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On the 3rd of this month, the Asian American Federation (AAFNY) presented its 'Figure of the Year' awards to Khee Jung Lee (left), Google New York's Head of Agency Business Development, and to philanthropist and pianist Sung Eun Han. Han remarked "I feel as though this award recognizes the spirit of taking on challenges in areas that others don't." And added, "I hope this sets a good example for second generation Koreans growing up."

Immigrating to the US at age seven, Lee a "1.5 generationer" has a unique background. He graduated with a degree in pharmacy and now works in advertising for Google. Lee explains, "I studied pharmacy following the wishes of any Korean parent, but I never felt like it was something I really wanted to do." Lee also added, "For your true happiness and future, one should not fear failure. Regardless of your degree, take on new challenges and don't let it tie you down."

Lee emphasized that "There is more shame in not having tried at all than to be afraid of failure." Upon graduation, Lee founded Buzz Skin, a men's cosmetics firm and in 2009, co-founded Korean Beacon, a website on Korean-American and Korean culture that leads the way in spreading Korean music.

Of her philanthropic work Han said, "More so than receiving, helping and serving others brought me much happiness." She added, "In recent years, increased interest in animal welfare has brought me to the forefront of the animal protection movement." The famous pianist said that she is sad to see many younger Koreans studying the arts not knowing why and without a purpose. She urged "Rather than on focusing on improving technical skills, take time to deeply consider the value of studying the arts."

Han graduated from the Juilliard School of Music and since 1996, is the president of the charitable foundation, Chris Anderson Family Foundation, which she founded with her husband Chris Anderson for low-income youth.