

# THE GRAINS OF RICE



Cincinnati Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

Published Quarterly

July 2011

## "Giving Fields" help feed those in need



Written by  
**Mike Rutledge**  
Cincinnati Enquirer/NKY



Sheila and Doug Bray in the Giving Fields. The garden is a two and a half acre planted with several crops that will be donated to the Freestore/Foodbank./The Enquirer/Patrick Reddy  
See page 4

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Betsy Sato

Let's not forget the March 11 earthquake and tsunami survivors. By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be almost 4 months since the 9.0+ earthquake and the tsunami that hit northeastern Japan. In terms of our "news memory" that is a long time. Pictures of that disaster have been replaced by images of towns in northern Alabama and Joplin, Missouri being literally blown off the map by tornadoes, and countless other homes destroyed by Midwestern floods. We seem to be in natural disaster overload.

I happened to be in Japan a bit more than a month after the tsunami. Although much of the TV programming had returned to normal, there were still hours per day of programming devoted to the destruction wrought by the tsunami and, of course, the ongoing nuclear debacle at the Fukushima plant. Seen in extremely hi-def TV, it was mesmerizing. We watched in horror as a YouTube video captured people running for high ground as the water chased furiously after them. All made it safely but we could also see the town being swept away. I was fascinated by the gigantic chipper/shredder that arrived to dispose of fallen trees, house timbers and other things wooden with giant snarling teeth, producing huge piles of wood shreds. Then the question became: where to put it all? Other huge machines arrived to reduce ruined cars to neat cubes to be stacked and carted away somewhere.

Survivors struggling to adapt to life in make-shift shelters made up a significant portion of the TV coverage. School gyms and other public buildings not too damaged by the tsunami, provided space for families whose homes had been swept away. As days went by, families began to pile what belongings they had around the edges of their approximately 9x12 space to gain some semblance of privacy. Later, small tents arrived to be set up inside so that people could have actual walls



separating themselves from their neighbors. Food had to be shipped from outside the tsunami zone. Instant noodles (sometimes eaten dry) and onigiri were the staples for weeks. Various relief organizations set up activity areas for kids and adults.

As of July 1, about 40,000 people are still living in gyms and other shelters. The temporary homes that are being built are being given away by lottery. It's a fair system, but with so few homes in place, only a few are winners of these approx. 230 square foot dwellings. Others must wait and hope for the next drawing.

These are the survivors we must not forget. Many relief organizations are hard at work helping that these survivors basic needs of food and a roof over their heads are being met. One of the major complaints is boredom. With workplaces destroyed, there are few places to go and little to do. Reading and video games can only do so much. There is little we can do as outsiders to urge the Japanese authorities to move more quickly on housing and compensation for losses. What we can do is to continue to support the various relief organizations who are helping make the day to day existence of the survivors bearable. If you haven't figured out yet which group to donate to here are several that on-site reports say are doing a good job:

Direct Relief International-recommended by

National JACL:

Mercy Corps International:

Japan Red Cross:

You can make on-line donations via these sites.

## PERSONALS

### Birth

**Maksim Hiroshi Yoshikawa** was born June 10, 2011 in Seattle, Washington, to Chad Yoshikawa and Svetlana Strunjas. He weighed in at 8 lbs. 1 oz., length at 20.75". Proud grandparents are Shirley and Marvin Yoshikawa, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Paula Strunjas, Belgrade, Serbia. Even prouder is great-uncle, Gordon Hiroshi Yoshikawa, Cincinnati, Ohio.

### Condolences

**Kenichi Sato**, father of JACL board member, Kazuya Sato, passed away on April 11, 2011, at age 96 in Kofu, Japan. Born in Kofu in 1915, he spent most of his life in that city working as a school teacher and later a principal. After his retirement, he devoted his time (to) spoiling his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His other passion was composing tanka (31 syllable poems). He met regularly with his poetry club. A collection of his works was published when he was 90. "Dreaming, I run freely down the hospital's long halls. Waking, I return to the confines of my aged, ailing body." (translation by Betsy Sato). He is survived by his three children, Kazuya, Tatsu(o) of Tokyo and Yoko Kobayashi of Kofu, 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. His wife Tomie died in 2001.

**Chieko Gilbert**, 83, passed away on May 18 in Salem Oregon. She and her late husband, Vernon, were very active in JACL. Survivors include daughter Cathy and son Michael and one grandson.

**Yoshio Lefty Kamikawa**, 95, of Rockwood, Tennessee, passed away on September 27, 2010. The Adler Stocking Company, a 100 year-old company hired many evacuees from various relocation camps. Adler moved from Cincinnati to Rockwood in 1961. Lefty moved to Rockwood in 1961 and later worked for the Kayser-Roth Industries as a maintenance supervisor. He is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Christy Kamikawa of Rockwood and grandson Jordan. He also leaves three brothers and five sisters, all of California.

## DONATIONS

**Cincinnati Chapter gratefully acknowledges the following donations:**

**Pete Hironaka**, Dayton, Ohio  
**Kayoko Longbottom**, Cincinnati, Ohio  
**Atsuko Miyata**, Mason, Ohio  
**Anonymous**, Cincinnati, Ohio  
**Hiroko Nishiyama**, Cincinnati, Ohio

### Memory of Kenichi Sato

Kono Naegele, Cincinnati, Ohio

### Memory of Kelly Adachi

**Stogie and Tae Toki**, Cincinnati, Ohio

### Memory of Gordon Morioka

**Judy Ibarra**, Cincinnati Ohio  
**Stogie and Tae Toki**, Cincinnati, Ohio

### Memory of Cathy Yoshikawa

**Barbara Patterson-Gregg**, Northport FL

### Grains of Rice

**Lillian Yamamoto**, Morrison, Colorado

### Archie & Sachie Takigiku Scholarship:

**Ray Takigiku**, Cincinnati, Ohio

### Rufus Tojo Scholarship:

**Lillian Yamamoto**, Morrison, Colorado

**Honor of Sheila and Doug Bray**

**Honor of Mary and Bob Steffel**

**Honor of Dennis and Sherrill Bambauer's  
40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary:**

Frances Tojo, Cincinnati, Ohio

### Memory of Anna Tojo:

From her children

## Giving Fields (cont'd from page one)

**MELBOURNE** - Doug Bray of Wilder is 60 and hasn't been a farmer since he was a teenager in Grants Lick. But in retirement he and wife, Sheila Bray, may help change the face of Northern Kentucky vegetable farming while also perfecting a new way to feed the poor across the region.

The Brays and others have planted rows of broccoli, cabbage, tomatoes, onions and other crops on once overlooked hay fields along the Ohio River in Melbourne. What they produce will be donated to local soup kitchens, food pantries and homeless shelters.

Using advanced farming methods and about 90 volunteers from local churches they hope to grow and harvest 50,000 pounds of vegetables from 2 ½ acres this year.

The vegetables are rising from fields that last year were overgrown and produced nothing. Next year's harvest might be twice that big, if the acreage is doubled. In a few years, Bray hopes to be farming 10 acres.

Right now the rows of cabbage and broccoli are very large. Plantings of those and other crops were coordinated so they can be harvested gradually through the summer.

Their high-tech approach uses crops planted in raised rows of soil covered with black plastic mats; a sophisticated "trickle-irrigation" system that uses one-third of the water normally needed; and seven-foot-high, solar-powered electric fences to keep out deer and smaller scavengers.

The 25 tons of vegetables from what the Brays call The Giving Fields will be some of the freshest of the more than 18 million pounds of food the Freestore Foodbank will distribute this year in a 20-county region of the Tristate that includes eight counties in Ohio, nine in Northern Kentucky and three in southeast Indiana.

In this slow-moving economy, that's double the amount the agency distributed just two years ago, said the agency's president and CEO, John Young.

Freestore Foodbank provides food to 374 agencies from Aurora, Ind., to Portsmouth, Ohio, and Maysville, Ky., "two- or three counties deep on either side of the Ohio River," Young said. Crops from The Giving Fields probably will go only to agencies in Campbell and Kenton counties because of

transportation efficiencies. But Young hopes the Brays' new project will inspire others in the Foodbank's service area.

In the future, the Brays hope to add orchards and berries to their operation, along with other vegetables.

Not bad for property that literally was an afterthought: It was part of 20 acres that came with the couple's purchase of a summer house along the Ohio River in Melbourne.

The Brays' dream of growing for charity took root last summer when they helped friend Vince Kroger of Cold Spring deliver bushels from his 2/3-acre garden to the Rose Garden Home Mission in Covington to help the nuns there feed the poor.

"He had a lot of surplus - tomatoes, eggplants, vegetables," Sheila Bray said. "We were just amazed there are so many needy people just 10 minutes from our home. There was literally a line of people, and they had actually run out of food that day. They were really happy to get not just food but fresh vegetables, which is very rare."

"Doug had an idea that, gosh, we have this big field, it's nothing but a hay field, and why don't we consider doing something like that?" she said.

The Brays in their research visited operations in North Carolina, Florida and the half-acre giving garden at St. Timothy Church in Union to study best practices.

"We were looking for best practices and tried to come up with something that was very sustainable - not something that we'd start and we wouldn't have support for," Doug Bray said. Also: "We want to produce as much as we can in a quality manner, and as long in the season."

They hoped to find 50 volunteers, but 90-plus stepped forward from six churches: St. Philip in Melbourne; St. Joseph in Cold Spring; Sts. Peter and Paul in California; St. John's Lutheran Church in Melbourne; St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newport; and St. Catherine of Siena in Fort Thomas.

Fifth graders from St. Michael's School in Sharonville painted impressive signs labeling and depicting the crops that stand at the end of each row, for the benefit of volunteers, many who never volunteered before.

Donations have totaled about \$30,000, Doug Bray estimates, with businesses like Bank of Kentucky, Lafarge, Griffin Industries and Castellini Companies giving equipment and supplies, even a solar panel from Icon Solar Power of Cincinnati, OH. Connie

Birkley's Melbourne home office overlooks the fields. At first she and other neighbors were antsy. But she has been impressed with the well run farm operation. "I think it's probably the biggest improvement in my viewing area in the past 20 years," Birkley said. "I sat here all winter and they were working in the snow, in the rain, in the cold. I have never seen such hard workers in my life."

"We can learn so much from each other," said Young. "In fact, the Brays, I think we've learned a lot from them, they've learned a lot from us. And we're going to put their two and our two together and make five or six for people in our community that need the help." The Brays have been touched by all the contributions and volunteers. "He started out as a farmer, and he's ending as a farmer," Sheila Bray quipped as the couple stood in the well-kept fields under a bright morning sun, with a river breeze swaying the plants' leaves. "Actually, I'm not interested in farming," Doug Bray explained two days later. "But I am interested in perfecting the model and helping others do it because the need out there is so great." Young said he wasn't shocked by all the generosity. "I am never, ever any longer astonished about the creativity of the people of our community and their generosity," Young said. "I could tell you hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of stories with the same kind of experience." People in this community are extremely thoughtful and generous," Young added. "I talk with the people from around the country about some of our experiences and they say, 'You've got to be kidding' Nope. It is just who we are. Those very strong middle-class ideas and values that are just part and parcel of who we are. "It's not even surprising to me anymore, but when it happens, gosh, it just makes all of us stronger, doesn't it?" he said. "It's unbelievably powerful."

### **How can I help?**

If you're wondering how you can help, Freestore Foodbank's president and CEO, John Young, suggests going to [www.freestorefoodbank.org](http://www.freestorefoodbank.org). Or you can call 513-482-4500 for information or to volunteer. Doug Bray suggests that people who have gardens in Ohio, Kentucky and

Indiana also can coordinate collections of extra vegetables with their churches, which can coordinate with Freestore Foodbank to have them picked up.

### **A Teaching Moment**

The University of Kentucky, which donated some of high-tech plastic material and irrigation system, into which fertilizer can be injected, said Dave Spalding, a Lexington-based horticulture extension associate for UK. "I was up there yesterday and I thought the crops were beautiful," Spalding said. "I think they looked really good,"

The irrigation system can help Northern Kentucky farmers transition from growing tobacco to vegetables, particularly with the large potential for area farmers' markets. Spalding believes: "There's some of this technology in the Northern Kentucky area," he said. "There's probably not as much as there should be. This is a technology that basically our growers are going to have to adopt in order to be competitive with other areas."

Farmers interested in seeing demonstrations should email Campbell County horticulture agent David Koester at [dkoester@uky.edu](mailto:dkoester@uky.edu) or call him at 859-572-2600.

Giving Fields article was written by Mike Rutledge, Cincinnati Enquirer/NKY. We thank Mike Rutledge and Enquirer for permission to use the article.

Sheila and Doug Bray are members of the Cincinnati Chapter of JACL.

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

**ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER**

**Date: Sunday, August 21, 2011**

**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**



## A Letter From Satoshi Sugita Tokyo, Japan

The big earthquake and tsunami hit Sendai, Japan, on March 11, 2011. Satoshi Sugita wrote in his letter to Tak and Sachi Kariya and also Jo Okura as follows:

“It’s been a month since the great earthquake hit Japan. Just to say we’ve survived the disaster and are doing well in Tokyo.

We seem to have lost contact with each other since we moved four and a half years ago. After calling Oizumi Gakuen home for 26 years, we decided to make the change. The daily commute by car was getting to be a bit fatiguing and the fact that our house was burglarized prompted us to make the move. (The world is getting to be a dangerous place to live in.) Etsuko and I now live in a comfortable condo in Mejiro right behind Gakushuin University. One of our prominent neighbors is Princess Saya. TIH Emperor and Empress have visited our condo a couple of times since we moved.

I was in my office in Shibuya, Tokyo, when the earthquake hit. It was the greatest tremor I have ever felt in my life. Books and files were flying all over and one of the bookshelves fell down in my office. We used the stairs to climb down and evacuated to a nearby shrine. Then I drove home in my car. Took me three hours as streets were flooded with evacuees heading home. No one in my family was hurt. Hiroshi walked two hours to get home from downtown. I was expecting a mess when I got to our condo. It was built five years ago with all the state-of-the-art earthquake-proof technology. Everything inside was intact. Surprisingly no damage. There have been a number of fairly strong after-shocks since the earthquake but we’re doing all right.

Despite the radiation scare, I think we’re still safe and have no plans to get out of the country as many foreign residents have. (Some estimates say 200,000 foreigners have already fled, which is overreacting.) Things are not near normal in Tokyo. Supermarket shelves are still partially empty. Limited supply of water, milk, yogurt, natto and beer (quite a few



breweries in the region were simply wiped off.) There have been blackouts and trains were not running on schedule, to which we are not used. Things are getting better, though. We are much more fortunate than some of the other compatriots.

Just to backtrack a little, Hiroshi graduated with an MBA from Kellogg, Northwestern University, two years ago and has two daughters, Sara 6 and An, 1-1/2. Sara just started elementary school at Waseda. Nami is finally getting married this summer. I am the CEO of one of the three largest public relations firms in Japan with offices in Tokyo, Beijing and Shanghai, where we employ close to 300 consultants. I have been doing a radio program on business communications on NHK since 1987 and have authored some 40 books. Etsuko is still an avid table tennis player”.

Satoshi Sugita’s background:

Satoshi graduated from Aoyama Gakuin University Faculty of Economics in 1966. He received his Master’s degree at Ohio State in 1971 (Journalism). He worked as business reporter for the Cincinnati Post and left in 1973 to join the public relations New York headquarters of the firm Burson-Marsteller. He has been president and CEO of PRAP Japan Inc. since 2007.

Satoshi was a member of the Cincinnati JACL during his stay in Cincinnati.



Cincinnati and Dayton Boards gathering for the installation of officers by Ron Katsuyama. (March 6, 2011)



Betsy with guest speaker Jon Yamashiro who gave his accounts of visiting the ten concentration camps scattered among seven Western states.

**Personals** cont'd from page 3

Welcome to Friends of Cincinnati Chapter:

- Akiko Goens**, Cincinnati, OH
- Kono Naegele**, Cincinnati, OH

**Toki and Paul Wade** of New Richmond, OH, are busy attending the graduation ceremonies of granddaughters Lindsey Michelle Brashear who graduated from Thomas More College with Masters in Business and Danielle Wade who graduated from Newport Central Catholic High School. Great-niece Sarah Atsuko Ledger graduated from Miami University with degree in Bachelors of Art and Sciences.

**Check** for \$510 was sent to Direct Relief International for Japan Relief and Recovery Fund collected at Asian Culture Fest and JACL donations.

**Donation** – General fund: Yoriko Suhr

Ohio Buddhist Vihara held a special prayer ceremony for Japan's victims of the March earthquake and tsunami. Most Venerable Daiun Iba presided. Haunting, rhythmic chants by Iba and burning incense punctuated the solemn ceremony. Donations were received for the Relief Fund.

**The 49<sup>th</sup> Day Prayer ceremony**  
by Tammy Vandierendonck

Recently, I attended a 49<sup>th</sup> day prayer ceremony on April 30, 2011, for the earthquake and tsunami victims of Japan. The memorial took place at the Gaden Samdrup-Ling Buddhist Monastery in Cincinnati. I was asked to share my impressions of this experience with you.

A gravel road leads you to the monastery. A walkway leads you past prayer flags, farmhouse and barn before reaching the temple. Shoes are removed just inside the door. The altar was brightly decorated with statues and flowers. There were about twenty-four low cushions and tables set up on the floor. Everyone stood to face the monks as they entered the room. This was a 49<sup>th</sup> day ceremony dedicated to the positive rebirth of the victims. Two Tibetan monks led everyone in chants for about an hour. Donations were collected for the Red Cross Japanese Relief Fund. I felt that it was a very somber and respectful tribute to those who had perished. I was grateful to the GSL Buddhist Monastery for giving us the opportunity to show our respect in the Buddhist tradition.

You may learn more about the monastery by visiting their website at [www.dgtlmonastery.org](http://www.dgtlmonastery.org)



## Minidoka Pilgrimage

by Emily Momohara

June 30-July 3<sup>rd</sup>, almost 200 people journeyed to the annual Minidoka pilgrimage. This year was special for two very important reasons. First, the Minidoka Honor Roll was re-established at the entrance to the park. The Honor Roll was created during WWII by Japanese Americans incarcerated at Minidoka. It contained the names of young men and women who served in the US Military, who were from or had family in Minidoka. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony and the names of the Minidoka fallen soldiers were read by Kay Endo, a WWII Nisei veteran. There were many tears and cheers as the ribbon was cut. Friends of Minidoka board member, Bill Vaughn, a retired architect was the project manager and worked closely with Superintendent Wendy Janssen to make this project happen. It was paid for by a Confinement Sites Grant written by the Friends of Minidoka and matched with donations of labor and funds from community members. Anna Tamura of NPS and Keith Yamaguchi, Commander of the Seattle NVC spent many hours looking for the names and reaching out to community members.



The second moving and amazing aspect to this year's pilgrimage was the noticeable changes to the park itself. NPS staff have been hard at work. The walking trail with waysides explaining different aspects of camp is nearly complete. A full barrack has been brought back to Minidoka and placed at the exact location of Block 22. Since the pilgrimage, NPS staff also moved a mess hall back to block 22.



Emily Hanako Momohara gave an update on the Feedlot lawsuit that Friends of Minidoka is fighting. They are currently waiting for the county to rebut our appellate brief in the Idaho State Courts. The Friends of Minidoka is still seeking donations to help with this significant cost. Donations can be given online at [minidoka.org](http://minidoka.org).

Next year's pilgrimage will be the third weekend in June. More infrastructure and progress will again be made in the upcoming year. Please mark your calendars and go on the pilgrimage next year.

## The Sakura Ladies Chorus

by Yuko Scott

The Sakura Ladies Chorus has been promoting multiculturalism through Japanese music in Greater Cincinnati community for more than 10 years. In response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami that hit Japan on March the 11<sup>th</sup>, members of the Sakura Ladies chorus and our friends; J-Youth Harmony, Crystal Harmony, Greater Cincinnati Japanese Children's Chorus and Sakura Men's Chorus have decided to hold benefit events to raise relief and recovery funds for the victims of Japan. At the same time, we planned to increase cultural awareness through music. The launched project was named Greater Cincinnati Japan Relief Project (GCJRP).

April 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	Blue Ash Community Center
April 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	University of Cincinnati Main Campus
April 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal
May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	Northern Kentucky University
May 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2011	University of Cincinnati Raymond Walters College

Without our sponsors and partners, these benefit events were not possible. We appreciate the support from the Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati. Japanese Language School of Greater Cincinnati, University of Cincinnati Japan America Student Society, Willis Music, Executive Leadership and Organizational Change at Northern Kentucky University .

We also offered the cultural booths at the sites. All handmade crafts and bake goods were made and donated by numerous local volunteers. One of our volunteers, a Fukushima native, gave us a chance to learn about what is truly going on at affected sites, sharing stories and pictures from her family over there.

Our events were featured by several media including NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) Radio, FOX19, and Channel 9 etc.

We raised over \$4800 through the events. The donated funds have been sent to the American Red Cross through the Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati.

Recovery from massive earthquake and tsunami is still underway including severely damaged nuclear power plants. We hope our continued prayers and thoughts will give hope and reach the heart of those who have been going through such a tragedy at devastated area.





By: Lance Barry

## Local company making huge strides in developing cancer cure, free of side effects

COVINGTON, Ky. - Bexion Pharmaceutical would be the first to tell you their research is far too preliminary at this point for them to be able to promise a cancer cure. They still could be several years and millions of dollars away from that, but one thing they can promise at this point is hope; hope for those who are desperate.

Inside Bexion Pharmaceuticals' unassuming Covington office, among the test tubes, chemicals, and vials, stands something far more important. It's called the "Wall of Inspiration", featuring the faces of those hoping that the research that takes place there brings about a cancer cure. "This certainly puts a face with a name, with a diagnosis. Unfortunately, two of the individuals on the wall have since passed away, but they continue to be part of our inspiration," said Chuck Scheper, Chairman of the Board for Bexion. His fight against cancer goes far beyond his financial interests in the bio-tech company. His battle is personal too. "I feel like all of my experiences in my entire life, including my own cancer journey, has led me to this point in time," he said. It was 1992, that he was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkins lymphoma. A bone marrow transplant saved his life. At the time, that procedure was still experimental. Not unlike the nature of what Bexion is now developing that is the talk of the medical field. "For the last two years, I have been saying this is just too good to be true, how could this be," said Scheper.

Of the size of the company, Ray Takigiku, Bexion's CEO and President, said, "I think we are the right size where we are right now, we certainly intend to grow." And grow Bexion will if the research there continues on the path it is on. "This is the culmination of a lot of brain power and lot of dollars of activity," added Takigiku.

After countless dollars and hours are spent in a laboratory setting, this is what it comes down to. It is called BXQ-350, and after some very preliminary research, it is already showing that it may be the perfect cure for cancer. Perfect in lab mice in eight different forms of cancers. "By day 13, the two mice that we had tested were showing no signs of the cancer," said Scheper. The promise it could hold gets even better. BXQ-350 is also proving to be perfect in a petri dish with 50 other forms of cancer-ranging from lung and breast cancers to brain tumors. "We have yet to test it against a cancer

where it didn't prove to be effective," said Scheper. "It's not easy to do this," said Takigiku.

So how does BXQ-350 work? By turning the cancer against itself, according to Takigiku. "Every cell in our body is programmed to commit suicide, and our drug triggers that process, so it is not toxic. It doesn't have many of the same side effects," said Scheper.

BXQ-350 was discovered in 2002 by Dr. Xiaoyang Qi, who at the time was a genetics researcher working for Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Qi recalls that day in a lab where he made a discovery that could change the face of medicine. But it wasn't on purpose, it was by accident. "My heart jumping up and down very quickly. I jumped up, very happy, but nobody knows, I am alone," said Qi. "Many great discoveries happen by accident," said Scheper.

Qi has several family members of his own battling cancer in his native China. He has now left genetics and is a full-time cancer researcher for the University of Cincinnati. He remains quite humble about his discovery that if it pans out, could earn him worldwide acclaim. "All that matters to me now, have faith in this technology, I think this could work," said Qi.

The promise of the drug goes far beyond Bexion. Dr. Olivier Rixe is an Oncologist at University Hospital. Independent from the company or their future financial successes or failures, he also says after his exhaustive reviews, the promise of this drug is for real. "It is very promising, I have developed compounds now over 15 years, this is one of the most important strategies I saw in the lab." Rixe did caution, however, that only the jump of the drug to human trials will be able to tell the worth. "We aren't done until we are done. But it does feel good. We are at a place right now where we can see the horizon," said Takigiku.

The next step will be to get approval by the FDA to move their research to human trials as early as next spring, perhaps even being held locally at University Hospital. It will be crucial step; a big jump, where many other companies' once promising drugs like a BXQ-350 have failed in the past.

Ray Takigiku is a member of the Cincinnati Chapter of JACL.  
We thank Lance Barry, WCPO, and Scripps Media for permission for the article.

**THE GRAINS OF RICE**

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

[www.cincinnatijacl.org](http://www.cincinnatijacl.org)

**2011 CALENDAR**

**August 21, 2011  
4 PM**

**JACL ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER  
Hyde Park Bethlehem Methodist Church  
Madison Road and Hyde Park Avenue**