

# Rocky Mountain Chado

Japanese Way of Tea in the Rocky Mountains

SPRING 2024

As we begin to thaw after the quiet solace of winter, and think ahead to filling our social calendars again we hope this first newsletter of 2024 finds you in the best of health and good spirits, ready to embrace the new season.

Just after the arrival of the Spring Equinox, Colorado decided it wasn't ready to wave goodbye to winter as sparkling snows cascaded from the mountains and blanketed the green shoots of early crocus, daffodils and other heralds of the warmer days ahead.

## A Vibrant Hina-Matsuri in Denver with Clotilde Wright

On a sunny and warm March 2nd, some of DeZauche-sensei's students: Sara, Maggie, Nadja, Sanskriti and I went to the 54th Annual Hina Matsuri (Japanese Doll Festival) Celebration at Simpson United Methodist Church in Arvada, CO.

We admired the Sogetsu and Ikenobo Ikebana arrangements which showcased beautiful spring flowers and branches. There were also bonsai on display, a few with small blooming flowers. In the main exhibit hall, we enjoyed viewing the plethora of Japanese dolls, kimono, lacquerware and other cultural items. The main exhibit was a traditional red multi-tiered Hina Ningyo doll display with miniature dolls dressed as members of the Imperial Court of Heian Era Japan (794 AD – 1185 AD).

Finally, we had the pleasure of watching a Tea Ceremony demonstration performed by an Omotesenke Tea Ceremony Group, whose members include Forrest Trimbell, Seiko Yoshikawa, Midori Allmeyer, Shelia Phillips, and Yasuyo Kitano. Fittingly, a Hina Matsuri scroll was on display in the tokonoma. As part of our excursion, we also delighted in the rice balls, teriyaki chicken and spam musubi on offer for lunch. What a wonderful way to welcome the coming Spring!





## Mindfulness at Community Practice Day with Andrea Becker

In the first week of March, Andrea Becker and Sarah Richards-Graba held tea sittings and demonstrations for Naropa University's Community Practice Day in collaboration with Boulder Tea Hut and Anh Le Ngoc Pham on behalf of Rocky Mountain Chado.

Sarah and Andrea have been working together to facilitate a student group, Naropa Way of Tea\*, at the university's historical Japanese tea house.

Seasonal themes were featured throughout the week like handmade kusa mochi called "yukima no kusa," Japanese anemone and ferns arranged in a fishing basket hana-ire, and transitioning the teahouse to the "tsurigama" (hanging kettle).

The micro-season that week was "keichitsu," or "hibernating insects emerge." The snow is melting and the mountains are waking up—here's to many more bowls of tea in the community this Spring!



\*These program offerings and other events with Naropa Way of Tea are also open to all chajin and the general public. Please email [naropateahouse@naropa.edu](mailto:naropateahouse@naropa.edu) if you would like more information!

## A Community Thank You to Martha Rome

Spring brings new blossoms, as well as new beginnings. With joyous and grateful hearts, the Rocky Mountain Chado community sends one of our own onto her next grand adventure on the sunny West Coast! Martha Rome is a pillar of the Colorado Tea community. Her wisdom, encouragement, and advice have been essential to all those she lifts up: members of the Urasenke community, Naropa University students, RMC members, and many others have been the recipients of her kindness, her humor, and her incredible enthusiasm.

The community at large has benefitted from Martha's commitment and tenacity in revitalizing shared spaces and missions so that the practice and study of tea continues to thrive in the Rocky Mountain region.

We know that no matter what tearoom she enters, she will be welcomed with open arms, and that she will bring the same charm and enthusiasm that she has shared with our community. We look forward to the day she stops by our tea rooms again for a visit, and a bowl of tea shared with friends.



一華開五葉  
"A single flower blooms, five petals open..."

Thank you for taking a little time out of your day for Tea. If you would like to share any "tea happenings" in your keiko-ba or your daily life with the rest of the RMC community or participate in the next newsletter email us at [info@rmchado.org](mailto:info@rmchado.org) or join us on our [Discord server](#). You can also follow us on our Facebook Group (Rocky Mountain Chado) & Instagram (@rockymtnchado).

Submissions for our next update must be received by June 15th, 2024.