



# Japanese American Citizens League Mile Hi Chapter Notes

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## 2010 Recognition Luncheon

The Mile Hi Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) celebrated its annual Recognition Luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. This annual banquet brings together many of JACL's membership as well as its partnering organizations to recognize community leaders and install its officers and board members. Some of the distinguished guests at this event included: OCA Colorado and President Teddy Lau; the Japanese Association of Colorado and President Calvin Hada; Community Relations Chair of NAAAP Colorado, Tylor Laigo; Simpson United Methodist Church, Reverend Paul Murphy-Geiss; and special guest speaker, the Honorable Judge Kerry Hada.

Following Suzy Shimasaki's opening remarks were Judge Kerry Hada's keynote, the installation of the officers and board members, and the presentation of awards. The first award that was presented was the Tom Masamori Memorial Kansha No Hi (Day of Gratitude) Award. This award is given to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Japanese American community through their volunteerism. Award recipients included Robert Fujimoto, Mike Shibata, and Carolyn Take-shita. The second award that was presented was the Pacesetter Award which is given to recognize individuals who quietly do their jobs with high standards of morality, integrity, and excellence, and continue the traits of the Japanese



American heritage. Award recipients included Robin Furuta and Aiko and Yuji Kimura.

After the awards were presented, the luncheon was concluded with a beautiful performance by Leah Tanaka, high school cellist, and Emily Parsons, college violinist.

The luncheon also included a silent auction that raised \$1,000 for the Mile Hi JACL Scholarship given at the Japanese American Community Graduation Program.

The Mile Hi JACL would like to thank everyone who attended its luncheon as well as those who supported it through monetary and in-kind donations for the luncheon and silent auction.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mile Hi JACL Meeting**  
Thursday, May 6th  
7:00 p.m.  
JAC Office  
Sakura Square (2nd Fl)

**Asian Education  
Advisory Council  
Award Ceremony**  
Sunday, May 1st  
9:00 a.m.  
Doubletree Hotel  
3203 Quebec Street,  
Denver, CO 80207

**Japanese American  
Community  
Graduation Program**  
Saturday, June 12  
5:30 p.m.  
Arvada Center for the  
Performing Arts

**Cherry Blossom  
Festival**  
June 26-27, 2010  
Sakura Square

**CO Dragon Boat  
Festival**  
July 24-25, 2010  
Sloan's Lake Park

## President's Message: A Year in Review



Over the course of the last year, the Mile Hi Chapter has engaged the Japanese American community through a variety of events. Some of our more prominent events included our Day of Remembrance event with Special Guest Speaker Dale Minami, the OCA/JACL Lunar New Years Dinner with Guest Host Richard Lui, our quarterly social events, a sushi making class for our youth, and our annual Nisei Veteran's Heritage Foundation and Mile Hi

JACL Community Memorial Day Program.

For me personally, some of the highlights of this last year include having the opportunity to represent the Intermountain District Council at the National JACL/OCA Leadership Conference, representing our chapter at the National Youth Conference, and getting to know the Japanese American community here in Denver.

Some of the relationships that our chapter has especially strengthened in the last year include our collaborations with OCA Colorado, the Japanese Association of Colorado, and the Consulate General of Japan. I strongly believe that these relationships will help us bet-

ter serve our constituents and hope that we can continue to build partnerships with other community organizations as well.

As we kick-off this next year, I am hopeful that we will continue to see tremendous growth and progress. The combination of our younger members taking on new leadership roles and our older members taking on invaluable mentorship roles has created a strong foundation for what I believe will be a very exciting year.

Thank you for your continued support and giving me the opportunity to serve as the chapter president for another year.



*"If there's any  
legacy of redress,  
it's the legacy of  
education."*

*-Dale Minami*

## JACL National Convention

As some of you know, this summer is the last of the biannual conventions for JACL. The host city for this convention is Chicago-- the windy city!! The Chicago convention committee is planning many excursions for the boosters that plan to attend. Some of the exciting events include a Cubs baseball game at Wrigley Field, a tour of the Art

Institute of Chicago, a segway tour of the city, "devil in the white city" tour, and many more fun-filled events.

This year's theme is "Embracing Change" and I hope that many DC chapter members will make the trip, see the sights in Chicago, embrace old friends and meet new ones from JACL. The dates of the

convention are June 30 to July 4 at the Swissotel in the heart of downtown Chicago.

For more information, visit: <http://jacl.org/news/2010ChicagoJMTEMP033009/home.html>



## Census 2010: March to the Mailbox Campaign

The Census Bureau coordinated a National Neighborhood Blitz Program called "March to the Mailbox" on April 10th to encourage the Asian community in Denver Metro to get counted. There were over a dozen community organizations that helped promote the Census at six different locations. Mile Hi JACL partnered with OCA Colorado and the Korean American Coalition and promoted the Census at M-Mart and

H-Mart. Organizations set up at other locations included the Asian Roundtable of Colorado, NAAAP Colorado, Rocky Mountain Friends of Nepal, Colorado Chinese News, and the Rocky Mountain Chinese Association. In addition to these community groups, Phong Vo from the Colorado Asian Cultural Heritage Center provided Lion Dancers for the March to the Mailbox Campaign.



## Temple Renovation

For many of us, the Denver Buddhist Temple represents more than just a building for religious services. It is not only a spiritual center but also a gathering place for our cultural and social interaction. As such, it is important for all of us to help maintain and further develop the temple and all that it represents.

The Centennial Endowment and Building Renovation Committee is initiating a campaign to raise funds to finally get the

fence renovated and the exterior of the building freshly repainted. Their goal is to have the repairs completed and the building painted by this year's Cherry Blossom Festival in June. The total cost of this renovation work is \$45,000.

Any donation you can provide to this project will be greatly appreciated. Please make your check payable to: Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple and specify that the funds be directed to the "Centennial

Paint Project" in order that your contribution can be applied to the proper account. Together, we can preserve what our ancestors have entrusted to us.

In Gassho,

Reverend Kanya Okamoto  
*Head Minister TS/DBT*

Gary Yamashita  
*Centennial Paint Project Coordinator*

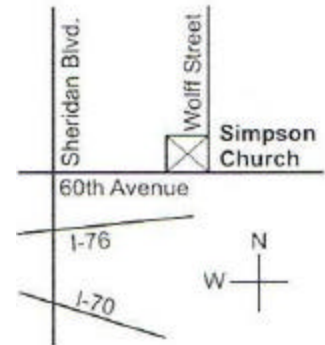


Do you have an event or project that you would like to share with our community? Would you like to submit an article for the Mile Hi Chapter Notes? Please help us keep our community informed by submitting events, notices, recognitions, and articles to include in future newsletters. Information can be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

## 60th Annual Asian Food Bazaar

Simpson United Methodist Church is celebrating its 103rd year with their 60th Annual Asian Food Bazaar. This spectacular event will be taking place on Saturday, May 1st from 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at the Japanese American Church at 6001 Wolff Street, Arvada, CO. At the bazaar, attendees will be able to

purchase beef teriyaki and chow mein dinner plates for \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Take out service will also be available. Additionally, sushi, omanju, and home baked goods will be available. Please come support the Simpson United Methodist Church and join in on this wonderful celebration.



## Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado

The Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado (JARCC) was created to share the Japanese American experience in Colorado. JARCC is located at 1255 19th Street (2nd floor of Sakura Square) and hosts an open house on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Past exhibits

have included displays of the MIS and 442nd Regimental Combat Unit, farming communities of Colorado, sports in the Japanese American community, and WWII relocation center artifacts.

JARCC's new exhibit includes the following displays: Honoring Issei (historical timeline, pho-

tos, and artifacts about Issei immigration to the US and Colorado), Chibi no Gakko (passing on our Colorado Japanese American legacy to future generations), and George Tamura (watercolor artist interned at Tule Lake).

## Amache Project Summer Internship

The University of Denver Amache project is focusing on researching, interpreting, and preserving the tangible history of Amache, one of ten Japanese American internment camps during WWII. This summer, the University will be leading a one-month field expedi-

tion at Amache and the Amache Museum in Granada, Colorado. To encourage community participation in our research, an internship has been created for a high school or college student who had family at Amache. Stipend or partial tuition waiver available to the

student chosen for the internship.

To request an application or for more information about the internship, contact:

[amachedu@du.edu](mailto:amachedu@du.edu) or  
303.871.2875

## 2010 Camp Amache Pilgrimage

6:00 am Pick-up: Simpson United Methodist Church  
 6:30 am Pick-up: Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple  
 8:00 am Rest Stop: Limon, CO (coffee and donuts provided)  
 11:00 am Arrival at Camp Amache

### Memorial Ceremony

Welcome: George Kuwamura (MC)  
 Hoji & Oshoko: Reverend Carol O'Dowd  
 Floral Offerings: JA Community Organizations

12:30 pm Arrival at Granada High School

### Potluck Lunch

(all participants bring your favorite dish; refreshments will be provided by The Amache Club)  
 Blessing: Reverend Paul Murphy-Geiss  
 Presentation: Vicki Taniwaki

1:30 pm Amache Museum Tour  
 2:30 pm Return to Denver  
 6:00 pm Denver Arrival

**Cost:** \$25 per person (non-refundable)  
**Contact:** Frank Miyazawa (303.237.8641)  
 Bob Fuchigami (303.679.2921)

*Sponsored by the Japanese Association of Colorado, The Friends of Amache, and The Amache Club*

## Asian Pacific Development Center and 9Health Fair

The Asian Pacific Development Center is a non-profit organization that has been providing a wide range of health, behavioral, and human services to the Asian American Pacific Islander communities in Colorado since 1980. APDC has been offering FREE blood screening to Asian American Pacific Islanders through several 9Health Fairs. The blood test checks for various diseases such as diabetes, high cholesterol, and liver, kidney, and thyroid problems. It is important to do regular screening tests to detect diseases BEFORE a person has symptoms. When a disease is detected early, the treatment is more effective and less costly. The test normally costs \$30. This program is funded

by the Office of Health Disparities, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Please come to one of the following remaining 9Health Fairs (all health fairs run from 7 am-noon):

**Colorado Islamic Center (4/24)**  
 2071S Parker Road  
 Denver, 80231

**Regis University (4/24)**  
 3333 Regis Blvd.  
 Denver, 80221

**Aurora Central High School (4/24)**  
 11700 E 11th Ave  
 Aurora 80010

**Schlessman Family YMCA (4/25)**  
 2625 S Colorado Blvd  
 Denver 80210

**APDC at Fletcher Elementary School/Moorehead Rec Center (4/25)**  
 10455 E 25th Ave  
 Aurora 80010

**Wat Buddha Waraman (Thai) (4/25)**  
 4801 Julian Street  
 Denver 80221

**Thorton Carpenter Recreation Center (5/8)**  
 11151 Colorado Blvd  
 Thornton 80233

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Dr. Lourdes Yun  
 lourdesyun@apdc.org  
 303.365.2963 ext. 109

*"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.

## Mile Hi JACL

878 S. Dexter St. #303  
Denver, CO 80246  
milehiJACL@gmail.com

[www.milehiJACL.org](http://www.milehiJACL.org)



## 2010 Mile Hi JACL Officers and Board of Directors

President: Suzy Shimasaki  
1st VP of Programs: Jin Tsuchiya  
2nd VP of Membership: Elyse Yamauchi  
Treasurer: Richard Hamai  
Recording Secretary: Pat Hayashi

Gil Asakawa  
Harry Budisidharta  
Gladys Konishi  
Brian Matsumoto  
Aya Mariagnes Medrud  
Tom Migaki  
Keita Moore

Charmaine Palmer  
Frank Sakamoto  
Mark Shimoda  
Mike Shibata  
Kimiko Side  
Jayne Yoshimura

## Meet the New Vice President: Jin Alexander Tsuchiya

Jin Alexander Tsuchiya is a native of Chicago who obtained his Bachelors of Arts in History from Saint Louis University in 2007 and later relocated to Denver in early 2009.

Jin joined the Mile Hi JACL board primary because he is a strong proponent of civil rights law and legislation in this country but is also interested in increasing membership and member engagement.

Jin has spent his young professional life working on a multitude of progressive campaigns and causes, from Congres-

sional races in suburban Chicago to statewide ballot measures in Missouri and Colorado. At present, he is an organizer with Colorado WINS, the union of state employees in Colorado.

In his spare time, Jin is also involved with other community organizations. He serves on the Board of the Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc., is part of the 2010 class of the Colorado Institute for Leadership Training, and with his fellow organizers, is a proud union member with the Denver News-



paper Guild. He also plays soccer with a local men's team, FC Denver.

Although his entire maternal family (and father) resides state-side, his paternal family continues to live in Japan, calling Togane (in Chiba Prefecture) home.