Korean American History: Short Timeline of Events

September 1886  Philip Jaisohn enters Harry Hillman Academy.
May 15, 1900  Esther Kim Park graduates from Baltimore Women’s Medical College, making her the first woman medical doctor.
June 30, 1901  The U.S. Census reports five Koreans arrive in Hawaii.
October 14, 1902  Ahn Chang Ho arrives in San Francisco.
January 13, 1903  Arrival of the 102 Koreans in Honolulu, Hawaii. The day is noted as the official start of Korean immigration to the U.S.
November 29, 1904  Syngman Rhee arrives in Honolulu aboard the Siberia.
1905  The Gongnip Hyophoe (Cooperative Association) is established.
February 15, 1906  Koreans across America rally in opposition to Japan’s protectorate in Korea.
March 23, 1908  Jang In-hwan assassinates Durham White Stevens.
February 1, 1909  The Korean National Association.
June 25, 1913  The Hemet Valley Incident.
1918  Women are allowed to become full members of the KNA.
1919  Several Korean women organizations are established.
April 1919  The Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai, China.
March 1, 1919  Peaceful protests, the Mach 1st Mansei movement.
March 1920  The Willows Korean Aviation School/Corps
May 15, 1924  The Johnson-Reed Immigration Act.
1944  Young Oak Kim leads the Nisei 100th/442nd infantry U.S. Army unit.
June 25, 1950  The Korean War.
April 12, 1960  Alfred Song is elected to the city council of Monterrey Park.
November 24, 1977  Kim Myeong-gyun, the first female Korean American attorney.

1979  African Americans boycott Korean owned businesses in Harlem and Queens.

May 26, 1980  Korean American students start a blood donation drive at the Los Angeles Red Cross to send blood to the City of Gwangju, S. Korea.

August 10, 1980  Chol Soo Lee is released.

1986  The Philip Jaisohn Memorial Foundation acquires the Jaisohn House in Media, PA.

April 29, 1992  The Los Angeles Riots.

November 4, 1992  Jay Kim is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

March 1, 1993  Washington Coalition for Comfort Women Issues, Inc.

March 31, 1993  Ronald T.Y. Moon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawaii.

September 14, 1994  Margaret Cho’s sitcom All-American Girl premiers on ABC.

May 1995  SAT II Korean is formalized.

August 11, 2001  Statue of Ahn Chang Ho in Riverside, California is erected.

January 13, 2003  100th Anniversary of Korean immigration to the U.S.

2005  Korean American Day.

September 2010  The Young Oak Kim Center for Korean American Studies at the University of California, Riverside.

July, 2013  Memorial statue for comfort women is erected in Glendale, Ca.

2015  David Ryu is elected to the Los Angeles City Council.


2018  Chloe Kim becomes the youngest woman to win an Olympic Gold medal in snowboarding at the Winter Olympic Games.

February 2020  Parasite wins Oscars for Best Picture, Directing, International Feature Film, and Writing.