Join Patti Kameya, Tiffany Bui, Ameera Sultana Khan, Mai Mene Moua, Brenda Tran, liqinxu, and Xay Yang for the Funny Asian Women Kollektive Comedy Lab Showcase.

Friday, April 26, 7:30 pm  
Phoenix Theater, 2605 Hennepin Ave.

General admission \$10  
Students (ages 18+)/seniors \$5

Tickets:

<https://comedylab.eventbrite.com/>

### May

- An event for university students from Japan who belong to JSJO (Japanese Social Justice Organization) and are leaving Minnesota for the summer is being planned by TCJACL's Student/Youth/Young Professionals representatives. In the future, it is hoped that members of TCJACL can help these students with transportation for shopping and other needs.
- **12<sup>th</sup> Taiko Arts Midwest Concert:** Taiko Arts Midwest (TAM) was featured at our 2023 picnic last August. Their concert, Taiko Thrive, is on Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ordway Center for Performing Arts, St. Paul, MN

Featured taiko players will be Enso Daiko with Yuichi Kimura and Daichi No Kai (Kobe, Japan) and Aki of TenTen (Toronto Japanese folk ensemble)

Kids 15 and under are FREE! Link to see the poster buy tickets: <https://www.taikoartsmidwest.org>

Another link to buy tickets is:

[https://boxoffice.ordway.org/Online/mapSelect.asp?BOset::WSmap::seatmap::performance\\_ids=55E9E1C9-6D42-403B-91A8-D207ABC105EB&\\_gl=1\\*kygekn\\*\\_ga\\*NjQwMDAxNzI4LjE3MTAxODk4MDQ.\\*\\_ga\\_0F86JMMBJL\\*MTcxMDU0NzAzOS40LjEuMTcxMDU0NzAzAz0Ni4wLjAuMA..&\\_ga=2.177360805.1049389391.1710547040-640001728.1710189804](https://boxoffice.ordway.org/Online/mapSelect.asp?BOset::WSmap::seatmap::performance_ids=55E9E1C9-6D42-403B-91A8-D207ABC105EB&_gl=1*kygekn*_ga*NjQwMDAxNzI4LjE3MTAxODk4MDQ.*_ga_0F86JMMBJL*MTcxMDU0NzAzOS40LjEuMTcxMDU0NzAzAz0Ni4wLjAuMA..&_ga=2.177360805.1049389391.1710547040-640001728.1710189804)

Submitted by Gloria Kumagai

- **The Shape of Time – Korean Art after 1989**      **March 23-June 23, 2024**  
**Target Galleries at the Minneapolis Institute of Art**

This major showing of contemporary Korean art is the first of its kind in the United States since 2009. Twenty-five artists of Korean descent show their works of photography, video, painting, ceramics, and other media. The artists represented here are socially conscious and politically progressive. They use their art to comment on and critique contemporary Korean society. Contact Paul Pedtke at [paulpedtke@gmail.com](mailto:paulpedtke@gmail.com) for a limited number of free tickets.

*From Minneapolis Institute of Arts publications*

- Doing any spring/summer cleaning? What will you do with all the Asian objects you no longer need or want? Donate them to TCJACL for pricing and selling at the August Obon Festival! Contact Amy Dickerson at [adickerson323@gmail.com](mailto:adickerson323@gmail.com) or Karen Tanaka Lucas at [Katalucas49@gmail.com](mailto:Katalucas49@gmail.com) for more information.
- The TCJACL Book Club's next book for discussion is Yellow Face. The discussion date is coming up, but a final date has not been determined. Contact Ammanda Neitz at [amneitz@gmail.com](mailto:amneitz@gmail.com) for more information.
- **18<sup>th</sup> Edina Asian American Alliance Festival:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual festival will take place on Saturday, May 18, 2004 from noon to 4 pm at Rosland Park (same location as the JACL picnic). The alliance was formed in the wake of anti-Asian social media surfacing in the Edina public schools with students acting and speaking in inappropriate ways. This year's theme is "Reaching for the Stars", but the core of the event will emphasize equity, social justice, and anti-racism.

TCJACL will be represented at the event by Vice-President Kendal Takeshita who will give a 5-minute talk about who and what JACL is, what we stand for, and how we have connected to the local AA community. Cheryl Hirata-Dulas and Karen Tanaka Lucas will staff a table with information about our programs and activities.

## June

- **1st**

### **Volunteers needed for TCJACL booth** **Twin Cities West Metro ASIAN FAIR**

<https://tcasianfair.org> (check out link for past photos and videos)



Saturday, June 1, 2024, 11:00AM to 7:00PM  
Hilde Performance Center, Plymouth  
Address: 3450 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55447

This is the second year of a really fun festival and the second year we will be participating. Come volunteer and take in stage performances from K-Pop to Bollywood. Savor food from a variety of food trucks. Help TCJACL sell merchandise and promote our organization. Free admission.

We will need volunteers to help (3 volunteers per shift allows for breaks for workers)

- Set up from 10:00 – 11:00 (3 people)
- Sales shifts 11:00 – 2:00 and 2:00- 5:00 (3 people each shift)
- Final sales shift 5:00 – 7:00 with take down 7:00 – 8:00 (3 people)

Please contact Karen Lucas if you are willing to help: [katalucas49@gmail.com](mailto:katalucas49@gmail.com) or 952-270-3278

- **6<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> Meet and Eat Event:** TCJACL’s “Fine Dining” group is planning to gather at Gyu-kaku BBQ , 3025 Lyndale Avenue South (1/2 block south of Lake Street) on one of the 2 dates noted, starting at 6 pm. Even though you might not want to order BBQ, there is quite an extensive menu for other delicious entrees. Spouses and others are welcome to attend. Everyone is responsible for their own bill. Let Amy Dickerson know ([adickerson323@gmail.com](mailto:adickerson323@gmail.com)) if you are interested and which date would work best for you. The date that most people can attend will be chosen. Parking is available next to the building or across the alley.

## Other Summer Events

**Details for the following events will be provided at a later date!**

- **Sunday, August 4 – JAACL Summer Picnic at Rosland Park**
- **Thursday, August 15 – Cookbook Club potluck at Gloria Kumagai’s home in Golden Valley**
- **Sunday, August 18 – Obon Festival at Como Park in St. Paul, 3-9 pm**  
Volunteers are needed for set up from 1-3 pm, booth sales from 3-6 pm and 6-9 pm, and take down 9-10 pm. Contact Karen Lucas at [katalucas49@gmail.com](mailto:katalucas49@gmail.com) or 952-270-3278 for much needed volunteering help.
- **Teacher Training Workshop** – Grace Morizawa of the National Japanese American Historical Society announced that the Twin Cities has, for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, been selected to host a teacher training workshop sometime this summer. The title of the workshop is Musicmakers: Bands Behind Barbed Wire and will examine “how American jazz inspired creative expressions within WWII confinement sites and how dance bands became a means of protest and survival among young incarcerated Japanese Americans as they forged their cultural identity in and out of confinement sites.”
- **Saturday, October 5 – Chrysanthemum Banquet**

## Recent Events

### “Day of Remembrance: The Japanese American World War II Experience”

Over 30 community members attended a presentation by Peggy Doi, TCJACL Education Committee member, at the Anpétu Téča Education Center in Roseville on February 6, 2024.

Peggy volunteered to share her family’s WWII experience at a free monthly educational speaker series organized by Roseville Area Senior Programs called “Morning Talks.” She scheduled her presentation in February to observe the “Day of Remembrance” and mark the 82<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942. This order resulted in the incarceration, without due process, of both her father’s and mother’s families from the west coast in the months following Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor.

Peggy’s mother, Hideko (Peggie) Osasa, was born in Seattle, WA. At the time Executive Order 9066 was issued, her family lived in Port Angeles, WA, but Peggie was on business in Tucson, AZ. When Peggie went to register in Tucson, she was given permission to bypass travel and curfew restrictions to drive back to Port Angeles so that she could be incarcerated with her family. Her family went directly to Tule Lake without first going to an assembly center. At Tule Lake, Peggie was given one of the highest paying jobs, earning \$18/month registering new arrivals. She remained incarcerated until May 1943, when she was granted permission to travel to Minnesota to marry Saburo (Bill) Doi. After the war, Bill and Peggie settled in the Twin Cities and raised their five children.

Peggy's father, Bill, volunteered out of Tule Lake to train as a linguist at the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) at Camp Savage. Due to a misdiagnosis of tuberculosis, he missed two months of accelerated and intensive Japanese language training. Since he would not be able to catch up, he was offered a position with the Special Services at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling MISLS. In 1948, Bill received an MIS Commendation which read, in part, "You sacrificed opportunities to join your comrades in combat zones and accepted your responsibility as a non-combatant, and the high morale of the men at the MIS Language School was in no small degree due to your contributions as special service clerk."

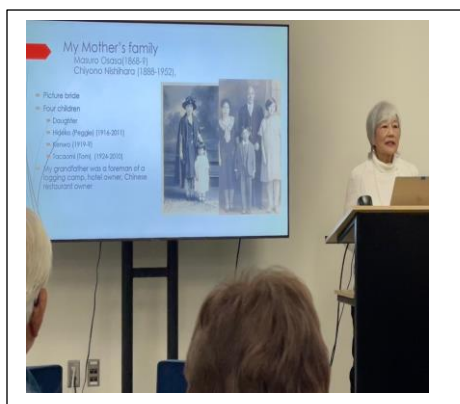
Bill's experiences during WWII inspired his involvement in advocacy, prompting him to work to repeal Title II which allowed US citizens to be incarcerated without due process, march for fair housing for African Americans, campaign for redress, and establish the Minnesota Nikkei Project. Peggy said that her father believed in the importance of educating the broader community to ensure that what happened during WWII to people of Japanese ancestry, mostly American citizens, would not happen again to any other group that is being singled out. He gave over 200 presentations around the state for this reason. Bill's own father was negatively impacted, as many Issei men were, having lost the role of head of family and decision-maker.

Peggy concluded her presentation with a question, "Why discuss this?" She explained that "all immigrants and indigenous people have a story, each is unique. We need to learn those stories so that we can understand each other." Like her father, she also believes that it is important to educate others so that history does not repeat itself. Her message is especially significant today when the Japanese American community is in a key position to discuss the parallels between Pearl Harbor and 9/11 and to promote understanding through education.

Peggy also acknowledged Sally Sudo, who over the years has shared her first-hand WWII experiences with thousands of students and community members. In 2021, Peggy was one of over a dozen participants in the chapter's "Next Generation" project. During one workshop session, Sally presented her talk on her WWII incarceration experiences. Karen Tanaka Lucas followed with a presentation on how she personalized Sally's PowerPoint to incorporate her own family's story. The project's aim was to provide resources to individuals who may not have first-hand experience so that they could help to fulfill requests for speakers on the Japanese American WWII experience.

Peggy's presentation was well-received and had a positive impact on those who attended. After the program, two grandparents commented that they appreciated gaining an awareness of the MISLS, and that they both planned to take their grandchildren to Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center this summer. We are fortunate to have chapter members such as Peggy to share their family's experiences and make a difference in our community.

*Submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas; photo credit: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas*



Peggy shares archival photos and talks about her ancestry



Peggy Doi (center) with JACL attendees (from left to right) Sally Sudo, Sandi Doi, Judy and George Murakami



Peggy chats with Claude Lescaubeau, Sandi Doi, and Guylaine Lescaubeau after the presentation



Claude Lescarbeau browses through Peggy's educational resources display

Remember to check out the recordings from our Day of Remembrance program at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwxxxK2qutZ0> and the discussion called Exploring *Asian American Experiences in America's Schools (also on youtube)*. See President's Remarks on page 1 of this issue.

## Education Committee Minutes and Updates - April 2024

- Kimmy Tanaka was announced as the new co-chair of the TCJACL Education Committee
- Since a core mission of the committee is to provide talks/presentations on the Japanese American experience during WWII and to raise awareness of the Military Intelligence School at Historic Fort Snelling, three sets of posters provided by Smithsonian Exhibit have been laminated to be used in presentations.
- On April 25, Sally Sudo and John Suzukida will be presenting to about 200 students (in 3 sessions) at Eastview High School in Apple Valley
- Since Rick Shiomi's play about the MIS has an excellent chance to be approved for a possible March/April 2025 run, the Education Committee has agreed to provide an MIS display in the lobby during that time. The display would consist of five pull-up banners (paid for by the Minnesota History Society and the Education Committee) as well as an exhibit case housing memorabilia from that time period.
- As the Chrysanthemum Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2024, the banquet committee is soliciting the names of possible speakers.
- A Reading and Conversation event was held on Saturday, April 6, at the East Side Freedom Library. Sophia Epony Kim shared her work-in-progress, two children's stories about Minnesota Japanese Americans. Discussion followed. Carolyn Nayematsu described the conversation as lively, inspiring, and very meaningful.



Some of the attendees of the April 6 ESFL event

Yuichiro Onishi, faculty member at the U of M and a TCJACL member, has compiled much research on Japanese American resettlement in the Twin Cities area after WWII. Impressive mapping has already been done.

Our Webmaster is looking for a replacement. If interested, please contact President Vini Taguchi at [president@tcjacl.org](mailto:president@tcjacl.org)