



Tenno No Tanjōbi December 23rd Emperor's Birthday

JACL
Japanese American Citizens League
Mile High Chapter



DECEMBER 2013

A Message from the President



I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season! As 2013 comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone for another wonderful year. We accomplished a lot with our political advocacy programs and I am very proud of our chapter's growing prominence within the AAPI community.

- February 2013 - We partnered with History Colorado to present the annual Day of Remembrance program. This year's program commemorates the 71st anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066.
- May 2013 - Mile High JACL supported various state bills that would establish civil unions for same sex couples, provide in-state tuition rates for undocumented immigrant youths, and allow undocumented immigrants to obtain a valid driver's license in Colorado.
- June 2013 - Mile High JACL met with representatives from Senator Bennet and Senator Udall's office to talk about the Senate immigration reform bill.
- July 2013 - Mile High JACL met directly with Congressman Mike Coffman and Congressman Cory Gardner to talk about the House immigration reform bills.
- July 2013 - Mile High JACL members attended a rally to honor the life of Trayvon Martin and to protest the acquittal of George Zimmerman.
- August 2013 - Mile High JACL organized an immigration workshop that was specifically geared toward the AAPI immigrant community in Colorado. We talked about the process of applying for deferred action, gave updates regarding the federal immigration reform bills, and answered questions about the new Colorado law that allow undocumented immigrants to obtain a valid driver's license. The workshop was attended by over 50 people and was covered by the Denver Post.

Our annual board election is coming up soon. This is a great opportunity for you to run for a Board of Director position. You can help determine the direction of Mile High JACL and become an advocate for our community. A core value of Mile High JACL is to have a board that represents Colorado's diverse racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, aging, and socioeconomic backgrounds. As such, in our strategic recruitment of new board members, we highly encourage individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, disabled, low income, veterans, and/or documented or undocumented immigrants to apply. If you are interested in applying or would like to learn more about Mile High JACL, please contact Suzuho Shimasaki at suzuho.shimasaki@gmail.com by Friday, January 3.

All of you are invited to our next board meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2013, at 6:30 pm. We meet at the Japanese American Association of Colorado's Office, located on the second floor of Sakura Square (19th and Lawrence, Denver, CO). We love to hear your suggestions and feedback! Please e-mail us at President@MileHighJACL.org and let us know what you like (or dislike) about Mile High JACL.

Harry Budisidharta
Mile High JACL Chapter President

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mile High JAACL
Board Meeting
January 9th
6:30pm
Sakura Square, 2nd Fl.

APDC New Year
Banquet
February 8th
5:00pm
Arvada Center
for the
Arts & Humanities

Grants Available For Japanese American Programs

By Gary Yamashita

The Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (TS/DBT) is pleased to announce that grant funds are now available to Japanese American community organizations. The **Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple-Nisei Veterans Heritage Foundation Grant Program** (TS/DBT-NVHF Grant Program) was established to provide grants to support projects that will benefit other Japanese American community programs that work to promote or educate a better understanding of the Japanese American culture and heritage and will make a meaningful impact in our Japanese American community. Successful candidates may receive mini-grants up to \$3,000. Amounts greater than \$3,000 may be considered as an exception and will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

This grant program was made possible through a generous donation from the Nisei Veterans Heritage Foundation (NVHF) with the directive that funds be provided to organizations in our community that celebrate, educate and ensure that future generations preserve the cultural legacy of Japanese Americans in Colorado. In addition, the NVHF donation provides financial support in perpetuity for the annual Japanese American Community Memorial Day Service at Fairmount Cemetery and also to provide funds to support the annual graduation scholarship awarded by the NVHF at the Japanese American Community Graduation Program (JACGP) awards banquet.

The grants will be awarded based upon the following review criteria:

- Strength of project and or opportunity to promote the Japanese American culture & heritage.
- Capacity of individual/organization to provide future continuity.
- Individual/Organizational ability to carry through with the project.
- Balanced budget estimate.

Applicants should submit their completed applications a minimum of 45 days prior to the proposed start date of the project. The TS/DBT-NVHF Grant Program review committee will contact the applicant regarding the committee's decision prior to the project start date. The recommendations of the review committee will be reviewed by the TS/DBT Board of Directors for a final decision. If review and a decision cannot occur before the project start date, the applicant will be notified as soon as possible. To receive the complete mini grant program guidelines and the application form, or if you have any questions regarding the grant program, please feel free to contact the TS/DBT-NVHF Grant Program Committee Chairperson, Gary Yamashita at gary.yamashita@comcast.net.

Nihongo-o Naraimashyou!

Let's Learn Japanese!



Eiga (*E-i-ga*)
Translation: Movie

Saifu (*Sa-i-fu*)
Translation: Wallet

Omochya (*O-mo-chya*)
Translation: Toy

Shitsumon (*Shi-tsu-mo-n*)
Translation: Question

Kenkou (*Ken-n-ko-u*)
Translation: Health

Shyashin (*Shya-shin*)
Translation: Picture

For more upcoming events
please visit our website:
milehighjacl.org/events/

Do you have an event
or project that you
would like to share
with our community?
Please help us keep
our community informed
by submitting events,
notices, recognitions and
articles to include in future
newsletters. Information
can be submitted to
media@MileHighJAACL.org

The Discussion of Asian American Identity and Stereotypes is Always Evolving

By Gil Asakawa

Not everyone uses computers, surfs the Internet or connects with others via social media. But an increasing number of people - especially young people - do. So it's not surprising that discussions about Asian American identity and stereotypes is taking place in blogs, and on Facebook and Twitter.

These discussions are the latest evolution of the search for identity that sparked the call for Asian American studies in universities in the 1960s and '70s, that launched the first wave of Asian American publications in the 1980s, and then a wave of blogs in the last decade. Now social media is the way the current generation of young Asian Americans communicates.

One discussion in particular has exploded across the Internet recently.

A young Asian American woman, Suey Park, a graduate student at CSU in Fort Collins, has become an international celebrity in just a few days because she came up with a Twitter hashtag that has generated global conversation about the topic of Asian stereotypes, especially Asian woman.

If you use Twitter, you may know about hashtags. It's a way to label messages so other users can find them. The hashtag is the number symbol -- # -- followed by a one-word string. Popular hashtags can be used by people in Twitter, Facebook and other social media services to facilitate discussions about the topic, or to follow breaking news (#typhoonhaiyan was big a month ago). Suey Park's hashtag is #NotYourAsianSidekick.

If you search Twitter or Facebook for #NotYourAsianSidekick, you'll find up to hundreds of people adding their voices with stereotypes they've faced as Asians (and plenty of haters who pooh-pooh Asians' comments). Park has managed to strike a nerve in our community, or at least the part of our community that thrives online and communicates via social media. The hashtag has become so popular she's been interviewed by the national media including newspapers, radio and television.

The hashtag was meant to focus on the experience of women, but it quickly took on a larger scope as an avenue for all Asian Americans to express themselves.

The anger, questioning and humor displayed in the discussion evokes past efforts to bring the Asian and Asian American experience to the forefront of social consciousness and change.

But we're still struggling to add Asian American studies programs to college curricula, and magazines aimed at Asian American readers still come and go without finding their financial footing. Maybe now, with leaders such as Suey Park sparking the new wave of energy among Asian Americans, we'll be able to establish a stronger, more permanent identity in American society.

Park is leaving CSU to focus exclusively on helping to spread the "revolution" that she started. I'll follow her journey with great interest - she's smart and savvy and understands how to manipulate the media, both news media and social media. She's no one's sidekick, and she may accomplish some amazing things in the months and years to come.



Suey Park (in yellow jacket) and her friend Justin Valas (to her left) met members of the Denver Chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association recently

CDC Launches First Multilingual Hepatitis B Campaign for AAPIs

[Know Hepatitis B](#) is CDC's first multi-lingual campaign promoting testing for Hepatitis B among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), who are disproportionately affected by Hepatitis B. The campaign launched in June 2013 with support from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), HHS office of Minority Health, and the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Developed in partnership with Hep B United, a national coalition addressing the public health challenge of hepatitis B, the campaign seeks to increase awareness and encourage people who may be chronically infected with hepatitis B to get tested. By doing so, people can take care of themselves and protect their families.

JACL has long encouraged medical providers to make materials accessible for non-English speaking AAPIs and applauds CDC on this important step in its outreach to the AAPI community.



JACL/OCA Leadership Summit Applications Live

The Washington DC Leadership Summit is an annual program of the JACL in partnership with OCA National and will be held on March 8-11, 2014. This four-day conference provides an opportunity for emerging leaders of all ages to learn firsthand about current national public policy issues facing our communities.

Applications are available here and must be received by January 13, 2014. Please visit <http://www.jacl.org/leadership/dc-summit.htm> for more information. For questions regarding the summit, please contact Rhianna Taniguchi at rtaniguchi@jacl.org.



2012 JACL/OCA Washington, DC Leadership Summit participants

JACL Mission Statement

“What cannot be achieved in one lifetime will happen when one lifetime is joined to another.”

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

Become a Member of JACL Today!

Joining the Mile High Chapter JACL is a great way to get involved with the community and to help support our programs that educate our youth, develop leaders and pass on our legacy from generation to generation.

Membership benefits include (subject to change):

Associate Memberships are available for two years to individuals who are new to the Mile High Chapter JACL and includes:

- Mile High Chapter JACL Newsletter
- Discounts to local chapter events (when applicable)

All other memberships include the above in addition to:

- Pacific Citizen, The JACL Newspaper
- Scholarship Program
- JACL Credit Union Services
- VISA Affinity Card
- Hertz Rental Car Discounts
- Long Distance Calling Discounts
- Major Medical Insurance Program *
- Long Term Care Insurance *
- Catastrophic Major Medical Insurance*
- Medicare Supplement Insurance*

* Membership does not guarantee acceptance. The insurers have their own acceptance criteria.

If you would like to join, please complete the information below:

Membership Application

(12 months membership from the date of application)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$65) | <input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Family (\$110) | <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Youth (\$30) - PC Excluded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club (\$100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Century Club (\$175) | <input type="checkbox"/> Millennium Club (\$1000) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club Life (\$3,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Century Club Life (\$5,000) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse of Thousand or Century Club member (\$37) | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse of Millennium Club Member (\$30) | | |

Name: _____ Spouse (if applying): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Please send applications to: Mile High JACL, P.O. Box 13061, Denver, CO 80201

Mile High JACL | P.O. Box 13061 | Denver, CO 80201 | info@MileHighJACL.org | www.MileHighJACL.org

Would you like to place an ad in our newsletter?

Individuals and organizations are invited to place advertisement in the Mile High JACL Newsletter to help us sustain this important publication that informs our community about various activities and issues. Advertisements may include marketing for your company, job postings and/or messages to friends and family. However, the Mile High JACL Board of Directors will use its discretion about printing advertisements that may go against the mission of the organization. The sponsorship categories are as follows for each issue of the newsletter (printing on 8.5" x 11"):

- \$100 - Full page advertisement
- \$50 - Half page advertisement
- \$25 - Quarter page advertisement
- \$10 - Business card size advertisement

Discounts are available for bulk purchases: 5% off for three issues or 10% off for six issues. Members are also eligible for an additional 10% off.

If you are interested in submitting an advertisement, please email your graphic and/or text to info@milehighjacl.org and mail payments to: Mile High JACL, P.O. Box 13061, Denver, CO 80201

Payment and advertisements both need to be received by the 15th of each month in order for your information to be included in that month's issue.

Thank you for your support of the Mile High JACL and its monthly newsletter!

