



Japanese American Citizens League Mile Hi Chapter Notes

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Jake Shimabukuro Recognizes JAVA Veterans	2
Colorado Dragon Boat Festival	3
Day of Remembrance	3
Hina Matsuri	3
Upcoming Events	4
Mile Hi JACL Recognition Luncheon	4
Japanese Piano Concert	4
Japan Cup 2011	4
OCA/JACL Lunar New Year Banquet	4
Nihongo-o Naraimashyou	4
Terminally III 442nd Celebrates Congressional Medal	5
Historic Structure is Found in Good Condition at Amache	6
Teachers Education Workshop	7
Student Scholarships	7
Mile Hi JACL Membership	8

Volume II, Issue II

February 2011

President's Message



February was a very busy month for Mile Hi JACL. We kicked off the month with our annual OCA/JACL Lunar New Year banquet which was followed by a series of other New Year banquets for JAC, APDC, and Kunming Sister Cities, just to name a few. Although many of us were faced with the dilemma of choosing one event over another or rushing from one event to the next, the number of events taking place amongst our relatively small AAPI community of Denver is a great reflection of the strength of our community. Congratulations to everyone who hosted these successful events and thank you to

everyone who participated!

Over Presidents' Day weekend, we also hosted our Teachers Education Workshop and our annual Day of Remembrance Event. Both events were a great success! Thank you to all of the presenters, committee members, and volunteers who helped make these events happen. To learn more about these events, please read the articles for each of these events in this newsletter.

Although a bit hectic, this month was a perfect conclusion to my term. I have greatly enjoyed serving all of you as the Mile Hi Chapter President and appreciate having been given this opportunity. It has truly been a pleasure getting to know all of you and I value the many relationships I have been fortunate to build through my involvement with the community. Though through a different capacity, I will still be involved with Mile Hi JACL as well as other community organizations, so I look forward to continue working with all of you.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Harry Budisidharta who will be our next Mile Hi JACL President! Harry has proven his dedication to serving the AAPI community as well as his strong leadership skills through his many voluntary roles including being a member of the Board of Directors for OCA Colorado, a mentor for APDC's youth programs, a member of Minoru Yasui American Inn of Courts, and a member of NAAAP Colorado. I have no doubt that he will be a great president and I look forward to serving under his leadership.

Sincerely,
Suzy Shimasaki
Mile Hi JACL President

Jake Shimabukuro Recognizes JAVA Veterans During his Visit to Virginia

JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

(1749 Old Meadow Road, Suite 500, McLean, VA 22102; Bob Nakamoto, President

CONTACT: Terry Shima 301-987-6746; ttshima@comcast.net

Alexandria, VA. Jake Shimabukuro, ukulele virtuoso, performed at the Birchmere Music Hall on February 8, 2011. His evening program was entitled *Go For Broke*. At his young age of 35, Jake is a fifth generation Japanese American who has already performed in Japan over 50 times, made repeated visits to mainland America, and recently performed before Queen Elizabeth. A native of Honolulu, Jake creates his own music which combines elements of jazz, rock and pop and, unlike the traditional ukulele player, uses complex finger work.

Midway in his program, Jake discussed his visits during his youth to the 100th Veterans Club in Honolulu for a cold drink of water and not being fully aware of the World War II heroism of the Nisei veterans. As he grew up, he came to know more of the significance of their history and today is one of their greatest supporters. He chronicled the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team's performance record in Italy, France and Germany during World War II and the announcement that later this year the US Congress will award the Congressional Gold medal to Nisei veterans who served in the 100th, 442nd and the Military Intelligence Service.

The introduction by Jake of World War II veterans Grant Ichikawa (MIS), Dr. Norman Ikari (442nd Regiment) and Terry Shima (442nd Regiment) resulted in a prolonged standing ovation from the sold-out audience. This recognition was the prelude to Jake's next music presentation, the *Go For Broke* song. Arrangements for the Nisei veterans attendance were made by Jon Yoshimura, Senator Daniel Akaka's Communications Director.

Following Jake's performance, he cordially invited the Nisei veterans backstage for a brief social period and photo opportunity.

A performance by Jake of the *Go For Broke* song may be found on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tjycPOqPZQ&feature=related) at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tjycPOqPZQ&feature=related> 30



Colorado Dragon Boat Festival

Race registration for the annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival is now open! This year's event will be held on July 30th and 31st and will include six divisions. If you are interested in forming a team with the Mile Hi JACL, please email MileHijJACL@gmail.com by Friday, March 11. You can visit <http://cdbuf.org> for more information on the event.

Day of Remembrance Event

On February 20, 2011, the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and the Mile Hi JACL hosted the annual Day of Remembrance program. The Day of Remembrance commemorates February 19, 1942, the date on which President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which ordered over 120,000 Japanese American civilians to concentration camps during World War II.

Dr. Gina Mumma-Wenger, the first keynote speaker, spoke about the history of art education within the concentration camps. Dr. Mumma-Wenger noted that many of the children's artwork reflect the trauma they suffered as a result of living in camps surrounded by armed guards and barbed wire fences. Dr. Mumma-Wenger also noted that instead of teaching the children, the teachers were instead told to indoctrinate the children and to test the children's loyalty toward the United States. Those who refused to serve in the United States Army were then sent to harsher concentration camps.

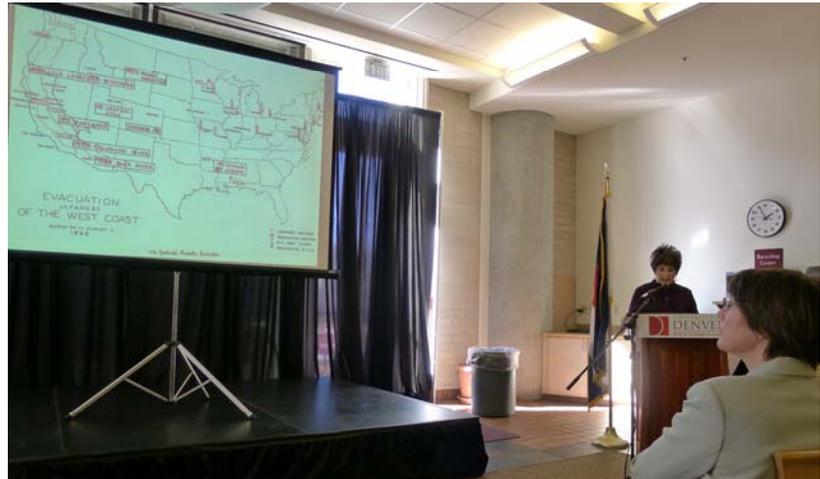
Dr. Jan Fielder Ziegler, the second keynote speakers and a winner of the Adele Mellen prize for her book *The Schooling of Japanese American Children at Relocation Centers During World War II*, discussed the inherent irony of Japanese American children being taught about American democracy while being forced to live inside concentration camps. Many of the youth started to exhibit discipline problems caused by the loss of traditional social order and the breakdown of parental. While there is no hard data that we can use to gauge if the children actually made any gain academically while they were living in the camps, the anecdotal evidence suggests that the academic programs were often found lacking.

For next year, the annual Day of Remembrance program will focus on the individual stories of the surviving detainees from the concentration camp.

Harry Budisidharta is a partner at the Law Firm of Balaban, Claeson & Budisidharta, LLP. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from California State University of Los Angeles, and his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Colorado Law School. Mr. Budisidharta practices in the area of civil and criminal litigation. Please send questions or comments to harry@denverfirm.com

Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival)

The Simpson United Methodist Church will be holding its annual Hina Matsuri on March 5 & 6 from 11:30 am — 4:00 pm. Make certain you invite your friends and neighbors, especially if they know nothing about Japanese Culture. This is a great way for them to get a sample of what the culture of Japan is all about. The event is FREE with all donations gratefully accepted. This is one of the few opportunities and an especially fun time to wear beautiful Kimonos, Yukata or Happi Coat you have packed away and they would like to have lots of people wearing them! There will be people at the event who can help you get dressed in your cultural attire if you have forgotten how or never knew. They will also have a light Japanese lunch for purchase while supplies last.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mile Hi JACL Meeting

Thursday, March 3rd
7:00 p.m.
JAC Office
Sakura Square (2nd Fl)

JACL Intermountain District Council Meeting

Reception - Friday, March 11
Meeting - Saturday, March 12

Mile Hi JACL Recognition Luncheon

Sunday, April 17th
12 pm - reception
1 pm - lunch & program
Doubletree Hotel
3203 Quebec Street
Denver, CO 80207

Asian Education Advisory Council Award Ceremony

Sunday, May 1st
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Doubletree Hotel
3203 Quebec Street
Denver, CO 80207

Amache Pilgrimage

Saturday, May 21st

Mile Hi JACL Recognition Luncheon

The Mile Hi JACL's annual Recognition Luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 17th. As our chapter's signature event, this luncheon serves as an opportunity to recognize community leaders who have made significant contributions to the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities of Colorado. At the event, we will award one Kansha No Hi Award along with five Pacesetter Awards, one for each of the following categories: education, health, business, volunteer, and youth. Please check out our website: www.MileHiJACL.org for details on the event as well as how you can nominate someone for an award. **Nominations for these awards are due Tuesday, March 1st.**

Japanese Piano Concert

On Thursday, March 31, 2011 famous Japanese pianist, Nobuyuki Tsujii, will be coming to CU Boulder! For more details, and to purchase tickets, please visit <http://cupresents.org/default/index.cfm>

2011 Japan Cup

The Japan America Society of Colorado will hold this competition of Japanese language on April 16, 2011, at the University of Denver. For more information, visit www.jascolorado.org/events.php.

OCA/JACL Lunar New Year's Celebration

Thank you to everyone who came out to our annual OCA/JACL Lunar New Years event. We had a wonderful celebration which was MCed by Richard Lui, news anchor for MSNBC. Special thanks to our corporate sponsors: First Bank of Colorado, Lau and Choi, P.C., Isle Casino Hotel, Wells Fargo, KECI Colorado, and Miller Coors. We hope you all enjoyed the evening and we look forward to seeing you again next year!



Nihongo-o Naraimashyou! (Let's Learn Japanese!)

Words of the Month:

February: Nigatsu (ni-ga-tsu)

Rabbit: Usagi (oo-sa-gi)

History: Rekishi (re-ki-shi)

War: Sensou (se-n-so-u)

Study: Benkyou (be-n-kyo-u)

Book: Hon (ho-n)

If you're interested in practicing Japanese, join the free Kaiwa (Conversation) Club of Japan America Society of Colorado at Buzz Café (1229 E 6th Ave.) every Wednesday from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm.

Terminally Ill 442nd Veteran Celebrates Congressional Gold Medal Three Days Before His Passing

NATIONAL VETERANS NETWORK

(415 Russell Ave, #1005, Gaithersburg, MD 20877; Christine Sato Yamazaki, Chairperson)

CONTACT: Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Christine@csy-assoc.com
Terry Shima 301-987-6746; ttshima@comcast.net



Menlo Park, California. In a special ceremony on February 3, 2011, Masami Robert Iso, 92 and terminally ill, celebrated the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal that will be officially awarded in the fall of 2011 to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II. While serving in the 442nd, he participated in all of the 442nd campaigns, was wounded twice and spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

One hundred people, including Robert's wife Rose, participated in the ceremony at the

Veterans Affairs Menlo Park Community Living Center that was arranged by the Center and Colonel Bryan Shiroyama, US Air Force (Ret). Lawson Sakai, 442nd veteran and President of Friends and Families of Nisei Veterans (FFNV) representative, presented Iso with a framed copy of Public Law 111-254 that the White House had provided to the National Veterans Network (NVN). Since there will be no individual citations and a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal will not be minted until the summer, the copy of the law was the most tangible evidence of the award.

Sadly, Iso would pass away 48 hours later. Younger brother James Y. Iso, a retired Foreign Service Officer, said "Bob, in his Disabled American Veteran (DAV) uniform with campaign ribbons and former DAV Commander cap, was alert and appeared to comprehend the entire ceremony and accepted the honor with dignity. He enjoyed the television coverage on the evening news and newspapers articles the following morning." Following the war, Robert worked for the US Army as a civilian and was a life member of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). During his free time he drove his friends and senior citizens to their appointments.

PL 111-254 bears the prominent signatures of President Obama, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Senate President Pro Tem Daniel Inouye and authorizes the award of the Congressional Gold medal to the 100th, 442, and Nisei who served in the MIS during World War II. Of particular significance to Asian Americans is Senator Inouye's signature, a Nisei combat veteran of the 442nd Regiment himself and now in a position of succession to the Presidency. Information on PL 111-254 may be obtained from Terry Shima, ttshima@comcast.net; 301-987-6746 or Christine Sato Yamazaki (christine@csy-assoc.com).

FFNV is a member of the NVN, a coalition of 23 veterans and civic organizations organized to coordinate the Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony in Washington, DC later this year. Christine Sato Yamazaki, former President and CEO of Go For Broke National Education Center, is the Chairperson of NVN.

Historic Structure is Found in Good Condition at Amache

By Pacific Citizen Staff (Published February 18, 2011)

The water tank is immortalized in World War II era photos.

The original water tank, often captured in the background of historic Amache pictures has been discovered near the site of the former World War II internment camp.

The water tank from Camp Amache, located in southeast Colorado, was found in “fair to deteriorated condition” in a refuse pile at a nearby ranch.



“That we have been able to recover so much of the water tower at Amache is wonderful because above and beyond the rarity of any such find, the water tower at Amache was iconic,” said Bonnie Clark, an anthropology professor at the University of Denver. “It was often portrayed in photographs and other historic images of camp, including some wonderful silkscreen images made in the Amache silkscreen shop.”

During WWII, the water tank was painted with a red and white-checkered pattern that could be seen for miles, said Clark. “Because so much of the camp looked exactly alike, it was a way for internees to orient themselves.”

Like other Japanese American internment camps at war’s end, the structures at Amache were dismantled quickly. The water tank was moved from Amache to a local rancher’s property for many years. Before he passed away, he donated the tank to the Amache Preservation Society to be restored and moved back to the camp for interpretive purposes.

While the water tank was being dismantled, Bob Emick, another local rancher found parts of the tower in a burn pile at the back of the property, said Barbara Darden, of Scheuber + Darden Architects. Approximately 200 bolts, washers and nuts that were a part of the tower were also found, she added.

During WWII, the water tank was used as the water supply for the camp. The water for the camp is supplied by four wells approximately 800 feet deep. Researchers are hailing the discovery as a rare opportunity to restore an important part of JA history.

“Also most of the architecture in the camps was modeled on temporary army buildings, so they were not intended to be permanent. That means that any buildings or building materials that are actually historic, that were used in an internment camp and retain any integrity, are quite rare,” added Clark.

The Friends of Amache, a Colorado-based non-profit, has been working to restore and rebuild part of the former internment camp site. Only the foundations of buildings are left. Colorado Preservation, Inc. is working with the Park Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Friends of Amache to fund the restoration.

“The reconstruction of the tower will be much more accurate now that we have not just the tank, but elements of the tower structure itself,” said Clark.

For more information: www.amache.org

Teachers Education Workshop

On Saturday, February 19, educators and community members from across Colorado gathered at the University of Denver for a day long workshop sponsored by the Mile Hi JACL. This session provided educators with the opportunity to learn more about the history of Japanese Americans to help ensure that students will continue to learn about this very important piece of our history. National JACL Education Coordinator, Greg Marutani, opened the session with a historic overview of the Japanese American experience from immigration to redress. Fellow education trainer, Mako Nakagawa from Seattle, then discussed word choice as it relates to the varying terminology used to describe what Japanese Americans experienced during the war. The session then discussed Colorado's connection by describing the important role of Governor Ralph Carr and by incorporating presentations from John Hopper and his students from Granada High School's Amache Preservation Society as well as Kara Miyagishima from the National Park Services. The final portion of this section that discussed the Japanese American experience included a panel presentation that illustrated the continuing impact of the war. Presenting varying perspectives, the panelists included Chiyo Horiuchi (Nisei with camp experience), Jim Hada (Nisei without camp experience), Erin Yoshimura (Sansei whose parents were in the camps), Kerry Hada (Sansei whose parents were not in the camps), Kimi Kano (Yonsei with one grandparent who was in the camps and three grandparents who were not in the camps), and Suzy Shimasaki (Shin-Isei whose grandparents were in Hiroshima and Tokyo during the war).



The afternoon was spent discussing the relevance to current events. Harry Budisidharta presented on the recently passed Arizona State Law HB 2281, often referred to as the “anti ethnic studies law” and then Cindy Stout who worked with JANM in developing Colorado-related curriculum for the “Enduring Communities” project discussed the related standards and how teachers can bring this information into their classrooms.

The workshop was well received and the closing remarks by the participants illustrated how strongly the session impacted many of the educators. Some made comments such as, “the personal stories that were shared made for a very powerful experience” and “this session helped me realize that the internment experience is part of the American story, not just a Japanese American story.”

Special thanks to the planning committee and co-sponsors of the event: Kathy Namura (Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado), Bonnie Clark (University of Denver), Linda Takahashi-Rodriguez (Asian Education Advisory Council), Richard Hamai (Mile Hi JAC), and Leslie Sakato.

Student Scholarships

Two of the primary local scholarship programs we have in Denver are the Japanese American Community Graduation Program (JACGP) and the Asian Education Advisory Council (AEAC) scholarships. Both programs are now accepting nominations for their various scholarship awards. The deadline for the AEAC awards is March 25, 2011 and the deadline for the JACGP awards is April 8, 2011. You can find more information on both of these scholarship programs as well as links to the nomination forms under “Scholarship & Fellowships” section of our website (milehiJACL.org).

"What cannot be achieved in one lifetime will happen when one lifetime is joined to another."

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

Mile Hi JACL

P.O. Box 13061
Denver, CO 80201

milehiJACL@gmail.com

www.milehiJACL.org

Not a Member of JACL?

Joining the Mile Hi JACL is a great way to get involved with the community and to help support our programs that educate our youth, develop leaders, and pass on our legacy from generation to generation. Membership benefits include (subject to change):

- Pacific Citizen, the JACL newspaper
- Mile Hi Chapter Newsletter
- Scholarship Program
- JACL Credit Union Services
- VISA Affinity Card
- Hertz Rental Car Discounts
- Long Distance Calling Discounts
- Major Medical Insurance Program*
- Long Term Care Insurance*
- Catastrophic Major Medical Insurance*
- Medicare Supplement Insurance*

*Membership does not guarantee acceptance into the above insurance programs. The insurers have their own acceptance criteria.

If you would like to join, please complete the information below:

Membership Application

(12 mo. membership from the date of application)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$65) | <input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Family (\$110) | <input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club (\$100) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Century Club (\$175) | <input type="checkbox"/> Millennium Club (\$1,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Youth (\$30) - PC excluded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club Life (\$3,000) | | <input type="checkbox"/> Century Club Life (\$5,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse of 1000 or Century Club member (\$37) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse of Millennium Club member (\$30) | | |

Name: _____ Spouse (if applying): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Please mail application and check payable to the Mile Hi JACL to:

PO Box 13061, Denver, CO 80201

