



JACL

Japanese American Citizens League  
Mile High Chapter



MARCH 2014

## A Message from the President

I want to thank all of you that attended Colorado's very first AAPI legislative training and lobby day! Over twenty community leaders attended the legislative training and we met with several legislators during lobby day. We will do this again next year and I hope to see more of you next year!



On April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm, Mile High JACL is hosting a screening of the documentary "Hafu: the Mixed-Race Experience in Japan." The documentary follows the lives of five "hafus" - the Japanese term for people who are half Japanese - as they explore what it means to be multiracial and multicultural in a nation that once proudly proclaimed itself as the mono-ethnic nation. The screening will happen at Sie Film Center, 2510 East Colfax, Denver 80206, and Mile High JACL will host a panel discussion after the screening. I hope to see all of you there!

We are always looking for people that want to be active with Mile High JACL! I want to personally invite all of you to our next general meeting on Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 pm. We meet at the Japanese American Association of Colorado's Office, located on the second floor of Sakura Square (19<sup>th</sup> and Lawrence, Denver, CO). This is your chance to meet with other members of Mile High JACL and exchange ideas about the direction of our chapter.

We love to hear your suggestions and feedback! Please e-mail us at [President@MileHighJACL.org](mailto:President@MileHighJACL.org) and let us know what you like (or dislike) about Mile High JACL.

*Harry Budisidarta*

Mile High JACL Chapter President

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mile High JA CL Board Meeting**  
 April 3rd  
 6:30pm  
 Sakura Square, 2nd Fl.

**Cleanup of Riverside Cemetery**  
 Japanese American Association of Colorado

**Art + Activism**  
 April 30th  
 7:00pm  
 Sakura Square

# REMINDER: Enroll in Affordable Care Act - by March 31 Deadline

The American public is approaching the final week to sign up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") by Monday, March 31, 2014.

Those who enroll after this date will be fined \$95 or 1% of income, whichever is higher, which will be applied to 2015 income tax. In addition, they will not be eligible for healthcare until the next enrollment period (November 2014 to January 2015).

Those who were unable to enroll online due to technical difficulties, will be eligible for a tax credit subsidy on any private health insurance plan purchased on the Marketplace.

Please click here to watch a very simple explanation of Obamacare and its benefits.

Go to [www.getcoveredamerica.org](http://www.getcoveredamerica.org) to learn more.



(Photo credit: Department of Health and Human Services)

# Nihongo-o Naraimashyou!

Let's Learn Japanese!



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

Tsurara (*Tsu-ra-ra*)  
 Translation: Icicle

Okane (*O-ka-ne*)  
 Translation: Money

Shokuji (*Sho-ku-ji*)  
 Translation: Meal

Sakana (*Sa-ka-na*)  
 Translation: Fish

Yamagoya (*Ya-ma-go-ya*)  
 Translation: Cabin

For more upcoming events please visit our website: [milehighjacl.org/events/](http://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@MileHighJAcl.org](mailto:media@MileHighJAcl.org)



***Traci***  
***Kato-Kiriyama***

## *Art+Activism*

Creative writing and storytelling workshop with Traci Kato-Kiriyama  
7 pm Wednesday April 30  
Sakura Square, 20th & Larimer  
Free and open to the public

Traci Kato-Kiriyama is a writer/actor/multi-platform artist/educator/organizer. She is half of the award-winning PULLproject ensemble, whose show, PULL: Tales of Obsession, has toured from Los Angeles to Toronto and is an actor for East West Player's new touring show, Our American Voice. She is the organizer of the Generations Of War oral history & peace education project and Director/Co-Founder of Tuesday Night Project - which just celebrated it's 15th year of "Tuesday Night Cafe," acknowledged in LA Weekly's Best of L.A. 2013 list as "Best Free Downtown Performance Series." traci has facilitated writing, performance and arts activism workshops for over the last 15 years and most recently taught "Wellness & Expression in the Asian American Community" for the Claremont Colleges. Her second book of poetry & writing is slated for publication in 2014 by Writ Large Press.



# Colorado's First Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Legislative Training and Lobby Day at the State Capitol

By Harry Budisidharta

On Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Mile High chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (Mile High JAACL), Asian Pacific Development Center (APDC), National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum of Colorado (NAPAWF - Colorado), and the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) hosted a legislative training for AAPI community leaders. The training was attended by over 20 community leader, and we learned valuable advocacy skills such as how to write a strong testimony, how to conduct an effective legislative visit, and how to influence your elected representatives. We also talked about various issues that are affecting the AAPI communities, such as healthcare for elderly people, application for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Filipinos in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan, suicide among refugee communities, and the lack of affordable housing for indigent people. Lastly, we discussed various bills that are pending before the State Legislature, such as health equity, wage theft, and recruitment of minority teachers.

After the training, the community leaders gathered at the State Capitol on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, for Colorado's very first AAPI lobby day. Representative Crisanta Duran stood on the House floor and recognized all of the AAPI community leaders that were present that day. We then met with Senator Lucia Guzman, Senator Jessie Ulibarri, Representative Dan Pabon, and Representative Joe Salazar to talk about various issues affecting AAPI communities.

We hope to turn this into an annual event. Just like this year, this event next year will also be free and open to everybody. If you are interested in attending the lobby day next year, please contact Harry Budisidharta at [President@MileHighJAACL.org](mailto:President@MileHighJAACL.org).



## Efforts Continue to Support Tohoku Victims of Fukushima Disaster

Three years after the occurrence of the second largest nuclear disaster in history, strong support is still being shown for the Tohoku-area victims who lost homes and communities to the Fukushima Daiichi incident.

One such ongoing effort was initiated by graduates of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program, whose experiences working and teaching in Tohoku has led them to promote collective fundraising efforts to assist those displaced by the catastrophe. Their directed efforts seek to improve educational opportunities for impacted Fukushima students by providing academic scholarships and assistance at the Sendai YMCA College.

JACL has also been actively involved in relief efforts in the Tohoku region. Collaborating with Direct Relief International, JACL has supported the creation of community centers in sites for those displaced by the disaster, academic scholarships for Fukushima-area college students, and organizations for increased nuclear awareness and advocacy.



*Photo credit: Global Giving*

## Erika Moritsugu Nominated as Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at the Department of Housing and Urban Development



*(Photo credit: Asian American Action Fund)*

The White House announced last week its intent to nominate Erika Lizabeth Moritsugu to be the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She has served as the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs at the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) since 2012, and previously worked as the Deputy Legislative Director for Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI), for the Senate Democratic Policy Committee (as Acting Staff Director, Policy Director and Counsel, and Economic Policy Advisor), as a Legislative Assistant at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service, and as a legal clerk at the Prosecuting Attorney's office for the City and County of Honolulu. She has also worked in private practice as an Associate for the Government Regulations Practice Group at Hogan and Hartson, LLP and at The Wexler Group. She is a Member of the Board of Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors, a 2004 recipient of the Tahirih Justice Center Pro Bono Award, and a 2001 Bryce Harlow Foundation Scholar. Ms. Moritsugu received a B.A. from The College of William and Mary and a J.D. from George Washington University.

日本は多様化している Japan is Changing

# HAFU

# ハーフ



## DENVER SCREENING

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2014 · 7:00PM

AUDIENCE TALK BACK SESSION AFTER THE FILM  
SIE FILMCENTER · 2510 EAST COLFAX, DENVER, CO 80206  
NON-MEMBER: \$15.00 · DENVER FILM SOCIETY MEMBER: \$12.00  
INFO@DENVERFILM.ORG · WWW.DENVERFILM.ORG · 303.595.3456



PURCHASE  
TICKETS



HAFU  
TRAILER



# House Resolution Seeks to Educate Americans About Japanese American WWII Incarceration Experience

On March 8, JAACL and OCA National members traveled from across the country to attend the 2014 JAACL/OCA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. The 4-day annual summit is designed to expand the participants' knowledge on issues affecting the AAPI community and civil rights community, and to deepen their commitment to achieving equity and equality for our communities.

The program included workshops, discussions, and panels on AAPI coalition building within AAPI community, advocacy training, and culminated with Hill visits where participants met with Congressional staffers to lobby on immigration reform and Voting Rights legislation.

This year's special guests also included: former White House Cabinet Secretary Chris Lu, Congressman Mark Takano (CA-41), and Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa (HI-1).

The selected 2014 JAACL participants were: Rosemary Uyeda (Florin), Justin Valas (Mile High), Steven Sharp (PSW), Yasuo Tokita (PSW), Janet Komoto (Snake River), Matthew Walters (Twin Cities), Toshiko Grace Hasegawa (Seattle), Jessica Asai (Portland), and Kenneth Sogabe (San Francisco).

The 2013 JAACL/OCA DC Leadership Summit would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors State Farm and Southwest Airlines.

To learn more about the summit, please visit:

<http://www.jaocl.org/leadership/dc-summit.htm> for more information.



*JAACL members attending the Leadership Summit, outside the U.S. Capitol.*



*Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa (HI-1) addresses the Leadership Summit.*



*Juliet Bui of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) works with Leadership Summit attendees in a breakout session at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.*

# 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](mailto:info@MileHighJACL.org) | [www.MileHighJACL.org](http://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](mailto: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!

# FAIRMOUNT

*A Denver tradition since 1890*

**Honored to serve the Japanese American community  
for all your pre-planning needs. Property still available  
near the Nisei War Memorial in Block 35.**



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