



JACL
Japanese American Citizens League
Mile High Chapter



Setsubun
February 3rd
Seasonal Division

FEBRUARY 2013

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A Message from the President

I want to thank everybody that attended our annual Day of Remembrance (DOR) event. The event was a great success! The room was packed with more than 200 people, which broke our attendance record from last year! As a matter of fact, there were so many people inside the room that the latecomers had to stand in the back of the room.

It was an amazing and humbling experience to hear from the former internees themselves. Carolyn Takeshita, Rose Tanaka, Bob Fuchigami, Aiko Okubo, and Min Mochizuki shared their experience growing up in the American concentration camps. Carolyn Takeshita told the room about how she experienced delayed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) reaction for many years after her family was released from the American concentration camp. When asked if there is a possibility that the US government will repeat its mistake and forcibly incarcerate a group of people based on race, religion, or other questionable classification, all of the former internees replied in the affirmative. Rose Tanaka reminded the audience that there were talks of forcibly incarcerating the Muslim population after the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

Hearing stories like this reminded me why JACL is still relevant in our time. JACL was one of the first organizations to support the Muslim community when there were talks about forcibly incarcerating them "for their own safety." We were also one of the first organizations to publicly support same-sex marriage.

This is why we want to hear from you regarding the future direction of our chapter. Inside this newsletter, you will find a member questionnaire. The questionnaire is completely anonymous, and your feedback will let us know if our chapter is heading in the right direction. Please fill it out and return it to either info@MileHighJACL.org or P.O. Box 13061, Denver, CO 80201.

We love to hear your suggestions and feedbacks. Please come to our next board meeting on March 7, 2013, 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). If you have any questions or feedbacks, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@MileHighJACL.org.



Harry Budisidarta

Mile High JACL Chapter President

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mile High JAACL
Board Meeting**
March 7th
6:30pm
Sakura Square, 2nd Fl.

**Simpson United
Methodist Church
Doll & Cultural Festival**
March 2-3rd
11:30am - 4:00pm
Simpson United
Methodist Church

**Brighton Japanese
American Association
Shrimp and
Chow Mein Dinner**
March 24th

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

Lunar New Year Dinner

by Donna Hansen

gong xi fa cai - Happy New Year in Mandrin



The Shaolin Hung Mei Kung Fu Academy
of Boulder
Photo by Donna Hansen



The Shaolin Hung Mei Kung Fu Academy
of Boulder
Photo by Gil Asakawa



Atomic Gracie
Photo by Donna Hansen

The Organization of Chinese Americans Colorado and Mile High JAACL hosted an exciting Lunar New Year at The Palace Chinese Restaurant on February 16th.

All the attendees enjoyed feasting on 10 course meal filled with seafood. The talented Annie Guo, President of Asian Avenue Magazine, served as a lovely MC. She explained the year of the black water snake is especially lucky for those born in the year of the snake: 1905, 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989 and 2001.

Everyone at the celebration received a red envelope, a popular tradition during Lunar New Year. Raffles throughout the evening kept spirits high. Some of the exciting raffle items included tickets to Theatre Esprit Asia's upcoming season and a stay at the Isle Casino and Hotel in Black Hawk.

In addition to the wonderful food and sparkling company, the entertainment was the highlight of the evening. The Shaolin Hung Mei Kung Fu Academy of Boulder energized the crowd with a spirited Lion and Dragon dance. Throughout the evening, they gave well choreographed Kung Fu demonstrations.

Atomic Gracie, Grace Hamahiga-Stean, wowed the audience by playing her custom crystal and light encrusted violin and putting a modern spin on the popular Japanese song "Sukiyaki." Her sweetly sophisticated arrangement of "She Sells Sanctuary" by The Cult was relished.

Tunas Mekar gamalon band served as an excellent sound track to the good time and friendship shared at Palace and left the audience feeling reverent.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOLL & CULTURAL FESTIVAL (HINA MATSURI)
CELEBRATING THE 106TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIMPSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DOLL & CULTURAL FESTIVAL

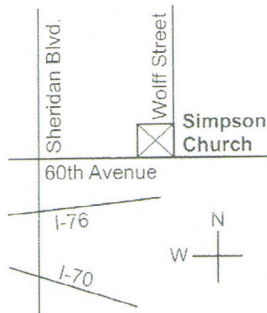
ひなまつり

FREE ADMISSION

Saturday March 2nd & Sunday March 3rd, 2013 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m

6001 WOLFF ST.
ARVADA, CO

303-428-7963



FEATURING:

Calligraphy
Origami
Tea Ceremony
Bonsai
Ikebana
Taiko
Japanese & Okinawa
-Dancing

Martial Arts

-Aikido
-Judo
-Kendo
-Karate

Kimekomi Dolls

Music

-Koto
-Shakuhachi
-Shamisen

CONCESSIONS:

Bento Box
At A Nominal Fee, While Supplies Last

FUTURE EVENTS:

Saturday, May 4 Bazaar
Saturday August Peach Sale
(Orders taken in July)
Sunday October 20 Arts & Crafts Showcase

Japanese Language Classes - Weekly



Kazuko Yamamoto Tu

Kazuko Yamamoto Tu of Fort Collins passed away on December 16, 2012, at the age of 85. Kaz was born on August 16, 1927, in Hanford, California to Fujitaro and Mitsuye Yamamoto.

The Yamamoto family prospered running a laundromat and restaurants in the San Joaquin Valley of California until World War II disrupted their lives. Kaz spent her high school years behind barbed wire in internment camps in Fresno, CA (May 1942), Jerome, AR (1942-1944) and Rohwer, AR (1944-45). She graduated from Rohwer Center High School in 1945. Following the war, she graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1950 with a degree in Public Health. She worked as a Medical Technologist at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City, CA for 11 years.



In 1957, she married Anthony T. Tu in San Mateo, CA. The Tu family moved to Fort Collins in 1967. She was an active member of the Toastmistress Club in Fort Collins and was active in local politics. She also served as a personal ambassador to help school children understand what she said was a terrible mistake the U.S. Government made when it detained Japanese-Americans during World War II due to fear and mistrust.

Kazuko was a lifelong member of the JACL and was active in her younger years. She always took pleasure in reading the Pacific Citizen and the Mile High JACL newsletter as she enjoyed keeping up on the news in the Japanese American Community.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions were made to the Japanese American National Museum and the Mile High Chapter Japanese American Citizens League.

Kaz Tu is survived by her husband, Anthony T. Tu (Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry at Colorado State University), her five children, Marcia Tu Bernstein (Scott) of New York, NY, Janice Garbarini (Stephen) of Boulder, CO, Caroline Tu Farley (Shedden) of Fort Collins, CO, Kenneth Tu of Denver, CO, and Alan Tu (Evelyn) of Princeton, NJ and four grandchildren: Grace Farley, Logan and Brooke Garbarini and Nicole Bernstein. She also is survived by her brothers Aki Yamamoto (Los Altos, CA), Bill Yamamoto (Redwood City, CA) and Hisashi Yamamoto (Redwood City, CA).

Nihongo-o Naraimashyou!

Let's Learn Japanese!



Yukidaruma (*Yu-ki-da-ru-ma*)
Translation: Snowman

Yuki (*Yu-ki*)
Translation: Snow

Sori (*So-ri*)
Translation: Sled

Tsulala (*Tsu-la-la*)
Translation: Icicle

Nihon-saru (*Ni-ho-n sa-ru*)
Translation: Japanese Monkey

Koori (*Ko-o-ri*)
Translation: Ice

Mayor Hancock declares “Kimiko Side Day” for a deserving pillar of the local Japanese community



Last month during a luncheon for over a hundred friends and admirers at China Jade restaurant in the Far East Center, Derek Okubo, the Executive Director of Denver's Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships, read a declaration from Mayor Michael B. Hancock proclaiming January 20 “Kimiko Side Day.”

It was a befitting recognition from the city, for her decades of volunteer work within the Japanese and Japanese American community, but especially for her work building a strong relationship with Denver's Japanese sister city, Takayama.

The Mayor's proclamation also reflected the award given to Kimiko (a Mile High JACL board member) in November, by Emperor Akihito himself: The Order of the Rising Sun with Silver and Gold Rays. It's one of the highest honors conferred by Japan, given to both Japanese and non-Japanese who have distinguished accomplishments promoting Japanese culture and international relations.

“I was very honored and happy to receive the award,” she said.

Kimiko and her husband Gene were invited to visit the Emperor in November for the award ceremony, but it wasn't the first time she met him. She met with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko twice when they traveled to Colorado in 1994, and then again a few years ago, when she visited Tokyo. The Consul General of Japan in Denver, Ikuhiko Ono, also awarded her last year with commendations for her tireless work promoting Japanese culture.

The Emperor's recognition was the culmination of a lifetime of supporting the local Japanese community. Kimiko was born in Beijing, China, before World War II and her family was repatriated to Japan after the war. She met and married Gene Side and the couple settled in Denver in 1959. Since then, she has not only volunteered with Mile High JACL, but also the Japan America Society of Colorado and the Japanese American Association of Colorado, and has taught Japanese crafts at both Simpson United Methodist Church and the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple (and continues to teach up to 15 students at the Buddhist Temple). She has also displayed her crafts and dolls and taught at both Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Festival) and the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival.

But of all her many activities and accomplishments, Kimiko is proudest of her leadership of the Takayama Sister Cities relationship. “When I took it over in 1994, nobody even knew we had a sister city,” she says.

“For the exchange program, we sent maybe three people each year to Japan but on the Takayama side they sent 10 or so to Denver. So I raised the money needed to send 10 students to Japan.”

She also introduced Denver officials to the program and traveled with each mayor to the sister city. “I built a strong relationship between Denver and Takayama... Everything worked out the way I wanted it to,” she says.

That's why people in Takayama call her “Denver Mother,” she says with a laugh. The name fits.





Mile High Japanese American Citizens League

P.O. Box 13061 • Denver, CO 80201 • info@MileHighJACL.org

Mile High JACL Member Questionnaire

We here at Mile High JACL are very excited about 2013 and we want your help to steer us in the right direction. Your responses will help us plan events and fundraising programs. All of your responses will remain anonymous and will not be linked to any names or other identifiers. Please answer the survey as honestly as possible. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Opinions regarding Mile High JACL

1. Do you receive the Mile High JACL newsletter? Yes _____ No _____

If you checked "Yes": Do you read the newsletter regularly? Yes _____ No _____

2. How many Mile High JACL events did you attended in 2012?

- ☐ 5 or more
☐ 3-5

- ☐ 1-2
☐ None

If none, why not? _____

3. With what issues should Mile High JACL be more involved? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Marriage equality
☐ Equal access to justice / Habeas Corpus rights for prisoners
☐ Voter registration drive
☐ Freedom of religion
☐ Immigrants' rights
☐ Educational equity
☐ Healthy communities (e.g., access to food, violence prevention, housing)
☐ Other. Please specify _____

Which issues would you be willing to actively support? (we will not contact you)

- ☐ Marriage equality
☐ Equal access to justice / Habeas Corpus rights for prisoners
☐ Voter registration drive
☐ Freedom of religion
☐ Immigrants' rights
☐ Educational equity
☐ Healthy communities (e.g., access to food, violence prevention, housing)
☐ Other. Please specify _____

4. What does Mile High JACL do well? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Fundraisers and banquets
- ☐ Newsletter / Communication with members
- ☐ Social events
- ☐ Political advocacy
- ☐ Community relations
- ☐ Other. Please specify _____

5. What does Mile High JACL do poorly? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Fundraisers and banquets
- ☐ Newsletter / Communication with members
- ☐ Social events
- ☐ Political advocacy
- ☐ Community relations
- ☐ Other. Please specify _____

6. What can Mile High JACL do to improve itself?

7. Why are you a member?

8. What other organizations do you belong to?

Thank you for your participation! If you would like to get more involved (or to receive a copy of the newsletter), please e-mail your contact information to info@MileHighJACL.org

Please return this survey by e-mailing it to info@MileHighJACL.org or mailing it to P.O. Box 13061, Denver, CO 80201.

Demographic Information (Optional)

In order to develop our chapter and continue the growth of our programs, we will begin to seek sponsorships from other organizations and businesses interested in supporting our efforts. This section is optional and any information you provide will only be used in aggregate form. Please select the best responses for the individual who is completing the form. The information you provide will only be used to help us identify potential sponsors for our chapter.

Are you currently:

- ☐ Single
- ☐ In a relationship
- ☐ Married

- ☐ Separated
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Widowed

How would you classify your ethnicity? (Please check all the apply.)

- ☐ American Indian/Alaska Native
- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Asian American or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Black/African American
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ White/Caucasian
- ☐ Other: _____

- ☐ Japanese American
 - ☐ Issei
 - ☐ Nisei
 - ☐ Sansei
 - ☐ Yonsei
 - ☐ Gosei

Highest level of completed education

- ☐ Less than high school
- ☐ High school or equivalent
- ☐ Professional certification
- ☐ Associate of Arts degree

- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Master's degree
- ☐ Doctoral degree

Total annual household income

- ☐ Under \$10,000
- ☐ \$10,000 - \$29,999
- ☐ \$30,000 - \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 - \$79,999
- ☐ \$80,000 - \$99,999
- ☐ over \$100,000

Age: _____

Gender: _____

Zip code: _____

Thank you for completing the survey! We appreciate your continued support of Mile High JACL.

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 JACL | P.O. Box 13061 | Denver, CO 80201 | info@MileHighJACL.org | www.MileHighJACL.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 High 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 High 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 High 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 High JACL and its monthly newsletter!