



Tenno No Tanjōi December 23rd Emperor's Birthday

JACL

Japanese American Citizens League
Mile High Chapter



DECEMBER 2014

THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- 1 A Message from the President
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 2 Enroll for Health Insurance Now
- 2 Nihongo-o Naraimashyou
- 3 "Fresh Off the Boat" TV Show
- 4 White House Student Film Festival
- 4 S. Floyd Mori's "The Japanese American Story"
- 4 Local Spotlight on San Jose JACL
- 5 JACL NY/SC Youth Summit
- 6 Membership Application
- 7 Advertisements & Job Postings

A Message from the President

It is hard to believe that it is almost the end of the year. I wish all of you Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! I hope that you get to take some time off and spend it with your loved ones.

We have been working hard to prepare for the 2015 Day of Remembrance ceremony. We are working together with CU Denver and we will be hosting two separate DOR ceremonies. One of the ceremonies will take place at History Colorado on February 15th and the other ceremony will take place at CU Denver on February 23rd. We are still finalizing our list of speakers, but we would love to hear your suggestions on who we should invite!

We are planning another Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Lobby Day at the State Capitol. We are tentatively scheduling the Lobby Day to take place on March 2nd, with a training workshop on February 28th. I hope that you can join us! We had a great turnout last year and we were able to educate several legislators about issues impacting our community.

We will soon be holding election for Board of Director positions within Mile High JACL. This is your chance to get involved with Mile High JACL and help us steer the direction of our chapter. Please consider running for a board of director position! If you have any questions, please send me an email at President@MileHighJACL.org

Our next meeting is on Thursday, January 8th, at 6:30 pm. We meet at the office of Japanese American Association of Colorado, located on the second floor of Sakura Square (19th and Lawrence). Our meeting is open to all members, so please feel free to come! We love seeing new faces!



Harry Budisidharta
Mile High JACL Chapter President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mile High JACL
Board Meeting
January 8th
6:30pm
Sakura Square, 2nd Fl.

Kohaku Uta Gassen
January 24th
12:00pm
Tri-State Denver
Buddhist Temple

Day of Remembrance
February 15th
History Colorado

Day of Remembrance
February 23rd
CU Denver

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@MileHighJACL.org

Reminder: Enroll for Health Insurance Now through HealthCare.gov

Consumers can now compare and purchase health insurance coverage online at HealthCare.gov. The open enrollment period for 2015 coverage started on November 15th, 2014 and will close on February 15, 2015. Consumers are also encouraged to visit HealthCare.gov to find out if they are eligible for financial assistance, which can help pay monthly costs and reduce out-of-pocket premiums.

Young adults who are about to turn 26 qualify for a special enrollment period that lets them enroll in a health plan outside of open enrollment. Adults about to turn 65 can keep their Marketplace plan until their Medicare coverage starts, after which they can cancel the Marketplace plan without penalty.

All consumers shopping for coverage in 2015 should enroll or re-enroll by December 15th, 2014 in order to have coverage effective January 1st, 2015. For more information and to purchase coverage, please visit HealthCare.gov or JA Insurance Services (formerly JACL Health Benefits Trust). The National Council on Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) has compiled a list of AAPI specific resources regarding health insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act and HealthCare.gov at www.healthcare.gov.



Nihongo-o Naraimashyou!

Let's Learn Japanese!



Oiwai (O-i-wa-i)
Translation: Celebration

Isu (I-su)
Translation: Chair

Rousoku (Ro-u-so-ku)
Translation: Candle

Keshyou (Ke-shyo-u)
Translation: Cosmetics

Kaze (Ka-ze)
Translation: Cold/Flu

Kusuri (Ku-su-ri)
Translation: Medicine

“Fresh Off the Boat” could be a landmark TV show for Asian Americans

By Gil Asakawa

I grew up with very few Asian Americans on television. My earliest memories were of Hop Sing, the Chinese cook on “Bonanza,” a Western, with his long queue hanging from under his cap. Then, there was Fuji, the hapless Prisoner of War from “McHale’s Navy,” a sitcom about a crew of a PT boat during WWII.

Later in the 1960s came the first Asian I could be proud of, the butt-kicking martial arts-fighting driver Kato in the superhero series “Green Hornet,” played by Bruce Lee, who would go on to become an icon in his 1970s kung fu movies. “Star Trek” brought us Sulu in “Star Trek,” a revolutionary show for its time for its deliberate diversity.



There were TV shows in the 1970s with Asian Americans, but they were still supporting roles, not the star. The 1980s were dry years for JAs. It was the decade when African Americans came of age in pop culture with Bill Cosby’s all-American black family, the Huxtables.

But in 1994, a young Korean American comedian, Margaret Cho, was cast in “All American Girl,” the first Asian American family sitcom -- our version of the Huxtables. It may have been well-intended, but its non-Asian producers played up Asian stereotypes and eventually criticized Cho for her weight and told her she wasn’t Asian enough. They forced her to work with a coach to be “more Asian.” The series lasted only one season, and by the end the entire Asian American cast had been fired except for Cho and Amy Hill, who played the outlandish grandmother.

It’s been 20 years since that debacle, and Asian Americans are finally plentiful onscreen, in bigger parts and a couple of starring roles. And, we’re getting another shot at an Asian American family sitcom. “Fresh Off the Boat” has a lot of people, including me, excited, because this time the team behind the show is multicultural, with Asian American input.

“Fresh Off the Boat” is based on the memoir of the same title, written by Eddie Huang, a celebrity New York City chef. The series is about his Taiwanese family’s experiences when they move from Washington DC’s Chinatown to a white Orlando, Florida suburb in 1994, when Eddie was 11. The show will debut on Wednesday, February 4 with two new episodes (before and after “Modern Family”), and then settle into its weekly schedule on Tuesdays starting February 10.

The trailers that have been released are funny, and show that a lot has changed in Hollywood since “All American Girl.” The executives behind “FOTB” are racially diverse, and Asian Americans are part of the writing team. Eddie Huang is a producer. And Hudson Yang, the 10-year-old star who plays the young Eddie Huang, is the son of Wall Street Journal columnist and Asian American media pioneer Jeff Yang, who’s been writing about his son’s adventure for the past year.

As Jeff Yang says with his Dad hat on, not his journalist’s skeptic hat: “The show is like nothing you will have ever seen before on television. If it makes it to air, it will blow minds, raise eyebrows and, to quote a line that my son says as Little Eddie, ‘change the game.’ I would honestly say the same if I weren’t the lead actor’s father. It’s that different. And provocative. And, yes, gut-bustingly funny.”

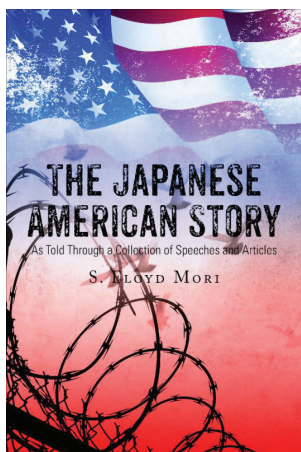
We should all tune in and give this series the chance it deserves.

White House Student Film Festival Accepting Submissions Through January 20th, 2015



The annual White House Student Film Festival is accepting submissions online through January 20, 2015. U.S. students in grades K-12 are encouraged to submit an original short film (3 minutes or less) within the theme of "The Impact of Giving Back." The official selections will be featured on the White House website and shared on official social media accounts. Those selected may have the chance to attend the 2015 Student Film Festival at the White House. For more information and official rules, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/p65ug3h>

S. Floyd Mori Releases a New Book, The Japanese American Story As Told Through a Collection of Speeches and Articles



Former JACL Executive Director S. Floyd Mori has released a new book titled *The Japanese American Story As Told Through a Collection of Speeches and Articles*. This collection of speeches and articles written while Mr. Mori was representing JACL focuses on the forced removal and incarceration experience of Japanese Americans during World War II, as well as events and happenings that have taken place since. In writing a book about this exceedingly important, yet still not well known era in American history, Mr. Mori hopes to raise awareness of past injustices in order to prevent any future infringement of the rights and liberties of all Americans. This book is available for purchase at thejapaneseamericanstory.tateauthor.com or online at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.

Local Spotlight: San Jose JACL Holds Event as Part of LGBT History Month



Dr. Tina Takemoto addresses the audience at the Issei Memorial Building in San Jose.
Photo Credit: Evan Brand

In recognition of LGBT History Month, on October 19th, San Jose JACL presented "Onuma: Queer Perspectives on Wartime Incarceration" by Dr. Tina Takemoto, an artist and Associate Professor of Visual Studies at California College of the Arts in San Francisco. Based on her work examining issues of queer identity, race, memory and grief, Dr. Takemoto has received several art grants, and her articles have appeared in many journals. She is the Board President of the Queer Cultural Center and co-founder of Queer Conversations on Culture and the Arts.

Through the personal photo collection of Jiro Onuma, a gay Issei immigrant, and her own research and analysis, Dr. Takemoto gave the audience gathered at the historic Issei Memorial Building in San Jose a glimpse of the life of Mr. Onuma, likely difficult because of his need to both hide and to express his sexuality, before, during, and after the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans in which he was included. The importance of Jiro Onuma's story was made apparent when Dr. Takemoto recounted her intentions to create a documentary of LGBT stories of the WWII era only to discover that she was unable to find such stories.

JACL NY/SC Hosts Youth Summit “A Seat at the Table: Having a Voice in the Discussion on Racism in America”



Ms. Carmen Ye (L) and Mr. Corey Saylor (R) on the Youth Summit discussion panel.
Photo Credit: JACL

On Saturday, November 8th, a number of students and young professionals took part in a youth summit hosted by the JACL National Youth/Student Council (JACL NY/SC) held at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Themed “A Seat at the Table: Having a Voice in the Discussion on Racism in America,” the summit began with introductions and an icebreaker led by JACL National Youth Representative Michelle Yamashiro. The morning workshop focused on identifying the causes and real-world consequences of Asian and Japanese American stereotypes. After lunch and a financial planning presentation by Ms. Anh Nguyen of event sponsor State Farm Insurance, JACL NY/SC Board Members Kota Mizutani and Emi Kamemoto moderated a panel discussion featuring Ms. Rita Pin Ahrens of the Southeast Asian Resource Action Center

(SEARAC), Mr. Corey Saylor from the Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Mr. Hilary Shelton of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Ms. Carmen Ye of the Conference of Asian-Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL). The panel discussion and subsequent small-group session revolved around advancing issues through coalition building. The speakers, facilitators, and participants then discussed strategies to engage dissimilar, uninformed, or apathetic individuals or groups as allies, and ways youth can become stronger advocates for their causes and communities.

JACL would like to thank Ms. Rita Pin Ahrens, Mr. Corey Saylor, Mr. Hilary Shelton, Ms. Carmen Ye, and all of the students and young professionals in attendance for their contributions and participation. JACL would also like to thank Ms. Anh Nguyen for her presentation and State Farm Insurance for their continued support. Furthermore, we would like to acknowledge JACL NY/SC members Kota Mizutani and Emi Kamemoto for planning and leading the youth summit, and also recognize JACL National Youth Representative Michelle Yamashiro, JACL Pacific Southwest Regional Director Stephanie Nitahara, and JACL EDC District Governor Michelle Amano for their attendance and contributions to the event as well.



Ms. Rita Pin Ahrens (L) and participants in her small group discuss communication strategies.
Photo Credit: JACL



Mr. Hilary Shelton (2nd from Right) discussing coalition building with his small group.
Photo Credit: JACL

JACL NY/SC Youth Leadership Summits are made possible by the generous support of State Farm Insurance and Southwest Airlines.



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 (\$200) | <input type="checkbox"/> Century Club (\$350) | <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@milehighjocl.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!

