



# Kakehashi 架け橋

Building a bridge between Colorado & Japan

Winter Issue

January 2012

## Points of Interest:

- Japanese culture & religion program
- Annual Japan Cup
- Japanese Language Classes
- Colorado-Japan News
- Report—Meishi Mixer event

## Inside this issue:

- Upcoming Events
- Past Events
- Members' Corner
- About Us

Dear JASC Members and Friends:



Thank you all for the kind welcome you have provided for me since I began as Executive Director of Japan America Society of Colorado just 3 weeks ago! Many of you may remember me from my first “tour of duty” with this organization from 1998-2000. I have already re-connected with many wonderful friends and acquaintances here at JASC. I look forward to working with you again as well as getting to know all of the “new” members and supporters.

As we begin 2012 there are many fantastic events being organized within JASC as well as throughout the city of Denver and the state of Colorado in support of our mission of strengthening cooperation and building better understanding between Japan and the United States—and more specifically between Japan and Colorado. This mission is an important one. Our two countries enjoy a longstanding friendship and close working relationship on so many levels. This became extremely evident after the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami that hit Northern Japan. This organization collected and sent over \$126,000 to Japan to assist in their rebuilding efforts. Because of the overwhelming response, we have decided to leave the Japan Relief Effort bank account open until the end of March 2012. If you still wish to donate, you may do so on our website at [www.jascolorado.org/japanrelief.php](http://www.jascolorado.org/japanrelief.php).

Evidence of the wonderful relationship between Japan and Colorado also becomes apparent when you see the list of

upcoming activities. The Annual Japan Cup, the efforts towards a new Denver Botanic Gardens Bonsai Pavilion, the 100th Anniversary of the Gift of the Cherry Blossom Trees to Washington D.C., the one-year memorial of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, the Consul General of Japan Charity Golf Tournament, a look into Japanese culture and religion, ongoing Kaiwa Club and formal, comprehensive Japanese language classes, and so much more. This is an organization with which each and every member should be proud to be associated.

I, for one, am honored to be a part of the Japan America Society of Colorado. I am most grateful to my predecessor, Ms. Dilek Eccles, for the outstanding work she did on behalf of the organization. I am also most grateful to the Board of Directors and especially the current President, Ms. Shinobu Yoshitomi, for giving me the opportunity to serve this organization once again. Shinobu has contributed more to the Japan-Colorado relationship than nearly anyone else that I know. I will strive to live up to her stellar example and make her proud.

If you are not already a member of JASC, I strongly urge you to sign up today. In order to continue the outstanding work that has been done here since 1989, JASC must maintain a high level of support through volunteer efforts and membership. Visit our website or contact our office if you would like more information.

—Claudine Locascio  
—クロディーン・ロカシオ

Helpful Links  
for  
International  
Minds

Japan America Society of CO Website:

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

World Trade Center of Denver Website:

[www.wtcdn.com](http://www.wtcdn.com)

Consulate General of Japan at Denver Website:

[www.denver.us.emb-japan.go.jp/](http://www.denver.us.emb-japan.go.jp/)

Colorado Office of International Trade Website:

[www.colorado.gov/](http://www.colorado.gov/)

Message from the President



Dear JASC Members and Friends,

It has been my great pleasure and honor to serve as President of the Japan America Society of Colorado for the past 12 months. It was a very rewarding experience for me and I could not have done it without the strong support of Dick Clark, Senior Vice President, John Bywaters, Treasurer, the members of the Executive Committee, the entire Board of Directors and Dilek Eccles, our Executive Director. As many of you have already heard, Dilek had her baby boy, Fin on January 22, 2012. She and her family are doing great. I am also excited to have our new Executive Director, Claudine Locascio, on board. I am so pleased that she has already begun tackling many on-going activities and planning for the future of JASC, just as we all expected from her based on her familiarity with the organization and her excellent talents.

I am pleased to announce T.R. Reid, one of the nation's best known journalists and long-time supporter of JASC, as the next JASC President. T.R. is best known for his coverage of global affairs for the Washington Post. He served as the paper's bureau chief in Tokyo and in London. T.R. has a documentary film scheduled to air on PBS on February 16th entitled, "U.S. Health Care: The Good News". Be sure to look out for it!

In addition to T.R., JASC has added eight new members to the Board of Directors: Gil Asakawa, Ken Berkeley, Kathy Magilvy, Ganpat Mani, David McCrosky, David Oren, and Brandon Wilcox. You can read more about them and their corporate affiliations on page 8 of this newsletter. JASC is very lucky to have such strong leadership and talented individuals on the Board. I hope that each one of you, as members of JASC, will consider volunteering some time towards the activities of the organization by serving on a committee or working at an event. No contribution is too small!

On a personal note, I will be relocating to Japan next week. It has been an invaluable experience for me to come back to Colorado. Colorado is my second hometown, so I am sure I will be back in the future and would like to continue to take an active role in JASC's mission of bringing two countries closer together.

*-Shinobu Yoshitomi, President of JASC*

Upcoming Event: Exploring Japanese Culture and Religion in Colorado

JASC is excited to coordinate this educational and cultural program with our friends at the Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado. We are honored to have Reverend Ed Fujii of the Tri-State / Denver Buddhist Temple come to speak to our organizations about some Japanese cultural traditions with a special focus on Buddhism. Reverend Fujii has been a minister in the United States for over 30 years: 16 years in Washington, 16 years in Southern California and now 1 year in Colorado. Please join us for this informative opportunity! Reverend Fujii will allow for a Question and Answer period following his talk. There will also be a photo exhibit on display depicting the Japanese American Experience in Colorado. Tea and snacks will be provided!

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2012 10:00 a.m.**

Exhibit will be open from 9:30am—1:00pm

1255 19th Street (Sakura Square, 2nd floor\*)

Cost is \$5.00 for JASC and JARCC members

**RSVP to [info@jascolorado.org](mailto:info@jascolorado.org) or 303-592-5364**

**ABOUT OUR PARTNER: Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado**

The mission of the Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado is to be a vibrant resource, preserving, educating and communicating the evolving Japanese American experience in Colorado.



## Upcoming Event: Japan Cup

Calling all middle, high school and college level students of Japanese:  
Plans are underway for the Annual Japan Cup competition!

あ い う え お

日本語

一 二 三 四

Start studying  
now!!

良く勉強してください！

**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

University of Denver

*In collaboration with the Colorado Japanese Language Education Association*

Many, many volunteers are needed for this event including: Judges, Moderators, Timekeepers, Runners, Scorekeepers, and Registration assistance!

This is a wonderful way to show your support of today's students of Japanese. These students are the leaders of tomorrow to whom we will pass the torch and responsibility of strengthening cooperation and building better understanding between Colorado and Japan. Let's support their efforts!!

If you are interested in registering a team or volunteering at the event, please visit our website, under Events, at [www.jascolorado.org](http://www.jascolorado.org).

## 日本語

## REGISTER NOW: Japanese Language Classes Spring Semester—Beginner & Intermediate Levels

Japan America Society is now accepting registrations for the Spring Semester of its highly successful Japanese language classes. This is truly a comprehensive Japanese language course meeting *twice per week for 20 weeks*. We have an excellent native Japanese instructor, Ms. Yoshiko Miyamoto.

All classes meet downtown in the World Trade Center building at 1625 Broadway, Suite 1490. Cost is \$500 for JASC Members (\$600 for non-members) which includes a textbook and workbook. This cost works out to only around \$12 per class!!! Registration Forms can be found on our website under PROGRAMS:

<http://www.jascolorado.org/programs.php>

### Beginner Japanese Semester 2

March 12—August 15 \*\*

Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:30—7:00 p.m.

World Trade Center Denver

\*\*There will be a break the weeks of  
May 14, May 21, and May 28

### Intermediate Japanese Semester 1

March 13—August 16 \*\*

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:30—7:00 p.m.

World Trade Center Denver

\*\*There will be a break the weeks of  
May 14, May 21, and May 28

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## Kaiwa Club 会話クラブ

Already speak Japanese? You should join our *Kaiwa Club* and keep your skills sharp!!!

JASC continues to hold its *Kaiwa Club* every Wednesday of the month (excluding the fifth Wednesday).

We meet at **Buzz Café in Denver**, from **6:30 to 8:00 pm**. Nami Larson from the Consulate General's Office leads the conversation each week. *Kaiwa Club* is **free for JASC members to attend**.

The theme for the first week is pair talk; the second week is a lesson on grammar (followed by pair-talk); the third week is park talk again; and the fourth week is a vocabulary lesson. We do not meet on the fifth Wednesday of the month.

We are always looking for native speakers to join *Kaiwa Club* and help with pair talk sessions. This is also a great way to meet members of the community with an interest in Japanese. **Please join us for the next *Kaiwa Club*!**

### **BUZZ CAFÉ DETAILS:**

1229 East 6th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80218-3579  
(303) 831-1077

## Other Colorado—Japan Related News



### Kizuna: West meets East

May 5—November 4, 2012

Mark Your Calendars now—  
and you may want to ensure your Denver Botanic  
Gardens membership is up-to-date!

This spring Denver Botanic Gardens proudly unveils the new Bill Hosokawa Bonsai Pavilion and Tea Garden with an expanded Shofu-En (Japanese Garden). Kizuna will celebrate the profound influence Japan has had on the West with the presentation of site-specific bamboo installations by internationally-known artists Tetsunori Kawana and Stephen Taltasnik. Stay tuned for further details on these Kizuna programs—Japanese tea ceremony, art, garden design, bonsai, lectures and more. You can be sure that your own Japan America Society of Colorado will be in close coordination with Denver Botanic Gardens as they celebrate not only the beautiful addition to their exhibit but also JASC's very own founding Board member, the late Bill Hosokawa. If you are interested in contributing to the Denver Botanic Gardens project, please call the JASC office for information.



The World Trade Center of Denver has a wide variety of classes in their Spring

2012 Institute Training Schedule. Examples include Developing Export Strategy, Social Media for International Business, Import Logistics, Global Cross-Cultural Communications and of course their signature World Trade Day on May 16-17. Full class descriptions and registration is available on their website, [www.wtcdenver.org](http://www.wtcdenver.org). Japan America Society of Colorado enjoys a Reciprocal Membership Agreement with the World Trade Center as well as shared office space. We are proud to endorse their programming to our JASC members!

### Denver Business Journal



Reports:

## Hancock: Direct flight between Denver and Japan much closer

Premium content from Denver Business Journal  
by Ed Sealover, Reporter

Date: Friday, November 25, 2011, 4:00am MST

Denver leaders say they made significant progress during their recent trip to Japan in the city's six-year effort to land a nonstop flight from DIA to Tokyo.

It was the first time that the city and Japanese officials discussed incentives that DIA, the state of Colorado and area businesses might offer to ensure an All Nippon Airways flight could be profitable, said [Tom Clark](#), executive vice president of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corp. The Nov. 7-11 trip was Clark's 11th to Japan representing Denver.

[Al White](#), director of the Colorado Tourism Office, joined the trip for the first time as one of the 10 delegation members. He talked to Japanese officials about increased tourism opportunities between Japan and Colorado, which he said was "well received" by local and national officials.

Another first: Airline and Japanese leaders requested detailed forecasts about the economic growth of the Denver area and the potential passenger loads that would travel between the two cities, Mayor [Michael Hancock](#) said.

"I believe we will have a direct flight to Japan," said Hancock, who took his fourth trip to Tokyo as a city official and first as mayor. "I got a sense the decision is more imminent than I've ever had before."

Securing a direct flight to Tokyo has been a longtime goal of business and city leaders, because it could serve as a gateway to Asia, which doesn't have a direct flight to DIA now, and could spur economic development in Colorado by Japanese companies.

Hancock has estimated the economic impact could be \$130 million a year in the Denver metro area.

But it's a long process to ensure that such a hefty investment by foreign airlines can be profitable. Clark estimated it took six years of courting to land the current Lufthansa Airlines flight from DIA to Frankfurt, Germany, and seven years to nab the British Airways flight to London.

## Past Event Report: November 15 Meishi Mixer

JASC's Fall Meishi mixer took place at the [Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant](#) in Broomfield Colorado. About 30 people attended, and the group was a nice mix of members and non-members. Local author and media expert [Gil Asakawa](#) gave a very interesting talk on the emergence and importance of social media which encouraged much conversation on how social media tools are affecting local businesses and Japan/Colorado relationships. Everyone enjoyed the evening (and the food!) very much, and as always, the conversations and connections continued (and will continue) well past the event's end. We hope you can join us at the next one!



## Membership Corner — Why join?

The Japan America Society of Colorado is one of 37 societies working under the umbrella of the National Association of Japan America Societies (NAJAS). Membership in JASC provides opportunities to interact with others who share your interest in the connections between Colorado and Japan—whether your interest is in the cultural, linguistic, business, or educational connections, JASC has something for you.

We need a strong membership to enable us to provide strong services.

**JOIN TODAY!!** [www.jascolorado.org/](http://www.jascolorado.org/)



INDIVIDUAL:	CORPORATE:
Friend: \$150	Investor: \$5,000
Family: \$75	Benefactor: \$3,000
Individual: \$48	Patron: \$1,500
Educator: \$40	Supporter: \$650
Student: Free! (with ID)	Associate: \$300



### **New and Renewed**

#### **Corporate Members:**

##### **Benefactor:**

- Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons LLP \*\*\*

##### **Patron:**

- Sumitomo Corporation of America

##### **Supporter:**

- Sakata Farms, Inc. \*\*\*
- COSMO System USA, Inc.

##### **Associate:**

- John & Ellen Bywaters
- Katie Miles-Ley
- P. Craig Taylor
- Noriko Garofalo
- East West International, Inc.
- Denver Botanic Gardens

### **New and Renewed**

#### **Individual Members:**

##### **Friends:**

- Masanori Tanaka
- Ichiro Komatsubara, JFC International, Inc.

##### **Family:**

- Brian Pendleton
- Warren & Susan Boatright \*\*
- Seiji Tanaka \*\*
- William Fickas \*
- Kazue Pfeffer

##### **Individuals:**

- Seiko Yoshikawa \*\*
- Tokiyo Imanaka \*\*
- Tom Migaki
- Ginny Abblett
- Woody Taylor
- Gisela Bucher
- Yasuko Tsunekawa
- Janine Thorman
- Ron Abo
- Sarada Krishnen
- Kyoko Day
- Henry Wyeno
- Don Cummins
- Victor Porak De Varna
- Megan McCall
- Mari Kobayashi Gau
- Makarios Fay
- Michelle O'Neill

##### **Educators:**

- Hideko Shimizu \*
- Susan Schmidt \*\*
- Dr. Kathy Magilvy
- Sonny Zwierkowski

##### **Students**

- Xiuling Li
- Yulong Yang
- Clifton Moy
- Ashley Whitaker
- Emily Goodwin

#### **JASC is proud to enjoy a Reciprocal Organization**

##### **Membership With:**

- World Trade Center Denver
- MEM Travel

#### **Members of Japan America Society for longer than:**

\*\*\* 20 years

\*\* 15 years

\* 10 years

**Thank you for your support!!**

## JASC ORGANIZATION

The Board of Directors met on January 25, 2012 in order to elect new members to the Board. We are pleased and honored to welcome the following new members to the JASC Board:

**Gil Asakawa:** Author, Journalist, CU School of Journalism & Mass Communication

**Ken Berkeley:** International Tax Accounting, Ehrhardt, Keefe, Steiner & Hottman PC

**Kathy Magilvy:** Professor, Associate Dean of Nursing, University of Colorado College of Nursing specializing in aging populations

**Ganpat Mani**—President, CEO, Uranium specialist, ConverDyn

**David McCrosky:** International Property Law, Husch Blackwell, LLP

**David Oren:** Senior Vice President, Global Business Development, CH2MHill

**Brandon Wilcox:** CPA, Audit Services, KPMG

### 2012 BOARD of DIRECTORS

Kathy Ajisaka	David McCrosky
Gil Asakawa	Tom Migaki
Ken Berkeley	David Oren
John Bywaters	Charles Ozaki
Kim Chandler	T.R. Reid
Richard K. Clark	Jim Reis
Margaret d'Emery	Bob Sakata
Michael Driver	Shinji Satake
Eric Hiraga	Philip Seng
Isao Kamitani	Masanori Tanaka
Missy Kautt	Seiji Tanaka
Michael Kelley	Bill Waters
Akiyoshi "Ebi" Kondo	Brandon Wilcox
Kathy Magilvy	Shinobu Yoshitomi
Ganpat Mani	

JASC is a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-political membership organization with a programmatic focus devoted to education, business, culture, and public affairs. It is a statewide organization, with the majority of its operations and membership based in Denver. The Board of Directors is comprised of leaders in business, government, education, and the arts. The general membership represents most of Colorado's major population centers and is a mix of Japanese Americans, Japanese nationals, and other Americans.

### OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

<b>Shinobu Yoshitomi</b>	President
<b>Richard K. Clark</b>	Senior Vice President
<b>John Bywaters</b>	Treasurer
<b>Kim Chandler</b>	Executive Committee
<b>Eric Hiraga</b>	Executive Committee
<b>Isao Kamitani</b>	Executive Committee
<b>Missy Kautt</b>	Executive Committee
<b>T.R. Reid</b>	Executive Committee
<b>Jim Reis</b>	Executive Committee
<b>Bill Waters</b>	Executive Committee

### JASC STAFF

<b>Claudine Locascio</b>	Executive Director
<b>Marc Steuben</b>	Part-time Assistant Director
<b>Joel Thielen</b>	Intern



### JASC INVESTORS & BENEFACTORS:

*Thank you to the following corporations and organizations*



[www.rothgerber.com](http://www.rothgerber.com)



[www.flydenver.com](http://www.flydenver.com)



[www.kpmg.com](http://www.kpmg.com)

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