



Japanese American Citizens League Mile Hi Chapter Notes

Volume II, Issue VIII

August 2011

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Colorado Dragon Boat Festival	2
WWII Photo Series	3
Navigating the Challenges of Senior Care Giving	3
Rashomon	3
Upcoming Events	4
JACL Greets Sean Palmer	4
NAAAP Leadership Seminar	4
Nihongo-o Naraimashyou	4
Membership Form	5

President's Message

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over. I don't know about you, but I am trying to do as many outdoor activities as possible before summer ends. I do not even want to think about fall right now.

This summer, Mile Hi JACL has been very busy and very active in the community. In July alone, we sent two of our board members to the National JACL Convention in Los Angeles, organized two historical exhibits for the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, and co-sponsored the Asian community picnic with 10 other Asian organizations. In August, we organized a fun social for all of our members, and we were fortunate enough to have Derek Okubo, the Executive Director for Denver Agency for Human Rights and Community Relations, give a presentation about the importance of community partnership in solving local problems. I hope that all of you had a chance to see the two historical exhibits that we organized for the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival. The first exhibit was about the history of the Amache Concentration Camp, and the second exhibit is about the history of Japanese American soldiers during World War II. I want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to the following people (in no particular order):

- Bonnie Clark and her students (particularly Aileen Lowrie) for stepping up to the plate and taking time out of their busy schedule to create the wonderful Amache exhibit.
- George "Joe" Sakato and Hason Yanaga for loaning us their photos, videos, and books for the WWII exhibit.
- Yoshi Tanita, Thiz Momii, Frank Sakamoto, Toe Sakamoto, Agnes Matsuda, Rose Tanaka, and Bob Fujikami for volunteering their time and answering questions about what life in the camp was like.
- And lastly, but not the least, I want to thank John Hopper and his students for driving all the way from Granada to give a presentation about the history of Amache and the artifacts that they found at the camp site.

The exhibits and the presentation were very well attended, and many people left with a newfound understanding and appreciation of the Japanese American contribution to the community.

I've said this before, and I will say it again. Mile Hi JACL is a membership based organization, and we cannot do this without your support and involvement. I want to thank all of the volunteers that helped out with the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, the Asian community picnic, and the Mile Hi JACL social. As always, if you have any suggestions or ideas for future events, please do not hesitate to contact me at milehijacl@gmail.com. I hope to see all of you at our next event!

Harry Budisidharta
Mile Hi JACL Chapter President

Colorado Dragon Boat Festival

By: Gary Yamashita

The 11th annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival was held on July 30-31 in the beautiful setting of Sloan's Lake Park. The festival was a great success, attracting over 100,000 attendees during the two day event. Since 2001, the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival has served as an ethnic celebration of the area's rich Asian American heritage with Dragon boat races, performing arts, cultural education and unique arts, crafts and cuisine. This year, Gateway to Asia highlighted the culture of Japan and the history of Japanese Americans in Colorado.



The Mile Hi Chapter of JACL was a proud participant in the festival and hosted two exhibits focusing on the Japanese American internment experience in Colorado and the heroic efforts of Japanese Americans in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). Special thanks are extended to Aileen Lowrie, a Masters Candidate at the University of Denver majoring in Anthropology and Museum and Heritage Studies, and to Dr. Bonnie Clark, Professor in the Anthropology Department at the University of Denver, for their hard work in developing the outstanding exhibit on the Amache internment camp. The exhibit brought to life through photographs and text, not only the hardships of life in the camp where over 10,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned, but also illustrated the strength of the internees to continue to grow and persevere while interned. We were honored to have several former camp internees as guests that were able to share their experiences with festival attendees that visited the exhibit. We appreciated the help of Bob Fujikami, Agnes Matsuda, Thiz Momii, Frank and Toe Sakamoto, Rose Tanaka, and Yoshi Tanita who provided a firsthand perspective of their internment experience.

One of the highlights of the weekend was a presentation by John Hopper and his high school students, members of the Amache Preservation Society, that traveled from southeast Colorado to share the Amache camp story. Despite car trouble that delayed their arrival in Denver, the students did a wonderful job in presenting history of the Amache. After a brief break, John and his students made the long trip back to Granada. We thank them for their participation at the festival and for all that they do for Amache.



Thank you to our President Harry Budhisidharta for his effort in assembling the exhibit to honor our Japanese American veterans. Thanks also to the many chapter volunteers that helped to set up, break down and man the tents during the very hot and long weekend. It was a fun time by all and a wonderful community event.

WWII Photo Series

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, authorizing the secretary of war to designate military zones within the U.S. from which "any or all persons may be excluded." While the order was not targeted at any specific group, it became the basis for the mass relocation and internment of some 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry, including both U.S. citizens and non-citizens. In March 1942, Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, commander of the U.S. Army Western Defense Command, issued several public proclamations which established a massive exclusion zone along the west coast and demanded that all persons of Japanese ancestry report to civilian assembly centers. On short notice, thousands were forced to close businesses, abandon farms and homes, and move into remote internment camps, also called relocation centers. Some of the detainees were repatriated to Japan, some moved to other parts of the U.S. outside of the exclusion zones, and a number even enlisted with the U.S. Army, but most simply endured their internment in frustrated resignation. In January 1944, a Supreme Court ruling halted the detention of U.S. citizens without cause. The exclusion order was rescinded, and the Japanese Americans began to leave the camps, most returning to rebuild their former lives. The last camp closed in 1946, and by the end of the 20th century some \$1.6 billion in reparations were paid to detainees and their descendants by the U.S. government. To check out this story told through photography, visit:



<http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2011/08/world-war-ii-internment-of-japanese-americans/100132/>

Navigating the Challenges of Senior Care Giving

The Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) in conjunction with Simpson United Methodist Church and the Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado (JARCC) will co-sponsor two seminars focusing on understanding the confusing and challenging issues that arise in providing care for the elderly. These seminars are targeted for seniors and their loved ones that would like to learn more about dealing with issues such as Medicare and Medicaid, dealing with finances, legal issues and much more. Additional details will be provided shortly. If you have any questions, contact the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple at 303-295-1844.

When: October 9th and 23rd from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Where: Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple

Come See Rashomon at the Aurora Fox Theater

Discover a world of honor, intrigue and deception. Challenge yourself to uncover the truth as four people give different accounts of the same crime. When a man is murdered and his wife is assaulted by a roving bandit, a beguiling mystery begins to unfold. Brimming with action and secrets, *Rashomon* is a 12th Century Japanese crime drama about the quest for justice and the complexities of human nature.

<http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org/season/Rashomon.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mile Hi JACL Meeting
Thursday, September 1
6:00 p.m.
JAC Office
Sakura Square (2nd Floor)

OCA Colorado Mid-Autumn Moon Festival
Friday, September 16
6:00 p.m.
Empress Restaurant

Monthly J-Spot Event
Saturday, September 17
Findyourjspot.com

The JACL Greets Sean Palmer at the US Capitol



Washington D.C.- The JACL will welcome Mile Hi JACL student member, **Sean Palmer** when he arrives by bicycle in Washington D.C. this Saturday, August 13th. Sean is riding for the Journey of Hope through Push America, which "covers 32 different states, cycling over 12,000 miles combined, is solely comprised of members of

Pi Kappa Phi and continues to spread a message of acceptance and understanding for people with disabilities" (pushamerica.org). Sean began his journey on June 12 from San Francisco and has been riding across the United States with 100 of his fraternity brothers of Pi Kappa Phi.

He is to date, the largest fundraiser for the program this year and is the third Japanese American to participate since this program began nearly 25 years ago. The event this year has raised just over \$560,000. Congratulations to Sean and his family for their amazing work!

NAAAP Colorado Leadership Seminar

The National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP) of Colorado is hosting a day-long seminar on Saturday, September 24th from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Participants will have the opportunity to choose from two session: "Public Speaking" for emerging leaders or "Leading in a Multi-Generational Workplace" for experienced leaders. The seminar will take place at the Daniels Fund in Cherry Creek. Free admission to members & students with ID; \$10.00 non-members. Register at www.naaapcolorado.org

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

Words of the Month:

August: Hachigatsu (ha-chi-ga-tsu)
Student: Seito (se-i-to)
Airport: Hikoujyou (hi-ko-u-jyo-u)

Wedding: Kekonshiki (ke-kon-shi-ki)
Temple: Otera (o-te-ra)
Shrine: Jinjya (Ji-n-jya)

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.

“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



Mailing of the Mile Hi JACL Newsletter has been made possible by:

Mile Hi JACL

P.O. Box 13061
Denver, CO 80201
milehijACL@gmail.com

www.milehijACL.org

Member Name
Address
City, State Zip

