

## Mile High JACL Meeting

Present: Tom Migaki, Toshiko and Frank Sakamoto, Ngoc Dinh, Gil Asakawa, Marge Taniwaki, Andrew Yeh, Mike Shibata, Mark Shimoda, Kimiko Side, Suzy Shimasaki, Donna Hansen, Harry Budisidharta, Richard Hamai, Gary Yamashita

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:40 by Harry Budisidharta
- II. Guests
  - a. Chris Wanifuchi – APDC
    - i. Founded 32 years ago to provide services to refugees from SE Asia
      1. PTSD and other mental health services
    - ii. Current services
      1. Victims support (women and children victims of domestic abuse)
      2. ESL education, citizenship, job readiness programs
      3. Youth services
      4. Interpreters banks
    - iii. New Building – open house on June 14
      1. Will also provide integrated health services
    - iv. Serve all of Colorado: Asians, immigrants, and refugees (we receive approximately 2,000 refugees each year and it takes an average of 8 months for them to find jobs)
    - v. Policy related efforts
      1. Also working on family reunification
        - a. Immigration policies to bring families to US and/or maintain families that are here
      2. Informing the community about the Colorado benefit health exchange
      3. Addressing the mental health parity
  - b. Senator Jessie Ulibarri (district 21 – Adams County)
    - i. Large Latino, Hmong, and Vietnamese populations in his district
    - ii. New initiative to conduct more research on underserved communities
      1. Sponsors: Angelo Williams (H); Joe Salazar (H), Irene Aguilar (S)
        - a. Will send Harry more information with bill number
    - iii. Colorado Road and Community Safety Act (Drivers License Bill)
      1. Current policy discourages honesty because people still need to drive so many people continue to drive without the ability to get a drivers license or ID card
      2. Bill: anyone who is a resident of Colorado (living here 30 days or intent to live here → document with address), pass written and driving exam, **IRS # ??**, certification that you have filed your taxes, ID from country of origin (passport with or without valid VISA, military identity document, or consulate document)
        - a. Support from 50+ faith based organizations and 300+ businesses

3. Ensure that they are long-term Colorado residents, pays tax, and is who they say they are
  4. Over half of undocumented immigrants originally came here legally
    - a. Many continue to pay taxes by getting an individual tax payer ID (not a SSN)
  5. We would be the fifth state to have this policy if it passes
  6. Hickenlooper wants it to be bipartisan
    - a. 17 democratic Senators have signed onto the bill
    - b. 1 republican Senator is ready to support and 3 are on the fence
    - c. Aiming to have it leave the senate with 24-25 votes
  7. Next committee hearing on Wednesday
  8. Motion: Fully support bill
    - a. First: Donna
    - b. Second: Marge
    - c. Passed unanimously
- c. Maria Cheng – Theatre Esprit Asia
- i. First Asian American theater company in the Rocky Mountain region
  - ii. Have raised enough funds to cover their first year of production
    1. Looking for additional funding and all donations are tax deductible
  - iii. Group ticket rate: 10 tickets for \$13 per ticket + 2 free tickets (\$130 for 12 tickets)
    1. Individually: \$17 advanced purchase; \$20 at the door
- III. New Business
- a. Identify ways to inform constituents about the new policies related to health insurance through the Affordable Care Act
- IV. Political Advocacy
- a. Asian American Justice Center
    - i. Looking for people with personal stories to approach Senator Bennett who can share personal stories about families that have been separated → bill to promote family reunification
    - ii. Debate between Mike Coffman and Andrew Romanoff
      1. League of Women Voters has agreed to help us with this but have attempted this before
- V. Old Business
- a. Social lunch
    - i. Silent auction items and raffles
  - b. Cherry Blossom Festival
    - i. Ngoc did an amazing job proposing many options
    - ii. We will have a 10x10 booth with a couple tables, large cherry blossoms, directions on how to make the wish, information about JACL, and the tree
    - iii. Ngoc will make a mock-up of stickers to give to people who purchase wishes and a banner

- iv. List of items that we need: furin bells (10-20), wishing tree, donation jar, 10 foot rope, volunteers
- VI. New Business (cont)
  - a. Oral History Speakers Bureau
    - i. Mark is already doing something like this and has a list
      - 1. Will write a short blurb to include in the newsletters to inform people that this already exists
- VII. Newsletter
  - a. This month's authors: Bonnie, Justin, Mary Ann, and Mark
- VIII. DOR
  - a. Special thanks to Mark and everyone else who contributed to a very successful event
  - b. Great venue → will probably keep it there for next year
- IX. Meeting structure
  - a. Keep to two speakers
- X. Motion to end meeting
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup>: Gil first
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Richard
  - c. Passed