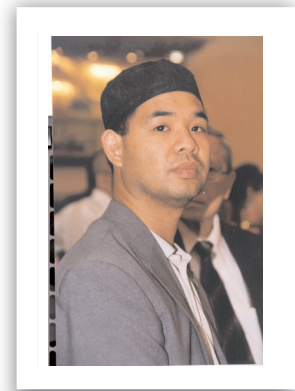


ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

IMAGE

S U M M E R - 2 0 0 4



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**APIA MILITARY
CONTRIBUTIONS**

**OCA CONVENTION
PHOTOGRAPHS**

APIAVOTE EVENTS



EDITORIAL

IMAGE*Summer 2004*

Front Cover | Top: James Yee photo by Corky Lee. **Middle:** Chaplain Ann Tang, official Navy photo. **Left:** OCA Pioneer Awards honorees, General John Fugh and Betty Lee Sung.

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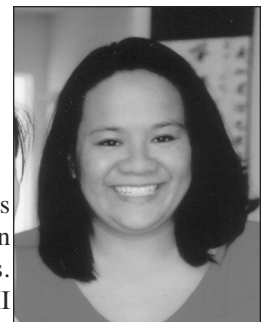
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Executive Director's Corner

BY CHRISTINE CHEN

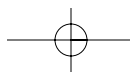


Welcome to another new issue of IMAGE!

In this issue, OCA explores the many contributions of an often forgotten group of military personnel; Asian Pacific Islander American veterans and soldiers. Washington, D.C. recently unveiled the new World War II Memorial, and it is essential that we continue to tell these forgotten stories as told by veteran Ed Chow as well as the supplemental articles and editorials. Also, be sure to read on the updates regarding two of our APIA military chaplains in this issue - James Yee and Ann Tang.

Many of you will recognize yourselves in the Chapter reports and in the OCA National Convention Photographs as you reflect on the great experience delivered by the OCA New England chapter. We look forward to seeing some of you again in San Francisco for the National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards and National Board Elections.

At this time of year, elections are omnipresent. Be sure to flex your political muscle and vote November 2. If you can, host a houseparty for APIAVote and register members in your community. Enjoy reading!



A Presidential Message



BY RAYMOND WONG

Dear OCA Members,

It was great to see so many of you at the Annual Convention in Boston, Massachusetts. Thank you for coming and making it one of the most involved and informative conventions ever. Young or old, I believe that we all learned a lot more about how to make an impact on our nation's political terrain. Being in such a politically historic city only made those lessons more meaningful, and I want to thank all those who worked so hard to make it one of the smoothest running conventions in memory.

We accomplished so much at the convention! We awarded some incredibly worthy Asian Americans with recognition for their work. Chinese American pioneers

General John Fugh and Dr. Betty Lee Sung received much-deserved accolades for their trailblazing efforts in their fields and for all Asian Americans. And we awarded some hard-working students with scholarships to help pay their way through college. Our Unsung Heroes are a special group of OCA members who have demonstrated leadership and initiative above and beyond what we normally expect from our organization, and that is some extraordinary effort.

Together, everyone recognized was a personification of our theme, "Education and Solidarity: the Road to Empowerment."

As we look ahead to the political campaign "silly season" with all of its advertising, posturing and propaganda, let us not lose sight of what ultimately binds us all together: the election of our nation's leaders and the direction that our country will go in.

Please register to vote if you haven't done so already and get out in your community. Regardless of which candidate, political party or position you support, the more we can expose ourselves as a viable voting bloc with considerable clout, the more progress we can make as a community.

See you at the voting booth!



2002-2004

Executive Council Members

National President
Raymond Wong

Executive Vice President
Sam Luk

Secretary
Kathay Feng

Treasurer
William Kaung

Vice President of Finance
Virginia Ng

Vice President of Chapter Development
Ken Lee

Vice President of Membership Services
Leo Lee

Vice President of Communications
Johnny Ng

Vice President of Education & Culture
Jean Wood Chang

Vice President of Public Affairs
Kwong Eng

Executive Director
Christine Chen

Executive Council Elections

Every two years, the OCA national board comprised of chapter presidents and representatives and members of the Executive Council vote to elect a new one. The 2005-2006 OCA Executive Council Elections will be held on October 2, 2004 in San Francisco. In addition, all candidates must be registered as a 2004 paid member in the OCA National membership database by June 30, 2004. The following are the slate of candidates up for election:

President:	Ginny Gong	Raymond Wong	
Executive Vice President:	Jean Chang	Sam Luk	
Secretary:	Kathay Feng		
Treasurer:	William Kaung		
VP of Finance:	Richard Chang	Duy Nguyen	
VP of Chapter Development:	Mei-Ling Woo	Virginia Ng	
VP of Education:	Josie Gin	Sharon Wong	Miriam Yeung
VP of Membership:	Debbie Chen	Lily Fong	Leo Lee
VP of Communications:	Cindy Tong		
VP of Economic Development:	Ken Lee		
VP of Public Affairs:	Kwong Eng		

Biographies of all candidates can be viewed on the OCA website at www.ocanatl.org. We encourage you to voice your opinion on the candidates with your chapter president and representatives as they prepare for the October 2 elections.



OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

In central Baghdad Square, a U.S. Marine climbs the statue of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. A chain has been attached to a tank to topple the statue. But before, it is torn down the Marine is handed an American flag which he drapes over the face of the statue. But what intrigues me is not the face of the statue but the face of the Marine. It is an Asian-American face belonging to Cpl. Edward Chin. The fact that the face of an Asian American seems incongruous in connection with a symbolic event in the American military is evidence of the lack of attention that Asian Americans receive in the military. Let's face it, it's highly unlikely that an Asian-American will be chosen as the poster boy for a U.S. Marines recruitment poster. I'm no military buff, but of all the World War II photos I've ever seen there was never an Asian face that wasn't in an enemy uniform. The face of an Asian American is too often associated with the face of the enemy.

It is little wonder that according to U.S. Vietnam military veteran David Chung when Asian-Americans soldiers arrived as part of the occupying force in Iraq, the locals mistakenly believed that the Japanese military had sent troops; all this

despite the fact that these soldiers were wearing U.S. uniforms. While in Vietnam, David Chung was used as an example of the enemy. The General of his unit pointed him out and demanded his unit to kill any person with an Asian face. It is unthinkable

"The fact that the face of an Asian American seems incongruous in connection with a symbolic event in the American military is evidence of the lack of attention that Asian Americans receive in the military."

that an African-American soldier in a U.S. uniform would be mistaken for anything other than as U.S. soldier. The problem is, both Americans and foreigners alike have a great difficulty associating an Asian face with the American military.

The representation of Asian Americans in the military has been increasing and the notable example of U.S. Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki has proven that Asian Americans are fully capable of advancing to the upper ranks of

the military. Shinseki is an example that Asian Americans contemplating military careers can aspire to. Another high profile Asian American in the military is U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba. Taguba, the second-highest ranking Filipino-American officer in the U.S. Army, is a source of pride to the Filipino-American community. It was Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba, who wrote the report detailing abuses of Iraqi detainees by American soldiers in the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad; he described it as "egregious acts and grave breaches of international law". "Failure in leadership from the brigade commander on down, lack of discipline, no training whatsoever, and no supervision" was the way Taguba explained the basis of this problem. Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba is a model for courage and human rights amongst the Asian American community.

Hopefully as Asian Americans become more prominent in the military, the next time an Asian American is part of an occupying force (if God forbid we have a war) he won't be mistaken for anything other than a U.S. soldier.

Sincerely,
Corinne Young
OCA Westchester & Hudson Valley
Syracuse University

Dear Editor:

As Asian Americans who have enjoyed the recent progress in media's portrayal, we are upset over the lack of attention given to the recently released film, Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story. While we believe the film was meant to be a lighthearted, harmless comedy, it slowly digressed into using arbitrary racist images that dredge up the disempowerment of the Asian American community. The following is a synopsis of a few scenes that were used as comic relief at the expense of Asian Americans:

History of Dodgeball – The film cited that dodgeball originated in Chinese opium dens with "Chinamen" throwing severed heads at each other.

Mail order brides – The wife of one of the dodgeball players was presented as a disgruntled mail order bride. She was the most prominent Asian American woman.

Japanese "Kamikaze" Team – One of

the teams competing in the Dodgeball Tournament is a team full of stereotypical images of Japanese Americans.

Average Joe's – The team is supposed to represent a level of American normalcy, though it is only comprised of white men and a "token" African



Source: 20th Century Fox
Above: a Scene from the movie "Dodgeball: a True Underdog Story" depicting the 'history' of the sport.

American. It is clear that Asian Americans are not part of this group.

Furthermore, the film was rated PG-13, this is problematic because for viewers

that do not have much interaction or experience with Asians or Asian Americans, their attitudes and beliefs may be negatively influenced. We implore directors and writers to conduct their research when including Asians and Asian American content in their films, in doing so they would realize that some of their patrons may not appreciate pejorative comments about their disenfranchised history. In the future we would appreciate laughing with the audience members and not being objectified as humorous material. We urge OCA and the rest of the Asian American community to be critical of films such as Dodgeball, but actively protest any media image that perpetuate derogatory racial images.

Sincerely,

Helen Yang, Cornell University
Douglas Lee, University of Virginia
Gabrielle Zhuang,
University of Wisconsin-Madison

What's Happening on the Hill...

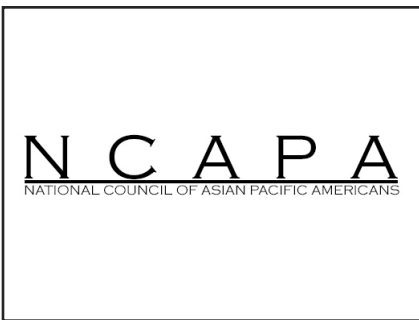
Updates on OCA related legislation



Senator Kennedy addresses rally on hate crimes.

Hate Crimes Law Passes Senate, Heads to House Vote in September

The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act was passed by the Senate, in large part through bipartisan efforts by Senators Ted Kennedy -D MA, Gordon Smith - R OR, and Arlen Specter-R PA on June 28, 2004. Current law does not permit federal involvement in a range of cases involving crimes motivated by bias against the victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability. This legislation would provide a more comprehensive definition of what "hate crimes" are and would also provide more federal support to local authorities for the prosecution of hate crimes. The bill is expected to be introduced soon in conference committee as the Hate Crimes Law Provision of a Department of Defense bill. OCA needs our members and friends to urge their Representatives to vote for the bill and sign on as cosponsors.



OCA, NCAPA to Release 2004 Election Statement Nationwide

OCA and the members of NCAPA are preparing to make a statement in the 2004 elections. To ensure that all candidates understand that their policy decisions have an impact on AAPIs, the community needs to begin to get more involved in the political process. This includes educating the candidates on issues that the community identifies with. The National Platform for Asian Pacific American Policy Priorities can be viewed at www.ncapaonline.org. The document covers topics such as: civil liberties, hate crimes, racial profiling, health care, education, immigration, affirmative action, bilingual education, labor, and economic development. This tool was distributed to all presidential candidates and parties with the hopes of nationwide adoption.



Rally for Immigrant rights.

Nationwide September Week of Action for Immigrant Rights

The New American Opportunity Campaign is a newly-formed coalition headed by leading local and national pro-immigrant and labor groups. OCA is one of the lead agencies of the New American Opportunity Campaign, which includes other Asian Pacific American (APA) groups such as the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC) and the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC). These groups are helping local chapters and APA communities around the country get involved with the National Week of Action September 20-26, 2004 with local events across our nation and a lobby day in Washington, DC. (See IMMIGRATION Con't on page 45)

National AAPI Leaders Denounce Gutting of Historic Executive Order

Community Leaders Call on President Bush to Retain Focus on Improving the Quality of Life of Underserved Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

In May, national leaders in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community criticized the "Increasing Economic Opportunity and Business Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders" Executive Order issued by President Bush on Thursday, May 13th. Fully one year late, the Executive Order renews the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, but drastically reframes and restricts the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, both originally established under Executive Order 13125, issued in 1999. (See WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE Con't on page 45)



ISSUES

The Polls will close...

IMAGE: ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS



...and many Asian Pacific Islander Americans will realize that their right to vote has become an exclusive privilege for those who speak English.

Language Assistance in Voting for Asian & Pacific Islander Americans Set to Expire

In 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act to protect against racial discrimination in voting and enfranchise racial minorities who had previously faced discrimination at the polls. Ten years later, this act was amended to include Section 203, which now requires language assistance in voting if a minority language community constitutes either 5% of the total population or 10,000 people. This assistance includes translation of written materials, bilingual worker assistance at poll sites, and publicity announcing the availability of language assistance. Today, language assistance in various Asian languages is available in 16 voting jurisdictions with Chinese language services offered in 12 jurisdictions nationwide. It was estimated in 1996 that 235,000 Asian & Pacific Islander Americans would receive language assistance and more has

Photos courtesy of APALA



been offered since.

However, the provisional sections of the Voting Rights Act, including Section 203, will expire in 2007 unless Congress reauthorizes this significant piece of legislation. If the section expires, voting jurisdictions will no longer have to provide assistance to language minority communities that depend on these language

The APIA community will be adversely affected by the sunset of Section 203 - we must remember a history of unequal access and institutionalized discrimination at the polls.

services for voter information and help at poll sites. Given the fact that a majority of APIAs are born outside the United States and that many naturalized citizens have limited English proficiency, access to voting is an important right that our community must protect.

A survey conducted in Southern California in 2000 by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) indicates that 54.4% of APIA respondents were more likely to vote if bilingual assistance was provided. Language accessibility is a large component in increasing APIA political participation, voter turnout, and towards the larger goal of gaining more political clout.

Expiration of Section 203 also impacts community groups and organizations that rely on Asian language outreach to register and inform voters about issues affecting the APIA community. An APALC poll conducted in March 2000 found that about 30.6% of APIA voters indicated they relied on voter information in a language other than English. APIA organizations conduct poll monitoring activities during elections to ensure that election officials follow guidelines set in place by Section 203 and provide language assistance to members in our communities.

Congress will most likely consider reauthorization of the provisional sections of the Voting Rights Act when the expiration date for those sections near. Many racial and language minority advocacy groups have already begun voicing their support for the reauthorization and several prominent legislators have voiced their endorsements for continuing language assistance. The APIA community will be adversely affected by the sunset of Section 203 and we must remember a history of unequal access and institutionalized discrimination at the polls when 2007 arrives.

If you are interested in learning more about or participating in poll monitoring projects and enforcing Section 203 rights at your poll site, please contact APIAVote 2004 at (888)-API-VOTE or info@apiavote.org.



VOTER REGISTRATION HOUSE PARTY CAMPAIGN

FUN & SIMPLE WAY TO GET INVOLVED!

HOST A HOUSE PARTY! The goal is to achieve 100% voter registration and participation in upcoming election amongst eligible OCA membership. To do this, we encourage you to host Voter Registration House Parties in September to register our OCA members, family, and friends to vote!

With your help, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans (APIAs) will cast the deciding votes in local and national elections

APIAVote with the leadership of OCA is looking to make a real impact on the 2004 elections, but this can only be done if each and every one of us participates!

OCA is asking everyone to join us on Sunday, September 26, 2004 as we continue to make our mark by hosting over 200 house parties across the country. For decades, the main reasons the Asian Pacific Islander American community has not participated in the political process are:

- ❖ Many APIAs are not contacted via regular voter contact methods;
- ❖ Fear or distrust of political involvement is carried over from the country that they were born (2/3 of the APA community are immigrants); and
- ❖ Outreach by parties, candidates, and political groups remain relatively low.

Make a direct impact!

By hosting an APIAVote house party, we are looking to outreach to our friends and families who have never really discussed politics at the "kitchen table" and help them feel comfortable about engaging in the political process and the 2004 elections. We will also provide a forum for the presidential candidates to speak to our community directly.

What does that mean for you?

All you need is a house or apartment that will have access to a speakerphone and ten of your friends and family. Be sure to think of friends who typically are not as involved in the election process. This is your chance to encourage them to vote. Access to computer, internet, and printer, is also highly desired for online voter registration.

The ideal house party will provide light refreshments and desserts in which you as the host can provide or ask your guests to bring. Welcome everyone and handout materials that will be mailed to you by APIAVote and be sure to call in to the conference call number (which will be provided to you once you officially sign-on as hosting an APIAVote house party).

Who will be on this conference call?

APIAVote is working hard to get the presidential candidates, as well as prominent APA elected officials, from the various parties to address the house parties via conference call. So it is essential that everyone calls in by 5:00 pm EST on Sunday, September 26, 2004.

We will also provide proposed discussion points for you to help engage in conversation about what you just heard from the candidates and the issues that may interest APIA voters. So sign-up today to host an official APIAVote House Party and help us demonstrate to the candidates that our community is ready to be vote on November 2, 2004. Register to host your own house party at www.APIAVOTE.ORG and download preliminary materials to help you get started.

ISSUES

Register online to vote in the 2004 Elections!

www.apiavote.org

Every vote counts.

The last Presidential election was decided by a very slim margin. Your Vote Can Change History!

Visit the APIAVote Website and learn how to:

- ◆ Register to Vote
- ◆ Volunteer
- ◆ Organize in Your Community
- ◆ Mobilize Youth
- ◆ Outreach to Media
- ◆ Contact APIAVote

Also:

- ◆ About APIAVote
- ◆ Voter Education 101
- ◆ Training Materials
- ◆ Organizing Tools
- ◆ Issues That Impact APIAs
- ◆ APIA Statistics and Data
- ◆ Local APIA Voter Projects
- ◆ Our Coalition Partners
- ◆ Get the Latest News!

Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote is a national coalition of non-partisan nonprofit organizations that encourages civic participation and promotes a better understanding of public policy and the electoral process among the Asian and Pacific Islander American community. This effort is spearheaded by: OCA, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance - AFL-CIO, National Korean American Service and Education Consortium. Other national APIAVote partners include: APIAVote Greek Alliance, Hmong National Development, National Asian American Student Conference, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, Sikh Mediawatch and Resource Task Force, South Asian American Voting Youth. APIAVote was founded in 1996 and maintains its headquarters in Washington, D.C.

FEATURE

Asian Pacific American Military Contributions

BY ED CHOW, JR.

Our history books teach us the contributions of those whose ancestors came from Europe.

Most Americans are aware of the wonderful contributions made to our country's defense and freedom by minority groups, e.g., Crispus Attucks, an African American, was one of the first Americans to die in the Revolutionary War, and African Americans have participated in every war since.

Native Americans helped the first settlers, continued to help when our country fought for independence, and continue to contribute to this day. However, little is heard about the Native American scouts who were with Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

Hispanic Americans also have been part of our armed forces since the beginning of our country, but ironically, little is heard of the Hispanic Americans who fought and died along side of fellow patriots at the Alamo.

Likewise, I find that many Asian Pacific Americans – and other Americans for that matter – regardless of generation in this country, have limited knowledge of the contributions APAs have made in defense of our country's liberty.

As a Vietnam veteran, I am acutely aware that APAs served in Vietnam. My uncles told me how APAs served in Korea and World War II. But some time ago, I discovered, to my amazement that APAs had served during the Civil War – not in great numbers but about 50 served on both sides.

Let me tell you about a couple of them, two for the North and one for the South.

Records show that Woo Hong Neok, working at the American Church Mission in Shanghai, persuaded some of Commodore Perry's officers to allow him to earn passage to the United States by working as a cabin boy. He eventually wound up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, employed as an apprentice on the Lancaster Examiner and Herald newspaper. In 1860, by which time he was a full-fledged printer on the newspaper, Woo became one of the first Chinese to be naturalized as an American citizen. Less than three years later, with the Civil War raging, the Confederate Army under Robert E. Lee was threatening an attack on Pennsylvania. When a plan was announced to raise a 50,000-man force, Woo quickly volunteered.

Joseph Pierce was another APA soldier who served for the North. Born in Canton, he came to the United States at the age of 10 aboard a merchant ship. The captain of the ship named him in honor of President Franklin Pierce; his birth name is not recorded. A picture of Joseph Pierce is in the museum at the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

Reverend Dzau (Ts'ao) of the Southern Methodist Mission, prior to becoming a minister, enlisted in the Confederate Army. He served for a brief time near the end of the war, and was honorably discharged.

Some years ago, I met Mr. Arthur Lou of Philadelphia, then the Acting Commander-in-Chief of the United Spanish War Veterans. I was astounded when he told me there were Asian crewmembers on the USS Maine when she blew up. He also

informed me that every American ship that engaged in the Battle of Manila Bay had Asian crewmembers. He showed me a book listing the crews of all the American ships that fought in that battle – and if Chow Ah, Ching Poo or Hiraki Yamaguchi, just to name a few, are of European stock, I have been very badly misinformed.

I haven't found much information about APAs in World War I, but Lou Sing Kee was awarded the 2nd highest award for bravery – the Distinguished Service Cross. Some served in the "Lost Battalion" and were wounded or killed in action. So APAs served our country in the 'war to end all wars'.

It was during World War II that APAs faced their greatest challenge. After Pearl Harbor, many Americans viewed Americans of Japanese ancestry with anger and fear. And if you think Chinese Americans were immune from this anger and fear, my mother told me that many in the Chinese American community in Seattle and elsewhere wore pins denoting that they were Chinese - and American citizens - for protection.

More than 40,000 Japanese along with their 70,000 American-born children were incarcerated in ten hastily constructed camps because of the hysteria that gripped the West Coast. With less than one week notice, they were forced to leave behind their homes, jobs, savings, income, land and farm equipment estimated at over one-half billion dollars—and that's 1942 dollars. Conditions at the

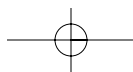
camps were austere. For example, at the Heart Mountain Camp in northern Wyoming, up to six families shared a single 120-by-20 foot tarpaper barrack. While generally referred to as "relocation camps", with machine gun-armed guards, wires surrounding the camp, and the inhabitants prohibited from leaving, these camps were prisons and may even fit the description of concentration camps.

Despite this unconstitutional treatment, 17,000 internees volunteered for military service, and a total of more than 25,000 Japanese Americans proved their loyalty wearing American uniforms during the war. These Japanese Americans set the standard for generations of Asian Pacific Americans, and all Americans for that matter, to follow.

The 100th Battalion, composed primarily of Japanese Americans from Hawaii, earned the nickname of the "Purple Heart Battalion" because of the heavy casualties it sustained. During fierce fighting in the Italian campaign, 300 Nisei were killed in action and 650 wounded. In 1944 the 100th merged with the newly arrived 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The 442nd consisted of Japanese Americans from Hawaii and from the mainland relocation camps. One of the 442nd's heralded events was the rescue of the Texas "Lost Battalion" which had been surrounded by German troops. By the end of this battle, Nisei casualties numbered above 2,000, with 140 killed in action, to save the 200 plus men in the "Lost Battalion." Their story was told in the movie "Go For Broke". The 442nd was also the first to open the gates at Dachau and liberate that awful concentration camp.

While generally referred to as "relocation camps", with machine gun-armed guards, wires surrounding the camp, and the inhabitants prohibited from leaving, these internment camps were prisons and may even fit the description of concentration camps.



FEATURE

IMAGE: ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS



Left: Fil-Am vets gather at Arlington National Cemetery to remember fallen fellow soldiers.

Bottom Left: Hmong-American veteran officer reviews his troops before a ceremony.

Bottom: APA veterans hold a reunion.

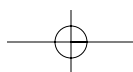


Fil-Am vets flash the "victory" sign at the WWII Memorial.

Since the Civil War, Asian Pacific Americans have had a long history serving in the U.S. military. Across the country, APA veterans gather to remember their service and re-connect with fellow servicemen.



Japanese American soldiers in a trench drill during WWII.



FEATURE

APA Military Contributions (cont.)

In less than two years of combat, the 442nd was awarded over 18,000 individual decorations and the unit received seven Presidential Unit Citations. The 442nd earned the distinction as “the most decorated unit in United States military history”. Their achievements did not come without a heavy price. Proof of their loyalty to America was given in life and limb. By the end of the war, the 442nd had suffered almost 9,500 casualties, including 600 killed in action. With constant personnel replacements, they lost nearly 300 % of their authorized strength.

Not as well known is the role that Asian Americans, particularly Japanese Americans played in the field of Military Intelligence. The Military Intelligence Service (MIS) had approximately 3,700 linguists serving in every major military command, especially in the Pacific theater. Nisei in MIS interrogated Japanese prisoners and translated captured enemy documents and secret codes. Commanders at every echelon came to rely upon the valuable information that only they could provide. Among the documents translated by MIS Nisei was a captured document known as the “Z” plan – Japan’s master naval strategy for a massive counterattack against the Allied naval forces in the central Pacific. As a result, during the US invasion of the Marianas in June 1944, US forces dealt a devastating blow to the Japanese forces. Hundreds of enemy aircraft were shot down in what has become known as the “Great Marianas Turkey Shoot.” The “Z” plan was deemed the most significant enemy document seized during the war. A documentary, “The Color of Honor,” depicts the exploits of this unit.

Lest you think that men did all the work, the first and only group of women to graduate from the MIS school at Fort Snelling, Minnesota consisted of 51 WAC’s - 47 Nisei, three Caucasians and one Chinese. They received the same intensive curriculum as the male students, although they were specially trained to serve as written language translators, rather than interrogators and interpreters.

At least two Chinese American women, Hazel Ah Ying Lee and Maggie Gee, served in the WASP (Women Air Force Service Pilots). The WASP comprised 1,074 women who ferried warplanes from factories to air bases. The original group of women went to Europe to shuttle Spitfires around the British Isles. Hazel Lee was one of 38 women killed while performing their duties. Maggie ferried B-17’s and currently resides in Oakland, CA.

More than 22,000 Chinese American men and women served in all branches of the military, most in the army, including 25% in the Army Air Corps, with a few serving as combat pilots. Ironically, due to the Chinese Exclusion Act, at that time most Chinese Americans were males considered draft eligible since few

had dependents in this country. In fact, most had dependent wives and children in China. Nevertheless, the majority of the Chinese Americans were eager to enlist and serve.

Chinese American soldiers saw ferocious fighting in both the European and Pacific theaters. When I visited the Chinese American Legion Post in New York City, I met some Chinese American MIS who greeted some of the Japanese American MIS when they arrived in China with their units, including Merrill’s Marauders. As individuals with different units, they were united with one voice as Americans.

Filipino Americans served throughout the military. In 1944, about 1000 Filipino Americans were selected for secret missions. Their assignment was to contact anti-Japanese underground groups, gather intelligence, and engage in sabotage to destroy enemy installations and equipment. When the US forces finally landed in the Philippines, 14,000 Filipino guerrillas who had been fighting the Japanese with harassment raids joined them. Since 1942, these brave jungle fighters had also provided valuable intelligence about enemy activity via secret radio broadcasts.

Korean Americans served in both theaters of war and some participated in secret underground activities in enemy occupied areas of Asia. They also served as Japanese language instructors and translators. Nearly all the Korean American men in Los Angeles joined the



Many remember seeing the APA who hoisted an American flag over a statue of Saddam Hussein, but we must also remember the men and women who have died there.

military during World War II.

Twenty-four APAs received the Congressional Medal of Honor during WWII.

The exploits of Sgt. Hiroshi Miyamura during the Korean War are still renowned in the annals of US military heroism. His citation for Medal of Honor reads :

“On the night of 24 April, Company H was occupying a defensive position when the enemy fanatically attacked, threatening to overrun the position. Cpl Miyamura, a machine-gun squad leader, aware of the imminent danger to his men, unhesitatingly jumped from his shelter wielding his bayonet in close hand-to-hand combat killing approximately 10 of the enemy. Returning to his position, he administered first aid to the wounded and directed their evacuation. As another savage assault hit the line, he manned his machine-gun and delivered withering fire until his ammunition was expended. He ordered the squad to withdraw while he stayed behind to render the gun inoperative. He then bayoneted his way through infiltrated enemy soldiers to a second gun emplacement and assisted in its operation. When the intensity of the attack necessitated the withdrawal of the company Cpl Miyamura ordered his men to fall back while he remained to cover their movement. He killed more than 50 of the enemy before his ammunition was depleted and he was severely wounded. He

APA MILITARY CONTRIBUTIONS continued next page

'Navygirl' Marta Martin Shows No Limits

By Angela Siew

United States Naval Reservist Marta Martin was born in Saigon shortly after the Vietnam War to a Vietnamese mother and believes that her father was an African American serviceman. Her experiences as a person of mixed Asian heritage have shaped her desire to enter into the military.

"Although I went through the first part of my life semi-content with who I was, I always knew there was a part of me that needed further explanation," she says recalling her interest in service, "When September 11th took place I felt that hunger to belong shaken inside of me. Not only was I a product of one war, I was given an opportunity to embark on another. It was more than a feeling of patriotism; the Navy has brought me a sense of belonging."

Martin joined the United States Naval Reserves just after September 11th 2001. Then a single mother going to school fulltime, working three jobs, and maintaining multiple websites, she says: "I wanted to do more than wave a flag, but I also felt the obligation to take care of my family. When I found out I could have both I vowed to give both a 100%. Being a single parent, it has become very important to me to have a career - to have something that I can tell others, 'Hey, this is what I do.' Something that I can be proud of and something that my children can be proud of."

Martin's fame is largely due to her

pioneering 1000 hit-a-day website Navygirl.com. Navygirl.com aims to build an online community for prospective and current shipmates through mentorship programs and information and resource sharing. "I feel it is so important to share our views and be compassionate to those walking in our footsteps. There is a reassuring feeling when there is someone out there who has had the same struggles." Martin has been heralded as a role model and "a legend in the Navy Counselors Community" for Navygirl.com. Her website is referred to by navy officers during leadership training.

In addition to her service in the Reserves and the thirty hours a week she spends

"As a Vietnamese American, I am very proud of who I am and who I represent. I would like to see more APIAs in the military."

on Navygirl.com, Martin attends University of Phoenix fulltime. She is involved with Navy Sea Cadets, Big Brothers and Sisters, and still manages to be a Navy wife and a mother of two. Her accomplishments have led to her participation in the 2003-2004 United States Naval Reserve ad campaign and appearances in publications such as Ebony and The Marine Corps Times.

Undoubtedly, Martin has encountered difficulties being in the Navy as a member of different minority groups - a single mom with children, a woman, and an ethnic minority. To that she says: "I find that anywhere you go, if you are young, career minded, motivated and a minority woman, the challenges will always be



Photos courtesy of Marta Martin

Formal Navy Portrait of Marta Martin.

there. One way I always get past it is by making sure I do my best to meet the 5 goals that I set for myself each month."

"As a Vietnamese American, I am very proud of who I am and who I represent. I believe that when I stand tall as a Proud Sailor I not only make my American family proud, but I also make Asians proud to have such a committed individual share their roots. I would like to see more Asian American Pacific Islanders in the military. It is so overwhelmingly inspiring to see Asian Americans represent our great country."



Martin gets Pinned.

APA Military Contributions cont.

maintained his magnificent stand despite his painful wounds, continuing to repel the attack until his position was overrun. When last seen, he was fighting ferociously against an overwhelming number of enemy soldiers." Mr. Miyamura currently resides in New Mexico.

During the Vietnam War, APAs served in all branches of the service and all types of jobs, as both draftees and volunteers. Two APAs received the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Terry Kawamura from Hawaii prevented injury or death to several members of his unit by throwing himself on an explosive charge when their base camp was infiltrated by an enemy demolition team. Rodney Yano was also from Hawaii. Despite being seriously wounded and partially blinded by a premature white phosphorus grenade explosion, Yano threw blazing ammunition from his helicopter, in spite of incurring additional wounds, until the danger

to the rest of the crew had passed.

APAs continue to serve in the Armed Forces and are currently in harm's way in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other hot spots around the world. While many remember seeing the APA who hoisted an American flag over a statue of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad, we must also remember the men and women who have died there.

I don't tell these war stories to promote or embrace war—those of us who have been there know how bad war really is - but rather to illustrate that we Asian Pacific Americans, like other groups that came to this country, have been willing to participate, to lead, and to fight for the justice, liberty and freedom for which this country stands. We, like all other immigrants and Native Americans, have merged together into one America, proud of our heritage and proud of our country. We should always remember that we are the children of ALL American veterans' sacrifices. God bless America.

FEATURE

Flag on Her Sleeve, Cross in Her Heart

Chaplain Ann Tang serves the United States Armed Forces in a unique fashion.

By Crystal Chiu

At first glance, Chaplain Ann Tang possesses a quiet demeanor in her military uniform and chases away any prior images of GI Janes or the like. But in fact, her title as Chaplain encompasses qualities that serve to benefit the soldiers who need the soothing presence of people as herself. From a different perspective, Chaplain Tang's work in the military has a bigger impact than those in active duty because of the emotional strength she builds within to support these soldiers and their mental state.

To see how far Ann Tang has journeyed, in a literal sense, to become 1st Lieutenant Chaplain is quite astonishing. She was born in Hong Kong and grew up there for her childhood and college years. Her religious awakening came at a young age and has continued to be passionate about it. As she explains, "I have come to know Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and God when I was twelve, and since then, faith is part of my life. I preach by living it." She began her immigration to the United States in 1992, and her reasons to do so far outweighed the many challenges thrown in the way. "I came to the States because of family reunion, equal opportunity, and freedom for all." She settled in West Virginia and immediately found the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church to practice her faith in. During this period Chaplain Tang spent time contemplating whether to attend ministry or college and decided on ministry within the U.S. army. The anchor in her decision was to be able to serve her new country and show her appreciation for all it has provided her. What better than to protect a country that has opened its arms without barriers?

Just like any other type of training for the military, Chaplain Tang endured long and trying exercises for preparation. Chaplains do not go through basic training. Instead, they attend the Chaplain Officer Basic Course (CHOBC), which is a 12-week course taught at Fort Jackson, S.C. It

provides them with an introduction to the non-combatant common core skills, Army writing and Chaplaincy-specific training. Since a Chaplain is non-combatant, they do not carry weapons at any-time, so they are assigned bodyguards. For Chaplain Tang, she wears a cross on her lapel and uses that as part of her shield. She became a U.S. citizen during her time as a chaplain in the army, and soon

after received notification of her deployment to Iraq. It may seem that not yet being a US citizen while in training is difficult, but as she explains, "The Army is the only branch of military service that accepts Permanent Resident as their soldier. I feel privilege to be one." Chaplain Tang now serves with the 99th Chaplain Ministry Team and her job description includes providing pastoral care, counseling, suicide prevention classes and worship services. "It's a personal touch, being able to touch those people, give them hope. It makes me feel good that my ministry is very effective in that way." In addition, she regularly sends letters to soldiers who are being deployed. Their family members also receive soothing letters filled with comfort from Chaplain Tang, because she understands the journey for armed service people is just as difficult for the ones back home.

Chaplain Tang flew to the Middle East in 2003 and was stationed there for the first half of the year. During those six months, she and her ministry often stayed in small tents and endured much difficulty in heat exposure and temperatures of up to 115 degrees as well as sandstorms. She led prayer meetings each week with the soldiers in her group and often times had to take breaks during gunshots, missile attacks, and explosions. They moved frequently, from southern Iraq to farther up

north along the way and did not stay in one locale for more than a week or so at a time. She missed her family and friends but quickly adjusted to the life and death scenario of war in the Middle East. Her faith helped her keep going day after day. Chaplain Tang also obviously has kept her mind open to all denominations of religion and races, not just her own. She was able to meet with religious leaders of other faiths and helped Iraqi prisoners secure food and necessary religious requirements for them during detainment. Chaplain Tang understands that, just like herself, people need prayer and worship to live through such experience life throws, no matter whom they are worshipping. It all comes down to the same belief that one needs nurture and care from a higher being.

To be a Chaplain takes much perseverance and patience, especially in the brutal environment Tang is in. Every challenge faced on the battlefield is literally a life or death test of humankind. It becomes so surreal that spiritual means take precedence to physical strength as a way to overcome fears of death. As Chaplain Ann Tang wholly agrees, "I know my presence and support gives them the personal courage, strength, and connection to God that enables them to face every challenge."

In the short time that Chaplain Tang has called America as her home, the path she has chosen catapults her to the highest-ranking Asian American female Chaplain in the United States army. As she says, "Being an Asian American has not been hindered me to be in the army. If there were any occurrences of being ridiculed, I just had to handle it with forgiveness and kindness, but standing my ground and right to be an ethnic minority female chaplain." What she serves emotionally to her soldiers is the courage they need to embrace when in active duty. This is a unique success story of an immigrant in America, where instead of searching for monetary achievement, looks to nurture the spirits and souls of the brave who defend her new home. "Being a Chaplain is a calling, and the decision can be a difficult one. For me, the bottom line is this: if you don't have a country, you don't have a home."



Chaplain Tang receives an award from the Department of Transportation.

"It's a personal touch, being able to touch those people, give them hope."

The Forgotten Soldiers

Hmong Civilians in the Army: Struggling for Recognition



By Angela Siew

Between 1957 and 1971, the U.S. military trained thousands of Hmong civilians to fight Communist troops in Laos and South Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict. Fearful that a wave of communism would be triggered by Laos' loss to the Pathet Lao (PL) army, the CIA helped Hmong leader General Vang Pao set up a "secret army" in order to hold off the advance of Communist insurgents.

The Hmong soldiers made great contributions to the United States' cause. General Vang Pao coordinated forces that rescued downed pilots, ran covert operations to take out enemy communications and infrastructure and passed on "extremely accurate intelligence" to the US military on enemy vehicles and soldiers being brought down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. According to testimony made by former CIA director Bill Lair to Congress in 1994, "For 10 years, General Vang Pao's soldiers held the growing North Vietnamese forces to approximately the same battle lines they held in 1962. And significantly for Americans, the 70,000 North Vietnamese engaged in Laos were not available to add to the forces fighting Americans and South Vietnamese in South Vietnam."

The Lao-Hmong forces guarded a sophisticated US navigation system on Phou Pha Ti Mountain. Ron Sager, a veteran of the Vietnam War and executive director of an Appleton, Wisconsin Lao-Hmong history exhibit said "it allowed our B-52s and fighters to enter into the heart of North Vietnam and locate targets with pinpoint accuracy."

Although the US promised to protect the Hmong for its services, when it with-

drew from Indochina in 1975, the CIA evacuated only about 25,000 officers and families to US air bases in Thailand. The rest of the Special Guerilla Units who were left behind began to walk to the Mekong River and cross to Thailand. Thousands of these soldiers and families were killed by Communist forces.

Hundreds of them died of starvation on the way to the river, and hundreds drowned in the river before reaching the Thai border.

According to CIA experts, Lao-Hmong forces saved the US billions of dollars and thousands of lives. "If they had not assisted, the US casualty losses would have been 250,000 instead of a little more than 58,000," says Sager.

Since then, hundreds of thousands of Hmong were murdered by the Communists. More than 100,000 have fled to refugee camps in neighboring Thailand. According to language in a recent bill signed by Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm creating Lao Veteran's Day, the remaining Hmong population in Laos have "been victims of ongoing retaliation, murder and genocide since the conclusion of the Vietnam War".

Men, women and children – Hmong of all ages- fought and died alongside United States troops during the Vietnam War. It is estimated that during the United States involvement in the war that 35,000 to 40,000 young Hmong were killed in combat, 50,000 to 58,000 were wounded, and 2,500 to 3,000 were missing in action. According to CIA experts, Lao-Hmong forces saved the US billions of dollars and thousands of lives. "If they had not assisted, the US casualty losses would have been 250,000 instead of a little more than 58,000", says Sager.

In March 1979, Edger Buell, a senior US official working with the Hmong during the years of the Vietnam war said on 60 Minutes: "Everyone of them that died, that was an American back home that didn't die, or one that was injured that wasn't

injured (back home). Somebody in nearly every Hmong family was either fighting or died from fighting... They became refugees because we... encourage them to fight for us. I promised them myself: "Have no fear, we will take care of you."

There have been several efforts to rectify the wrongs committed against these neglected soldiers. Most notable is the The Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000, which became law on May 26, 2000.

It allows naturalization for refugees from Laos who served in the United States military with a Special Guerilla Unit from 1961 to 1978. It also provides an exemption from the English language

requirement and special consideration for civics testing. Because the Hmong did not have a written language until very recently, many of them found it difficult, if not impossible, to learn English. The 1996 Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act did not include the English language exemption. Those who supported this new legislation argued that language abilities should not prevent Hmong from becoming citizens, because during the war they fully demonstrated their loyalty to the US.

Other achievements in gaining recognition include the Lao Hmong Veteran's Memorial in Arlington Cemetery, the presence of memorials and museum exhibits describing Hmong veteran's history, and the establishment of Lao Veterans Day in Michigan.

Thousands of Hmong veterans still remain in Laos waiting for America's return or assistance. In an attempt to gain publicity for this issue, Zhou Khang Yang, a Hmong refugee from Laos, awlkd the more than 1000 miles from St. Paul, N to Washington, DC. On Tuesday, June 15, 2004, he made the trek, joined by many Hmong and non-Hmong well-wishers. There are currently 300,000 people of Hmong descent that now call the United States home.

FEATURE

IMAGE: ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS



Equity vs. Equality

The Question of Justice for Filipino Veterans of WWII

By Angela Siew

Filipino soldiers have struggled for more than 50 years to gain recognition for their military service to the United States and their struggle continues as they fight for full veterans benefits.

In 1941, President Roosevelt called various Philippine military organizations "into the service of American armed forces". A year later, Congress passed the War Powers Act, which provided that Filipino non-citizens who serve in active duty in the armed forces during the war are to be granted US citizenship. For several months off and on in the years following the end of World War II, Filipino veterans underwent naturalization. However, in 1946, a year after the end of World War II, Congress passed the Rescission Act which specifically provided that service under the President's Executive Order of 1941 "shall not be deemed to be or have been military or naval forces of the United States" for purposes of determining eligibility under most veterans benefits programs.

After forty-four years of struggle, in 1990, Congress passed the Immigration and Nationality Act granting US citizenship to Filipino veterans. Filipino veterans now in their 70s and 80s availed of this 1990 legislation

In the past few years, there have been small successes in the struggle for these men to acquire the veterans' benefits that they need in order to maintain an adequate standard of living. In 1999, Congress granted special benefits to veterans by allowing them to take 75% of their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) check with them if they decide to reside in the Philippines. Most recently, in 2003, President Bush signed HR 2297 into law, which increases war-related disability pensions and burial benefits from half rate to

full rate for about 100 Filipino veterans and 400 soldiers' widows.

There are many bills before the current 108th Congress that address how to improve benefits for Filipino veterans. There is one bill (HR 677) that advocates for full veterans benefits while there are a handful of bills that advocate for benefit improvements S68, HR 644, among them. OCA officially supports HR 677.

HR 677 asks for full veteran status and benefits. Partial equity bills such as S68 improve health care benefits for certain categories of veterans. It does not address any other areas such as disability pensions, educational benefits, job counseling, assistance to homeless veterans, or survivor benefits. According to Executive Director Eric Lachica of American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, a supporter of partial equity: "Some groups are idealistic. It is a matter of what we can get done. It is a question of equity and equity's fairness. Equity does not mean equality."

Advocates for full equity cite the extreme adverse living conditions that Filipino veterans face as one reason why full benefits should be granted to these men. Those who don't live in isolation live in crowded residences with fellow veterans, with as many as twenty living in one house. According to Executive Director Luisa Antonio of the San Francisco Veterans Equity Center (SFVEC), veterans in the San Francisco Bay Area who have health problems seek badly needed medical treatment, not under the Veterans Administration system, but under Medicare and the California Department of Social Services welfare program. Only 1,000 of the 7,000 veterans residing in the United States have service-connected disabilities that fall under the Veterans Administration health

care system. Even veterans with service-connected disabilities are denied eligibility by the Veterans Administration due simply to failure on their part to present evidence to prove their service-connected disabilities. Those veterans with service-connected disabilities are also denied access to Veterans Administration for their non service-connected ailments. The rest rely on a monthly SSI check for their income, which ranges from \$400 - \$650 a month.

A majority of these veterans live in poverty and depend upon welfare. In the 1990s, veterans could petition to have their families in the Philippines come to the United States, but many did not have enough money to support them. Many die in their homes, by themselves or with other veterans. Service providers such as SFVEC often help coordinate funeral arrangements because a majority of their clientele do not have family members. In an article appearing in AsianWeek in November 2002, Antonio stated: "Ninety five percent of them are alone and they don't have any support system other than the Veterans Equity Center and other support organizations."

The situation is no better for veterans in the Philippines. In the year 2000, hundreds of Filipino soldiers took advantage of the law that allowed them to take their SSI welfare check to the Philippines. However, whatever advantage there is in terms of the US\$ - PHP exchange rate is offset by the difficulty of obtaining health care in the Philippines. For this reason, many of them have since returned to the United States.

A complaint of supporters of full equity is that partial benefit improvement bills apply mostly to Filipino World War II veterans

who are US citizens or are legally residing in the US. For those who are not yet receiving compensation (service-connected disability benefit), such as Filipino veterans residing in the Philippines, there is no point in taking an interest in the provision on increase in the rate of payment. In addition, they note that the figures that are being used to quantify an equity bill are no longer

accurate and at the unfortunate rapid rate that veterans are dying there may be less veterans who may benefit from the equity bill if passed into law.

The driving force behind full equity is principle. Jon Melegrito, Executive Director

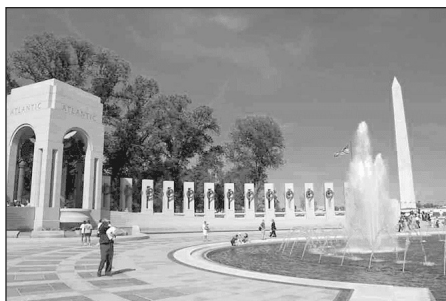
of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), says it's a "matter of honor." According to Antonio of SFVEC, "Noone has amended the 1946 Rescission Act - Filipino veterans of World War II are not considered to have performed active duty. These are the heroes that had fought side by side with the US soldiers and under the American flag to defend freedom and democracy. It is unbelievable that after more than half a century after the conclusion of WWII, there is still an ongoing struggle for full recognition as US veterans." Lourdes Tancinco, co-chair of the National Network for Veterans Equity points out,

"Would we treat veterans from any state of the U.S. in this discriminatory way?"

Executive Director Jon Melegrito of NaFFAA cites the philosophy of Student Action for Veterans Equity (SAVE), a student advocacy group for full equity. "These students say that we should fight for the cause of

FIL-AM VETS cont. page 45

Ninety five percent of [Fil-Am vets] are alone and they don't have any support system other than the Veterans Equity center and other Organizations



The World War II Memorial.

The Japanese American veterans of World War II proved that loyalty to the United States cannot be based solely upon ancestry.

Following the attack of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the mass incarceration of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, most of whom were US citizens or legal permanent residents.

Despite the United States' fear of Japanese Americans, pragmatism prevailed in one area. Many Japanese Americans were taken out of internment camps to become translators. Those who were considered the most disloyal - second-generation Japanese Americans who had received

Loyalty in the Face of Prejudice: Fighting with the Face of the Enemy

The Contribution of Japanese Americans in WWII

By Angela Siew

some of their education in Japan - often served as the best translators. According to Major General Charles Willoughby, General MacArthur's Chief of Intelligence: "Never before in history did an Army know so much concerning its enemy, prior to actual engagement, as did the Army during most of the Pacific campaigns. The Nisei saved a million lives and shortened the war by two years." Charged with interrogating prisoners and deciphering enemy battle orders, these translators were sent off to participate in every major campaign in the Pacific.

Japanese American soldiers are most famous for their displays of honor and courage on the battlefield. The highly decorated 442nd Combat Regimental Team and 100th Battalion were comprised of Japanese Americans who had joined the

Territorial Guard of Hawaii in order to demonstrate their loyalty to the United States.

The 442nd and 100th played a critical role in sealing the fate of the Axis nations in central Italy. They engaged in 25 days of nearly continuous action in rain and raw cold in the liberation of Bruyeres in Southern France. The 100th Battalion helped to lead the drive up the Italian peninsula two weeks after D-Day. The 442nd and 100th were responsible for the rescue of the Texas "Lost Battalion" from the Germans, losing more men in the effort than were saved. During this campaign, the 442nd and 100th won five of its seven Presidential Citations.

In another crucial campaign, the 442nd and 100th performed a critical "end-

JAPANESE AMERICAN VETS cont. page 45

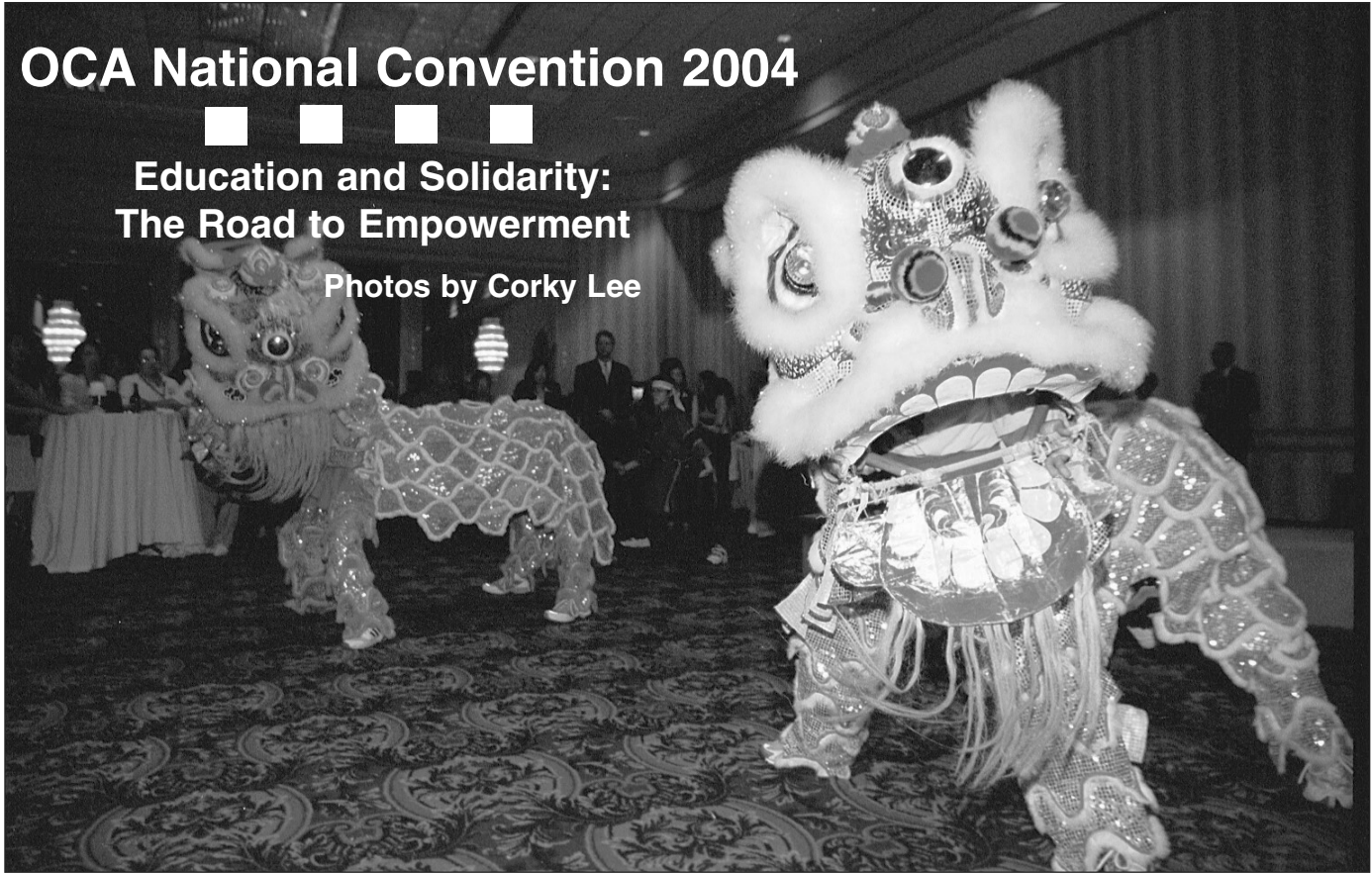
PROGRAMS

IMAGE: ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

OCA National Convention 2004

Education and Solidarity: The Road to Empowerment

Photos by Corky Lee



This past July, the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) and the OCA-New England Chapter hosted its 26th annual national convention in Boston, Massachusetts. New England, and Boston in particular, is symbolic of America's history and political significance, and is also blessed with a large number of diverse Asian Pacific Islanders American communities. It was a fitting background for our convention theme: **"Education and Solidarity: The Road to Empowerment."**

"Educating the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and mobilizing them to participate in the democratic process is imperative as the national election approaches," stated Raymond Wong, OCA National President. "No longer will APIAs be perceived as a silent community who refrains from American politics. This year's State of America Summit will provide a forum for APIAs to recognize the important role they play in the development of our country and learn how APIAs can make an impact on the 2004 national elections."

Highlights of the summit came with surrogates from the presidential campaigns. The Bush/Cheney campaign was represented by Samuel Mok, Chief Financial Officer from the US Department of Labor. The Kerry/Edwards campaign was represented by Bill Wong, Chief of Staff for California State Representative Judy Chu. In addition, OCA's involvement with the APIAVote campaign provided a forum for convention attendees to understand what the impact an individual's vote can make by casting that ballot on November 2.

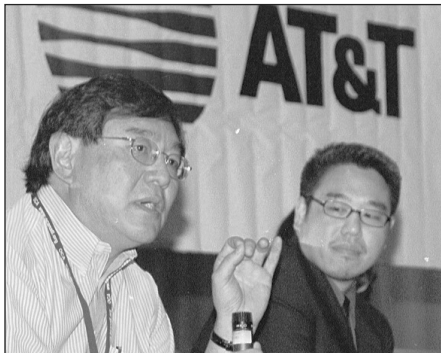
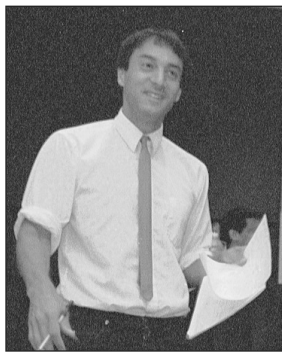
"I'm deeply proud of my company's many years of support to OCA," said David Lin, Regional Marketing Director of AT&T. "At AT&T, we long ago recognized OCA's outstanding commit-



Above: members of a New England Chinese women's lion dance troupe performs. OCA Founder K.L. and Honoree Betty Lee Sung. Mah-Jong funsters mug for the camera.

PROGRAMS

IMAGE: ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS



Top Left or Right: Mah-Jongg Tournament. Opening session panelist Peter Kiang and audience members from the Detroit area.

Second Row: College and Youth programs and OCA National President Raymond Wong and Mary Sham from OCA Long Island

Above Left-Right: Samuel Mok serving as a surrogate for the Bush/Cheney campaign, Paul Watnatabe from University of Massachusetts - Boston, Bill Wong representing the Kerry/Edwards campaign, Jan Ting from Temple University and Vijay Prashad of Trinity College debating over post-911 issues and policies

Bottom Right: Tony Flores from OCA Las Vegas posing as Elvis, and Sumptuous Feast performing at the JFK Memorial Library New England Clambake dinner.



PROGRAMS



Left: SuChin Pak of MTV enjoys the conference.

Right: OCA Executive Director Christine Chen, Wanda Wong of NAAAP, Ed Tang of Raytheon, June Jee of Verizon, Ken Lee of UPS, and J.D. Hokyama of LEAP make a good team at the APA Young Professional Roundtable.



ment to the Asian Pacific American community, which is consistent with our own beliefs and values of diversity, education, political participation, and supporting those organizations that ultimately help improve our nation.”

At the same time, the ability for OCA and the APIAVote campaign to mobilize the community is dependant on our ability to understand the issues and how it is related to the power of the vote. This includes capturing the interest of convention goers of all ages — youth, college, young professionals, and seniors.

Building on this theme, this year’s Youth Day sponsored by McDonald’s and the Youth Leadership Training sponsored by the American Legacy Foundation focused on providing safe space for students to freely express themselves and discuss issues that youth of today face. It laid the groundwork for students to learn how to organize around issues and how that is related to ensuring representation and equality for the community.

With a similar framework, the College Day sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund and College Leadership Summit sponsored by Shell also focused on skills building around organizing and identifying strategies to effectively address the community’s issues. With this new generation of leaders armed with the skills, energy, and passion, OCA is looking to their leadership in helping organize activities around APIAVote and the elections.

According to Lisbeth Shaw, President of the New England Chapter, and George Cha, local convention chair,

“Attending a convention should also be fun, and there are two specific events unique to this region of the country.” The convention teaser was an optional escorted tour of the Peabody Essex Museum featuring twenty-four historic buildings and one the nation’s museums of Asian Art. The convention officially kicked off featuring local talent at the welcome reception sponsored by Brinker International. The evening rounded out with a mahjong tournament, in which participants had the opportunity to win a specially made mahjong set inscribed with the OCA emblem.

Friday morning set the stage with the opening session focusing on education in the 21st century and what needs to be done to ensure that no Asian Pacific American child is left behind.

The other unique venue and event was the New England Clam Bake hosted Friday night at the John F. Kennedy Library and sponsored by TJX Companies, MGM Mirage, and Anheuser-Busch. The library designed by I.M. Pei provided a great setting for OCA members and friends to better understand President Kennedy’s life and career and the times in which he lived; and to promote a greater appreciation of America’s political and cultural

heritage as well as the process of governing and the importance of public service.

Workshops and Sessions and a Packed Agenda

The agenda for the weekend was also filled with great workshops and sessions focusing on issues of parenting within an Aisna Pacific American family, and community empowerment to a history lesson on early Chinese immigration and a workshop on race relations as well as diabetes. APIAVote National Campaign Coordinator Janelle Hu presented a workshop on campaign strategies for getting out the APIA vote this election year. Adoption issues drew a diverse crowd as we look at this potential new constituent group for OCA, and convention goers were treated to a lively debate on Asian Pacific American and the Home Front - Foreign Conflucts, Domestic Consequences.

J.D. Hokoyama of Leadership Education of Asian Pacifics, Ken Lee of UPS, June Jee of Verizon and Ed Tang of Raytheon presented at the Asian Pacific American Round Table sponsored by Verizon on issues relating to their experience in the workplace.



Bruce Yamashita speaking to the breakfast crowd.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



Raymond Wong presents the Community Service Award to Rajini Srikanth and Paul Watanabe representing University of Massachusetts, Boston

Honoring Our Best

The OCA convention also provides the organization the chance to honor those within the community. At this year's Friday Allstate luncheon, chapter excellence awards recognized OCA's best practices on the local grassroots level. SuChin Pak, MTV journalist gave the keynote. Pak covered the recent University of Michigan affirmative action Supreme Court case and ensured that diverse voices including APIAs were covered. Most recently, Pak's MTV News series "My Life (Translated)" examines her experience as a Korean-American and those of other first-generation Americans living their lives as "all-American kids" trying to balance their American lifestyle with the customs and rules derived from their family backgrounds.

Bruce Yamashita delivered the keynote address at the breakfast session on Saturday. This Hawai'ian native is a Captain in the U.S. Marine Corps currently living in Washington D.C. where he practices criminal defense and immigration/nationality law. In 1994, Yamashita sued the US Marine Corps for racial discrimination and won. His story has been documented in the film, "A Most Unlikely Hero," released in 2003. Yamashita continues to advise those who have been wrongfully discharged from the U.S. military. Yamashita holds a bachelors degree from the University of Hawai'i, a Masters degree in International Affairs from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

Saturday luncheon sponsored by Wal-Mart Stores started with a visit with our great friend Stuart Ishimaru, Vice Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, honoring and recognizing our scholarship awardees – AVON and UPS. The OCA summer interns also unveiled their annual introductory video, which was later burned on to CD-ROM's and distributed to VIP's.

Saturday night shined a spotlight on General John Fugh and Betty Lee Sung as honorees of the OCA Chinese American



OCA Pioneer Awardees, General John Fugh and Betty Lee Sung

Pioneers at the Gala Awards Banquet. OCA awards the Chinese American Pioneer Award to individuals who have not only excelled in their fields, but have also paved the way for Chinese and Asian Pacific Americans to follow in their footsteps.

The University of Massachusetts Institute for Asian American Studies and the Asian American Studies Program was also honored with the Community Excellence Award. By honoring these paragons of American leadership, OCA hopes to increase positive recognition of institutions that serve not only the Asian Pacific American community but greater American society as well.

OCA also celebrated the achievements of OCA members as we celebrated the accomplishment of ten of our OCA/General Motors Unsung Heroes.



National President Raymond Wong celebrating at the Gala with OCA National Staff and 2004 Summer Interns and Honorees.

PROGRAMS

Recognizing A Year of Success & Inspira

OCA's effectiveness as a national advocacy group depends greatly on the number of members it reaches out to and the amount of support provided by its members. Each chapter is responsible for recruiting and growing its membership on a yearly basis. OCA presents this award to the chapter with the greatest percent increase in membership and the chapter's effectiveness with membership recruiting approaches and methods



A chapter's newsletter and/or website is "the face of the organization" because open and direct communication with our members, our community and the general public is crucial to our mission. Communications, both internal and external, is also important to foster a sense of community within OCA, to share ideas so that chapters can build upon models of successes created within the organization.



The Chapter Excellence Award for Community Involvement recognizes chapters that advance OCA's mission by actively participating in their local communities. Past winners have engaged in varied activities that range from community service projects and educational workshops to mentorship for the youth and working in coalition with other minority groups.

Chapter Excellence Award for Membership

- 1st Place: OCA Greater Seattle
- 2nd Place: OCA New Jersey
- 3rd Place: OCA Chicago



This award seeks to recognize chapters that have provided outstanding and meaningful projects or programs that have had an impact on its members and the community. This may include but were not limited to dinner-dances, community service projects, picnics, educational seminars, workshops, tutorials, leadership development training, youth programs, and translation services.

Chapter Excellence Award for Projects and Programs

- 1st Place: OCA Greater Seattle
- 2nd Place: OCA Dallas/Ft. Worth
- 3rd Place: OCA Westchester & Hudson Valley

Chapter Excellence Award for Communications

- 1st Place: OCA Greater Los Angeles
- 2nd Place: OCA Long Island
- 3rd Place: OCA Greater Houston



The Chapter Excellence Award for Economic Development seeks to recognize chapters for producing distinguished events/projects to advance the financial well-being of the chapter; to strengthen the financial security of OCA; or events/projects that have had positive impact in the local community in terms of economic development.

Chapter Excellence Award for Economic Development

- 1st Place: OCA Greater Seattle
- 2nd Place: OCA Chicago
OCA Greater Houston
OCA Greater Los Angeles
- 3rd Place: OCA Long Island & OCA Westchester & Hudson Valley

Chapter Excellence Award for Community Involvement

- 1st Place: OCA Greater Los Angeles
& OCA Long Island
- 2nd Place: OCA Westchester & Hudson Valley
- 3rd Place: OCA Greater Seattle

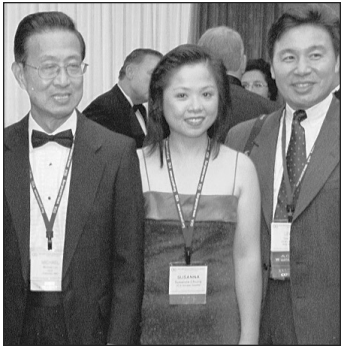


tion...

The OCA chapter of the year award is the highest honor bestowed to an OCA chapter. It is based on membership retention and/or growth, financial support to OCA national, support of national OCA programs and projects, and local community involvement. The winning chapters truly embody the spirit and meaning of what OCA is all about.

Chapter of the Year

1st Place: OCA Greater Seattle



2nd Place: OCA Long Island



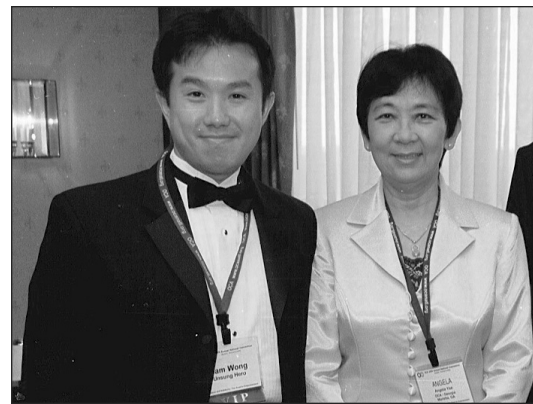
3rd Place: OCA Greater Houston



2004 OCA/General Motors Unsung Heroes from left to right: Susanna Chung, Pearl Dong, Nancy Hong, Ray Lee, Helen Tang, Melanie Wong, Sammy Wong, Michael Wu, Angela Yee, Matthew Tsien of General Motors, and Jim Zhang
Bottom Right: Honorees Sammy Wong and Angela Yee at the VIP Reception

2004 OCA/General Motors Unsung Heroes

The Unsung Heroes Award was created with the generous funding from the General Motors Corporation to award those OCA members who consistently went beyond the call of duty in serving their chapter. We recognize the hard working volunteers of OCA who embody the spirit of what community service is all about. Through this recognition, GM hopes the dedicated honorees will share their efforts of how to get involved in local OCA chapters and make a contribution to their community.



Susanna Chung
OCA-Seattle

Pearl Dong
OCA-Long Island

Nancy Hong
OCA-Dallas/Ft. Worth

Ray Lee
OCA-New Jersey

Helen Tang
OCA-West/Hudson Valley

Melanie Wong
OCA-WDC

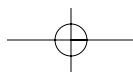
Sammy Wong
OCA-New York

Michael Wu
OCA-Fairfield

Angela Yee
OCA-Georgia

Jim Zhang
OCA-Eastern Virginia





PROGRAMS



Avon & UPS Scholarship

IMAGE: ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

Photo courtesy of Corky Lee



From Left to Right: Susan Hung Wong, Iok Seng-Wong, Vana Tran of OCA, Cindy Wei Yee Shao, Michelle Pham, Sheng Er Yang, Chris Angelo Valiente Roque

OCA selected 10 winners to receive the OCA-AVON Scholarship this year. The OCA-AVON Scholarship awards \$2000 each to Asian Pacific American female high school students with financial need, who will attend a

higher education institution this fall. In addition, some winners received an all-expenses paid trip to the OCA National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts from July 15-18, paid for by AVON.



Seated are Sophie Lee and Shirley Dong of AVON. Standing are: Scholar Iok Seng Wong, Adam Lim of AVON and Scholar Susan Hung Wong

Jemmalyn Uganiza Peralta
Salinas, California
University of California, Santa Cruz

Thu Thi Truong - Biloxi, MS
University of Houston

Carissa Ashley Phuong - Orlando, FL
University of South Florida

Christine Ann Watson - Raleigh, NC
North Carolina State University

Yan Qin Tang - Baltimore, MD
University of Maryland

Iok Seng Wong - Henrietta, NY
SUNY at Buffalo

Leslie Fatai Tavo - West Valley, UT
Westminster College

Susan Hung - Elmhurst, NY
SUNY at Stony Brook

Deanna Tran - Silver Springs, MD
University of Maryland

Grace Chia-
Ying Wu - Cleveland, OH
Ohio State University

The OCA-UPS Gold Mountain Scholarships awards Asian American and Pacific Islander students who are the first in their families to attend an institution of higher education. The scholarship provides \$2,000 to each recipient to be used for college expenses. Scholarship winners also received an all-expenses paid trip to the OCA National Convention, held this year in Boston Massachusetts from July 15-18, paid for by the UPS Foundation.

The theme of Gold Mountain is based on the hopes and dreams of Asian immigrants to find the mountain of golden opportunity in America. Seeking to improve the lives of themselves and their families, Chinese immigrants left their homelands in search of the Gold Mountain. The twelve OCA-UPS scholars have carried on these hopes by being the pioneers in their families to first reach the Gold Mountain of higher education.



GOLD MOUNTAIN SCHOLARSHIP

Ronica Lu - Honolulu, HI
University of Notre Dame

Violetta Sachcha Taing - Las Vegas, NV
Stanford University

Karen Nga - Stockton, CA
University of California, Los Angeles

Lie Vu - Sacramento, CA
University of California, Davis

Michelle L. Pham - Antelope, CA
University of California, Los Angeles

Joyce Kaori Yagi - Chula Vista, CA
University of California, Irvine

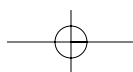
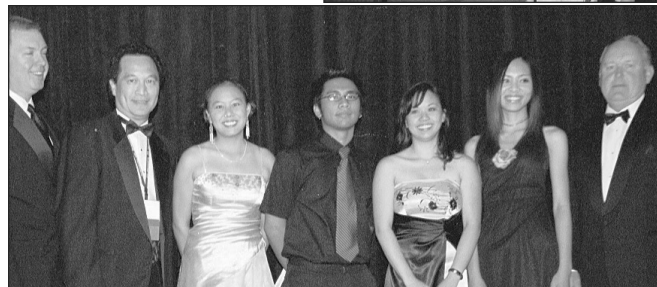
Chris Angelo Valiente Roque
Virginia Beach, VA
Old Dominion University

Sheng Er Yang -
Waldorf, ND
Virginia Tech

Aaron Truitt Saunders - Keaau, HA
Northern Arizona University

Thaying Yang
Manteca, CA
University of California, Los Angeles

Cindy Wei-yee Shao - Columbia, SC
Clemson University



OCA-KFC Essay Contest Winner



KFC What's Cookin'

OCA is pleased to announce the 2004 winners of the national OCA-KFC Essay Contest, sponsored by KFC Corporation. The winners are: Eric Lee (Cupertino, CA) in 1st place, Yuan Fang (Fargo, ND) in 2nd place and Dewi Harjanto (Irvine, CA) in 3rd place. This year's essay question is: *"How do you see your community contributing to U.S. society in the next 20 years?"*

Eric Lee's winning essay:

"What do *you* know about government and what can *you* do?" the lady scornfully retorted. She then haughtily exclaimed that she was a medical practitioner, and so she *knew* the medical harms that Prop 54 posed to the Asian American community were fictitious. She then launched into a diatribe that communities of color should stop obsessing over race – an outdated way of "socialist thinking." Her partisan ideology could be partially explained; she was a Russian who defected from the Soviet Union. However, her comments still struck as hurtful and tactless. At the same time, that incident revealed what the number one goal of the rapidly growing Asian-American community should be in the next twenty years, not turning out more of the best engineers or the most diligent doctors, which should be continued and applauded, but invigorating our own community and America by contributing our political say and muscle to shape an America worth believing in. Contributing to America will be more than just donating money, but also being the pivotal votes and the influences to match our numbers.

The enemies to community and political activism reared its ugly head that day: mindless, if not hateful, invective, stubborn ignorance, and condescending apathy. Here were several high school students, deemed by society as idle and uninterested, spending their free time doing what most adults feign to care to do, yet claim they have no time. We couldn't even vote in historic California recall election – an election that the media ironically hyped as proof of an active citizenry – yet we showed more interest in changing public policy that the multitudes that rejected our information. More importantly, what we were doing demonstrated what the greater Asian American in Silicon Valley was doing right: stepping into politics and rallying a community to press common goals and causes integral to a democratic society. To me and for all Asian Americans, community activism has become more and more important to minorities, not only must

we struggle to keep our history known and defend yesteryear's progress, but also we must further advance new topics and issues that concern all communities in general. The next twenty years will see even further growth in the Asian-American population, and we must start now to convince our community that we can best contribute to America by being politically active.

Firstly, Asian Americans need to continue to pull together a cohesive pan-Asian community. This serves as the prerequisite for action to counter devastating stereotypes and myths (the hateful invective), while promoting cultural understanding amongst fellow Asian Americans and with other communities (the stubborn ignorance). The Asian community is unique among minorities. African-Americans are all long established Americans, with powerful groups and persons to advance their causes. Latinos, now the largest minority group, already have powerful groups and are united by their common tongue: Spanish. For Asian Americans, we encompass a multitude of political thought, from Communist nations to democracies to Muslim dominated countries, huge numbers of languages, dialects, and the fifth-generational ones as well as those "fresh off the boat." Uniting such a disparate range of ethnic groups remains the first stumbling block to greater political clout and a richer America due to our involvement.

Secondly and simultaneously, Asian Americans need to stress within the community that politics isn't just an option to explore, it *must* be explored. Silence does not speak, and more cynically, disorganized voting patterns on important issues and in general mean even less attention from politicians. What good are exceptionally talented professionals if they cannot break into upper management? What good are impoverished Asian-Americans who remain trapped in low-income jobs and in hazardous inner cities? Neither the Asian-American community nor America benefits. Our community has so much to offer

from public policy to urban planning, from being role models to increasing civic participation on America. What devastates more is not the group of critics who contends ethnic politics serve no purpose, but those in any ethnicity that are apathetic or shameful about their background. Our voices add the harmony and enrich the dialogue and the dreams of the future America.

Too often the words "multicultural" and "diversity" are thrown around casually just for political correctness, and as a community we can stake the middle ground to bridge a polarized America. Including ethnic perspective is not for placating but for overdue acknowledgement of America's diverse contributions. However, community activism should build our community through positive means. Sadly, the discussion over race has been poisoned by radical racial demagogues on both sides skilled in finger-pointing, making race such a polarizing, sensitive subject. This merely increases the tension beneath the atmosphere, reinforcing in many minds that minorities are over demanding their "given amount" of due. It plays up the color line and distinctions of race, and often times Asian Americans are caught in the political crossfire on difficult issues like affirmative action. Race-baiting hurts, race-building works. To achieve a just society requires centrist and constructive coalition building that reaches across racial lines and always seeing any community as a partner rather than oppressor. Believing in grassroots activism places the power and potential of ordinary citizens to prompt change in our own hands, and Asian-Americans need to ride this wave to move from under the radar to full-fledged active participants in building the American dream. Most importantly, the next twenty years, America will see phenomenal breakthroughs and be presented with unprecedented challenges, and pushing civic participation rallies the Asian-American community and builds a less apathetic America. Political activism is win-win situation for America and for Asian-Americans.

PROGRAMS

OCA Building Fund Campaign

Brick by Brick - From Vision to Reality

We all know that a building is only as strong and solid as the foundation on which it stands. With this in mind, the steering committee for the OCA Building Fund has been working tirelessly on laying down a foundation that will ensure a successful campaign for a permanent home for OCA in Washington, D.C.

The establishment of the OCA Building Fund Steering Committee in August 2003 marked an important and significant commitment on the part of the organization and its leadership to raise funds for a permanent home for OCA. In the months that have followed, the vision of a permanent home for OCA has evolved into more than just the concept of securing a building. When the vision finally becomes reality, the building and all that it represents will have a major and historical impact on the future of the APIA community and on our fundamental role and participation as Americans.

OCA is very excited and deeply appreciative towards Washington State Governor Gary Locke and Dr. John B. Tsu, former Chair of the White House Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, for accepting OCA's invitation to serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the OCA Building Fund Campaign. Their involvement speaks volumes about their support and belief in the vision and the need to make this vision to reality.

The first phase of the campaign kicked off this past April during the National Board meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Spearheaded by National VP of Finance Virginia Ng and OCA-Phoenix Chapter President and Endowment Fund Trustee Astria Wong, the Chapter Commitment Subcommittee unveiled to the National Board an inspirational and motivational plan to garner support and contributions from all 50 OCA chapters and their members. Armed with ideas and suggestions as a result of an intensive brainstorming session, each chapter is expected to set a fundraising goal and plan a variety of events and activities within their respective chapters and community.

OCA's foundation has always been the chapters and its members. It cannot be emphasized enough that a campaign such as this cannot and will not be success-

ful without the grassroots support and involvement of our members. Only then will we be able to secure the building with additional help from our colleagues, corporate partners, families and community leaders and friends. By contributing to the building fund you are contributing to the future of our organization, our community and our future leaders. Please make your pledge today and be a part of OCA history.

"My husband and I believe in OCA's mission and program, and we're proud to be able to assist them. We think it's appropriate to have a building where all the APA organizations can work together in. Their benefits would be benefits for everyone, and there is always strength in numbers."

--- *Jean & Stanley Chang*

OCA Westchester & Hudson Valley

"I've always known that OCA has wanted a building for a long time. To see all the APA organizations working together would be extremely meaningful. I believe in what OCA stands for. The main reason I donated a large sum of money is because I see it as a way to encourage others to donate as well."

-- *Cora Chin, OCA Greater Chicago*

DONATE YOUR FREQUENT FLYER MILES TO THE BUILDING FUND

As the OCA Building Fund Steering Committee begins preparing for the next phase of the campaign to raise funds for a permanent home for the organization, OCA members are being asked to donate their frequent flyer miles to defray some of the travel costs for steering committee members who may be required to travel for meetings with potential donors across the country. Members of the steering committee are all volunteering their time and efforts towards this ambitious endeavor. Any help from the OCA members to defray costs are deeply appreciated and will be appropriately acknowledged.

Thank you for all your help in making the vision become a reality!

OCA Building Fund Donors

Community Mover (\$25,000 & above)

Jessie & Claudine Cheng
Kenneth & Karen Lee Foundation

Community Builder (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

George Cha
Jean & Stanley Chang
Ellen & Michael C. Lin
OCA-Long Island Chapter
Wiley, Rein & Felding
Miriam & Horatio Yeung

Community Leader (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

Carol & Jason Bobadilla
Charles and Alice Cha
Cora M. Chin
Kathay Feng
Virginia Gee
Amber Wong Hsu
Rose & William Kaung
Chin Fun & Florence Kwok
Leo Y. Lee
Virginia Ng
OCA-Greater Houston
OCA-NOVA
OCA-Sacramento
OCA-Wisconsin
Sam & Peggy Ong
Jy-Hong and Ching-hua Su
Claire Tan
Carlos Tiu
Lucky & Evelyn Tom
Cindy Tong
Henry Wong
Janlee Wong
Raymond L. Wong
Mei-Ling Woo

Community Supporter (\$500 - \$999)

Christine Chen
Michael Chin
Lian and Margaret Hao
Cecilia Huang
Robert Lim
Samuel K. Luk
James & Joanne Wang
Andrew Wong
Benjamin and Teresa Wu
Alice Yang Yeh

Community Friend \$10 - \$499

Johnny Y. & Summe Chan
Kenneth Ng Chan
Samuel Chan

PROGRAMS

Edith Chao
 Chih Ping & Virginia Chen
 Jean & Robert Chen
 Shao-Lin Chen
 Richard Cheng
 James & Diana Chin-Bow
 Keemin Chin-Sang
 Clara Chiu
 Henry & Cynthia Chow
 Catherine Damoan
 Mabelle Dong
 David & Betty Eng
 Liping He
 Elaine Hoo
 Ching Y. & Kathy Hu
 Janelle Hu
 Peter & Lisa Lau
 Henry J. Lee
 Hoover Lee
 Lehman & Linda Lee
 Kathleen W. Lee
 Margaret M. Lee
 Theresa & Siu-Leung Lee
 Bow F. Leong
 Linus and Judy Leung
 Paul & Wendy Leung
 Eric & Aryani Lin
 Sherwin W. Liou
 Victor Liu
 Wan Cheng & Emily Liu
 Y.K. Bill Liu
 Sew Y. Liyu
 Chu Sek & Theresa Lo
 Dr. Eddie Lo
 Fred & Mary Lo
 Sen M. Louie
 Victor Liu
 Keith McAllister
 Gale Awaya McCallum
 Ty Mak
 Pang Man
 Leslie D. Moe
 Perry M. & Lisa Moy
 Teresa Ning
 OCA-National Board
 OCA-New Jersey
 Lili Pao
 S. Paul & Juliet Pao
 Donna Pascua
 Alfred & Lin Poy
 Claire Pruet
 Woon Wah Sui
 Xue-Yi Tan
 Austin Tao
 William & Ann Tong
 Vana Tran
 Judy Tseng
 William Uy
 Stanley & Catherine Wang
 Francis P. Wong
 Helena Wong
 Janlee Wong
 Tai C. & Sau Ling Wong
 Walter Wong
 Warren Woo
 Jessie Wood
 Hefeng Tian & Kelly Feng Xu
 Chung S. & Sue Pai Yang

Kenneth C. Yee
 Cora Yim
 Helen Yin
 George & Marion Yip

Vision 25 Capital Campaign Donors

Community Builder (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Charles & Alice Cha
 OCA-E. Tennessee
 William & Annie Tao

Community Leader (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

Stanley & Jean Chang
 Cora May & Stephen Chin
 Jimmy Chu
 Joseph Eng
 K.C. & Celine Fong
 Cassandra & Daniel Kwoh
 Michael & Ellen Lin
 Chi Man Lo
 Alex & Lillian Mark
 OCA-Detroit
 OCA-Eastern Virginia
 OCA-Fort Worth & Dallas
 OCA-Hong Kong
 OCA-Long Island
 OCA-New York
 OCA-South Florida
 OCA-Wisconsin
 George & Jessie Poy
 Sik Woo Ting
 Carlos H. Tiu
 Peter To
 Jackie & William Tung
 Christopher Wang
 Julie & Keith Wang
 K. Wang & Company
 Kung-Lee Wang
 Richard & Donna Wen
 Thomas Wu
 Victor & Hun King Yau
 Ben You Cheng Ying

Community Supporter (\$500 - \$999)

Theresa Chang
 Benny B. Cheng
 Leeann Chin Foundation
 Paul J. Gam
 Florence & Chin Fun Kwok
 Louis & Sophia Lau
 Weber S. Lauh
 Mark & Mei Lan Lee
 David K. Lo
 Grace Lo
 Bette Bao & Winston Lord
 Patrick & May Ng
 George M. Ong
 John Pan
 Harding Pan
 Tak Ki & Marguerite Sung
 John Tsai
 Jeannette Wang

Walter & Anna Wong
 Bark Lee Yee
 Carl Yee

Community Friend (\$10 - \$499)

Alexander & Alan Abramson
 May Lee & Maidey Au
 Austin Tao & Associates
 Chris Chan
 Shu-Ping Chan
 Ming Hong & Yeh Chang
 Victor & Bermen Chang
 Jason Chao
 Robert & Ann Chao
 Yung-An & Jean Chao
 C.P. Chen
 Jean Chen
 Ken Wen Sherng Chen
 Amber Cheng
 Charles T. Chiang
 Calvin Chin
 Jack & Marilyn Chin
 Laura Chin
 James & Diana Chin-Bow
 Joan & Frank F. Cho
 Hong-ling & Rev Y.H. Chou
 Lena Chou
 Robert & Jean Chou
 Rosalind & Pei Chi Chou
 Terence & Phoebe Chou
 Ting Chao & Dorothy Chou
 Yu Chen Chou
 Franklin F. Chow
 Steven Choy
 Rose Chu
 Chu Family Charitable Fund
 Locus & Theresa Chuang
 Anmin & Tsushan M. Chung
 Chia Mou Chung
 Josephine & Kelvin Chung
 Min-Li & Riley Chung
 Marc & Doris Ling Cohan
 Theodora H. Du
 Ida Wong Eng
 Kee Juen & Jean Gee Eng
 Kenneth & Paula Eng
 Patrick Eng
 Stanley Eng
 Blair G. Ewing
 Lotus & Lo The Fu
 David L. Fung
 George Gee
 Ginny Gong
 Chong Hoe Hao
 Sophia & Yu Chi Ho
 Mary Hom
 Elaine Hoo
 Wen Chen Hsia
 Edward & Shirley Hsieh
 Hugh Hu
 Mei Sien & Yen Yu Huang
 Vikien J. Huang
 Yao Wen Huang
 Helen Y.H. Hui
 Nancy & Paul Hwang
 Miranda Jaffe
 Thomas Jao

Martin Jer
 Linda Kao
 Maeching Li Kao
 Michele Kee
 Jenny Kho
 Wai Kong King
 Jan & Joe Kish
 Tong Chui Koh
 Herching Ku
 James & Annie Kun
 Mou Liang Kung
 Edwin & Beulah Kwoh
 Daphne Kwok
 Bill Kwong
 Cheung Hing Kwong
 May Lai
 Calvin & Helen Lang
 Charles C. Lee
 Chester & Diana Lee
 Gary Chung-Yi Lee
 Henry J. Lee
 James S. Lee
 James & Helen B. Lee
 Joanna & Peter Lee
 Leo Lee
 Thomas Lee
 Thomas H.C. & Nina Lee
 James & Janet Leong
 Sing Leong
 Cho King Leung
 Tony N. Leung
 Thomas H. & Agnes Li
 C.S. Liao
 Chung Kuo & Ming Djan Liao
 Ray & Mable Lim
 Eric Y. Lin
 Jenny & Arthur Lin
 Ming-Jyh Lin
 T.Y. Lin
 Emily & Wan Cheng Liu
 Sophie Lou
 Arielle Lui
 Donald L. & Mieko Mah
 Ting Hei Mak
 Pang & Hope Man
 Wing Mar
 Mark J. Freihage Associates
 Marisa C. Ming
 Matthew Y. Mo
 Stella & William Mo
 Winnie Y. Mou
 Frances & David Namkoong
 Clyde Nishimura
 OCA-Georgia
 K. Patrick Okura
 Siew Ling Seah
 Bessie H.M. Shao
 Lilian & June Sang Siak
 Mirchell & Annie Song
 Betty Lee Sung
 Sysdyne Corporation
 Joseph & Quinnette Sze
 T.L. International Corporation
 Thomas Tam
 Chung Jen & Lorraine Tan
 George Tang
 Ping Tcheng
 Chung Wei Teng

PROGRAMS

IMAGE: ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

Patrick L. Ting
 Robert & Sylvia Ting
 Kathleen To
 Frank & Julie Tsai
 John & Alice Tsai
 Stephen & Iris Tsai
 Linda & Anthony Tse
 Pauline Woo Tsui
 Chiaan & Lily Wan
 Hai Po Wang
 Julie Wang
 Kung Yeh Wang
 Ting Wang
 James & Katy Wei
 Victor & Sylvia Wei
 Linda Mar Weidman
 Alysona & Wyman K. Wong
 Be Gin & Gordon Zen Wong
 Cynthia & Ruth Wong
 Henry & Constance Wong
 Samuel & Mercedes Wong
 Violet & James Wong
 Irene Wu
 John T. & Amy M Wu
 Ray Wu
 Alan Yang
 Alice Yang
 David & Rwei Wen Yang
 George & Dora Yang
 Zong-Yee Wilson Yang
 Melinda Yee
 Mae Yih
 Cathy & Cheng Zong Yin
 David L Yin
 Robert K. Yin
 Sui Chun & Alice C.H. Ying
 Chun & Joanne Yip
 Kai Yong
 Adeline Yoong
 Jun Fah & Nancy Yoong
 Howard B. Young
 John L. Young
 Kan & Lih Young
 Vincent & Grace Young
 Leepo & Victor Yu
 Liping He & Yong Yu
 Norma Yueh



價值

The OCA-San Francisco Bay Chapter
 congratulates
 OCA-New England Chapter
 on a successful annual convention!

Be sure to join us as we host the
 annual OCA National
 Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards
 recognizing Asian and Pacific Islander
 American employees for their contribution
 to Corporate America
 and to their community.

Friday, October 1, 2004

Hilton San Francisco
 San Francisco, California

An Invitation to the National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards

Friday, October 1, 2004
Hilton San Francisco
33 O'Farrell St. , San
Francisco, CA

The Asian American Corporate Achievement Awards is OCA's premiere corporate event, attracting Fortune 500 companies and corporate sponsors who want the prestige of having OCA honor their Asian American employee for their contributions and achievements in their respective company and community. Throughout the years, these awards have grown in prestige, visibility and value. This year the OCA Outstanding Corporate Partner Award, will be presented to our long standing corporate partner, General Motors.

Since 1991, OCA's corporate achievement awards program has grown in reputation and size. It is the only awards program of its kind in the Asian American community, and has been well attended by the corporate and local communities over the years. We continually strive to add to the program. In 1999, we initiated the Community Service Award that goes to one of the Achievement Award honorees.

Come join us on Saturday, October 1 in San Francisco and be inspired as we recognize nationally Asian American employees who are the leaders and the mentors in our community and in corporate America.

Spotlight on our BAC Member:

At **General Motors**, we celebrate the diversity of our employees and take deliberate steps to promote cultural awareness within our own ranks and in our communities. Our long-standing partnership with the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) is one of the most valuable examples of how we both support and benefit from strong ties with national advocacy groups.

At GM, we know from experiences what a different individual can make with their hard work and dedication. When they apply the same efforts to serve their communities, we feel it should not go unrecognized. That's why we helped establish the OCA/General Motors Unsung Heroes Award years ago, to annually recognize hard-working volunteers at OCA who have devoted their energies beyond the call of duty to serve their local chapters and communities. At last three years' awards banquets, we honored ten "Unsung Heroes" from OCA chapters across the country.

GM has had a few of its own recognized as well. At OCA's annual conference last October, Matt Tsien, GM's Executive Director of Vehicles Systems, was honored with OCA's National Asian American Corporate Achievement Award, for his contributions and dedication to advancing the progress of the Asian American community and the greater society. Tsien remarked, "It's important to participate as Asian Americans bring a unique perspective that can significantly enrich the communities that they are a part of and their participation helps define and shape American society." He currently serves on the Board of the Chinese American affinity group within GM, mentors other minority employees, and volunteers for other organizations in his community.

GM has also dedicated a corporate-level focus to the Asian American community. Rod Gillum, Vice President of General Motors and Chairman of the GM Foundation, best summarized GM's position: "GM has not only been continuously developing its high quality, reliable, and cutting-edge vehicles that will better satisfy the Asian American vehicle buyer, we are also committed to helping the progress of the Asian American community both within our own organization and outside of GM. We're very

pleased that support from GM, the GM Foundation and our employees have helped to solidify the Asian American community throughout the country." The Association of Chinese Americans (ACA), the Detroit Chapter of the OCA, recently presented GM with the Outstanding Corporate Award at its 31st Annual Dinner.

We are always trying to find better ways of communicating with our Asian American customers. Our new advertising campaigns have been tailored to specific Asian American audiences in ways that are culturally relevant to them. Establishing a public presence in neighborhoods and helping our dealerships establish strong ties with the community - these are important goals as well. In addition to sponsoring key organizations like OCA that support the advancement of Asian Americans, we have participated in various cultural events, like the San Gabriel Chinese Lunar New Year Parade and Oakland Chinatown StreetFest.

As one of the largest corporations in America, we at GM real-

ize that our own employees represent a true cross-section of our nation, including the wonderful diversity of our population. We invite you to join us in support and in celebration of these important causes.

General Motors Corp. (NYSE: GM), the world's largest vehicle manufacturer, employs about 325,000 people globally. Founded in 1908, GM has been the global automotive sales leader since 1931. GM today has manufacturing operations in 32 countries and its vehicles are sold in 192 countries. In 2003, GM sold nearly 8.6 million cars and trucks, about 15 percent of the global vehicle market. GM's global headquarters are at the GM Renaissance Center in Detroit. More information on GM and its products can be found on the company's corporate website at www.gm.com.

OCA /General Motors Unsung Heroes Awards



2004 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 is a key partner to OCA's success:

Allstate Insurance Company
Anheuser-Busch Companies
AT&T
Avon Products, Inc.
AXA Financial
Brinker International
Cardinal Health
DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Federated Department Stores
Ford Motor Company
General Motors Corporation
Hyatt Hotels Corporation
IBM
JC Penney
KSCI-TV
Kraft North America
Lowe's Home Improvement
MGM Mirage
McDonald's Corporation
Marriott International
National Association of Broadcasters
New York Life
Northwest Airlines
Pacific Gas & Electric
PepsiCo
Altria.com
SBC
Starwood Hotels & Resorts
State Farm
Texas Instruments, Inc.
TJX Companies
United Parcel Service
United Airlines
Verizon
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Yum! Brands

PROGRAMS

IMAGE: ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS



Staff Photo

The 2004 Summer Interns with Frank Wu, author of "Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black & White."

Chance of a Lifetime

By Danchai Mekadenaumporn

The Organization of Chinese Americans has been reaching out to the Chinese American and Asian Pacific American (APA) communities for 31 years. In a similar effort, OCA has been reaching out to college students with its OCA Summer Internship Program in Washington, DC, for many years. The internship is a valuable experience for those interns who go through the program and is an important first step to a greater career; many have gone on to become indispensable leaders in the APA community and beyond. With a record number of 25 interns this year, OCA is poised to make a huge contribution to the APA community by training tomorrow's leaders.

Interns at OCA join the program for different reasons, but there are a few core incentives for interning through OCA's internship program. One of the primary reasons is to network and build relationships that will aid the interns in the future. As former OCA intern Levin Sy attests: "Nearly 10 years later, my OCA National Internship continues to profoundly shape my career and community involvement. The relationships I developed and the les-

sons I learned that summer were invaluable to my professional and personal development." Another is the internship experience itself; the internship allows college students to explore a topic of interest and helps them decide whether or not it is a career path worth pursuing. It also allows them to see

The internship is a rewarding experience for those involved and a great way to educate college students about the non-profit and government sectors.

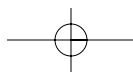
the way that Washington works from an alternative point of view.

A vital aspect of the internship is how it helps the APA community – it gives the APA community a seat at the policy table and cultivates future leaders. "With interns working at the Department of Homeland Security, YouthVote, and the Department of the Interior, our interns will experience firsthand how our federal government works and ensure that the APA community does not get left out of the programs and projects these agencies manage," said Christine Chen, Executive Director of

OCA National. Christine is a prime example of the success of the OCA internship program herself; she and the Director of Technology of OCA National, Keith McAllister, were both OCA interns in the class of 1994.

Some may question the value of the OCA internship and others may question why a college student would give up their summer for an experience they see as nothing more than answering phones and stuffing envelopes. "I don't think of it as giving up my summer," said Crystal Chiu, a student currently interning at the OCA National Office and part of the 2004 summer intern class. "Instead, I think of it as a valuable opportunity to immerse myself in a work environment that I am interested in joining after I graduate." The internship experience is also a far cry from answering phones and stuffing envelopes. With responsibilities such as drafting press releases, attending meetings with government officials, and preparing for the OCA National Convention, the program is constantly keeping its interns on their toes.

This year's OCA Summer Internship class is a diverse group with placements in areas ranging from domestic policy to economics. Four interns are working at the



Internships funded by sponsors

OCA National Office this summer: Kym Pham, a senior at UT-Austin, Crystal Chiu, a junior at UT-Austin, Angela Siew, a junior at Brown, Corinne Young, a senior at Syracuse, and Francis Choi, a senior at UC San Diego.

Others have been placed in Congressional offices, federal agencies, or non-profit advocacy organizations. Lucia Chan, a recent graduate of Syracuse University, is working at AmeriCorps. Two interns have been placed with the NAACP this year: Brian Redondo, a senior at University of Pennsylvania, and Elsa Mei Tung, a senior at Mount Holyoke College. Melissa Delima, a senior at UVA, is interning at YouthVote. Two interns have the privilege of interning under congressmen: Diana Quach, a student at Pasadena City College, is working for Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, and Li-Chung Wang, a sophomore at Northwestern, is working for Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. The Gates Millennium Scholarship Program/APIA has University of Maryland, College Park senior Lisa Tran as an intern for the summer, while the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance has Cornell sophomore Helen Yang working with them this summer.

Thirteen interns are working at federal agencies this year. Jaime Chao, a junior at Michigan State, and Jia Han, a senior at Harvard, are both working at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Christopher Jee, a senior at SUNY Stonybrook, is working at the Department of Commerce. Wessam Kaddoura, a junior at the University of Central Florida, is interning at the Office of Management and Budget. Elaine Kam, a graduate student at UC Santa Cruz, is interning at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This year is the first year OCA has interns at the Department of Homeland Security, and OCA was fortunate enough to be able to place two there. Danchai Mekadenaumporn, a senior at MIT, and Janet Kim, a junior at Brandeis, are interning at DHS for the summer. The Department of the Interior has picked up UVA senior Douglas Lee as an intern for the summer, and the EPA has Rutgers senior Betty Lin for the summer. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the National Education Association both have two interns each. Cory Ann Tong, a recent graduate from Carnegie Mellon, and Evan Wong, a senior at University of Washington are both at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Christy Te, a junior at Vanderbilt, and Gabrielle Zhuang, a senior at University of Wisconsin-Madison are at the NEA for the summer.

The internship is a rewarding experience for those involved and a great way to educate college students about the non-profit and government sectors.



Staff Photo

Secretary Norman Mineta listens to OCA interns Li-Chung Wang, Crystal Chiu, Angela Siew, and Lucia Chan



Staff Photo



Top: Diana Quach at the presenting during College Day. Above: Elsa Tung at a brown bag luncheon event.



Staff Photo

Right: Corrine Young, Crystal Chiu, Wessam Kaddoura and Angela Siew enjoy the OCA National Convention.

PROGRAMS

*Special Thanks to
The Donors of the
OCA Internship
Program*

Corporate



Ford Motor Company Fund



Family Foundation

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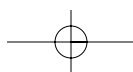
Jean & Stanley Chang
Chia-Chu Chao
Hannah Columbo
H. C. Du
Corky Lee
Henry Tam
Frank Tung

Chapters

OCA Chicago & Abbott
Laboratories
OCA Columbus
OCA Greater Houston
OCA Greater Seattle
OCA Long Island
OCA San Francisco
OCA San Mateo
OCA South Florida
OCA Westchester and Hudson
Valley

Associations

National Education
Association
FF Fraternity



STAFF

IMAGE: ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

A Tale of Two Los Angeles Interns

A recent graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, Stephanie Wong earned a bachelors degree in biology and an Asian American studies minor in March of 2004. Originally born and raised in Sunnyvale, California, she is a fourth-generation Chinese American. Coming over in the early 1900s as merchants during the time of the Chinese Exclusion Act, her family has been successfully establishing itself in the San Francisco bay area for the past 80 years.



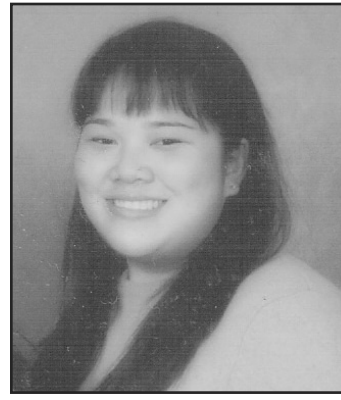
OCA Greater Los Angeles intern Stephanie Wong .

In 1999, Stephanie moved to the Los Angeles area to begin her studies at UCLA. While there, she was involved in numerous activities including the Bruinlife yearbook, the Bruin Belles Service Association, and was a member of the first Asian American interest sorority in the nation, Chi Alpha Delta. Through her participation in Chis, Stephanie found a new appreciation for her Chinese heritage.

She began to take more Asian American studies classes at UCLA and doing volunteer work throughout the community.

After taking the upcoming year off from school, Stephanie hopes to attend graduate school in the fall of 2005. In graduate school, she would like to pursue dual masters degrees in Public Health and Asian American studies at either the University of California, Berkeley, USC or back at UCLA. Upon receiving her Masters degree, she hopes to continue her involvement in the Asian American community, advocating for better health education, services and the creation of more ethnic specific information.

Being fourth-generation, Stephanie originally never expected herself to become more politically and actively involved in the Chinese American community, but her increasing involvement only continues to reveal to her, a greater pursuit in obtaining better rights, knowledge, and language and health services for Asian Americans.



OCA Greater Los Angeles intern L.E. Foisia.

I am L.E. Foisia and I will be a senior at La Serna High School during the 2004-2005 school year. I am honored and thrilled to be able to be as an intern for the Organization of Chinese Americans.

In my life, the one thing that comes before all others is family. I believe that it is a family that shapes an individual's character. My family has taught me that respect, generosity, and most of all kindness will get you far in life no matter the circumstances. In fact, I actually come from a very diverse family. My family consists of nationalities such as Chinese, Samoan, Italian, Irish, and Phillipino. I believe that my diverse family makes me a unique individual and serves as an example that a family doesn't have to be of one race.

I have always been the type of person to accomplish anything I put my mind to because I believe that one hundred percent of my time and effort should be put into it. As a result, I have made honor roll all three years and have been a part of the Top 25 students at La Serna for three years as well.

At La Serna, I am also an active member in National Honors Society and the California Scholarship Federation. I was selected to be in National Honors Society during the 2004 school year and I have been a member of CSF for three years. Recently, I have been chosen to be the Sergeant in Arms for the 2005 school year.

This year I co-founded a club at La Serna called Japanese Club. The purpose of Japanese club is to allow students at La Serna to take part in learning about the Japanese culture. I am also in charge of planning our events and fundraisers. This year, I planned a Todai luncheon for the members and I also organized an Easter bake sale, which raised \$140.00.

In the future, I hope to attend college where I will major in journalism. Then I would like to get a masters in business and communications and as a result, create my own magazine company.

OCA National New Communication Director Anh Phan

OCA National's newest staff member hails from Pacific Northwest

Anh Phan joined the OCA National staff as Communications Director at the beginning of June 2004. Prior to OCA, Ms. Phan worked at the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum. Originally from Portland, Oregon, Ms Phan managed a winning state senate campaign, and has been a political fundraiser for a congressional race as well as deputy finance director for a U.S. Senate race in the Pacific Northwest. She has also tracked civil rights and environmental issues for the Oregon State Senate, serving as a researcher and ad hoc press secretary for the minority caucus.

On the East Coast, Ms. Phan has primarily been a lobbyist for various industry organizations aside from a campaign-season position with the National League of Women Voters Education Fund.

After a long working hiatus, Ms Phan graduated *cum laude* from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and International Politics and a minor in Urban Studies & Suburban Studies May 2003. In her spare time, she likes to read, make jewelry, cook and travel. Ms. Phan is active with the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) and volunteers with coalitions fighting human trafficking.

A newlywed as of August 7, 2004, she and her husband Craig live in Alexandria, Virginia.



Anh Phan, OCA National Director of Communications, relaxes at home.

Building Bridges: A Spotlight on the National Education Association

Coalition building is a key element to OCA's success. Every quarter, IMAGE will focus on one of OCA's key coalition partners.

At the 2001 OCA Annual National Convention, OCA convened, for the very first time, high school educators from across the country at for a summit to discuss curriculum development and resources relevant to APA students in our high schools. OCA recognizes that the Asian Pacific American (APA) student population continues to grow, it is essential that we begin to advocate for changes in our nation's curriculum.

The need for supplementing current high school curriculum has become a growing interest of OCA's as the organization has increasingly continued to work with students of all ages. Since 1996, OCA has seen an increase of profiling of Asian Pacific Americans as the "Americanized Foreigner." As the organization addressed issues such as welfare reform, campaign finance, the Wen Ho Lee case and racial profiling, and the emergency landing of the U.S. surveillance plane, it has been evident that the general American public continues to have misperceptions of our community. For the most part, they are ignorant of the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans and our history as part of the American story. As a national educational and civil rights advocacy group, OCA's purpose is to fight against these misperceptions and promote Asian Pacific Americans as equal partners in America and as loyal Americans.

Providing resources in creating supplemental curriculum focusing on APAs and other educational materials is essential to changing this perception. We are dedicated to becoming more proactive in this mission.

Since 1999, the National Education Association, as the nation's largest professional employee organization representing 2.7 million elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, school administrators, retired educators, and students preparing to become teachers, and OCA have worked very closely as part of their Minority Community Outreach Team. As part of their workplan, OCA and NEA coordinated the first national summit of high school educators, educated both educators and OCA community members on education issues such as Leave No Child Behind, and participated in Read Across America literacy activities. Currently, OCA and NEA are engaged in an ambitious collaborative effort to develop a website clearinghouse of Asian American studies materials and curriculum resources at www.APIResources.org.

API resources .com *find out more on :*

OCA Presents



- k-12 curriculum
- higher education
- educational resources
- studies & statistics
- education associations
- cultural information
- historical data
- general resources

www.APIresources.com is a clearinghouse website to provide educational resources and information about the Asian Pacific Islander American community for students, parents, and educators. The educational resources include APIA booklists and film titles, links to many educational associations, and different studies conducted about the APIA community.

Created by OCA in conjunction with the National Education Association.

SPECIAL PROJECT

New National Fund to Focus on Scholar

IMAGE: ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

The Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF), a new national organization devoted to the educational scholarship needs of Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) students, held regional launches in 12 cities nationwide. With the help of OCA chapters and many of the local Asian Pacific American organizations, the launches were designed to introduce the group to local civic, corporate, educational, media, and community leaders.

The final launch debuted in Washington, DC in May as the announcement was held in collaboration with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, sponsored by McDonald's Corporation and The Coca-Cola Company. In addition, supporting organizations included the Asian McDonald's Owners/Operators Association (AMOA), the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) and the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC).

Citing a growing need for scholarships, a consortium of community and corporate leaders joined together to establish APIASF last year. Former US Congressman Robert Underwood and representatives from eighteen national and regional Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) groups, including OCA, APAICS, SEARAC and the University of Hawaii – Native Hawaiian Community-Based Education Learning Centers, were working together to form a national organization to support the Gates Millennium Scholars/Asian Pacific Islander Americans program currently housed at OCA and other financial scholarship programs. At the same



Roy Saigo lending his support to the APIASF Minnesota launch as President of St. Cloud

time, representatives from AMOA were working in tandem with the Ronald McDonald House Charities to build their

Asian Students Increasing Achievement (ASIA) scholarship program. When the two teams learned about each other, it was agreed that they would collaborate to form one major national organization that supports the interest and needs of APIAs.

At each of the launches, APIASF representatives focused on dispelling a widely held belief that Asian and Pacific Islander Americans do not require financial support to attend college.

"Many Asian and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. continue to live below the official poverty line," said former U.S. Congressman Underwood. "Nearly 18 percent of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities live in poverty, as well as 12.6 percent of Asian Americans. These statistics clearly demonstrate a continuing need for financial aid and scholarships to support APIA students."

Among Asian Americans, the



Members of the APIASF working group meet at Coca-Cola headquarters in Atlanta

Southeast Asian community has the most critical need for scholarships.

"Our research indicates that only 7.4 percent of Hmong, 9.1 percent of Cambodians, and 19.5 percent of Vietnamese, 25 years and older, have attained a bachelor's degree," said Max Niedzwiecki, interim Executive Director of SEARAC, and one of several civic leaders who will serve on the first national board. "Among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, only 16.5 percent have attained a college degree. This information motivated us to establish APIASF—something we have dreamed about doing for more than a decade."

In order to establish APIASF, consortium leaders met for more than a year to build the needed infrastructure for the new organization. The group is also in the process of recruiting its first national board and a full-time executive director/president.

"Our progress over the past year is a



Mark O'Shaughnessy with OCA Executive Director Christine Chen and OCA Georgia Chapter President Phil Wu at the Atlanta Launch at the World of Coca-Cola

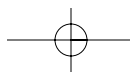
clear indication that the Asian and Pacific Islander American communities can work effectively together in building a strong, viable scholarship organization," said Christine Chen, Executive Director of OCA. "I am proud of what we have accomplished and look forward to the day when APIASF awards its first scholarships in 2005."

APIASF representatives stated that the organization will focus on providing educational scholarship support to those in greatest need in the Asian and Pacific Islander American communities. Maria Gaspar, a student at Georgetown University and a GMS recipient said, "I am very happy to know that funds such as APIASF exist for Asian and Pacific Islander American students. In order for APIAs to make a stronger presence in our community, we need to invest in the students that will be tomorrow's future leaders."

Namhuan Le, a student at Emory University, spoke of his at the Atlanta launch in support for APIASF. "Pacific Islander and Asian Americans need a national program such as APIASF," said Mr. Le. "Each year, hundreds of students of Pacific Islander and Asian descent struggle to find the financial means to support themselves while attending college. APIASF offers them hope."

At the Chicago launch, Elisa Dao from DePaul University said, "I am very happy to know that funds such as APIASF exist for Asian Pacific American students. In order for Asian Pacific Americans to make a stronger presence in our community we need to invest in the students that will be tomorrow's future leaders."

In addition, Steve Arounsack, a GMS scholar and Ph.D student from University of



ship Needs of APA Students



OCA Executive Director Christine Chen with other speakers at the APIASF Los Angeles Launch



San Francisco Launch hosted at Wells Fargo



Governor Gary Locke supporting the APIASF in Seattle

California Davis stated, "Particularly for people of Asian and Pacific Island descent, it is important to be part of the perpetual cycle of giving back. Generations that came before us who have experienced struggles (e.g., late 1800's, early 1900's) realized that in order to advance, we need opportunities. These scholarships are essentially opportunities. Scholarships are provided by people who believe in this generation's potential to create positive ripples, and it's important to reinvest that energy back into improving our communities."

Vaioalii AhKiong, a California State University, Long Beach student and president of the Pacific Islander Club said, "Pacific Islander and Asian Americans need a national program such as APIASF. Each year, hundreds of students of Pacific Islander and Asian descent struggle to find the financial means to support themselves while attending college. APIASF offers them hope."

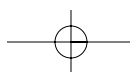


The APIASF Working Group and local coordinating committee at the Chicago launch including OCA Chicago board president Michael Chin and board member Woon-Wah Siu.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The ability to attain an education is among the Top-3 values shared by all Asian Pacific Islander Americans
- More than 31% of Cambodian women, 56% of Hmong women, and 27% of Lao women in the U.S. have had no formal schooling at all
- Only about five percent of Hmong American women in that community have college degrees, compared to nearly a quarter of Americans overall who are aged twenty-five and over. On the opposite ends of the spectrum among Southeast Asian Americans, nearly twenty percent of Vietnamese adults hold bachelor's degrees, and only eight percent of them have had no formal education. Cambodian and Laotian Americans tend to fall between the two extremes. Just over nine percent of Cambodian adults hold bachelor's degrees or higher, as do over seven and a half percent of Laotian Americans.
- According to the 2000 Census, only 16.5% of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander age 25 and over received a Bachelor's Degree or higher. In comparison, the total U.S. percentage was 24.4.
- Though Native Hawaiians make up about 20% of the total population in the State of Hawai'i, they represent only 7.9% of the total student population attending the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. A higher percentage (17.5%) attends the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges.
- At the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges, the overall student success rate after three years of attendance (Fall 1998 to Fall 1999 cohorts, as of 2002) is 36.5%. The Native Hawaiians' success rate is lower at 30.3%. For other Pacific Islanders, their rate is even lower at 12.2%.
- According to the 2000 Census, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islander groups had much lower per capital income rates than the U.S. population overall; Native Hawaiian, \$14,773 versus U.S. population, \$21,587.



TRAININGS



Over a Decade of Leadership in the Nation's Capital

IMAGE: ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS



Photos (Left to Right): OCA Columbus members Stephanie Mok and OCA New York member Sammy Wong enjoying themselves at the closing dinner with JAACL member Nick Ushio of Utah; Brenda Lee from OCA San Francisco and Po Yee Ung from OCA San Mateo also enjoying dinner; and OCA Philadelphia members Zhiyong Gao speaking to author Frank Wu and the closing session.

Celebrating its 11th year, the JAACL OCA Leadership Conference continues to bring 30 leaders representing chapters from across the country for a four day training sponsored by State Farm ®. According to Mike Fong of the OCA Greater Los Angeles Chapter,

"The conference was an awesome experience! I had the wonderful opportunity of meeting with leaders from across the nation for a 4 day intense training where we learned about the civil rights advocacy, policy issues, Asian American history, grassroots organizing, and the political process. We also had the amazing opportunity to meet with four members of Congress, White House staff, and prominent Asian Pacific American leaders and commissioners who are affecting social change on a national level. It was an amazing intense four-day leadership conference that inspired and gave us the tools to take initiative and affect positive change in our community!"

The participants received a preview of the election season with the White House briefing with distinguished speakers such as Susan Ralston, Executive Assistant to Senior Presidential Advisor Karl Rove and visits with representatives from the Democratic National Committee and the Republican National Committee.

"It was an intense, informative, inter-

esting and eye-opening experience. It was exciting to hear from national organizations and presenters in the Washington DC area."

"I realize that coalition building will build OCA's power base and see faster results by working with other organizations," said Miriam Yeung from the OCA Fairfield Chapter.

According to Rachel Kao of OCA Chicago, "The conference is an unique opportunity to meet and network with individuals who will shape and promote future

work on a local level. Since we have some disturbing issues in Chicago and Illinois related to the perception and treatment of the AAPI community, it is even more urgent for the AAPI community to have and make more friends and allies."

Denise Chan, OCA New England said,

"I am so glad that I had the chance to participate in this year's leadership conference. Even though I work in a state senator's office, I got so many valuable perspectives from various people that I wouldn't be able to get anywhere else."

Miriam Yeung, OCA Fairfield said, "The participants of the 11th annual joint Japanese American Citizen League (JAACL) and the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) Leadership Conference in Washington DC from March 12-16, 2004 were from many states: Arizona, California, Texas, Georgia, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts,

Connecticut and Ohio. David is from Anchorage, Alaska. It was educational to hear everyone's story and great to make new friends."

"The Leadership Conference was invigorating as it compels us to reinvest the knowledge and training into the "capacity building" of our local chapters" Virginia C. Gee, OCA -San Francisco Bay Chapter.



Reps. Mike Honda (D-CA-15) and Neil Abercrombie (D-HI-1) with OCA/JAACL conference attendees.

discussions and improvements in issues facing Asian and Pacific Islanders in America. I saw how working with other sometimes disparate organizations on an issue-by-issue basis can form the basis of a better understanding and future dialogue and cooperation between their representative communities and constituencies. It inspired me to attempt to replicate this net-



Left: APIA protesters at *Details* Magazine office headquarters in New York City display their allergic reaction to Whitney McNalley's "Gay or Asian" pictorial April 16.

The demonstration was organized by several Asian American media groups and led to a published apology from the *Details* editorial staff and publishers.

Photos by Corky Lee

OCA Letter to *Details* Magazine Published



Editor concedes 'hurtful and tasteless' piece

On behalf of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), a national Asian Pacific American (APA) civil rights advocacy and education organization with over 80 chapters and affiliates nationwide, I write to inform you that OCA condemns the xenophobic images and words used to essentialize gay and APA males in Whitney McNally's article entitled, "Gay or Asian?"

Details claims to inspire and educate, with intelligent writing, "a new generation of men...who are at the aspirational stage in their lives." Unfortunately, McNally's writing is neither inspirational, educational, nor intelligent. Instead of providing an example of sophisticated, provocative journalism for a new generation, McNally's article evidences *Details'* lack of sophistication and complete disrespect for the APA community. APA males face systemic challenges from frequently being characterized as effeminate and meek, which emasculates them from the well-balanced personalities and images they evince.

McNally's use of banal generalizations about Asian food and physical features of APA men limits the images of APA males, which is offensive and dehumanizing to the APA population. Ignorant articles, like this one, exacerbate the prevalent discrimination of APA males who already suffer from lack of representation in the media. Not only does OCA denounce McNally's entire "Anthropology" column as unacceptable and disparaging, further offenses and trite generalizations about other communities will not be tolerated.

Because this article is an offensive, inappropriate, and racist depiction of all APA men, OCA demands *Details* issue a formal apology to the APA community, [recall the April 2004 issue,]* and eliminate McNally's offensive Anthropology column from future publication.

We must all work together to put discrimination behind us. [Please contact us within three days of the above date to discuss this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.]*

Raymond Wong
National President
Organization of Chinese Americans

*This was omitted from the printed version in *Details* magazine June/July 2004 issue.



ISSUES

IMAGE: ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS



Photo courtesy of Corky Lee



Photos courtesy of Corky Lee

Left: Chaplain James yee at an OCA-LI event.

Above: The Justice for James Yee Ad Hoc Committee demand

Justice for James Yee

Suspected of espionage, U.S. Army Chaplain James Yee was released when the government's case failed - but his battle wasn't over.

A Personal Perspective From Kwong Eng, Vice President of Public Affairs

Throughout American history, because of national anxiety and fear, there have been those who ignore the importance of our nation's civil liberties laws which provide equal protection to all. This has been documented throughout history, from the civil war period to the Japanese internments during WWII and now to today's war on terror. Some say it is justified to use racial and religious profiling because it protects us from harm. As a second generation Chinese American, in New York City even, I believe quite the opposite. Civil Rights are important and precious. Our civil rights are guaranteed by law and have to be protected.

When Captain James Yee's aunt approached my friend Wayne Lum, OCA-LI's VP of Community Affairs for help, he knew just what to do. In a few days, the Justice for James Yee Ad Hoc Committee was formed. The committee included OCA Long Island and OCA New York, along with five other advocacy organizations and the James Yee family. From our knowledge of history and the facts given, we were sure that this case demanded further investigation and justice.

Chaplain James Yee, his title before his arrest, is a captain in the U.S. Army who served honorably at Guantanamo Bay. His primary duty was ministering to detainees and suspected terrorists of the Islamic faith. He is a third generation Chinese American and a West Point graduate. After the U.S. military initially linked him to

a possible espionage ring on September 11 2003, Chaplain Yee spent 76 days in solitary confinement on suspicion of espionage and treason. When the military brought formal charges against Chaplain Yee, none of these accusations appeared. As a result, government prosecutors failed to establish any credible espionage case against him.



Photo courtesy of Corky Lee

OCA National VP of Public Affairs Kwong Eng, OCA Long Island Chapter President Gene Woo with James Yee's parents, Fong and Joseph.

James Yee was freed, but two lesser charges – of committing adultery and viewing pornography on his government computer were added.

did humiliate the Chaplain Yee in public, and before his wife and child, who were present at the trial.

The Ad Hoc Committee held numerous press conferences and community forums where we demanded the truth to come out. We asked our friends in government to request a full investigation of the matter. Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Sen Hilary Clinton

This demonstrates how even our own government, even while pursuing seemingly worthy ends, can destroy the lives of innocent Americans out of carelessness and disregard for civil rights. Instead of letting him go, the military charged him with mishandling classified information. After numerous Army hearing postponements, they could not determine if the materials James had in his possession were indeed classified or not. As a result, they dropped all charges. Again instead of letting him go with an apology, the military went to great lengths in court to prove he was having an extramarital affair with a female officer and downloading pornographic materials on his computer. While that had nothing to do with national security, it



James Yee presenting a token of appreciation to his parents, Fong and Joseph, at a fund raising banquet last June here in New York City's Chinatown

reprimands, including adultery and downloading of pornographic materials, are being dropped. This shows what advocacy and community involvement can do.

From day one, there was a shroud of secrecy over the whole affair, demonstrated first when James Yee was secretly arrested, and again when a gag order was imposed on him by the US Army.

(D-NY) all supported this call for a full investigation. Locally, here in New York City, the city council passed a resolution in support of our efforts.

Later in March of this year, the US Army General announced that because of notoriety, all

This order prevents Chaplain Yee from speaking out and telling the people what actually happened to him and what was going on in Guantanamo Bay as he was doing his humanitarian work.

In August, Captain James Yee decided he had enough and handed in his resignation to the US military. He will serve out his military duties until January 2005. The family of James Yee, the Ad Hoc Committee and New York City Council member John Liu held a press conference in NYC's Chinatown to announce their support for his decisions. This resignation will free Captain James Yee from the ironclad stranglehold of communication that the army had placed upon him. The Ad Hoc Committee members felt that the army and the government had the chance to provide justice, or a sincere, gracious apology they have provided nothing. Sadly, they have remained consistent in their failure of accountability by refusing to acknowledge that what they did - ruin an innocent American man's life - was wrong.

The US Government will undergo a full investigation coming this autumn to find the facts leading to James' persecution. At June's fund raising banquet here in NYC, James Yee thanked God, "who makes all things possible", his parents, and all of us who supported him and said, "One day, God willing, my side of the story will be told."

OCA Chapters Recognize Achievements

OCA chapters are always active in public service, culture, and education in their communities. The following is a sample of some of what the chapters have been involved in these past few months.

Honoring Our Community's Achievements and Providing Support —

In April, *OCA-Greater Sacramento Chapter (OCA-GSC)* participated in "KVIE Local Hero Awards", an event that salutes local heroes in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. KVIE, PBS Channel 6 in Sacramento together with Union Bank of California, hosted its annual local hero award to honor outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions and impacts on our communities. Honorees included Cynthia Bonta, Filipino Youth Organization; Catherine Ofa Mann, Tofa of Sacramento; Carole Ching, Executive Director of My Sister's House and OCA-GSC Director Richard Ikeda, MD, Executive Director of Health For All. In addition, OCA-GSC supported OCAGSC General Legal Consul, Darrel "H" Woo when he was honored at the mixer hosted by Sacramento Asian-Pacific Chamber of Commerce for his recent appointment to the City of Sacramento Planning Commission.

OCA-Long Island President Gene Woo and Executive Vice President Gladys Yan attended the National Board Meeting in Phoenix, AZ and presented a \$7000 check for OCA National Building Fund, closing in on the chapter pledge of \$10,000.

In May, the *OCA San Francisco Chapter (OCA-SF)* hosted a dinner and meeting with OCA National President Raymond Wong at the Canton Restaurant on Folsom Street in San Francisco's Chinatown. *OCA San Mateo* attended the event along with *OCA Silicon Valley* and *OCA Greater Sacramento Chapter*.

Scholarships —

On April 27, *OCA-GSC* gave hope to several young students by awarding them a total of several thousand dollars in Scholarships towards a future college education, working side by side with Ronald McDonald House Charities, as well as the CAPITAL Foundation for the first time.

OCA-Long Island proudly announced that three of their student members - Rong Hua Dai, Zhan Hang Yang and Ming Yee Pang—all from Seward Park High School, have won a Gates Millennium Scholars scholarship. The Gates Millennium Scholars program was established by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to provide minority students with an opportunity to complete a college education by providing a full scholarship to the college of their choice. Congratulations to our student members and especially to Mary Sham, our VP of Education, who tirelessly recruited, mentored and assisted the students.

City Hall seems to be the place where it all happens. The Ronald McDonald House Charities was held in the Rotunda at City Hall,

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where 150 graduating African American, Asian and Latino high seniors received scholarships in the amount of \$1,000. Fifty of these recipients were Asian American students. Patricia Din, OCA San Francisco Bay chapter President, initiated twenty of these scholarships to be presented in the memory of Jeanne Honda, for her dedication to education, devotion as a wife and mother and lifelong partner to Congressman Mike Honda in his service to the community. Representing Congressman Honda, Elizabeth Lee presented special commendations to these selected students on behalf of Congressman Honda. The Ronald McDonald House Charities Scholarship is an annual event, chaired by SF Bay Board Member and McDonald's Asian Owners/Operators member, Wai Ling Eng, who enlisted the participation and contribution of *OCA San Francisco Bay Chapter*.

Art of Dragon Boat Racing —

The month of May brought with it the 7th Annual Dragon Boat Festival Fundraiser, where *OCA-GSC* had the Holiday Villa Restaurant filled to capacity as more than 400 families, friends, as well as community and civic leaders joined *OCA-GSC* in honoring the founders of the Chinese Owned Supermarket Chains as this year's Dragon Boat Festival Honoree for the significant contribution that they have made to our community. Keynote speaker for the event was the honorable John Chiang, Member of the State Board of Equalization.

This year, 2004 marks an exciting milestone event for the *OCA-Young Professionals (OCA-YP)*, which is part of the *OCA Northern Virginia and the Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter*. The organization's first ever Dragon Boat team was formed with 18 brave souls with little or no knowledge about what a Dragon Boat is, let alone the history behind it. The team was named the *OCA-YP Spitfires*. With nothing but each crew member's energy, drive, enthusiasm, and hard work they embarked on a training program to quickly become oriented on boat commands, learning how to paddle, and staying together as a team. Although 500 meters may not seem far, propelling a boat as quickly as possible over that distance which weighs in excess of several thousand pounds (the weight of the crew alone was over 3,000 lbs!) is not an easy task. To complicate matters, combine the elements such as wind and water currents and you have a wonderful physical and mental challenge. With only two official team practices, the *OCA-YP Spitfires* competed in the 250 and 500 meter races of the local open division of the DC Dragon Boat Festival in Georgetown on May 21 and 22. The talent and determination of each team member helped lift the teams to win a silver medal in the 250 meter races. Unfortunately, the team was not able to match their success in the following 500 meter races. In the 500 meter races the team



OCA-YP team enjoying their win on the silver medal in the 250-meter event at the Wash. DC Dragon Boat Race.

finished in fourth position, losing to last year's winner in that same division. Nonetheless, the team walked away proudly with medals and a trophy to show for their efforts. It was a tremendous accomplishment for all involved. A first year team with no experience went and launched themselves on to the winner's podium. The win has left the team with a tremendous amount of optimism, excitement, and hunger to return next year and go for the gold.

Media —

Also in April, *OCA-GSC* was busy working with KVIE Channel 6 and the National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA) to present a reception and a special screening of "Searching for Asian America: Episode 1 – The Governor." From his inauspicious beginnings as the son of Chinese immigrants to becoming the leader of his home state Washington and the first Asian American governor in the continental United States, Governor Gary Locke is living the American Dream, but his is a complicated tale that attests to both the benefits and burdens of being "the first." "Searching for Asian America" is NAATA's first in-house production.

Education & Civic Engagement —

OCA SF Bay Chapter's adopted grammar school, Garfield Elementary, was honored at the ceremony for placing in the top ten in the Create America Essay Contest, sponsored by the Northern California Immigration Lawyers Association. *OCA SF Bay* President, Patricia Din and past chapter president and immigration attorney, Helen Hui encouraged the participation of the students. Their essays based on the theme "Why I am glad we are a nation of Immigrants" won 1st place by Judy Zhu, 3rd place by Lindsey Diestas, 6th place by Brendon Wong and 7th place by Wade Cai. President Patricia Din awarded Commendation Certificates on behalf of *OCA SF Bay Chapter* to these promising young achievers. These future *OCA* leaders of America were also recognized and honored by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors at their weekly meeting for their success. "OCA SF Bay is proud of their adopted school, remarks President Din, "Students at this early age should be encouraged to participate in these kind of activities and competition." Thanks to the tireless efforts and leadership of SF Bay Board member and Garfield School Principal, Karen Law, Garfield Elementary was one of 116 schools out of 5,000 Title I schools statewide to be awarded the 2003 California Title I Achieving Schools Award.

OCA-GSC participated in a hate crimes prevention workshop

hosted by INDUS VALLEY. Assembly member Judy Chu, also the Chairperson of Committee on Hate Crimes, was the keynote speaker of the event. Also in attendance were John Chiang, Chair of the Board of Equalization and the Former US Marshal Jerry Enomoto and his wife Dorothy Enomoto.

On April 29, *OCA-Long Island* participated with Stony Brook University in a symposium, "With Liberty and Justice for All". Among the featured speakers were Tomi Arai, community activist and Angela Davis, activist, speaking of racial, cultural and social interests. Dr. Gary Mar, an OCA-LI board member, arranged the symposium. On May 9, 2004, President Gene Woo represented OCA-LI at Stony Brook University's Asia and America: "Emerging Opportunities" symposium at the Charles B. Wang Center.

In response to their pledge to National OCA to register 500 new voters, OCA-Long Island joined with the newly formed Asian Pacific American Voter Alliance (APAVA) coalition dedicated to registering, educating and mobilizing APIA voters. On Thursday, May 13, 2004, OCA-LI joined APAVA at a press conference in front of City Hall in NYC with the Hon. John C. Liu, City Council member and various APIA community leaders to announce a citywide APIA voter registration drive. The first of a series of drives was on May 16, at various locations throughout the city where there are huge concentrations of APIAs. OCA-LI members Kwong Eng, Gloria Lum, Gladys Yan and Debbie Leong were at the at the Main Street Public Library location in Flushing, NY, registering voters, as well as on the steps of City Hall for the press conference.

In addition, *OCA-GSC* co-sponsored a Voters Registration Drive with the Asian Pacific American Public Affairs (APAPA) at the Florin Road office of Health for All. Community groups participated in the drive including the Sacramento JACL, Indus Valley Chamber of Commerce, Tofa of Sacramento, Hmong community, Hmong International Culture Institute and many others. The two organizations agreed to join force in the next few months and target to register a minimum of 500 API voters by the November election.

In May OCA-DC set up a voter regis-



OCA-DC sponsored voter registration drive at the Quince Orchard Public Library in Montgomery County. Board members Lily Qi, Asuntha Chiang-Smith, David Yao and Lisa Lee with volunteers staffing the station

tration booth to sign up new voters at the Asian American Health Fair. OCA-DC is a member of the APIAVote coalition of the Greater Washington DC area. Since early Spring, the chapter arranged for all our Board members to be trained by the Montgomery County Board of Elections and has participated in four voter education and registration drive events. The OCA-DC and the coalition continues to outreach to various organizations and seek out venues to set up voter registration drives until the Fall.

One of the major national events in May in Washington, DC, at which *OCA-DC* helped with volunteers, was the dedication of the National World War II Memorial help during the Memorial Day weekend. Over ten years in the planning and building, the memorial was finally finished and accepted by the President of the United States in honor of the millions of WWII veterans. To prepare and plan for the four-day event, the American Battlefield Monument Commission recruited hundreds of mostly local volunteers to help with the logistics at the various venues. OCA-DC participated in this national event by having members sign up as volunteers. Unlike many other volunteer occasions, this event called for a real commitment on the part of the volunteers as each person was required to undergo four training sessions. Volunteers were assigned to certain places and tasks and were expected to do their duty to the best of their abilities. OCA-DC volunteers were assigned tasks at the National Cathedral for the Memorial Service, as well as on the Mall for the actual dedication ceremony. Most of the tasks

involved helping the aging veterans getting about, and even though it was a long and arduous day, it was a most gratifying experience as it was a small way of thanking all those men and women who so many years ago served to help preserve freedom.

Representing OCA & APAs Proudly —

OCA New York Chapter President Jameson "Jami" Gong carried the Olympic torch through New York City on its first ever trip around the world June 18.

"It was amazing, one of the most thrilling things I've ever done," Gong said of the experience. "I feel so honored to



Jami Gong carrying the torch over the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City.

represent everyone."

Picking up the torch from television journalist and celebrity Paula Zahn, Gong carried the torch across the Brooklyn Bridge, but not through NYC's Chinatown, where Gong is active in the local Chinese American community. That's not to say that there hasn't been interest from the community there. "There's been a huge, positive reaction, to a Chinese American carrying the torch," Gong said, "As far as I know, Lillian Wu and I are the only Chinese Americans to have the honor of carrying it. Sometimes I can't believe I actually did it." The greater meaning of carrying the torch, which is on its way to Athens, Greece for the 2004 Summer Olympic Games, especially CHAPTERS continued, next page

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touched Gong.

“The Olympic flame represents unity, diversity, peace, harmony and teamwork. When I was carrying the torch, I felt like for one shining moment, ‘we are all equal’. I thought of my grandmother as I was going across the bridge and thought, ‘this is for her’ and all other grandparents.” Gong was flattered by the attention he has received since his turn at carrying the torch but remains focused on the greater goals of organizing in his community. “People were shouting my name, cheering, honking their horns – it was great, but it was an even greater moment for OCA, and for the fight for civil rights.”

Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month —

For the first time in the celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Mayor Gavin Newsom officially proclaimed May as APA Heritage Month in a formal signing of a Proclamation at City Hall on April 30, 2004. Many Community Leaders and Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Organizations were present to witness this momentous occasion. Spearheaded by OCA former National President, Claudine Cheng, the formal recognition of APA Heritage Month is long overdue.

In addition, for the past several years, *OCA SF Bay* has initiated the Asian Pacific Islander American Round Table with the Mayor. This discussion in May, attended by Asian American & Pacific Islander Community Organizations offer an opportunity to discuss issues, concerns, needs and offer advice, solutions and options with the Mayor and others for the benefit and inclusion of the APIA community. Claudine Cheng, a pivotal force in the yearly organization of this major event and initiator of the formal Proclamation of May as Asian American Heritage Month, is to be congratulated on her tireless contributions to the welfare and recognition of the APIA Community.

On May 2, 2004, *OCA-Long Island* celebrated APA Heritage Month with a table at the APA Heritage Celebration Festival in Union Square, New York City. James Yee’s parents, Joseph and Fong Yee, were invited to sit at our table. We introduced OCA’s mission to many new people.



During Asian Pacific American heritage month this year, the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) hosted a celebration co-sponsored by The *Organization of Chinese American-Greater Philadelphia Chapter*. Dr. Zhiyong Gao, the chapter’s membership chair, was responsible for coordination of the celebration. The celebration had many activities, which lasted throughout the month of May.

First they hosted an Asian American Essay Contest for all of the current CHOP employees and their family members. The goal of the essay was to write stories about positive images of Asian American and their contributions to the American society. Scott Zhao’s article “Arcade” had won the first prize of the Elementary

School Group. Jie Ho’s article “What Do You Know About China” was the winner for High School Group and Peggy Zhang’s “On Teaching Chinese” won the Adult’s Group First prize. First Prize winner received 50 dollar and a copy of Mr. Frank Wu’s book “Yellow, Race in America Beyond Black and White”. Other winners also receive a copy of the book and smaller amount of money. The winners were so excited about their success in posting positive images of Asian Americans.

On the day of celebration, a number of CHOP officials came to participate and spoke in recognizing the contributions of Asian Americans.

All CHOP employees were also invited to display posters about Asian culture. There were more than a dozen of poster and three DVD video playing about various Asian cultures.

Attorney Tsiwen Law, OCA member and general counsel of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter was invited to give a speech on Asian Immigration and Civil Right issues of Asian Americans.

Another exciting event was the singing of Chinese songs and Chinese dance “Peacog Dance”. Asian chefs were specially invited to prepare authentic Asian food during that week.

Cuddled between Olvera Street and the El Pueblo

Historic District, on a stone promenade in front of the Chinese American Museum (CAM), *OCA-Greater Los Angeles* in coalition with UCLA Asian Pacific American Alumni Association and the American Jewish Committee (AJC) celebrated up Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with an outdoor reception on May 27, 2003.



Under the evening sky, the typically quiet and empty historic district burst to life with over 250 people in attendance that were chatting it up and soaking up the atmosphere.

It was food and entertainment galore with a mouth watering Pan Asian menu consisting of: Lomi Lomi Salmon, Island Fried Chicken and Chinese Chicken Salad catered from the Loft; Har Gow (shrimp dumplings) and Siu Mai catered from Empress Pavilion. For dessert, there were almond and fortune cookies from neighboring Chinatown and fresh locally made churros. As for beverages, there were the usual soft drinks and water, but for those who wanted to be in a livelier spirited mood, chardonnay and merlot were also served.

DJ Dithmar pumped up the mood by spinning his eclectic variety of hits spanning from 70s to today’s chart toppers.





OCA Greater Los Angeles Chapter President Stacey Toda

People grooved from Michael Jackson's "Rock with You" to Beyonce's "Crazy in Love". Dithmar even displayed his scratching and free styling skills, adding to the songs his own personal touch. When he free styled: "not as low as my LSAT score....," I distinctly remember that many people in the crowd (including myself) were cracking up. Just watching him work his magic on the turntables was entertaining itself. Whether young or old, there was definitely something there you could jam to.

OCA-GLA President Stacey Toda, UCLA Asian Pacific American Alumni Association President Sherwin Goo, and CAM Executive Director Suellen Cheng all delivered succinct yet inspiring speeches on being Asian American and the challenges we have overcome as a group. As part of Suellen's speech, she also mentioned that CAM needs volunteers! So if anyone out there is interested, Suellen would be more than happy to have you help out.

In conjunction with the festivities, CAM opened its doors for free admission and self guided tours of the museum. As much as I pride myself on being Chinese American and a "know it all" on Chinese American history, I felt embarrassed that it actually took me this long to visit (they opened in November 2003). But in the end, I'm glad that I finally did because CAM is truly a hidden gem capturing the Chinese American experience in Los Angeles.

Upon walking into CAM, immediately catching my eye was a glass panel wall made to resemble bamboo listing all the benefactors and donors of CAM throughout the years. From a vision to reality, it made me realize all the hard work, dedication, and efforts that went into establishing the museum, making me feel grateful what I was standing in front of.

By looking at all the different artifacts and exhibits really put me in touch with what I read about in the history books. Although I knew much about the Chinese exclusion era, the importance a family association was to the early settlers, and paper sons, but seeing the actual letters, pictures, and government documents was living history. As part of one exhibit, there were actually the cabinets, counters, and register of an old Chinese herbal store. Seeing it really connected and took me back to what it was like in Los Angeles Chinatown in the early 20th century. Speaking of Chinatown, the building of Union Station uprooted where the Old Chinatown used to be. That day I learned that CAM is actually one of the last buildings standing that was part of old Chinatown!

OCA-GLA's celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at CAM was a huge success! Although for me it started out as a social function, in the end I felt introspective. I was very grateful that I had the opportunity to visit CAM, it really made me appreciate and embrace my Chinese American identity even more. For those who haven't had the opportunity yet, please visit soon! It is a beautiful museum not just for people of Chinese American heritage, but for everybody to cherish the rich cultural diversity we have in Los Angeles today.

Voices of Healing

OCA-DC and sister chapter OCA-Northern Virginia co-sponsored a book launch event for the "Voices of Healing" on May 7th. For this event, the OCA National office was a tremendous help in inviting contributors of this book to speak.

They included Mr. Isaac Hoopii, a Pentagon Security Guard with the K-9 Division became a hero by repeatedly entering the Pentagon building and helping dozens of trapped people escape certain death by pulling and leading them out of the inferno. Ken Moritsugu a

Prince Georges Counties officials to present the books, together with copies of the "Changing Faces of America" census books, to the county library systems. On May 11th, OCA-DC presented five copies each of the 911 and census books to Prince Georges County. The books were accepted by County Council chairman Tony Knotts. During the ceremony, OCA-DC accepted the County Council's proclamation of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month on behalf of the Asian Pacific American community.



The Washington, DC launch of the "Voices of Healing" with Dr. Franklin Odo of the Smithsonian Institution, Daphne Kwok of OCA-N. Virginia, OCA Executive Director Christine Chen, David Yao of OCA-DC, and Erik Hovanky of OCA-Nova unveiling the book to the public.

reporter with the Knight Ridder news network was attending a three day convention in downtown New York City when he became a witness to the attack on the Twin Towers; and Preetmohan Singh, president of SMART, a Sikh media watch group that monitors prejudicial treatment of the Sikhs in the media spoke of the aftermath and social backlash against the South Asian community. Both a poignant and an eye-opening event, all attendees of this launch event learned from participants the experience of living through a momentous day that changed America.

After receiving the chapter's allotment of the "Voices of Healing" book, OCA-DC arranged with Montgomery and

On May 23rd, OCA-DC presented a similar number of books to Montgomery County officials. County Executive Doug Duncan and County Council President Steve Silverman presided over a ceremony where County Library representative Ms. Martha Lawrenz accepted the OCA books.

OCA-DC attached letters addressed to several county leaders explaining the reason for these book gifts, and in part the letters read: "On behalf of the Organization of Chinese Americans, it gives us great pleasure in presenting to you and the County's Library System copies of two books recently published by OCA for public use.

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TYPHOON WINNIE

By John Dolen

Reprinted with permission from the May 26, 2004

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Winnie Tang, will you get a life? Your friend at the Chinese-American association laughingly says, "She has no life." Yet ... would that there were more lives like hers.

Legislators know her. Organizers and public figures from the Chinese, Thai, Japanese, Korean, Filipino communities in South Florida, they all know her. Hundreds of children whom she's taught in remedial programs or in classes for Cantonese and Mandarin, they know her.

And we in the media know her — at least we frequently quote her. Whether it's on legislation related to Asian-Americans, a new Census figure or even the meaning of the Chinese zodiac. "According to Winnie Tang, South Florida chapter president of the Organization of Chinese Americans ..."

In recent weeks, we've heard her voice with many others — including state Sen. Steve Geller, D-Hallandale Beach, and state Rep. Phillip Brutus, D-Miami — who are trying to repeal language in the Florida Constitution that discriminates against Asian-Americans. Language that has been wiped off the books in every state except for Florida and New Mexico.

Called the Alien Land Laws, they specify that "aliens ineligible to citizenship" could not own, lease or inherit land. So who's eligible for citizenship? "Free white persons" or "persons of African nativity or descent."

As the session progressed in Tallahassee, updates from Tang came religiously to supporters:

"Good news. Bill coming out of committee in House."

"Good news. Bill passed in House."

"Good news. Bill passed in Senate."

"Bad news. Bills have different language. Not allowed to hash out differences. Bill dies."

(Pardon the summaries, Ms. Tang.)

So goes it for the diminutive, ever-effervescent Tang, who will gear up for another battle next year. Not that she'll be out of things to do. In the meantime, there's the Coral Springs Asian celebration she organized. There's the upcoming Dragon Boat races, which last year attracted 10,000 South Floridians. There's breast cancer legislation she's pushing. And there are the other groups she volunteers for.

Tang collects organizations and acronyms like bureaus collect dust. Beyond OCA (Organization of Chinese Americans), there's NANAY (a Filipino group, the National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Youth). There's NAPAP, the National Asian Pacific Americans for Progress, where she's community liaison. There's the Chinese Woman Club of Greater Miami.

And there are other advisory positions, affiliations or work with dozens of organizations including the League of Women Voters, the Chinese Cultural Association of South Florida (Boca Raton), the Asian-American Democratic Club of Broward County

and the Bangladesh-American Club of Palm Beach County.

We caught up with her (that's literally what you have to do) at the Silver Pond restaurant in Lauderdale Lakes. She was meeting co-planners for the second annual South Florida Dragon Boat Festival, to be held at Haulover Beach Park Marina in October.

While dissecting ginger and scallion crab claws, the 42-year-old (who looks 30) answers our questions in clipped English, adorned with bits of philosophy.

Why do you care about a 1926 law that nobody enforces?

"You never know — one day they may use it against you. Immigration law is changing right now. So it's better to get rid of it."

And why do you personally care so much?

"Each time of your life you do something different — sometime this past year it hit me. It's about time to do something about it."

Venghan "Winnie" Tang came to America when she was 17 from Macau, once a Portuguese colony and now a part of China, like Hong Kong. Her family settled in New York City where she went to high school, then graduated from Baruch College with a degree in business administration. She went to work for Citibank in New York, and was transferred to Florida where she became a branch manager.

It was here that her community spirit was born.

She left Citibank in 1994, got involved in Chinese Baptist activities and eventually began helping a friend who was starting her own business.

"I went with her ... to a lot of business meetings," Tang said. "She's African-American and I see a lot of African-American business awards. Then I think to myself, 'Wait a minute, I think people say Asians are really hard-working, smart people and do really well in business."

I don't see any Asian-American awards."

And so it began — Tang's personal quest for Asian-Americans to have their say.

A recent Saturday bore witness to that resolve. At the Coral Springs library, a crowd of about 200 — including the mayor and Asian dignitaries — filled the auditorium for a celebration as part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Dancers from China, Thailand and India, as well as a Korean harp player and experts in the Japanese arts of ikebana and origami were on the program; it's one of several Tang orchestrated in South Florida in this month. Booths displayed such little-known history as Chinese-American hero soldiers of World War II.

Tang was ever-present, keeping things going and then dismantling things afterward, issuing respectful directions to an array of helpers.

Coral Springs Mayor Rhon Ernest-Jones, who has worked with Tang on other events and salutes a strong Chinese constituency in his city, says after the program, "Winnie is an excellent organizer, full of energy — very good, positive energy."

The mayor echoes the words of Rep. Brutus, who asked



Winnie Tang receives an award at the 2003 OCA Convention.

A Personal Perspective on Asian Adoptions

By Liane Welch

Celebrating Spring Festival assures us all that wherever you are, never fear: soon it will indeed be Spring, and the air will waft ever more warmly, with the sound of birds on the wing. And before we know it, summer will follow, in all its fullness. And with it this year, comes the National Convention of OCA in Boston!

As a Caucasian couple who've adopted our daughter from China almost 6 years ago, we are especially looking forward to this year's OCA convention. We feel so grateful to OCA for offering a workshop entitled: "Asian Adoption Community: Issues and Impacts As They Relate To The Asian American Community". This groundbreaking workshop's goal is to explore the importance of building community between Asian Americans and American adoptive families who become Asian American through adoption. It will explore the mutual advantages, the building blocks, as well as the impediments to building a collaboration on these issues amongst OCA and other organizations, such as Families with Children from China (FCC).

FCC New England includes almost 900 families, and supports these three groups among them: adoptive families, people considering adoption from China, and children

still waiting in Chinese orphanages. FCC has over 90 chapters, most of them in the U.S. FCC helps to build and maintain cultural bridges for families with children from China so that they can help their children connect with their ethnic heritage. In the U.S. there are over 5,000 children adopted each year from China alone. In addition to that number, thousands more children are adopted each year from Vietnam, Cambodia, Korea, Philippines, and India combined. In time, this adoptive population will become a significant percentage of the Asian Pacific populace in this country.

21st century America is undoubtedly going to be these children's primary cultural reference. On a personal level, we adoptive families know that our children's Asian appearance will become a factor affecting the formation of our children's identity. My belief is if we can forge stronger relationships, and learn from our Asian American peers more about the Asian American experience, past and present, personal and historical, which we all know includes racism...we will thus be able to offer a broader, deeper appreciation of ethnic identity to our children.

On a national/societal level, a stronger

link between the adoptive family community and Asian American organizations can enable us to become more active in effecting the laws and agencies that will impact not only our adoptive children, but all Asian American's lives and livelihoods now and in the future. Without this awareness, as Lydia Lowe puts it, adoptive families and their children could unwittingly "strengthen the model minority myth and class polarization...with little...sense of responsibility" to align with causes affecting Asian Americans.

On a global level, the growing preponderance of multiracial families can (with attention, and intention) use their "adopted" wisdom to serve to build bridges to other cultures and leverage tendencies toward greater cooperation among nations.

Our family is so grateful to OCA New England, for extending such a warm and welcoming hand to our family, and families like ours. We sincerely hope that OCA members and FCC members alike, come to the OCA Convention in July and attend this workshop, to get to know one another better. We are very hopeful about our future together.

Voices of Healing con't from Page 41

OCA is a national non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization dedicated to securing rights of Chinese American and Asian American citizens and permanent residents through legislative and policy initiatives at all levels of the government.

The first book "The New Face of Asian Pacific America", produced in cooperation with AsianWeek Magazine and UCLA's Asian American Studies Center, is an analysis of the changing demographics compiled from the 2000 national census of the Asian Pacific American population in the United States. With its concise writing and its outstanding charts and graphs, we believe this book will serve as an indispensable resource in research and for defining a changing-America for many years to come.

The second book "Voices of Healing: Spirit and unity after 9/11 in the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community" is a collection of moving testimonials, stories, photographs and art of individual Asian Pacific Americans who became unwitting participants in this tragic event and its aftermath. Even though it has been two and a half years since the 911 tragedy, we are reminded near-

ly everyday how much of our lives have changed. September 11, 2001 was a momentous day when thousands of ordinary people, who in an instant, became heroes, victims, survivors and witnesses to the terrible events. The aim of this book is to document the untold stories of Asian Pacific Americans who were caught in this maelstrom, to celebrate their heroism, to commiserate their losses, and ultimately to simply depict Asian Pacific Americans as Americans.

These books are a source of pride for the Asian Pacific American community. By donating copies of these books to the County libraries during this Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, it is our hope that we can contribute to the better understanding by mainstream America of the Asian Pacific American community. We hope these books can help dispel stereotypes and reinforce an image that Asian Pacific Americans are every bit a part of the diverse American tapestry, and that we contribute and share in all things that is America."

CHAPTERS

WINNIE continued from page 42

Winnie for help on the bill he was sponsoring: "She really stepped up to the plate, with an e-mail campaign in the community."

He was impressed by her tenacity and recalls a meeting where she was the only non-black present, making her points doggedly, "totally unaffected by ethnicity or race."

Her co-worker at OCA, Josephine Gordy, who knows her better than most, says that Tang "has a lot going on, being passionate about the Asian community."

But on Tang's personal life, Gordy said, "She has no life. She wouldn't have time for a boyfriend."

Community is "a 24-hour thing," says Tang. Except that she also has a full-time job working in the Department of Pathology at the University of Miami School of Medicine, managing office operations of the Neuropathology Division.

It seems like this administrative post wouldn't have anything to do with her activism, but for Tang, like the yin and the yang, it all works together.

As she began learning about pathology, she had one of her ideas.

"I think if people see what a brain looks like after a stroke it's a more powerful motivation for them to get healthy," Tang said. So off she went, developing PowerPoint presentations for seniors at the Chinese community center.

"If you give me the opportunity, I learn a lot of things in a short span of time," she said. "I come across something that's interesting to me and it's good, then I jump to it."

Johnson Ng is publisher of United Chinese News of Florida, a Chinese-language weekly that circulates throughout the state. He's known Tang for six years.

"Everybody in the Chinese community knows her. Too much energy, she never stops. Even at 4 o'clock in the morning, she's sending out e-mails to everybody."

But just as important, he says, she knows everybody in "the mainstream community."

"County, city, state, all the commissioners, she knows them. Even the police chief. When the Chinese community

needs help from the mainstream community, they call Winnie and ask for advice.

"And the same thing the other way. When the mainstream community needs to know something about the Chinese community, they ask Winnie.

"I give you one example. In January the Department of Children and Families had a domestic violence case regarding a Chinese family. Eventually they called Winnie to be an interpreter," Ng says.

But she called Ng because she couldn't get away from her job. He went, then became wrapped up in the three-month process, with Winnie advising him all the way.

"I really learned to appreciate her, and she taught me a lot, too," Ng says.

The final appeal for the children to be returned to the family involved Tang assuring the judge that concrete steps, including the wife's participation in domestic violence training, had been taken. She also pledged to use this case as a tool to teach others in the Chinese community.

"The judge said, 'That's what I've been waiting to hear,'" said Ng, and released the children to the mother. "That impressed me a lot, what she knew."

Tang says she gets calls on everything from discrimination in job promotions to unfair traffic tickets.

So when are you going to be running for office?

A big, big laugh comes over the phone. She's now in New York on her way to Macao for a visit.

"Everybody asks me that question. I meet complete strangers for only two minutes and they ask me that question."

Laughter. Pause.

"Personally I have no desire right now. I just want to advocate for the goodness of future generations."

Another pause. "OK, say if circumstances in the future change, who knows? I might be ready for something." And how about getting a life?

"In the future, yes, of course, it will change. I would like to share this. It will change."



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Japanese Veterans story cont. from Page 15

around” attack to dislodge German forces dug into a mountain stronghold. In the Presidential Citation issued by General Dwight D. Eisenhower, he said:

“In 4 days, the attack destroyed positions which had withstood efforts...for five months. The 442nd drove forward despite heavy casualties...allowing the enemy no time for rest or reorganization. (They) liberated the city of Carrara, seized the heights and beyond. The successful accomplishment of this mission turned a diversionary action into a full-scale and victorious offensive...an important part in the final destruction of the German armies in Italy.”

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Battalion fought in 7 major military campaigns in two countries. In total, they garnered one Congressional Medal of Honor, one Distinguished Service Medal, 560 Silver Stars, 4,000 Bronze Stars, 9,486 Purple Hearts, 52 Distinguished Service Medals, and 18,143 individual decorations for personal valor. In 1996, Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii sponsored legislation to upgrade 22 Army Decorations to Medals of Honor. Twenty were members of the 442nd and 100th.

Japanese American veterans have gone on to accomplish in other areas besides the military. Colonel Ellison Onizuka was the first Japanese American from Hawaii to become an astronaut and lost his life in the 1986 explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger. World War II Veteran Daniel Inouye serves as a US Senator from Hawaii, one of only seven Asian Pacific American federal elected officials. The former US Army Chief of Staff, General Eric Shinseki, is Japanese American.

Over 6,000 Japanese Americans were trained to serve in the Allied forces in World War II. They served as translators, combat soldiers, nurses, doctors, therapists, and pharmacists. Their contribution was invaluable - Japanese Americans were able to convince the enemy to surrender when other officers could not and risked their lives in order to gain important information.

“They risked their lives above and beyond the call of duty and in doing so, they did more than defend American. In the face of painful prejudice, they helped to define America at its best,” said President Bill Clinton, June 21, 2000 at the Presentation of Medals of Honor to Japanese American Veterans.

Fil-Am Vets con't from page 15

justice even if we fail, because to not even try for fear of failure sends a wrong message to the next generation.” Melegrito adds: “Our commitment to justice will be measured not by whether we will get the bill passed, but whether we will mobilize our resources and harness our energies in the 58-year struggle to correct a grievous wrong.”

There are an estimated 27,000 surviving Filipino veterans – 20,000 in the Philippines and 7,000 in the United States. Pressure is mounting as most of these veterans, in their 70s or 80s, are passing away. The contributions of Filipinos to the outcome of World War II is significant. More than 140,000 Filipino soldiers fought alongside the US and thousands of American Filipino soldiers were imprisoned and died in the Bataan Death March in 1942.

In former President Clinton’s 1996 proclamation honoring the Filipino veterans of WWII, he stated,

“Valiant Filipino soldiers fought, died, and suffered in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II and thousands of Filipino prisoners of war endured the infamous Bataan Death March and years of captivity. Their many guerrilla actions slowed the Japanese takeover of the Western Pacific region and allowed U.S. forces the time to build and prepare for the allied counterattack on Japan. Filipino troops fought side-by-side with U.S. forces to secure their island nation as the strategic base from which the final effort to defeat Japan was launched.”

White House Initiative con't from page 5

The original Executive Order issued by President Clinton and renewed for two years at the beginning of President Bush's term, had a broad mandate to "improve the quality of life of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders through increased participation in Federal programs where they may be underserved (e.g., health, human services, education, housing, labor, transportation, and economic and community development)." The White House let that Executive Order expire a year ago, terminating the Commission then chaired by Dr. John Tsu, a well respected educator from California.

The May 13th Executive Order moves the Initiative from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Commerce and drastically narrows the mission of the Initiative and the Commission from broadly helping underserved AAPI communities to solely focusing on the development of AAPI small businesses. Specifically the new Executive Order instructs the Commission to "improve the economic and community development of Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses through ensuring equal opportunity to participate in Federal programs, and public-sector, private-sector partnerships, and through the collection of data related to Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses" and "increase the business diversification of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, including ways to foster research and data on Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses including their level of participation in the national economy and their economic and community development."

"The quality of life of the AAPI community cannot be adequately improved by limiting the improvements of one facet of AAPI policy priorities," said Christine Chen, Executive Director of the Organization of Chinese Americans. "Limiting the purpose of the Executive Order ends any advances in education policy, for example."

IMMIGRATION cont. from page 5

As part of a community that is over 60% foreign born, Asian Pacific Americans know full well the benefits that new Americans bring to this country, and the need for humane immigration laws and policies. The goal of the Week of Action is to create pressure for elected officials to support and pass immigration reform; elevate the range of issues advocates care about while building grassroots capacity; and promote civic participation among immigrant communities. This will be accomplished by organizing local and national events pushing for the passage of AgJOBS and DREAM while sending the message that any Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act of 2003 (Clear Act) or CLEAR-like legislation should be defeated. We also intend to build long-term support for Civil Liberties Restoration Act (CLRA) and the Safe, Orderly, Legal Visas and Enforcement (SOLVE) Act.

ENTERTAINMENT

Dodgeball Perpetuates 'Orientalism'

By Doug Lee

In director Rawson Thurber's summer movie *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story*, he tells the story of Average Joe's gym and their battle to stay in business against the better-equipped, state-of-the-art Globo Gym by competing in a dodgeball tournament. The movie is a comedy marketed towards every misfit and underachiever. What is not advertised is the use of derogatory and offensive terms and images of Asians. The movie blatantly mocks the history of Asians in the United States and serves up its own version of Orientalism. Orientalism, derived from the Eurocentric study of the "Orient," rationalized the colonization of lands, goods and people of Asia. Orientalism-based thinking also inadvertently helped Europeans define themselves as non-Asians. The film depicts the underdog team as "the Average Joes," indicating the normalcy that this team represents is the normalcy of the average American. This also implies that the Average Joe or, say, average American, could not possibly be Asian American.

This neo-orientalism is further maintained in the film with Asians being depicted as mere instruments for slapstick comedy. The producers profit through the trivialization of traumatic themes in Asian and Asian American history. One scene depicts the people of Average Joe's gym learning about the history of dodgeball. The movie explains that the game comes from opium dens in China during the 15th century. While on their opium high, the grossly caricatured Chinese proceed to throw severed human heads at each other. This scene makes light of the very serious impact opium had in China during the 18th century. The drug's addicting influence caused riots and a war that resulted in the death of thousands of Chinese people.

Furthermore, while explaining the game, the narrator uses the word "Chinaman." As with usingsuch racist terms such as "wetbacks" for Latino laborers or "Jap" for Japanese people, "Chinaman" has similar roots. The term was used to intimidate and wedge Asian

laborers against other ethnic minorities and Europeans. First coined during the 1800s, this term was adopted to degrade Chinese laborers in an effort to alienate and amplify their foreign status.

In another offensive scene, the Globo gym team, led by Ben Stiller's character White Goodman, defeats a Japanese team in the dodgeball tournament. The players on the Japanese team wear diapers, designed to mimic the col-



Source: 20th Century Fox

As with using such racist terms such as "wetbacks" for Latino laborers or "Jap" for Japanese people, "Chinaman" has similar roots. The term was used to intimidate and wedge Asian laborers against other ethnic minorities and Europeans.

orful belts worn by sumo wrestlers. The nickname of the team is also offensive in that they are called the Kamikazes. "Kamikaze" was the name of the Japanese pilot squadron that flew into American warships in an effort to sink them during World War II. As the Japanese team is being defeated, Ben Stiller's character uses derogatory phrases about sending the players "back to Japan." This perpetuates the idea Asian Americans are still foreign people to the United States.

One of the characters in the film tells about his recent divorce and remarriage to an Asian woman through an Internet matchmaking service. The movie insinuates that the female is a mail order bride. She is portrayed as wearing gaudy makeup, lots of jewelry, and is blatantly resentful of his lower class status. Her

resentment embodies the stereotype that mail order brides and particularly Asian women would marry for social status. Unable to speak English, the woman resorts to using lewd hand gestures to communicate. Advocates against Internet matchmaking services argue that these services use stereotypical images of Asian American women by advertising them as submissive "China dolls" and subservient brides. On July 15th 2004, in the East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee hearing, John Miller, director of the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, addressed the increase of female trafficking and released an anti-trafficking resolution recognizing the exploitation of women and mail order brides as one of the more vulnerable populations to exploit. The International Marriage Brokers Regulation Act, a bill that would provide additional protections for women using such services, is currently in debate in the Senate.

As an influential medium for thought, films have the persuasive power to define what is funny and acceptable. In this movie, it may be difficult for those who have not encountered Asians or Asian Americans to discern fact from fiction. *Dodgeball's* xenophobic depiction of Asians as foreign — not as part of the cultural landscape of the US but as the "other," is a theme that runs throughout the film. It shows that since 1961, when Mickey Rooney donned "yellow face" and played Mr. Yunioshi in *Breakfast in Tiffany's*, not much has changed. Asian Media Watch, a nonprofit organization that provides news about the portrayal of Asian Americans, launched a campaign against the movie citing the use of the word Chinaman and the mail order bride as serious problems. It urges people to contact the producers of the film, Twentieth Century Fox Film and its parent company to voice that the public is disgusted by their use of racially offensive caricatures and terms. More information can be found on their website, <http://www.asianmediawatch.net>.

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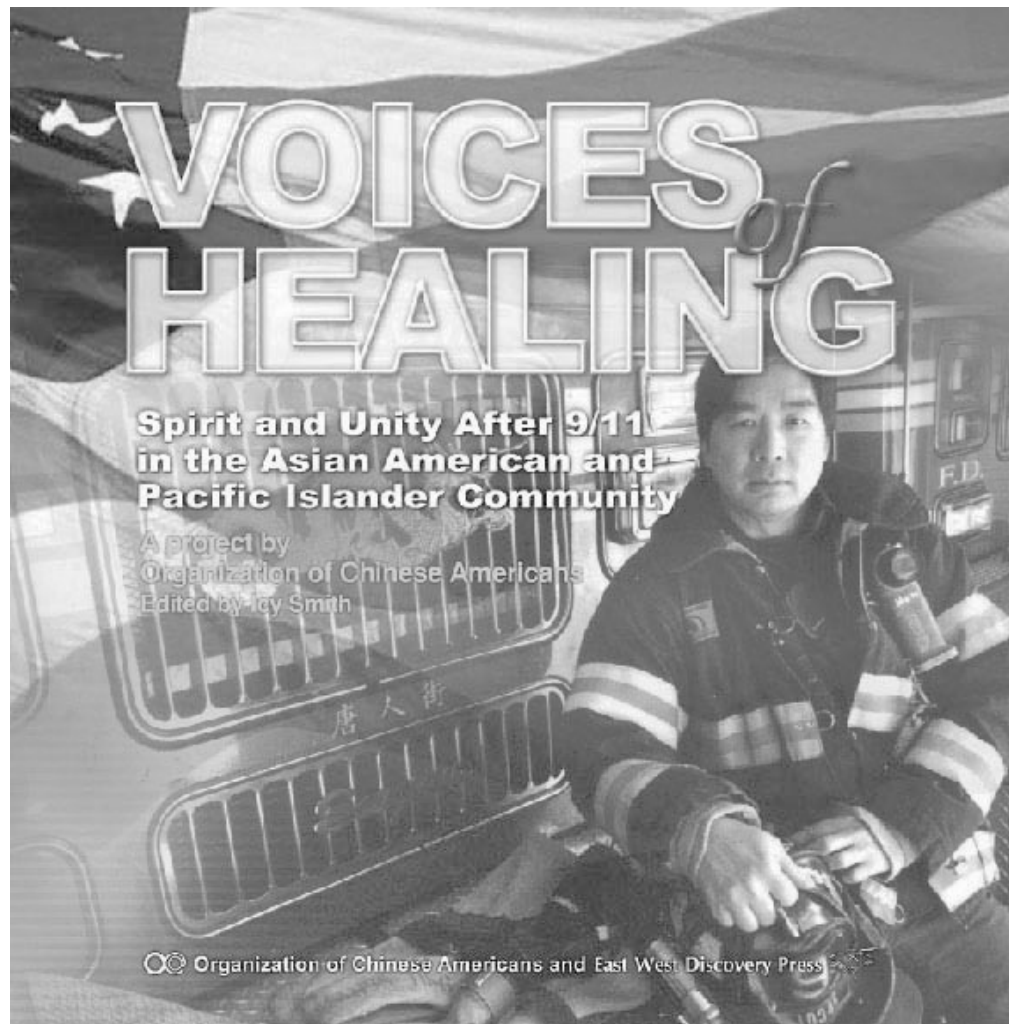
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