



# Japanese American Citizens League Mile Hi Chapter Notes

Volume II, Issue III

March 2011

## Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
National JACL/ OCA Leadership Summit	2
IDC Meeting	3
Upcoming Events	4
Nihongo-o Naraimashyou	4
Mile Hi JACL Recognition Luncheon	5
Passing of George Yoshito Masunaga	6
Opportunities for Students	7
Mile Hi JACL Membership	8

## President's Message



By now, all of us have heard about the terrible disaster that struck Japan on March 11, 2011. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this disaster. National JACL has joined with Direct Relief International in an effort to support relief efforts in Japan. Direct Relief International, established in 1948, is a privately funded humanitarian organization with decades-long experience in emergency response and humanitarian health assistance worldwide. Anyone wishing to contribute may visit the JACL website at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) and click on the link provided.

As of March 21, 2011, JACL and Direct Relief International have raised over \$1.6 million for the relief efforts. Mile Hi JACL has pledged to donate \$500, and we are currently working with other local non-profit organizations in an attempt to organize a fundraising drive. We will keep everyone informed about the chapter's continued participation in the relief efforts.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding the disaster relief effort. We can be reached at [milehijacl@gmail.com](mailto:milehijacl@gmail.com) or 303-377-3474.

Sincerely,  
Harry Budisidharta  
Mile Hi JACL Chapter President

## National JACL/OCA Leadership Summit

The 2011 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit took place from March 5-8. This event brought together 30 emerging leaders within JACL and OCA to our nation's capital for a three and a half day intensive leadership development training. The summit could not have happened without the amazing support and sponsorship of State Farm®. Jinny Kim was selected to represent Mile Hi JACL and the Intermountain District Council at this event. The following is her summary of her experiences:

The JACL/OCA Leadership Summit was truly an experience in many ways. First and foremost, it was a great opportunity to meet and build relationships with the leaders of other chapters to see what each chapter is working on, what the issues and challenges are and what the vision is for the organizations on the national level.

The best part of the summit for me was the White House briefing. It was inspiring to see young, dynamic Asian Americans in the heart of the U.S. government representing the API community in their respective leadership roles. Also, it was a great way to see how things work on the top level. As community organizations working on the grassroots level, though it is extremely rewarding to see the changes take place in each individual and local communities, sometimes it is easy to lose sight of the big picture. To visit the White House and have discussions about what is going on in the broader API community as well as the general public definitely put things back into perspective and through that, I was able to understand where the API community is on the map and also what we can better do to increase our visibility and raise our voices.

In addition to the White House visit, the congressional simulation challenge was very interesting and exciting. While both JACL and OCA are civil rights organizations focusing on advocacy work, without the understanding of the process of policy procedure it is easy to feel limited and frustrated in our efforts. The simulation gave an insight to how things work in the congress and what may be the priorities for such officials, and provided a better understanding on how to better approach our advocacy strategies.

One of the most memorable moments of the four-day summit was the time we spent with Secretary Mineta. Hearing the candid stories firsthand from a person who is a highly-recognized leader in the U.S. society, a leader of API community and an Asian American person was not only inspiring but also encouraging. Serving the U.S. government as an American but still recognizing and being proud of his Asian heritage, and the way how well he balances his identities to better strive and succeed aligned with my personal belief of "using" my multi-cultural identity to the best of my ability as an asset. It is essential to have pride in my heritage and my roots, not to think of it as an obstacle, in order to become a true leader and to inspire others.

It is my hope that the younger Asian Americans get a chance to learn the things I have and see the things I've seen at this summit to lead the API community to a better place where we are not only recognized and heard but also empowered and celebrated.

Overall, the summit was very well-organized, well-thought out and well-intended. It was an extraordinary experience that inspired and motivated me to do more and to do better as an emerging leader in the API community.

## Mile Hi JACL Hosts Intermountain District Council (IDC) Meeting

On Saturday, March 12, the Mile Hi JACL hosted the Intermountain District Council Meeting at the DoubleTree Denver Hotel. JACL is comprised of seven districts that meet each quarter to discuss various topics pertaining to the district as well as the National JACL. In addition to the representatives from the nine chapters that are included in the IDC, this meeting was also attended by National JACL President, David Kawamoto, and National JACL Vice President of Operations, Gail Sueki. During the meeting, participants: 1) presented chapter activity reports; 2) received updates on the Pacific Citizen, Education Committee, Power of Words Ad Hoc Committee, and Youth Programs; and 3) discussed issues such as membership, the National Convention, fundraising efforts, scholarship opportunities, and training needs for the IDC officers and chapter presidents. The meeting was facilitated by IDC Governor, Brian Morishita.

The evening before the meeting, the Mile Hi JACL Board also hosted a potluck reception for all of the visitors. At this reception, the Mile Hi JACL Board Members and Officers were installed by David Kawamoto who led them in the JACL pledge. Harry Budisidharta was also recognized as the incoming President and received his President's Pin. Below are some pictures from the reception.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***Mile Hi JACL Meeting***

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

### ***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

### ***Japanese American Community Graduation Program***

Saturday, June 11th

## Chow Mein & Shrimp Dinner

The Brighton Japanese American Association is hosting its annual Chow Mein & Shrimp Dinner on Sunday, March 27th from 11 am—4 pm (while supplies last). The event will take place at the Adams County Regional Park and everyone is welcome. Take out orders are also available.

## 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](http://www.jascolorado.org/events.php).

## Nisei Veterans Heritage Foundation Memorial Day Service

The Simpson United Methodist Church and the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple will participate in the planning of the Nisei Veterans Heritage Foundation Memorial Service which will take place on Monday, May 30, 2011 at Fairmount Cemetery. Volunteers are needed to help in contacting families of veterans, history, program layout and printing and the social program to be held after the memorial service. If you can help, please contact Bob Fujioka at 303-233-8179 or Gary Yamashita at 303-204-8039.

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

### Words of the Month:

March: Sangatsu (sa-n-ga-tsu)

Cooperate: Kyoryoku (kyo--ryo-ku)

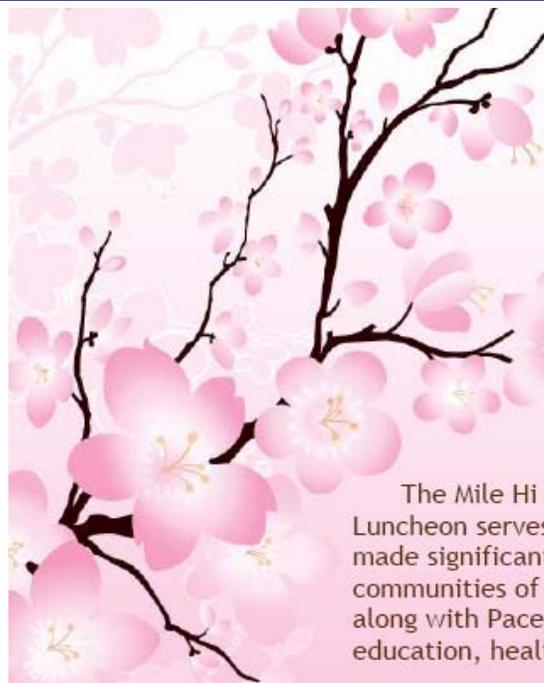
Pray: Inoru (i-no-ru)

Spring: Haru (ha-ru)

Weather: Tenki (te-n-ki)

Music: Ongaku (o-n-ga-ku)

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.



# You're Invited!

**The Mile Hi JACL cordially invites you to its annual Recognition Luncheon.**

The Mile Hi Japanese American Citizen League's annual Recognition Luncheon serves as an opportunity to recognize community leaders who have made significant contributions to the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities of Colorado. The Mile Hi JACL will award one Kansha No Hi Award along with Pacesetter Awards for one or more of the following categories: education, health, business, volunteer, and youth.

- Date:** Sunday, April 17
- Time:** Registration begins at noon  
Lunch and program will begin at 1:00 pm
- Where:** DoubleTree Hotel Denver  
3203 Quebec St., Denver, CO 80207
- Cost:** \$35 per person

**Program will include:**

- Special guest speaker, Paul Maruyama (author of "Escape from Manchuria)
- Silent Auction (fundraiser for the Japanese American Community Graduation Program)
- Performances by Mirai Daiko
- Guest appearance by Kosuke Kimura, Colorado Rapids



**If you have any questions, please contact:**  
Harry Budisidharta at [milehiJACL@gmail.com](mailto:milehiJACL@gmail.com) or 303.377.3474  
Richard Hamai at [rhamai@yahoo.com](mailto:rhamai@yahoo.com) or 303.839.9637

*RSVP*

Kindly respond by: Wednesday, April 13th.

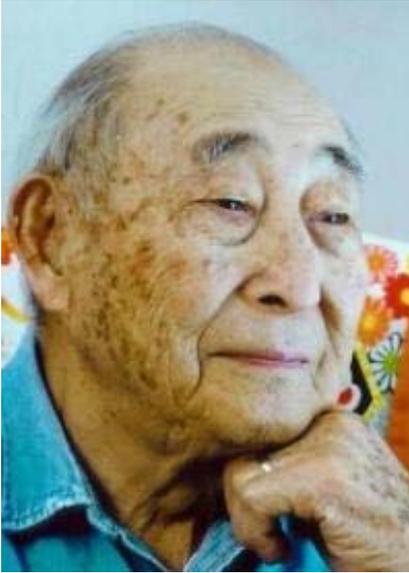
*Please send back this portion to confirm that you will be joining us for the 2011 Mile Hi JACL Recognition Luncheon.*

Name of participant(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Meal choice: Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Meal choice: Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Meal choice: Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

\*Vegetarian available upon request\*

Please send checks made payable to "Mile Hi JACL" to Richard Hamai: 333 E. 16th Ave. #613, Denver, CO 80203.

## Passing of George Yoshito Masunaga



It is with great sorrow that I inform you that George Masunaga passed away earlier this month. The following is his obituary that was published in the Denver Post:

*Life-long Denver area resident and retired pharmacy owner, died on March 3, 2011. Born on September 2, 1914, George grew up in the Brighton area and graduated in 1941 from the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy. He worked as a Chemist with the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad until joining the United States Army in 1944. Following his tour of duty in the Army, George became the Chief Civilian Pharmacist at then Lowry Air Force Base in Denver. George and his two brothers, Jess and John, later operated Walgreen Drug Stores in Denver, Adams City and Thornton. George retired in 1988, when he closed his independent Swansea Drug Store in Denver. In 1958, George married the former Mary Funakoshi from Fort Lupton. Mary survives George, as do George's sister, Mary Fujimoto, and brother, John Masunaga. George joined the Japanese*

*American Citizen's League in 1937. From 1947 to 1958, he served as President of JACL's Mile High Chapter. In 1992, George helped to organize and bring to Denver the National JACL convention. He remained an active member of the JACL for more than 60 years, serving most recently as an adviser to the Mile High Chapter. He is a member of JACL's Millennium Club and Thousand Club. George also served as the first Nisei president of the Japanese American Association in the Brighton area. Working with World War II veterans and with Minoru Yasui in the 1940s and 1950s, George was instrumental in making it possible for Isseis to own property in the state of Colorado. In addition to his membership in the JACL Mile High Chapter, George was an active member of the University of Colorado Development Committee for the School of Pharmacy, Simpson Methodist Church, Japanese Association of Colorado, Japan American Society, Nisei Post and the Colorado Pharmacist's Society.*

I would like to thank everyone who visited George in the hospital and at the hospice. Although everything happened very quickly, he lived a long and extraordinary life that touched the lives of countless people. He spent his final days surrounded by dozens of friends and family members who cared about him deeply, and I hope that he knew how much he meant to all of us. I, as I am sure many of you do, feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet George... to have learned from him, laughed with him, and been pushed by him. Even through his final moments with us, he offered opportunities for me to learn about the fundamentals of life and how to be a better person. I will continue to grow through the ripple effects of the legacy he has left behind and I hope that someday I will be able to pass on to society all that he has done for me. George, we love you and we miss you immensely.



## Opportunities for Students

### **National JACL Scholarships**

The JACL has been helping students achieve their educational dreams with the National Scholarship and Awards Program since 1946. The program currently offers over 30 awards, with an annual total of over \$60,000 in scholarships to qualified students nationwide.

The National Scholarship and Awards Program offer scholarships to students at the entering freshman, undergraduate, graduate, law, financial need and creative & performing arts levels. All scholarships are one-time awards. For more information, please visit: <http://jacl.org/edu/scholar.htm>

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### **Masaoka Congressional Fellowship**

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) established the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund in 1988 to honor Mike M. Masaoka (1915-1991) for his lifetime achievement of outstanding public service in promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity. The major purpose of the Fund is to develop leaders for public service. The Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellow serves for six to eight months in the Washington, DC office of a member of Congress in either the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate. The Member of Congress and the award recipient will select the term during which the Fellowship will take place. The stipend for the Fellowship is currently \$2,200 to \$2,500 a month, depending on qualifications. The Fellow will be involved in a variety of tasks, ranging from substantive legislative duties to the day to day office routine. The Fellow will be exposed to all facets of the work of the Representative or Senator and his/her staff. Precise duties will depend on the Member of Congress with whom the Fellow is placed and on the Fellow's level of experience with and knowledge of the legislative process.

The program will provide an opportunity for the Fellow to understand the importance of public service at the national level. The Fellow will also gain an inside perspective of how the U.S. Congress functions as well as be a part of the process that enables a Member of Congress to serve not only his/her own district but also the entire country as a legislator. For more information, please visit: <http://jacl.org/leadership/masaoka.htm>

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### **Local 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](http://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.**

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## 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 month 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

