



# Kakehashi 架け橋

*Building a bridge between Colorado and Japan*



November 2009

Fall Issue

はじめまして！

**Dear Members and Readers:**

Welcome to the fall issue of the JASC newsletter, *Kakehashi*! I am thrilled to be a part of this wonderful organization, and look forward to getting to know all of you in the months and years to come.

In this, my first edition of *Kakehashi*, I hope I can convey to you not only my personal love for Japan and Japanese culture, but also the importance of the JASC—and what a crucial role you, the member, play in keeping us going.

In addition to our usual sections (Membership Corner, Events, etc.) you will find a lot of new material. Keep your eyes open for our new sections, including Culture Shock, Nihongo Corner and What's cooking!

Also, we have some new members and corporate sponsors to introduce **on page 4**.

I hope that you find the new product interesting and engaging; please let me know your thoughts and impressions!

JASC has an exciting time ahead, and I am thrilled that you are all a part of it!

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, I also want to take this time to wish you all a safe and happy holiday weekend.

-Dilek Eccles

ディレック・エクルス

Executive Director



Photo of Fuji-san and Japanese slippers taken by Mathew Eccles. Find out how you can get your pictures featured in the *Kakehashi* **on page 6**.

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## More changes at JASC!

In June, Rie Seaver, a longtime friend and member of the JASC, stepped in as Interim Executive Director while the board searched for someone permanent.

During this time, she took on the challenge of coordinating both the Golf Tournament and the Fall Banquet (**see page 2** for more information on this event).

Now, Rie-san has been assigned the role of Program Coordinator, and we are lucky to have her!

Otsukare-sama to Rie-san for stepping up to the plate during a very busy time!

If you would like to get in touch with Rie-san, please call her on 303-592-5768 or send an email ([jasc-admin2@att.net](mailto:jasc-admin2@att.net)).

## October 15 Banquet

A huge thank you to all of you, from the corporate sponsors and our members, to the volunteers and the employees at the DCPA for making our annual fall banquet such a success.

Dick Clark, current Counselor to the President, and past President of the JASC, put in countless hours organizing this event, as did then Interim Executive Director, Rie Seaver. A huge thank you is due to both of them, as well as everyone else on the JASC board.

Governor Ritter was unfortunately unable to attend the event, due to an unfortunate circumstance which arose days before. Don Marostica, Colorado's Director of Economic Development, stepped in at the last minute to deliver



Don Marostica (left) and Dick Clark shake hands on stage. In the background, the Sashiko quilt.  
Photo by Dan Bihn

an inspiring and informative talk on the opportunities that lie ahead between Japan and Colorado.

JASC welcomed a number of generous corporate sponsors to the event, without whom the evening would not have been nearly as successful as it was (see box, right).

Our silent auction was a hit, and we extend our thanks again to the many generous donors.

The evening ended with a live auction by Chris Wootten.

A group of talented women, known collectively as the JASC quilters, put in more than 500 hours to make a gorgeous *Sashiko* quilt, which sold for \$1,700 and was donated to JASC President Bob Sakata and his family. We are incredibly grateful for the time and love that went into this beautiful piece.

Thank you again to everyone; we look forward to seeing you, and many more, at next year's banquet!

Dan Bihn, a longtime friend of JASC, photographed the event. To view his images, please visit his website:

[http://photos.danbihn.com/jasc\\_dinner\\_2009](http://photos.danbihn.com/jasc_dinner_2009)

### Banquet Sponsors:

#### Partners:

- Japanese Firms Association of Colorado

#### Investors:

- CSU College of Business
- RICOH/IBM – InfoPrint Solutions Company
- Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons LLP

#### Supporters:

- Brighton Japanese American Association
- CQG, Inc.
- Denver International Airport
- KPMG LLP
- Sakata Farms
- Sumitomo Corporation of America
- The Healing of America by TR Reid

## October 24 Event: Kabuki

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, 800 people gathered at the University of Denver's Newman Center to witness a uniquely intimate Kabuki performance and lecture.

The event offered a rare glimpse into the work that goes on behind the scenes of one of Japan's oldest performing arts.

Two renowned Kabuki actors, Kyoza Nakamura and Matanosuke Nakamura, performed two traditional dances: *Sagi Musume* (The Heron Maiden) and *Shakkyo* (Lion Dance). During *Sagi Musume*, the audience watched in awe as Kyoza transformed himself into a woman, demonstrating the skill involved with *onnagata* (female roles played by male actors in Kabuki).

Kabuki, difficult to see outside of Tokyo, had never before been seen in Colorado, making the evening all the more special. The audience was captivated throughout the evening, and one of the highlights was watching Matanosuke apply his makeup on stage—a treat for Japanese and American viewers alike.

Yayoi Shaw from the Consulate-General in Denver, which organized the event, says, "It was a truly magnificent presentation and further inspired my interest in my own Japanese culture. Hopefully the audience felt the same way."

Thank you to Consul General Kazuaki Kubo and Deputy Consul General Fumiyoshi Kashima for making the evening possible.

### KABUKI INFORMATION:

#### Presented by:

Japan Foundation &  
Shochiku Co., Ltd.

#### Sponsored by:

PENTAX

Denver Tofu

Pacific Mercantile Company

JASC

#### Organized by:

Consulate-General of Japan,  
Denver

# December 2009: Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2 Kaiwa Club!	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Kaiwa Club!	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Kaiwa Club!	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 CLOSED Kaiwa Club TBA	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve (大晦日) CLOSED	1 New Year's Day (元日) CLOSED	2

## Schedule of Events

- Kaiwa Club will be held at Buzz Café in Denver the first four Wednesdays of every month
- On January 15, World Trade Center Denver, a partner organization of JASC, will be hosting its International Business and Rodeo Day! Tickets cost \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members, and include a western-style buffet and reception drinks. For more information, visit [www.wtcdenver.com](http://www.wtcdenver.com), or call (303)-592-5760.
- Please note: Our office will be closed on the 23rd, 24th, 25th and 31st of December

## Japanese Language

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 volunteers her time to teach various aspects of Japanese language. Each week has a different theme: pair conversation, small group discussion, grammar and games. *Kaiwa Club* is **free to attend**, and our members are of varying levels, so don't be shy!

Also, don't forget about our **Japanese language classes**. Our most recent series finished in October, and was a great success. Many thanks to **Janine Weeks**, for all of her hard work in running the classes.

These classes run for ten-week sessions and are held in downtown Denver. Classes cost only **\$90 to join**, and this is an excellent way for beginners to start and others to improve their Nihongo skills! The next session will commence in **January 2010**. Please email [jascolorado@att.net](mailto:jascolorado@att.net) with your details if you would like to be contacted once the schedule is finalized.

Finally, please note that we will be hosting our annual **Japan Cup** in April 2010; the event is open to all high school and university students of Japanese. Please get in touch (using the aforementioned address) if you would like more information as and when it becomes available.

### BUZZ CAFÉ DETAILS:

1229 E 6th Ave # A  
Denver, CO 80218  
(303) 831-1077

# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

**Support the JASC:  
Become a member  
TODAY!**

As most of you know, the JASC is a non-profit organization, devoted to building and strengthening cross-cultural communication and understanding between the people of Colorado and Japan.

With so many passionate members, we are eager to make the coming year a fulfilling one—providing more events and programs than before that focus on the various aspects of Japanese culture, society and language.

We rely on membership support to keep us going, and

are incredibly grateful to those of you who continue to renew your membership annually.

We are eager to build our funds in order to offer a wider variety of community outreach events which will be cost little-to-nothing for our members to attend: film viewings, book clubs, cooking classes, cultural presentations and more.

In order to see all of this come to light, we turn to those of you who have not yet joined JASC, or whose membership has expired.

The past several months have seen a lot of change at JASC, and unfortunately in the midst of all this our re-

cords have not been kept as up-to-date as we would normally like.

We are now working on making our office much more efficient, including an updated and concise database. If you have been a member in the past, but know you have not paid within the past year, we would be grateful if you would get in touch to renew today.

Your support is what keeps us going, and with all the exciting things planned for the year ahead, **there has never been a better time to join!**

## MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

### INDIVIDUAL:

**Friend: \$150**

**Family: \$75**

**Individual: \$48**

**Educator: \$40**

**Student: Free! (with ID)**

### CORPORATE:

*We also have a wide range of corporate membership levels. If your business or organization would like to support JASC, please get in touch for more information.*

### BENEFITS:

Please visit our website for more information on the many benefits available for our members.

## New and Renewed Corporate Members!

### Investor:

- Denver International Airport

### Supporters:

- Renewable Energy Materials Research Science and Engineering Center, Colorado School of Mines

### Associates:

- Colorado Japanese School
- DecorAsian

## New and Renewed Individual Members!

### Families:

- John & Grace Bond
- Jeff & Etsuko Hanscom
- John & Kim McMillen

### Individuals:

- Mr. Jonathan Bentley
- Mrs. Shigemi Cree
- Mr. Tom Migaki
- Ms. Janine Thormann

### Educators:

- Ms Miho Harmes
- Dr. Kathy Magilvy

### Students:

- Ms. MacKenzie Roebuck-Walsh
- Mrs. Ashley Whitaker
- Mr. Yulong Yang

## Special Offer!

JASC would like to extend our thanks to the **men and women of the armed forces**. Members of the military and their families can now join the JASC for a reduced price of \$25 per year. The offer also extends to those who have left the military within the past five years. Thank you for your service!

# Culture Shock!

By Asako Sasho  
JASC intern

I first came to Colorado after graduating high school in my native Japan. I spent four years studying at the University of Colorado, Boulder, during which I found myself surprised, and sometimes confused, by some of the cultural differences between America and Japan. One in particular is the concept of, "Ladies First"--which seems often practiced in Western society, but which is rarely observed in Japan.

One day I was between classes and heading to a cafeteria on campus. There were two American men walking in front of me. I was not expecting anything but just following them to get into the building. I thought I was simply in the flow of traffic. The next thing I knew, these two men opened the doors for me and let me go in first! I was confused for a second, before passing through the opened doors awkwardly. It was the first time I felt uncomfortable because of a cultural difference.

A few days later, I told my friend about the two students

who opened the doors for me and how I was surprised but confused at the same time. Seeing I was excited, my friend, who was born and raised in Japan, started talking about a similar experience with his girlfriend that made him confused as well.

My friend and his girlfriend, an American, were walking together and they were about to enter a building. When they got in the front of the door, she stopped walking and looked at him. My friend could not understand why she suddenly stopped walking right in front of the entrance, but he finally realized that she wanted him to open the door. After he told me the story, we concluded that the concept of men opening doors for women is rarely observed or practiced in Japan.

In Japan, a lot of aspects of American culture have spread to the younger generations, and men and women have been given equal opportunities and rights by law; the concept of "Ladies First," however, in which men treat women with care, has not taken root. Rather, in Japanese society, one will find the opposite to be

true, and that men are treated with more care than women.

I grew up in a modern household, but my parents still held onto certain traditional Japanese ideals. For example, it was our rule that the children could not start having dinner until their father came back home. We also had to wait until he had his bath before we could take ours. [In Japan, one washes and rinses off before relaxing in a hot, clean tub; this same water is used for everyone in the family.] In our family, as with other traditional Japanese families, the father plays an important role and has the power to make decisions related to family matters. Since I grew up in such a household, I was surprised by the two male students who opened the doors for me.

I believe that most people living in a foreign country will be confused with cultural differences, but women from Japan might be pleased when they experience the, "Ladies First" culture of America.

## Share your story!

If you have an experience with Culture Shock that you, as an American, experienced in Japan, or visa versa, we would love to hear from you! Please send your story to [jascolorado@att.net](mailto:jascolorado@att.net), with the subject, "Culture Shock." Each newsletter will feature a new submission from one of our readers.

# Nihongo Corner

Another new feature of the *Takehashi* will be our Nihongo Corner.

This week, I wanted to talk about one of my favorite aspects of Japanese language: onomatopoeia. Japanese language has two forms of onomatopoeia: *Giongo*, which mimic sounds, and *Gitaigo*, which represent emotions or actions. Tying these into your conversation can be fun, and will certainly impress your Japanese friends.

パクパク食べる: To gobble

例: 子供たちはサンクスギビング (感謝祭) 料理をパクパク食べた。

The children gobbled up the Thanksgiving dishes.

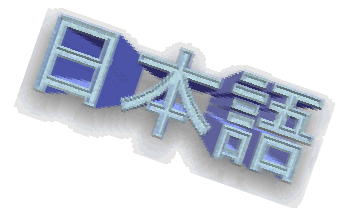
**Note:** This expression is used often when describing a child eating something excitedly, or when talking about adults who are eating in a rush. It can also be used when referring to handheld foods, like *onigiri*.

からっ (と) : Sunny skies

例: 昨日は雪が降っていたのに、今日はからっと晴れた。

Yesterday it was snowing, but today it's really sunny.

**Note:** Weather is a big part of Japanese culture, and this is reflected in the language, with various terms and expressions one will not find in English.



# What's Cooking?!

Japanese food is one of my favorite cuisines; unfortunately, when it comes to preparing dishes I am a complete novice. I often wish I had a few dishes I could master, and share with friends.

As such, I wanted to create a section of the newsletter devoted to recipe exchange; each newsletter will feature one or more recipes, sent in by you, the reader!

Also, as food is such a vital part of Japanese culture, recipes will be featured in both English and Japanese, to help those studying Japanese learn important cooking vocabulary.

I hope you enjoy the new, What's Cooking! section, and that you have fun following the recipes at home. Enjoy! *-Dilek*

## THIS ISSUE'S RECIPE: SOBA SALAD (serves one)

This recipe comes to us from Rie Seaver, the JASC Program Coordinator, and former Interim Executive Director. Rie-san's family owns a soba restaurant back in Japan, so she knows her stuff! This recipe is fast and easy, and offers a different take on a Japanese classic.

### Ingredients:

- 1 ~ 2 bunches of soba (if the soba you buy is not already separated into bunches, weigh out 2 ounces (dry) per bunch.)
- Italian dressing (as needed)
- ½ cup soba broth (tsuyu) mixed with water (check the back of the bottle for how much water to use, as each brand varies)
- 1-2 cups spring salad mix

### Directions:

1. Boil soba noodles as per packet instructions. Remove from heat; rinse and drain.
2. After noodles have thoroughly drained, roll up into mouthful servings (in the same way you would swirl spaghetti onto a spoon with a fork). Place on serving plate and set aside.
3. Combine Italian dressing and soba broth/water mixture in a dish. Stir.
4. Place salad on top of soba "balls", and cover with dressing. Enjoy!

## そばサラダ (1人分)

ざいりょう  
材料:

- そば 1~2束 たば
- イタリアンドレッシング 適量
- そば汁 1/2カップ
- スプリング・ミックス (サラダ用) よう  
1~2カップ

### やり方:

1. そばをゆでて一口ずつに丸めて水を切っておく ひとくち まる
2. イタリアンドレッシングと汁 (そばのレシピ用に水で割っておく) をドレッシング用の容器又はふた付きの容器で混ぜておく わり ようき また
3. そばを並んだ皿にサラダを上へのせドレッシングをかける なら きら

### Share your recipes

We want the new newsletter to involve our readers more. If you have a favorite Japanese recipe you would like to share, please send it into [jascolorado@att.net](mailto:jascolorado@att.net). We will choose the recipe/s of one or more lucky readers to be featured in each issue. So, don't waste any time—**send in your recipes today!**



### Say, "Cheese!"

With so many members having lived in, or traveled to, Japan, we know there are some amazing images to be shared from what is arguably one of the most picturesque countries in the world.

We would love to feature pictures sent in by our readers, which highlight what a beautiful nation Japan is.

If you would like your snapshots to be featured in our new, **Shashin Spotlight** section, please send them to [jascolorado@att.net](mailto:jascolorado@att.net), with the subject, "Sashin".

Happy Snapping!



Japan America Society of  
Colorado  
コロラド日米協会

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**Building a bridge  
between Colorado and  
Japan**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.JASCOLORADO.ORG](http://WWW.JASCOLORADO.ORG)

## JASC ORGANIZATION

### OFFICERS

Robert Sakata	President
T.R. Reid	Executive Vice President
Richard K. Clark	Counselor to the President Executive Committee
John Bywaters	Secretary & Treasurer Executive Committee
Isao Kamitani	Special Advisor
William G. Waters	Executive Committee
Missy Kautt	Executive Committee

### IASC STAFF

Dilek Eccles	Executive Director
Rie Seaver	Program Coordinator
Janine Weeks	Language Teacher
Asako Sasho	Intern

## Q&A

This section will provide a forum for readers to write in with any questions they may have about Japanese language, culture and/or society. Furthermore, feel free to get in touch should you have any questions about the JASC.

2010 is going to be a year of positive change at JASC, with more programs and events in which members can participate throughout the year. Please get in touch if you have any thoughts or suggestions about our organization, or indeed if you would like to co-sponsor an event with us.

## JASC INVESTORS & BENEFACTORS:

*Thank you to the following corporations and organizations for  
your continued support of the JASC!*



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.