



Japanese American Citizens League Mile Hi Chapter Notes

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President's Message



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and that you are all off to a great start to 2011. To those who were born in the year of the rabbit, I hope you have an especially great year!

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our recent membership survey. We had a great response rate and received a lot of valuable feedback. The results indicated that our primary area for improvement is our work around political advocacy; our secondary area for improvement is our social events. As such, our board has committed to making these priority areas for 2011. For this reason, we kicked-off the year with a quarterly social that included a presentation from our Advocacy Chair regarding our current advocacy efforts (please see the article on page 5 from our Advocacy Chair for further details). Thank you to everyone who participated.

In addition to our advocacy efforts, we have many great events coming up in which I hope all of you can participate. These events include the OCA/JACL Lunar New Year Banquet, Teachers Education Workshop, Intermountain District Council meeting, and Recognition Luncheon. Please refer to the sections for each of these events for further details. You can also find this information on our website: www.MileHijACL.org.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who participated in our election. I am proud to announce our 2011 Board of Directors and Officers (please note that my term as President will be concluding at the end of February):

Newly Elected/Re-elected Board Members: Bonnie Clark, Pat Hayashi (Secretary), Jinny Kim, Tom Migaki, Ryan Ogi (Youth Representative), Charmaine Palmer, Gary Yamashita, & Jayne Yoshimura

Continuing Board Members: Gil Asakawa, Harry Budisidharta (President), Richard Hamai (Treasurer), Aya Medrud, Frank Sakamoto, Kimiko Side, Mike Shibata, Suzy Shimasaki, Mark Shimoda, Marge Taniwaki, Jin Tsuchiya (VP of Programs), & Elyse Yamauchi (VP of Membership)

Please join me in welcoming our new board members and officers. Biographies on these individuals will be sent out in the near future.

Sincerely,
Suzy Shimasaki
Mile Hi JAACL President

LSAT Scholarship

The Center for Legal Inclusiveness (CLI), in partnership with the Colorado Pledge to Diversity, the Association of Corporate Council - Colorado Chapter, and Kaplan Test Prep, will provide four LSAT scholarships to diverse students. The scholarship covers the cost of the Kaplan review course, registration for the LSAT exam, and one law school application. With these scholarships and CLI's other Pipeline programs, we hope to increase the number of diverse students who attend law school and become attorneys. **Please note the deadline to apply is March 1, 2011 for the June 2011 LSAT exam.**

To find out more about the LSAT Diversity Scholarship, the CLI, and other scholarship opportunities, visit www.centerforlegalinclusiveness.org (Law In Colorado Tab – Studying in Colorado).

Kaplan Will Help You Explain the LSAT Exam Process

As you conduct your Dream Team outreach this semester, keep in mind that Brandyn Koeber, our local Kaplan representative is willing to give short (10 minute) explanations about the LSAT Exam process to your students. Schedule with Brandyn and mention CLI. Phone: 720-413-7246; email Brandyn.Koerber@Kaplan.com.

Free Practice LSAT Test

On Saturday, February 19 and 26, Kaplan is holding a free practice LSAT for students. This practice test event will include: proctoring like the actual exam; a workshop on test strategies; receive test scores the same day; and computerized feedback on performance. To sign up e-mail Brandyn.Koerber@Kaplan.com the following: 1. Name; 2. Home address; 3. E-mail; 4. Phone number; 5. Which test you would like to take; and 6. Practice Test Date.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Juarez at the Center for Legal Inclusiveness: 303.607.3870 or ajuarez@legalinclusiveness.org

CLI Website: www.centerforlegalinclusiveness.org

Teachers Education Workshop

The Mile Hi Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is sponsoring a teacher education workshop to enhance awareness of the Japanese American experience and the impact it has on future generations and policies. The workshop being held at the University of Denver will:

- Meet History State Content Standards, especially for high school and grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8
- Will provide a certificate for eight (8) clock hours of professional development credit
- Provide a curriculum binder and lunch for the minimal cost of \$20 for the day's experience
- Be moderated by renowned speaker Mako Nakagawa from Seattle, WA
- Include a panel discussion by Japanese Americans who were placed inside an internment camp, lived outside of the internment camps, and lived in Japan during the war

We invite teachers to join us for a day of enlightened learning on a topic that was a dark time in American history.

For more information and to download the registration form, please visit: www.MileHiJACL.org.

You can also email MileHiJACL@gmail.com for any questions.

Rocky Mountain JET Alumni Association Shinnen Bunkasai

Saturday, February 5th, 2011 at Simpson United Methodist Church from 1-4pm

The Rocky Mountain JET Alumni Association will be welcoming in the new year, Japanese style, at their annual Shinnen Bunkasai (New Year's Cultural Event)!

This year they will be doing a curry cook-off. So for those interested, please come with your delicious concoctions; otherwise, be ready to enjoy some curry and an assortment of Japanese New Year foods. A small gift will be awarded to the winner of the cook-off! They will also be hosting a Japanese taiko drumming performance by Mirai Daiko and a traditional Japanese folk dance performance at the event. There will be other activities for kids as well.

The cost is \$3 for all JETs and \$5 for family/friends and other interested persons. However, the entry fee will be waived for all those participating in the cook-off.

** E-MAIL secretary@rmjetalumni.org IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE CURRY COOK-OFF**

Day of Remembrance Event

By: David Garrison

The University of Denver and the Mile Hi Japanese American Citizens League will co-host a Day of Remembrance event on Sunday, February 20, 2011 from 1-3 pm. The event acknowledges the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This order set into motion the unconstitutional incarceration of over 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry between 1942 and 1945.

This year's program will focus on education in the internment camps, especially the role of art and art education. Keynote speakers will be noted scholars Jan Ziegler and Gina Wenger. Dr. Ziegler is the author of *The Schooling of Japanese American Children at Relocation Centers during World War II*, winner of the Adele Mellen Prize. Dr. Wenger is currently researching arts education in all of the 10 Japanese American internment camps, including the camp located in Colorado, Amache. A reception and open house with exhibits of objects from archaeological research at Amache will follow the program.

The event will be held at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law: 2255 E. Evans Avenue, Denver, CO. Directions to the event can be found at: <http://law.du.edu/index.php/directions>

For more information about the Day of Remembrance and the keynote speakers, please visit the DU Amache project website at: <http://portfolio.du.edu/amache>



JACL/OCA Leadership Conference

Congratulations to Jinny Kim and Harry Budhisidharta who have been selected to participate in the JACL/OCA National Leadership Conference. Jinny Kim will be representing the JACL Intermountain District Council and Harry Budhisidharta will be representing OCA Colorado. We are very proud that two of our board members have been selected to participate in this distinguished event and look forward to learning about their experience.

Mile Hi JACL Recognition Luncheon

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 check out our website: www.MileHijACL.org for details on the event as well as how you can nominate someone for an award.

Asia Day at CU Boulder

Saturday, March 12, 2011. 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Asia Day 2011. Sponsored by the Center for Asian Studies and supported by The Program for Teaching East Asia, this interactive day will include performances of Asian music and dance; talks about different Asian countries; and a children's reading room featuring children's stories from Asia. This event is free and will take place at Eaton Humanities on CU Boulder campus. For more information, visit www.colorado.edu/cas/asiaday.html.

2011 Japan Cup

The Japan America Society of Colorado will hold this competition of Japanese language on April 16, 2011, at the University of Denver. For more information, visit www.jascolorado.org/events.php.

OCA/JACL Lunar New Year's Celebration

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. If you have not yet purchased a ticket, please email MileHijACL@gmail.com to check availability of seats.



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

Words of the Month:

Happy New Year: Akemashite omedetougozaimasu (a-ke-ma-shi-te o-me-de-to-u-go-za-i-ma-su)

January: Ichigatsu (i-chi-ga-tsu)

Celebration: Oiwai (o-i-wa-i)

Birthday: Otanjyoubi (o-ta-n-ji-yo-u-bi)

Cheers: Kanpai (ka-n-pa-i)

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.

Japanese Association of Colorado Annual New Year's Banquet

Please reserve the date Saturday, Feb 12, 2011 for the JAC Annual New Year Banquet at the Empress Seafood Restaurant.

\$25 per person

Please RSVP by February 5th to Mary Nishiyama (303.433.1638) or Kent Kuroda (303.423.7666).

They're featuring the Jazz and Folk Singer, Akemi Iwase, known for her singing in Las Vegas and Japan, and her modern interpretation of Traditional Japanese Folk Songs.

You won't want to miss this!

Mile Hi JACL's New Advocacy Efforts

The Japanese American Citizens League has a long tradition of engaging in policy work around civil rights issues for decades - and we should all be proud of the groundwork that has been laid, and the successes our organization has been able to achieve for all Asian Americans. Whether in Colorado, or at the National level, the JACL is one of the preeminent national organizations in voicing concerns around social justice issues - and with 2011 now upon us, and with so much at stake this year, I believe it is time for our Chapter to engage in these efforts as well.

The Board of the Mile Hi chapter have been engaged in discussions centered on the types of advocacy work we can engage in. Further, we have discussed the issues that would necessitate our activism. Therefore, our Chapter will be running an aggressive, albeit small, advocacy program.

At the national level, the JACL has taken part in advocacy efforts against Arizona's controversial immigration legislation (Senate Bill 2010 - 1070). That particular legislation, unfortunately, has given rise to similar efforts in other states - Colorado included. State Senator Kent Lambert of Colorado Springs has decided to run a bill this Legislative Session to implement a similar law in the Centennial State. My belief is that it is imperative to stop his efforts.

Our program this year will exhibit a strong effort to lobby against such legislation in all arenas, from the Capitol Dome to town halls and the editorials of our local newspapers. Let it be known now that we intend to fight for a just resolution - one that extends far beyond the purview of Asian American communities.

But, no good advocacy effort has been accomplished by one person alone. Our chapter, as vibrant as it is, doesn't have the resources or capacity to effectively run such a program. However - we do have the necessary ingredient for success: People.

I am asking for the members of the JACL in Colorado to volunteer their time and resources for this effort. Our work, be it in coalition, or alone, is no small task. When there's power in numbers...

If you are interested in engaging in advocacy work this year, please contact the Chapter's VP of Programs, Jin Alexander Tsuchiya by e-mail at jin.tsuchiya@gmail.com or by phone at (847) 224-4935.

Thank you,
Jin Alexander Tsuchiya
VP of Programs and Advocacy Chair

The Intermittent Freedom of Aung San Suu Kyi

By: Harry Budisidharta

On November 13, 2010, Burma's military junta released Aung San Suu Kyi from her latest house arrest sentence. As a large crowd of her supporters gathered to show their support, voices from the international community also heralded her new freedom. President Obama referred to Suu Kyi as a "hero" and "source of inspiration." But like many, President Obama also cautioned that "[w]hether Aung San Suu Kyi is living in the prison of her house, or the prison of her country, does not change the fact that she, and the political opposition she represents, has been systematically silenced, incarcerated, and deprived of any opportunity to engage in political processes that could change Burma."

Suu Kyi has spent much of the past two decades either being held in detention or serving sentences of house arrest. The timing and length of her periods of confinement have depended wholly on the whims of Burma's military junta and how secure it feels in its power. As the General Secretary for the National League for Democracy, Suu Kyi's first detention began on July 20, 1989, less than a year after the junta took power in a military coup, and less than a year before Burma's 1990 elections. When the National League for Democracy won a landslide victory in the 1990 elections, the junta ignored the results. Instead, it retroactively amended its justification for retraining Suu Kyi, allowing her detention to stretch for five years rather than three. Similarly, the junta used the intrusion of a U.S. citizen into Suu Kyi's house to extend her most recent house arrest until after Burma's November 7, 2010 elections. The junta's claims that it won between 75% and 80% of the vote in the 2010 elections, which many international critics believe were a sham. Regardless, the junta must undoubtedly believe Suu Kyi poses no immediate threat to its control to have released her on November 13.

The junta's confinement of Suu Kyi has made her a world-recognized symbol of the struggle for democracy in Burma against the oppressive ruling junta. Among many honors, Suu Kyi has been awarded the Rafto Human Rights Prize, Sakharov Prize, and Nobel Peace Prize while under house arrest. Yet her actions in her short times of freedom speak even louder than her captivity. In 1999, the junta offered to allow Suu Kyi to leave the country to visit her terminally ill husband in the United Kingdom. Suu Kyi rejected that offer because of her belief that she would not be allowed to return to Burma if she left. Her husband passed away shortly thereafter. Even in the face of such an impossible choice, Suu Kyi embodied selflessness. As she told Dateline NBC in 2000, "If you choose to do something, then you shouldn't say it's a sacrifice, because nobody forced you to do it."

Even during her year of freedom from 2002 to 2003, Suu Kyi toured Burma to meet with, and rally, her pro-democracy supporters. She was stopped when her convoy was attacked by the junta, and she was returned to confinement yet again. Time will only tell how much freedom Suu Kyi truly has. Since being released, Suu Kyi has spoken of her goal of national reconciliation, to be achieved primarily through dialogue with the junta. The junta has spent the last two decades trying to silence Suu Kyi, and it may continue to do so. But the people of Burma are listening, and so is the world.

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

Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame Will Induct Dr. Ben Konishi



By: Alley Watada

Dr. Ben Konishi, Veterinarian in Alamosa, CO will be inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame with four other honorees on Feb. 24, 2011 at the Renaissance Hotel. Honorees are selected on the basis of their significant contribution to the State of Colorado and nation's agriculture industry.

Dr. Konishi was the second child of George H. and Wai Konishi, who had 15 children. He was active in 4-H and FFA and graduated from Platteville High School as co-valedictorian. He developed interest in veterinarian in fifth grade and achieved that goal by graduating from the School of Veterinary Medicine at Colorado A & M College with highest honors in 1950. Konishi was elected to Phi Kappa Phi, national honorary fraternity, and as charter member of Phi Zeta, national honorary veterinary fraternity.

After graduation in 1950, Konishi joined Dr. Wadleigh in Monte Vista, Colorado as a veterinarian and two years later, started his own practice in Alamosa. He has served the needs of ranchers, farmers, and rodeo producers in the San Luis Valley and throughout Colorado for 60 years. He remains current in the veterinarian profession and technology. At the age of 84, he still answers every call from clients and is not unusual for him to perform caesarian sections on cows in the middle of night. Dr. Konishi strongly supports the FFA and 4-H organizations and does not charge for services on animals associated with the organization and also clients with serious health problems.

Konishi was nominated for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Veterinarian of the Year Award in 2010

Dr. Ben Konishi is married to Bessie Yoshida and they have three children and seven grandchildren. While Dr. Konishi is tending the animals, Bessie treats their grandchildren to a trip to Japan when they graduate from high school.

Japanese Piano Concert

On Thursday, March 31st, 2011 famous Japanese pianist, Nobuyuki Tsujii, will be coming to CU Boulder! For more details, and to purchase tickets, please visit <http://cupresents.org/default/index.cfm?action=Details&eventID=49>.

Memory Loss Seminar

Do you ever wonder whether you or someone you know suffers from memory loss? Is it dementia, Alzheimer's, or just symptoms of aging? Need help? Want resources- info on health care, legal assistance, or support? Come join the three part seminar sponsored by the Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado at Sakura Square.

Saturday, Feb. 12 1-3pm

Saturday, Feb. 26 1-3pm

Saturday, March 12 1-3pm

To reserve a space or info, contact: Carolyn Takeshita at ctak@comcast.net or 303-455-4987
Gail Ida at gailida@aol.com or 303-466-6937