

The Bulletin



A publication of the Cleveland Japanese American Citizens League
As a service to the Japanese American Community and interested individuals and organizations

December/January 2009

Seasons Greetings And Best Wishes for the New Year

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In Memory of Sam & Kay Ezaki

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The Bulletin is supported by donations. There is no subscription rate. Articles in the Bulletin are solely the responsibility of the authors. Neither JACL nor the Bulletin is responsible for articles that are submitted by the writers. Comments, suggestions and donations are always welcome. Send comments and contributions to:

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(Contributions are tax deductible)

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Donations Total \$525

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Editorial

By Hazel Asamoto

The 39th Annual Japanese American Holiday Fair, held on November 8th this year, was a great success because of the help of many volunteers from the community. The committee wishes to thank St. Ignatius High School and all of you for your support, interest and time for this annual fundraising event for the JACL, Cleveland Chapter. I hope we can count on you for our next year's event. It was an afternoon of entertainment from the Sho-Jo-Ji Dancers, to a martial arts group, juggler Billy Matsumoto, and the JACL Icho Daiko Taiko Drumming Group. There were a variety of delicious foods and many displays of art and cultural items. It was great to see many familiar faces as well as many newcomers at the fair. An overwhelming crowd of family members and friends attended.

It was rewarding to see the young and old reminiscing over all the photos from the past. It was a chance to share pictures of grandparents and long time friends of the community. Many observing the photos were amazed at how everyone looked so young and enjoying the many functions that JACL sponsored over several decades ago. Sample photos included a bus trip to Amish Country, JR JACL Christmas Party at Euclid Villa, Nisei Day, and photographs of a large crowd at one of the Scholarship Events dating back to the late 60's, an album of the JR. JAYS of the 70's, and photographs of past JACL board members. Many of the photographs were saved by the late Masy Tashima and donated to the chapter. Pictures from the Asamoto Family Collection were also displayed.

Thank you readers for your many generous contributions. Your support and interest has made it possible to continue the newsletter for the coming year. As always your comments and suggestions are always welcome. The Bulletin Staff thanks you and best wishes for the Holiday Season!

~ ~ ~

Condolences

Toro Yamane passed away quietly on October 18, 2008. She was 101 years old and had lived in Cleveland since 1947. She is survived by her children, Art Yamane (Sadie), Mich Yatsu of Houston (Frank), Mari Oyakawa of Cincinnati (Yoshi) and Misao Kurokawa (Kenji) as well as 10 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. A family memorial service was held on November 1st 2008

A President's Message: Pride and Prejudice

By Rick Ishiyama

Prejudice is making a judgment about a person based on their race, religion, class, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and age. I was very fearful that the Presidential Race and Election would unfortunately reaffirm that prejudice is still in the forefront of people's mind. I was fearful that the hope I have, that my son will live in a lifetime where we will all be judged on what we do rather than what we look like or where we worship would be dashed. As a parent you cringe at the thought of someone else imposing their misconception and judging your child or influencing their disposition to others. I worry that we as a nation have not learned from the sins of our past. From slavery to the Indian Appropriations to numerous exclusion acts to women's rights to the internment of Japanese Americans to segregation to the most recent persecution of Arab Americans and Muslims to any and all hate crimes we will still judge people based on appearance. If a man of color, or an elderly man or a woman would be judged not for their political beliefs or their vision for the country but for just those characteristics my hope and pride would diminish. I knew we were going to witness history, no matter who prevailed, but I also knew that my hope and pride in the American people, the American way would be tested as well as the future of prejudice in America would be revealed.

I remember when my parents told me that when they first tried to move to the west side they were denied purchase of house in Seven Hills. I was angry. Apparently once the neighbors saw who was interested in the property a petition to the owner removed the house from the open market. I remember as a 5 year-old when a high-school student whose bus-stop was at my elementary school spat on my head whilst condemning my heritage with the "J-word". At the time I was more afraid than hurt. I knew how much it angered my mother to see her son treated that way, and the pain she felt (You should have seen how fast she drove around to find them to put the "fear" into them). I don't want my son to be subjected to that kind of prejudice. My hope is driven by the presence of JACL and other organizations who continually try to expose prejudice and to insure civil liberties and rights are safe. I knew that my hope would be questioned since this election would be a clear indicator of how far we really have come, if that at all.

JACL is not a political organization and is not driven by party affiliation and this letter is not either. I will say this though, after casting my vote, watching the election, and hearing the exit polls it was pretty clear to me that

this election came down to issues. It wasn't about race, age, or sex. This makes me proud of what JACL and other organizations do. It makes me proud of what our Grandparents and parents fought through and accomplished through JACL. It makes me so very proud of all Americans and for the greatest country in the world. It gives me greater hope that my son's world when he grows up will be a life where he is judged only for what he does and not by who he looks like.

(Editor's Note: Your message has true meaning for what JACL stands for and I am so proud to have you as our chapter president.)



Speakers' Bureau Report

By Ed Ezaki

I would like to begin with my heartfelt thanks for the many cards and prayers and calls for my wife, Carole through her recent surgery and health problems.

During this period I attempted to continue my speaking engagements with the help of John and Betty Ochi and Roy Ebihara. Listed in this column is what we covered.

Sept. 9th, Roy Ebihara spoke to an Oberlin High School history/government class. Sept. 15th I made a short trip in my area to speak to a senior Travel Group in Parma. Oct. 3rd John and Betty Ochi traveled down to Canton, Ohio to speak to the Canton Rotary Club. They spoke to an audience of approximately 90 members. Thank you John & Betty. I received many positive remarks from you visit. Oct 21st I made my second visit to Triway Jr. High School west of Wooster, Ohio. I will share some of the students' comments in a later issue. Oct. 23rd Roy Ebihara traveled north to Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan and covered the issue of "Loyalty and disloyalty" with the students. Thank you, Roy. On Nov. 10th I had the pleasure of speaking to the Franklin club in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. I enjoyed a wonderful evening speaking to a very diverse and attentive group. The question period lasted an hour.

Thanks to all members of our Speakers' Bureau. I would like to extend my very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year to all.

Did you know.....

Jeff Adachi, filmmaker from San Francisco, was here in Cleveland to interview those who were associated or/and knew the JA Actor, Comedian, Jack Soo (Goro Suzuki). His interest is to do a documentary on the life of this famous Japanese American performer. Goro was seen on the Barney Miller, TV Show, Flower Drum Song Movie and many others in the entertainment media. Hayato "Hy" Orikuchi was interviewed by Mr. Adachi with a cameraman present. Watch for Cleveland connection on this presentation.

Thanks to producer, Tamiko Toyama-Ambrose, of 'That's Life..... with Robin Swoboda local talk show' on Channel Fox 8, the Shojo ji Dancers, Sachie & Chelsey Kreiger and the members of the Mame Daiko Taiko Youth Drumming Group, Natalie & Nicole Grant, Zachary Spannbauer, and Alex, Kai & Alan Haavisto performed "live" on Nov. 4th, to promote the 39th Annual Japanese American Holiday Fair on November 8, 2008 at St. Ignatius High School, Cleveland, Ohio.

Any kind of interesting subjects and events are welcome for this column. Send to: Email address: clevejaclbulletin@sbcglobal.net or c/o Hazel Asamoto, Editor, 3097 Ashwood Rd. Cleveland, Ohio 4120.



Pictured above are members of the Mame Daiko group (the Icho Daiko youth group) when they appeared with Robin Swoboda on her morning show, "That's Life...with Robin Swoboda", November 4, 2008. Top row, from left to right, Nicole Grant, Kai Haavisto, Robin Swoboda, Alex Haavisto, and Natalie Grant. Bottom row, from left to right, Alan Haavisto, Zachary Spannbauer.

Remembering the "2008 Japanese American Holiday Fair"

By Rick Ishiyama

When I think back on the 2008 Holiday Fair I will remember one thing.....Oh my we had a lot of people. Actually I will remember many things from the incredible effort put forth by the planning committee, those who made sushi the night before, all of the hard working volunteers who worked in the auditorium as servers, greeters, vendors and entertainers, to those who ventured into kitchen duty and finally those who donated their cooking talents for sushi, chicken, desserts and their financial donations. I will also remember the long lines and the point at which we ran out of chicken and then ran out of noodles for the udon. At each moment there was this feeling of if we can only make it to a point in the program we will be fine. And we did. Due to some quick thinking by Diane Asamoto Grant, Shig Igarashi and the service staff we were able to satisfy the majority if not all of those who wanted a combination dinner. Due to some quick driving and navigation Carol Peer and Gina Bennett made a noodles run so that we could satisfy those who still had a craving for udon.

As I was reviewing the volunteer list in my mind and on paper and those who donated food and supplies, I saw two things. We could never have pulled this off without the foundation of family and their passion for this community. On this list were key families who donated their time to make sure that our only fundraising event for the year was a success. That through these proceeds we will insure another generation would have the opportunity for scholarships. The second observation was that the list was the same list as the year before less some people due to the timing of the event. I even compared it to three years ago and the list is very much the same.

This group of people was able to do more with less. We're able to support one of the busiest Holiday Fairs that I have seen over my many years of participation. The 2008 Holiday Fair made me very proud to be part of JACL, part of this community, and so grateful to all who helped this fair be successful. I was thrilled at how this Holiday Fair turned out. I was energized by the turn out itself. There are some things that we can improve on so that the lines will move faster, and the food will be available, but it will take more support and participation by more people to get there, and we can do it. From the bottom of my heart I thank all who participated and supported this year's Holiday Fair.

~ ~ ~ ~

Thanks go to the following people who helped at the Holiday Fair:

Prepared Food Donations

<u>Chicken</u>	<u>Maki Sushi</u>	<u>Inari Sushi</u>	<u>Baked Goods</u>
Bette Idemoto	Yuki Sakaguchi	Ken Arie	Alice Scholz
Carrie Offermatt	Eva Hashiguchi	Mitzi Matsumoto	Amy Furukawa
Hazel Asamoto	Hazel Asamoto	Pat Sadataki	Bev Kerecman
Karen Sodini	Irene Omori	Rose Ishiyama	Carol Peer
Mari Kuroda	Jerry Omori	Terri Takahata	Eva Hashiguchi
Mary Reese	Karen Sodini	Tina Ishiyama	Gina Bennett
Mutsuko Ikuta	Ken Arie	Kim Maki	Junko Kraft
Nancy White	Mitzi Matsumoto		Kennedy Payne
Pat Sadataki	Natty Arie		Kim Maki
Rick Ishiyama	Sadie Yamane		Marina Peer
Sadie Yamane			Mitzi Matsumoto
Teru Ikuta			Mitzi Payne
Toshiko Ebihara			Sadie Yamane
			Serena Ikeda
			Sue Nakamura
			Tina Ishiyama

Event Volunteers

Allan Kraft	Kitchen	Lily Alioto	Service
Bill Sadataki	Cashier	Lily Sadataki	Service
Carol Peer	Baked Goods	Mary Theus	Service
Dana Anger	Service	Mitzi Matsumoto	Kitchen
Danny Theus	Service	Natalie Grant	Service
Diane Asamoto Grant	Service	Nicole Grant	Service
Alexiahna Grant	Service	Pat Sadataki	Cashier
Hazel Asamoto	Booths	Rich Theus	Service
Irene Omori	Kitchen	Richie Theus	Service
Jen Paulin	Service	Rick Ishiyama	Kitchen
Jerry Omori	Emcee	Rob Matsumoto	Kitchen
John Matsumoto	Kitchen	Sadie Yamane	Booths
Junko Kraft	Kitchen	Sandy Fogel	Kitchen
Keith Asamoto	Cashier	Shig Igarashi	Service
Ken Arie	Raffle	Sue Nakamura	Baked Goods
Lauren Sadataki	Service	Tina Ishiyama	Baked Goods
		Tomi Andow	Kitchen

Other Donations

Soda

Bill and Pat Sadataki

Udon Supplies

Carol Peer

Tina Ishiyama

Sushi Supplies

Eva Hashiguchi

Aiko Ebihara

Hazel Asamoto

Jerry Omori

Ken Arie

Mitzi Matsumoto

Rice

Jerry Omori

Tina Ishiyama

Door Prizes

Jerry Omori

Rick Ishiyama

Roy Ebihara

Spring Rolls

Tina Ishiyama

Salad and Dressing

Hazel Asamoto

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JACL Applauds Nomination of General Shinseki



Washington, D.C. – Members of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, are elated to hear that President-elect Barack Obama nominated Retired Army General Eric K. Shinseki as Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the Obama Cabinet. The JACL applauds the President-elect for his selection of General Shinseki, a Japanese American native of Hawaii, and former Army Chief of Staff.

A graduate of West Point, General Shinseki served two combat tours in Vietnam, where he was awarded two Purple Hearts and three Bronze Stars. After serving as the 34th Chief of Staff of the United States Army from 1999 to 2003, General Shinseki is the nominee to become the 7th United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He is the first Asian American to become a four-star general in the U.S. Army and the first to lead one of the five military services. He was an innovative leader of the Army.

General Shinseki was retired in June 2003 after 38 years in the Army. He was said to be forced out of his job as Army Chief of Staff after testifying to Congress that a much larger U.S. force would be required in Iraq than the Bush Administration expected. He was one of only a few generals willing to stand up to then Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld.

In naming General Shinseki as the nominee, President-elect Obama noted that General Shinseki won the respect and admiration of our service people because they have always been his highest priority. He is a man of principle and integrity. He has a great sense of duty and commitment to the veterans.

General Shinseki has been active as the spokesman for the Go For Broke Foundation and remains active in Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). Only two weeks ago he was the featured speaker at a Japanese American Veterans gathering in Los Angeles, California. Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the JACL, stated: "As a decorated soldier and officer in the U.S. Army, General Shinseki is especially qualified to become Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The JACL is happy to see such a respected American of Japanese descent be given this opportunity to continue his leadership abilities in President-elect Obama's cabinet. His commitment to the Asian American community is noteworthy. He will be an outstanding addition to the cabinet."

National JACL President Larry Oda agreed that General Shinseki is an excellent choice for Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He is a great role model for Asian American young people as well as for all Americans.

(Photo taken from the files of Wikipedia)

Recipe of the Month

Pumpkin Cake

1 c. milk ¾ tsp. nutmeg
1 ½ c. canned pumpkin ¾ c. shortening
¾ t. soda 2 ¼ c. sugar
¾ t. cinnamon 3 eggs
¾ t. ginger 4 ½ t. baking powder
3 c. sifted cake flour

Vanilla Icing

1 c. granulated sugar ¾ c. vegetable shortening
1 pkg. vanilla pudding (not instant)

Add milk to pumpkin and soda. Set aside. Cream shortening and sugar. Add eggs and beat well. Sift together dry ingredients and add alternately with pumpkin mixture to creamed mixture. Stir well after each addition. Bake in three 9 inch pans, greased and floured @ 350 degrees for 25-30 min. until done. For vanilla icing: Mix sugar and shortening. Prepare pudding according to package directions. When cold add 1 cup to creamed mixture and beat until smooth. When cool frost cake with icing.

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Cleveland JACL as a service to
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BULLETIN**

**3097 Ashwood Road
Cleveland, OH 44120**

**News Deadline for
February/March 2009**

Is

January 24, 2009