

JACL  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Mile High Chapter



MARCH 2013

## A Message from the President



Since 1961, Mile High JACL has awarded an annual \$1,000 scholarship to a high school senior who has made tremendous contribution to our community. In honor of our renewed commitment to community service, I am proud to announce that Mile High JACL will double the scholarship amount to \$2,000 effective immediately.

Thanks to your generous donation, we have raised \$1,000 for our scholarship program. We still need to raise the remaining \$1,000, so please come to our spring luncheon on April 13, 2013, at LD Buffet (2797 South Parker Road, Aurora, CO 80014). All of the proceeds will benefit our scholarship program. For only \$15, you will enjoy a buffet lunch, singing, dancing, raffle, and live auction.

I am excited to announce that Mile High JACL has created three different committees to tackle three different political advocacy issues - Immigration, Health Care, and LGBT issues. The committees are tasked with researching various bills and making recommendations to the board regarding whether Mile High JACL should support or oppose those bills.

WE WANT YOU to join one of these committees and help us sort through these complicated issues. You do not need to be a board member or have any expertise in these areas to join a committee. You just need to be motivated and have a passion for political advocacy. If you're interested, please contact me at [President@MileHighJACL.org](mailto:President@MileHighJACL.org)

We love to hear your suggestions and feedbacks. Please come to our next board meeting on April 4, 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](mailto:info@MileHighJACL.org)

*Harry Budisidharta*

Mile High JACL Chapter President

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mile High JACL Board Meeting

April 4th  
6:30pm  
Sakura Square, 2nd Fl.

### Mile High JACL Spring Luncheon

April 13th  
11:30am  
LD Buffet

### JARCC Fundraiser

April 16th & 17  
All Day  
California Pizza Kitchen  
Flatirons, Park Meadows,  
Cherry Creek, 29th  
Street Mall &  
Colorado Mills Locations

### Sansel Designs

April 27th  
10:00am - 4:00pm  
Sakura Square

## Congress Urged to Strengthen Family Based Immigration System

On March 13, 2013, the JACL signed onto a letter to President Obama and to all members of Congress, urging for them to protect and strengthen the family-based immigration system as they develop immigration reform legislation. As of November 2012, nearly 4.3 million people are waiting in the family visa backlogs, including over 1.8 million Asian and Pacific Islanders waiting abroad for the chance to reunite with their family members.

A strong family-based immigration system has significant economic benefits, as family-based immigrants foster the development of small and medium-sized businesses. An immigration system that truly reflects our nation's values must be inclusive by recognizing that strong families create a much-needed foundation for our communities and our economy to grow and succeed.

## 2013 National JACL Scholarships and Awards Program Open

The 2013 National JACL Scholarships and Awards Program is now open, with information and applications available on the JACL website. A U.S.-Japan Scholarship is also available and making its debut in 2013

## Nihongo-o Naraimashyou!

Let's Learn Japanese!



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)

Daigaku (*Da-i-ga-ku*)

Translation: College

Honya (*Ho-n-ya*)

Translation: Bookstore

Ookii (*O-o-ki-i*)

Translation: Large

Chiisai (*Chi-i-sa-i*)

Translation: Small

Chikai (*Chi-i-ka-i*)

Translation: Near

Tooi (*To-o-i*)

Translation: Far

Japanese American Citizens League

Mile High JACL Scholarship Program and Community Advocacy Fundraiser

# Spring Luncheon

Saturday, April 13, 2013

11:30 a.m.

Cost is \$15 and will include:  
luncheon, entertainment (singer, dancers, and comedy act),  
raffle, and live auction.

**Special guest and emcee, Adele Arakawa.**



Location will be **LD Buffet.**

2797 South Parker Road  
Aurora, CO 80014  
303-751-1688

# Mile High JACL Board Embraces Advocacy As Priority

*By Gil Asakawa*

Although JACL was founded as a civil rights organization in 1929, the Mile High chapter hasn't always been actively involved in advocacy of social justice issues.

But last month, the Mile High Board voted to actively support and engage in political advocacy, and to support legislation that fits with our community goals and civil rights mission. The change isn't so drastic - we already have a track record of activism:

Last year, Mile High JACL endorsed Senate Bill 12-002 (also known as the "Civil Union Bill") and proudly took an active role with this bill and helped locate speakers who would be willing to testify in favor of the bill. In addition, our members called their elected representatives and urged them to vote in favor of the bill. After a year of ups and downs, the bill finally passed this year and Gov. Hickenlooper has just signed it into law!

We also worked together with OCA Colorado, APA for Progress, and NAAPIMHA in 2012 to organize a panel discussion marking the 30th anniversary of the murder of Vincent Chin and the continuing discrimination facing the Asian American Pacific Islander community. Chin, a Chinese American, was beaten to death by out-of-work Detroit auto workers who blamed Japanese cars for their economic woes. We will always focus on civil rights and issues of hate crimes, racism and racial stereotypes.

During the election season, Mile High JACL partnered with Just Vote! Colorado Election Protection (JVCEP), a nonpartisan election protection program created to assist voters with election activities, expand access to information about the voting process, and to monitor the electoral process across the state.

Of course, the chapter is committed to continue hosting our signature annual event, the Day of Remembrance, to keep alive the memory of the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

This month, the Mile High Board voted to approve three main areas of advocacy that we will pursue this coming year, and we're looking to YOU, our membership, to help us achieve success in these areas: Immigration (Justin Valas, Chair); Same-Sex Marriage (Harry Budisidharta, Chair) and Health Care (Suzy Shimasaki, Chair). We'd love to have your input on these topics, as well as volunteers to help us testify and publicize the issues.

## Asian Cabaret Events

*By Donna Hansen*

Theatre Esprit Asia is hosting a night of play readings for the community, Asian Cabaret Events - ACE. Asian American writers, actors, directors, singers and musicians looking for a supportive and creative space to perform can share their art at ACE. Everyone is invited to support local artists and enjoy some original works.

This ACE evening is at CHUN, Capitol Hill United Neighborhood Mansion, 1290 Williams Street in Denver from 7:30-9:30 pm on April 19th. To participate please RSVP by April 12th to triaxiongtea@gmail.com. You may see the next Chow Yun Fat and Ziyi Zhang, or hear the next Ang Lee there!

# Join us at **California Pizza Kitchen** for a flavorful FUNdraising event!

**Just bring in this flyer**, present it to your server,  
and **20%** of your check will be donated to our organization.  
Purchases include dine-in, take-out, catering and all beverages!

Fundraiser in support of

## **Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado – JARCC**

**April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013** (All Day)

(Flatirons, Park Meadows, Cherry Creek, 29<sup>th</sup> Street Mall & Colorado Mills Locations)

### **California Pizza Kitchen**

Flatiron Crossing Mall  
Broomfield  
303-410-8895

Cherry Creek Mall  
Denver  
303-388-5686

29<sup>th</sup> Street Mall  
Boulder  
303-440-3390

Colorado Mills Mall  
Golden  
303-278-6488

Park Meadows  
Littleton  
720-873-0400

Go to [cpk.com](http://cpk.com) to view our pizzas,  
pastas, salads, appetizers & desserts.  
You can even order online!

Join the **CPK Adventure Club**  
at **[cpk.com](http://cpk.com)** and receive  
**\$5 off** your next visit!



Eligible groups include non-profit schools and 501c organizations. Donation amount excludes proceeds from tax, gratuity, gift card and retail purchases. Valid for dine-in, take-out, online orders, catering or curbside service. Alcoholic beverages included. Not valid on delivery. Event proceeds void if flyers are distributed in or near the restaurant.  
Manager, please attach this flyer to the guest check.

## JACL Urges Boy Scouts to Lift Ban on Openly Gay Members and Leaders

The Boy Scouts of America maintains a policy that was established over twenty years ago which states "...homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the requirements in the Scout Oath that a Scout be morally straight and in the Scout Law that a Scout be clean in work and deed, and that homosexuals do not provide a desirable role model for Scouts..." The position further states that "...Because of these beliefs, the Boy Scouts of America does not accept homosexuals as members or as leaders, whether in volunteer or professional capacities..."

As a civil rights organization, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) believes America's truest character is expressed when access to opportunities are provided equitably to all persons. We believe these opportunities should not be limited by race, religion, ancestry, gender, national origin, disability or sexual orientation.

The acceptance of Japanese Americans as full participants to our society was not always the case. There was a time when we were ostracized and excluded from full participation in the mainstream of American society. Thus, we are aware that living on the fringes of acceptance is a denigrating and dehumanizing existence. However, the unique characteristic of our society is that it evolves and provides a place for everyone to participate and to be what they are.

It is important, even for private organizations, to recognize the value in accepting diversity. The JACL urges the Boy Scouts of America to lift its ban on openly gay individuals so they may fully participate as members and leaders.

## Hickenlooper Signs Colorado Civil Unions Act

*By The Bell Policy Center*

March 21st was a proud day for Colorado.

Gov. John Hickenlooper signed a bill into law that will allow civil unions for same-sex couples in Colorado.

For the first time, same-sex couples will have many of the same rights, protections and obligations of heterosexual couples, which will lead to more financially stable, self-sufficient and mutually supportive households. Now, children of same-sex couples will have greater protection and security.

We commend the governor and lawmakers who supported this law, which couldn't have happened without the support of the people of Colorado. Our state is a much more tolerant place now than it was in 1992, when voters approved an anti-gay-rights constitutional amendment that was later overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Times and attitudes have changed, and all of Colorado deserves to share in today's achievement.

We have long supported expanding civil rights, including providing for civil unions for same-sex couples. But let's not forget that this action is only a partial victory. The work is not finished. Same-sex couples in our state have more rights today, but they do not have equal rights.

When that happens, there will be cause for greater celebration.

## Leo Goto

By Pat Hayashi

I first met Leo Goto in the early 80's and then had the opportunity to work closely with him during the formative early years of the Go For Broke Golf Tournament. The golf committee of 3-4 met for early morning coffee and goodies at the Wellshire Inn and for the first couple of years, we were elated to have 40 - 50 golfers (and that was with some begging).

During the intervening years, he bought multiple cases of fresh Palisade peaches for my Rotary group's fundraiser to be used by the chefs at Wellshire.

He asked me to review his personal insurance policies at which time, I met his second beautiful wife, Linda, at their home on 7th Avenue.

More recently, about 3 years ago, I went to his new Riverwalk Restaurant as a possible site for Mile High's April event. He was not there, so Jim and I walked back toward my car in the parking lot. He had just arrived, arms full of papers and files, looking a bit tired, but still with that million dollar smile and warm hello. When I told him of my purpose for the visit, he offered to decrease the rental cost of the facility to an affordable price for Mile High.

What an incredibly classy gentleman - Leo was an icon and he will be sorely missed. I will always fondly remember Leo and hold him in the highest regard.

## Leo Goto dies: Denver restaurateur was philanthropist and friend

By Joanne Davidson, *The Denver Post*

Legendary Denver restaurateur Leo Goto, whose family emigrated to Denver from Japan in 1942, has died.

Former Colorado State University chancellor Joe Blake, a friend since elementary school, said Goto succumbed on March 3 in Sacred Journey Hospice in McDonough, Ga. He had moved to Georgia several months ago to be close to his daughter, Leilani Dobbins, after being diagnosed with Stage IV liver cancer in 2012.

Goto's health had been in decline since the 2010 collapse of a restaurant and events center that he operated briefly in Littleton. He was 76.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Goto's career had a humble start: washing dishes in the Denver branch of Trader Vic's, located in the former Cosmopolitan Hotel. He quickly earned the trust and respect of owner Victor Bergeron, who promoted him to general manager and enlisted him to help open additional locations of the upscale eatery in London, Houston and Portland.

In 1969, with financial backing from longtime friends Larry Adler and Howard Torgove, Goto ventured into restaurant ownership with the opening Leo's Place at 16th and Broadway. Leo's Place became an instant hit, drawing nightly Who's Who crowds until the property was condemned to make way for an RTD station and high-rise buildings.

In 1976, the partners opened the Wellshire Inn on South Colorado Boulevard. Torgove bought out Goto's interest in 2008.

"He was a very unique and special human being, that's for sure," Torgove said, adding that they had met while serving in the Air National Guard at Buckley Air Force Base.

"I worked in supply and he was in the kitchen," Torgove recalled. "I noticed right away that the food was always better when Leo was cooking."

Adler and Goto became friends when they both were elected to the student council at East High School.

"Leo was a marvelous greeter with an incredible memory," Adler said. "He knew everyone's story; plus, he was a real sweet guy."

Goto was “the consummate host,” adds restaurant consultant John Imbergamo. “He was the superstar face of restaurants long before restaurants started to be identified by their chefs.”

Generous to a fault, Goto rarely said no to charities seeking donations of food or money. He was the youngest person to be inducted into the Colorado Restaurant Association’s Foodservice Hall of Fame and in 1995 the University of Denver Alumni Association gave him its highest honor, the Evans Award.

“Leo was a mentor to many current restaurant owners and employees,” said CRA president/CEO Peter Meersman. “He always put others first,” added Holly Arnold Kinney, whose late father, Sam Arnold, owner of The Fort, had been one of Goto’s best friends.

When his 5-year-old son, Mark, was killed in an accident in Detroit, Goto coped with his grief by volunteering at what is now Children’s Hospital Colorado.

“He spent so much time there, and helped so many families, that the staff started calling him Dr. Goto,” Adler said.

A former University of Denver trustee, Goto chaired the boards of the Colorado State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the Colorado-Wyoming Chefs d’Cuisine Association and the Colorado Board of Environmental Health.

In addition to daughter Leilani and her husband, Kevin Dobbins, of McDonough, Goto is survived by his son Tim and daughter-in-law Jennifer Goto of Highlands Ranch; brothers Ben and Al Goto; sisters Lillian Sato and Rose Sakurai; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Helen; his ex-wife, Linda died in November.

Read more: Leo Goto dies: Denver restaurateur was philanthropist and friend - The Denver Post <http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/c22733947/restaurateur-leo-goto-was-philanthropist-and-friend#ixzz2OnYXPU3e>

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*Leo Goto, right, with his then-wife Linda Goto, in a photo from 1998. (Denver Post file photo)*

## Floyd Mori Honored at Japanese Ambassador's Residence

At a special ceremony and reception on March 14, 2013, in Washington, D.C. at the residence of the Japan Ambassador, Mr. Shiro Floyd Mori received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette. Mr. Mori was among 46 foreign recipients of the 2012 Fall Imperial Decorations by the Government of Japan. The award was presented by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America, the Honorable Kenichiro Sasae. The honor was initiated by former Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, who retired from the post and returned to Tokyo in the fall of 2012.<sup>†</sup>

Mr. Mori, National Executive Director Emeritus and formerly National Executive Director and National President of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), was presented with the award in recognition of his significant contributions to the improvement of the status of Japanese Americans, strengthening of economic relations between Japan and the United States, and the promotion of Japanese culture in the United States. He was recognized for his work, through the JACL and Direct Relief International, in assisting Japan following the earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan in March 2011. He organized and established the first Nihon Matsuri (Japan Festival) in Salt Lake City and the first National JACL Gala in Washington, D.C.

Among a countless list of significant accomplishments, he has worked extensively with Japan business and government leaders and has made many trips to Japan. He has been in charge of taking government groups representing California and Utah on official visits to Japan. He represented the JACL, while National JACL President, along with former Vice President Dan Quayle who represented the United States at a ceremony in Tokyo with the Prime Minister of Japan to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Peace with Japan.

In 2005, Mr. Mori became the Director of Public Policy for the JACL, the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, in their Washington, D.C. office. He then served as National Executive Director until June 2012. JACL congratulates Mr. Mori on this significant achievement.



*Mr. Shiro  
Floyd Mori  
with  
the Honorable  
Kenichiro Sasae*



*Mr. Mori and  
his wife, Irene,  
listen on as  
former Secre-  
tary Norman  
Mineta speaks  
during the  
ceremony*

三世



*(Sansei Designs)*

**Saturday, April 27, 2013**

**10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Sakura Square-Denver, CO**

**(19th & 20th, Lawrence & Larimer)**

**Look for signs pointing to us in the  
Square!**

**Free parking & admission**

**A showcase of local  
Japanese-American  
artisans**

**Unique gift ideas - great for  
graduations, Mother's Day,  
weddings.....**

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[betty@bgsjapanesedesigns.com](mailto:betty@bgsjapanesedesigns.com)**

By [www.wallcoo.com](http://www.wallcoo.com)

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The Mile High Japanese American Citizens League would like to thank the following organizations for their tremendous donations and generosity!

*Isle Casino and Hotel  
KECI*

## 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



# 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](mailto: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!