

February 2009

www.milehijacl.org

Japanese American Citizens League

Mile-Hi Notes

Mile-Hi Chapter

Thank you for your support!!



We, the co-editors, thank all of our readers for the continued support and compliments forwarded to us with each publication of the Mile-Hi JACL Notes for the past nine years.

This February issue will be our **last** publication and we are pleased to turn the assignment over to the new editor(s), who our President appoints.

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We sincerely appreciate the talented authors who eagerly contributed interesting articles in a timely manner when requested.



L/R: Matt, Mary, Jerry, Adam, Sam and Jeff

We thank Jeff and the staff at the Rocky Mountain Printing Office in Boulder for the excellent printing service they provided to us at the best price in town.

We thank Lan Donovan from the Wells Fargo Bank in Denver for consistently helping our JACL by mailing free of charge our monthly publications to those readers who do not have e-mail.



Most of all, we appreciated our readers who helped us trim our costs and work by supplying us with their e-mail addresses. There is a lot of work and effort involved in publishing a newsletter, finding a reasonable printer, taking the issues to the printer, folding, taping and labeling the notes for distribution in addition to keeping three separate files for membership—one for e-mail, one for snail mail and one for the entire membership. Thank you and Happy New Year!!

Mile-Hi JACL
2360 Vineyard Place
Boulder, CO 80304

Alley and Yoshimi Watada

Events

General Board Meeting
March 5, 2009
7:00 pm
Rich Castro Building
1200 Federal Avenue
Denver, CO

OCA/JACL Chinese New Year Banquet
Saturday, February 7, 2009
Palace Chinese Restaurant

Day of Remembrance
Sunday, February 22, 2009
University of Denver

Upcoming Events

Installation and Recognition Banquet
April, 2009

AJAC Graduation Program
June 14, 2009

Cherry Blossom Festival
June 27-28, 2009

President's Message

by Charmaine Palmer



VOLUNTEERS CREATE SUCCESS

As we inaugurate our forty-fourth President of the United States, he is inspiring us to volunteer. This organization depends on our volunteers, and for that I am grateful to have so much support from all of you. I can honestly say that ninety percent of the time I hear, "Yes, I can be there, what else do you need." I cannot tell you how privileged I am to have all of you standing ready for the projects that we do around our community. I extend to you many thanks and my appreciation is boundless. My heart is full to know I have those of you there standing ready.

In the coming months we will have projects come along, and with your help, we can do some good for our community. President Obama is hoping that each person volunteer a minimum of 5 hours a year. I know that many of you give more than that, so most of us are ahead of the game. For those of you that don't, we would appreciate your support at any of the events throughout the year. I am just asking you to pick one and be there. If each member volunteered for one event per year, it would take the load off of those that volunteer for nearly every event. The last thing I want to do is burnout our volunteers. If you believe in JACL, now is the time for you to make that pledge to help us out. I know that many of you don't want to chair an event, but if you come and help out, we would appreciate your time and commitment, sometimes we just need people on the day of the event.

The Day of Remembrance will be on Sunday, February 22 at the University of Denver. We hope all of you will come out to attend the program that will feature Amache and the University of Denver Professor Bonnie Clark of Anthropology and her graduate students. They have been working hard to uncover information about the camp as they were down there for a month the past summer. This will be their presentation on what was uncovered. The program begins at 1:00P.M. and will end at 3:00P.M. We thank the Simpson Church for providing the refreshments.

Also on our calendar is the OCA/JACL Chinese New Year's Banquet on Saturday, February 7 at the Palace Chinese Restaurant on Evans. We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate and have some fun.

Also a quick reminder, our Installation Banquet has been moved to from January to April. Our Mistress of Ceremonies will be Adele Arakawa and our speaker will be Adam Schrager, author of *The Principled Politician*, *The Ralph Carr Story*. The festivities will begin at noon on April 5 at the Renaissance Denver Hotel, 3801 Quebec, Denver. We will be mailing the reservation form for the banquet next month.

Thank you again for those of you that give our organization endless hours of help. I truly appreciate it.



Membership & Hospitality

Thank you! We took over the Co-Membership Chair in April of last year during a rough transition from Sumi Takeno who had been the membership chairman for over 20 years. Thank you for your patience and support during the transition of membership chairs and Mile-Hi JACL membership renewal process change. Everything is running smoothly now and should be easy for the new Membership Chair to take over—best wishes to them.

Welcome New Members: Bruce and Barbara Tawara, natives of Denver, have a daughter, Carissa, who is attending Jefferson County Charter School and will be going to Univ. of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA in the fall. Bruce has a Finance degree and is a residential Realtor with Weichert Realtors, Unique Homes in Greenwood Village. Barbara has a Master's Degree in Education, had retail responsibilities in the family carpet business and stationary store, and currently is enjoying raising her daughter. She also spends time with special need students in the Denver Public system. For enjoyment, Bruce repairs homes and cars, Barbara grows flowers and bonsais, and Carissa likes to go horse back riding and reading.

Suzy Shimasaki was born in Okayama, Japan but grew up in San Diego, CA with her older brother and parents. She recently moved to Colorado after graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles with her Masters in Public Health with an emphasis in health services policy and management. Suzy now works as the Resource Coordinator for the Equality in Health Initiative at The Partnership for Families & Children in downtown Denver. She has been a long time volunteer for Youth to Youth and the American Cancer Society and is also trilingual in Japanese, English, and American Sign Language.

Robin Yasui, M.D., and Ray Estacio, M.D. have four children; Adam Minoru Yasui Estacio, Camille Michiko Yasui Estacio, Marcus Masuo Yasui Estacio, and Elise-Isabella Miyake Yasui. Robin is the Director of Geriatrics at Denver Health Medical Center and Ray is the Director of Medical Affairs at the Colorado Prevention Center and physician at Denver Health. The family enjoys a long association with the JACL through other family members and is now excited in taking part directly in the organization activities.

As we look back at 2008, here are activities of a few of our members.

Sumi Takeno relinquished membership chair position after 20 years, when there were 70 members; now over 200.

Charmaine Palmer was elected President of Mile-Hi Chapter; we think she is the second female to hold this office.

Bruce Tawara said in the Feb. 2008 issue of Mile-Hi Notes, *"If the current environment is left unattended, a spiral effect will hit the entire American economy as jobs will be lost with the lending industry, in the building industry, and within the building materials industry, stocks will continue to fall, etc."* **Did you take heed and put your assets into cash?or did you read the newsletter?**

Sabbatical. Richard Hamai had a torn retina, took a sabbatical to Europe and had R&R in Las Vegas.

Travelers. George and Mary Masunaga went on a Panama Canal cruise with **Laura Urano. Frank and Toe Sakamoto** toured Turkey. **Charmaine and Mike Palmer** spent the summer in Europe and December holiday in Hawaii. **Gladys and Frank Konishi** spent couple of weeks each in spring and December in Phoenix, AZ and Easter and Thanksgiving in Tennessee. **Jayne Yoshimura** spent a month twice this year in New York.

Congratulations again to **Kerry Hada** for his appointment to the National Board of Governors of the Japanese American National Museum and as the Denver County Court Judge...and to **Aya Medrud** for her Lifetime Achievement Award by the Boulder Chamber of Commerce.

Young Professionals' Page

by Ian Watada

International Travel was Fantastic and Educational



Ian and Ashley Michelson
(CU student) in Athens

This past Summer I had the opportunity of initially touring Europe and then going to Prague for a study program. The tour allowed us to visit London, Paris, France, French Riviera, Northern Italy, Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Amsterdam.

The tour started with an orientation program in London. At that moment, I didn't know that I was going to meet 50 new amazing friends. The next morning we departed for Paris at six in the morning. Upon our arrival in Paris, I had butterflies in my stomach. I was so excited to finally start my travels. I still remember the first time I saw the Eiffel Tower; I got chills throughout my whole body. It was so surreal. I knew right then and there that this would be something that I would never forget. Out of all of my stops Paris was one of my favorites, not only because of all of the sites, but it was really where I began to get to know the people that I was traveling with.

Most of the travelers were mainly from Australia and New Zealand; there were a few of us from USA. At first I was hesitant of telling others that I was from America because of all of the stereotypes that come with being an American. It never really came up and when I told my new friends where I was from, they thought that I was a Canadian. They really had that perception that all Americans were ignorant. I was happy to show them that not all are. Unfortunately there were a couple of other Americans that had that image. As I watched them during our travels, I think that they realized that there is so much more to the world than just the "American" way. I know that I learned a lot from the trip and it really made me appreciate all that I had back home.

After the tour, I flew to Prague to start my studies. Prague was completely different than the other places that I visited. While people were friendly, they kept to themselves. The Czech Republic was rebuilding from coming out of the Communist regime and there was still that feeling throughout the culture. It was difficult to talk with the citizens because of language barrier; I didn't know any Czech. One thing that I had learned traveling around is that you gain a lot of respect if you at least try to speak their language. So I did my best and made it work.

I met new people while in Prague. Twelve students that I was living and studying with were either from CSU or CU. We quickly bonded together and became kind of a family. We had class Monday through Thursday and had three day weekends. One weekend, we went on an unforgettable trip to Athens. It was so beautiful and really cool to get the chance to see both Rome and Athens in the same trip.

All in all I had an amazing time that I will never forget. The people that I met on my tour and in my studies will be friends for life. I still keep in touch with my "mates" through Facebook, and the friends in my studies I see on campus and am even dating one of the girls that I studied with. I learned so much about myself and it has bettered me in the sense that I am more cultured and I have a new appreciation for everything that I have in life. Currently my travel plans are on hold due to trying to graduate in the spring but I already have a list of places that I want to visit in the future. If you get the chance to travel, I highly encourage going. It is an experience that you will never forget!

NOTE: Ian is currently a senior at Colorado State University and can be contacted at ijwatada@hotmail.com.

Internment Camps

In the November 2008 issue of the Mile-Hi Note, we indicated in the National Park article the approximate site where Ukrainians were interned during WWI. Harry Honda informed us about how the Japanese Canadians were treated and interned in the similar area during WWII. Here are his comments. *Editors.*

Japanese in Canada during WWII

by *Harry Honda*



Last summer I visited Amache during the Japanese American National Museum's conference in Denver, and said it took me 65 years to visit all ten WRA camps. I concluded: "With Dr. Midge Ayukawa of Victoria, B.C., as guide, a small group of Californians on a tour bus visited all 17 Japanese Canadian detention campsites, the only assembly center at Hastings Park in Vancouver, plus traveling over portions of the three highway projects in British Columbia inside one week in September 2000."

The upheaval of Pearl Harbor resulted in the "exile" (as Japanese Canadians refer to the forced removal inland at least 100 miles) of Japanese families along the coastal areas of British Columbia. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) wielded the whip. A week after our E.O. 9066, the federal government at Ottawa cut an "order-in-council" to legalize the work of the British Columbia Security Commission, comparable to our WRA, comprised of five men whose last-name initials (TASHME) was dubbed for the camp of shacks east of Hope, just over 100 miles from Vancouver.

As there were no roads in Canada then connecting the Coast and the Prairies, the liberals and lobbyists decreed the Japanese be sent to remote sites to work on building highways cheaply.

By February 1942, Japanese fishermen and farmers were assembled at Hastings Park (now the Pacific National Exhibition Park). Curtains and blankets provided the only privacy for women and children. Smell of horse manure prevailed. A food strike to improve the lack-luster diet had little effect. So, an underground Japanese eatery operated.

Those in the city were prohibited from leaving their home from dusk to dawn. Those who disobeyed faced a jail sentence. Cars, radios and cameras were to be surrendered. Telephone operators warned not to converse in Japanese. They all waited for orders of when to leave.

"For Japanese Canadians, the rights of citizenship, such as they were, ceased to exist," summarized Toyo Takata in his book, *Nikkei Legacy, The story of Japanese Canadians from Settlement to Today* (1983). "German and Italian aliens, for the most part, remained free to come and go."

When the call came, able-bodied men, between the military age 18 and 45, volunteered to work on three immediate road projects. Pay was 25 cents per hour from which board was deducted.

- (1) Improving the Hope-Princeton mountain dirt road to two lanes hugging the U.S.-Canada border (now Trans-Canada #3) and building many bridges over creeks and ravines.
- (2) Connecting the Yellowhead-Blue River Road (now Trans-Canada #5 from Kamloops north) with entry into Jasper National Park, west of the Continental divide; and
- (3) Revelstoke-Sicamous Highway, a 12-mile stretch crossing the Rockies, adding another lane to the existing road

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Japanese in Canada during WW2

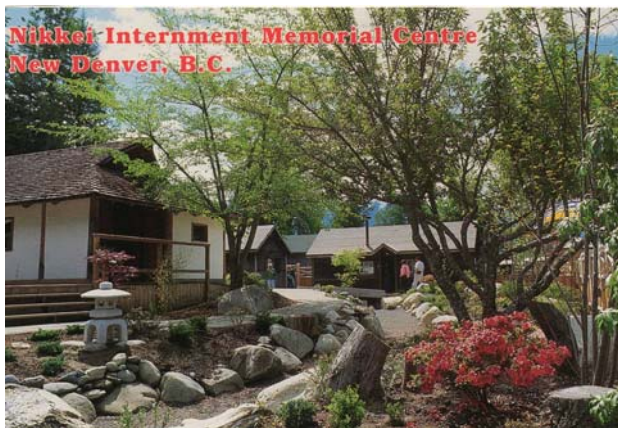
by the Canadian Pacific Railroad tracks. Government consistently feared Japanese Nationals might sabotage road building but it did not happen.

First movement of Japanese to the interior began in April by train and riverboat. Provinces of Alberta and Manitoba accepted thousands for their labor-starved sugar beet farms. But most were to resettle in the interior of British Columbia.

Father Benedict, a Franciscan who ministered to Japanese Catholics in Vancouver and Steveston (the Japanese fishing colony), wanting his flock to stick together, negotiated with Security commission for his group to evacuate en masse to Greenwood (now a thriving city on Trans-Canada #3 above Spokane), a ghost town then of 200 willing to accommodate a thousand Japanese. As the government only provided schools from K-8, the Franciscan sisters opened the high school at Greenwood.

And there were only two Mounties posted at both ends of the one road in and out of Greenwood during the war. In midst of the Canadian Rockies, none of the ten WWII U.S. camps could match this surrounding. A visit at the town's small museum today also recounts the time when the movie, "Snow Falls on Cedars," was filmed there to depict Japanese American life just before the war.

Other denominations followed suit: United Church group at Kaslo, Anglicans at Slocan City, Buddhists at Sandon, though none was exclusive to one faith. Some found shelter and jobs in Okanagan Valley, the fruit basket of western Canada, or logging and sawmill operations east of Kamloops.



At Slocan, bordering Slocan Lake filled with fish, the evacuees were prohibited from fishing—unlike the tales heard at Manzanar, Poston or Rohwer where they left the barracks and went fishing in the Sierra mountain creeks, the Colorado River or in the bayous of Arkansas.

Above Slocan and bordering the lake, New Denver embraced the tubercular pavilion, medical and supporting staff. In sharp contrast to dreary wards of the city and miracle drugs, most patients made remarkable recoveries. It was the last camp to close. Today, New Denver is a Canadian National Heritage Site (see photos), worthy of a visit by any Japanese American (about 100 miles north after crossing the border from US 395).



Of the tragic story of Japanese Canadians in World War II, of the confiscation of property that the government used to maintain the camps, of the trouble makers sent to Angler, a PW camp in upper Ontario, of the choice from British Columbia in January 1945 (the war was still raging) to Issei repatriation, to Nisei expatriation to Japan after the war (the first group of nearly 700 sailed from Vancouver in May, 1946), and finally allowed to return to Vancouver in 1949, a leisurely stop today at the Japanese Canadian National Museum in Burnaby, east of Vancouver, is certain to have you compare life experiences worth a trek to our cousins in Canada.

Upcoming Events

Amache Archeology 2009 Day of Remembrance Program

February 22, 2009, Sunday, 1-3 p.m.

Craig Hall Community Room, 2148 S. High Street, Univ. of Denver



By Dana Shew

The Day of Remembrance, first created in Seattle in 1978, acknowledges the February 19, 1942 signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This order set into motion the unconstitutional incarceration of over 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry between 1942 and 1945. During this day we remember the injustice suffered by the Japanese American community in order to prevent similar injustices from happening to any group of people today or in the future. It is a time to honor the experiences of the Issei and Nisei that endured an unwarranted internment and it also serves as a time to promote education, encourage activism, and support the continued fight against civil rights violations.

This year the University of Denver will host a Day of Remembrance event. The program will include reflections by community members and an overview of current anthropological research at the Amache internment camp. A reception and open house with exhibits of artifacts from Amache will follow the program. Directions and maps available at www.du.edu/maps.

For more information please contact: dshew@du.edu.

Installation Luncheon

April 5, 2009, Sunday, 12:00 pm
Renaissance Hotel
3801 Quebec, Denver, CO

Adel Arakawa, 9News Co-Ancor
Mistress of Ceremony

Adam Schrager,
Keynote Speaker
Author of

“The Principled Politician: The Ralph Carr Story”

Contact Charmaine Palmer, 303-449-8526 for queries



Doll & Cultural Festival

March 7 and March 8, 2009, 11:30a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Simpson United Methodist Church
6001 Wolfe Street
Arvada, CO



Leadership Development

Everyone has leadership capability and the capability can be enhanced and strengthened by taking leadership development programs. These programs are available thru your professional organization, employer, or consultants. The National JACL also has a series of programs for leadership development of Asian Americans, which students and young leaders are urged to attend.

For long time/senior JACL members, inform your children, grandchildren, grandnephews/nieces and other younger generation of these opportunity. Only requirement is that they join JACL, which can be done by contacting Mile-Hi JACL President Charmaine Palmer at alohagirlfriend@gmail.com

See www.JACL.org for details on the following:

The goal of the JACL leadership programs is to develop and maintain a source of effective leadership for positive social change. To accomplish this, the JACL offers young leaders seminars in Washington, D.C and fellowship opportunities to work in JACL and in congressional offices to individuals who have demonstrated an interest in Asian American community activism.

JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference

The JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference is structured to provide a broad overview of the decision-making process at the federal level. Participants are briefed on legislative issues affecting the Asian Pacific American (APA) community and will examine the role Asian Pacific American civil rights organizations such as JACL and OCA play in affecting public policy and pursuing civil rights legislation in the nation's capital.

Mike Honda Fellowship

This new fellowship will be focused on JACL's advocacy and public policy awareness/programming, education and work on projects associated with the JACL National Youth Student Council. The Mike Honda Fellowship will be in the Los Angeles office of the JACL.

Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund is to develop leaders for public service by providing opportunities for college seniors or students in graduate or professional programs to work for a Member of Congress or a Senator.

Ford Fund Program Fellowship

The Ford Fund Program Fellowship was established to enhance and develop skills of an emerging JACL leader by providing an opportunity to work on National JACL programs on education, hate crimes and leadership in the JACL Midwest Office located in Chicago.

Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship

The Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship is assigned at the Washington DC JACL office and assists on public policy issues important to the Asian American community and will coordinate JACL/OCA chapter activities related to child/teen auto safety programs promoted by State Farm.

History

Many incidents on racial bias and prejudice have occurred in the past and many are documented. However, most of these events are not recognized nor remembered unless they are publicized like the 'Day of Remembrance'. Below are two events that we bring to your attention.

The Toledo Incident of 1925: Three Days That made History in Toledo, Oregon

This book, written by Ted W. Cox in 2005, describes how Japanese families were forcefully moved out of Toledo, Oregon in 1925. The Introduction is written by Stefan Tanaka, who published an essay entitled *The Toledo Incident: Deportation of the Nikkei from an Oregon Mill Town* in the 1978 *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*.

In July 1925, Pacific Spruce Corporation of Toledo, Oregon, brought in Japanese workers for the "green chain" operation, a back breaking job, which the mill had difficulty keeping reliable men at these stations. The Toledo residents were against using Japanese workers (or maybe allowing Japanese people to move into Toledo) had meetings on this issue with the Pacific Spruce, and finally used physical force to move the Japanese families out of Toledo.

This incident was investigated by the Japanese Association of Oregon and Portland Council of Churches. During the following 12 months, trials ensued against those involved in the expulsion of the Japanese families. Base of the trial was the 1911 Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Japan and the United States. This treaty guaranteed Japanese residents the right to reside and work within the U.S. under the protection of American law – including the Issei right to live in peace without fear of unlawful invasion. The trial resulted in charges against 6 of the 9 defendants and Japanese families were allowed to return to Toledo, but none did.

For this book go to www.oldworldpublications.com

Stigma of Japanese American war internees in U.S. lingers

Dan Yoshi, Mile-Hi JAACL member, sent us an article from the Kyodo News by Takaki Tominaga (*The Japan Times* ONLINE) and following is the synopsis of the article.

Haruo Kawate, 61, knew his USA born father Masao Kawate was held in the Tulelake internment camp, but did not know the details until he uncovered documents in a trunk in his home in Mitaka, Japan.

Haruo did not know that his father Masao was sent to isolated prison camps for fighting against the legality of a questionnaire used for judging whether Japanese Americans were loyal to the U.S.

Masao was one of the leaders of an opposition movement called the No-No Boys, the nickname given to those who refused to answer or answered no to questions 27 and 28 on the questionnaire. Questions were confusing to many because they thought the answer yes to question 27 meant they were signing up for draft and they answered no to question 28 because they thought it was a trap.

Masao was interned at Tule Lake and then sent to prison in Moab, Utah and the later to a prison in Leupp, Arizona for his role in the opposition movement. To learn more about the people interned at Tule Lake, Takaki attended Tule Lake Pilgrimage two years ago.

For the complete article, see *The Japan Times*, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2008. <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/print/nn20081119f2.html>

Our Challenges as Co-editors

We had two challenges when we started writing the Mile-Hi Notes about 9 years ago; 1) Lack of experience in journalism, and 2) Limited budget.

Alley, as a research scientist, wrote many scientific research articles, but they were not interesting or appealing to the layman. Yoshimi, as systems accountant, wrote many directives and user manuals using accounting/computer language, so her articles also did not appeal to the general public.

As for the budget, Richard Hamai, Treasurer, restricted our expenditures to printing cost and small miscellaneous office items such as paper, ink cartridges, tapes, etc. and insisted we stay within a nonexistent budget!

So our challenges were to write an interesting newsletter that was prepared within a limited nonexistent budget.

In 2000, we had only one computer, which Alley used continuously for his consulting work. So Yoshimi purchased a computer, printer, scanner, and a desktop publisher software to start her hobby of preparing the newsletter.

To reduce the cost of printing and time for folding, taping, addressing the newsletter and taking them to Lan Donovan in Denver for mailing, we sent the newsletter by email to those who gave us their email address.

For speed and improvement of photos, Alley (our official photographer) went from a film type camera in 2001 to a small digital camera and finally to a SLR digital camera. Then Yoshimi added good photos and some clip-arts to the articles, which definitely made the newsletters more attractive.

We rewrote the newsletters several times before sending to print to make certain that they were readable... ..we haven't received any complaint...however, maybe no one is reading it.

We enjoyed putting together the newsletters over the past 9 years and we hope that some entertaining and useful information were transmitted to you.

Since we are now perfect, but **losing steam** we must pass this opportunity of writing the newsletter to others...and our best wishes to them!!!

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MILE-HI NOTES

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Acknowledgement: Thanks to
the Wells Fargo Bank and Lan
Donovan for graciously providing
postage and mailing the Mile-Hi
Notes.