



Japanese American Citizens League Mile Hi Chapter Notes

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President's Message



"If you can't say anything nice, then don't say anything at all."

Many of us were taught by our parents that it is impolite to provide any honest feedback because we may accidentally offend the recipient. However, when it comes to Mile Hi JACL, we want your honest feedback regarding the direction of our organization. If you have a negative feedback, we **really** want to hear from you.

Over the past couple of months, Mile Hi JACL has begun to return to its roots and engage in more community advocacy. In March 2011, we sent two of our board members to Washington, DC., to attend the JACL/OCA Leadership Summit and learn about community advocacy. In April 2011, the Board of Directors voted to support SB 11-126, the bill that would allow Colorado high school graduates to pay in-state tuition rates regardless of their immigration status.

In addition, we have been meeting with the representatives from other Asian American organizations, such as NAAAP Colorado, OCA Colorado, Asian Chamber of Commerce, etc., in an effort to pool our resources and organize more joint social events. We are proud of the fact that Mile Hi JACL was one of the sponsors of the recent Power of Solidarity event, where 18 different community organizations came together to organize a benefit concert to raise funds for the Japan disaster relief effort.

Your honest feedback is critical to our success as an organization. Your feedback gives us the opportunity to improve and to make sure that Mile Hi JACL is on the right path. You can give us a call at 303-377-3474, or send an email to milehijacl@gmail.com. Better yet, please take the time to complete the survey that was also attached to the email with this newsletter. I assure you that we will read all of your comments and treat them in confidence.

Thank you for your continued support and for giving me the opportunity to serve as the chapter president.

Harry Budisidharta
Mile Hi Chapter President



Photo: Mile Hi JACL Board members, Gary Yamashita & Suzy Shimasaki, at the Power of Solidarity event which raised \$30,000 for relief efforts in Japan.

Mile Hi JACL Recognition Luncheon

By: Lauren Yamashita and Cameron Stutzman

On April 17, the Mile Hi Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) held its annual Recognition Luncheon at the DoubleTree Hotel in Denver. The banquet was held to recognize leaders in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Notable guests included Kosuke Kimura from the MLS Champion soccer team, the Colorado Rapids, and Denver's 9News lead anchor and JACL member Adele Arakawa. Mrs. Arakawa acted as Mistress of Ceremonies for the event.



After lunch, the program began with keynote speaker, Paul Maruyama, author of the book *Escape from Manchuria*. The program proceeded with yo-yo and spin-top world champion, Darren Kim, who performed several of his award winning routines. Following Darren's remarkable performance, the presentation of awards began. The first award, the Tom Masamori Memorial Kansha No Hi (Day of Gratitude) Award, was presented to Seiji Tanaka. This award is given to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Asian American Community through their volunteerism. The second award presented was the Pacesetter Award. This is given to recognize a number of individuals who quietly do their jobs with high standards of morality, integrity, and excellence, and continue the traits of the Asian American community. The award in for the youth category went to Matthew Itritani, the Volunteer Award was presented to Jie Zheng, and the Education Award was given to Kathy Namura (accepted by Richard Hamai). Additionally, as a special surprise, JACL Board Member Frank Sakamoto presented Adele Arakawa with the JACL Millennium Award. The award portion of the luncheon concluded with new Mile Hi JACL President, Harry Budisidharta, presenting immediate past President, Suzy Shimasaki, with an award for her outstanding leadership in guiding the Mile Hi JACL Chapter during the past two years.

As the concluding entertainment, Mirai Daiko, a local professional Japanese taiko ensemble performed three songs. The group is comprised of Shannon Umetani, Keiko Ozaki, Courtney Ozaki, and Margaret Ozaki. Their performance shook the walls of the hotel and entertained the audience with their powerful beats and exciting movements.



The luncheon also included a silent auction which raised money for the Mile High JACL Scholarship which will be given at the Japanese American Community Graduation Program on June 11, 2011.

The Mile Hi JACL would like to thank everyone who attended this luncheon as well as those who supported it through monetary and in-kind donations both for the luncheon and silent auction.

JACL National Executive Director to Step Down



Washington D.C. April 22, 2011 - At the National Board Meeting of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) held last weekend in San Francisco, Floyd Mori announced his retirement from the position of National Executive Director for the JACL. Mori served as interim National Executive Director in late 2006 when ill health forced John Tateishi to leave the post. Mori was appointed as Tateishi's replacement in January 2007. His plans are to leave before the end of the year.

Moving in 2005 from Utah where he was born and raised, Mori came out of semi-retirement as an International Business Consultant to become Director of Public Policy for the JACL in its Washington, D.C. office.

Expressing appreciation for the opportunity to serve in the JACL, Mori stated that it is time for him to step down in order to spend more time with his family and pursue personal interests. He has especially enjoyed the association with other civil rights and Asian American leaders and groups in the Washington, D.C. area and around the country. He has also appreciated working with members of Congress and the White House.

The JACL has gained more visibility and credibility on the national level in recent years. Mori was instrumental in starting a National JACL Gala in the nation's capital. He served as chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), is on the Executive Committee of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCR), is a member of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) and OCA, and has been on many boards and committees.

Mori is credited with an aggressive outreach to the victims of Katrina and the BP oil spill as well as promoting relationships with communities impacted by the hysteria of 9-11. He has strengthened ties with Japan and spearheaded a successful partnership with Direct Relief International in raising funds for the victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan. He has led a drive to collaborate and form partnerships with other organizations. He has also developed corporate relationships which have been financially beneficial to the JACL.

Previously, Mori had served four years as National President of the JACL and four years as a vice president on the JACL national board. Having been involved with the JACL for most of his life, he also served for many years on a JACL chapter board. He has been a Mayor and city councilman of the City of Pleasanton, California, as well as a State Assemblyman and Director of the Office of International Trade for the State of California. He taught Economics at Chabot College in Hayward, California, and was involved in private business in Utah for many years.

The JACL is grateful to Floyd for his dedication and visionary leadership as National Executive Director of the JACL for the past five years. His remarkable experience in business, economics, and politics has greatly impacted the progress of the JACL's advocacy work. The JACL wishes him luck in his retirement and future endeavors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mile Hi JACL Meeting

Thursday, May 5
7:00 p.m.
JAC Office
Sakura Square (2nd Fl)

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

Asian Community Media Training

The Colorado chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association is hosting an Asian Community Media Training from 9am-noon on Saturday, May 21 at 9NEWS.

This workshop will not only be a good opportunity to network with some AAPI members of the local media but will also teach you how to write and send press releases and get coverage.

In addition to Erin Yoshimura (Executive Director of the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival) and Gil Asakawa (President of the Asian American Journalists Association - Colorado Chapter), the event will include journalists such as Joe Nguyen of YourHub, Andy Vuong of the Denver Post, Adele Arakawa of 9NEWS and Chris Jose of KDVR on hand. They will present on the basics of building relationships with media, and then hold a series of breakout sessions so attendees can get hands-on training in small groups to write a press release, how to pitch their stories and get hands-on tips about using social media.

If you want to learn from media professionals about how to catch their attention and have a better chance of being covered in the newspaper or on TV, go to the AAJA Denver website and register for the workshop: www.aajadenver.org

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:

Help Each Other, Mutually: Otagaisama (o-ta-ga-i-sa-ma)

April: Shigatsu (shi-ga-tsu)

Movie: Eiga (e-i-ga)

Fish: Sakana (sa-ka-na)

Start: Hakimari (ha-ji-ma-ri)

Family: Kazoku (ka-zo-ku)

Library: Toshiyokan (to-shyo-ka-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.

Breaking Boundaries: Asian Americans In Non-Traditional Careers

On Tuesday, May 3rd, the Colorado chapter of the National Association of Asian American Professionals is hosting a Power Connect event at Sushi Hai from 6 pm - 8 pm. This event will include a panel of speakers including Judge Kerry Hada and Paul Maruyama who will speak about their journeys in pursuing “non-traditional” careers. Be inspired by their stories and engage in the conversation during the Q&A which will follow the presentations. The event is free to NAAAP members and \$5 for non-members. Below is a brief description of what each of the panelists will share about:

Judge Kerry Hada earned his law degree in from the University of Denver in 1988 and practiced as a private attorney until 2008, when he was appointed Denver County Court Judge. He has served on numerous Colorado Supreme Court panels and committees, and is also a faculty instructor for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. He is a founding member and past president of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado and served on the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association judiciary committee. Judge Hada is active in the Japanese American Citizens League, Japanese Association of Colorado, Asian Chamber of Commerce, Japan American Society of Colorado, and Japanese American Veterans Association. He was a former infantry officer and Airborne Ranger in the U.S. Army.

Paul K. Maruyama, Lt. Col., USAF (Retired), was born in Tokyo in 1941. Trapped with his family in Manchuria when WWII ended, he and his family were not repatriated to Japan until January, 1947. Having competed in the 1964 Olympics and filled the role as Head Coach of the 1980 and 1984 U.S. Olympic Teams in the sport of Judo, Maruyama now teaches Japanese language and history at Colorado College and lives with his wife, LaRae, in Monument, Colorado.

Network with fellow Asian American professionals. Enjoy extended happy hour pricing until 7pm.

2011 Asian American Heroes of Colorado

The Mile Hi JACL would like to congratulate the following individuals who have been selected as the 2011 Asian American Heroes of Colorado:

Drucie Bathin - Burmese Community Leader and Cultural Trainer
Ding-Wen Hsu - Founder of Colorado Dragon Boat Festival
Dr. Ben Konishi - 60 Year Veterinarian and 2011 Colorado Ag Hall of Fame
Dr. Alok Sarwal - Founder of Colorado Asian Health Education Promotion (now the Colorado Alliance for Health Equity and Practice)
Linda and Jimmy Yip - Founders of Nathan Yip Foundation

The 3rd Annual Award Ceremony and Brunch will take place on Saturday, May 21st from 10 am - 12 pm at the Red Lion Hotel (3200 S. Parker Road, Aurora, CO 80014). The program will include recognition of the 2011 awardees acknowledgement of participating organizations, entertainment, and a keynote speech by 2010 Asian American Hero of Colorado award recipient Karen Nakandakare. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Help Keep the Pacific Citizen Alive!

If you enjoy reading the *Pacific Citizen's* in-depth news articles, please help keep its legacy alive by donating to the Spring Campaign annual fundraiser. Unlike any other newspaper, the *Pacific Citizen* tells the community stories that are important to you. These are your stories. This is your newspaper. You can make a difference.

Each year, JACL asks readers like you to support the *Pacific Citizen* by donating to the Spring Campaign. Now more than ever, they need your donation to save the legacy of the *Pacific Citizen* in print, to support our award-winning news coverage, and to fund our online innovations. As funding from JACL continues to dwindle, the *Pacific Citizen* needs your support to continue its award-winning coverage on the heroism of World War II Nisei veterans, the fight to save Minidoka, and many other important stories like these. Without the *Pacific Citizen*, these stories may never be chronicled. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Spring Campaign. As one of the last running national Asian American newspapers in the U.S., the *Pacific Citizen* needs your help now to keep our legacy alive.

Since 1929 the *Pacific Citizen* has delivered in-depth news to generations of community leaders like you. Through preservation and innovation, we hope to connect generations and continue telling community stories. But they need your help to achieve this mission. Any contribution amount will be greatly appreciated. But keep in mind that a donation of \$150 or more will make you a *Pacific Citizen's* Wall of Famer, \$200 or more makes you eligible to win a free Mexican cruise! Please don't let the *Pacific Citizen's* legacy be lost in 2011. This is your newspaper and the voice of our community. Please show your support today.

To make a donation, click on the "Spring Campaign" section of the *Pacific Citizen's* website:
www.pacificcitizen.org

2011 Camp Amache Pilgrimage

Saturday, May 21st, 2011

6:00 Pickup - Simpson United Methodist Church
 6:30 Pickup - Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple
 8:00 Rest Stop - Limon, CO (coffee & donuts provided)
 11:00 Arrival at Camp Amache

Memorial Ceremony

Welcome: George Kuwamura (MC)
 Hoji & Oshoko: Reverend Carol O'Dowd
 Floral Offerings: JA Community Organizations

12:30 Arrival at Granada High School

POTLUCK LUNCH

Blessing: Reverend Paul Murphy-Geiss
 Presentation: Vicki Taniwaki
 Entertainment: Mirai Daiko

1:30 Amache Museum Tour
 2:30 Return to Denver
 6:00 Denver Arrival

Cost: \$25 per person (non-refundable)

Contact: Frank Miyazawa (303.237.8641) or Hiroko Hung (303.979.4127)

Sponsored by the Japanese Association of Colorado, The Friends of Amache, and The Amache Club

Mile Hi JACL Board Member and Longtime Metro State Employee Passes Away

Elyse Mikiko Yamauchi, a longtime administrator and faculty member, passed away Thursday, April 21 at Hospice of Saint John from complications of cancer. Services are planned for 2 p.m., Saturday, April 30 at Simpson United Methodist Church located at 6001 Wolff Street Arvada, Colo., 80003.

She served Metro State College for more than 30 years.

From 1979 to 2003, when she retired, Yamauchi worked at Metro State in three different administrative positions, including student judicial officer/assistant dean, benefit administrator/director and assistant to the vice president for administration and finance. According to Associate Vice President of Human Resources Judith Zewe, she returned to assist the College on several occasions, most recently as temporary student judicial officer from December 2008 through December 2010.

Yamauchi served as an affiliate faculty of Sociology, Ethnic Studies and Asian Students since 1997. At Metro State she taught Asian American Studies and Race as well as Gender and Ethnic Groups. She also taught Ethnic Studies, with a focus on Asian American Studies, at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Interim Co-Director of the Center for Urban Connections Yolanda Ortega said, "Our friend Elyse was a true student advocate who devoted her life to education. She was well respected by students, faculty and staff alike. Throughout her many roles at Metro, particularly as a student judicial officer, I can honestly say she was one tough cookie with a marshmallow center."

While at the College, Yamauchi served on at least 10 committees, including the Asian Pacific Island and Native American Advocacy Group, the Professional Development Committee and the Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee. She was also a member of at least 11 associations, including the Japanese American Citizens League, the Association of Judicial Affairs and the Colorado Higher Education Insurance Benefits Alliance.

Among her honors, Metro State recognized her with the Outstanding Woman Administrator. She was also an educational policy fellow at the Institute of Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C.

She received her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and her master's in sociology from the University of Colorado Denver.

A published author, Yamauchi completed her Ph.D. at CU.

Condolences and memorial contributions may be sent to Simpson United Methodist Church at 6001 Wolff Street, Arvada, Colo., 80003. Telephone: 303-428-7963



Photo: Elyse with her mother, Ruth.

"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 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

