

# Colorado Dragon Boat Festival

July 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

Sloan's Lake



## JACL

Japanese American Citizens League  
Mile High Chapter



JULY 2014

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### A Message from the President

I had the pleasure of going to the Amache Open House on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Bonnie Clark and her students did a wonderful job of giving us a tour of Amache and showing the artifacts that they recovered from the site. Being there in person really made me appreciate how hard the living condition was at Amache. The weather was very hot, there were dust everywhere, and there were hardly any trees in the surrounding area. It was an eye opening experience and I highly encourage all of you to attend the open house next year!

I hope that all of you were able to come to the Dragon Boat Festival last weekend. I have been going to the festival for many years now and it keeps getting better every year!

As you know, Colorado's 6<sup>th</sup> congressional district is currently in the middle of a highly contested race between incumbent Michael Coffman and challenger Andrew Romanoff. Mile High JACL is partnering up with several AAPI community organizations and we are hosting a candidate debate on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Please let me know if your organization would like to sponsor this debate. There is no financial commitment, but we expect all of the co-sponsors to publicize the debate so that we will have a great turnout at the debate.

We are always looking for people that want to be active with Mile High JACL! I want to personally invite all of you to our next general meeting on Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. We meet at the Japanese American Association of Colorado's Office, located on the second floor of Sakura Square (19<sup>th</sup> and Lawrence, Denver, CO).

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

*Harry Budisidharta*

Mile High JACL Chapter President



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mile High JACL  
Board Meeting  
August 7th  
6:30pm  
Sakura Square, 2nd Fl.

JAAC Annual Picnic  
August 4th  
City of Cuernavaca Park  
11:00am - 4:00pm  
(More info on page 4)

## The Art of Gaman Opens in Bellevue, Washington State

The Art of Gaman opened on Thursday, July 3, at the Bellevue Arts Museum (BAM) in Washington State. The exhibit, based on the 2005 book of the same name by curator Delphine Hirasuna, displays over 120 arts and crafts created by Japanese Americans during their incarceration during World War II. "Gaman" is a Japanese word that means "to endure the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity" and explains the plight of the exhibited artists, most of whom were untrained in their crafts and limited to the use of whatever resources were available to them, such as shells and scrap wood and metal.

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) hosted a VIP exhibit opening reception on Wednesday, July 2, in the lobby of BAM. Guests included Seattle Chapter JACL members, BAM board members, and representatives of the sponsors of the reception, AARP and Union Bank. During the reception, guests were invited to enjoy catered refreshments and venture up to the third floor of the museum to view the exhibit. A brief program included speeches by JACL President David Lin; The Art of Gaman curator Delphine Hirasuna; BAM Director of Art, Craft, & Design Stefano Catalani; AARP Washington State Director Doug Shadel; Union Bank Bellevue Branch Manager Rachel Birrell; and Consul Norio Tsurumi of the Japanese Consulate General in Seattle.

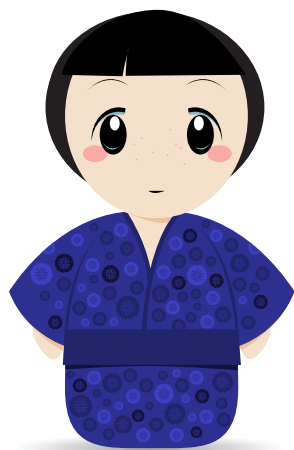
The Art of Gaman has been shown globally since its creation in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute in 2005, and is currently on its final tour, sponsored by the Japanese American Citizens League. It was shown earlier this year in Sacramento, California, and will continue on its tour to Houston, Texas, after it closes in Bellevue on October 12.



Photo Credit: Emilie Smith of the Bellevue Arts Museum

For more upcoming events  
please visit our website:  
[milehighjACL.org/events/](http://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@MileHighJACL.org](mailto:media@MileHighJACL.org)



## Nihongo-o Naraimashyou!

Let's Learn Japanese!

Ongaku (O-n-ga-ku)  
Translation: Music

Odori (O-do-ri)  
Translation: Dance

Shiyo (Shi-yo)  
Translation: Salt

Koshyou (Ko-shyo-u)  
Translation: Pepper

Asa (A-sa)  
Translation: Morning

Yoru (Yo-ru)  
Translation: Night

# The Passing of a Legend: Yuri Kochiyama, 1921 - 2014

By Marge Taniwaki

Often described simply as a civil rights activist, Yuri Kochiyama was that and so much more. She was a revolutionary, anti-imperialist, freedom fighter, organizer, educator, and anti-war worker for justice. The apartment she shared in Harlem with her husband, Bill, was a gathering place for multi-racial and multi-generational activists and the site where tactics and strategy to support various causes were honed. Those who spent time there shared that every spare inch of the housing project apartment was covered with flyers announcing upcoming events and filled with educational and informational material as well. She used an ironing board as her desk.

Respectfully addressed as Sister Yuri, she did not follow blindly, but educated herself about the many causes she supported. These included Puerto Rican independence, ethnic studies, public education, Redress, Asian American and Third World movements, as well as prisoner advocacy. She shared the birthdate of May 19th with Malcolm X and was at the Audubon Ballroom in New York to listen to him speak on the day in February of 1965 when he was assassinated. Yuri rushed to the stage and cradled Malcolm's head as he lay mortally wounded, imploring him not to die. Earlier, she had joined Malcolm's group, the Organization of Afro-American Unity, attending weekly study sessions of its Liberation School. Yuri hosted his meeting with Hibakusha (Atomic Bomb survivors) in her home. Malcolm sent her postcards from his Haj, expressing the difficult beginnings of change in his thinking regarding integration as he met Muslims of every hue on his religiously mandated journey.

Her six children joined Yuri in advocacy and coalition building, giving her what she wanted in terms of birthday gifts. Yuri always asked for postage stamps so that she could continue her efforts to correspond with, visit and support political prisoners. These included Mumia Abu Jamal, a former member of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense who was unjustly convicted of murdering a Philadelphia policeman and only recently came off of Death Row after years of appeals.

Born in San Pedro, California, in 1921, Mary Yuri Nakahara was imprisoned with her family, first at the Assembly Center at Santa Anita and then at Jerome in Arkansas, one of ten major US concentration camps for those of Japanese descent during WWII. A nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, Yuri is the subject of several books and documentaries including a film entitled "Mountains That Take Wing" which features conversations between her and revolutionary Angela Davis. After the death in 1993 of her 442 Veteran husband Bill, Yuri moved from New York to the San Francisco area where two of their surviving children reside. A human rights activist and militant to the end, Sister Yuri passed on June 1, 2014, at the age of 93.







## The Japanese American Association of CO

*Sakura Square - Lower Downtown Denver established 1907*



JAA of CO

### The JAAC Invites Friends and Members to Our Annual Community Picnic.

**When: 3 Aug 2014 Sunday 11:00 - 3:00**

**Where: City of Cuernavaca Park - North Lot**

**Beef Teriyaki \* Hot Dogs \* Salads \* Nigiri \* Chips \* Buns**  
**Bottled Water \* Juice \* Soda \* BYOB \* Takuan \* Salad**  
**Watermelon By the JACL \* Imoni By Yamagata**  
**Rice Balls & Sun Tents by Namiko's Restaurant**  
**Gifts Koshin Trading, the Side's and the Konishi's**

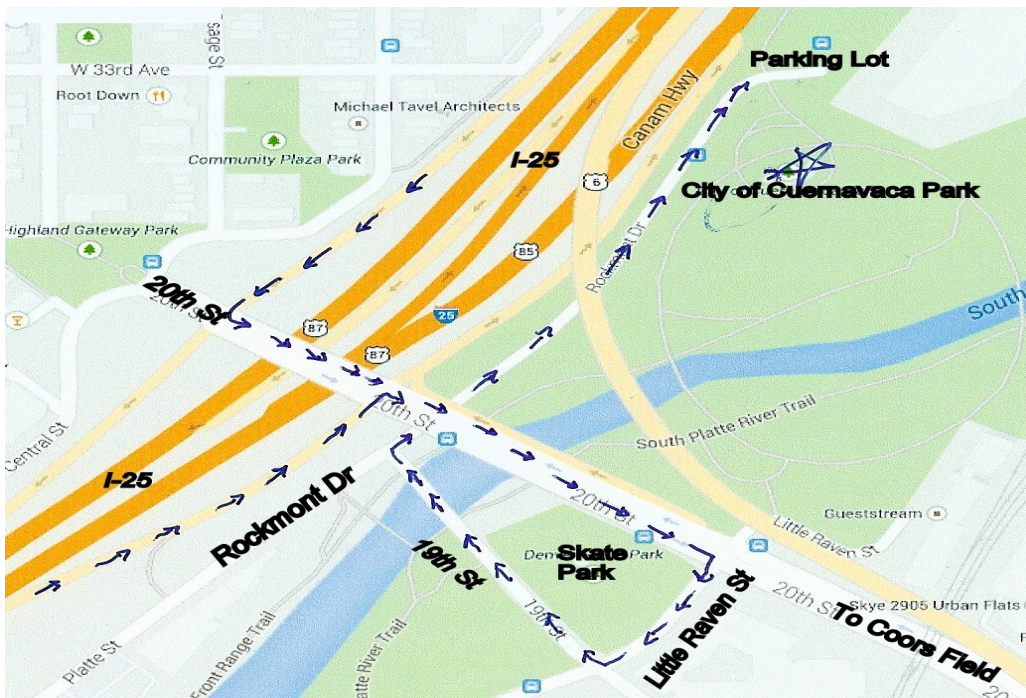
#### Directions to Picnic

**From I-25 Exit 20th St Downtown**

**Turn Right (South) on Little Raven St**

**Turn Right (West) on 19th St (just past Skate Park)**

**Turn Right (North) on Rockmont Dr to Parking Area**



We're Happy to Celebrate  
the 28th Anniversary of  
the Yamagata - Colorado  
Sister State Association!

We're Honored by the  
Performance of the  
Yamagata Dancers!

#### Activities

Children's Games by the  
Colorado Japanese School

Raffles \* Door Prizes  
Good Fun for All

#### Questions, Contact:

**Kent Kuroda**  
(303) 514-5353

**Calvin Hada**  
(303) 550-7852

**Mary Nishiyama**  
(303) 433-1638

**Frank Miyazawa**  
(303) 237-8641

**Berkely Park is under repair.**  
**Cuernavaca is a newer park**  
**with limited shade. Some**  
**shade tents will be provided.**



JAA of CO

*Proudly Serving the Japanese  
Community of Colorado*

# Remembering the Life of Kelly Kuwayama, A Japanese American Veteran and Hero

This piece is the No. 19 July 4, 2014 press release written by the Japanese American Veterans Association.  
Contact: Terry Shima, 301-987-6746; ttshima@comcast.net

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442nd Combat Medic Kelly Kuwayama has passed away. Saved Senator Inouye's life in Po Valley Campaign.

Washington, DC - Yeichi "Kelly" Kuwayama, Combat Medic, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, passed away at noon on June 29, 2014. He was 96. Kelly Kuwayama was born in 1918 in Manhattan, New York City.

Though a graduate of Princeton University, he was not able to find employment because of his ethnicity, and entered the US Army in 1941, about one year before Pearl Harbor was attacked. Initially, he was assigned to a Coast Artillery National Guard unit protecting New York Harbor. Because the loyalty of all Japanese Americans was questioned during those times, he was soon transferred from a line unit to a medical unit at Fort Ethan Allen in Vermont. A surprised Kuwayama found he had been reclassified as a "surgical technician" without any formal medical training.



*Kelly Kuwayama. Photo Credit:  
Tom Graves' Twice Heroes, page  
129. Permission received*

Kuwayama volunteered for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team when it was activated in 1943, and was assigned to its Medical Unit. After training in Camp Shelby, Mississippi, the 442nd was sent to Naples, Italy, arriving in May, 1944.

Kuwayama quickly earned the reputation throughout the regiment of treating his wounded comrades under fierce enemy fire with total disregard of his own life. He served in one of the most ferocious battles of World War II, the 442nd's rescue of the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment of the 36th Division (often referred to as "The Lost Battalion") in the Vosges Mountains of France. The 442nd broke through the enemy entrapment in five days to save 211 survivors. Kelly himself was wounded during the grueling battle near Biffontaine, France, on Oct. 29, 1944 and was hospitalized at Plombieres-les-Bains hospital, and after a few weeks rejoined the 442nd at the Maritime Alps.

Senator Daniel Inouye, also of Company E, credited Kuwayama for saving his life when he lost his right arm in the Italian Po Valley campaign in April, 1945. Under enemy fire, Kuwayama was the first medic to reach a severely wounded Second Lieutenant Inouye, stopped the bleeding of his nearly severed arm, and saw that his platoon leader was evacuated from the battlefield. Besides uncommon courage, Kuwayama displayed leadership uncommon for a medic. When German snipers targeted the unarmed Nisei medics with their Red Cross insignia conspicuously painted on their helmets, the infantrymen in Company E, in their state of anger, decided to retaliate against enemy medics as well. However, Kuwayama stepped forward and told the men that shooting unarmed medics, even if they are the enemy, with the Red Cross insignia displayed was a violation of the Geneva Convention and that "two wrongs don't make a right." Kuwayama's words had a tone of authority beyond his rank and the soldiers complied.

By the end of the war, Kuwayama had been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry at Biffontaine, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Legion of Merit, Combat Medical Badge, Italian Croce di Valore and the French Legion of Honor. In November 2011, for heroic service with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, he was a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor our nation can bestow.

After being discharged in 1945 at the war's end, Kuwayama completed a MBA from Harvard Business School on the GI Bill in 1947 and continued with a successful career as the US General Manager for Nomura Securities, as well as with the Office



*Kuwayama presenting President Truman with a check contributed by members of the 442nd for the Memorial to President Roosevelt. September 11, 1945*

Foreign Direct Investment of the US Department of Commerce, the US Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Civil Liberties Public Education fund mandated by the US Congress.

Kuwayama is survived by his wife, Fumiko, his sister Tomi and brother George. A sister, Aya, predeceased him in 2011.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations be sent to the Japanese American Veterans Association, c/o Mark Nakagawa, 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153. Please make checks payable to JAVA and on memo line write "Kelly Kuwayama."

## THE GOALS: The Colorado Coalition

*By Tom Migaki*

At the April, 2014 Mile High JACL Board meeting, I invited Roz Duman who is founder and chair of the Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action. I had the pleasure to work with Roz when she was the Director of Volunteerism for the City and County of Denver when we both worked for the Wellington Webb Administration. Roz gave a passionate talk to our Board about the atrocities of Genocide which is the "systematic destruction by a government of a racial, religious or ethnic group" happening in different parts of the world and the awareness that needs to be publicized to make the world aware of what is going on. Roz's efforts started with Darfur, but has now grown to other countries. Roz founded this organization and it is amazing what she has done with it.

THE GOALS: The Colorado Coalition will:

- Educate all Colorado citizens through awareness programming so they in turn, will put the necessary pressure on our political leaders.
- Make sure the media helps us with this educational process by asking them for more coverage of what is actually happening in Darfur.
- Make sure our political leaders take the necessary action to stop these horrendous crimes against humanity by putting pressure on governments today in Darfur and tomorrow, wherever genocide rears its ugly head.

For more information, please go to <http://www.ccgaa.org>

# Report on July 4-7, 2013 JANM National Conference in Seattle, WA

*By Marge Taniwaki*

From July 4th through July 7th in Seattle, Washington, the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) held its 3rd National Conference in a series addressing the state of Japanese in America. Held every five years, the first took place in Arkansas in 2003 followed by Colorado in 2008. The Denver Conference included a trip to Amache, the WWII US concentration camp located in southern Colorado.

The Seattle conference was entitled "Speaking Up! Democracy, Justice, Dignity" and commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. The passage of this 1988 act holds significance because those former prisoners in the US concentration camps during WWII who were still alive at its passage, were eligible for nominal compensation through so-called reparations passed by the US Congress. Most people are unaware of the class action suit filed in the early 1980's by the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRR) through the untiring efforts of journalist William Hohri from Chicago. That class action suit asked for real compensation of \$220,000 per internee as well as accruing to the estates of those who had already died since their release from prison in the fall of 1945. Fully one-half of all former prisoners were dead by 1988 and the Congressional approach made no provision for payment to the estates of the deceased, one of the many compromises agreed to by those steering that effort.

Denver resident Vicki Taniwaki, Chair of the Friends of Amache (FOA), was an invited speaker at the Seattle JANM conference and reported on the current restoration efforts at the WWII camp site in southern Colorado near Lamar. These include the construction of a replica guard tower, the restoration of the original water tank that serviced both Amache and the nearby town of Granada, as well as the authentication of barracks to be brought back to the site and serve as a visitors center. The guard tower and water tank will be in place in time for the annual Pilgrimage to Amache in May of 2014, when a dedication of the new and restored structures will be held. The Pilgrimage always takes place on the Saturday before Memorial Day weekend.

Currently, the residents of Granada, Colorado, are suffering through the 3rd year of a severe drought which has devastated agriculture in the area, causing a number of local families to move away due to lack of employment and thereby, reducing the number of students enrolled in the district. Granada High School teacher, John Hopper, says that many of the remaining students suffer from "dry pneumonia" caused by inhaling dust from the constant sandstorms that plague the area located on the edge of the 1930's dustbowl. It is hoped that the restoration work at Amache, as well as the nearby Sand Creek Massacre site 30 miles to the north, will provide tourism revenue to the hard hit town of Granada and its residents. The Sand Creek Massacre site is currently staffed by Rangers from the National Park Service.

One concrete strategy proposed at the conference by Taniwaki is for a collaborative approach to organizing, fundraising, design and outreach around prison restoration and commemoration work. Some of the smaller sites were not occupied as long as others and often lack the local support seemingly necessary for long term restoration planning and implementation.

JANM announced that the Seattle conference would be the last of this series. This mirrors the often heard refrain that a particular WWII camp reunion will be the final one due to the advancing age of former internees, inhibiting their ability to attend.



# Kakehashi Students Embrace Their Japanese Culture and Heritage on Ten-Day Trip to Japan

Forty-three Japanese American Young Adults traveled to Japan on July 15 as part of the Kakehashi Project, a program organized by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JACL and the Japan Foundation to cultivate cross-cultural relationships and exchanges between Japan and the U.S. The ten-day all-expense paid trip included an initial tour of Tokyo before the group split off into two smaller groups to visit either the Japanese city of Fukushima or Kyoto, by way of the Shinkansen (Japanese bullet train).

The Fukushima group began their trip with a visit to Saiei Orimono Company and the Fukushima Prefectural Office. Later, they attended Fukushima University to learn about revitalization efforts following the aftermath of the 3.11 triple disaster. At Ten-ei Village, students participated in agricultural workshops and cultural exchanges with local students. Some Kakehashi students performed dance routines for local Japanese students in exchange for a musical recital by the local junior high school brass band. Other stops included the Ouchi Juku and Turuga-jo Castle.

The Kyoto group had an equally busy schedule starting with a Shodo Workshop at Japan Foundation and a company visit to Kyocera. Other highlights included a college exchange at Doshisha University, a visit to Fushimi Inari Shrine, a Walking Tour of Kiyomizu-Ninenzaka, and a tea ceremony at Chunko-In Temple. The group wrapped up their Kyoto trip with a tour of the Kinkakuji Temple and Nijo Castle.

Both groups have returned to Tokyo where they will stay until the end of their trip on July 24. In Tokyo, the Fukushima and Kyoto groups will visit Toyo University and Meiji Gakuin University, respectively, in addition to touring the Diet Building, Japanese Overseas Migration Museum, and the Miraikan National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, among other activities. Follow JACL National on Instagram @JACL\_National, and Facebook to see pictures of the July Kakehashi trip that is still going on now!



*Fukushima Kakehashi group at Fukushima University.  
(Photo Credit: Amy Watanabe)*



*Kyoto Kakehashi group at Doshisha University. (Photo Credit: Floyd Shimomura)*



# 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](mailto:info@MileHighJACL.org) | [www.MileHighJACL.org](http://www.MileHighJACL.org)

## 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 [info@milehighjACL.org](mailto:info@milehighjACL.org) 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!

# FAIRMOUNT

*A Denver tradition since 1890*

**Honored to serve the Japanese American community  
for all your pre-planning needs. Property still available  
near the Nisei War Memorial in Block 35.**



***Mortuary, Cemetery & Cremation Services***

430 South Quebec Street Denver CO 80247

[www.fairmount-mortuary.com](http://www.fairmount-mortuary.com) - 303-399-0692, x 216