



MAY 2012

JACL
Japanese American Citizens League
Mile Hi Chapter



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A Message from the President

Last Saturday, I had the honor of participating in the annual pilgrimage to Amache internment camp. It was a very rainy day and the sky was full of storm clouds. I was genuinely worried that we may have to cancel the ceremony due to bad weather. Fortunately, the rain stopped at the very last minute, and we only had to cope with high winds during the ceremony.

This was my first trip to Amache. The memorial site itself is beautiful and very well taken care of. However, I was dismayed to learn that some thugs have shot and damaged the two stone memorials located inside the memorial site. This made me realize the importance of civil rights organizations like Mile Hi JACL. Even with all of the progress that we have made as a nation, we will always have to deal with ignorant and hateful people. We cannot rest on our past glory and assume that other people or organizations will fight our battle for us.

Which is why I am proud to announce that Mile Hi JACL's Board of Directors unanimously voted to support the Colorado Civil Unions bill. One of our board members also volunteered to testify in favor of the bill. This bill would have provided committed gay and lesbian couples with critical legal protections, such as the ability to take family leave to care for a sick partner, to make medical decisions for a partner, to make end-of-life decisions for a partner, and to adopt children together. I had the pleasure of attending one of the committee hearings and heard passionate arguments made by the supporters and opponents of this bill. Unfortunately, the bill was ultimately killed by the House. However, we anticipate that this bill will be resurrected again next year, and we will fight for it again.

Lastly, please don't forget about our upcoming national convention! The annual convention is going to take place in Seattle, Washington, from July 5th until July 8th. It's a great opportunity to see how JACL operates on a national level, learn valuable community advocacy skills, and make new friends. You can find more information by going to www.jacl.org/2012. Register soon before the early bird rates expire!

We would love to hear your suggestions and feedbacks. Please come to our next board meeting on June 7th at 6:30 pm, and let us know how we can serve you better. We meet at the Japanese American Association of Colorado's Office, located on the second floor of Sakura Square (19th & Lawrence, Denver, CO). If you have any questions or feedbacks, please do not hesitate to contact us at milehijacl@gmail.com

Harry Budisudharta

Mile Hi JACL Chapter President



UPCOMING EVENTS

Amache Open House

May 24, 2012

4:00 pm

University of Denver
Sturm Hall, Room 102

Asian American Heroes of Colorado Award Ceremony

May 26, 2012

10:00 am

Kings Land Seafood
Restaurant 2200 West
Alameda Avenue
Denver, CO 80223

66th Annual Memorial Service at Fairmount Cemetery

May 28, 2012

1:00 am

Japanese American Community Graduation Program Banquet

June 9, 2012

5:30 pm

Arvada Center for the
Performing Arts and
Humanities.

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

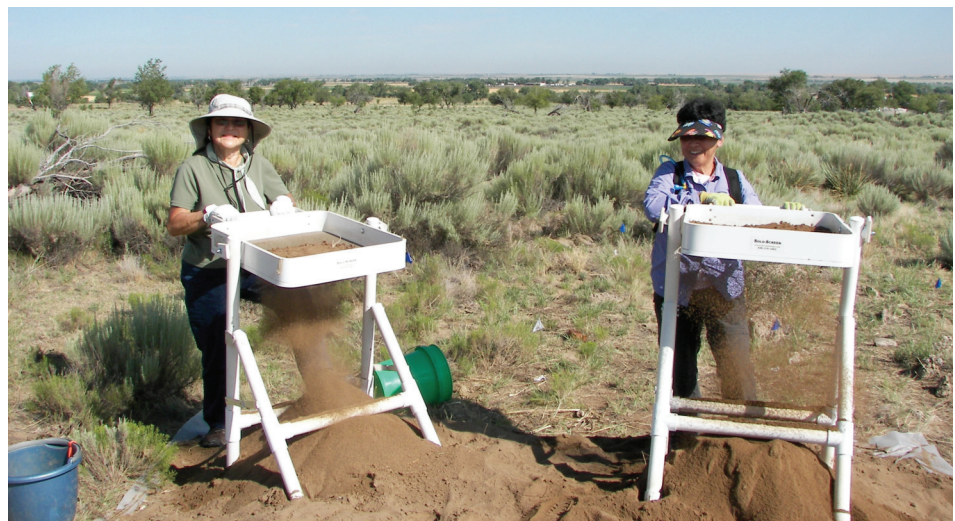
Get Involved with the DU Amache Project

By Bonnie Clark, Mile Hi Board Member and Associate Professor of Anthropology

The University of Denver (DU) is kicking off its next season of research at Amache, the site of Colorado's WWII Japanese American incarceration camp. The action will start this month with an exhibit of objects from archaeological research at the camp. A collaboration between community members and DU undergraduates, the exhibit uses the objects from Amache as a spur for dialogue about this important history. Located in the Museum of Anthropology on the DU campus (Sturm Hall, Room 102), the exhibit will be open to the public May 21-June 20, Mondays-Fridays from 9 am to 4 pm. Please join us for the opening reception, Thursday, May 24, from 4-6 pm. Come meet the student and community curators and snack on goodies from Pacific Mercantile!

From mid-June to mid-July, the DU crews will be on-site at Amache and the Amache museum in Granada. The crew of community members and students will be working Tuesdays-Saturdays looking for objects and landscaping in barracks blocks and even excavating a few gardens. We welcome visitors interested in learning more about archaeology, about Amache, or about the holdings in the Amache museum. Visitors are welcome any time, but especially during our site open house on July 14. We'll have archaeology tours at Amache from 9 am to 1 pm. From 1 - 5 pm, visitors can tour the Granada museum and the archaeology field lab. We'll have activities for people of all ages, so please join us!

You can find out more about the exhibit, the open house, or the DU Amache project in general at <http://portfolio.du.edu/amache> or by contacting me: bclark@du.edu or (303) 871-2875



Former Amache internees Carlene Tanigoshi Tinker and Anita Miyamoto Miller at Amache

Connecting the Pieces: *Dialogues on the Amache Archaeology Collection*

A collaborative exhibit about Colorado's
Japanese American Internment Camp

May 21 - July 20, 2012



Connecting the Pieces: Dialogues on the Amache Archaeology Collection

Exhibition dates: May 21-July 20, 2012

Opening Reception: May 24, 4-6pm

Exhibit produced by University of Denver students and community members.
Funding provided by the State Historical Fund.

University of Denver
Museum of Anthropology
2000 E. Asbury Ave
Sturm Hall, Room 102
Denver, CO 80208
www.du.edu/anthro

Monday-Friday
9am - 4pm
303-871-2688



40th Annual Sakura Matsuri Denver 2012 Cherry Blossom Festival

June 23rd and 24th

FREE ADMISSION

Featuring continuous live entertainment, arts and crafts, taiko drums, bonsai, ikebana, and other exhibits, a feast of Japanese foods and much much more.

Sakura Square

19th and Lawrence Streets in Denver

Saturday: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

(Bon Odori community folk dance starts at 7p.m.)

Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Graphic by Keiko Ozaki

<http://cherryblossomdenver.org>



Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple



Asahi



Green Spot Inc.



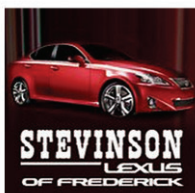
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Simpson United Methodist Church Asian Food Bazaar

By Pat Hayashi

On Saturday, May 5, Simpson UMC, the 104 year old and oldest Japanese Christian church in Colorado, held their 62nd Annual Asian Food Bazaar. The event this year was co-chaired by two young gentlemen, Mike Terada and Todd Namba. Approximately 1500 individuals were served by many volunteers from five year olds to senior citizens who spent several hours and days in preparation for this fundraiser. Plates of delicious chow mein and beef teriyaki were served for take-out and/or eating at the church's fellowship hall. Additionally, manju, sushi and a wide variety of baked goods were available. This occasion is always fun for renewing long-time friendships and forming new relationships. Mile Hi Board members seen eating and socializing were Gary Yamashita, Frank Sakamoto, Toshiko Sakamoto, Kimiko Side, Charmaine Palmer, Tom, Shelley and JoAnne Migaki.

Now Accepting Mike Masaoka Fellowship Applications

The Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellow serves for six to eight months in the Washington, D.C. office of a member of Congress in either the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate. The Member of Congress and the award recipient will select the term during which the Fellowship will take place. For more information and the application, please visit <http://jacl.org/leadership/masaoka.htm>.

Save the Dates: Annual JACL National Convention and 2012 National JACL Gala

The 43rd Annual JACL National Convention will be held July 5-8, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency in Bellvue, Washington. The 2012 National JACL Gala and Awards Dinner will take place September 27, 2012 at the JW Marriott in Washington, D.C.

Nihongo-o Naraimashyou!

Let's Learn Japanese!



Omochoya (*O-mo-chya*)

Translation: Toys

Fune (*Fu-ne*)

Translation: Boat

Tokei (*To-ke-i*)

Translation: Clock

Boushi (*Bo-u-shi*)

Translation: Hat

Kyousou (*Kyo-u-so-u*)

Translation: Race/Competition

Enpitsu (*E-n-pi-tsu*)

Translation: Pencil

Mile Hi JACL Received a Special Recognition Award at the 27th Asian Education Advisory Council Event

By Tom Migaki

The Asian Education Advisory Council (AEAC) held its 27th Annual Breakfast Awards at the Doubletree Hotel on Quebec Street on April 29th, 2012.

AEAC is an acronym for Asian Education Advisory Council. The council was established under court order on January 31, 1985 by the Denver Public Schools Board of Education. AEAC seeks to improve educational opportunities and to provide quality education for all students, particularly students of Asian/Pacific Island (AA/PI) heritage.

The Mile Hi Chapter Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) received a Special Recognition Award at the event and Harry Budisidharta our esteemed president, was on hand to receive the Award. The Mile Hi JACL was recognized for its long term support of the Asian American Community and long term support to AEAC. Deputy Consul General of Japan, Mr. Hiromoto Oyama conveyed his greetings to about 300 attendees at the event. Dr. Tien Vu delivered the keynote address.



Picture from left to right:

Hiromoto Oyama, Deputy Consul General of Japan, Henry Roman, President of Denver Classroom Teacher Association, Harry Budisidharta, President of Mile Hi JACL and Mel Okamoto, retired Denver County Court Judge.

Award certificates were presented to students who were nominated from several Denver Public Schools. Two students from each grade level: elementary, middle and high school were selected to receive cash awards for Academic Talent and Leadership.

The High School Leadership Award was sponsored by Allstate Migaki Insurance Agency. The winner of the Award, Gunasanaa Olonbayar is a junior from George Washington High School. She received \$500 and a 2-week summer internship at the Migaki Insurance Agency. Gunasanaa is from Mongolia and speaks Mongolian, Russian and English. She is in ROTC, Honor Cadets, Rifle Team and the National Honor Society.

The other Award winners were JoAnne Migaki of Gust Elementary, Ben Schwartz of Bromwell Elementary, Himanvi Kopuri of Hamilton Middle School, Cho Cho Htay of Merrill Middle School and MinMin Hein of Emily Griffith High School.

Two teachers and a paraprofessional also received Awards: Stefani Sullivan from Ellis Elementary, Nora Yim and Hlaing Than from Place Bridge Academy.

AEAC is a non-profit organization and relies on generous donations of patrons to provide awards for students. Mile Hi JACL has been a long time sponsor of the event.

Obituary: Shibata, 67; A Founder of Manzanar Pilgrimage

Sansei activist credited for coining the term "pilgrimage."



Victor Shibata, one of the founders of the Manzanar Pilgrimage, passed away on April 17. He was 67.

Shibata was part of a group of 150, which also included Assembly member Warren Furutani and former Manzanar Committee Chair Sue Kunitomi Embrey, who made the trek from Los Angeles to the site of the Manzanar concentration camp, approximately 230 miles away in the Owens Valley, on December 27, 1969. He was primarily responsible for calling the trip a "pilgrimage."

"He helped to start the pilgrimages to Manzanar and, in fact, coined the word 'pilgrimage,'" said Kathy Masaoka of Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR). "He was very active with youth for his whole life and was very generous with his skills as a healer. We appreciated his contribution to the NCRR delegation to Cuba in 2001. Victor will be missed."

The Manzanar Committee issued a statement, paying tribute to Shibata and his contributions to the Japanese American community.

"We mourn the loss of one of the original founders of the Manzanar Pilgrimage," said Bruce Embrey, Manzanar Committee co-chair. "Victor is credited with calling the 1969 trip a 'pilgrimage.' Prescient to say the least."

"Victor clearly understood how important confronting the past was to the Sansei in particular, and the Japanese American community in general," added Embrey. "He knew that a real, thorough appreciation of the struggles the Japanese American community went through during World War II, and its aftermath, was essential to empowering the community."

Shibata was born January 25, 1945 in Ogden, Utah, where his parents relocated after leaving the Rohwer camp in Arkansas. He grew up in the Seinan District of Los Angeles and attended Dorsey High School. In the late 1960s, Shibata worked as a youth organizer for the Japanese American Citizens League and coached Japanese American youth in basketball. He was also one of the founders of the Yellow Brotherhood, a self-help group based in the Crenshaw District that helped Asian American youth get off of drugs and stay out of gangs.

Shibata studied at Cal State Long Beach and Cleveland Chiropractic School, and worked as a chiropractor in the Crenshaw area for approximately 35 years, offering healing and holistic health treatment.

Furutani recalled joining Shibata at anti-war marches, when they had the idea of marching to Manzanar. "I remember when Victor Shibata and I were going to Oceanside to be in an anti-war march," Furutani said. "The idea was to take the issue of the Vietnam War directly to the Marine base [Camp Pendleton]. We were sitting there, talking about marches. I think we had the Poor People's March in Washington, D.C., and the farm workers had just marched to the Capitol to talk about their issues."

"Victor and I said that we had to march somewhere, and that's when the idea came up of marching to Manzanar," Furutani added. "[Manzanar] was the closest, so logic said we can march to that, and, in those days, we didn't have Google Maps, so we took out the map. [A little over 200] miles — that doesn't sound too far, so we went."

Like so many younger Japanese Americans, Shibata had little or no knowledge of the camp experience.

"I thought the camps were this big summer camp everybody went to," Shibata told the Los Angeles Times in 1989.

But in 1969, he was one of those who stumbled upon a white obelisk in the desert, which turned out to be the Manzanar cemetery monument.

"It was stark, it was weather-beaten, but it was still white, and it was interesting, because the backdrop was, literally, [Mount Williamson] and the Sierra Nevada mountains," said Furutani. "There was an elegance to it, a starkness. It was very dramatic during a cloudy day, which provided all the environmental drama that helped fill in all the spaces relative to the limited knowledge we had."

"We started walking around, and it was like discovering a shallow grave, where the elements had blown the top layer off, and then the grave was exposed, and you could see a whole history," he added. "We didn't understand it, because we didn't have the information. The only book out at the time was called 'America's Concentration Camps' by Allan R. Bosworth. Of course, we didn't have any movies, or any of the things we have now relative to the experience."

The Manzanar Pilgrimage is held annually on the last Saturday of April, when the weather is usually warm. But Shibata and the rest of those who attended the 1969 pilgrimage were not so lucky.

"In December, it was cold," Shibata told the blog i!O2fly. "We weren't thinking about that, but it was actually good that we did it in the bad weather. You really [saw] what they went through."

The Manzanar Committee will pay tribute to Shibata during the Manzanar Pilgrimage next Saturday. Funeral services are private. An open viewing is scheduled for Friday, April 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Kubota Nikkei Mortuary, 911 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles.

Asian American Heros of Colorado

The Mile Hi JACL would like to congratulate all of this year's award recipients:

Asian American Heroes of Colorado:

- Dr. DJ Ida - Executive Director of National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
- Sum Nguyen - President, Unified Vietnamese-American Council of Colorado
- Dr. Suegie Park - Pharmacist and Health Professional in Asian refugee and immigrant communities
- Dr. Jaime Alonso Yrastorza - Founder of Uplift Internationale

Young Asian American Hero Award:

- Pakou Xiong, Hmong community leader and Asian-American activist

Lifetime Achievement Award:

- George Yoshida, retired social worker and war veteran, Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer awardee

Thank you to all of our leaders for everything that they have contributed to our community.

2012 Asian American Heroes of Colorado



Sum Nguyen



Dr. DJ Ida



Dr. Jaime Yrastorza



Dr. Suegie Park



**Pakou Xiong
Young Hero Award**

4th Annual Award Ceremony and Brunch

Date: Saturday, May 26th, 2012 Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm

Kings Land Seafood | 2200 W Alameda Avenue #44 | Denver

Tickets: \$20 adults | \$15 students

The ceremony will include a dim sum brunch, recognition of 2012 Asian American Heroes, acceptance speeches, acknowledgment of partnering AAPI organizations, and a commemorative video.

To purchase tickets, please send a check made payable to CACEN to:
CACEN | PO Box 221748 | Denver, CO 80222
online at www.cacenetwork.org or call 303-937-6888.



**George Yoshida
Lifetime Achievement**

HERO (noun): a person of distinguished courage or ability, admired by others for brave deeds and noble qualities:

DETERMINED. ALTRUISTIC. BOLD.

2012 JACL Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition

Guidelines

The Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition is named in memory of Minoru Yasui, an attorney and civil rights activist. Prior to the internment, Min Yasui tested the constitutionality of the curfew orders that were imposed against Japanese Americans. Though the Supreme Court of the United States eventually upheld the constitutionality of the curfew, Min Yasui never wavered in his pursuit of social justice for all Americans. During the 1980s, Min Yasui was an articulate voice in leading JACL's successful campaign to obtain redress for the injustice of the internment.

Purpose

To develop, encourage and reinforce verbal communication skills among the younger members of JACL.

Eligibility

1. All competitors must be members of the JACL at the time of the District Council and National competitions. (Membership must be in the participants name either as a student or individual—a parental or family membership does not qualify.)
2. The competition is open to high school students, age 16 or older, or full-time undergraduate college students.
3. Competitors must compete in person at the JACL District Council where they hold their JACL membership.
4. National contestants must be approved by their JACL District Council.

Rules

1. Speeches are limited to 3-5 minutes in length. All speeches must be composed by the contestant. Speeches should be committed to memory. An outline on index cards is permitted. The same speech may be used for both District and National competitions. Visual aids are not allowed.
2. No more than 150 words may be a direct quotation from any speech or writing. Extensive paraphrasing of another source is prohibited.

Topic

Asian Pacific Islander Americans (APIAs) have been notoriously grouped together in spite of the distinct cultural and historical backgrounds of different Asian ethnicities. Now that Japanese Americans are a small percentage of the APIAs in the United States, how can JACL maintain its JA heritage while also staying relevant within an APIA community filled with new immigrants and multiracial/multiethnic individuals?

Judging

A panel of individuals will evaluate the participant. It would be advantageous for some of the judges to have a background in debate or public speaking. In addition, some of the judges should have familiarity with the topic content. The JACL District Council will select the judges for the District Council competition. National JACL will select the judges for the final competition held at the JACL Convention. The speaking order should be decided 30 minutes before the competition.

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115

Ph: (415) 921-5225 • Fax: (415) 931-4671 • E-mail: jacl@jacl.org

Obama Administration Highlights AAPI Milestones During Heritage Month

Washington, D.C.- May is AAPI Heritage Month. As we celebrate our diverse community and reflect on our storied history, we would like to feature a blog written by Chris Lu, Co-Chair of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:

[This week], we kick off Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. This occasion provides us with a special opportunity to celebrate the successes of our community and the important challenges that still lie ahead.

As the Co-Chair of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, I am proud of the Obama Administration's efforts to reach out to all members of our diverse community - to hear about the issues on their minds and their ideas for how the federal government can better serve them. Since President Obama re-established the Initiative in October 2009, the Initiative staff and advisory commission members have crisscrossed the country, holding roundtables and forums that have reached over 25,000 people in more than 50 cities.

During our travels around the country, we've talked about how the policies of the Obama Administration have helped the AAPI community by:

- Creating 4.1 million private sector jobs over the past 25 months.
- Providing tax relief to 7.6 million AAPI workers through the payroll tax cut.
- Passing 17 tax cuts to help American small businesses, including 1.5 million AAPI-owned businesses in the U.S.
- Making health care more accessible and affordable to AAPI families, including expanding preventive services to 3 million AAPIs.
- Making college more affordable, including preventing a student loan interest rate increase for 334,000 AAPI students.

President Obama has also appointed a historic number of highly qualified Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to senior positions in his Administration. One of his first actions was nominating three AAPIs - the most ever - to his Cabinet: Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, and former Secretary of Commerce and current Ambassador to China Gary Locke. And over the past three years, the President has nominated more AAPIs to become federal judges than any other administration. When President Obama came to office, there were eight AAPI federal judges. Today, there are 16, and two more await confirmation by the Senate.



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 Hi 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 Hi Chapter JACL and includes:

- Mile Hi 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: _____



Get Winning!

BLACK HAWK

kizuna 絆

WEST MEETS EAST

MAY 5 – NOVEMBER 4, 2012

This season Denver Botanic Gardens proudly unveils the new Bill Hosokawa Bonsai Pavilion and Tea Garden with an expanded Japanese Garden (Shofu-en). **Kizuna**, meaning “the bonds between people” in Japanese, celebrates the profound influence Japan has had on the West with a presentation of large site-specific art installations in bamboo by internationally-known artists Tetsunori Kawana and Stephen Talasnik. Explore bamboo’s power and versatility in a variety of forms, including living plant displays.



Mile Hi JACL | P.O. Box 13061 | Denver, CO 80201 | milehiJACL@gmail.com | www.milehiJACL.org

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 (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 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!