

# The Bulletin

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

August/September 2009

## Editorial

By Hazel Asamoto

As readers of the Bulletin know, your input and suggestions have always been important to us. Many hours and much time have been spent to keep the JA Community informed about all the upcoming events and interesting activities that can be enjoyed by young and old alike. You will determine whether this will continue. As in many organization most of the work is done by a few people. But organizations need volunteers. When you volunteer for our many activities, you show your regard for your community and you add to our legacy for the next generation. So volunteer, show us that you want to continue with the work, send us a message of your concerns. Our JA Community has survived for many years, and hopefully we will have many more stories to tell.

Your comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated. Thank you. Email Address:

[clevejaclubbulletin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clevejaclubbulletin@sbcglobal.net) or mailing address: c/o Hazel Asamoto, Editor, 3097 Ashwood Rd. Cleveland, OH 44120

## President's Message

By Rick Ishiyama

I want to personally thank everyone who showed up and called me about assisting in the upcoming Holiday Fair. We had 15 people show up for the planning meeting with over half of them my generation and younger. Each person took on a planning task resulting in much of the work being spread out amongst the group. I was confident that the community would step up and they did. The board has decided to plan on presenting the Holiday Fair again this year. As always we continue to ask for any volunteers who will assist in the food preparation and working at the Fair. This is our annual festival where we raise money for our scholarship funds and operations as well as an opportunity to come together and commune with family, friends, loved ones as well as meet new people.

Those who came to the Holiday Fair planning meeting were:

Teri Rabic, Lisa Lui, Jamie Elwell, Rich Theus, Mary Theus, Danny Theus, Joyce Theus, Jerry Omori, Cathy Lui, Ken Arie, Keith Asamoto, Mitzie Matsumoto, Karen Sodini, Shig Igarashi

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**Donors - \$150**

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\* \* \* \* \*

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(Contributions are tax deductible)

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**Condolences**

**Kikue Murakami**, age 95, passed away on July 31, 2009 at home surrounded by her family. She is survived by her daughters Kuniko Ford and Jeannie Nakamura. Grandmother to Debbie Takeshi, Aya, and Naomi, and Kentaro Tomine. Funeral services were held on August 8th at the Chapel of the Roses, San Jose, CA

*(Jeannie Murakami Nakamura was formerly a member of the Sho-Jo-Ji Dance Group)*

**Mikiko Hayakawa**, age 90, passed away on July 10, 2009 and is survived by her daughter Yukiko Llewellyn of Champaign, Ill, her grandson David Tatsuo Llewellyn (Amanda Grill), her great-granddaughter Madison Midori, and great-grandson Stewart Kirin of Columbia, Mo.

*Dear Friends of Cleveland JACL,*

*I am sad to inform you that my mother Mikiko Hayakawa died on Friday, July 10, 2009 in the Champaign County Nursing Home. Her Obit is enclosed for your information. Enclosed is a check to help with the cost of The Bulletin.*

*My mother enjoyed reading about all the activities in Cleveland. I was always interested in reading of people I knew in Ohio so many years ago!*

*I retired from the University of Illinois in 2002 after 37 years of service. I retired as assistant Dean of Students. I am active in the Asian American Cultural Center which opened 5 years ago. I will be volunteering on staff this coming academic year. I have fond memories of my time in Cleveland. Please continue to send me the Bulletin but now in my name. Thank, you, Yuki Llewellyn*

## Standing in the Rain

By Hazel Asamoto

It was exciting to hear that the President of the United States would be visiting the community where I live. Much to my surprise, two tickets were available from the administration office of Shaker Heights High School, for a town hall meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2009. With a random picking of the tickets for the event, my son Craig and I had the opportunity to see President Barack Obama in person. The subject of the meeting was health care reform.

With the doors opening at 12:15 p.m. and knowing the area surrounding the Shaker High School Gymnasium would be blocked off for security reason, we decided to venture in early around 11:00 a.m. to get a good seat for this event. We were dropped off close to the gym and walked to our destination. Feeling confident we would be able to get good seats, we instead had the sobering experience of standing in the rain for at least 20 minutes. As the burst of rain subsided and very much dripping wet, we finally managed to go through security and showed our tickets. We were now ready to hear the important information on changes which President Obama wanted for our health care system.

*Taking his jacket off and rolling up his sleeves, a very relaxed president was open for the question and answer discussion. The question and answer period was very informative with as many as seven individuals, young and old alike expressing their concerns. Sitting in the bleachers for 3 hours was all worth it. Many political dignitaries were there from Ohio, including Governor Strickland, mayors, and other officials. It was awesome to experience this historical event in my hometown. As the president exited out, someone yelled out 'love you, Mr. President, and in return the President remarked back 'love ya, too!*

## My Summer Vacation.....

By Hazel Asamoto

I attended the 2009 North American Taiko Conference in Los Angeles, CA, August 6<sup>th</sup> - August 9<sup>th</sup>. The mission statement was: to build network and community between taiko groups in North America; to document the history of North American taiko; to pass on the traditions and repertoire of North American taiko; and to support the artistic development of North American Taiko.

As a registered observer with the JACL Icho Daiko of Cleveland, OH, I was able to see the many individuals gathered together for the love of taiko drumming, from Canada and across America, from the west, the Midwest and the east. The event was in "Little Tokyo" as well as nine other locations used for the conference workshop. To be part of the enthusiasm and energy provided by the taiko drummers playing was worth the trip to the conference.

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## Icho Daiko Going Forward

At a meeting on August 16, 2009, Icho Daiko members, community members, including representatives of JACL were informed that Icho Daiko, a taiko drumming group since 2003, has filed for a separate non-profit organization independent of JACL's non-profit status. This new group has been formed by Roy Ebihara, Nozomi Ikuta and Steve Frank and will have their own organizational structure intended to allow Icho Daiko to reach new levels in performance and cultural outreach.

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## SCHOLARSHIP ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This is the 50th Anniversary of the Cleveland Chapter JACL Scholarship Program. In 1959, the Cleveland JACL established a scholarship fund to give recognition to high school graduates and to those who have exemplified academic excellence and involvement in community activities. The scholarship fund is maintained by the income from the Cleveland Chapter Endowment created in 1990, individual contributions and memorial donations.

This is also the 40th Anniversary of the Cleveland Japanese American Foundation Scholarship Program. In 1969, the CJAF established scholarship awards for high school graduates. This fund is made possible by the proceeds from the annual Japanese Community Picnic sponsored by the Foundation.

The scholarship luncheon was held on Sunday, July 12, 2009 at Shinano Japanese Restaurant in Solon, Ohio. Bill Sadataki served as master of ceremonies. This year the Cleveland JACL and the CJAF awarded seven \$1000.00 scholarships.

John Ochi, Trustee of CJAF presented scholarships to:

- Kyle Guinto, son of Connie and Victor Guinto, graduate of Highland High School and to
- Taylor Ullman, daughter of Suzi and Marc Ullman, graduate of Orange High School.

Aiko Ebihara, JACL Scholarship Chairperson, presented scholarships to:

- Kelsey Siebold, daughter of Gloria and David Siebold, and graduate of Willoughby South High School, received the Henry Tanaka Memorial Scholarship.
- Maria Schmuhl, daughter of Kyoko and Ken Schmuhl, and graduate of Cardinal High School, received the Helen & Shigeru Furuki Memorial Scholarship.
- Aleah Fisher, daughter of Mary and Donald Fisher, and graduate of Barberton High School, received the Philip Yasaki Memorial Scholarship.
- Victor Matsunaga, son of Maria and Roberto Matsunaga, and graduate of Olmsted Falls High School received the Martha & Tom Oye Memorial Scholarship
- Sachiko McCullough, daughter of Miki Saito and John McCullough, and graduate of Medina High School received the 2009 JACL Scholarship

The following graduates received Barnes and Noble gift cards:

- Briana Yamane, daughter of David and Joy Yamane, graduate of Eastlake North High School.
- Natalie Grant, daughter of Diane and Neil Grant, graduate of Akron North High School.
- Nicole Grant, daughter of Diane and Neil Grant, graduate of Akron North High School.

2008 Scholarship recipients, Krista Kano (CJAF), Charlotte Green (CJAF), Louis Keller (JACL), Leo Simpson (JACL) Hana Yasaki (JACL), and Kathleen Kerecman (JACL) shared with the audience and graduates their first year experiences of college life.

*(See photos on pg. 5)*

*Photos from the Scholarship Luncheon*



*2009 Scholarship winners and graduates: Standing from left to right, Kyle Guinto, Victor Matsunaga, Briana Yamane, Natalie Grant, Nicole Grant. Seated from left to right, Maria Schumhl, Taylor Ullman, Kelsey Siebold, Aleah Fisher.*

Below, Master of Ceremonies, Bill Sadataki



Below, Scholarship Chairperson, Aiko Ebihara



## Sho-Jo-Ji Dancers

*By Bev Kerecman*

The Sho-Jo-Ji Japanese Dancers performed at the St. Clair Superior Culture Fest 2009 which was a free family event. Katy Higaki, Nanci Taketa, Kathleen and Bev Kerecman performed and taught Japanese dances to a friendly and fun audience. It was estimated that 600 people enjoyed the event which featured music, food, arts, children's art activities, and community information booths. A photo of the group appeared in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on Sunday, June 28. The Sho-Jo-Ji Japanese Dancers usually perform at the Berea Oktoberfest and the Taste of Cleveland over the Labor Day Weekend. Schedules have not been set but the group hopes to see familiar faces at these events. For more information please send an email to [shojjibevharu@earthlink.net](mailto:shojjibevharu@earthlink.net)

### Sho-Jo-Ji

*By: Chelsey Krieger*

Our latest performance was at the Cleveland Buddhist Temple for their annual Obon Festival. There was a wonderful turnout and the group was quick to join in with the dancers and enjoy the evening together. It is always more fun when you get good audience participation. We also performed Kojo No Tsuki right before intermission and received a lot of positive feedback.

Other than Obon we have enjoyed a break as we are coming off of an EXTREMELY busy year due to the excitement over the Kimono exhibit at the Canton Museum of Art. We will be ready to start all of the performance scheduled for fall 2009 fresh and renewed. Looking forward to seeing everyone for the JACL Holiday Fair!

Sayonara!!!!

◦ ◦ ◦

### Influences In Life

*By Roy Ebihara*

Early this summer my wife and I were invited to a graduation dinner hosted by a young graduate of Mt. Union College. She graduated summa cum laude, and her proud parents felt that she should honor those

people who had made an impact on her life. How unusual that only those who positively influenced her life were on the invited guest list? On the way home, I began to think about those who had profound effect on my life during my youthful years.

One summer job I held during my high school years was working for Tom Fujita at T&J Auto. Much of what I did was doing wet-sanding of the primer paint after an auto body was repaired of dents and scratches. I soon learned that just putting in time was not good enough. I was reminded by Mas Kimura and Jim Ozaki that the ultimate look of the finished job depended on how carefully and skillfully I did the sanding. What did I learn that summer? Ask yourself if that's the best you can do....; take pride in whatever task you undertake.

A good paying job but a physically demanding was offered to me by Mr. Orikuchi during a summer while in college. I was often so exhausted by days end, that I couldn't take Aiko out for an evening date. I really never knew Mr. Orikuchi's first name but it really didn't matter, for I soon learned to respect him as Mr. Orikuchi, one of the best and well-known landscape gardener of Cleveland, Ohio. The very rich vied for his services as they did for Tom Shirasawa's. It was a question of who had them as their gardener during conversations at tea parties. No clientele ever talked down to Mr. Orikuchi. He dictated what was right and proper for the landscape of the estate. Yes, I learned a lot that summer, about hard work and earning respect by the quality of work you produced.

In looking back, it was the likes of Tom Fujita, Jiro Habara, Mas Kimura, John Akiba, Jim Ozaki, Ben Ogino, Mr. Orikuchi and Mr. Shirasawa who were influential in my life. They were intelligent, industrious, and proud people who paved the road for those who later had the opportunities to succeed to another level. My regret? I never took the time to thank them or to honor them as did this young graduate of Mt. Union College.



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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## Membership Form

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Which chapter would you like to join? \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Family Membership \$105	<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$25
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<b>Thousand Club, Century Club &amp; Millennium Club* (includes membership)</b>	
<i>*These alternate membership options offer another opportunity for members to participate at a higher level of giving.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club (individual) \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Century Club (individual) \$175
<input type="checkbox"/> Millennium Club (individual) \$1000	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club Life (individual) \$3,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Century Club Life (individual) \$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional dues to include spouse in Thousand/Century/Millennium Club membership \$36	Spouse's Name: _____

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Checks should be made payable to JAACL*

*The following information is optional and is used for membership services and benefits development.*

Are you a registered voter?     Yes         No

What attracted you to the JAACL? \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that \$12 of your total membership fee, which corresponds to the fair market value of the Pacific Citizen, is not tax deductible from your national dues.

**Recipe of the Month**

**Tofu Bake**

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 block of tofu                  | 1 tsp. ginger juice       |
| ½ lb. ground turkey              | 2 T. soy sauce            |
| ½ c. green onion, finely chopped | 2 eggs                    |
| 1 can cream of mushroom soup     | ½ c. Panko (bread crumbs) |

Grease an 8" square baking pan. Place tofu in cloth and squeeze to remove water. Put in a suribachi (Japanese mortar), and stir until tofu crumbles. Stir in turkey, green onions, soup, ginger juice, soy sauce, eggs and Panko. Place mixture into prepared pan and bake in a 375° oven for 45 minutes.

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