



NOTABLE MINORITIES WHO CHANGED HISTORY

December 21, 2007

Featuring
Karen Narasaki

“You see things and ask why, I see things that never were and say why not?”

- A John F. Kennedy Quote

Thought for Today

We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.

~ Jimmy Carter

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 2 - First Day of Advent
- 4 - Hanukkah begins at sundown
- 5 - Hanukkah
- 7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 10 - Columbia State Classes End
- 11-15 Columbia State Final Exams
- 12 - Virgin of Guadalupe (Mexico)
- 17 - Columbia State Grades Due
- 20 - (Eid) al Adha
- 22 - Winter begins
- 25 - Christmas
- 26 - Boxing Day (Canada)
- 26 - Kwanzaa beings

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Columbia State is an AA/EOE Educational Institution.



Karen Narasaki

Karen Narasaki (1958 -) Asian American Activist

Karen K. Narasaki is the President and Executive director of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC). The Center is located in Washington DC and is a non-profit civil rights organization whose goal is to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Pacific Americans. For this cause, Narasaki has appeared before the national media, testified before lawmakers in the House and Senate. She speaks on issues such as; immigrant rights, voting rights, affirmative action, and civil rights.

One of the driving forces behind her activism is her father. During World War II, many Japanese people were sent to concentration camps by the United States Government, where they remained until the war was over. Narasaki's father and his family were among the prisoners. As a result of this injustice, she has dedicated her life to helping her fellow Asian Americans be heard and understood.

During her time as President, the AAJC and its affiliates have led the way for the passage of reauthorizations of key points of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. By doing so, the AAJC has helped unite the community to educate the public about the continuing existence of discriminatory barriers and behavior in voting. The AAJC also monitors hate crimes across the country and urges the police to pursue these cases.

Narasaki and her staff, led a protest against the Real ID Act of 2005 which increased the burden on people seeking asylum in the US. They have also filed briefs in judicial cases supporting affirmative action. She advocates for television diversity and through the AAJC, Narasaki issues a report card on all the major networks (ABC, NBC, CBS, and Fox) on their diversity efforts. These initiatives have led to more than a 20% increase for regular and recurring roles for Asian Pacific Americans on prime time television shows, both on and off camera.

Narasaki serves in a number of leadership positions in the civil rights and immigration communities, and she serves on the National Commission of Adult Literacy. She is the Vice Chair of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Vice President of the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, and Chair of the Rights Working Group. Nagasaki serves on the board of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund, and is a past board member of the Independent Sector. Karen Narasaki is the immediate Chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans. In 2001 and 2006, Narasaki was recognized by Washingtonian Magazine as one of the "100 Most Powerful Women in Washington D.C."

(Source: www.wikipedia.com)

Did You Know? Columbia State's Office of Access and Diversity will be holding a Generational Mentor meeting today from 2 pm till 3 pm at Fairview Park Community Center in Columbia. This meeting will include a review of 2007's programs, sharing information with each other about opportunities to discuss higher education with the people in your circle(s), and make suggestions for 2008.