



SEPTEMBER 2014

JACL
Japanese American Citizens League
Mile High Chapter



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A Message from the President

I want to thank all of you for coming to the candidate forum on August 25th. Congressman Coffman refused to attend the forum, but that did not stop us from having a lively discussion with Andrew Romanoff on a wide variety of issues. In the span of one and a half hours, we discussed the economy, bipartisanship in Washington, same-sex marriages, US Supreme Court's decision with Hobby Lobby, immigration reform, environmental law, our relationship with China, and many more topics. It was a very informative forum and we are planning on doing similar forums in the future.



Inside this newsletter, you will find an article about the Voting Rights Amendment Act (VRAA). This is a bipartisan bill that seeks to revive the Voting Rights Act (VRA) that was gutted by the US Supreme Court last year in *Shelby County v. Holder*. This is a very important bill because the AAPI community often face discrimination at the voting booth. We met with Congressman Coffman's staff on September 11th to urge him to support this bill. We hope that you will also contact your representatives and ask them to support VRAA.

I hope that you were able to attend our social on September 19th. We had a great time watching *M Butterfly*, the latest play from Theatre Esprit Asia. *M Butterfly* tells the story of Rene Gallimard, a French diplomat that falls in love with Song Liling, a Chinese opera star. This play examines themes of "sexual and racial stereotyping, Western imperialism, the role illusion plays in perception, and the ability for one person to truly know another." I really enjoyed this play and I strongly encourage all of you to go see it!

Mile High JACL is busy planning our annual Fall Festival! This year, our festival will take place on Saturday, November 8th. We will have delicious food and games for the whole family. Rumor has it that our famous wishing tree might make another appearance this year! Please let me know if you are interested in helping out with this festival. We want to make it even bigger than last year so that we can raise more money for our scholarship program.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, October 2nd, 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 face!

Harry Budisidarta

Mile High JACL Chapter President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mile High JACL Board Meeting

October 2nd
6:30pm
Sakura Square, 2nd Fl.

Simpson United Methodist Church Arts & Craft Fair

October 19th
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Mile High JACL Fall Festival

November 8th
Simpson United
Methodist Church

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

Champions of Diversity to be Honored at 2014 National JACL Gala Awards

The Japanese American Citizens League will host its annual National JACL Gala Awards Dinner, "A Salute to Champions," on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C.

This year, we celebrate and recognize individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to promoting diversity in their respective field or industry. The JACL is pleased to present the "Salute to Champions" Award to Bill Imada, and to Hawaii Five-O writers Peter Lenkov and Ken Solarz for their Season 4 episode "Ho'onani Makuakane" ("Honor Thy Father").

- **Bill Imada** is founder, chairman and chief collaboration officer of IW Group, a minority-owned and operated advertising agency focusing on the growing multicultural markets. He is an active member of the Asian American community, as well as member of President Obama's Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders. As an Asian American business leader, he has promoted supplier diversity and Asian American Pacific Islander businesses, and has changed the corporate landscape relative to supplier diversity.
- **Peter Lenkov & Ken Solarz** are the writers of the December 2013 Hawaii Five-O episode "Honor Thy Father," whose plot centered on the incarceration of Japanese Americans in Hawaii at Honouliuli during World War II. Both writers have written and produced extensively in both television and theater over the past 20 years. Their Honouliuli-based episode is an exemplary example of an intersection between creative media and an authentic portrayal of the Asian American story.

The JACL will also be recognizing the leadership of Congressman Adam Smith with the JACL Congressional Award and UPS with the JACL Corporate Partner Award.

- **Congressman Adam Smith** is in his ninth term representing the Puget Sound area in Washington State, one of most heavily Asian American-populated regions in the United States. In addition to being actively involved with Asian American groups in his district, such as Seattle JACL, he has been a steadfast advocate for the end of laws that have permitted the indefinite detention without trial of American citizens and foreign nationals since 9/11, as well as for the closing of Guantanamo Bay.
- **UPS** has been a strong corporate supporter of JACL and other organizations that strive to achieve greater justice for the world. The UPS Foundation, the corporate giving arm of UPS, has supported organizations committed to inclusion and diversity since the 1960s.

"At this year's Gala we recognize those who believe in the importance of a diverse America that embraces every American Community. We honor those who have worked tirelessly to further the goal of diversity, to expand opportunities to all Americans, and to advocate for the inclusion of every segment of society," said Priscilla Ouchida, JACL Executive Director.

Tickets are available online at 2014jaclgala.eventbrite.com or by contacting the JACL DC office at gala@jacl.org (202) 223-1240.

AAPI Candidate Forum - August 2014

By Harry Budisidharta

On August 25, 2014, Mile High JACL organized a candidate forum between incumbent Congressman Mike Coffman and challenger Andrew Romanoff. Both candidates are running for a seat in Colorado's Sixth Congressional District, which is considered to be one of the closest House race in 2014.

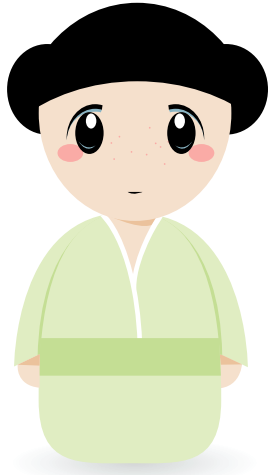
The forum was co-sponsored by multiple AAPI community organizations: Asian Chamber of Commerce, Asian Pacific Development Center, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum of Colorado, Asian Roundtable of Colorado, Asian Avenue Magazine, Asian American Journalists Association - Denver chapter, and Colorado Asian Culture and Education Network. Chris Jose, from Fox 31 News, volunteered his time to serve as moderator for the forum.

Andrew Romanoff showed up to the forum, while Congressman Coffman was nowhere to be seen. According to his campaign manager, Congressman Coffman refused to attend the forum because he is "not interested." However, that did not stop the audience from having a lively discussion with Andrew Romanoff on a wide variety of issues. In the span of one and a half hour, we discussed the economy, bipartisanship in Washington, same-sex marriage, US Supreme Court decision in Hobby Lobby, immigration reform, environmental law, our relationship with China, and many more topics. During the forum, Mr. Romanoff criticized Congressman Coffman for changing his position on immigration reform and refusal to reject PAC money. Mr. Romanoff told the audience that "if you like the way Washington works, then you got the congressman that you need. However, I think that there is a better way."



Nihongo-o Naraimashyou!

Let's Learn Japanese!



Osara (*O-sa-ra*)
Translation: Plate

Oyatsu (*O-ya-tsu*)
Translation: Snack

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

Denki (*De-n-ki*)
Translation: Light

Hon (*Ho-n*)
Translation: Book

Shukudai (*Shu-ku-da-i*)
Translation: Homework

OKAERI Nikkei LGBTQ Event in Los Angeles on November 15

OKAERI, meaning "Welcome Home" in Japanese, is a one-day gathering of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning individuals, family and allies. Although the gathering is primarily focused on the needs of the Nikkei community (of Japanese descent, including mixed-race Nikkei), it is open to all LGBTQ persons and allies.

Read more and RSVP at www.okaeri-la.org!

Okaeri: A Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering

November 15, 2014

8:30 am - 4:30 pm* (Program starts at 9:15 am, with light breakfast and lunch included)

Japanese American National Museum
100 N Central Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(Near Little Tokyo Gold Line station, 1st Street and Central)

Registration Cost: General \$30, seniors (65 and over) & students \$20. No one turned away for lack of funds!

Pre-conference NIKKEI LGBTQ MOVIE NIGHT!

We will be screening "To Be Takei" and serving light refreshments.

Friday, November 14th

Reception 6 pm, movie at 7 pm

National Center for the Preservation of Democracy

111 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012 (Across JANM Courtyard)

Sponsored by the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) and Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles

Medicare and Planning for Healthcare in Retirement

Save the date and join us at our next seminar: Medicare and Planning for Healthcare in Retirement

Date: Saturday, October 25th, 2014

Time: 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Where: The Mezzanine Space at Sakura Square

Guest Speaker: Andy Nash, Regional V.P. Nationwide

Sponsored by Kristy Tochihara, CPRC. First Vice President, Morgan Stanley, Noel Culberson, CFP, CFA. Vice President, Morgan Stanley, Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado and Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple

Please contact Gail Ida at gailann.ida@gmail.com or 303.466.6937 for more information and to RSVP. Please let her know by October 20th, 2014, if are planning to attend.

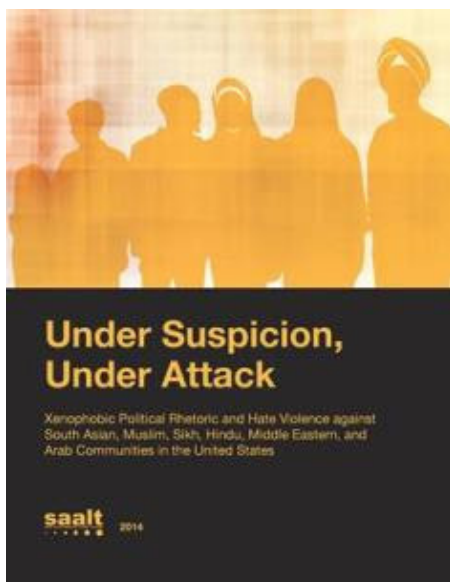
Uprooted Exhibit in Oregon Tells Story of Japanese Americans in Farm Labor Camps During WWII

Uprooted, an exhibit currently on view until December 12 at the Four Rivers Cultural Center, tells the lesser known tale of the 33,000 Japanese Americans who worked on farm labor camps during World War II.

The backbreaking work was an alternative for those who didn't want to live behind barbed wire in an incarceration camp. Japanese Americans were badly needed to fill jobs caused by a labor shortage due to so many workers drafted to fight in the war.



The exhibit showcases photos taken by Russell Lee of Nyssa, Rupert, Shelly, and Twin Falls Farm Labor Camps. Most of these farms centered around the sugar beet industry, as sugar beets were converted to alcohol and used for munitions for the war effort.



SAALT Report Highlights Current Discrimination and Xenophobia Towards South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab Americans

South Asian American Leading Together (SAALT) has released a new report on recent and current discrimination and xenophobic sentiment in America towards South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, and Arab Americans. The report, *Under Suspicion, Under Attack*, finds that hateful rhetoric and actions have increased since SAALT's last report, issued four years ago, and offers policy recommendations for the President, Congress, and communities.

Legal Column

By Harry Budisidharta

In this month's legal column, I will talk about the Voting Rights Amendment Act (VRAA) and why all of us need to contact our representatives and tell them to support this bill.

History of the Voting Rights Act

In order to understand VRAA, we must first talk about its predecessor, the Voting Rights Act (VRA). The VRA was enacted in 1965 and it prohibits discriminatory voting practices that prevents ethnic minorities from voting. Most experts consider VRA to be the reason for the decline in discriminatory voting practices over the last 50 years.

At the heart of the VRA is Section 5, which requires jurisdictions with a history of voting discrimination to submit any proposed changes in voting procedures to the US Department of Justice. This preapproval process is known as "preclearance" and it is designed to stop discrimination before it occurs. Section 5 is designed to work together with Section 4(b) of the VRA, which spells out the coverage formula that determines which jurisdictions are subjected to preclearance requirement. Both sections are critical in enforcing the mandate of VRA.

Shelby County v. Holder

In April 2010, Shelby County, a suburb located in Birmingham, Alabama, filed suit in federal court seeking to have Section 5 of the VRA declared unconstitutional. The case eventually reached the US Supreme Court and the Court ruled that the coverage formula in Section 4(b) is unconstitutional because it was based on decades old data. While the Court did not invalidate Section 5, the decision still rendered Section 5 useless because it struck down the formula that determined which jurisdictions are required to submit for preclearance.

Prior to the ruling in Shelby, nine states (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia) and parts of six states (California, Florida, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, and South Dakota) were covered under Section 5. After the ruling, several states immediately passed laws designed to dismantle voting protections for minorities.

Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 (VRAA)

In January 2014, both the House and Senate introduced the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 (VRAA) to address concerns raised by the US Supreme Court in the Shelby decision. The House bill (HR 3899) was introduced by Representative James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), John Conyers (D-MI), Bobby Scott (D-VA), and John Lewis (D-GA). The Senate version (S.1945) was introduced by Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

The bill would create a flexible formula that would be updated annually to determine which jurisdictions require preclearance for voting changes. The bill would also enhance the power of federal courts to stop discriminatory voting changes from being implemented and allow the Attorney General to appoint federal observers to monitor elections in jurisdictions subject to Section 5 preclearance.

The Senate has held one hearing on the VRAA since it was introduced, and the House has assigned the bill to the House Judiciary Committee. However, the House has failed to take any action and has not set a date for hearing.

We need your help! Please contact your representatives and tell them that this issue is important to your community. Tell them that you want them to set the bill for a hearing as soon as possible and ask them to support the bill. Many people within the Asian American community continue to face discrimination when they try to vote. We must pass VRAA so that we can safeguard our community's right to vote.

Harry received his law degree from the University of Colorado Law School. He has his own law firm and is the current president of the Mile High chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. You can contact him at harry@denverfirm.com

Harry would like to thank Anthony Bowman from Asian Americans Advancing Justice for his help in drafting this column and for the background information regarding VRA and VRAA.

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!

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