



Japanese American Citizens League Mile Hi Chapter Notes

Volume III, Issue II

February 2012

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President's Message

I want to thank everybody that came to the Day of Remembrance event. It was a great success and we had a record breaking attendance (over 150 people)! None of this would have been possible without the hard work of our board members. In particular, I want to thank the following board members:

- Mark Shimoda and Bonnie Clark for taking the lead and organizing the whole thing
- Gil Asakawa for delivering an excellent speech about Gordon Hirabayashi
- Pat Hayashi, Toe Sakamoto, and Jayne Yoshimura for taking care of the refreshments
- Gary Yamashita for his persistent effort in recruiting new members to our chapter
- Richard Hamai, Charmaine Palmer, Donna Hansen, Mike Shibata, and Tom Migaki for helping with the set up and clean up



I am also proud to announce that one of our board members, Frank Sakamoto, has been awarded the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award. This award honors men and women who make unique contributions to the community. The recipient receives a \$2,000 cash award to designate to a non-profit agency of their choice. Please come join us on March 22nd, 5:45 pm, at the Denver Marriott Tech Center for the presentation of the award. Congratulations, Frank!

We would love to hear your suggestions and feedbacks. Please come to our next board meeting on March 1st at 6:30 pm and let us know how we can serve you better. We meet every first Thursday of the month at the Japanese Association of Colorado Office, located on the second floor of Sakura Square.

If you have any questions or feedbacks, please do not hesitate to contact us at milehijacl@gmail.com

Harry Budisidharta
Mile Hi JACL
Chapter President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Mile Hi JAACL

Meeting

Thursday, March 1
6:30 p.m.
JAC Office
Sakura Square (2nd Floor)

JAACL Social

March
Specific details to come

Do you have an event or project that you would like to share with our community?

Please help us keep our community informed by submitting events, notices, recognitions, and articles to include in future newsletters.

Information can be submitted to Suzy.Shimasaki@gmail.com

Day of Remembrance on February 19, 2012

By Mark Shimoda

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. At that time, the United States was at war with Japan, Germany and Italy, fighting a war on two fronts. In order to protect the western coast from enemy attack with help from Japanese Americans and/or Japanese Nationals living on the west coast, Executive Order 9066 ordered all people of greater than 1/8th Japanese descent into War Relocation Camps which were located in the central and western part of the U.S. This order forcibly relocated approximately 120,000 people who had to uproot their lives with 60 days notice. This executive order was part of a bigger project whose stated purpose was to protect the U.S. from foreign danger and citizens of German and Italian descent were also incarcerated. Japanese from Latin American countries were also imprisoned in camps and used to trade for prisoners of war with the Imperial Japanese Army. Canada also imprisoned about 20,000 of its inhabitants of Japanese descent.

On February 19, 2012, a yearly program was held at the Sturm College of Law at University of Denver to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. The program opened with a welcoming address from Nancy Leong, Professor of Law at Denver University, a description of EO 9066 by Akemi Tsustui, a 17 year old senior at Denver School of Arts, an acknowledgement of the contribution of Gordon Hirabayashi, who challenged the legality of EO 9066 and who won his case in 1986, and finally the keynote speech by Christian Heimburger, a PhD candidate at University of Colorado. His presentation focused on how the efforts of thousands of internees aided the war efforts in especially agricultural production and also in other ways.

This event was sponsored by Mile-Hi Japanese American Citizens League and from University of Denver, the Asian Pacific Law Student Alliance, The Center for Multicultural Excellence, and Dr. Bonnie Clark, Dept. of Anthropology.



Photo by: George Yoshida

Veteran JACLER Frank Sakamoto Wins Prestigious Minoru Yasui Award



Frank Sakamoto at recent OCA/JACL Lunar New Year's Banquet.

Photo and Article By: Gil Asakawa

Denver – Frank Sakamoto, a member of JACL since 1948 and a board member of the Mile Hi Chapter since he moved to Denver in 1995, has been named the March recipient of the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award (MYCVA). The honor is given to individuals in the Denver area every month, with a luncheon each December to pay tribute to the year's winners and the awards namesake.

Sakamoto is being cited for his long involvement with JACL and with his active participation with the Japanese American Association of Colorado, another local organization that features both Japanese and Japanese Americans. Sakamoto served as President of both the Mile-Hi and Chicago chapters, and as Midwest District Governor. He has also been the national chair of the JACL Thousand Club since 1966.

"I'm really honored by this award," he says. "Actually I don't think I measure up to the people that have been nominated before me."

Sakamoto, 87, is a Chicago native who studied optometry at the University of Illinois and the Illinois College of Optometry. He is a member of the Millennium Club and a tireless promoter of JACL. He retired after filing patents for bi-focal contact lenses and contacts that change eye color.

"I met Min Yasui in 1962," Sakamoto says, when Yasui visited Chicago representing the Mike-Hi chapter, to recruit members to join a civil rights march organized by the NAACP in Washington, D.C. "I checked his eyes. He was very nearsighted."

Sakamoto says he got Yasui a new type of high density lens that made his glasses "not so thick," in a Christian Dior frame, and that Yasui appreciated the "movie-star look."

Min Yasui, who died in 1986, was a legendary civil rights leader and community activist. Although he's best known by Japanese Americans as one of the four Japanese Americans who fought internment to the Supreme Court and a leader of the redress movement that began in the late '70s, in Denver, where he had a long career as an attorney and served on the city's Commission on Community Relations from 1959-1983. He was director of the Commission from 1967 until his retirement, and is credited with averting the racial riots of other major cities during the civil rights movement.

The Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award was established in 1974, as a way to spotlight leaders in the Denver area who were unheralded for the good work they did for their community.

Sakamoto isn't the first Mile Hi board member to receive the award; current board members Mike Shibata, Kimiko Side, and Aya Medrud are also past recipients.

The presentation of the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award to Frank Sakamoto will be on Thursday, March 22, 2012, at 5:45 p.m. at the Denver Marriott Tech Center Hotel, located at 4900 South Syracuse Street.

OCA/JACL Lunar New Year's Dinner: Celebrating the Year of the Dragon

Article and Photos by Donna Hansen

The celebration of the year of the black water dragon kicked off with exciting dancing by three larger than life shimmering lions from Shaolin Hung Mei Kung Fu weaving in around the tables. Their musicians provided a thunderous wall of sound while the animation of the black, gold and red lion's dance was a delight to the eyes. It is predicted to be a year of happiness and success just as the Lunar New Year Banquet was on February 4 at Palace Chinese Restaurant. Of the revelers there were 64 JACLers and 130 OCAers in attendance.



Harber Chang shared his beautiful and graceful calligraphy by writing Lunar New Year wishes for happiness and health in large black strokes on rich red paper for partygoers. He also gifted two wonderful calligraphy drawings. The largest piece, on a large scroll, detailed an ornamental cypress tree and read respect your elders. A thrilled OCAer won the illustration and affirmed that he "respected his elders!"



OCA Colorado President, Hing Ryder, and Mile Hi Japanese American Citizen League President, Harry Budisidharta, launched the evening bash by thanking Howie Solo and Shaolin Hung Mei Kung Fu for the lion dancers' performance. The Mistress of Ceremonies and president of Asian Avenue magazine, Annie Guo, kept the evening flowing.

Between the 10 courses of delicious and beautiful food a variety of talent from the community was savored. Siblings Ashley and Ethan Wang shared stunning piano performances. Howie Solo and Shaolin Hung Mei Kung Fu gave energetic demonstrations of their Kung Fu skills. Souichi Nakamura and Keiko Amend soulfully sang powerful duets. The talents shared were a treat for all.

There was a lot of excitement surrounding the raffle drawings. A number of raffle prizes from nearly 20 donors were won. Thanks again to the corporate sponsors who helped make this event possible: First Bank of Colorado, Lau and Choi P.C., Isle Casino Hotel, KECI Colorado and MillerCoors.

At least four bone marrow donors signed up to be added to the donor registry at the banquet.

Thanks to everyone for making this a wonderful, fun-filled and successful event. We hope to see you all again next year!



APDC New Year's Banquet

Article and Photos by Jinny Kim

On February 11th, the Asian Pacific Development Center rang in the Year of the Dragon with its 16th annual Lunar New Year's Celebration, an event that has become a feature on the winter calendar of the Denver Asian community. If the support and attendance of 2012 is any indication of the future, Denver will continue to have an exciting Lunar New Year's event for years to come. The banquet room of the Palace Chinese Restaurant was wonderfully decorated for the occasion and upon arrival guests were treated to complimentary calligraphy by the artistic hands of Harber Chang. The evening began with a silent auction of items donated by more than twenty companies and individuals from the Denver area, ranging from an ornate Korean utensil set to a snowboard. Guests enjoyed cocktails while placing their auction bids and mingling with friends new and old.

Emmy-award nominee FOX 31 newscaster and host Chris Jose started things off by introducing a duet of traditional Asian dances performed by two lovely members of the Christina Yeh Dance Studio, which was followed by a speech from APDC CEO Christine Wanifuchi addressing the state of the center. Speaking to a full, attentive audience, she thanked the sponsors who made the event possible, specifically title sponsor Aurora Mental Health Center and supporting sponsors Byeongseok and MiYeon Seo, Hsu Family Foundation, COC News and VOX Koreana. With Palace servers waiting in the eaves, Mrs. Wanifuchi emphatically stressed APDC's mission and goal, saying "if you help an individual, it helps a family and then goes on to help the community."

And so began the feast, a ten-course meal seemingly composed with equal attention to design and deliciousness. The food was placed on the lazy-susans of the Chinese-style, ten-person tables in well-timed doses, and the guests enjoyed a meal worthy of a year. As the meal waned, host Chris Jose, who took a moment to confess his ever-growing fondness for the Denver community, conducted a raffle drawing for numerous items, the most note-worthy being a 42" flat-screen TV courtesy of Walmart and an ipad, which went to Journey Hu, who was visiting the US for the first time and undoubtedly returned to China with a pleasant impression.

The raffle and auction items were hand-delivered to the winners by members of the APDC Youth Program, YSYP (Youth Strengthening Youth Program), who had begun the evening ushering guests to their tables. APDC values its youth programs as an integral part of the sustained development of the Denver Asian community, and as such, two outstanding youth leaders were called upon to explain the success of the past year and thank the community for their continued support in years to come. Their speeches were thoughtful and enthusiastic, and it once again assured that those youth were indeed the future leaders of the API community in Denver, if not already.

Looking around the room, it was clear that the guests enjoyed the food. Plates and dishes were empty and stomachs were patted into peace. But before the evening's celebration came to an official end, the progressive dance act Street Styles took the stage and dazzled the crowd with a high-energy drum-and-dance performance that beat the audience into a chorus of smiles and appreciation for the entire evening and sent guests home filled with the energy and optimism to ensure the Year of the Dragon is one of success and growth.



Nisei Veterans Heritage Foundation Community Memorial Day Service

By Gary Yamashita

For the past 65 years, the Nisei Veterans Heritage Foundation (NVHF) has organized and hosted the annual Community Memorial Day Service at Fairmont Cemetery. The service is dedicated to the legacy of the members of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. The program also serves to honor the memory of all Japanese American Veterans from the Rocky Mountain Region who honorably served in the United States Armed Forces and are now at rest. The NVHF is also committed to educating our community and to ensure that future generations preserve the cultural legacy of Japanese Americans in Colorado. This year's service will be held on May 28, 2012.

All Japanese American Veterans from the Rocky Mountain Region that honorably served in the United States Armed Forces and are now deceased are eligible to have their names engraved on the Nisei War Memorial at Fairmont Cemetery. To ensure that the veteran's name is added in time for this year's Memorial Day service, all information must be received by the Foundation no later than April 15, 2012. For additional details and costs, please contact Gary Yamashita at gary.yamashita@comcast.net or (cell) 303-204-8039.

Everybody Welcome Fire Festival



A Celebration of Culture & Diversity

50th Anniversary Celebration of
our Sister City relationship with Fujiyoshida, Japan

Saturday, August 4, 2012

Noon to 11 p.m. at *America the Beautiful Park*

Keep up with the latest on the *Colorado Springs*

Fire Festival Celebration:

<http://csfirefestival.webs.com>

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

Words of the Month:

Horse: Uma (u-ma)

Cow: Ushi (u-shi)

Pig: Buta (bu-ta)

Cactus: Saboten (sa-bo-te-n)

Bird: Tori (to-ri)

Elephant: Zou (zo-u)



hooray for *chanbara!*

Join us for our March Open House
and screening of

Episode 2: The Tale of Zatoichi Continues

One year has passed since the events of the first episode. Our eccentric superhero-Zatoichi, the blind swordsman, continues his journey through a region still ruled by the powerful Sukegoro Iioka family. He is there by virtue of his overwhelming sense of honor to visit the grave of his beloved opponent the notorious Ronin, Miki Hirate whom Ichi fought and killed in a duel at the end of the first film in the series. The second episode deals with a crazed lord who hire's Zatoichi, a deadly love triangle and a mysterious one-armed samurai.

Saturday, March 10th
at 11:30 a.m.

Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado
1255 19th Street
Sakura Square – second level

Limited seating



Please RSVP to Dean Tsutsui at
gaco1001@qwestoffice.net or (303) 650-0708

“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):

Associate Memberships are available for two years to individuals who are new to the Mile Hi JACL Chapter and includes:

- Mile Hi Chapter Newsletter
- Discounts to local chapter events (when applicable)

All other memberships include the above in addition to:

- Pacific Citizen, the JACL newspaper
- 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 . 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"/> Associate (\$25) | <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"/> Century Club Life (\$5,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club Life (\$3,000) | <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: _____

Mile Hi JACL

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Denver, CO 80201
milehijACL@gmail.com

www.milehijACL.org



Get Winning![®]

BLACK HAWK

Would you like to place an ad in our newsletter?

Individuals and organizations are invited to place advertisement in the Mile Hi JACL Newsletter to help us sustain this important publication that informs our community about various activities and issues. Advertisements may include marketing for your company, job postings, and/or messages to friends and family. However, the Mile Hi JACL Board of Directors will use its discretion about printing advertisements that may go against the mission of the organization. The sponsorship categories are as follows for *each issue* of the newsletter (printed on 8.5 x 11):

- \$100: full page advertisement
- \$50: half page advertisement
- \$25: quarter page advertisement
- \$10 business card size advertisement

Discounts are available for bulk purchases: 5% off for three issues or 10% off for six issues. Members are also eligible for an additional 10% off.

If you are interested in submitting an advertisement, please email your graphic and/or text to Suzy Shimasaki at suzy.shimasaki@gmail.com and mail payments to: Mile Hi JACL, P.O. Box 13061, Denver, CO 80201.

Payment and advertisements both need to be received by the 15th of each month in order for your information to be included in that month's issue.

Thank you for your support of the Mile Hi JACL and its monthly newsletter!