



Japanese American Citizens League Mile Hi Chapter Notes

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Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Gov. Ralph Carr Memorial	2-3
Upcoming Events	3
JANM Accepts IMLS's National Medal	4
Nihongo-o Naraimashyou	4
Quarterly Social	5
Holiday Pictures and Stories	6
Recognition Luncheon	6
Cinema Asia Now On-Demand	6
OCA/JACL Lunar New Years Celebration	6
The Deification of North Korea's Father and Son	7-8
Teachers Education Workshop	8

President's Message



I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season! Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue Advertisement Sale. We appreciate your support and are grateful for your contributions that allow us to put on our various activities and events.

As 2010 comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone for another wonderful year. It has truly been a great year filled with many blessings and I have enjoyed having the opportunity to share many of them with you. I hope everyone takes a few minutes to reminisce about your joys from this past year as we welcome the new year and new decade.

Our first event of 2011 will be our quarterly social event. The event will take place on Saturday, January 22 from noon at the Volcano Asian Cuisine restaurant. Please see the article inside this newsletter for the details regarding this event. I hope that many of you will be able to join us for this quarterly gathering!

Sincerely,
Suzy Shimasaki
Mile Hi JACL President



Memorial for Colorado Gov. Ralph Carr Dedicated at Kenosha Pass

By: Gil Asakawa
www.nikkeiview.com

[Ralph Carr](#), the man who served as governor of Colorado at the start of World War II, had been largely forgotten for decades. But thanks to an effort by the Asian Pacific Bar Association (APABA) and a biography by journalist Adam Schrager, Carr's making a comeback in Colorado, and his legacy is finally getting its due, with a fine biography, a stretch of Highway 285 named in his honor, and now, a memorial to Carr's legacy at Kenosha Pass.

On December 12, representatives of Denver's Japanese American community, APABA, and CDOT assembled at a scenic overlook just a few hundred feet west of the Kenosha Pass summit on Highway 285 to dedicate the memorial.

It's a massive stone tribute engraved with a message that explains the significance of Ralph Carr to Colorado.

A rising star in the Republican Party during the 1930s, Carr was mentioned as a future presidential candidate when he famously became the only Western governor in the months following the bombing of Pearl Harbor to oppose first the harassment, and then the internment of Japanese Americans.

In fact, Carr invited people of Japanese ancestry, in speeches and through a letter published in the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper of the Japanese American Citizens' League, to come to Colorado where they would be welcomed. He protested the building of Colorado's only internment camp near the southeastern town of Granada. He defended the rights of Japanese Americans because of his staunch belief in the US Constitution (which means he wasn't so charitable on Japanese immigrants, but thought imprisonment of US-born citizens, the children of immigrants, was illegal).

Many believe he destroyed his political future by speaking out to protect Japanese Americans' civil rights, and he only got to serve one term as governor, under a deluge of hate mail and protests. He lost the governor's mansion in 1940 by a slim margin, lost a senate race in 1942 and died in 1950 while running again for governor.

In the immediate postwar years, Denver was one of the most popular destinations for Japanese Americans released from internment camps. They didn't want to go back to the West Coast where they'd faced racial bigotry and where many families lost all their possessions and businesses. Many headed for Colorado because they'd heard about Carr. Though within a decade, the population of Denver "Japantown" shrank as people did return to California and the Northwest, there was a large and vibrant Japanese community that stretched from the edge of downtown through Five Points all the way to City Park all through the 1950s and into the '60s.

Sakura Square, the downtown hub of Denver's Japanese community today, has featured a bust of Carr in its garden plaza since 1976, and there is a more recent bust on the east side of the State Capitol. But it was after the 2008 [publication](#) of journalist Adam Schrager's "The Principled Politician," a well-written and exhaustively researched biography of the governor, that Carr's legacy has been re-polished in earnest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mile Hi JACL Meeting

Thursday, January 6
7:00 p.m.
JAC Office
Sakura Square (2nd Fl)

Mile Hi JACL Day of Remembrance

Sunday, February 20

That year, both houses of the state legislature voted unanimously to rename a stretch of Highway 285 from Denver to Kenosha pass as the "Ralph Carr Memorial Highway," and a few months later Governor Bill Ritter signed a bill to name the new state judicial complex downtown the Ralph L. Carr Justice Center. The dedication of the memorial is icing on the historical cake.

The memorial, which was paid for by funds raised by APABA (under the leadership of now-Denver judge Kerry Hada) and individual donors, sits at a magnificent spot that looks out over the huge flat expanse of South Park (yes, the area that the cartoon lampoons), where Hwy 285 descends from Kenosha Pass and snakes its way eventually to New Mexico. Next to Carr's memorial is a smaller one that explains the significance of South Park to the Native Americans who

hunted there, and to early white explorers who mapped the area: Zebulon Pike in 1806 and JC Fremont in 1844.

Twenty people gathered at the memorial on Dec. 12 for the dedication. Among them were Colorado's Speaker of the House, who noted that history had proven that Carr was right in defending the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans in the face of the war hysteria of the times.

Judge Kerry Hada credited the Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Foundation for helping fund the memorial, and added his family's personal connection to Carr. "I spoke of my Uncle Roy, Auntie Yoshiko, Roy's younger brother Herb, and their families' tough trek from Los Angeles to Colorado to escape banishment to an internment camp," Hada writes in an email.

"I mentioned how Governor Carr welcomed them at the Colorado-New Mexico border. Governor Carr remained true to his word in welcoming Japanese Americans to Colorado, when every other western Governor threatened harm or punishment."

RALPH CARR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY—IN COMMEMORATION OF RALPH L. CARR, GOVERNOR OF COLORADO (1939-1943)

Following the attacks of Pearl Harbor, tens of thousands of Japanese Americans were forcibly sent to internment camps by the federal government. These Americans lost their property, possessions and freedoms unjustly and without due process. Defying overwhelming popular sentiment, Governor Ralph Carr defended U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry. His convictions were clear:

"When it is suggested that American citizens be thrown into concentration camps, where they lose all privileges of citizenship under the Constitution, then the principles of that great document are violated and lost."

-- Minoru Yasui

Japanese American National Museum Accepts IMLS's National Medal from First Lady Michelle Obama in D.C. Ceremonies



WASHINGTON, D.C.-The Japanese American National Museum was presented the Institute of Museums and Library Services' (IMLS) National Medal, the nation's highest honor for museums, by First Lady Michelle Obama in ceremonies at the White House on Friday, December 17, 2010. The National Medal was accepted by National Museum President & CEO Akemi Kikumura Yano, Board Chairman Emeritus Ernest Doizaki, and community member Paul Takemoto.

Institutions are presented with the National Medal by IMLS in recognition for their "extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions." The National Medal for Museum and

Library Service was created to underscore the important role played by these institutions throughout the nation. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums.

"The Japanese American National Museum is deeply honored as one of only 10 institutions to receive the IMLS' National Medal in 2010," Kikumura Yano stated.

To read more, go to:

<http://www.janm.org/press/release/256/>

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Nihongo-o Naraimashyou! (Let's Learn Japanese!)

Words of the Month:

Snowman: Yukidaruma (yu-ki-da-ru-ma)
Persimmon: Kaki (ka-ki)
December: Jyuinigatsu (jyu-ni-ga-tsu)

Mountain(s): Yama (ya-ma)
Tea: Ochya (o-chya)
New Years: Oshyougatsu (o-shyo-u-ga-tsu)

If you're interested in practicing Japanese, join the free Kaiwa (Conversation) Club of Japan America Society of Colorado at Buzz Café (1229 E 6th Ave.) every Wednesday from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm.

Quarterly Social

Our first activity for 2011 will be our quarterly social which is a casual luncheon that serves as a fun way for members and community to get together on a regular basis. These luncheons rotate between the northern, central, and southern parts of Metro Denver and are open to everyone.

We hope that many of you will be able to join us for this next gathering to greet the new year with close friends. In addition to our the great food and wonderful company, this quarterly social will include a brief presentation about the advocacy work our chapter plans to become involved in during the next year. Please see the details of the event and five different menu options below and let us know if you will be able to join us for this great event. We look forward to seeing many of you as we greet the new year!

When: Saturday, January 22nd
Where: Volcano Asian Cuisine
10440 E. Arapahoe Rd.
Centennial, CO 80112
Time: 11:30 am
Price: \$15 per person



MENU OPTIONS:

Sushi Lunch Combination

One shrimp tempura
 Four assorted nigiri sushi (2 pieces each)
 Choice of soup or salad

Hibachi Lunch Special

Includes hibachi vegetables; green tea; soup or salad; fried, brown, or steamed rice
 Choose 2: chicken, NY steak, salmon, sole, scallops, yaki udon, or shrimp

Chinese Lunch Options Below Include:

soup (hot and sour, miso, wonton, or egg drop); crispy California roll; fried, brown, or steamed rice

Beef and Scallops with Asparagus
 Royal Cashew Chicken (broccoli, sugar peas, and asparagus)
 Salmon Teriyaki

Please RSVP to Suzy Shimasaki with your lunch preference by
Friday, January 14 at milehiJACL@gmail.com or 858.361.6691

Payments can be made at the restaurant or sent to:
Richard Hamai at 333 E. 16th Ave., #613, Denver, CO 80203

Holiday Pictures and Stories



Did you have any fun adventures over the holidays or capture some great family photos? With your help, we hope to include a “Holiday Pictures and Stories” section in the January issue of the Mile Hi JACL newsletter. Please submit any photos, stories, or New Year’s greetings that you would like us to include in the next newsletter.

Submissions can be sent to Suzy Shimasaki at milehiJACL@gmail.com. All submissions must be received by Friday, January 14th.

Mile Hi JACL Recognition Luncheon—Save the Date!

The Mile Hi JACL’s annual Recognition Luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 17th. As our chapter’s signature event, this luncheon serves as an opportunity to recognize community leaders who have made significant contributions to the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities of Colorado. At the event, we will award one Kansha No Hi Award along with five Pacesetter Awards, one for each of the following categories: education, health, business, volunteer, and youth. Please save the date for this great event and stay tuned for further information about the event as well as how you can nominate someone for an award.

Cinema Asian America Now Available On-Demand

Comcast, one of our Associate Sponsors and a longtime supporter of the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, has launched Cinema Asian America, an On-Demand channel for great Asian American feature films and documentaries.

These aren't foreign films from China, Japan and Korea -- they're Asian American films that reflect both traditional Asian roots and American pop-culture branches. Each month, there will be a new selection of movies available.

It's especially great for those of us who live in Colorado, where we haven't had easy access (if any) to all the great movies that get screened on the West and East Coasts. We can finally get to see the films we've read about, and expand our library of experiences. You can see a trailer of the December films available from Cinema Asian America at: <http://www.youtube.com/cinemaasianamerica>

OCA/JACL Lunar New Year’s Celebration—Save the Date!

Welcome the Year of the Rabbit with OCA Colorado and Mile Hi JACL’s Lunar New Year Dinner. This annual dinner will be held at The Palace on Saturday, February 5, 2011. The evening will be filled with delicious dining and exciting entertainment. This is a not to be missed event and sells out every year, so stay tuned for details to follow on how to purchase your ticket!



The Deification of North Korea's Father and Son

By: Harry Budisidharta

On September 28, 2010, the Korean Workers' Party placed Kim Jong-un on both its Central Committee and Central Military Commission. The move, rumored for over a year, was widely seen as a way to position Kim Jong-un as the successor to his father, Kim Jong-il, the current leader of North Korea. Kim Jong-il, after reportedly suffering a stroke in 2008, passed over two older sons to select Kim Jong-un, who is believed to be in his late twenties. Kim Jong-il and Kim Jong-un appeared together at a military parade on October 10, 2010, further supporting the belief that Kim Jong-un is the chosen heir and North Korea's next ruler.

Very little factual information is known about Kim Jong-un at the moment other than his physical appearance and approximate age. Like his father, he reportedly shares a love of basketball. He may have received part of his education in Switzerland. That his identity is a blank slate means that any propaganda produced about him will be easier to assert and tougher to dispel. And it seems that his idolization in North Korea has already begun, with praise songs being composed about him in the same tradition as for his father and grandfather.

The world has witnessed this pattern of events before. Before Kim Jong-il assumed power in North Korea, that position was held for decades by his father Kim Il-sung. By his mid-twenties, Kim Jong-il had also joined the Korean Worker's Party and was a member of its Central Committee. It was during this time that he began to embrace the power of propaganda. Unsurprisingly, being Kim Il-sung's oldest son, Kim Jong-il was chosen as his father's successor. He was promoted to commander of North Korea's military just a few years before the death of his father in 1994, and officially assumed leadership in 1997. During his rise to power, mythology and propaganda surrounding Kim Jong-il and his family have flourished.

The outlandish tales and stories regarding Kim Jong-il seem to have as their purpose the deification of the man known as "Dear Leader," as well as his deceased father. After Kim Il-sung's death in 1994, the deceased man's title morphed from Great Leader to Eternal Leader and President for Eternity, and a myth was created about thousands of cranes from heaven that were moved by the outpouring of grief among North Koreans. Innumerable statues and images of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il populate North Korea. The place and time of Kim Jong-il's birth have been changed from Siberia, 1941 to a mountain in North Korea, 1942. There are also various stories that his birth was heralded by a swallow, marked by a double rainbow, and accompanied by the appearance of a bright star in the sky. Kim Jong-il's "election" as leader of the Workers' Party in 1997 reportedly caused trees to bloom in autumn. Even in his personal life, Kim Jong-il is said to have shot almost a dozen hole-in-ones during his first attempt at golf.

The glorious mythology surrounding Kim Jong-il stands in stark contrast to the conditions in his country. It has been estimated that up to 2 million North Koreans have died since the mid 1990's because of food shortages. Millions of others rely on foreign aid for sustenance. Because of malnutrition, North Koreans are several inches shorter, on average, than South Koreans. The state deals in torture and slave labor, and stands accused of holding hundreds of thousands of political prisoners.

The Deification of North Korea's Father and Son (cont.)

Kim Jong-un will face a choice if, as is expected, he becomes the ruler of North Korea: whether to continue the deification of his father and himself. While he may continue to urge the people under his rule to deify his father Kim Jong-il, even the step of refusing to deify himself would be a large advancement. A cult of personality is helpful in maintaining a stranglehold on leadership and its accompanying luxury, as Kim Jong-un's large figure seemingly attests. But he has also been the closest witness to the products of his father's rule – a North Korea increasing comprised of isolation, ignorance, and immeasurable suffering. These are hardly the gifts of a benevolent god.

Harry Budisidharta is a partner at the Law Firm of Balaban, Claeson & Budisidharta, LLP. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from California State University of Los Angeles, and his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Colorado Law School. Mr. Budisidharta practices in the area of civil and criminal litigation. Please send questions or comments to harry@denverfirm.com

Teachers Education Workshop

TEACHERS EDUCATION WORKSHOP

(DESIGNED FOR 4TH GRADE - 12TH GRADE TEACHERS)

SAVE THE DATE!

Several times in our nation's history, political leaders have been faced with balancing constitutional rights with issues of national security. Many factors have influenced these decisions including prejudice, public hysteria created by a national emergency, skewed information and data, the media, and the judgments made by our political leaders.

Sponsored by:
Mile Hi Japanese American Citizens League



Supported by:
Asian Education Advisory Council
Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado
Japanese Association of Colorado
University of Denver

The Workshop Will Feature the Following Topics:

- Brief Overview of Our Diversifying Communities
- The Japanese American Experience
- Panel Reflection on the Impact of Internment on Future Generations
- Informing Future Policies
- Classroom Lessons Plans

Date: Saturday, February 19, 2011
Time: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Location: Denver, CO
Registration Cost: \$20

(Registration includes lunch and curriculum binder.)

For more information, contact the
Mile Hi Japanese American Citizens League:
milehi@ACL@gmail.com