

THE GRAINS OF RICE



Cincinnati Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

Published Quarterly

June 2009

At the Twelfth Annual Distinguished Historian Lecture at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal on April 23, 2009, Dr. Daniels presented a lecture on *Incarcerating Japanese Americans, 1942-2009*. Emphasis was on the cases involving Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui and Fred Korematsu.



With Dr. Roger Daniels and Judith are: Betsy Sato, Hiroko Nishiyama, Shiro Tanaka, Frances Tojo, Jacqui Vidourek, Yoshiko Burke, Ken Matsumoto, Gordon Yoshikawa, Elinor Hanasono, George Hanasono, Kazuya Sato

From the President Betsy Sato

Asian Health Conference: On Saturday, May 30, Shiro Tanaka, Barbara Neumann and I attended the 4th Ohio Asian American Health Conference. The conference was well organized and provided a lot of information. I had not been aware of the ways some diseases such as diabetes, cancer, heart disease, affect Asian populations differently from the majority Caucasian population. There are also disparities in access to health care because of language, culture and income levels. These are things we need to be mindful of as we let our voices be heard in the upcoming debates over reforming the U.S. health care system. I want to commend the Asian Community Alliance for doing an outstanding job as a local host for the conference. Papers from the conference are available on their website: www.acacinci.org

4th Ohio Asian American Health Conference

By Barbara Neumann

Conference was held at the Cincinnati Marriott Northeast Hotel on May 30, 2009.

The morning addressed Asian American Health Disparities, Hepatic and GI Cancers and Metabolic Syndrome.

Michael Byun, President of OAAHC shared that there are two reports on their website www.oahcoalition.org addressing the health of Ohio's Asian Americans. Dr. Marguerite Ro, the Deputy Director of Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum California addressed the disparities in Asian American health. Key points included: 1) 45% of small businesses do not offer health care. 2) Guaranteed access to high quality care does not occur if there is language barrier. \$60 billion additional is spent due to poor communication between healthcare providers and patients due to delayed diagnosis/misdiagnosis because of language/culture barrier. 3) Due to differences, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders should not be lumped with other Asians. 4) Other facts included that only 0.4% of healthy community support Asians. There is legislation pending that would provide health coverage under State Children's Health

Insurance Program to legal immigrants who came to USA after August 22, 1996.

Dr. Ravi Ravinuthala of Ohio Gastroenterology & Liver Institute discussed the incidence of the different types of cancers with the different Asian American population, prevention and treatment of cancer. Japanese Americans have the highest incidence and mortality of colorectal cancer. Other cancers affecting Japanese Americans include stomach cancer and breast cancer.

JACL EDC/MDC Bi-District Conference:

Elsewhere in this newsletter there is a detailed program for the meeting of the Eastern District and Midwest District, July 24-26, 2009. This will be the last bi-district conference before JACL switches to annual National Conferences. All local JACL members (Cincinnati, Dayton, Indianapolis) are invited to join us at the welcome reception on Friday night. Come meet fellow JACL members from outside our immediate neighborhood. The pre-conference workshop is also open to local JACL members. For both, please let us know you will attend (by July 20). These are free.

We would like for you to join us at the Saturday night banquet. The speaker, Robert "Chip" Harrod, President and CEO of Bridges for a Just Community in Cincinnati, will be outstanding and you will have an opportunity to meet National JACL officers and staff. Hope to see you there.

Reds Baseball Raffle

We are fortunate to receive from Toyota Motors Mfg. NA, five pairs of Box Suite tickets for the Reds vs. Los Angeles Dodgers, Sunday, August 30, 2009 at 1:10 PM along the 3rd base line. First two pairs of tickets include parking passes. All tickets include pre-game lunch. Donations for the tickets are: 1 for \$10, 3 for \$25. Kazuya and Betsy Sato will be your Suite hosts. Drawing will be held on July 26 at the EDC/MDC Bi-District Conference. JACL thanks Toyota Motors Mfg. NA for its donation of tickets.

PERSONALS

Condolences

Isao Ken Namba, 90, of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, passed away on January 29, 2009. He was born in Dee, Oregon and was a WWII Army veteran MIS Division. He graduated from both the University of Alabama and Auburn; a chemical engineer with ORNL in Oak Ridge before retiring in 1984.

Kimiyo Nakamura, 97, passed away on February 10, 2009. She was born in Seattle, Washington. When she was five years old, her parents took her to her grandparents in Japan to be educated. A year after returning to the United State, she was married to Jujiro Jim Nakamura. During World War II, they were evacuated to the Minidoka Relocation Camp in Hunt, Idaho. After leaving Minidoka, they settled in Des Moines, Iowa. After Mr. Nakamura retired in 1964, they moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, to be near their daughter and son-in-law, Sachi and Tak Kariya in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Fred Kawahara, PhD, passed away February 23, 2009. He worked for Standard Oil of Indiana as well as with the Environmental Protection Agency of Cincinnati from where he eventually retired. He developed lubricant additives that aided NASA in space exploration, helped protect the environment by devising a safe substitute for Freon.

Tomoye Muraoka, 96, of Chicago, IL, passed away May 6, 2009. She was the aunt of Betty Breyer and the late Catherine Yoshikawa.

DONATIONS

Cincinnati Chapter gratefully acknowledges the following donations:

General Fund

In memory of Kimiyo Nakamura

Shiro and Fumiko Tanaka, Cincinnati, Ohio
Akiko Goens, Cincinnati, Ohio
Kono Naegele, Cincinnati, Ohio
Yoriko Suhr, Cincinnati, Ohio
Charles and Kayoko Longbottom, Cincinnati
Tokie Wade, Cincinnati, Ohio

Moriye Egan, Cincinnati, Ohio
Yoshiko Parsons, Cincinnati, Ohio
Mary Joanne Okura, Cincinnati, Ohio
Barbara A. Neumann, Cincinnati, Ohio
Hiroshi & Hiroko Nishiyama, Cincinnati
Grace Narita, Huntington Beach, California
Bernice Hashimoto, Cincinnati, Ohio
Mr. & Mrs. Bob VanDierendonck, Cincinnati

In memory of Cathy Yoshikawa

Charles Matsumoto, Indianapolis, Indiana
Kevin Miyazaki, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Ron C. Yee, Dearborn Heights, Michigan
Mr. and Mrs. B. VanDierendonck, Cincinnati

The names of the following five donors were omitted from the February issue of The Grains of Rice. We are sorry for the omission.

Kinji and Reiko Tanaka, Cincinnati, Ohio
Shiro and Fumiko Tanaka, Cincinnati, Ohio
Bernice Hashimoto, Cincinnati, Ohio

In memory of Tomoye Muraoka, Chicago, IL,
The Doi and Muraoka Families, Chicago, IL and Honolulu, HI

In honor of Ruth Takeuchi's 85th birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Takeuchi, Florida
Kenneth and Esther Takeuchi, Amherst, N.Y.
Amy Marschilok, Amherst, N. Y.

James Takeuchi Scholarship Fund

In memory of Kimiyo Nakamura

Ruth Takeuchi

Archie and Sachie Takigiku Scholarship Fund

In honor of Mark Takigiku's graduation from Fayetteville High School Fayetteville AK

Sami Smith

THANK YOU

We would like to express our appreciation for your contributions to the JACL in memory of Kimiyo Nakamura who passed away on February 10, 2009. She loved being with the JACL members, so this was most appreciated.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Tak and Sachi Kariya



Officers being installed by Ron Katsuyama
JACL VP for Public Affairs



March 2009 Cincinnati/Dayton Installation



Kazuya and Betsy Sato with Bill Yoshino,
Midwest Regional Director and guest speaker



Frances Tojo, Kono Naegele, Miko Tanaka,
(hidden, Dr. Nishiyama), Barbara Neumann,
Betty Breyer, Gordon Yoshikawa



Jill Shirokawa, Jacqui Vidourek, Kazuya Sato



Kevin & Yoshiko Burke, Shiro Tanaka, Ron
Katsuyama

The Cincinnati Chapter of the JACL

Cordially invites you and your family and friends to the

ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

Date: Sunday, August 23, 2009

4:00 pm Social Hour

5:00 pm Potluck Dinner

6:00 pm Speaker: Jim Kariya

He works at the US Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances in Washington D. C. His current work involves implementing a screening program to test chemicals for effects on the hormone system. These chemicals, endocrine disruptors, can cause birth defects, cancer and have many other health effects for all living things. Mr. Kariya has been the recipient of a Mansfield Fellowship for study in Japan and has worked collaboratively with Japanese scientists. He is the son of Sachi and Tak Kariya.

Sakura Ladies Chorus

Bon Odori

**Location: Hyde Park Bethlehem Methodist Church
Madison Road and Hyde Park Avenue**



Unveiling of Cherry Tree Grove marker



Hiroko Nishiyama, Toki Morioka, Barbara Neumann, Setsuko LeCroix, Dr. Nishiyama, Gordon Yoshikawa, Helen Rindsberg, Frances Tojo



The Nishiyamas toasting with sake (Hiroshi, Hiroko and Jill)

SAKURA CHERRY TREE GROVE IN AULT PARK, CINCINNATI

A public dedication ceremony was held on April 11 to commemorate the Cherry Tree Planting project. The Cincinnati Park Board and the Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati dedicated the grove of 151 Somei Yoshino cherry blossom trees as a gift to the community. The sakura blossom is a symbol of good fortune, love, peace and renewal.

Originally the goal was to plant 100 cherry blossom trees but thanks to the overwhelming popularity of the project, 151 cherry trees took root in Ault Park. The unveiling of a commemorative panel engraved with the names of the tree donors and their respective tree numbers and a numbered map of the cherry tree grove took place on a sunny spring day.

The sakura blossom is Japan's national flower, and the Somei Yoshino tree is the most popular kind of cherry blossom tree in Japan. The new grove is a welcome addition to Ault Park's 224 acres. Ault Park is one of southwest Ohio's premiere parks.

After viewing the lovely pink blossoms, sake was passed around to toast the event.



Passing around sake for toasting the event

CINCINNATI JACL

AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships for 2009 have been announced by Ruth Takeuchi, Scholarship Chair. They are:

Torey Yoshikawa, son of David and Ruth Yoshikawa, Kalamazoo, Michigan, who graduated from Hackett Catholic Central High School. He will be attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and hopes to pursue a career in engineering. If he majors in computer science, he would like to work for the video game developer, Blizzard. During his junior year, he worked for the National Relief Network helping with the Hurricane Katrina relief effort clearing out lots of land, ripping apart a house and repairing a Boy Scout camp. He ran cross country for four years and joined the ski team during his senior year. It taught him the importance of teamwork and how to work hard to reach his goals.

David Kenji Watanabe, son of David and Beverly Watanabe, Cincinnati, Ohio, graduated from St. Xavier High School ranked in the top 7%. When he was very young he was diagnosed with a rare, incurable retinol disease. He soon discovered he did not need perfect vision to play and enjoy music. He participated in the Marching Band (section leader and field commander), Wind Ensemble (second and first chair) and Jazz Band. He also participated every year in the Komen Cancer Walk and Relay for Life. He has been accepted into the Music Department at the University of Dayton and hopes to learn about teaching and composing music.

Miyoko Connely, daughter of Peggy Shimko and granddaughter of Ruth Takeuchi, has been teaching English in Japan which has deepened her appreciation for her heritage and

emphasized the importance of connecting cultures across the world. She obtained an undergraduate degree in acting at New York University. It has been an eye-opening experience to explore being Japanese American in another culture. However, in Japan she is mainly recognized as an American while in America she was identified by race and status as a minority. Being in Japan has helped reconcile the divide she once felt between herself and her home country, by teaching her that people will see each other in different lights, and while where her family comes from is a source of strength, she feels defined by herself and the actions she chooses to take right now. Her future goals are to pursue a Master's program in playwriting at New York University and for her work to convey an understanding and appreciation for other cultures and to combine the traditional stories of Japan and her family with the modern world, focusing on technology and pop culture.

WEDDING

Jimmy Takeuchi, Roswell, Georgia, was married to Catherine May on June 20 in the Craig Presbyterian Church in Roswell, Georgia. Jimmy is the grandson of Ruth Takeuchi.

STANLEY HAYAMI, NISEI SON

His Diary, Letters, & Story from an American Concentration Camp to Battlefield, 1942-1945

Rare indeed are glimpses into the mind and heart of a boy as he becomes a man, but even more intriguing about Stanley Hayami's story is that it is told in his own voice, penned as his sixteen-year-old life of innocence and idealism unfolded in one of the fiercest and last battles in Europe in World War II.

Annotated by Joanne Oppenheim
Forward by Senator Daniel Inouye

New York: BrickTower Press 200

JACL MDC/EDC BI-DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Marriott Cincinnati at River Center
10 West River Center Blvd., Covington, KY

July 24-26, 2009

Partnering For Change: Building Bridges In Our Communities

Program Schedule

Friday July 24

3:00-5:00 pm Free Optional Workshop* – Open to all

Capture That Shot: Using photos effectively for newsletters, websites, historical documentation
Presenter: Emily Momohara, Assistant Professor of Art, Art Academy of Cincinnati. Professor Momohara will teach us how to capture great images for use in our newsletters and web pages. She will discuss historical documentation of the WWII incarceration camps. Bring your own digital cameras to practice on Cincinnati great sights.

4:00-6:00 pm Registration

7:30 pm Welcome Mixer*

* RSVP by July 20, 2009: kbsato@yahoo.com

Saturday July 25

8:00 - 11:30 am Separate District Council Meetings

12 noon – 1:00 pm Lunch on your own

1:00 -2:30 pm Workshop I: Dynamic Chapters equals Dynamic JACL

Presenter: Sheldon Arakaki, VP for Operations

2:45 – 4:15 pm Workshop II: E-bridges to somewhere-building partnerships using web resources (Facebook, etc.)

**Presenter: Chris Lawson, Campaign Director,
Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati**

4:30 – 5:00 pm Election of District Officers

6:00 – 7:00 pm Banquet Reception – cash bar

7:00 – 9:00 pm Banquet - Speaker: Robert “Chip” Harrod. Esq., President and CEO, Bridges for a Just Community

Cost for non-registrants: \$50. Send check for reservation to Lois Nizny, 3953 Rose Hill Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229 by July 15.

Sunday July 26

8:00-11:00 am Joint District Meeting

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

www.cincinnatijacl.org

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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2009 CALENDAR

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| June 26-28 | 2009 JAACL National Youth Conference
Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota |
| July 24-26 | JAACL EDC/MDC Bi-District JAACL Conference
“Partnering for Change: Building Bridges in our Communities”
Marriott Cincinnati at River Center
10 West River Center Blvd.
Covington, KY 41011 |
| August 23
4:00 pm | Annual Potluck Dinner
Hyde Park Bethlehem Church, Cincinnati, Ohio |