

THE GRAINS OF RICE



Cincinnati Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

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**(Eberhard Fuhr at Museum Center 2002)
German Internee Reunion August 28, 2010, Quakertown, PA
See p. 4**

The Last Biennial Convention: Chicago 2010

Betsy Sato

Starting in 2011 in Los Angeles, JACL National Conventions will meet annually. If the annual meetings can match the caliber of the “last biennial,” then JACLers are in for some stimulating experiences. The Chicago meeting ran from June 30 through July 3. Some of the fireworks occurred in the business meetings with spirited debate over resolutions and the budget. Other highlights were the plenary sessions and the workshops. Since the youth were meeting at the same time, they established a mentoring program for youth delegates to be aided by regular delegates in figuring out the parliamentary and political maneuvers.

The first plenary session on July 1 focused on “Reframing Civil Rights.” The panelists are all actively engaged in protecting civil rights either through activism or administrative law. They were: Karen Narasaki, Executive Director of the Asian American Justice Center; Michael Lieberman, Director of Civil Rights Policy Planning Center of the Anti-Defamation League; Laura Washington, President of the Woods Fund-Chicago; Stuart Ishimaru, Commissioner, US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and, Paul Igasaki, Chair and Chief Judge of the Administrative review Board at the Department of Labor. They discussed how, even with solid civil rights protections in place in law, everyone must remain vigilant to ensure enforcement. They also discussed new areas where the laws could be applied, e.g., health care; and how civil rights organizations like JACL can adapt to the changing environment.

Later in the convention, Michael Lieberman received the Edison Uno Memorial Civil Rights Award for his persistent work of more than 13 years for the passage of the Matthew Shepherd and James Byrd Hate Crimes prevention Act. Stuart Ishimaru was recognized as the JA of the Biennium-Political/Public Affairs/Law, as well.

The workshops spanned a variety of interests. I attended one on building membership where we brainstormed and shared ideas for maintaining current members and recruiting new ones. The second workshop focused on how JAs can play a role in US-Japan relations. Again, the panelists were outstanding: Irene Hirano, President of the US-Japan Council; Glen Fukushima, President and CEO of Airbus-Japan, Floyd Shimamura, Executive Officer of the California



Personnel Board; and Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador of Japan. It was interesting that all of the panelists had an ICU connection. Later at the Sayonara Banquet, Ambassador Fujisaki received an award—and turned out to be a pretty good stand-up comedian.

Two resolutions had to do with recent legislative action in Arizona. The Arizona law that has been most in the news is SB 1070 which would allow local police to demand identification proving legal immigration status when they may have reason to believe that the person is not legally in the US. JACL’s resolution to stand in opposition to this law passed with minimal discussion. The second resolution opposed Arizona HB2281 which would ban the teaching of ethnic studies in schools. This passed as well.

The “Power of Words” resolution engendered somewhat more debate. The resolution is to implement a plan to identify euphemisms and misnomers used in writing and speaking about the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese and JAs during WWII. There was some opposition to the use of “American concentration camp” but when reminded that the Anti-Defamation League did not oppose that term, and that Roger Daniels had used it as a book title, the opposition yielded. The resolution passed. It is important that when we teach about the JA experience, students are not lulled by pallid language. The implementation plan will be presented at the 2011 convention.

Most of the final session was taken up by debate on the proposed budget. Like all non-profits, JACL has to watch its purse strings. One way the budget proposed to do this was by moving the Pacific Citizen offices to JACL-owned space in the San Francisco headquarters. There was substantial opposition to this on procedural and budgetary grounds. After an earlier budget briefing session, Milo Yoshino presented two amendments to the budget which saved money and allowed the PC to stay in LA, at least until the termination of its lease. With these amendments, the budget was approved.

While the debate on the resolutions and the budget was spirited and deeply felt, it was civil. It was refreshing to be part of a group that can hear diverse opinions without interruption, shouting, or acrimony. We all came away with respect for others’ views and still friends. That’s one of the great attributes of JACL.

PERSONALS

Births

Kylie Renee was welcomed by parents, Robby and Kim Herbst of Ft. Thomas, KY, on March 25, 2010. She weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. Her sisters, Sidney and Emilee, are happy to have a baby sister. Proud grandparents are Sheila and Doug Bray of Wilder, KY.

Masamichiro Cody Tanaka was born to Luke and Hiromi Tanaka on March 2, 2010, in Aoshima, Japan. Proud grandparents are Reiko and Kinji Tanaka.

On June 3, 2010, Koji Robert Toki Darling, 8 lbs and 7 oz. was born to Michi and David Darling in San Francisco, CA. Proud grandparents are Tae and Stogie Toki.

Wedding

Jessica Sugawara, daughter of Al Sugawara and Elaine Forrester, was married to Dan Black on April 10 at the United Church of Christ on Fleming Road, Cincinnati OH.

Condolences

Wesley Kiyoshi Takahashi passed away on May 17, 2010. He was born in Dinuba, CA in 1937. He and his family were relocated to Arizona in 1942. He worked for the US Postal Service where he served as maintenance supervisor and as advisor on energy management. He retired in 1992 after thirty-five years of government service including service with the US Air Force in Japan where he met and married Masako Toriyabe. Beside Masako, other survivors include brother Marvin Takahashi of Florida and sister, Judy Ibarra, nieces Monica Ibarra-Burke, Julia Vincent, Karen Ibarra and Kimberly Takahashi.

Lois Furukawa passed away on May 26, 2010, at the age of 97. She is survived by son, Gordon and grandchildren Dwayne and Blaine Furukawa sisters Sue Yamaguchi, Marian Matsunaga and June Oikawa. Sue's husband, the late Makoto Yamaguchi, was the first president of Cincinnati JACL.

Edgar Richardson, 79, retired professor of English at the University of Cincinnati, died June 1. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, and two daughters. Born to Presbyterian missionaries in China, he lived ten years as a minority person, and he never forgot his concern for minority groups. During his forty-nine years in Cincinnati, Ed worked for racial understanding and healing and for international peace. He also volunteered with or served on the boards of the Human Relations Council, NCCJ, Sister Cities, World Affairs Council, and other groups concerned with justice, peace, and international affairs.

Haruko Narita, 96, of Cortez, California, passed away on June 19, 2010. She is survived by her children Leona Narita, Ilene Sato, Carole Narita, Ken Narita, Gail Creighton, Sandra Beattle, Ruby Narita and sisters Grace Narita, Mary Eisel and Rose Nakayama.

DONATIONS

Cincinnati Chapter gratefully acknowledges the following donations:

General Fund

Kayoko Longbottom

In Memory of Wesley Takahashi

Jerry and Haruko Hood, Cincinnati OH

Kono Naegele, Cincinnati OH

Hiroshi and Hiroko Nishiyama, Cincinnati OH

Shiro and Fumiko Tanaka, Cincinnati OH

Grains of Rice

Sam Honda, White Bear Lake, MN

Yoriko Suhr, Cincinnati OH

James Takeuchi Scholarship Fund

In memory of Mitsu Kato

Hoshi Sugawara, Potomac, MD

Denny and Janet Kato, San Antonio, FL

Welcome to Friends of Cincinnati Chapter

Aki Goens, Cincinnati OH

Haruko Hood, Cincinnati OH

**German Internee Reunion
August 28, 2010
Quakertown, PA**

ALL INTERNEES, THEIR FAMILIES & FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO THIS REUNION

At the 5 Acres next to the home of Anneliese Krakau, nee Bush- a fellow internee at: 1960 Rosedale Road Quakertown, PA 18951

Anneliese and her daughter are also graciously hosting a lavish picnic beginning at 1 PM. If driving please bring some seating with you.

We hope that this proximity to the area from which most internees came from, will prompt many to come to share their stories, to reacquaint and bond with fellow internees. It will also be instructive to learn of life following internment.

Because internment is well known to us, there will not be formal presentations, but rather personal time to discuss, to deliberate and to cherish, those no longer or able to be with us. If some in your family do not know particulars about internment, we will, however, have several DVD presentations for use, so bring your DVD players.

There will be an expanded MAP/schematic of Crystal City internment camp, even listing occupied units by name when known. If you have artifacts made in CC, please bring them to share with us, but do have your name securely attached. Some of you have offered to donate such to the proposed Internment museum presently planned by the City of Crystal City, Texas.

Because many internees have remained out of sight and/or anonymous--which we respect as valid-- please disseminate this announcement to interested German American groups, clubs, or institutions, as we want as many internees as possible to join us in sharing our stories and our lives to the extent each wishes. The keyword is to the extent he/she wishes.

No membership is required. Just bring yourself. Mingle and know that we all shared difficult and even some wonderful moments together. It was/is unique to us only.

Please add yourself to the acceptance list already growing by answering this email, or calling me at 847.991.3424, or directly to Anneliese at her address above or 215.538.0145.

EBERHARD FUHR

PS Accommodations are available at Hampton Inn 215.536.7779 (not the previous number given of 8280)

Best Western 215.538.2500

Oakwoods cabins 800.235.2350 or 215.536.1984

Allentown Airport is nearest & more close than Philadelphia



Anneliese Krauter next to Eberhard

Crystal City, TX

Crystal City was the largest of three internment camps operated by the INS in Texas. Camp Kenedy and Seagoville opened in April 1942 and Crystal City in November. Camp Kenedy housed men mainly separated from family members who were sent to other camps. Seagoville housed women and children. Crystal City was a family camp.

INS originally intended to detain only Japanese at Crystal City especially the many Latin-American Japanese families brought to the United States for internment pending repatriation. Germans and Italians were also housed in Crystal City.

The population of Crystal City peaked at 3,326 in May 1945; Two-third was Japanese. The next largest group was German. The camp was divided into separate sections for Germans and Japanese though there were no physical boundaries. The first German internees arrived in December 1942 from South American countries. The first Japanese arrived from Seagoville in March 1943.

Housing units consisted of cottages, duplexes, triplexes and single room shelters. Cottages were 26'6" x 18'6" 2 bedrooms, combo living/dining/kitchen, bathroom with shower. Duplexes 40' x 18'; two separate 20' x 18' apartments with connecting lavatory with toilet and wash basin. Shelters were one room 16' x 12'. Latrines, bathhouses and dining halls were nearby.

Administrators assigned housing and set food allowances based on age and size of families. Scrip was issued and families purchased food at the German General Store or the Japanese Union Store. Administrators tried to make camp life as normal as possible but a ten-foot fence, guard towers and floodlights constantly reminded detainees of their lack of freedom. Mounted guards patrolled the perimeter and a small police force was kept inside the camp.

By July 1945 hundreds of Germans and Japanese had been repatriated from Crystal City. More than a hundred had been released or paroled and some transferred to other camps, seventeen had died. Crystal City, TX, Family internment Camp closed in November 1947 and

the remaining internees, mostly German, were sent to Ellis Island, N.Y. The last German internees were released from Ellis Island in 1948. German internees have not received compensation. Japanese internees received an apology and monetary compensation. Italian detainees received acknowledgement and an apology.

In November 2002 there was a reunion of former internees. It was sponsored by the Zavala County Historical Commission, chaired by Richard Santos. The First National Reunion of the Internment Camp Families theme was "AND JUSTICE FOR ALL." The reunion coincided with Veterans' Day and the Crystal City Spinach Festival, an annual event celebrating the mainstay crop of the area. A statue of Popeye stands in front of city hall. There were around eighty German internee families from U.S. or Latin America and a busload of Japanese with ties to Peru.

Richard Santos in a report wrote that two U.S. born German sisters still have the name tags they had to wear around their neck citing name and Crystal City, TX, destination. It was accompanied by a yellow button with a number which sent chills through the writer. They brought their tags and buttons and family photos along with mixed memories of the camp as they sought long lost childhood friends and acquaintances. Eberhard Fuhr was a speaker at the event.

Personal stories of German internees can be accessed on Google: Crystal City Internment Camp. Internee listings. This will bring up: Internment of German Americans in the U.S. during WW II... Left panel will list personal stories and internee listings by camps (for specific period) Crystal City, Ellis Island, Ft. Lincoln (ND), Ft. Stanton (NM), Seagoville (TX).

**The Cincinnati Chapter of the JACL
Cordially invites you and your family and friends to the**

ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

Date: Sunday, August 22, 2010

**4:00 pm Social Hour
5:00 pm Potluck Dinner
6:00 pm Cincinnati/Dayton Taiko
Sakura Ladies Chorus
Bon Odori**

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



Cincinnati JACL 2010 Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee of the Cincinnati Chapter awarded a 2010 Chapter Scholarship to Dana Sand who is a recent graduate of the Lakota East High School. She has been admitted to Emory University and intends to pursue a pre-med field and also co-major in journalism. During her high school years, Dana has received numerous honors and awards, including National Honor Society, National Merit Commended Scholar, National Journalism Honor Roll, National Mathematics Honor Society, National JCL Latin Honor Society and many more. She was the Editor-in-Chief of the Lakota East's Spark Newsmagazine, and in athletics, she served as a gymnastics coach at Cherokee Elementary School.

She received a one-time scholarship of \$1000 which was funded equally by the Okura Family, Takeuchi, Takigiku, and Tojo Scholarship funds. Additionally, the chapter will subsidize her annual JACL Student Membership of \$25 during her four college years, which will be funded by the Ishikawa Scholarship Fund.

We welcome Tammy VanDierendonck of Cincinnati as a new member of Cincinnati JACL. We also acknowledge her donation to the Cincinnati Scholarship fund.

The Grains of Rice will be going e-Grains after this issue. You will have 3 options.

They are:

1. Go e-Grains with us by sending your email address to gyoshikawa@cinci.rr.com
2. Go to our website to continue receiving The Grains of Rice: www.cincinnatijocl.org
3. To continue receiving a hard copy, send a note to Gordon Yoshikawa, 7761 Gwenwyn Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45236-3003

Toyota-Reds Raffle Ticket Winners

Cincinnati JACL thanks Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, Inc. for their ongoing support. We received tickets for the suite-box seats on the 3rd base line and raffled the tickets as a fund raiser for the chapter. The winners this year were: Collyne Purdy, Betty Lubrecht, Sheila Bray and Mrs. Aoki. The drawing for the June 10 game vs San Francisco Giants was held May 23 at the JACL meeting at the home of Hiroko Nishiyama.

Kazuya Sato related this story: Setsuko LeCroix sold two winning raffle tickets that provided 4 tickets for the game. Her friend who got the tickets came to the game with her husband, daughter and her aging father who was visiting her at the time. He had difficulty walking but the stadium personnel provided him with a wheel chair. He enjoyed the game in comfort of the Toyota suite and thoroughly enjoyed himself. The next day Setsuko called Kazuya and said that the father passed away with a heart attack. The family thanked Setsuko for giving such a great opportunity that Toyota and JACL provided.

In its recent JAVA (Japanese American Veterans Association) Executive Council meeting, the members unanimously agreed to offer Life Membership to interested veterans of the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT and the Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV). The dues for Life Membership **are waived**. "Many veterans have come to know JAVA, what we represent, our integrity, our dedication to promoting the Japanese American veterans cause" said Terry Shima, Executive Director, JAVA. "For example, JAVA will provide you with another source of scholarship for your descendants and real time information affecting Japanese American veterans. We want more WW II and Korean War veterans to have the opportunity to be a part of JAVA. To accept this offer, contact Terry Shima for an application. ttshima@comcast.net

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Cincinnati Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League
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Cincinnati, OH 45236

www.cincinnatijacl.org

Non-profit
Organization
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2010 CALENDAR

August 22

Annual Potluck Dinner
Hyde Park Bethlehem United Methodist Church