

# Rocky Mountain JETAA Newsletter

A Quarterly Publication of the Rocky Mountain JET Alumni Association

Summer Edition

June 2005

## To the Newbies...

Desiree Thorp  
President



A quick word to all of this year's outgoing JET participants from the Rocky Mountain region; best wishes from the Rocky Mountain JET Alumni Association. We know that you will find a special place in your heart for Japan, just as we have and we truly look forward to your return and participation in JETAA.

## Rocky Mountain JETAA Interactive & Official Website

James Barron  
Webmaster



Hello, everyone. This is your new RMJETAA website, Jim Barron. We are going to do some great things with our web site this year. Currently available on the site is information on events, cultural activities, job opportunities, markets and restaurants, and some photos from May's highly successful exhibit. If anybody has more information to offer, please email me, and I'll see if I can include it. One addition we want to make is to create a web version of the newsletter so that you can access it from anywhere. We would also like to make a special section for photos, poetry, and whatever else you want to share with the community. So please email me your material and ideas. Together, we can make something great. Check us out at [www.rmjetalumni.org](http://www.rmjetalumni.org). Thanks.

## A Word from the Editor



Gina Carosa  
Vice-President/ Editor

Haisai!



My name is Gina Carosa and I am the new vice president for the Rocky Mountain JET Alumni Association. While on the JET program from 2002-2004 I lived in Kochinda-cho on the beautiful sub-tropical main island of Okinawa. "Haisai" is the Okinawan dialect for "hello". Originally from Breckenridge Colorado, a cold and landlocked area, I was very excited to have the opportunity to live in a MUCH warmer climate and to be able to take advantage of life on a wonderful island! I experienced two of the most incredible years of my life in Japan and I know that I will always have a place in my heart for the Japanese and Japan.

During my time in Okinawa I helped to implement a support system called the block system, similar to AJET, but structured only for the Okinawan JET community. For the block system I volunteered as a lead contact, or "block head" for the southern area. I feel that this experience has given me more insight into the JET Program and will help me to competently perform my duties as vice president. After having been so involved in the local Japanese and the JET community, I wanted to be as much a part of the Japanese community as possible upon my return to Colorado.



*Katsura and Gina at the annual world-renowned Tug-of-War Festival in Naha, Okinawa which uses the largest tug-of-war rope and has the most people participating in the tug-of-war!*

Becoming active in the Rocky Mountain JET Alumni Association helped to ease the pain of returning to America and has given me an opportunity to continue to be involved with others who share my same enthusiasm for Japan. I'm looking forward to working with all of the RMJET Alumni's, supporting the JET Program and helping to ensure the

*continued on page 3*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 International JETAA Conference in Japan  
Dinner with the Consul-General, Essay Contest Information
- 3 Upcoming Events
- 4 US National JETAA Conference in San Francisco
- 5 Sakura Matsuri, Photo Contest
- 6 The World in a Bowl of Tea, Recap of our First Annual Art Exhibit

# JETAA International Conference June 12 - 13

Desiree Thorp  
President

From June 10th through June 14th, I attended the JETAA-I conference, which took place in Nagoya and Kobe, Japan. It was a whirlwind trip! I left Denver Thursday morning and arrived in Nagoya Friday evening. Saturday morning I explored downtown Nagoya with some of the other JETAA delegates and that afternoon we took a bus, as a group, to the Aichi World Expo. Unfortunately, it was raining, packed with people, and we had under four hours to tour the grounds. Most of us visited country pavilions because there were 3-hour lines to get into these. The more popular technology and environmental exhibits were almost impossible to get into, most people having made reservations for them months in advance.

That evening, we took the bus back to Nagoya for a welcome reception. The conference officially began on Sunday with talk about where JETAA-I is now and where it is going in the future. There was a presentation on Content Management Systems or CMS, which is hopefully going to be put into effect within a year on the JETALUMNI.ORG website and will streamline the process of communication between chapters, countries, and members of JETAA.

The second day of the conference began with a bus ride to Kobe. In the afternoon we attended more meetings and broke up into groups of different chapter sizes to discuss the

common issues we were facing and to share solutions. The Rocky Mountain chapter is a mid-size chapter. I talked about our recent photo exhibition as a way to include members that may live too far away from the chapter's base to participate in most events. Many mid-size chapters face the problem of member participation because of the distance the chapter encompasses.

The last day of the conference we elected new JETAA-I officers, and voted on four proposed by-law changes. As a student of International Studies, this day was fascinating because I was able to see first hand how an international organization governs itself, albeit a young and relatively small organization. One by-law change that we voted on was substantial; it entailed changing the voting rights of Chapter representatives versus Country representatives. It was the case that for any proposed amendment to the by-laws, every Chapter rep. had a vote. At the conference it was decided that now only country reps will vote on changes, because most chapters simple were not voting and this way the process could be streamlined.

In the afternoon we visited the Earthquake Museum in Kobe and talked to a survivor of the 1995 quake. Then we took a bus to a local high school and created a collage working with high school students, which is now on display in Kobe. We had a farewell dinner that night and I flew home the next day. I am indebted to Clair, The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and local government offices who sponsored or hosted all the receptions and travel throughout the conference. ■

## Jetaa USA Essay Contest

### Win a FREE trip to Japan!

JETAA USA will host its second essay contest from June until August 31 this year. Fifteen winners will receive round trip airfare and accommodations for three nights in Tokyo plus a one-week JR rail pass, courtesy of **Kintetsu International**. Interested writers should write an essay about project or idea that promotes grassroots exchange between Japan and the United States. All former JETs of any nationality living in the United States during the contest period are eligible to enter, including this year's returning JETs. For complete details, please visit [www.jetalumni.org](http://www.jetalumni.org)

## Dinner with the Consul- General of Japan

James Barron  
Webmaster

On May 23rd, the new RMJETAA officers had dinner with Consul-General Ota at his residence here in Denver. We had a wonderful time. It was a very formal affair with suits, a five course meal, and wine. But the Consul-General was relaxed and friendly, allowing for a casual atmosphere. The food was excellent and the conversation pleasant. We are thankful for such a nice evening and for all the Consul-General's participation in and support for RMJETAA events. We look forward to working with him throughout the following year. ■

## UP COMING EVENTS

### Q & A SESSION FOR NEW JETs

ARVADA CENTER

JUNE 25, 2005

10AM – 12:30PM

Informational meeting for departing JETs presented by the Denver Consulate and Rocky Mountain JET Alumni .

### JAPAN DESIGN TODAY 100

CENTER FOR VISUAL ART, 1734 WAZEE ST., DENVER

JUNE 30 – AUGUST 27, 2005

TUESDAY – SATURDAY 12:00 – 5:00 (CLOSED SUNDAYS AND MONDAYS)

ADMISSION FREE

The Consulate-General of Japan at Denver, the Japan Foundation, and the Metropolitan State College of Denver Center for Visual Art are proud to present Japan Design Today 100.

The exhibit will feature approximately 100 of the finest examples of Japanese design created between the 1990s and the present, focusing on products used in everyday life. Another 13 objects of modern design are included from the early postwar years to show the origin of today's design.

The design of household products acts as a mirror, reflecting the life of our society and the personal lifestyles of individuals. They give a vivid picture of the hopes and dreams of the people who use the products as well as the designers and corporations who create them. The exhibit will allow visitors to increase their knowledge of recent trends and features of Japanese design, as well as give them insights into the nature of today's Japanese culture.

### RMJETAA PLANNING MEETING

COFFEE ON THE LOWELL

4995 LOWELL BLVD.

DENVER, CO

JULY 10, 2005

2:00

Don't be shy, get involved! Please join us for free coffee and good company while ensuring the ongoing success of the RMJETAA!

### KARAOKE EVENT

DJ MUSIC AND KARAOKE STUDIO

1535 S. HAVANA STREET, UNIT A

AURORA, CO 303-745-3535

JULY 16, 2005

8-10PM

Karaoke for alums and new JETs who will be leaving in July. We hope to see everyone there!



growth of the Rocky Mountain JET Alumni Association. I'm very excited to be a part of the RMJETAA and involved in strengthening our presence and sharing our love of Japan in the community.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at [gcarosa@hotmail.com](mailto:gcarosa@hotmail.com) if you have any suggestions for events and activities for the RMJETAA and I encourage everyone to be as involved as you can! I look forward to meeting and working with you all and I'm excited for what the next year in the RMJETAA will bring!

In other news the 2005 JET Interviews were held February 18<sup>th</sup> in Salt Lake City and February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Denver. Over 120 applicants were interviewed in the two cities, which was about a 10% increase over last year! With such a large number of high-quality applicants the recommendation process was very difficult. Of the total applicants 116 interviewed for ALT positions and seven for CIR positions. From the Rocky Mountain region we currently have 66 participants slated to leave from Denver and Salt Lake City. The new JETs were informed of their acceptance in April and are scheduled to depart for Japan on July 23<sup>rd</sup> with a majority going to Hokkaido and Okinawa.

It's an exciting time of year for the JET Program and we wish all of the new JETs the best of luck in their exciting new lives in Japan and we can't wait to see them all when they return as JET Alumni's! Also thank you to everyone who helped with the 2005 interviews. Everyone's involvement and continued support of the JET Program and RMJETAA is greatly appreciated and important to the ongoing success of the JET Program. ■



*The sunrise over Zamami Island in the Karama Islands of Okinawa*

## UP COMING EVENTS CONT...

COLORADO DRAGON BOAT

SLOAN'S LAKE PARK, DENVER

JULY 30-31, 2005

WWW.COLORADODRAGONBOAT.ORG

This year we will attend informally and check it out and decide whether we should commit to buying a booth for next year. Please come and join us for some fun in the sun, Japanese style!



PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION FOR 2005 JET PARTICIPANTS

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL

JULY 22, 2005

2:30PM

Pre-departure information for new JETs.

RMJETAA PLANNING MEETING

COFFEE ON THE LOWELL

4995 LOWELL BLVD.

DENVER, CO

AUGUST 14, 2005

2:00

We would love to for you to join us for free coffee and good company while ensuring the ongoing success of the RMJETAA!



RMJETAA PLANNING MEETING

COFFEE ON THE LOWELL

4995 LOWELL BLVD.

DENVER, CO

SEPTEMBER 11, 2005

2:00

It's not too late to get involved! Come and find out what happens behind the scenes and join us for free coffee. By attending a meeting you will be ensuring the ongoing success of the RMJETAA!



JAPAN ARTS DAY IN CASPER, WY

CASPER, WY

SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

Please contact Matthew Johnson at [cqjd-pr@qwest.net](mailto:cqjd-pr@qwest.net) for more information

WELCOME BACK PARTY AND SUSHI MAKING DEMONSTRATION

STUDENT HOUSING/ BOULDER, CO

SEPTEMBER 24, 2005

A welcome back and reconnecting event for JETs newly returning from their stint in Japan. Please continue to visit our website at [www.rmjetalumni.org](http://www.rmjetalumni.org) as we add more information about this event.

## JETAA National Conference San Francisco June 3 - 4

Chris McMorran  
Treasurer

Rocky Mountain JETAA officers Gina Carosa (Vice-President) and Chris McMorran (Treasurer) recently attended the JETAA National Conference, along with representatives from 15 other U.S. chapters. For a day and a half, the approximately 30 representatives, along with three representatives from the New York office of CLAIR, learned about more effect ways to network for job opportunities, reach out to our wider communities, fund raise, and promote both the JET Program and Japan-United States relations on the local scale.



All chapters shared their experiences and advice regarding events they hold throughout the year, some of which are very inspired. Some favorites included a kujira (whale) hike and an enkai renshu (party practice) hosted by the Hawaii chapter, a social event with area Japanese graduate students hosted by the New Orleans chapter, an Iron Chef Party hosted by the Portland chapter, and an annual softball tournament hosted by the New York chapter. We shared lessons we learned from our annual sushi-making party (coming up in September) and our first-ever photo exhibit, recently held in May, and relished in the opportunity to be around so many people who truly care about JET and JETAA.

Highlights of the conference included receptions held by both CLAIR and the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco, as well as an Amazing Race-inspired scavenger hunt that led teams around the streets of San Francisco – past sea lions, through Chinatown, and up and down the city's famous hilly streets.

The location of next year's national conference remains up in the air – anyone for the first mile-high JETAA National Conference? ■



*The Kansas City JETAA rep, the Portland JETAA rep, Chris McMorran and Gina Carosa representatives of the Rocky Mountain JETAA all pose Japanese style in front of the San Francisco skyline and the Ghirardelli Chocolate Factory.*

# Sakura Matsuri

Gina Carosa  
Vice-President



The 33<sup>rd</sup> Cherry Blossom Festival took place this year on June 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> in downtown Denver at Sakura Square. Having been my first time to experience the Cherry Blossom Festival in Denver, I was very impressed with the entire event.

The weather was great and there was wide range of things to entertain everyone. There were many different booths promoting Japanese interest groups, as well as booths selling Japanese and Asian items. Inside the Buddhist Temple there were Ikebana arrangements and bonsai plants on display along with a large variety of Japanese food to purchase, and plenty of Kirin Beer in the beer garden.

Throughout both days many demonstrations on such things as Ikebana, calligraphy and tea ceremony were available for people to attend. There was also a fantastic lineup of entertainment which included many Odori dances, martial art demonstrations and my favorite, Taiko Drumming.

If you couldn't make it this year, we hope to see you next year at the 34<sup>th</sup> Cherry Blossom Festival.



## Events and Happenings with the Japan America Society of Colorado

### Japan Discussion Series

**Date:** Always the second Tuesday of the month

**When:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Breckenridge Brewery 4th and Kalamath (NOT the one by Coors Field) On-street parking is available. Go to the "speakeasy" in the back of the restaurant.

*Discussion series is free and casual. Everyone is welcome! No RSVP required, food and drinks are available at the bar.*

### Kaiwa Club

**Date:** June 29, July 5, 13 - Always 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month

Come and chat in Japanese over a cup of coffee or tea!

**When:** 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Where:** Starbucks at 6<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln, (call 303-831-4996 for directions).

Everyone is welcome! Native Japanese-speakers are always welcome and encouraged to participate!

For more information, call 303-592-5768, or send e-mail to [katie.jasc@att.net](mailto:katie.jasc@att.net). [www.jascolorado.org](http://www.jascolorado.org)



## JETAA Northern California/ JETAA Photo Contest

### WIN A FREE TRIP TO JAPAN!

**In conjunction** with Japan's National "Yokoso Japan" campaign, JETAANC/JETAA is kicking off a national photo competition with a "Focus on Japan". This contest is designed to foster interest and understanding in Japan, Japanese tourism and Japanese culture, and to additionally educate viewers about the influence of Japan abroad.

**Participants:** This is open to all JET alumni currently living in the United States.

**Submissions:** Submissions need to foster interest and understanding in Japan, Japanese tourism and Japanese culture and to educate viewers about the influence of Japan abroad. The challenge is to capture unique Japanese related influences, culture in the communities in which you live in the United States. We are not looking for photos from Japan.\*

**Prize:** The winner will be awarded one free round trip ticket to Japan as well as one week-long Japan rail pass.

**When:** The contest will begin June 30<sup>th</sup> 2005. Submissions will be accepted through to August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The winner will be notified on Friday Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

\*You will be required to submit a HIGH-RES black and white or color digital version of your photo submission for consideration by a select panel of judges from ANA, All Nippon Travel, JNTO, CLAIR and the Japan Consulate of San Francisco, CA. The ownership rights of your submitted photos will become the property of our sponsors (including CLAIR ANA, JETAANC, All Nippon Travel, JNTO and MOFA); and our sponsors are entitled to use these photos at their discretion (e.g. calendars, promotional travel campaigns, Web promotions/banners etc.)

#### Rules and Regulations:

1. The competition is open to all JET alumni.
2. Entries must be HIGH RES black& white or color DIGITAL prints. Scans should be at least 300 DPI (if you are unsure-make sure you have your camera turned to the highest resolution possible). Please keep your file sizes down to no more than 1 GB per image (compressed size). No allowances will be made for poor-quality scans. Digital scans and images should be emailed to: [photo@jetaanc.org](mailto:photo@jetaanc.org) OR sent on a CD to the attention of: JETAANC / Attn: Focus on Japan Photo Contest / P.O. Box 2873 / San Francisco, CA 94126-2873 / CD submissions must be postmarked no later than August 29<sup>th</sup>.
3. You must be the sole author and owner of the copyright in all photos entered. Images must not have been digitally altered in any way other than necessary burning, dodging and cropping.
4. You can submit up to 3 photos per person. Please include the following details with your submission: your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, a title for the photo, a brief statement about your thoughts about the photo, where the photo was taken, when it was taken.
5. Judges appointed by JETAANC will choose the winners. The judges' decision on all matters relating to the competition is final, and no correspondence will be entered into concerning the competition's judging and JETAA.
6. First place will be chosen. Winners will be notified via e-mail as soon as judging is completed. Winning and honorable mention photos will be published on the JETAANC/JETAA Web site. The first place winner will receive a free round trip ticket to Japan + a one week Japan rail pass. The winning entry and any honorable mentions will be published in the contest gallery. Individual photographers will give up all copyrights to their submitted work.
7. Should the quality of entries fall below the standard required JETAA and JETAANC reserve the right not to award the prize.
8. The last day for submissions is August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

## Job Opportunities

### Manabi

As JET alumna (Fukuoka-ken '96-98), I am writing to inform you about an exciting opportunity. I am currently serving as an advisor for a new venture called "Manabi", MANABI connects students in Japan with JET alumni living in North America, based on student-designated criteria. Internet and telephone figure prominently into our model, which allows students and teachers to connect with one another based on interests, proficiency, learning goals, price, performance and schedule availability. All lessons are conducted over the phone.

**To register on our waitlist**, please access the following URL and register:

[https://ssl5.secureserver.jp/manabi/tl\\_queue.php](https://ssl5.secureserver.jp/manabi/tl_queue.php)

Check out our website at <http://manabi.st/1/> to see more detailed information about us.

Please note that there is no registration link from our website. Feel free to contact [teachers@manabi.st](mailto:teachers@manabi.st) with any questions. **Lisa Wechsler/ Manabi Limited / lisawechs@yahoo.com**

### Coordinator, Center for Asian Studies

CU's Center for Asian Studies seeks a PT Center coordinator. The coordinator provides admin support & mgmt for Center activities & a USDE grant. Responsibilities: publicizing/coordinating events, incl. speakers' series; correspondence, grant records, databases, course offerings. Coordinator works with faculty, grant directors. Min. reqs: MA, 3 yrs. Exp. in academic administration, & knowledge of Asia. Salary commensurate with experience.

**Please Contact:** Lynn Parisi / Director, Program for Teaching East Asia / University of Colorado / ph 303-735-5121 / [lvnn.parisii@colorado.edu](mailto:lvnn.parisii@colorado.edu)

# The World in a Bowl of Tea

Michelle Liu Carriger,  
JET Programme 2001-2003

Ehime-ken

I'm not quite sure how I ended up in the class called *Chado: The Way of Tea* at Pepperdine University, but it fulfilled a non-western class requirement, and more importantly, it fulfilled a childhood memory: when I was about nine years old, I heard about drinking tea from bowls you turned in your hands. I went to library, excited to learn more, but the only books on "Japanese Tea Ceremony" were high on the shelf beyond my reach in the adult section. When I finally pulled them down, they turned out to be musty and picture-free.

So thus it was, finally big enough to enter the garden of tea, I enrolled in Pepperdine's tea class, laughing a little at the six classes they listed (How much could there possibly be to learn?!) and then two years later I laughed a little more at myself, graduating with five of those six classes on my transcript.

Tea is the door that led me to many other parts of Japanese culture: kimono, ceramics, flower arranging, cuisine and calligraphy. And finally, Tea led me to apply for the JET Programme, where I found myself deep in the *yama inaka* of Shikoku's Ehime-ken, far

from the refined Kyoto locales I had studied in conjunction with tea. As soon as I found a car, I found a tea teacher, an adorable 84-year-old woman in the next town, Kameda-sensei, who loved to show off her *gaijin* student at the area *chakai* tea gatherings. I collected second-hand kimono at flea markets, showing up like a scarecrow among the subtler new kimono, with my arms and ankles poking out of the bright old silks made for smaller people of previous generations.

Now another two years have passed, and I'm still at tea every week. In the US tea practitioners make up a small but remarkably wide-ranging network. When I returned to the States, I found that a friend of my California teachers had moved to Lawrence, Kansas, a mere twenty minutes from my hometown. And when I began school in Boulder last year, I staked out the tiny teahouse at Naropa University and accosted the guy who came to open it up. That's how I ended up here in my fourth tea home. Like all beginnings and endings, there are things that are hard about joining and leaving so many tea groups, but the great thing about studying a tradition half a millennium old is that anywhere, all over the world now, I can join a family of tea practitioners in a bowl of tea. ■

For questions about chado, [michelle.carriger@Colorado.edu](mailto:michelle.carriger@Colorado.edu)

## First Annual Art Exhibit

Desiree Thorp  
President

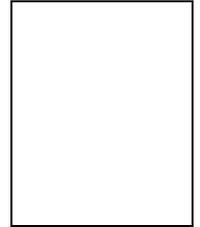
May heralded the Rocky Mountain JETAA's first Photo exhibit. Entitled, "Picturing Japan: Our JET Experience", over 40 photos were enlarged, mounted and displayed for an entire month at the Revoluciones Collective Art Space. There were three prize winners voted on by the opening reception attendees who received \$50 gift certificates at local sushi restaurants; Sonia Narang, Michelle Carriger, and Desiree Thorp. A huge thanks to everyone who contributed photos to be in the show and helped with its organization; Amanda Tipton, Joe Friedrichsen, Kristina Schauer, Leilani Gushiken, Helena Shirai, Chris McMorran, Gina Carosa, Rachelle Bergen, Julie Tollen, Susan Weller, Lindsay and Joel Borgman, James Barron, Charles Grell, Eric Nicolaysen, The Japanese Consulate of Denver, Clair, Revoluciones and Sonoda's. We are all looking forward to our next exhibition! ■



Community members, RMJETAA members and the Consul-General himself, Ota-san enjoying themselves with sushi, art and good company!



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**Win A Free Trip  
or Two to JAPAN...  
See inside for details!**





