



JACL
Japanese American Citizens League
Mile High Chapter

Setsubun
February 3rd
Seasonal Division

FEBRUARY 2014



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A Message from the President

Thank you to all of you that attended our annual Day of Remembrance ceremony. We had over 200 people in attendance and it keeps getting bigger every year! Inside this newsletter, you will find an article about the ceremony written by Gil Asakawa. We hope to see you again next year!

By the time you read this newsletter, we would have finished our first Lobby Day at the Capitol. We hope to make this into another annual event. The Lobby Day is a great chance for all of the AAPI community leaders to come together and talk with the legislators about various issues affecting our communities. We will have an article about the Lobby Day in the next newsletter.

I want to personally invite all of you to our next general meeting on Thursday, March 6th, at 6:30 pm. We meet at the Japanese American Association of Colorado's Office, located on the second floor of Sakura Square (19th and Lawrence, Denver, CO). This is your chance to meet with other members of Mile High JACL and exchange ideas about the direction of our chapter.

We love to hear your suggestions and feedback! Please e-mail us at President@MileHighJACL.org and let us know what you like (or dislike) about Mile High JACL.



Harry Budisidarta
Mile High JACL Chapter President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mile High JAACL Board Meeting

March 6th
6:30pm
Sakura Square, 2nd Fl.

Doll & Cultural Festival

March 1st & 2nd
11:30am - 4:00pm
Simpson United
Methodist Church

Being an American, Challenges and Opportunities: A Brief

History of Japanese
Ancestry in the U.S.
During WW II

March 8th
10:00am
Japanese American
Resource Center of
Colorado
Sakura Square
Mezzanine Level

For more upcoming events
please visit our website:
milehighjacl.org/events/

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
media@MileHighJAACL.org

American Citizens in American Concentration Camps: Could it Happen Again?

By Mary Ann Amemiya

At last year's Day of Remembrance, we were honored to have a panel of four former prisoners share their experiences as children and young adults (the majority of the 110,000 incarcerated Japanese and Japanese Americans were school age children) imprisoned behind barbed wire, without due process, their only "crime" being their Japanese ancestry. At the end of a deeply moving sharing of memories, each panelist was asked if (s)he believed it could happen again. Every panelist responded with an emphatic "yes!"

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia would agree with these survivors of our American concentration camps. On February 3, 2014, referring to the 1944 Supreme Court ruling (known as the Korematsu decision) that upheld the constitutionality of incarcerating Japanese Americans, Justice Scalia said, "Well, of course, Korematsu was wrong. And I think we have repudiated it in a later case. But you are kidding yourself if you think the same thing will not happen again." Click [here](#) for the article in the American Bar Association Journal about Justice Scalia's speech at the University of Hawaii Law School.

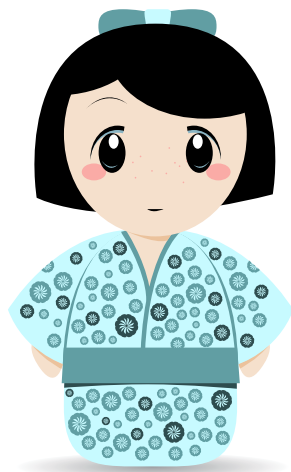
In fact, according to a recent article in the New York Times, Korematsu has never been explicitly overruled because there has not been a similar controversy before the court.

What do you think would happen if Korematsu was retried today? Could this happen again? Would we let it? What would you do today that other Americans did not do 72 years ago?

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." - George Santayana
"Hegel was right when he said that we learn from history that man can never learn anything from history." - George Bernard Shaw
People make choices. Choices make history. - Facing History and Ourselves

Nihongo-o Naraimashyou!

Let's Learn Japanese!



Chikara (*Chi-ka-ra*)
Translation: Strength

Jidouteki (*Ji-do-u-te-ki*)
Translation: Automatic

Chizu (*Chi-zu*)
Translation: Map

Ari (*A-ri*)
Translation: Ant

Osu (*O-su*)
Translation: Push

Hiku (*Hi-ku*)
Translation: Pull

Mile High JAACL's Day of Remembrance Event Keeps Alive Lessons of Internment

By Gil Asakawa

February 19 is commemorated each year within the Japanese American community nationwide as a Day of Remembrance. The date in 1942 was when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for the incarceration of 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

The Mile High chapter of JAACL, the Japanese American Citizens League, the oldest Asian civil rights organization in the U.S., marks the day with an annual program that invites the public to learn about internment.

This year's program was held on Feb. 16 at History Colorado Center, the museum where the event was held in 2013.

The program began with live music by Taiko with Toni, featuring taiko musician and instructor Toni Yagami. The lively performance in the museum's main foyer drew a crowd who enjoyed the dynamic sound of traditional Japanese drums. One of the group's musicians, Ngoc Dinh, has been a valuable board member of Mile High JAACL, but she is moving to Seattle, and we will miss her!

When the music ended, people were ushered into the museum's adjacent auditorium, where photos of life in Amache, Colorado's internment camp, were shown on a large screen. The photos were donated to University of Denver archeology department, which has an ongoing project digging artifacts from Amache.

Over 200 people, many who are not Japanese American, and many who didn't know about what happened to Japanese Americans 70 years ago, attended the Day of Remembrance. Among them was Thornton resident George "Joe" Sakato, a veteran of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, who was recently honored by having his image featured in a prestige folio of postage stamps.

Mile High JAACL board member Mark Shimoda, who organized the Day of Remembrance event, welcomed the audience and introduced keynote speaker Patty Limerick, a professor of history and Faculty Director and Chair of the Board of the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado. She gave a historical overview of the wartime internment of Japanese Americans, and also sprinkled her speech with personal anecdotes of meeting and becoming friends with Gordon Hirabayashi, one of the three men who fought internment all the way to the Supreme Court.

Then Limerick was joined by Min Mochizuki and Rose Tanaka, two internment survivors, who shared stories of their imprisonment, including the controversial loyalty questionnaire all internees over 17 years old were required to answer. Two questions in particular rankled Japanese Americans, because they assumed these American citizens were loyal to Emperor Hirohito of Japan, and asked if these prisoners would be willing to fight in the U.S. military.

Tanaka and Mochizuki's personal perspective added a touching contemporary relevance to the historical facts, and left audience members pondering the possibility of the injustice of ethnic imprisonment happening again.

That's precisely why it's important for Mile High JAACL to host this program every February - so that the lessons of the past won't be forgotten.



Min Mochizuki and Rose Tanaka recall their days in internment camps.

President Obama signing Executive Order on February 12

On February 12, President Obama signed an Executive Order that will raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 for federal contract workers. The Executive Order will further ensure that contract workers with disabilities are paid at the same new minimum wage, beginning in 2015. Currently, 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act allows for workers with disabilities to be paid subminimum wage, in an outdated law dating back to 1938 that is often used by the “sheltered workshops,” which segregate workers with disabilities from other workers and employ about 95% of those Americans with disabilities who are being paid at subminimum wage.

“Not only is it good for the economy, it’s the right thing to do. You work full time? You shouldn’t be living in poverty,” Obama said.

“This Executive Order elevates the worth of everyday Americans who deserve fair wages for honest work,” said Priscilla Ouchida.



Photo by: The White House

Dr. Jane Chu Nominated as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts

President Obama has announced his intention to nominate Dr. Jane Chu as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Since 2006, Dr. Chu has been President and CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri, a \$326 million project financed at the height of the recession and finished in 2011 using private funds. Lauded by the directors of arts organizations nationwide, such as Robert L. Lynch of Americans for the Arts and Mark Scorca of Opera America, Dr. Chu would fill a position that has been left vacant for over a year, and hopefully would provide direction that the NEA has lacked without a permanent leader during that time.



“Jane’s lifelong passion for the arts and her background in philanthropy have made her a powerful advocate for artists and arts education in Kansas City,” said President Obama of his nominee. “She knows firsthand how art can open minds, transform lives and revitalize communities, and believes deeply in the importance of the arts to our national culture. I’m proud to nominate her as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.”

House Resolution Seeks to Educate Americans About Japanese American WWII Incarceration Experience

In remembrance of Executive Order 9066 and the forced removal of 110,000 Japanese Americans from the west coast, Congressman Mike Honda (CA-17) will be introducing a House Resolution to bring attention and educate Americans about the experience of the Japanese Americans during WWII.

JACL members are encouraged to contact their representatives and urge their support for this resolution. Current co-sponsors include Representatives Doris Matsui (CA-6), Judy Chu (CA-27), Raul Grijalva (AZ-3), Alan Grayson (FL-09), Alan Lowenthal (CA-47), Derek Kilmer (WA-06), Mark Takano (CA-41), and Jackie Speier (CA-14).

Local chapters are also encouraged to endorse the resolution. Current endorsers include: San Jose, Sacramento, and Florin chapters.

Please contact Kelly Honda at khonda@jacl.org with any questions.



Commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet Honored at JACL Dinner

On Friday, February 7, 2014, National JACL and the Honolulu chapter of JACL honored Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., with "E Komo Mai: A Welcome Dinner for Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr. to the Japanese American Community of Hawaii." Admiral Harris, the highest-ranking Japanese American in the U.S. Navy, was promoted as Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in October 2013, and relocated to Hawaii to assume the position.

The dinner was held at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii in Honolulu.

The Master of Ceremonies for the dinner was Hawaii News Now Anchor Lisa Kubota, and Admiral Harris was introduced by First Circuit Court judge Edward Kubo. In attendance was Consul General of Japan, Toyoei Shigeeda, as well Consul General of Australia, Scott Dewar. On behalf of the City of Honolulu, Councilwomen Ann Kobayashi and Carol Fukunaga, presented the Admiral with a certificate to recognize his many accomplishments and to welcome him to the islands. Former Governor of Hawaii George Ariyoshi, State Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, and Speaker of the House in the Hawaii State Legislature Joseph Souki, were also in attendance.

Introductory and closing remarks were made by JACL National President David Lin, and JACL National Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida, respectively. JACL Board members Craig Tomiyoshi (VP Public Affairs), Chip Larouche (VP Planning & Development), Michelle Amano (EDC District Governor), Sheldon Arakaki (PNW District Governor), David Kawamoto (PSW District Governor), and Carol Kawamoto (PC Editorial Board Chair), attended at their own expense.

Partners for the event included: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Go for Broke National Education Center, 442nd Veterans Club, 100th Infantry Battalion World War II Veterans Club, Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, National Veterans Network, and the JACL Honolulu Chapter. The MIS Veterans Club, Japanese Women's Society Foundation, and Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce were also represented.



Former Hawaii Governor George Ariyoshi, Priscilla Ouchida, and Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr. at the Manoa Grand Ballroom on February 7

During the program, a video highlighting the Admiral's background and accomplishments was shown. Julie Ilikea Afong, 2008 Miss Aloha Hula contestant in the Merrie Monarch Hula Festival, performed two songs to welcome the Admiral.

In his speech, Admiral Harris commented on the occasionally stressful but ultimately culturally rewarding experience of growing up in the American South of the 1960s with a Japanese mother, who emphasized the need for Harris to embrace his Japanese roots. Admiral Harris credited JACL and its members throughout history with paving the way culturally and politically for modern Japanese American leaders like himself.

The Admiral was presented with a original Gyotaku painting of an Ulua fish by Priscilla Ouchida. The print was made by local artist Naoki Hayashi.

Prior to the dinner for the Admiral, National Board members were given a tour of Honouliuli, one of the incarceration camps on Oahu by members of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

Honouliuli is the largest out of the eight Japanese American incarceration sites that were located in Hawaii. Over 1,200 individuals were confined in Honouliuli between 1943 and 1945. These individuals were primarily members of the Japanese American community but also included German Americans, Italian Americans and prisoners of war. In 2009, Congress directed the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of the Honouliuli Gulch and other associated sites within the Hawaii National Park System.

National Board members also got the opportunity to connect with Honolulu Chapter Board members on Saturday morning.



Chip Larouche and Priscilla Ouchida during the closing ceremony at Honouliuli



JACL National board members Sheldon Arakaki, Carol Kawamoto, Michelle Amano, Chip Larouche with guide Jane Kurahara



Honolulu Chapter Board and National Board members at Mac 24/7 in Honolulu

JACL Mission Statement

“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.

Become a Member of JACL Today!

Joining the Mile High Chapter 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 High Chapter JACL and includes:

- Mile High Chapter JACL 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 months 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"/> Student/Youth (\$30) - PC Excluded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club (\$100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Century Club (\$175) | <input type="checkbox"/> Millennium Club (\$1000) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club Life (\$3,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Century Club Life (\$5,000) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse of Thousand 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 send applications to: Mile High JACL, P.O. Box 13061, Denver, CO 80201

Mile High JAACL | P.O. Box 13061 | Denver, CO 80201 | info@MileHighJAACL.org | www.MileHighJAACL.org

Would you like to place an ad in our newsletter?

Individuals and organizations are invited to place advertisement in the Mile High JAACL 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 High JAACL 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 (printing 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 info@milehighjacl.org and mail payments to: Mile High JAACL, 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 High JAACL and its monthly newsletter!