



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://www.instagram.com/TwinCitiesJACL)

October 2024

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then write a message in box)

info@tcjacl.org

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

いいお天気ですね。

What lovely weather we're having.

Of course, I don't know ahead of time how the weather will be when you read my note, but I do love the mild Minnesota autumns and the beautiful fall colors they bring, ephemeral as they are. In fact, I just learned the perfect phrase, "[minwewebagaasin](#)," an Ojibwe phrase meaning "leaves sound nice blowing in the wind." Michelle Goose, a 2024 Bush Fellow and Ojibwe language instructor at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet taught this phrase to MPR listeners during her recent [interview](#), which I heard while driving around the Twin Cities the morning after our annual Chrysanthemum Banquet.

Although I have attended past Chrysanthemum Banquets, this was actually the first one I was able to attend in person since becoming chapter president! It was so nice to once again share space with the vibrant community of educators, activists, and volunteers who make TCJACL so special. Many of their tireless efforts to better serve the Twin Cities community often go without proper recognition, so it was very special to take a moment and acknowledge some of these incredible individuals and committees. Among them, it was my honor to present Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, past chapter president and longtime Education Committee member, with the Silver Pin, the highest award from National JACL for service at the chapter level.

And to round out the evening, we had a fantastic keynote presentation by Naomi Ostwald Kawamura, the Executive Director of [Densho](#), sharing many exciting resources and projects to come, including future collaborations with TCJACL!

楽しかったです。

It was a lot of fun!

In solidarity,

Vinicius Taguchi
Chapter President

UPCOMING EVENT

Save the Date

Saturday/Sunday, October 19/20 – Taste of Asia – a 2-day celebration of Asian food and culture – at Asian Village in Blaine (301 Northtown Dr). The family friendly, free admission event runs from 11 am to 8 pm on Saturday and from 12 noon to 5 pm on Sunday. There will be local AAPI food vendors, stage and dance performances, and cultural activities. Last year’s attendance was over 15,000. For more information, go to the Taste of Asia Minnesota website and its Facebook page.

Recent Events

TCJACL SUMMER PICNIC 2024

FABULOUS FOOD

Grilled favorites provided by Jacob, Jacqueline and John Nakasone & assortment of dishes by attendees



FANTASTIC ENTERTAINMENT

Provided by Mutokai Iaido Club, Taiko Arts Midwest, Sansei Yonsei Kai, and Wizards Robotics Team from St. Paul High Schools



FAMILY & FRIENDS!



Over 150 community members gathered for a day filled with culture, food, and fun at the annual TCJACL picnic held at Edina Rosland Park Pavilion on Sunday, August 4, 2024. Attendees enjoyed a delicious potluck, with grilled favorites provided by the Nakasone family, along with sweet treats such as freshly spun cotton candy. Entertainment included an exhilarating Taiko performance by Taiko Arts Midwest, traditional Japanese dancing by Sansei Yonsei Kai—complete with audience participation—and a fascinating sword demonstration by the Mutokai Iaido Club. The event also featured a robotics demo by the Wizards Robotics Team from St. Paul High Schools, exciting kids' activities such as a 3-legged race, intergenerational tug of war, a Kendama competition led by local Japanese American youth, and bingo with fantastic prizes. The day was a perfect blend of tradition, community spirit, and family fun!

FUN GAMES AND SPECIAL TREATS!

TUG OF WAR - adults vs. kids



THREE-LEGGED RACE



BINGO



COTTON CANDY



KENDAMA CONTEST



Fortunately, the weather was perfect! Unfortunately, some of the food disappeared quickly, so everyone will have to bring a lot more next year. Thank you, Asia, for planning another successful event!

Submitted by Asia O'Neil

Photos by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Asia O'Neil, and Linda Hashimoto van Dooijeweert

Recipe Corner

Jacqueline Nakasone made these pickles for the TC JACL picnic. I enjoyed them so much, I asked her to share the recipe!

Easy Quick Korean Pickles

Prep: 15 min

Pickling time: 1 hr, 30 min

Total time: 1 hr, 45 min

1 lb Persian cucumbers (about 6 small, 2-3 medium, or 1 large)

(Note: see recipe link for other cucumber types that can be used)

1/4 cup fresh cilantro (use soft stems and leaves)

1/3 cup rice wine vinegar

1 tsp toasted sesame oil

2 Tbsp granulated sugar

2 tsp kosher salt

½-1 tsp crushed red pepper flakes or 1 Tbsp Gochugaru

Instructions

1. Slice cucumbers into round slices or small wedges and roughly chop the cilantro.
2. Combine vinegar, sesame oil, salt, sugar, and red pepper flakes in a bowl and whisk until the sugar dissolves
3. In another bowl or jar, combine cucumbers and cilantro.
4. Pour vinegar mixture over the cucumbers and toss to coat.
5. Let cucumbers sit at room temperature for about 30 minutes, tossing every few minutes to coat them with the brine, then transfer to a glass jar and put in the refrigerator.
6. Once in the fridge, invert the jar a few times to make sure the seasoning distributes evenly.
7. Let the pickles sit in the fridge for at least an hour before enjoying them, but they will be even better if you let them sit overnight.

For more recipe info, visit: <https://southern-bytes.com/quick-korean-inspired-pickles/>

Submitted by Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

Lost and Found

The items pictured below were found at the JACL Summer Picnic in August.



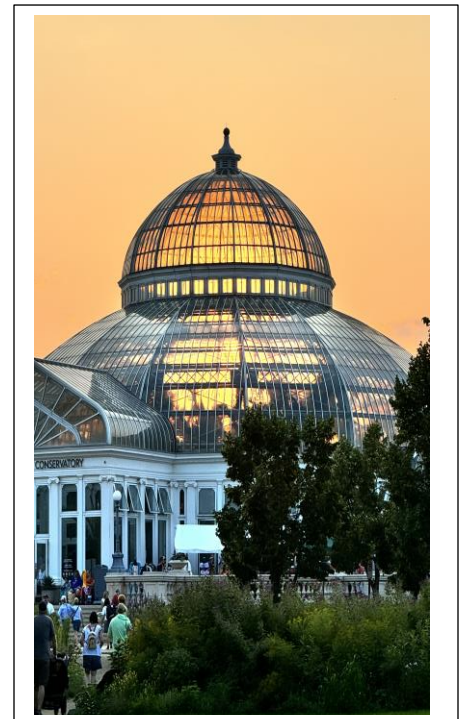
To claim them, contact Lisa at mincks01@aol.com

2024 Obon Festival

On Sunday, August 18, 2024, the TCJACL hosted a sales booth at the Twin Cities Obon Festival in Como Park, selling both used and new items. Our chapter extends its heartfelt gratitude to the donors who contributed for the “re-use” section of our booth: Lani Bennett, Susan Binkley, Elaine Koyama, Helen and Kent Kosobayashi, the Estate of Alexander Kumagai, and Gloria Kumagai.

Our appreciation also to the volunteers who assisted in the booth: Lisa Tsuchiya, Les and Karen Suzukamo, Lisa Shakerin, Gloria Kumagai, Haruka Yukioka, Sudie Hoffman, Yuichi and Romare Onishi, Mika Turner, Laura and Dave McLean, Yuki Kato, Carisa and Dallas, Karen Tanaka and Steve Lucas, Carolyn Nayematsu, and Amy and Jon Dickerson. The funds raised will contribute to the General Fund, supporting administrative and program expenses.

For those interested in donating items for next year’s 2025 Obon Festival, please reach out to Amy Dickerson at adickerson323@gmail.com



A beautiful way to end a wonderful event.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Please go to the following websites for more information

Alice Osada

<https://www.evansnordby.com/obituaries/osada-alice-hisaye-nishimura>

Dr. Takeshi (Tak) Osada

<https://obituaries.startribune.com/obituary/takeshi-osada-1090657736>

Opportunities

Japanese American Veterans Memorial Program 2025 - Volunteers Needed!

The Twin Cities JACL would like to continue the tradition of recognizing and honoring our local Japanese American veterans and service personnel. We are considering having a program at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in May 2025 (date to be determined).

If you are interested in helping to plan the program, please contact Lani Bennett at lanib@tcjacl.org or Cheryl Hirata-Dulas at chiratadulas@tcjacl.org **THANK YOU!**



**We're
FAWKing
back!**



JACL member Patti Kameya will perform with the Funny Asian Women Kollektive Extra Quality Super Show on the first Friday after Election Day. Details follow.

Funny Asian Women Kollektive (FAWK) is proud to return to the mainstage celebrating their 10-year anniversary of no-holds-barred comedy with the EXTRA QUALITY SUPER SHOW. FAWK was founded by award-winning artists Naomi Ko, May Lee-Yang, and Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay to combat the invisibility and dehumanization of Asian American women. They use comedy to talk about controversial issues like race, misogyny, white supremacy, and sex. This year Naomi, May, and Saymoukda will be joined by special local and national guests for a night of stand-up, film, storytelling, and a new game!

Date: Friday, November 8, 2024

Doors Open: 6:30 pm; Show Starts: 7:30 pm

Ages: Recommended 18+

For tickets and more information on FAWK, visit www.fawkollective.com.

Undergraduate/Graduate TC JACL Scholarship Applications Due November 1, 2024

Applications for Twin Cities JACL undergraduate/graduate level scholarships are due November 1, 2024.

Scholarship applicants must be JACL – Twin Cities Chapter members (active as of September 1, 2024) currently enrolled in a post-secondary educational program or graduate level program.

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

For more information, please contact scholarship@tcjacl.org

Board Openings

At the present time there are several openings on the board. Whether you are interested in being an at-large member or hold a position with more specific responsibilities, please let Ammanda Neitz know at amneitz@gmail.com Elections begin in November.

JACL Book Club

The JACL Book Club meets about 4 times a year and tries to select fiction and non-fiction books that reflect the history and culture of all Asian communities – either in America or in their birth countries. We usually meet using Zoom. Our next discussion is planned for January 2025. If you would like to join the group (and/or offer suggestions for future reads, contact Ammanda Neitz at amneitz@gmail.com

Committee Reports

Education Report

Carolyn Nayematsu and Kimmy Tanaka, Co-chairs

The education committee had another exciting and busy year in 2024. We kicked off the year with a conversation with Reiko Ho, playwright and director of *The Carp Who Would Not Quit and other Animal Stories*. The production ran through the winter at the Children's Theatre Company.



Over the summer, a group of high school students participated in a Youth Study Circle and Writing Workshop, led by University of Minnesota Professor Yuichi Onishi, which included a visit to the Minnesota History Center's library for archival research on July 29, 2024

Pictured from left to right are Ben Berger, Kasumi Lucas, Osumare Hernandez, and Romare Onishi.

This fall, we will host the National Japanese American Historical Society for the teacher workshop, *Musicmakers: Bands Behind Barbed Wire* at Historic Fort Snelling.

The production, [Secret Warriors](#) by Rick Shiomi and directed by Lily Tung Crystal will run at the History Theatre from March 27 - April 19, 2025. It is a fictional portrayal based on experiences of the Military Intelligence Service. Education committee members consulted on the production and attended the staged reading. Accompanying the production this spring will be a temporary banner exhibit on the history of the MISLS in the History Theatre lobby, developed by the committee.

Members of the TCJACL Speakers Bureau gave presentations to various groups around the Twin Cities on the Japanese American World War II Experience. Speaking engagements from October 2023 through 2024 (to-date) are listed below.

- November 3, 2023 - John Suzukida at Peace United Methodist Church, North Oaks/Shoreview - 40 attendees
- November 12, 2023 - Karen Tanaka Lucas at the Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center, Presidio, San Francisco, CA (3 sessions) - 70 attendees
- January 30, 2024 - Sally Sudo at the Mindekirken Norwegian Lutheran Church in Minneapolis - 120 attendees
- February 6, 2024 - Peggy Doi at the Anpétu Téča Education Center in Roseville - 30 attendees
- April 26, 2024 - John Suzukida at a community discussion group - 6 attendees
- April 29, 2024 - Sally Sudo and John Suzukida at Eastview High School, Apple Valley (3 sessions) - 140 students
- July 22, 2024 - Sally Sudo at St. John Lutheran Church in Northfield - 50 attendees
- August 16, 2024 - Sally Sudo at Sibley Historic Site in Mendota - 15 attendees

Upcoming presentations:

- October 21, 2024 – Karen Tanaka Lucas will speak to the Senior Adults Learning Together group at the Church of the Risen Savior in Burnsville
- October 29, 2024 – Peggy Doi, Karen Tanaka Lucas, and Kimmy Tanaka will participate in a panel for the Lifelong Learners group at the Ecumen Pathstone Latitude in Mankato

Other related events throughout the spring and summer included:

- January – Conversation with Reiko Ho, playwright and director
- January – Stage reading of Rick Shiomi's play Secret Warriors
- February – Day of Remembrance event with Reparations film with Jon Osaki and panel discussion with James Curry, Pamela Ngunjiri, and Benjamin Mchie
- June – Hosted Naomi Ostwald Kawamura, Executive Director at Densho, for the Love and Solidarity Symposium at the East Side Freedom Library

Membership Report

Benjamin Hartmann, Chair

The following membership numbers reflect the status of the Twin Cities Chapter as of 9-13-24.

| | | | |
|---|-----|---------------------------------------|---|
| Total active memberships | 112 | Active Century Club memberships | 0 |
| Total active members (couples x 2) | 157 | Active Millennium Club memberships | 0 |
| Active regular memberships | 47 | Active Thousand Club Life memberships | 2 |
| Active youth memberships | 12 | Active Century Life Trust memberships | 5 |
| Active couple/family memberships | 40 | Active Century Life memberships | 0 |
| Active senior memberships | 0 | Active Century Life Trust memberships | 0 |
| Active Thousand Club memberships | 12 | | |
| Lapsed memberships (for the last 3 years) 109 | | | |

National JACL has been working on revising some of the membership categories. Please become aware of what the revisions are and also inquire about some membership perks that will be available.

Scholarship Report

Pam Ohno Dagoberg, Chair

The Twin Cities JACL awarded scholarships totaling \$8500 to four 2024 high school graduates in May 2024. Scholarship applications were evaluated based on scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, community service and an essay topic entitled "The Relevance of JACL Today." Scholarship recipients were required to be current JACL members (individual student or family membership levels).

Applications are now being accepted for two undergraduate and graduate level scholarships. Applications are available to JACL members with active memberships as of September 1, 2024. Applicants must be enrolled in a post-secondary educational program or enrolled in a graduate level program. Applications can be found on the scholarship page of www.tcjacl.org and are due November 1, 2024.

The Scholarship Committee is also in the process of identifying 2025 high school graduates. To recommend any 2025 high school graduate for one of this year's scholarships, or to add a future graduate's name to the database, please contact scholarship@tcjacl.org 2025 high school graduate scholarship applications will be mailed to students listed below in January.

The Scholarship Committee is aware of the following 2025 high school graduates:

Alexander Sasha Bly (Irondale High School)
Molly Hanson Hilton (Minnetonka High School)
Sage Kiritschenko (East Ridge High School)
Romare Onishi (Minneapolis)
Melody Parkhurst (Chaska High School)
Nathanael Sahara (Minneapolis)
Sumiko Webb (Minneapolis)

Donations to the Twin Cities JACL Scholarship Fund may be sent to TC JACL Scholarship c/o Fred Tsuchiya, 5311 Scenic Heights Drive, Minnetonka, MN, 55345.

2024 members of the Scholarship Committee are Pam Dagoberg, Sylvia Farrells, Kendra Kuhlmann, Teresa Swartz, and Fred Tsuchiya.

Submitted by Pam Dagoberg, Scholarship Chair

Social Justice Report

- **Day of Remembrance – February 18, 2024**

The Social Justice Committee organized a screening of the documentary *Reparations* by Jon Osaki. The documentary is a powerful film examining the overlapping histories Black Reparations and Japanese American Redress. The screening was followed by a powerful panel discussion featuring Jon as well as local activists and scholars, Reverend Pamela Ngunjin, Benjamin Mchie, and James Curry and graciously moderated by Kimmy Tanaka.

- **Artistic Expression Event – April 19, 2024**

In collaboration with the Japanese Social Justice Organization (JSJO) at the University, the JACL Social Justice Committee hosted a special discussion on social justice through artistic expression. This event featured speakers Steve Ozone and James Curry, two Twin Cities artists and filmmakers with a strong history of activism.

- **Day of Remembrance 2025 – February date to be determined**

Another opportunity to become involved! Planning is currently in progress. Please look out for more information and reach out to info@tcjacl.org if you would like be a part of this planning group.

Youth, Student, and Young Professional Engagement

- **Exploring Asian American Experiences in American Schools**

On March 31, 2024, Youth/Student Representative Asia O’Neil and Young Professionals Representative Misa Wesby hosted a casual panel discussion joined by three Asian American teachers/school faculty from Minnesota. The panel examined the unique challenges faced by Asian American students in the Twin Cities as well as in the United States.

- **TCJACL 4 Students**

Youth/Student Rep Asia and Young Professionals Rep Misa have initiated a large effort to cultivate belonging and support for youth and students in the Twin Cities by providing online community, social gatherings, social justice engagement, and more. Learn more [@tcjaclstudent](#) on Instagram, and please reach out to info@tcjacl.org if you would like to participate!

- **Youth Study Circle**

This summer, local high school students, Romare Onishi and Kasumi Lucas, spearheaded an exciting research-based study group to achieve a deeper understanding of the wartime Japanese American experience while developing their passion for scholarship and community engagement.

- **Midwest District Council Youth Programming**

TCJACL will be hosting the JACL Midwest District Council for a meeting on March 29, 2025. As part of the opportunity, we will be developing special programming for youth, students, and young professionals from across the Midwest to come together in the Twin Cities.

- **Local Asian American Summit**

Youth/Student Rep Asia and Young Professionals Rep Misa represented TCJACL at the 2024 Asian Youth Justice Summit, hosted by the Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP). This two-day summit focused on social justice and leadership, providing an enriching experience for our youth.

- **Annual TCJACL Summer Picnic**

Youth/Student Rep Asia was the primary organizer and cultivated cross-generation fun and fellowship for the over 200 participants at this year’s picnic.

DONORS

TCJACL would like to acknowledge and thank our 2024 donors and supporters to date

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Ben Hartmann
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Mary Kojima

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John & Jacqueline Nakasone
Northfield Retired Educators in honor of Sally Sudo
St. Andrew Lutheran Church in honor of Sally Sudo
Rick Shiomi
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Japanese American Veterans Memorial Program Donors

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Scholarship Fund Donors

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From the Consulate General of Japan's Chicago Office

The Consulate General of Japan in Chicago is planning on providing various consular services in Minneapolis on October 20, 2024. Individuals residing in the area who are in need of these services may wish to consider making an appointment if they wish to avoid having to travel to Chicago.

ADDRESS: Hampton Inn and Suites Minneapolis St. Paul Airport-Mall of America
2860 Metro Drive, Bloomington MN 55425

DATE/TIME: October 20, 2024, 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM; 1:15 PM – 4:00 PM

These services will include the issuance of Japanese passports as well as various certificates, including marriage certificates, birth certificates, divorce certificates, and certificates of residence. Visa WILL NOT BE INCLUDED in the services offered. We will be offering these services by appointment only.

CONTACT: Phone 312-280-0400 or Email ryoji1@cg.mofa.go.jp

2024 TCJACL Board

The photo was taken at the 2024 Chrysanthemum Banquet held on October 6, 2024. Now you can match the names and position(s) held with the list on the front page of this newsletter. Remember that you can also be a part of the board. See page 8. More about the banquet will be in the next issue of the Rice Paper.



Seated (left to right): Steve Ozone, Gloria Kumagai, guest speaker Naomi Ostwald Kawamura, Amy Dickerson, Kimmy Tanaka
2nd row (left to right): Carolyn Nayematsu, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Vini Taguchi, Sylvia Farrells, Pam Dagoberg
3rd row (left to right): Misa Westby, Kendal Takeshita, Ben Hartmann, Ammanda Neitz
Not in picture: Lani Bennett, Lisa Shakerin, Asia O'Neil

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