



Japanese American Citizens League Mile Hi Chapter Notes

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2011 Gala Honorary Chairman



Washington D.C. July 5, 2011- The **Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)**, the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, announces that the **Honorable Norman Y. Mineta** will serve as Honorary Chairman of its annual Gala. The JACL Gala was started five years ago and will be held on **Thursday, September 29, 2011, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C.**

Norman Mineta served as U.S. Secretary of Transportation under President George W. Bush and as Secretary of Commerce under President William Clinton. He had previously served as Mayor of the City of San Jose, California, and as a United States Congressman from California. He is currently a Vice President at Hill and Knowlton in Washington, D.C.

The JACL Gala is billed as a "**Salute to Champions**" and honors outstanding individuals who have made a difference by contributing to the causes in which the JACL is involved. Past Galas have honored members of Congress and other exceptional individuals who have served the nation in extraordinary ways. Secretary Mineta has been an honoree at a past JACL Gala, and his sister Etsu Mineta Masaoka who recently passed away, was honored last year. Corporations which have helped the JACL further its work have also received awards.

National JACL Executive Director Floyd Mori expressed appreciation to Secretary Mineta and his wife Deni. *"We are extremely grateful to Norm and Deni for their continued support of the JACL Gala. They have given support and help to the JACL Gala since its inception. We appreciate all they have done for the JACL, for Japanese Americans, for the rest of the Asian American community, and for the nation as a whole."*

David Kawamoto, National JACL President, stated: *"Norman Mineta has given outstanding service to the JACL, and we are thankful to him for his continued support in so many ways including at our national conventions."*

National JACL Convention

Washington D.C., July 14, 2011- The **Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)** held a successful 42nd National JACL Convention at the Renaissance Hotel in Hollywood, California on July 7-10. The **Pacific Southwest District (PSW)**, under the guidance of Convention Chair **Gary Mayeda**, hosted this year's inaugural annual convention.

Prior to the convention, on Wednesday, July 6th, the **National JACL Credit Union** hosted a golf tournament at the Brookside Golf Course. That evening, the **JACL National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC)** held a welcome event for all youth attending the convention.



The official kick off to the 2011 convention began on Thursday, July 7th with a **National Board meeting**, Resolutions, Constitution/By-Laws, Credentials, and Program for Action **Committee Meetings**, **delegate orientation**, and a special youth presentation "**Destination Real Life**" by **State Farm's AAPI Communities Public Affairs Representative Leslie Moe-Kaiser** and California Public Affairs Representative **Felicia Van Frank**; the presentation focused on resume, interview, and career preparation. Throughout the afternoon, convention guests took fun photos with decorative props in the **official convention photo booth**. That evening, a **Welcome Reception at Madame Tussauds in Hollywood** allowed friends, old and new, to mingle with "Hollywood A-listers," (the wax versions).

On Friday, the convention delegates attended a **Federal and Corporate Partners breakfast**, visited with federal and local exhibitors at the various exhibitor booths, and participated in an all day business session.

This year's Awards Luncheon honored three local community heroes: **Alan Nishio**, **Traci Kato-Kiriyama**, and **Paul Osaki** with the Community Impact Award. **Assemblyman Warren Furutani** delivered a lively performance as Master of Ceremonies for the luncheon, and welcome remarks were made by JACL National President **David Kawamoto**, the Honorable **Norman Y. Mineta**, Executive Director of External Affairs of Comcast Corp. & Vice President of External Affairs for Comcast Cable, **Johnnie Giles**, Director of Public Affairs for Lilly USA, **Dan Howle**, and President and CEO of the National JACL Credit Union, **Dean Hirabayashi**. Artist and activist **Nobuko Miyamoto**, gave an entertaining and educational performance titled "**Mottainai**."

Friday evening featured a full schedule. A special **Whing Ding** event invited all Millennium and Thousand Club members. The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** sponsored a youth workshop titled "**Environmental Justice and Federal Careers**" and was presented by EPA representatives **Piyachat Terell**, National Program Manager for the White House Initiative on AAPIs and **Steven John**, Director of EPA Southern California Office. A special screening of the documentary "**Vincent Who?**" and Q&A with producer **Curtis Chin** also took place Friday night.

Saturday featured the [2011 Nikkei Conference](#) co-hosted by the **JACL** and the **California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJALC)**. This unique conference featured workshops on the issues of Art and Culture, Civic Engagement and Leadership Development, Civil Rights, Community Development, Community Investment, Community Preservation, Historic Preservation, Serving Nikkei Seniors, and U.S.- Japan Relations. The goal of the conference was to bring together leaders throughout the nation and provide a forum for them to develop concrete action items to implement in the Japanese and larger AAPI community.



Following the special VIP reception hosted by **Union Bank**, the **Culmination Banquet** honored three outstanding National AAPI leaders: **Lisa Hasegawa**, **Lieutenant Dan Choi**, and **Father Vien Nguyen**. Actress and community advocate **Tamlyn Tomita** served as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the banquet. Special guests who spoke at the Culmination Banquet included Congresswoman **Judy Chu**, Ambassador of Japan to the United States **Ichiro Fujisaki**, California State Controller **John Chiang**, **Leslie Moe-Kaiser** of **State Farm**, **Kim Delevett** of **Southwest Airlines**, and **David Lin** of **AT&T**. A tribute to the late **Etsu Mineta Masaoka**, wife of the late **Mike Masaoka** and

sister of **the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta**, moved the convention attendees. A surprise farewell tribute video for current JACL National Executive Director, **Floyd Mori**, was revealed as a thank you in acknowledgment of his contributions to the JACL. **The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta**, **Congressman Mike Honda**, and **former JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi** made remarks honoring Mori's legacy. During the Culmination Banquet, the NY/SC held a **silent auction** under the leadership of National Youth Representative **Devin Yoshikawa** and National Youth Chairman **Matthew Farrells**.

On Sunday, the National Board met for a breakfast sponsored by **Walmart** and had a special Q&A session with the **IWGroup**. The NY/SC has a special youth meeting.

Thank you to the JACL's amazing Convention sponsors: **State Farm**, **Southwest Airlines**, **AT&T**, **Union Bank**, **Comcast**, **Eli Lilly**, **National JACL Credit Union**, **Ford Motor Company**, **AARP**, **Caesar's Foundation**, **Environmental Protection Agency**, **JACL Insurance Services and Administrators**, **National Association of Realtors**, **United States Navy**, **Verizon**, and **Walmart**. The JACL is grateful for your continued support and dedication.

Conventions require a lot of work from a lot of people in order to be successful. In addition to our thanks to Gary Mayeda, we are also grateful to others who worked hard on the convention and supported the events: **Sonya Kuki**, **Karen Yoshitomi**, **Kerry Kaneichi**, **the PSW District and Chapters**, **the Convention Committee**, **the National JACL Staff and Board**, **Delegates**, **Sponsors**, **Exhibitors**, **Speakers**, **Panelists**, **Awardees**, **Guests**, **Boosters**, **Volunteers**, and to everyone else who supported the Convention in any way.



denver **taiko** 



家族

presents

KAZOKU

family

A Taiko Concert

Saturday, August 6, 2011 at 7:00pm

Newman Center at the University of Denver

June Swamer Gates Concert Hall

2344 East Iliff Avenue

Denver, CO 80208

Tickets go on sale July 1

Regular Adult Admission // \$25

Children under 12, Students w/ a valid ID
& Seniors 65+ // \$20



THE ROBERT AND JUDI
**NEWMAN
CENTER**
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Tickets available at the
Newman Center Box Office
Open Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
2344 E. Iliff Ave. at University and Iliff
303.871.7720

www.newmantix.com

To find more information go to: www.denvertaiko.org

Persons needing accommodations for a disability should call
the Box Office as early as possible at 303.871.7720

35 Celebrating
years

my www.myspace.com/denvertaiko



poster design by Jerome Jackson
www.facebook.com/DenverTaiko

UPCOMING EVENTS

Colorado Dragon Boat Festival

July 30th and 31st
Sloans Lake

Mile Hi JACL Meeting

Thursday, August 4
6:00 p.m.
JAC Office
Sakura Square (2nd Floor)

Boulder Asian Pacific Alliance Festival

August 13 & 14
11 am - 5 pm

2nd Annual Community Picnic Potluck

Thank you to everyone who came out to the 2nd annual Community Picnic Potluck at Clement Park. Members and leaders of eleven AAPI community organizations came together for a great day filled with food, games, and fun. Special thanks to all of the organizations that made this event possible:

Asian American Journalist Association
Asian Avenue Magazine
Asian Chamber of Commerce
Asian Pacific American Bar Association
Asian Pacific Development Center
Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
Asian Roundtable
Denver Kunming Sister City
Isle of Capri Hotel and Casino
Mile Hi Japanese American Citizens League
National Association of Asian American Professionals
OCA Colorado



Photos courtesy of OCA Colorado

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

Words of the Month:

July: Shichigatsu (shi-chi-ga-tsu)
Plate: Osara (o-sa-ra)
Shoe(s): Kutsu (ku-tsu)

Newspaper: Shinbun (shi-n-bu-n)
Clock: Tokei (to-ke-i)
Friend: Tomodachi (to-mo-da-chi)

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.

Colorado Dragon Boat Festival

Mile Hi JACL is proud to be a supporter of the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival. This year, we are going to be in charge of TWO tents located in the Gateway to Asia section. Both tents are going to tell the story of the Japanese internment experience and the story of the veterans from both the 442nd and MIS. Many thanks to Bonnie Clark and her students for putting together an amazing exhibit.

That being said, we cannot do this without your help and support. If you are available, please volunteer to man one of the tents either on Saturday (July 30th) or on Sunday (July 31st). You don't have to be there for the whole day, but we would appreciate it if you can be there for at least a couple of hours. The festival runs from 11 am to 6 pm. In particular, we need extra volunteers on Saturday morning and Sunday evening to help with the setting up and taking down of the exhibits. If you are able to join us for this great event, please email MileHijACL@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Congratulations Japan!

This season has been a long journey for the players on the Japanese women's soccer team, but on Sunday, it reached its conclusion when the Japanese players took the field against the U.S. in the final of the 2011 Women's World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany. Leading up to this day, at each of the previous games, Japan's players displayed a banner thanking the world for its support of their earthquake-ravaged country.

"As players, there is nothing much we can do for Japan, but we want to do as well as we can to help our country," said Sawa, the team's captain and on-field inspiration.

Norio Sasaki, Japan's coach, said the players are aware that their success in Germany has lifted spirits back home. "I think what we have been doing, so far, is very good for Japan," he said. "So many victims were hit by the disaster. Even little things, like a win, can give people courage and hope."

Although the impact of the earthquakes and tsunami continue, the magnificent performance by Japan's players has, even for a slight moment, allowed for the people who have been devastated by this tragedy, rejoice and celebrate their country. Congratulations to the players and to all of Japan.

(excerpts taken from LA Times article by Grahame L. Jones)



“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.

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



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