

IMAGE ONLINE



Organization of Chinese Americans

April 2002

**Abercrombie & Fitch
Shirts Cause Furor**

**APA Heritage
Month History**

Review: *The Chinatown Files*

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	3
Chapter Reports	4
Mail Bag...	4
Chapter Reports	4
OCA News	8
Business Advisory Council	9
APA Heritage Month History	10
The Chinatown Files - Review	11

Cover Photo by Felicia Chao (OCA 2001 Summer Intern)—Students and community activists outside an Abercrombie & Fitch store in Boston protest the racist line of T-shirts created by the retail chain store.

IMAGE is a national publication published by the Organization of Chinese Americans, (OCA) Inc., © Copyright 2002. All rights reserved. No contents may be reproduced without expressed written permission from the Publisher. Unsolicited material will not be returned. Letters sent to IMAGE or the Publisher become the property of the publication. While every precaution has been taken to insure the accuracy of information included at press time, neither the Publisher nor the editors shall be liable for damages arising out of errors or omissions. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of IMAGE or the Publisher. We reserve the right to edit articles.

Editor-in Chief David Namkoong
Staff Writers Giles Li, Cindy Tong
Layout & Design Cindy Tong
Publisher OCA
Printer

U.S. Printing and Copying, Inc.
 1725 M Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20036
 (202) 785-9424

For information, inquiries and letters, write to:

Organization of Chinese Americans
 National Headquarters
 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW
 Suite 601
 Washington, D.C. 20036
 Tel: 202-223-5500
 Fax: 202-296-0540
 E-mail: oca@ocanatl.org
 Website: www.ocanatl.org

EDITOR'S CORNER

AFFIRMING OCA AS A CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

Every now and then, OCA re-examines itself as to its goals, mission, and purpose. What has changed and when should change be implemented into the organization. Local chapters do the same thing, especially when there is a change in the administration. The question often asked is whether OCA having the reputation of being a civil rights organization has outlived its usefulness. Usually the remark is prefaced with "I recognize the importance of civil rights, but times are changing and maybe we should place more emphasis on ____ (fiscal health, organization process, broadening our base)." It's at a time like this that there is an event that abruptly rivets our attention to an event.

Early in April, OCA received an urgent request for support from Shelley Wong, Co-Chair of the Asian American Student Union at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. She and her fellow Asian Americans complained bitterly about a recent issue in their campus newspaper "The Catalyst." One article was headlined "College Student Disappointed at Lack of Hot Asian Babes." The column went on to describe the student's desperate "need for an Asian slut."

Equally incendiary if not more so was another article targeting African Americans. It referred to fictitious TV programming that went by names as "Niggalodeon," "Nigs-at-Night," and "Blackrats." It went on in the same vein, declaring that they should be satisfied with their fried chicken and watermelons.

Reading such copy sickened and angered OCA'ers who were shown the articles. The response from the national office and OCA officers was instant and electric. The OCA-Denver was contacted as well as other A/PA organizations. The feeling was that this



David Namkoong

was the kind of issue that OCA was organized for. It was a meeting of minds from national headquarters to every chapter in the country.

As of this writing, the strategy is being formed. However the action will turn out, OCA has once again learned that racism can turn up anywhere at any time. It is so regrettable that this venom was being spewed at a college campus, a place of higher learning where wisdom is being developed. And if it can happen there, it can happen anywhere.

And what is it that is the price of freedom? The OCA must be ever vigilant, and be proud to wear the mantle as a civil rights organization. ■

OCA 2002 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

<i>President</i>	George M. Ong
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Michael C. Lin
<i>Executive Vice President</i>	Raymond Wong
<i>Secretary</i>	Samuel Luk
<i>Treasurer</i>	Carlos Tiu
<i>Vice Presidents</i>	
<i>Development</i>	Ken Lee
<i>Communications</i>	David Namkoong
<i>Economic Development</i>	Tim Wong
<i>Education & Culture</i>	Jean Chang
<i>Finance</i>	Virginia Ng
<i>Membership Services</i>	Michele Kee
<i>Public Affairs</i>	Victor Hsi
<i>Executive Counsel</i>	John Yang, Esq.
<i>Executive Director</i>	Christine Chen

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are people in America who actually question the purpose for the existence of a national group like the Organization of Chinese Americans. After all, the name itself proudly identifies us as a separate, distinct ethnic group, and yet, our mission is to advocate that we be treated and regarded equally like all Americans.

Well, despite the fact that Asian Pacific Americans have been in this country for 150 years (even longer) and there are many generations of native-born APAs, we remain just as “Americanized Foreigners” to many.

A recent headline in a Seattle newspaper declared “American Beats Kwan,” making reference to what occurred at the recent Salt Lake City Olympics. Just think, this incident happened in the only state which has a Chinese American as its governor, and it was reminiscent of the exact words used in a MSNBC headline four years ago when Michele Kwan was defeated by Tara Lipinski at the Olympics in Nagano, Japan!

How many times have each of us been asked - “How did you learn to speak English so well?” or “Where are you from? No, I mean, where are you really originally from?”

Do you recall the time when our own OCA interns visiting Congress were stopped by security guards questioning their citizenship? Or when Congressman David Wu was detained at the Department of Energy for the same reason?

What about the clamor when the U.S. espionage plane was downed in China last year? Some national media talked about not patronizing Chinese restaurants, firing all Chinese Americans working in our national laboratories, and even putting Chinese Americans in detention camps.

Representing OCA, I was the first Chinese American to speak during the 130th anniversary of the Golden Spike

Celebration in 1999, acknowledging and honoring the early Chinese who were so instrumental in the building of the Transcontinental Railroad, the west, and early America. In other words, it took 130 years (between 1869 and 1999) before those Chinese were formally recognized for their significant contribution to this country.

Another revelation to me was evident when I was recently invited to speak at a Rotary Club breakfast meeting in Reno, NV. The attendees happened to be all white and reflective of the business and community leaders in the area. I spoke about OCA, our history, the treatment of and attitude toward APAs, and my personal experiences.

After my remarks, I was approached by several individuals who thanked me for “enlightening them” and stated that they never knew about or saw our situation as described by me.

It should be apparent to OCA members that our work to educate all Americans about the status and treatment of Chinese and APAs in this country is woefully deficient. Obviously, putting out press releases and other official public announcements, having meetings (National Board and chapter), and engaging in both highly-publicized national and local events (e.g., national convention, corporate achievement awards event, annual chapter dinners) do not get our message beyond our own community (or, questionably, in our own community as well).

We simply must make the effort to do more extensive outreach to the mainstream and other ethnic groups. OCA National does collaborate with many mainstream and ethnic national organizations to espouse our mission, but there is a



George M. Ong

dire need for grassroots work. Our leadership—Executive Council, National Board, and chapter officers—must find every opportunity to meet with and speak out at community events.

Ask to speak at or distribute OCA information to any civil organizations such as Rotary and Lions clubs, high school or college group, your church, business and other community groups (AJC, JACL, NAACP, NCLR, etc.).

Not being proactively involved by “being out there” is akin to an ostrich’s head in the sand - all we are doing is keeping our concerns and anxieties to ourselves and, somehow, expecting our message to be successfully conveyed by mental telepathy or by osmosis.

I ask all our national and chapter leaders to network and be involved with the mainstream and other ethnic groups in your community. Take advantage of every opportunity to tell everyone about how we strive for all Americans, regardless of color or creed, to be treated equally, and to embrace our cultural heritage and diversity.

Please contact our national office or me if you wish to receive a list of suggested talking points. Remember that APA Heritage Month is in May, so it is an ideal time to start getting out our important message. ■

OCA CHAPTER REPORTS

Long Island

In January, the OCA-LI Chapter co-sponsored two showings of "Chinatown Files" by Amy Chen. This documentary explored the legacy of McCarthyism and discussed its impact on the Chinese American community. The other sponsors were the Chinese Center of Long Island and the Self Help Prince Street Senior Center.

The Chapter submitted the names of six candidates for the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) by the deadline of February 1, 2002. This is a scholarship funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The goals of GMS are to

promote academic excellence and to provide opportunities for thousands of outstanding students with significant financial needs to reach their fullest potential.

In March, the Chapter had a very successful Open House membership meeting with over 75 attendees. The evening's program included three speakers from the International Training in Communication (ITC) demonstrating the art of public speaking. With their assistance, our Chapter plans to start an ITC club that will offer training to improve verbal communication skills, develop leadership skills, and enhance self-confidence.

Seattle

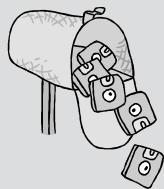
After a recent headline appeared in the Seattle Times — "Hughes Good as Gold — American Outshines Kwan, Slutskaya in Skating Surprise" the Chapter became galvanized. An immediate, forceful, community-wide response of phone calls and letters deluged the Times that same night to complain about the headline, which implied that Michelle Kwan is not American. The Seattle Times printed a brief apology the next day, pleading a "misunderstanding." Later, a longer article appeared in the Sunday edition, headlined "Times Won't Forget Readers' Reminder on Kwan."

Following up on this momentum, the Seattle chapter spoke to the Times writers about a series on important Asian American contributions to America. The article would be published during API Heritage Month in May.

Also for Heritage Month, the Chapter is trying to arrange a showing of "Flying Tigers" with KCTS, the local PBS station. The film would be shown at a time to coincide with a KCTS membership drive on which Seattle chapter volunteers would answer phones. Mei-Ling Hsu, one of the film's producers and current Seattle chapter Vice President, could also be interviewed on the air. In addition, we are coordinating with other local APA groups to co-sponsor a day-long Heritage Month celebration at the Seattle Center on Sunday, May 5th.

Eastern Virginia

Training youth to be better prepared to become leaders in the American society is one of our chapter's main goals. This year we are once again sponsoring a six-week session of Speech Craft for youth from January 27th until April 7th. This is a laboratory to practice public ►



MAIL BAG . . .

Letter to the President

Dear George,

On behalf of OCA-Columbus Chapter, I am pleased to present to you and the OCA National Office a check of \$2500 to be used as unrestricted funds for the advancement of the mission of OCA.

During the January OCA National Board meeting, I became aware of the financial difficulty faced by the OCA National Office. The hardships that have affected our national office are of deep concern to all of us at our local chapter. I reported my observations to our board of directors; we shared our concerns to our membership and asked them for donations. A total

of \$1400 was collected from our membership. In addition, our board of directors also passed the motion to add from our chapter reserve fund so that we can send in a sum of \$2500. This is a token to express our support to the mission of OCA. I hope all other OCA local chapters will also do the same to support our national office.

We appreciate your leadership, the dedicated effort of your Executive Council and all the staff of the national office. I am sure we will overcome the temporary financial difficulties and continue our work to improve the welfare of all Asian Americans.

Theresa W. Lee, President
OCA-Columbus Chapter
March 20, 2002

OCA CHAPTER REPORTS



Participants of the Speech Craft, with Nancy Parker from Toastmasters, and Shewling Wong standing next to the window.

speaking and to prepare speech and extemporaneous speaking. In addition, students develop their listening skills, learn to present evaluations in a positive manner, and gain knowledge as a moderator. This effort is being done in collaboration with the Virginia Beach Toastmasters International. Our director for this event is Ms. Shewling Wong, who conducted these sessions before. She also writes articles for our local newspaper "Virginia Pilot".

A major event that is to take place is the Spring Gathering and Fundraising Ball on April 21, 2002. This year, the fundraising will not just benefit our own chapter. We plan to share part of the net gain with OCA National's Vision 25, and several other local Chinese American organizations, including the Tidewater Chinese School, the Chinese Community Association, the Friends of Pagoda, and ALPHA.

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh's celebration of the Chinese New Year took on an extra luster this year. The honorary chair for the event was Ming S. Lin, a prominent immunologist and allergist, active in the OCA and in the community. Gracing the proceedings were Miss Pennsylvania USA 2002, Nicole

Bigham and Miss Pennsylvania Teen USA 2002, Julianne Shaw. Julianne is the first Chinese American to have been selected Miss Pennsylvania Teen USA. She has credentials that would be remarkable for anyone triple her age of 17. She is an accomplished ballet and Chinese classical dancer who has performed on stage, television and was featured on a radio talk show. Julianne is an honor student and current President of the National Honor Society. She has performed over 200 hours of community service, which earned her the Silver Medal.

At the banquet, OCA-Pittsburgh received a citation from Allegheny County District Attorney Zappala for its support of the victims and their families subsequent to a multiple shooting rampage on April 28, 2000. There were six victims, five killed and one left as a quadriplegic. Four were Asian Americans. Two of our members, Hilda Fu and Karen Yee served on the Allegheny Violence Prevention Task Force, which issued its report and recommendations last year.

U.S. Representative Melissa Hart presented the Congressional Medal for Youth to eight of our OCA young people: Nancy Chen, Justine Lee, Edwin Shaw, Jeffrey Lee, Julianne Shaw and Kevin Hu. Money collected were

donated to the Red Cross and United Way for "911" relief.

Greater Los Angeles

The OCA-Greater Los Angeles Chapter began the year in a whirl of activities. An art opening/workers' rights discussion was held in January, a book reading for Frank Wu's "Yellow: Race in American Beyond Black and White" in February, and a membership mixer in March. March also marked California's primary elections for which OCA-GLA conducted extensive membership education. The Chapter in April will be hosting an arts and crafts booth at the Pasadena Cherry blossom Festival. OCA-GLA is also sponsoring a screening of "My American Vacation" written, produced and directed by VV Dachin Hsu. The film stars Tsai Chin ("The Joy Luck Club"), Kim Miyori ("St. Elsewhere") and Deborah Nishimura ("Sweeney Todd").

In May, the Chapter will be hosting a Citizenship Workshop to help new immigrants apply for citizenship. Also in May, to help celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, OCA-GLA is organizing a networking dinner with several Asian American and other organizations in Chinatown. The event is an important way to bring the many Asian American organizations together for a festive evening.

New England

Our Chinese New Year Banquet held on March 9th, was a huge success — doubling the number of attendees from last year. The Chapter was particularly honored by the presence of Professor Yu Chi Ho, the founder of the New England Chapter of OCA. The fund-raising effort raised enough money to fulfill our pledge for the support of this year's OCA Summer Internship program. This result ►

OCA CHAPTER REPORTS

was possible due to the efforts of the members of the Executive Board, and the support from OCA members and friends who pushed the ticket sales.

The banquet began with a short welcoming remark followed by Ken An who gave a brief overview of this year's events. Major projects include the Allstate hate crimes workshop on April 28th, and the launching of our first local summer internship program. Felicia Chao, OCA Class of 2001 summer intern, gave a short talk on her experiences and the importance of supporting the OCA summer internship program.

Raffles turned out to be an extremely effective way to raise money. Ruffling was the first experience for many OCAers; but they managed sales through enthusiasm and energy. OCA members William Lam, Steve Au, Fay Kwan and June Kwan worked cheerfully along Mary Quan and the executive Board to make the process smooth and fun. Ken An is particularly appreciated for his donations for the prizes.

Greater Washington, DC

A new Board for OCA-DC was inaugurated with many first time Board members. A weekend retreat was held to set the Chapter's goals and plans for activities for the year. The overall goal is to better serve the Chapter and the grassroots community on one hand, to outreach to the Greater Washington D.C. community on the other, and to be the bridge between the two. It was determined that it is imperative to cooperate with other community groups, to share our strength and to unify on issues that affect the community.

Specifics include making the local Chinese American community more aware of the Chapter; outreaching to the new immigrant community; to be more involved in the revitalization of



OCA-New England's Ken An, Felicia Chao and Chung Der at their banquet.

Chinatown; to promote in the Chinese American community the idea of full participation and empowerment in the American political and economic process; and to demonstrate that Chinese Americans are every bit a part of the mainstream American society. Two new Vice President positions were created — Economic Development and Programs/Events — to help implement the new agenda.

Additionally, the Board began implementation of its Scholarship Program. Plans are underway to hold a Scholarship banquet, family events, candidate forums and a town hall meeting, as well as financial workshops.

South Florida

The OCA-SFL Chapter will host the first annual OCA Excellence Awards banquet to recognize six dynamic Chinese Americans. They have significantly contributed to the quality of life for the South Florida community and everyone is looking forward to the Asian cultural performance to kick off the annual APA Heritage Month celebration.

On May 27, the Chapter will work with the Town of Surfside to recognize Chinese American veterans at the Memorial Day Ceremony. We will then

close our Heritage Month celebrations with our annual Citizenship Drive in cooperation with the Hispanic Coalition.

The OCA-SFL will partner with the International Traffic Schools, the first such school to offer traffic services in Chinese, to help the Chinese-speaking immigrants obtain Drivers Licenses, and have a better understanding of traffic regulations.

Chapter President Winnie Tang is the first Chinese American woman to receive an award from the Miami-Dade Country Park and Recreation Department. The award recognizes outstanding women who have made significant contributions to the quality of life for the Miami-Dade County community.

The Chapter worked with American Legion Post #29 to present Uncle Fu Chin, a WWII Chinese American veteran, with a lifetime membership certificate in recognition of his services. A dinner honoring him on his 83rd birthday capped off the celebration.

New Jersey

Another use for the Chinese New Year stamps has been initiated by Virginia Ng. Two years ago, she offered to send a first day cover of the ►

OCA CHAPTER REPORTS

Chinese New Year stamp to members who either joins or renews their membership. It was so successful that the drive has become a tradition. In fact, this year, the Chapter is going one step further by using the stamp to mail the first newsletter issue of the year. OCAers should be encouraged to use the stamp this way — like a free commercial — so that friends and relatives, particularly those who are non-Chinese, will become aware of this little charm of our culture.

Dorothy Leung Blakeslee, a Chapter Board member has been doubly honored. She was elected President of the Asian American Political Coalition, a bi-partisan, political education and advocacy organization serving to coordinate issues and activities of Asian Americans in New Jersey. In addition, she was named a Woman of Distinction by the Bergen county Girl Scout Council.

Detroit

The search team for the Chinese Community Center has been working extremely hard to find a building or a site for its activities. The Center will help our organization to further our efforts on civil rights, economic and political voice and share our cultural heritage with the greater community. One of the features of the Center is to provide the opportunity for the Chinese Americans in the Metropolitan Detroit area to have a gathering place of educational training purposes; also for networking and cultural exchange. The search team was tantalizingly close a couple of times; but the team is diligently looking for a suitable site.

Wisconsin

The younger offspring of Wisconsin's OCA members are starting to be noticed on the political and entertainment fronts. Max Lam

nephew of Greg and Minah Ho is working diligently in Senator Hillary Clinton's office in New York. He is majoring in political science at New York University.

Did anyone spot Jonathan King, Bob and Judy King's son, on TV at the Emmy Awards last November? As part of the University of Southern California's choral group, he sang during the opening patriotic tribute and the finale with Barbra Streisand.

Cecilia Huang's daughter Milana celebrates an Oscar win! Milana was part of Shrek's talented team of animators. The film won the Oscar for best animated feature film.

Dallas/Fort Worth

As of the New Year, the year ahead looks to be an exciting time for the DFW Chapter. Planning is underway to have a Spelling Bee, a Racial Profiling Workshop and a Youth Leadership Conference. In addition, the Chapter will sponsor a new book reading entitled "Yellow: Race in American Beyond Black and White" by Frank Wu in August. Last but not least, OCA-DFW will continue actively participating in community services, sponsoring meals at homeless shelters and contributing to scholarship funds throughout the year. ■

Three New OCA Chapters Added

During the April 13-14, 2002 National Board meeting in San Diego, the NB unanimously approved the South Puget Sound (WA), Orange County/Inland Empire (CA), and Central Illinois (IL) chapters as the forty-seventh, forty-eighth and forty-ninth chapters of OCA as recommended by VP Chapter Development Ken Lee.

IN REMEMBRANCE



OCA was saddened to learn of the passing of one of its long-time members and most staunch supporters, Stephen Y. Chin, on February 16, 2002.

Born Sept. 27, 1924, in New York City, he worked as a civil engineer for the Port Authority of New York-New Jersey for more than 20 years.

He was a member of the OCA-Long Island Chapter for many years before moving to Chicago with his wife Cora in 1996. There, they continued to be involved in the community and with OCA through the OCA-Chicago Chapter.

Stephen was also a former treasurer of the Xigen Fund and a lifelong member of the University of Illinois Alumni Association.

A regular contributor to OCA's Internship Fund, general operations, and the Vision 25 Fund, he will be fondly remembered as someone who had a sense of humor, celebrated life and was passionate about being involved. His kindness and generosity of spirit will be greatly missed by all.

Our sympathies and condolences go out to Cora, his wife of 48 years; two sons, Quentin (wife Amy) and Ronald Y. (wife Maya); daughter, Fern (husband Tom) Murtagh; and their seven grandchildren, Emily and Allegra Chin, Stephanie and Kyle Chin, and Lindsey, Shannon and Heather Murtagh.

OCA NEWS

APA Community Outraged with Irresponsible and Derogatory Images

Washington, DC – The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), a national nonprofit Asian Pacific American (APA) civil rights and education group is outraged with t-shirts created by retailer Abercrombie and Fitch Company that display demeaning and degrading, stereotypical Asian images and puns.

Slanted eyes, rice paddy straw hats, and images of subservient workers, are simply a few of the printed designs on this series of six t-shirts. The statement, “Two Wongs can make it white,” makes fun of Asian accents and questions the ability of Asians to pronounce “Rs”. Also, the statement “eat in or wok out” on another shirt offers another reference to the stereotypical belief that all Asian people own fast food Chinese restaurants and have English literacy problems.

Other statements and images on these t-shirts trivialize religion through phrases such as “Buddha Bash, Get Your Buddha on the Floor.” One shirt portrays an Asian woman in a stereotypically subservient manner similar to the Cameron pin-up, which was historically painted on war planes during WWII.

According to retailer Abercrombie and Fitch, the new line of t-shirts was supposed to appeal to the emerging Asian Pacific American market with an estimated buying power of over \$250 billion. The retailer targets youth in their teen to college years, and utilizes marketing strategies focused on contemporary styles that complement the “classic American lifestyle.”

“Unfortunately, in this case, the American lifestyle is neither reflected nor complemented. This new generation of consumers is not interested in wearing pieces of clothing that ridicule Asian Pacific Americans.

Instead, angry complaints, phone calls, and e-mail campaigns spread like wildfire among APA students, community members and leaders nationwide, as well as other consumers of various backgrounds who were equally as offended,” said George M. Ong, OCA National President. The OCA National Office was flooded with hundreds of inquiries requesting guidance how to mobilize around this issue. Asian Pacific Americans will not remain silent on this issue.”

“In our conversations with Abercrombie and Fitch’s representatives, we underscored the tremendous outrage of the Asian Pacific American community. We will continue to coordinate a national campaign with APA student leaders and community organizations to ensure that this kind of blatant and racist material is not tolerated,” stated Christine Chen, OCA Executive Director. “These racist images were meant to be a parody, and the Asian Pacific American community takes offense that a corporation would use common stereotypes for cheap laughs and profit. Our community has made huge strides in the struggle for equality, but sadly, the derogatory use of these images in these t-shirts devalues our progress, and is evidence of the racial ignorance that still exists in this country. We still have so much further to go.”

After several discussions with Abercrombie and Fitch, OCA was assured by company spokesperson Mr. Hampton Carney, that they would pull this series of offensive t-shirts out of all 311 stores nationwide.

In this instance, Abercrombie and Fitch seems to have recognized its mistake, but it must assure the Asian Pacific American community that it will change its corporate climate so that these types of blunders will not persist. ■

OCA’s Spring Intern My Ngo

“Sooner or later we must realize there is no station, no one place to arrive at once and for all. The true joy of life is the trip.” (*The Station, Robert J. Hastings*)

My Ngo is OCA’s intern for Spring 2002. With her ambitions to pursue a law career, she views OCA is an opportunity for her to learn more about issues affecting the APA community, and to gain a sense of direction in the type of law that she may possibly pursue.

When she returns to California she will be working directly with the UC Davis director of the Science and Society Program on writing articles and working on projects that help to communicate to the public different issues affecting minority groups and first generation students in the United States.

Also, she will be participating in the UCD Bonner Leadership Program; performing community service oriented work while interning with a local organization.

2002 OCA National Calendar of Events

24th Annual National Convention
July 25-28, 2002
Salt Lake City, UT

National Asian American Corporate
Achievement Awards
October 18-20, 2002
Miami, FL

Executive Council Meeting
December 2002
TBD

OCA Business Advisory Council

Founded in 1980, the OCA Business Advisory Council (BAC) is a vital link to the business community, providing financial, professional and corporate guidance to OCA. Comprised of key representatives from major corporations located around the country, the BAC's objectives are to:

- Foster principles of equal rights and opportunities for Asian Pacific Americans by working through our corporations and in concert with OCA;
- Promote and enhance the awareness of Asian Pacific American culture and career opportunities for Asian Pacific Americans by encouraging BAC corporations to be more involved with OCA activities and events;
- Educate the corporate community in understanding the issues affecting the Asian Pacific American community; and
- Advise OCA on strategies for increased productivity with respect to membership and fundraising.

Working committees for political action, corporate networking and fundraising, public/community relations and communications have been established to attain the BAC's

goals and objectives. These committees are responsible for assisting OCA when requested with planning, development and implementation of programs designed to foster awareness of the importance of Asian American culture, and career opportunities within Corporate America.

The BAC meets three times a year around the country in conjunction with OCA's National Board meetings and its national convention and corporate achievement awards. This opportunity enables BAC members to learn more about the Asian Pacific American communities in which OCA has chapters, as well as an opportunity for the local Asian Pacific American communities to learn more about our corporate partners.

The BAC is currently chaired by David L. Kim, Director of Sales and Development at Anheuser-Busch Companies. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

If you would like to receive more information on the OCA Business Advisory Council, or a packet of materials and an application form, please contact Cindy Tong at the OCA National Office at 202-223-5500, or by e-mail at cdtong@ocanatl.org.

Information can also be obtained through OCA's website at www.ocanatl.org.

2002 OCA Business Advisory Council Members

AT&T
AXA Financial
Alliance Healthcare
Allstate Insurance Company
Amtrak
Anheuser-Busch Companies Inc.
Avon Products
DaimlerChrysler
Federated Department Stores
Ford Motor Company
General Motors Corporation
Hyatt Hotels Corporation
IBM Corporation
J.C. Penney
KSCI-TV
Kraft Foods
McDonald's Corporation
Marriott International
National Association of Broadcasters
New York Life
Northwest Airlines
Pacific Gas & Electric Corporation
PepsiCo
Philip Morris Companies Inc.
Starwood Hotels & Resorts
State Farm Insurance Companies
TJX Companies
Texas Instrument
Tricon Global Restaurants
United Airlines
United Parcel Service
Verizon
Virginia Power Company
Wal-Mart Stores

DIM SUM AND THEN SOME...

OCA and the History of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Inspired by proclamations for Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Week, congressional staffers Ms. Jeannie Jew and Ms. Ruby Moy sought to have similar legislation enacted for Asian Pacific Americans. The nationwide effort was coordinated by the National Coalition for a Pacific/Asian American Heritage Proclamation, founded and chaired by Jeannie Jew, who also was an OCA National Board member. Also involved with the founding of this celebration was OCA's founder, K.L. Wang. OCA played an integral role in making May 1990 the first APA Heritage Month under President George Bush Sr. and is proud that the tradition has continued strong ever since.

June 1977

Representatives Frank Horton (R-NY) and Norman Y. Mineta (D-CA) introduce ***Pacific/Asian Heritage Week*** (House Resolution 540) in the House of Representatives, which calls upon the President to proclaim the first ten days of May as Pacific/Asian Heritage Week.

July 19, 1977

Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduce SJ Res. 72 into the Senate, similar to legislation introduced by Frank Horton and Norman Mineta in the House.

July 10, 1978

House Representatives pass legislation to proclaim an Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week next year in May. *This proclamation must be obtained yearly because the final Joint Resolution did not contain an annual designation.*

October 5, 1978

President Jimmy Carter signs the Joint Resolution.

May 7, 1990

Asian Pacific American leaders around the country, including OCA's leaders, gather at the White House to witness the signing of a proclamation by George Bush, declaring May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

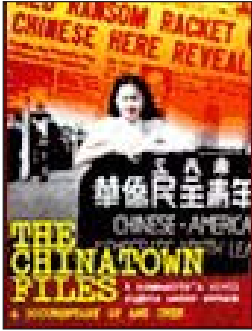
May 6, 1991

President Bush signs a proclamation designating May 1991 and May 1992 as "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month."

October 23, 1992

President Bush signs legislation into law to designate May of each year as "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month." The law (HR 5572), introduced by Rep. Frank Horton (R-NY) and Norman Mineta (D-CA), is approved unanimously by the House of Representatives and the Senate during the 102nd Congress.

FOR YOUR REVIEW



The Chinatown Files Produced by Amy Chen Review by My Ngo

The United States Constitution advocates “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” As Americans, we are all entitled to these unalienable rights. And while we would like to believe that the entirety of the United States populace enjoys this freedom, many times this couldn’t be further from the truth. People continually have their civil rights taken away from them for unjustified reasons.

History has repeatedly shown this to be a fact, for instance during the height of the Cold War when anti-communist mass hysteria clouded the minds of the American populace. The Cold War represented a period in time when propaganda ran amok and infected the American minds with a feeling of paranoia that the “Comms” were all around them. Social status, political affiliation, race, nor ethnicity could save individuals from the watchful eye of propaganda. Never was this feeling of betrayal, discrimination, and anxiety felt more than those whose ethnicities had ties to Communism. Chinese Americans were no exception.

In 1943, Chinese immigrants were among the many groups of immigrants that were finally granted the right to become American citizens. Unfortunately almost as soon as they were granted these rights, they were taken away in

October of 1949 when “blacklists” were posted on street corners in the district of San Francisco’s Chinatown listing the names of all the Chinese people suspected of being Communist.

Senator Joe McCarthy of Wisconsin followed President Herbert Hoover in his quest to rid American society of communism. He hopped on the communist bandwagon and a few years later the Korean War broke out. This further confirmed McCarthy’s ideas of communism. He imposed a trade embargo to cut China off from the world, calling China an “outlaw nation.”

On October 6, 1917 Congress passed an act entitled Trading with the Enemy. This bill further hyped the witch-hunt that past Senator McCarthy had triggered, and would eventually be responsible for thousands of ruined lives. Many individuals committed suicide in their misery. Those who continued to live suffered along with their deteriorating hopes and dreams for a country that had promised them “freedom and the pursuit of happiness.”

We use this film to remind ourselves of what the Chinese community had endured. Hopefully through this video, we can educate those around us of the severity that can result due to society’s unnecessary hysteria. ■

The Chinatown Files will be aired on PBS stations all across the country during APA Heritage Month. We encourage our chapters to hold screenings in their community and have provided suggested questions for group discussions.

Discussion Guide:

1. Through watching *Chinatown Files*, what similarities are there

between the McCarthy Era and our present day situation? How was the Chinese community treated? How would you describe the treatment that the South Asian, Arab and Muslim American communities are facing?

2. During the height of the cold war, what contributed to the anti-communist hysteria? What was the role of political figures and the media?

3. What does “trading with the enemy” imply in this video? Many immigrants send money back to their loved ones. How is this viewed currently and during the McCarthy era?

4. How did the United States government derive names to place into their “black lists back then? What are the similarities and differences with the detention of South Asian, Muslim, and Arab Americans?

5. Do you believe that our civil liberties are in jeopardy these days? Why or why not? Does this impact your life? Why and why not?

6. How have things changed between the time the Japanese Americans were interned to the McCarthy era and today?

7. Have you seen any changes in attitudes toward you since September 11? Toward others? If so, how?

8. What kinds of things did the Chinese community do to cope with this hysteria? What type of organizing efforts are occurring within the South Asian, Arab, and Muslim communities? How can we help ensuring their civil liberties are protected? ■

BECOME AN OCA MEMBER ... JOIN TODAY!

Arizona

Phoenix

California

Central California
 East Bay
 Greater Los Angeles
 Orange County/Inland Empire
 Sacramento
 San Diego
 San Francisco Bay
 San Mateo County
 Silicon Valley

Colorado

Boulder
 Denver

Connecticut

Fairfield
 New Haven

Delaware

District of Columbia

Greater Washington, D.C.

Florida

South Florida

Georgia

Hawaii

Illinois

Central Illinois
 Chicago

Kentuckiana

Maryland

Northern Maryland

Massachusetts

New England

Michigan

Detroit

- I am interested in establishing an OCA chapter in my local area. Please provide me with relevant chapter development materials and information.

Minnesota

Missouri

St. Louis

Nevada

Las Vegas

New Jersey

New York

Long Island
 New York
 Westchester/
 Hudson Valley

Ohio

Greater Cleveland
 Columbus

Pennsylvania

Lehigh Valley
 Greater Philadelphia
 Pittsburgh

Tennessee

East Tennessee

Texas

Dallas/Fort Worth
 Houston

Utah

Virginia

Central Virginia
 Eastern Virginia
 Northern Virginia
 Southwest Virginia

Washington

Greater Seattle
 South Puget Sound

Wisconsin

Hong Kong

If you would like to join OCA, please contact the National Headquarters at (202) 223-5500 for more information. We encourage you to join our local chapters, which are listed. If there are no chapters in your area, we welcome you to be an OCA At-Large Member. Complete the following information and mail to OCA National Headquarters, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 601, Washington, DC, 20036, along with your check made payable to OCA.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- I would like to join a local chapter in my area. Please send my name and address to the local chapter president.
- I would like join as an At-Large Member. Membership dues of \$_____ are enclosed.

\$25 Single	\$10 Student
\$40 Family	\$100 Century Club
\$250 American Club	\$1,000 Lifetime Member
- I would like to have my business (under 100 employees) join as an At-Large Business Member. The membership dues of \$250 are enclosed.
- I would like additional information (please list):

Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc.
1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 601
Washington, DC 20036

NON-PROFIT
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit #748
 Merrifield, Virginia