

THE GRAINS OF RICE

Cincinnati Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

Published Quarterly

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College of Mt. St. Joseph Students Experiences *Contemporary Japan and Its Roots*

Trip participants front row, left to right: Dr. Jennifer Morris, Sandy Sieben, Angelea Espelage, Edgar Garner, Kanako Shibata; back row: Christina Dole, Kierstin Griffin, Tracy Bishop, Jonathon Minelli, Patrick Barney, Jackie McClure, Jonathan Pecht, Katie Hudson, Ikuhiko Shibata
(photo by Helen Rindsberg)

Midwest District Council Fall Meeting Hosted by Dayton Chapter

Betsy Sato

Representatives from Midwestern JACL chapters (Albuquerque to Cleveland) met in Dayton to conduct the business of the fall meeting. There were delegates from Cincinnati, Dayton, Hoosier, St. Louis, Wisconsin, Chicago and Twin Cities chapters.

Bill Yoshino from the Midwest District Office reported on the Hate Crimes program. We welcomed the newly elected Governor, Leilani Savitt, who succeeded Ron Katsuyama who was elected to National V.P. for Public Affairs. In addition to regular reports, the main business of the meeting was to pass the 2009 budget, discuss the implementation of the Legacy Grant, and plan for fundraising projects for the MDC. MDC received a grant from JACL's Legacy Fund to continue work on oral histories of those who came through the internment camps as well as shin-Issei. For fundraising, MDC will create calendars using art donated by Pete Hironaka. They can also design tee shirts for sale at the next bi-district meeting in 2009. Matt Teshima, a student at Notre Dame, was elected vice-governor for membership with the mission of establishing campus chapters of JACL. Janice Taniguchi was elected vice-governor for programs.

BS

NEW MEMBERS

Maria Maturana

621 E. Mehring Way Apt.708
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Lida Fukumura

573 Howell Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45220-1905

Jill Shirokawa

7400 Hunley Road
Cincinnati, OH 45244

Japan America Society Gives Somei Yoshino Cherry Trees to the City of Cincinnati

Commemorating JASGC 20th Anniversary, their vision is to plant 100 Somei Yoshino cherry trees in Ault Park. This project serves as a symbolic "Thank you" to the City of Cincinnati for embracing JASGC and its mission. Cincinnati JACL has donated one cherry tree to this worthy cause.

JACL National Scholarship Program

Deadline for submission of JACL Freshman Scholarship applications is March 1, 2009.

Submit to Ruth Takeuchi at address below.

All other applications for undergraduate, graduate, law, creative & performing arts and financial aid must be postmarked by April 1, 2009 and sent to National JACL Scholarship Committee. See www.jacl.org

Local Scholarship Program

Following scholarships are available for members of JACL: Terry Ishikawa Scholarship, The Okura Family Scholarship, Archie and Sachie Takigiku Scholarship, James Takeuchi Scholarship and Rufus Tojo Scholarship. Deadline for local scholarships is May 15, 2009. Applications for graduate students are being accepted. Mail applications to:

Ruth Takeuchi, Scholarship Chair(513)759-2056
6194 Hillsdale Lane, West Chester, OH 45069

JACL/OCA DC Leadership Conference

The 2009 Conference will be held from March 6-10, 2009, in Washington, D.C. The deadline for districts to have their applicants submitted to the JACL Washington, D.C. office is January 15, 2009. This is an outstanding opportunity for members of JACL to experience the Washington scene and to learn valuable skills. Visit website:

www.jacl.org Midwest District Council will co-sponsor two delegates. Contact Bill Yoshino at www.jaclmro@aol. Tuition costs. Including lodging and food are generally paid by the district. Airfare is paid by the participant's chapter.

The Asian Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund

This scholarship is for incoming college freshmen. Visit: www.apiasf.org

Gates Millennium Scholarship

The GMS program is funded by a grant from Bill & Melinda Gates and awarded to 1000 students annually. Visit website: www.gmsp.org

Online applications must be submitted by January 12, 2009. Applicants must be Asian/Pacific Islander, African American, American Indian/Alaska Native or Hispanic American.

PERSONALS

Births

Proud grandparents, Kazuya and Betsy Sato, rejoice in the arrival of a new grandson, Kenzo Young Woo Sato, born September 3, in LaGrange, Georgia. His parents are Ken and Joyce Sato. He is being spoiled by sisters Hana (7) and Olivia (4) and his grandparents.

Weddings

Masahito Luke Tanaka and Hiromi Tokou were married on May 18, 2008 at Udo Jingu in Nichinan-shi, Miyazaki-ken, Japan. Luke's parents, Reiko and Kinji Tanaka attended the wedding in Japan.

Lindsey Wade and Casey L. Brashear were married on October 18, 2008 in Loveland, Ohio. Lindsey's grandparents are Tokie and Paul Wade. Many relatives from Japan attended the wedding.

Condolences

Lida Fukumura's aunt, Martha Elizabeth Ness, passed away on September 16 in Seymour, Indiana at the age of 96-1/2.

Vernon Gilbert (79) passed away on August 3, 2008 in Salem, Oregon. Cemetery service was held on August 14 at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. He enlisted in the Army when he was 19. He served in Korea during the war in 1950-52. While stationed in Japan, he met and married Chieko Naito of Shizuoka. Vernon was a former employee of Fisher Body of Norwood.

Fred Miyasato, husband of Wilma Miyasato and the late Helen Miyasato, Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away on August 3 at the age of 95. Memorial service was held at Gwen Mooney Funeral Home, Spring Grove, on August 8.

Honors

Leslie R. Jaffe Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Peggy Tojo on Recognition Evening of ProKids September 24, 2008. Peggy has been a committed CASA since 2004, serving 10

children. She is an instructor and leader for Steps to Peace program.

Kazuko Morris was given a recognition pin for 3,000 hours of volunteer work at Highland District Hospital in Hillsboro, Ohio. She has dedicated eleven years of service to reach this level.

DONATIONS

Cincinnati Chapter gratefully acknowledges the following donations:

General Fund

Shiro and Fumiko Tanaka, Cincinnati, Ohio

Frances Tojo's Beiju

Shiro and Fumiko Tanaka, Cincinnati, Ohio

Memory of Martha Elizabeth Ness

Gail Murao

Memory of Hideko Isogai of Japan

Jacqui Vidourek, Cincinnati, Ohio

Rufus Tojo Scholarship

Chad Yoshikawa, Seattle, Washington

Grains of Rice

Mary and Tom Saruwatari, Harbor City, CA

Honor of Frances Tojo's Beiju celebration

Grains of Rice

Akiko Goens, Cincinnati, Ohio

Kono Naegele, Cincinnati, Ohio

Hiroshi and Hiroko Nishiyama, Cincinnati Ohio

Rufus Tojo Scholarship

Ruth Takeuchi, Cincinnati, Ohio

Ronald Shigemura, Tampa, Florida

Mary Lynne Okano, Columbus, Ohio

Joyce and Ron Burkhart, Daphne, Alabama

\$2500 from the Tojo Family

Theresa and Will Wood, Manhattan Beach CA

Rose and Alexander Paul, Cincinnati, Ohio

Mary and Bob Steffel, Loveland, Ohio

Cathe Russe and David Tojo, Glenview, Illinois

Sheila and Doug Bray, Wilder, Kentucky

Regina Tojo, Wilder, Kentucky

James and Peggy Tojo, Cincinnati, Ohio

College of Mt. St. Joseph *Contemporary Japan and Its Roots* Students See Japan

By Helen Rindsberg

This spring eleven College of Mt. St. Joseph students experienced Japan first hand on a twelve-day trip to Japan. From May 15 - 26, 2008 they explored the businesses, shops, museums, temples and shrines of Tokyo, Hakone, Tajimi and Kyoto as part of an interdisciplinary course, *Contemporary Japan and Its Roots*. The instructors were Helen Rindsberg, Art Department and Jennifer Morris, Humanities Department, supplemented by Japanese language lessons from Stephen Rindsberg. This new course furthers the college's goal of immersing students in international cultural learning in a real world, up-to-date environment. The quotes below are from students who participated in the trip.

After 21 hours of classroom study, we flew to Tokyo, arriving on May 15 and quickly settled into the New Izu Hotel a few blocks from Ueno Station. Angie Espelage said, "The staff there really made everyone feel at home." This was so important when each hour brought so many new sights and sounds. Christina Dole loved how "the hotel was close to great transportation, lots of history in Ueno Park and entertainment in Ameyoko." A few brave students even ventured into a pachinko parlor, though they found the noise deafening.

Over three days we visited the Shitamachi Museum, Akihabara, Tokyo National Museum, and Tsukiji Market – who knew there were that many kinds of fish? Saturday evening was a mini-reunion with five Japanese who have lived in Cincinnati, some with the Rindsbergs: Kazuko Fujita, Keiichi Takiyanagi, Nao Kosaki, Aiko Koida and Kazuma Yamamoto. There were also two spouses and two of their children. The students enjoyed sushi and other Japanese treats at the izakaya while quizzing their new friends about life in Japan. Sunday morning everyone plunged into the Asakusa Shrine's Sanja Matsuri. Kierstin Griffin was impressed, "Everyone at the festival was having such a great time." Christina Dole said, "I loved watching the different groups parade the *mikoshi* through the crowds." Edgar Garner discovered the wonderful taste of yakisoba and searched for it the

rest of the trip. On his return to the USA, he went to Tokyo Foods for ingredients and learned how to make his own.

Sunday afternoon, we traveled to Odawara, visited the castle then took a bus up the steep mountain roads to Sengokuhara and the Fuji-Hakone Guest House. Their *onsen*, especially the *rotenburo*, was very, very popular. The next day we toured the Hakone Checkpoint Museum, hiked on a restored part of the old Tokaido, had sweet sake at the 300-year-old Amazakechaya, and then enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere of Hakone Shrine and its gardens. Katie Hudson was a bit daunted by the slippery stones on the Tokaido, but said, "I loved the walk under the towering trees." Most students agreed that the visit to the Hakone Shrine was very special. Christina Dole said, "The torii gate was breath-taking at the lake's edge." Jonathon Minelli said, "That long climb to the shrine high on the hill made me feel tiny in such a beautiful world." Tracy Bishop voted Hakone Shrine one of her most beloved places, "The shrine helped me gain a new understanding and respect for the Shinto religion. The beautiful forest underscored the deep reverence for Nature in Shintoism."

Tuesday the group took the Shinkansen to Nagoya then a local train to Tajimi. Our host was Ikuhiko Shibata, ceramic artist who was part of Cincinnati's Clay, Color and Fire project in 2003. He returned in 2004 for the dedication of his mosaic at the Friendship Park and in 2005 to exhibit his work at Krohn Conservatory (attended by many JACL members.) Also helping with the visit was Kanako Shibata, one of the Rindsberg's former students and her friends Ryo Kobayashi and Masako Ishizuka. They guided us through ceramic museums, restaurants and a karaoke box, which Angie Espelage said, "America needs to have great places like this for young people to hang out."

The high point of the Tajimi visit for everyone was creating their own tea bowls at Iku's studio. Iku demonstrated techniques for using a wheel, then

guided everyone to create a masterpiece. After calligraphy lessons by Kanako, each person brushed a message on a presentation box then stamped it with the *hanko* that Iku made with their name. Tracy Bishop said, "Watching Iku helped me understand how artists put their heart and soul into their work to create such engaging pieces. I'm a painter, but now I have a greater respect for ceramics."

The next stop was Kyoto, so filled with history and culture. Many students loved strolling the gardens at Nijo Castle while others enjoyed the "nightingale" floors in the mansion. The shop-a-holics couldn't get enough of the Nishiki-Ichiba Market. One whole morning was devoted to Kiyomizudera, where Japanese junior high school students interviewed members of our group – in English – for a class project. The shopping street below the temple was popular for souvenir shopping. After Heian Jingu and the Kyoto Handicraft Center, the students needed a rest before dinner on the Pontocho. Over beers and grilled foods, the group got acquainted with Hiroko Takagi and Ako Nakamura, two more students who have lived with the Rindsbergs. Edgar had a great time talking about Japanese history with Koji Nakamura and was delighted to learn that some of Koji's ancestors were samurai. Seven-month old Takuhō Nakamura loved all the attention.

Saturday morning Kayo and Sachiyo Yoshida from Hiroshima, two more of the Rindsberg's "daughters," led the group on tours of Ryoanji and Kinkakuji. Andre Lampson, a UC student studying in Nagoya also joined the group. The students took full advantage of talking with Kayo, Sachiyo and Andre, peppering them with questions about Japanese music, fashion and food. Jackie McClure said, "Having these young people travel with us for the weekend was awesome!" Everyone stayed overnight at Ninnaji Temple and dined on *shojin ryori*, Japanese vegetarian cuisine. Most students attended the 6:00 AM Buddhist service the next morning. Tracy Bishop said, "This gave me a chance to experience the Buddhist religion, not just observe it. The meditation was especially important to me."

The excursion to Kitano Tenmangu's monthly flea market was much too short. The used kimonos were especially popular along with many other antiques. The children's games and toys fascinated the anime fans. Of course, Edgar sampled the

yakisoba! The Shinkansen whisked us back to Tokyo in time for a few students and the Rindsbergs to join the party at Yoyogi Park. Kierstin Griffin said, "I loved the great fashion and dancing, especially seeing the anime fans dressed in their outlandish costumes. Now I really know what *cosplay* is."

Monday May 26 was the group's last full day in Japan. Most of it was spent at Harajuku, first touring Meiji Jingu, then shopping the boutiques and 100 Yen Shops in Harajuku. The group had a farewell dinner at a yakiniku buffet in Ueno where they loved grilling their own food at their table. Some discovered interesting new sauces and green tea ice cream.

On the way to the airport on May 27, most of the students agreed that they wanted to return to Japan when the course is offered again in 2010. A few wondered if they could find jobs and live in Japan. Angie Espelage said, "My fascination with Japan began with anime, but now I want to learn kanji and get more deeply into Japanese religion." Jonathan Minelli, whose goal is to be the world's greatest chef, declared, "I must return to Tokyo to learn more about the best ways to prepare Japanese foods." **HR**

ONLY THE BRAVE

A Lane Nishikawa Film featuring Lane Nishikawa, Tamlyn Tomita with Pat Noriyuki Morita, Jason Scott Lee, Yuji Okumoto, Mark Damascos, Jeff Fahey. Lane Nishikawa plays an army sergeant in the 100th, part of the 442nd RCT, who had enlisted after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Flashbacks into his life and of his fellow soldiers tell the tale of happy life in Hawaii through the tragedies of war and the impact of losing so many friends in the push to save the 141st Regiment (Texans) in the Vosges Forest of France.

Only the Brave will be shown in Dayton, February 21 and Indianapolis, February 23. We hope to show it in Cincinnati on February 22. Arrangements are still being made.

Check website www.geocities.com/cincinnatijacl for update.

Second Asian Summit

By Barbara Neumann

The second annual "Asian Summit" presented by Asian Community Alliance, Inc. and sponsored by Northern Kentucky University (NKU) was held on Saturday October 18, 2008 at Northern Kentucky University. Frances Tojo, Dr. Shiro Tanaka, and I attended the event. One hundred people were registered including several NKU staff.

Before the keynote presentation, we had the opportunity to network over breakfast and the display tables of organizations including Council on Aging and Asian Community Alliances.

After the opening remarks, Dr. Pawan Dhingra of Oberlin College provided the keynote address "The Changing Face of Asian Americans". He compared the previous US Census to the 2000 US Census, noting the rise in population to 12 million Asian Americans. Interesting facts that I remembered included that while the average age of Asians in 2000 was 33 years, the average Japanese was 43 years old (high end). Another interesting fact I learned was that 65% of Asians are foreign born vs. only 45 % of Japanese are foreign born. The major Asians groups in Ohio are Indians and Chinese and the three major Asians in 2000 in USA were Chinese, Filipinos, and Asian Indians. Of the six largest Asian groups, Japanese were most likely to report being of more than one race. The two areas in Ohio with the most refugees are

Franklin County (Columbus) and Cuyahoga County (Cleveland). In 1980 Chinatown in Cleveland was getting smaller and today the new Chinatown is a tourist attraction and has been renamed as Asiatown. Second generation selectively assimilate by reaching to peers and not to elders. The exception has been the Korean church, which has been successful in keeping the youth involved. One reason is that the second generation is interested in both their ethnicity and religion when they are having children.

Discussion followed the presentation addressing media and Asians, lack of Asian models in Macy's new catalog, Hollywood stereotyping Asians, jobs available to immigrants, glass ceilings, and sticky floor. One person suggested the going to the following website to learn more about Asians and media: <http://ningin.com/>. Another person suggested, "Slaying the Dragon" a movie about media stereotyping of Asian women. Another person suggested National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP), a non-profit professional organization that promotes the career advancement and leadership cultivation of Asian Americans of all descent through positive networking, active community involvement, and fostering diversity in the workplace.

The keynote was followed by three concurrent breakout sessions. Immigration breakout session was led by Lea M Webb, Immigration Attorney, Webb and Pillich LLC. She stressed the importance to vote new people into

legislation to rectify the current immigration and naturalization laws.

Phetmany Brower, CEO, Acclaim Home Health services, Inc, led aging breakout session. She shared that it is difficult for Asians to ask for help to care for their parents and to have strangers come in to their homes. She also stressed the importance for first generation parents to take English as Secondary Language to feel more comfortable being cared by caseworkers who can only speak English.

Deepa Iyer Executive Director of South Asian Americans Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT), led Racism Breakout session. Frances Tojo, Shiro Tanaka, and I attended this session. At our table was also Lydia Coyle from Sakura Ladies Chorus. We did two group activities to address two premises. The first premise we discussed was Racism or any form of ism is an aspect of behavior. With this activity we listed all the ways we identify ourselves. Ways identified included family history, age, education, nationality, appearance (weight, hair color, height, etc), gender, language, interest, sexual orientation, faith, health, employment/profession, social status, and sports. This activity showed how each of us is linked to other through our similar identities. When identities are minimized, suppressed, or invalidated, we respond from a personal level.

The second premise is: Racism manifests itself through progression:

1. Stereotype (a preconceived impression about an entire group of people without regard for individual distinctions (can be good or bad)

2. Prejudice (negative belief about a group of people and its individual members)
3. Discrimination (a behavior stemming from prejudice)
4. Institutionalized racism (The systematic subjugation of a group of people by another group of people with access to social power, the results of which benefits one group over the other.

Each group had a picture that they had to identify the stages of racism. Our picture focused on stereotype of two people speaking in another language than English. Another stereotype was that of a minority woman in a Laundromat with a white woman. Another setting was a school setting. In this last example the stereotype was that "all Asians are good at math and science". Prejudice belief can be no Asian American child needs help in these subjects. Discrimination can then be that Affirmative Action is eliminated from these schools so Asians who are not good in science and math do not get the help that they need. Average children feel like failures. Institutionalized racism may include Asians only getting science or math jobs and are not promoted to management positions.

After these sessions, there was a zither performance by Zoey Ren and then a delicious buffet lunch. The Summit concluded with the wrap up summaries of the breakout sessions. I recommend that when this is offered again, that others attend. **BN**

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Cincinnati Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League
7761 Gwenwyn Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45236

www.geocities.com/cincinnatijacl

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2009 CALENDAR

January 11	Board Meeting
February 22	<i>Only The Brave</i> Showing
March 8	Installation dinner
4-5 pm Social Hour	Kyojin Japanese Buffet
5-6 pm Dinner	12140 Royal Point Drive
6 pm Speaker	Symmestown Township
March 6 – 10	JACL/OCA Leadership Training Washington, D. C.

