



Japanese American Citizens League Mile Hi Chapter Notes

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Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Mirai Daiko	2
Kimiko Side: Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award Recipient	2
Upcoming	3
The Absence of Asian American in Judicial Roles	3-4
DU Amache Project	4
Save the Date for APDC's 30th Anniversary	5
Preserving Family Photos	5
An Evening in Japan	5
Nihongo-o Nairaimashyou	5
Heart Mountain, WY: Removal, Resettlement, Redress, and Re-	6
Help JACL Provide Hard Copies of its Monthly Newsletter	9

President's Message



What a wonderful summer we have had this year! It's hard to believe that we're already at the end of August but unfortunately the days are slowly getting shorter and fall is fast approaching. This summer has been filled with wonderful celebrations that have led to great memories and I hope you all had an opportunity to partake in the numerous events in which the Mile Hi JACL participated.

Some of this summer's highlights include:

- Japanese American Community Graduation Program
- Asian Education Advisory Council Award Ceremony
- Cherry Blossom Festival
- A Community Affair Community Picnic
- JACL National Convention
- Takayama Sister Cities Program and Sayonara Party
- Colorado Dragon Boat Festival
- JAC Annual Picnic
- Boulder Asian Pacific Alliance Festival

Thank you to everyone who helped make these events possible for our community!

In an effort to give more people the opportunity to participate in these wonderful events, in the coming months, the Mile Hi JACL will be working to increase our membership, particularly among the younger generations. We also want to promote networking among our existing constituents. As such, we will be hosting a membership drive in October and a membership appreciation event shortly thereafter. Please keep an eye out for further details and help us promote the Mile Hi JACL.

Thanks,
Suzy Shimasaki
Mile Hi JACL Chapter President

Mirai Daiko LIVE! - Odaiko Show

On Saturday, August 7, Mirai Daiko performed its first concert at The Curious Theater as a fundraiser for their recently purchased Odaiko. As the name Mirai (which means the future in Japanese) indicates, this young group strives to engage audiences with a new and unique taiko experience. The concert was truly a remarkable ensemble comprising of various Japanese drums, the fue, and koto. The concert not only included favorites such as "Matsuri" but also had many new songs composed by the various members of Mirai Daiko. The hard work of the group in preparing for this concert was clear in their meticulous performance and strong teamwork. The combination of their discipline and ambition to truly create the music of the future will without a doubt ensure the continued success of this incredible group of charismatic young women.

The dynamic performances by Mirai Daiko were also combined with other performers including an African drumming, hip-hop dancing, and a jazz saxophone solo, as well as other taiko groups such as Taiko with Toni and Denver Taiko.

Congratulations to all of the members of Mirai Daiko for a successful inaugural concert!

Kimiko Side: Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award Recipient

Congratulations to Kimiko Side who was presented with the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award on Thursday, July 22nd at the Denver Marriott Tech Center Hotel. This prestigious award was presented by Judge Kerry Hada along with a \$2,000 cash award that Mrs. Side donated to the Takayama Sister Cities Program.

Mrs. Side is very deserving of this award for many reasons. Lovingly and respectfully referred to as the "Ambassador of the Japanese American community" in Colorado, Kimiko Side has given herself tirelessly for over 20 years in her adopted country of the USA. Kimiko is an active volunteer in a variety of organizations, and demonstrates her compassion for others and her leadership in our community in countless ways.

For fifteen years, Kimiko served as the president of Takayama Sister City, and during that time was instrumental in establishing Takayama Park in Denver and a Denver Park in Takayama, Japan. In May 2008, Kimiko escorted Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper when he visited our sister city of Takayama in Japan. This past July, the Mayor of Takayama and a number of people from Takayama visited Kimiko's home when they visited Denver.

Kimiko is also active in the Japanese American Citizens League, the Japanese Association of Colorado, the Japanese American Society, and was a volunteer in the past for the Mayor's Commission on Human Relations and Discrimination (which Minoru Yasui served as Executive Director).

One of Kimiko's very special gifts is her skill at teaching the craft of Japanese doll making, which she has done for 30 years. Kimiko donates all the profits from her classes to the Buddhist Temple and Simpson Methodist Church. She has also funded scholarships for Japanese students as an active member of the Japanese American Scholarship Committee.

A true philanthropist with both her time and her money, Kimiko Side is a living example of the values and beliefs Minoru Yasui demonstrated every day, and for which this award was created. Kimiko is an outstanding recipient of the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award, and has made our community a better place to live everyday through her incredible work.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mile Hi JACL Meeting

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

OCA Mid Autumn Moon Festival

Friday, September 25
OCAcolorado.org

Mile Hi Membership Drive—Sushi Making

Saturday, October 16

The Absence of Asian Americans in Judicial Roles

By Harry Budisidharta, Esq.

Earlier this year, on April 22, Judge Denny Chin was confirmed to the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Although Judge Chin's qualifications and the broad support for his confirmation (he was confirmed by a 98 to 0 vote in the U.S. Senate) are both remarkable, they were not the most important headlines to be reported from the event. Instead, focus was rightly centered on the rarity of Asian Americans reaching the federal appellate level of the judiciary in this country. As pointed out by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) and the Asian American Justice Center



(AAJC), Judge Chin was the first Asian American in fourteen years to be nominated to sit on a federal appellate court, and only the fifth in U.S. history. Somewhat unsurprisingly then, the NAPABA and AAJC also found that at the time of his confirmation, Judge Chin was the only active Asian American judge out of about 175 federal appellate court judges.

Some might argue that the small number of Asian American federal appellate judges is not representative of a broader pattern, and perhaps Asian American judges are more common in state courts (like county or municipal courts) or lower levels of the federal judiciary (like district courts). That argument is not supported by government data. As a baseline, the U.S. Census Bureau's 2007 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates shows that Asian-Americans account for just under 5% of the United States population. However, 2008 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) shows that Asians make up only 0.3% of this country's approximately 54,000 people employed as judges, magistrates, and other judicial workers.

A partial explanation for the low number of Asian American judges might be that Asian Americans are less common in legal occupations as a whole. Again referencing the 2008 BLS, Asians make up 2.8% of "Legal Occupations," which is indeed less than the almost 5% of U.S. citizens that are Asian American. However, a closer look at the "Legal Occupation" data shows that a lower interest in legal professions does not fully explain the lack of Asian Americans in judicial roles. Setting aside the categories of "Paralegals and legal assistants" and "Miscellaneous legal support workers," which, unlike judicial roles, usually do not require a juris doctor degree, we must look specifically at the data for "Lawyers," who do have juris doctor degrees.

Because of the similarity of job qualifications, we would hope to see a rough correlation between the number of lawyers from a group and the number of judicial employees from that same group. That expected correlation holds true for the other three groups identified in the BLS report. Women make up 34.4% of lawyers and 43.6% of judicial roles. African Americans make up 4.6% of lawyers and 6.8% of judicial roles. Hispanics and Latinos see a small drop from 3.8% lawyer representation to 3.2% judicial representation. But none of these groups compare with the sharp drop of the Asian category, from 2.9% of lawyers to only 0.3% of the judicial roles. For what it's worth, it should be noted that Asian representations in the "Paralegal" and "Miscellaneous" categories are 2.2% and 3.9%, respectively, roughly mirroring the percentage of Asian American lawyers.



Do you have an event or project that you would like to share with our community? Would you like to submit an article for the Mile Hi Chapter Notes? Please help us keep our community informed by submitting events, notices, recognitions, and articles to include in future newsletters. Information can be submitted to Bruce Tawara: RisingSunDen@msn.com

The Absence of Asian Americans in Judicial Roles (cont.)

There are no easy explanations for the small number of Asian American judges in our country. The Harvard report, [Miles to Go: Progress of Minorities in the Legal Profession](#), suggests a number of potential factors that might impact Asian American lawyers early in their careers, which can play a role in whether they are nominated for a judgeship later: (1) the heavy reliance of employers on law school credentials that disadvantage minorities in initial employment decisions; (2) the isolation of minorities in law firms and law firm hierarchy; and (3) law firms tend to subject minority credentials to more scrutiny than whites. The NAPABA cites the stereotyping of Asian lawyers as meek and passive, as well as the relative lack of political activity among the Asian American community. All of these factors could play a role in limiting Asian Americans' access to judicial roles. But the first steps to addressing this issue are to simply recognize its existence and breadth, spread awareness, and support groups like the NAPABA that actively promote the judicial appointment of more Asian Americans.

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

DU Amache Project

The DU Amache project just completed a successful field school in historical archaeology and museum studies at Amache and the Amache Preservation Society museum in Granada, Colorado. The project brought together high school, undergraduate and graduate students, and volunteers, including two former Amache internees. For four weeks they spent their mornings at Amache, learning about internee daily life and their efforts to transform the camp landscape, while in the museum they inventoried important objects and documents related to the camp. Two open house days at the site and museum drew scores of people from near and far to learn more about our work and this important history. The NBC affiliate in Denver (9News) produced a story about the project that recently aired in the Denver area. To access the print and video stories, please go to: <http://www.9news.com/life/programming/storytellers/article.aspx?storyid=145120&catid=463j>

DU also played an important role in the current museum exhibit about Amache now at the Aurora History Museum. DU alumna Jennifer Otto Cronk and other staff of the museum consulted with project director Dr. Bonnie Clark, and several of the items on display were collected during DU's 2008 field research. The exhibit runs until the end of October.

An electronic copy of Volume 2 of the DU Amache newsletter (produced in the Spring of 2010) is available on the project website, <http://portfolio.du.edu/amache>. Look under the Newsletter heading. If you would like a hard copy of the newsletter, you can request one by contacting David Garrison, project community liaison, via email: amachedu@du.edu

Pictures from the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival (courtesy of Bruce Tawara)



Save the Date for APDC's 30th Anniversary Celebration

The Asian Pacific Development Center is hosting a fabulous evening of great food, friends and fun – including entertainment and an exciting silent auction. It will take place from 5:30 – 9:00 PM at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada; &75/person; \$125/couple; corporate sponsorships available. For more information, contact Jinny Kim at jinnykim@apdc.org.

Preserving Family Photos

Do you have shoeboxes full of old family photos? Some may be of family members and places you recognize. Others may be of things you are uncertain about. No matter the picture, photos are the heart of a family and community. Come learn the basis of photo preservation. James Peterson, Curatorial Assistant at History Colorado, will discuss some of the basics of photo preservation on Saturday, September 11th from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at JARCC (2nd floor of Sakura Square). The workshop is free to the first 20 reservations. If you are interested, please contact Joni Sakaguchi at jsakaguchi@interfold.com or 303.452.6888.

An Evening In Japan

Come get away from the everyday. Step into an exotic world of the senses with music, food, and beverage as you might find them in Japan. Featuring music by renowned koto player Junko Shigeta, leader of Koto Colorado, and accompanying musicians. Have some light Japanese refreshments (included in the ticket price), and wine or sake or beer from the cash bar, and enjoy music you will not hear everyday: both traditional and jazz koto music. As a special bonus, Junko will hold a short "jam" session for any audience members who wish to bring along their instruments, to experience the blending of music from East and West!

Location: First Universalist Church: 4101 E. Hampden Blvd.
(NE corner of Hampden and Ash - one block east of Colorado Blvd.)

Date: Saturday, September 18
Doors open at 7:30, concert begins at 8:00
Price: \$22

Childcare provided with advance notice

Call 303-759-2770 x30 to reserve tickets or childcare

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

Words of the Month:

School: Gakou (ga-ko-u)
Teacher: Sensei (se-n-se-i)
Autumn: Aki (a-ki)

Peach: Momo (mo-mo)
Sunflower: Himawari (hi-ma-wa-ri)
August: Hachigatsu (ha-chi-ga-tsu)

Good morning: Ohayougozaimasu (o-ha-yo-u-go-za-i-ma-su)

Good evening: Konbanwa (ko-n-ba-n-wa)

Good night: Oyasuminasai (o-ya-su-mi-na-sa-i)

Mile Hi JACL

P.O. Box 13061
Denver, CO 80201

milehiJACL@gmail.com

www.milehiJACL.org



"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.

Heart Mountain, Wyoming: Removal, Resettlement, Redress, and Reflections: A Community Conference

Friday, September 24: 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Saturday, September 25: 7:30 am to 5:00 pm

\$20 general; \$15 members, students, and those who were in camp

A multi-generation, community-oriented gathering of those who were in and those who are interested in the WRA camp at Heart Mountain, WY, and its short and long-term impact.

Friday panels on Japanese American confinement, and terminology of the 1940s Japanese American experience in camp.

Saturday panels on Heart Mountain, an overview; personal perspectives; questions of loyalty; resettlement; and family/generations/recollections: an intergenerational dialogue.

Limited to 250 persons.

To registrar for the conference, please visit: <http://media.janm.org/events/2010/Heart-Mountain-signup.doc>

Co-Sponsored by the Heart Mountain, WY Foundation; the Aratani Endowed Chair, UCLA; the Japanese American National Museum.

Help JACL Provide Hard Copies of its Monthly Newsletter

In previous years, the Mile Hi JACL Monthly Newsletter has been mailed out to members who are unable to access email or prefer to receive a hard copy. Unfortunately, due to budget restraints, we have been unable to do so in recent months. As such, we understand that many of our constituents have been unable to access our newsletter. We would like to make hard copies available to members who are unable to access electronic copies and are thus asking for your help. If you are able to make a donation towards our efforts to send hard copies of the newsletter, please send a check made payable to Mile Hi JACL to:

P.O. Box 13061
Denver, CO 80201

Thank you in advance for your support and contributions.