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ON THE COVER: On the cover: Faces of Diversity mosaic of OCA founders K.L. Wang and Alex Mark. Mosaic photos courtesy of Corky Lee. Original mosaic artwork by Gari Gregorio with assistance from Andy Luong.



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OCA is a national organization dedicated to advancing the social, political and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.

Our Goals

- To advocate for social justice, equal opportunity and fair treatment
- To promote civic participation, education and leadership
- To advance coalitions and community building
- To foster cultural heritage

The celebrations during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month always remind me of my parents' urgings to "remember my roots" and of my commitment over the years to do just that. For me, the issue has always been, "How could I forget?" How could I forget a childhood in the back of a Chinese laundry? How could I forget the years of doing homework on an ironing board? How could I forget the faces of a community of strangers in a strange land in need of assistance and support? How could I forget the moving stories shared by a proud people who have not always been treated with fairness and respect? What can be done to enhance the image of a community often referred to as the "invisible minority?"

As a child of first generation non-English speaking parents, I've spent my adult life trying to understand the impact of an experience that has defined who I am and who we are as a community. My memories, both good and not so good, evolved around a way of life that has become the Chinese American legacy. The essence of those years is captured in the drafting of an autobiography for young adults entitled *From Ironing Board to Corporate Board: An Immigrant's Story*. It is clear that with each generation, remembering one's roots becomes more and more challenging. The next generation, which includes my three grown children and their children someday, will want to know who they are and where they came from. It is my belief that each of us should do our share in preserving the richness of our culture.

My story is just one example of the many immigrant stories of Asian Pacific Americans whose lives are wrapped around a family struggling to survive in a new world. The challenges and the joys of life behind the hand laundries, nail salons, grocery stores, dry cleaners, fruit stands, and 7/11 stores are most telling of a community that has certainly demonstrated its ability to succeed above all odds.

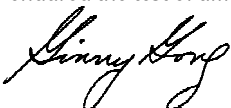
There are many more stories of immigrants who have successfully transitioned beyond the family confines to more mainstream accomplishments. Participation in corporate America is a clear demonstration of the community's ability to advance forward. Such successes exemplify the endless possibilities of a more acculturated generation.

"It is clear that with each generation, remembering one's roots becomes more and more challenging."

I often marvel at the sustainability of some of this community's oldest traditions. What immediately comes to mind are - the duration of my parents' pre-arranged marriage lasting more than 68 years, the academic achievement of Asian American students with minimal support at home, the reverence of the young for elders when it is clear the elders are unable to empathize with their experiences in this new land, the frugality of its people to save even with minimal salaries – they all point to values that are ingrained in everything we do, say, and think.

With the demographics of OCA's membership changing and more inclusive of first generation immigrants, programs that provide support for the acculturation of immigrants at the chapter level are being considered as one of this administration's priorities. Empowering these newer members of our community will advance OCA's mission to promote the full participation of Asian Pacific Americans in the political process.

As the Asian Pacific American community spreads its wings and moves forward on numerous fronts it will always be guided by the roots of a culture rich in history, one that has truly endured the test of time.



Ginny Gong
National President





The month of May saw the coming and going of APA Heritage Month. Signed into public law by the President in 1992, the month was proclaimed to give our community an opportunity to celebrate our history, our heritage and our culture. But how many Asian and Pacific Islander communities took the opportunity to do so? How many APAs are even aware such a month exists?

In this issue, you will read about the history of the establishment of APA Heritage Month and OCA's involvement through the recollections Hayden Lee, OCA's Executive Director from 1977 to 1979. How many of us are aware that when Public Law 102-450 proclaiming the month of May every year as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in perpetuity was signed by the President on October 23, 1992, it also called for the Chief Executive Officer of each state to also issue a proclamation to observe the designated month "with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities." As you will read in the Chapter Highlights section, many of our chapters are involved in sponsoring or co-sponsoring events in their community, but how many of us have taken the initiative to take it a step further and request that the Mayor of our respective cities do the same? Imagine what an impact it would have if every OCA chapter led the effort to have its mayor and city have an official proclamation signing ceremony and participate in promoting citywide activities and events?

To be able to fully appreciate the significance of APA Heritage Month, I believe it is important that we know our all aspects of our history in order to appreciate who, what and where we are today. We need to recognize the courage and passion of OCA members such as Doug Chin, who writes in this issue about his involvement in the student strikes at San Francisco State University during the early days of the Asian American civil rights movement and his commitment to social change. We need to learn from Dr. Benjamin Tong's article that not all Chinese immigrants who first came

"I believe it is important that we know all aspects of our history in order to appreciate who, what and where we are today."

to the U.S. in the late 1800s were the stereotypically passive and docile "Chinaman" most history books pegged them to be.

APA Heritage Month is also the opportunity to involve the future generation and instill in them the sense of pride in being Americans of Asian and

Pacific Islander descent. Changes take time and can be slow in coming, but they are coming as shared in the article by Bill Imada about APAs in the world of advertising, broadcasting, film and media. It is important that we pay heed to tomorrow's leaders and their observations on life in America. This issue features the perspectives of three promising leaders and their journey towards discovering who they are and what they want to accomplish as an APA.

As we head to Las Vegas for the OCA National Convention, you can be sure that diversity will be the theme that will permeate throughout all four days. Nowhere is it more emphasized than with the four mosaics that have been designed especially for the convention theme "Faces of Diversity." One of these mosaics graces the cover of this issue of IMAGE. And how lucky we are to have all of the 900 plus faces that were used in the mosaics be photographed by none other than the "Undisputed Unofficial Asian American Photographer Laureate" himself, Corky Lee. I'm sure you'll be fascinated when reading the interview with the man behind the faces.

We hope you enjoy this issue of IMAGE and encourage you to provide comments and suggestions with its continuing makeover and improvements. Happy reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cindy Teng'. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract.

Cindy Teng
OCA National VP of Communications

LESSONS FROM YANKING 'THE YEAR OF THE YAO'

Dear Editor,

Last month, I sent a request to BDA Sports Management (Team Yao) to have Yao Ming sign some jerseys and basketballs. They were for different APA groups to help raise funds. I received my shipment of signed goodies back in no time. These gestures are appreciated, especially considering Yao's insane schedule. We all know that he is immensely popular everywhere, especially in the Asian community. Unfortunately, most corporations that work with Yao still view the APA market as an afterthought.

This was especially true with Fine Line's disastrous efforts to promote *The Year of the Yao*, an entertaining film about Yao's rookie season in the NBA. Unless you were invited to one of the pre-screenings, you probably missed it all together. Fine Line debuted the film in Yao's American hometown of Houston and sold just \$27,823 in tickets. There are 103,694 Asians in Houston. What happened?

"They opened the film in too many theaters," said co-producer Chris Chen. "They opened in 12 theaters. Usually, Hollywood blockbuster films open in that many theaters." Another source says that Fine Line only focused on online marketing. Their big thing was to land an exclusive interview with Yao for asianavenue.com, which is mainly an Internet dating site.

Fine Line was also not sure about dealing with Asian and Chinese language media to promote the film without Yao. They consulted TCDM & Associates, an agency that focuses on mainstream films and films that have an Asian American audience such as *Better Luck Tomorrow*. TCDM also represents groups like L.A.'s Visual Communications and high profile clients such as Jet Li. Partners David Magdael and Winston Emano are Asian American. "Our feedback was that the media would attend for co-director Adam Del Deo, co-producer Chris Chen and Yao's interpreter, Colin Pine," said Emano. "Chris and Colin both speak Mandarin and would be able to handle ethnic press. They were a hit. The attendance of the Asian and Chinese media was significant." Even so, practically every media person who attended asked if Yao was coming anyway.

The opening was such a flop that Fine Line pulled the film and canceled its release. A recent *Wall Street Journal* article by John Lippman discussed the many challenges in getting Yao's film off the ground. Yao and his coaches don't want to be distracted with the NBA playoffs coming up, and he did no film promotions. This is highly unusual since most stars spend a lot of time promoting their film. McDonald's, Reebok and Gatorade, who have marketing deals with Yao, did not participate due to numerous conflicts. To top it off, there were rumblings of distribution problems in China with criticisms of Yao being portrayed in the film as a U.S. capitalist machine. Now Fine Line is said to be considering a summer re-release targeting Yao's Chinese American fan base. They're just realizing that now?

Fine Line did free screenings in a piecemeal fashion for the Asian community in N.Y., L.A. and Chicago in April. But with no plan in place, community groups would suddenly find out that another

organization in the same city also had a screening, causing unnecessary frustration.

Since the Asian American community is relationship-based, the film industry has to figure out how to reach out to our market. When Justin Lin's *Better Luck Tomorrow* came out, it was exciting and mind-boggling to see all the e-mails from the community rallying together. We purchased tickets to the opening night screenings and some of us bought out entire theaters.

Here are my top 10 suggestions for Fine Line features:

- Hire a reputable Asian American PR agency from the get-go that can reach the Asian press and community leaders in each city.
- Reach out to the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) with over 50 chapters to sell group sales tickets.
- Use Asian American webzines such as asianavenue.com, click2asia.com, asianconnections.com and NewYorkSeoul.com who have thousands of people in their databases (which they did).
- Contact all the Asian American International Film Festivals in N.Y., L.A., S.F., San Diego, Chicago and Honolulu for their support and have them e-mail press releases to their thousands of members.
- Reach out to the Asian churches. There are 2,000 Korean, 650 Chinese and 200 Japanese Christian congregations in the United States.
- Reach out to Asian Hoops, Dreamleague, Fastbreak NYC, North American Chinese Basketball Association as well as Japanese basketball leagues that have a 70-year-old history. These leagues are active and thriving on both coasts.
- Reach out to Chinese-language schools that are popping up everywhere.
- Purchase radio commercials on Chinese radio stations. The costs are much lower than mainstream radio.
- Purchase ads in the Chinese newspapers.
- Purchase ad space on AZN Television (formally known as International Channel) and [ImaginAsian TV](http://ImaginAsianTV.com).

The Asian consumer is one of the most attractive markets to tap into because it is far cheaper than the mainstream market. Jet Li has a new film coming out in May called *Unleashed*. On May 8, he'll be making an appearance at the 26th Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival in Union Square, New York City to get the community's support for his new film. This is a tremendous market and Jet Li and TCDM & Associates get it.

Grace Niwa

"Reprinted from *Asian Week*, May 6 2005, with permission from the author."



The second quarter of the year was very busy with an emphasis on building our human resources and capacity through our volunteers. Over the years, OCA has continued to impact and service over 700 college and high school students through its many leadership trainings, internship and scholarship programs and essay contest. Furthermore, the annual OCA/JACL Leadership Conference helps us provide additional training to 30 grassroots organizers and chapter leaders.

This capacity building has allowed OCA to strengthen the skill set and expand the knowledge of our members and friends to organize around issues that OCA and the Asian Pacific American community support. These programs have helped our local leaders learn to build coalitions and mobilize to hold radio stations accountable for promoting bigotry and hate on the public airwaves (such as the incidents in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania). Local grassroots organizers have also built up support for due process in cases such as Chaplain James Yee or for legislation such as comprehensive immigration reform and the Dream Act.

The OCA National Office continues to grow and expand. With the addition of a Development Manager, OCA will now focus on developing the infrastructure to support OCA's priorities such as advocating for social justice, equal opportunity and fair treatment; to promoting civic participation, education, and leadership; to advancing coalitions and community building; and to fostering cultural heritage. With this additional position, we will also be able to focus on developing support for OCA's new permanent home in Washington D.C.

Our ability to be a more effective advocate is realized with the hiring of a Policy Advocate. The position will focus on monitoring immigration, legislative and education policies that impact the APA community, as well as building capacity and support for legislation and policy that OCA supports. It is a temporary position and we have hopes of making it a permanent part of our staffing structure.

OCA's staff is also reflective of the ethnic diversity of the APA community and has expanded to include, in addition to Chinese Americans, Vietnamese, Filipino, South Asian, Pacific Islander and Japanese Americans. OCA has always recognized that mainstream America has not been able to differentiate between the many distinct Asian ethnicities. Consequently, it is important to outreach and share information and services with other Asian ethnic organizations if we are to be an effective, united voice for the APA community. Today, we actively work with many different national and local APA organizations representing all ethnicities around the country. We have kept this valued tradition and principle as it carries through in all of our day-to-day activities. Our staff and programs mirror this outlook.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Christine Chen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christine Chen
Executive Director

BRANDING OCA: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

OCA has long been considered a forward thinking organization—ever on the cutting edge and able to look ahead and prepare for growing trends and movements in the future.

We certainly have the track record to prove it. Over 30 years ago not many believed we could, or should, establish a national civil rights organization and headquarter it in Washington, DC. But we did it. Not many people believed we could, or should, look to our youth and make the future generation a priority. But we did it. We now offer the most number of scholarships and the largest internship program of its kind in the nation's capital. Not many people believed we could, or should, establish partnerships with corporations to provide the organization with financial, professional and corporate guidance as well as to provide companies with an opportunity to support diversity and insight into the APA community's issues and concerns. But we did it. Since 1980, the OCA Business Advisory Council has been the only such Council of its kind among our colleagues in structure, membership, involvement and commitment.

While we have accomplished much in the last 32 years, it's time for us to move forward again and set new horizons for the organization. During the transition meeting in December 2004,

the newly elected Executive Council was tasked with reviewing the organization's strategic plan. Subsequently,

during the past two National Board meetings, the National Board gave unanimous approval to adopt modifications to the mission statement that better reflected the organization's current approach and practice to what we do and to the constituents we serve. The change is also consistent with the organization's views and efforts to be more inclusive and reflective of the diversity of our national board, members, staff and the APA community at large.

Over the past 10 years, the organization's programs, activities and involvement have been deliberately approached with a pan-Asian focus. But it has been challenging to have a name that does not reflect our outreach efforts and focus, especially when it comes to competing for corporate funding. We must face the reality that an increase in the number of groups requesting funding means an increase in the total amount of dollars being requested, but the amount of monies available may not increase and in fact, have been decreasing. We cannot deny the significance that

more than seventy-five percent of our organization's funding currently comes from the corporate sector in the form of support for our scholarship, internship and leadership training programs, the national convention and corporate achievement awards and other special programs and activities. We must also acknowledge that we are competing with other organizations with less credibility and history, but because their name indicates a pan-Asian focus, companies who do not know about OCA are less likely to provide support. It takes many hours, even years, of building up personal relationships and engaging in continued dialogue to educate the corporate sector about OCA's mission and focus.

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program, which OCA administers for the APIA component, had to move in this direction from almost the beginning of its inception because of the expectations that it have a pan-Asian focus. And if it were not for OCA's reputation, in spite of its name, we might not have been selected to administer this program.

OCA has always been an organization that has changed with the needs of its members and the community. We are now faced with

the challenge of increasing the organization's visibility and name recognition. "Branding" has become the buzz word in today's world

"It's time for us to move forward again and set new horizons for the organization."

and we need to move forward in branding the name "OCA" in and of itself. As a result, the National Board voted during this year's January's National Board meeting to unanimously adopt the recommendation that we will now only use the acronym "OCA" when referring to the organization. The National Office has begun to make the shift in all its written and verbal communications and chapters are asked to transition and implement the changes at the local level within a two year timeframe.

OCA will continue to acknowledge and credit our founders and the leaders in the Chinese American community for establishing an organization for Chinese Americans. However, the face of diversity has changed dramatically from 30 years ago and the lines that separated the various ethnic groups in the APIA community have become blurred and in many instances, merged. In keeping with our founders' vision, OCA will continue to be forward thinking and all-inclusive.

MEET OCA NATIONAL'S LEGAL TEAM

As the operations and programs of OCA National grew in size, scope and sophistication, the organization realized a need for high-quality legal services in many subject areas and subsequently established its first national legal team. For 2005-2006, we are fortunate to be served by a group of experienced, talented and accomplished attorneys. The hard work of this team allows OCA to conduct its operations in an increasingly complex legal environment. This year's dedicated individuals comprising the 2005-2006 OCA National Legal Team are:



JEFFREY K. LEE,
GENERAL COUNSEL – As OCA's National General Counsel, Jeffrey Lee has been appointed by President Ginny Gong and approved by the Executive Council as the organization's top legal officer. He is responsible for handling all legal matters confronting OCA National and supervising the activities of the National Legal Team. In addition to serving as National General

Counsel, Jeff is co-President and a former Vice President and General Counsel of the OCA-Silicon Valley Chapter.

Jeff is a partner with the Silicon Valley law firm, GCA Law Partners LLP, where he counsels and represents public and private companies, small businesses, associations, and individuals in trial and appellate litigation and pre-litigation counseling.

Jeff served previously at the U.S. Department of Justice where he led federal investigations, prosecutions, trial and appeal proceedings, and defense of agency rules and decisions. Recognized for his trial work, he received a Special Achievement Award in 1996 and a Special Commendation in 1998. Jeff entered private practice in 1998, representing Fortune 500 clients before courts and agencies with the international law firm of Latham & Watkins in Washington, D.C. He later handled high-stakes, high-profile technology litigation with the Silicon Valley trial boutique, Day Casebeer Madrid & Batchelder.

Born and raised in Bloomfield, New Jersey, Jeff earned two law degrees: a J.D., cum laude, and a Master of Studies in Environmental Law, magna cum laude, in 1992 from Vermont Law School, where he served as the Senior Articles Editor of the Vermont Law Review. In 1987, he obtained his A.B. degree in Biology at Colgate University.

Long engaged in professional and APA activities, Jeff is an appointed member and Secretary of the California State Bar's Committee on Federal Courts. Previously, he served as General Counsel and a Director of the Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL) and as a Supervising Attorney of the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC), both located in Washington, DC. Jeff and his wife, Tilly Chang, met in Washington, DC through an OCA-sponsored event. They now live in Mountain View, California.

2005 - 2006 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Jeffrey K. Lee, Esq.



WILLIAM C. HOU – Bill Hou was the OCA National General Counsel from 1988-1989, served as Chairman of the OCA National Equal Employment Opportunity Task Force from 1988-91, Secretary of the National Anti-Asian Violence Task Force of OCA from 1990-1994, General Counsel of the Northern Virginia Chapter of OCA from 1990-1991 and as OCA Liaison to the National

Network Against Anti-Asian Violence from 1989-1992.

He has extensive corporate, non-profit, international commercial transactions and regulatory experience, particularly involving mergers and acquisitions, corporate reorganizations, debt and equity financings, public offerings, joint ventures, international franchising, export controls and non-profits. From 1989 to 1992, he was a partner in the Business and Finance Section of Hopkins & Sutter, a national law firm with offices in Chicago, Illinois, Dallas, Texas, and Washington, D.C. From 1987 to 1989, he was an associate with Hamel & Park, and following a merger, with Hopkins & Sutter. From 1985 to 1987, he was an associate with Surrey & Morse, and following a merger, with Jones, Day Reavis & Pogue. Prior to 1985, he was in-house counsel and Manager of the China Division of WJS International, Inc.

He was the President of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) in 1992-1993, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, Friends of the Law Library of Congress, American Bar Association Council on Racial and Ethnic Justice (1994), ABA Steering Committee on Racial/Ethnic Bias in the Justice System (1993 and one of seven members of the ABA Task Force on Minorities and the Justice System (1992).

He was selected as one of the top 780 lawyers in Washington, DC (out of 80,000 attorneys) by Washingtonian magazine in the December 2004 issue. He is a 1981 graduate of Duke University Law School with a J.D. "With Distinction" and of Duke University Institute for Public Policy Sciences with a M.A. in Public Policy Sciences. His undergraduate degree is from Vassar College.

BILL NG – Bill Ng became a member of OCA soon after he met K.L. Wang, the founder of OCA, in 1976. From January 1999 to December 2000, Bill served as the OCA National General Counsel.

Bill has served in a number of federal, local, and voluntary positions. Currently, he is an

Assistant General Counsel at the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency and an adjunct instructor at the George Mason University School of Law.

He previously served as Deputy General Counsel of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from 1985 to 1991; Clerk of the D.C. Court of Appeals from 1992 to 1996; and Clerk of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit from 1996 to 1997.

He is a Member of the Board of Governors of the District of Columbia Bar, the second largest state bar organization in the nation with over 55,000 active members, as well as a member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Washington, D.C. Bill is a graduate of Harvard University and a graduate of the Boston College School of Law.



ROBERT WONE – An attorney with the law firm of Covington & Burling in Washington, DC, Robert traces his present involvement with OCA back to his introduction to the Long Island chapter during high school where he applied for and was selected to attend the Presidential Classroom, a high school civics and leadership program, on a scholarship

from OCA-Long Island. Robert followed this interest in civics and government to the College of William & Mary and then to law school at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received his J.D. cum laude. After graduation, Robert spent a year as a judicial law clerk to a U.S. District Court Judge. After his clerkship, Robert joined Covington where he now practices in the areas of corporate/real estate law and employment law. He currently is advising OCA with its employment law practices, as well as its headquarters office lease and the new building campaign.

Robert is an active member of both local and national bar associations. He serves as the Treasurer of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association for the Greater Washington, DC Area ("APABA") and as a member of the American Bar Association's Public Education Advisory Commission. With APABA, Robert has coordinated programs to combat the low representation of minority attorneys as judicial law clerks and organized efforts to have more APA attorneys elected and appointed as judges in the Washington, DC area. In 2004, Robert was reappointed by Virginia Governor Mark Warner for a third term as a member of the Governor's Commission on National and Community Service, which advises the Governor and other state agencies on community service issues. He is married and now lives in Oakton, Virginia.

STAFFING CHANGES IN THE OFFICE



OCA Deputy Director **Aryani Ong**, left in at the beginning of May, after two years with OCA. While at OCA, her primary focus was on the Building Fund Campaign, strategic planning, human resources and administration and staffing of the Executive Council, National Board and the Business Advisory Council. She also worked on the production, content

development and writing of two publications—Voices of Healing, an award winning book on APAs and the 9/11 experience, and a hate crimes response manual for APA communities. Aryani is proud to be able to leave several legacies during her time on staff, which included creating and defining two staff positions - the Deputy Director and Development Manager - to strengthen the office's capacity; helping define the "bold vision" case statement for the Building Fund Campaign; raising the level of operations of the National Office; creating a Media Response Plan and proposals to direct OCA's strategic growth; and working to improve on the Corporate Achievement Award and Chapter Excellence award programs.



In mid-February of this year, **April Delacruz Rongero**, an OCA 2004 Winter Intern, became a part of the National Office's permanent staff. She serves as Program Assistant for the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS)/APIA program, working specifically with the GMS

Scholarship Account. In her new capacity, April is responsible for processing and mailing checks to current active GMS scholars and also helps with student services and general administrative tasks in the OCA/GMS office. April is happy to be officially on board at OCA and is grateful for the wonderful family she has found there.



David Chu recently joined OCA in the newly created position of Development Manger. Prior to joining OCA, David spent nearly two years with The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars as a fundraiser for

diversity scholarships. It was The Washington Center that brought David to the East Coast as an undergraduate student. As an intern with the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC), David had the opportunity to learn about public policies that impacted the APIA community as well as the legislative process. After graduating from college, David returned to the East Coast to attend graduate school and to serve in AmeriCorps as an AmeriCorp Promise Fellow with the Massachusetts Promise. A graduate of University of Washington, David holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science with special emphasis American history, politics and government. In 2001, he earned a Master of Public Administration from Baruch's School of Public Affairs (CUNY) as a National Urban Fellow.



Ann Touneh Lane recently joined the Gates Millennium Scholars/APIA program as Program Coordinator. Ann grew up in Falls Church, Virginia, and attended Mary Washington College for a Bachelor of Art in Anthropology and Sociology. Previously, for three and a half years she worked for a

community-based program in Montgomery County, Maryland to provide intensive mentoring and supervision services to youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Ann supervised recent college graduates dedicating a year of National Service through AmeriCorps to advocate for youth in court, provide informal

counseling and crisis intervention in their homes, mentor youth in school, and lead recreational activities. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Peace Operations at George Mason University's School of Public Policy with a focus on international intervention in conflicted environments. Ann said, "I am honored to contribute to the existing diversity at OCA as a Chru indigenous ethnic minority of Vietnam. I hope to continue my work around the world to advocate for youth facing challenges and violence in their communities and am excited for this new opportunity to join the Gates Millennium Scholars/APIA program at OCA."



Douglas Lee joined the OCA National staff as Program Manager at the end of May 2005. He is a recent graduate from the University of Virginia (UVA) and received a B.S. in Civil Engineering. He is also the first recipient of the newly-established Asian Pacific

American Studies Minor. Prior to working at OCA, he was an OCA 2004 Summer intern and placed in the Bureau of Land Management at the Department of Interior. Raised in Springfield, Virginia, Doug has been active in the APIA community since he attended an OCA sponsored APIAU: Leadership 101 training at George Mason during his first year. He served as the chair and advisor to the Peer Advising and Family Network (PAFN), a program that provides support for transitioning Asian and Asian Pacific American students to UVA. He spent a majority of his time at UVA involved with the East Coast Asian American Student Union (ECAASU) conference and has served as the Programming co-Chair in charge of workshops, keynote speakers and schedule. He was one of the first interns for the Kaleidoscope Center for Cultural Fluency, UVA's diversity center and organized and executed a panel on affirmative action. He was also active in the Asian Student Union in advocating for the Asian Pacific American Studies minor and planning for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. He hopes to pursue his passion through the field of higher education or public policy in the future.



Mingchee Wen is the new Program Assistant and began working at the office at the end of May. Prior to coming to OCA, she worked for the Montgomery County Government as part of the senior citizen "Transition

into the Workplace" program. Her work experience also includes interning at the Library of Congress with responsibility for programming statistical reports into the database and serving as a Math Tutor/Student Aide for students at Montgomery College. Mingchee graduated in 2002 from Montgomery College with honors with an Associate of Arts Degree (majoring in Computer Science) and was the recipient of the Outstanding Work Performance Award as a Montgomery College Student Employee in 2001. In 2002, she was one of the top five at the National Mathematics Competition at Montgomery College in 2001.

After two years as Director of Programs at the OCA National Office, **Vana Tran** has left to pursue a wide range of career goals. During her tenure at OCA, she worked with a dozen facilitators to train over 600 college students each year at 12 leadership conferences as part of OCA's APIAU: Leadership 101 program funded by State Farm. She also streamlined the scholarship intake system and processing of over 4,000 applications during the last two years, as well as managed the OCA internship program. Vana took on additional responsibilities of managing the OCA membership database and dues collection system. Her legacy will be the documentation process and templates developed for all the programs that were under her responsibility. She is currently at The Princeton Review's D.C. office where she is the Director of High School Programs.



Namrata Mujundar joined OCA as a Policy Advocate in June immediately after graduation from the Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Bachelor of Arts in Finance and Political Science. Last fall,

she was a field organizer in Morgan County to elect John Kerry and all Democrats by executing state and national field plans and building a volunteer base for campaign activities. She also served as a Resident Advisor at the John Glenn Institute Living Learning Program. In this capacity she, enhanced a community for 52 residents through one-on-one interaction, programming events, and enforcement of Residence Life policies and procedures. Namrata interned in the Government Affairs office for Limited Brands and as well as for the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on the Budget. Namrata was first introduced to OCA when she was president of the Asian Business Student Association.

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Keith McAllister, Technology

In the early growing stages of OCA when the National Office was located on Eye Street, we were equipped with all the latest technology, which included a fax machine, a few phones, a typewriter (a computer-like machine without a screen), one DOS computer and an air conditioning unit that had to be turned off if you needed to use the fax machine. Fortunately, those days have passed. The fax machine eventually died and we finally had to let go of OCA's first computer. The organization has now grown to the point where the days of Excel spreadsheets and multiple database programs are also behind us.

Last year, OCA National embarked on a technology overhaul. In conjunction with the OCA-GMS scholarship program, we were able to identify a new database application that would allow both offices to consolidate its many separated lists into one single database. Having all of our current data in one place will allow staff to monitor trends, run reports and make cross correlations with large amounts of data that drive our membership lists, press contacts, college outreach, coalition partners, community activists, student networks, GMS scholars and a myriad of other related groups.

OCA is transitioning into an Association Membership System, developed by ARC Solutions. What does this mean for OCA? In the very near future, local chapters will have the ability to update and submit their membership lists online, and manage and run reports from the comfort of a local web browser. In centralizing OCA's database, the goal of standardizing a membership process will soon be realized. Along with better data management, OCA is also looking to provide more chapter functionality with increased online features such as event management. The office will be working with the chapters in getting their membership lists online in the next six months.

THE MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE



Anh Phan, Communications

In considering the medium of OCA—the web, e-mail, newspaper articles or radio—it is worth reflecting on the message of OCA. We are a civil rights advocacy and education organization and that permeates everything I do.

Hate Crime Prevention Events

I enjoyed traveling to New York to participate in the OCA-Long Island chapter's first two Allstate Hate Crimes events and look forward to their future events later on this year. I am expecting great things from the four chapters that received grants from Allstate. Next up is the first of Wisconsin Chapter's Hate Crime Prevention events. With the Chai Vang trial coming up at the end of summer, it becomes increasingly imperative to be proactive in preventing additional hate incidents.

Policy

Keeping up with legislation has kept me busy: drafting memos and action alerts on the Real ID Act; working with our colleagues on other immigrant-related legislation; submitting analysis of the DREAM Act, the "nuclear option" and comprehensive immigration reform to the

national board; working with our colleagues on the Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions bill; and monitoring the recently re-introduced hate crimes legislation. Also, I have been receiving further training on US Census responsibilities as OCA is a Census Information Center (CIC). This time, I took my co-workers David Chu and Bindi Patel with me.

Public Relations

Sadly, I have been writing too many obituaries of civil rights giants in the APA community. Other press releases seem rather matter-of-fact in comparison. Writing the stories of APA leaders who have passed on always seems to be a slower, more contemplative process.

Now that I have begun training in the matters of website maintenance, I will be rolling up my sleeves to update some of the pages on OCA's website that relate to my areas of communication and policy. One exciting feature I hope to implement is furthering the causes and message of OCA chapters that are on the front lines fighting hate media. This has been the most compelling medium and message combination this year by far.

* with apologies to Marshall McLuhan

BUILDING A STRONGER INFRASTRUCTURE—



David Chu, Development

ONE DOLLAR AT A TIME

This year marks another big step in OCA history. As OCA moves into its fourth decade of service to the APA community, we are creating an infrastructure to expand and build on the organization's successes. One of the major initiatives in the next few years is to purchase a permanent home for OCA, which will greatly enhance OCA's image and maximize our resources.

OCA's growth will not happen overnight without the support of OCA members, contributors and volunteers. The first step in this process is to diversify OCA's financial resources. This means increasing our membership, building on existing relationships with funders and generating new partnerships with corporations,

foundations and individuals. Currently, OCA's strategic partnerships have funded the following:

- OCA/JACL Leadership Conference – Now in its eleventh year, the conference brings together OCA and JACL members for a four-day conference in Washington, DC to learn about the legislative and political process, network with policy makers, and gain firsthand experience on public policy issues facing their communities.
- OCA/Allstate Hate Crimes Workshops – For the 2005 grant year, OCA will be working with the Long Island, Wisconsin, Greater Sacramento and Greater Dallas-Fort Worth chapters to educate these communities about hate crimes in order to better prepare them to respond to hate crimes when and if they happen in their communities.
- OCA/State Farm APIAU: Leadership 101 – During this past year, OCA

conducted workshops at 11 colleges/sites to empower students to fulfill their commitment to social change on behalf of the APA community.

- OCA Scholarship Program – Through various corporate funders, these programs give bright and highly motivated APA youth the opportunity to pursue higher education who otherwise could not afford to attend colleges and universities.
- OCA Internship Program – For over 15 years, OCA has provided outstanding APA college students an unique opportunity to work in federal agencies, on Capitol Hill, and in OCA's national headquarters in Washington D.C.

In the coming year, OCA will seek your assistance in raising funds to support the organization's operations, programs and/or the building campaign. Your contribution to OCA's development and growth will be a great legacy for your children and the APA community.

DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Doug Lee, Programs



The first quarter of the year had the OCA office staff bustling every weekend and criss-crossing the entire country. With the heart of all APIAU: Leadership 101 trainings scheduled for multiple weekends, the bulk of the organizing fell upon Keith McAllister as he added to his responsibilities during the transition of staff, and OCA's 2005 Spring interns Arthur Pang and Rennie Chan.

This year, over 600 students participated in 12 leadership conferences organized by

OCA and sponsored by State Farm®. In April, the national office began the process of evaluating over 800 scholarship applications (through the support of AVON, UPS, AXA and Verizon) with the goal of selecting 54 well deserving students. This upcoming year, we will continue to build upon the infrastructure of developing the next generation of leaders by strengthening OCA's college affiliate program. OCA looks forward to expanding our network of young activists in addressing the issues and concerns of the community.

MEET GALE AWAYA MCCALLUM, GMS/APIA PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Gale Awaya and Jim McCallum

Gale Awaya McCallum joined OCA in December 2000 to help launch the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) initiative for the Asian Pacific Islander American communities. What began as a three-month outreach assignment quickly mushroomed into a comprehensive scholarship program. Four and a half years later, Gale continues to serve as Program Director for the still expanding GMS/APIA program. The staff, which now includes six full time employees from the original 1.5, quickly outgrew their space and in April 2004 moved to its own suite one floor above OCA's main office.

Gale has worked with education and international exchange programs for more than 20 years. Her undergraduate and graduate degrees are in Education from the University of Hawaii. Before moving to Washington, D.C. in 1999, she worked at the East-West Center (EWC), an internationally recognized Honolulu-based education and research organization. During her EWC tenure, she served as a Congressional liaison, Community Relations Specialist. As a Program Officer, she administered student grants and fellowships, and organized international conferences and projects. She also directed the alumni program with more than 50,000 alumni around the world. She was the first Congressional Fellow from the East-West Center to serve in the office of Senator Daniel K. Inouye in 1994-95. Upon her move to D.C., she helped launch the new East-West Center office in Washington and coordinated a Congressional study group and seminar program on the Pacific Islands.

Gale served as a member of the original working group that established the Asian

and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) and sits on the APIASF Advisory Council.

One of the highlights of working on the GMS/APIA program is the opportunity to continue to learn more about the diverse APIA cultures as well as the populations represented by the GMS Partner organizations: the United Negro College Fund which administers GMS for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund in San Francisco and the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars in Albuquerque. She feels privileged to be working with outstanding and committed staff and volunteers in OCA and throughout the United States and the Pacific Islands in helping students attain higher education and contribute to their communities.

OCA is fortunate to also include Gale's husband, Jim McCallum, among its core volunteers. Both Gale and Jim, who is an avid gourmet cook and gardener, serve on the Board of the OCA-DC chapter.

Gates Millennium Scholars/Asian Pacific Islander Americans (GMS/APIA) thanks OCA chapters and members for their support and assistance with outreach for the 2005-2006 award year. Chapters and members helped in various ways, including:

- identifying eligible nominees
- announcing the GMS award in their chapter newsletters and chapter activities
- distributing nomination materials
- hosting information sessions and
- conducting workshops to help students with the online nomination process.

If chapters and members are interested in helping with outreach for the upcoming 2006-2007 award year, please contact Bindi Patel, GMS/APIA Outreach Coordinator, via email: gmsoutreach@ocanatl.org or phone: 866-274-4677 x5 (toll-free).



Thank you to Mary Sham of OCA-Long Island for her commitment to education and NYC's youth. At a recent graduation ceremony, Mary poses with Gates Millennium Scholars (l to r) Rong Hua Dai, Ming Yee Pang and Zhan Hang Yang.

2005 SPRING INTERNS

Arthur Pang, originally from Houston, TX, served as a Spring 2006 intern at the OCA National Office. Arthur worked diligently on organizing APIAU: Leadership 101 conferences nationwide, tracking membership dues submissions from chapters, assisting with the OCA building campaign and the processing of the Summer 2005 interns. At the National Office, his main focus was on APA outreach for OCA's youth programs and raising awareness of APA issues.



"I look forward to acquiring the skills and knowledge that comes from first hand experience of working directly with the APA community. I believe that this opportunity to work at OCA was an invaluable experience for me toward broadening my own knowledge of contemporary APA issues and helping APAs," said Arthur.

It was at Bellaire High School where he developed a passion for the Chinese language under the dedicated tutelage of Mrs. Susan Tsay. Upon graduation, he worked for Mayor Pro-tem Gordon Quan under the leadership of Rogene Calvert, the OCA-BAC Liaison. From his experience there, he gained his love of Asian Pacific American policy issues and public service. During this time he participated in logistics conferences which included translating Houston's voting ballot into Vietnamese and a "Rock the Vote" concert to reach out to young Houstonians not registered to vote. When asked what his most rewarding work at the Council Office was, Arthur recalls the joint effort of Councilmember Quan and the Houston Police Department to train officers who work in Houston's more diverse neighborhoods about cultural sensitivity and interacting with non-English speaking Houstonians.



Rennie Chan is from Monterey Park, California currently a senior at the University of California, Irvine, majoring in International Studies with a focus on global issues and institutions in the Asia/Pacific Rim, and a minor in Chinese Language and Literature. She is an active member of Students for Homeless Outreach United

Together (SHOUT); and participated in the International Asian Studies program in Hong Kong during the 2003-2004 school year. Rennie was a participant of the University of California Academic Internship program and interned at the OCA National Office this past Spring.

After taking a course last Fall, which focused on the voting patterns of citizens in the United States, she came to realize that almost little to no attention was placed on the Asian American community. She selected OCA because of her interest in learning more about the political participation of the Asian American community.

Living in a predominantly Asian community her whole life, Rennie felt surrounded by the efforts and success of Asian Americans. She wanted to be more familiar with the history of Asian Americans in the U.S. and be able to determine how she could add her efforts in helping Asian Americans pursue their interests and dreams in America.

Rennie's experience at OCA was a truly rewarding. Not only is she more familiar with issues such as the Real ID Act; she has also picked up many practical skills from the OCA staff. She and Arthur Pang were not only interns this spring, but two invaluable members of the staff and team at OCA National.

STAFF ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

OCA recognizes the following for their years of dedication and support as a staff member:

Christine Chen – 10 years

Keith McAllister – 10 years

Gale Awaya McCallum – 5 years

Donna Lacuesta Pascua – 5 years



FACE OFF: WHO IS THE MAN BEHIND THE FACES?

Corky Lee talks about the photos he provided for the series of mosaics designed for this year's convention theme "Faces of Diversity" and why he supports the OCA Internship Program.

By Giles Li

Corky Lee is the "Undisputed Unofficial Asian American Photographer Laureate." For the past 30 years, Corky has been trying to reflect the diverse cultures and communities of Asian Pacific Americans through the eyes of his camera. In the early seventies, Corky borrowed his first camera from his roommate and has since taken over 30,000 photos, capturing some of the most pivotal moments in APA history. Throughout his career, Corky Lee has been dedicated to bringing to light the essence of APA society. His photos vividly tell the story of struggle for Asian America. For generations, the community has regarded him as a legend because of his uncanny ability to find beauty and strength in all situations. He got his start as an organizer in college, and continues to inspire communities to keep fighting for the cause through his tireless dedication to representing APA communities accurately.

"If someone asked me what's happening, or what's that phrase, 'what's up?' I can tell them what's up, at least in Asian America."



Q: A composite of all four mosaics designed for the 2006 convention will be made into an original poster to be autographed and auctioned off by you at the Gala Awards banquet, with proceeds going to the OCA Internship Program. Why have you been so committed to supporting this program?

A: When speaking to Duy and Mia (2006 Convention co-Chairs), I didn't realize that Mia was an intern a couple years ago. I guess that sort of ties into why this campaign (auctioning of the poster) is important for this internship. Two, three years ago she was an intern, now she's president of the chapter hosting the conference. I guess the interns can go from interns to chapter presidents pretty easily. That says a lot about leadership, you need people like that, these former interns get to become what they are today.

She reminded me that I spoke, what, three years ago? She told me that she was really pretty moved and touched by what I had said, and I don't know if what I said gave her additional fuel to pursue additional traits, but if I did, then I guess what I said really worked. I look back on maybe three years ago, and I actually gave a pep talk. I didn't realize...

Q: During the 2002 OCA Convention in Salt Lake City, you auctioned off the photo that you took of the 300 or so convention attendees who made the trek to Promontory Point the day before. Any thoughts about that night?

A: One of the things I remember about raising \$3,300 that night was that I was sitting up on the dais and had mentioned that companies always talk about millions and billions of dollars, that these corporations were sitting right in front of me and should put their money where their mouth is, that they could afford to give \$500 dollars. At the same time, the interns were huddled together in one area. I remember they were jumping up and down like cheerleaders every time someone raised their hands to bid.

The couple who bought the photograph...it was the first OCA event that they had come to. They had been in the community for 10 years. One was a doctor, one was a lawyer. I don't know if I said anything or what, maybe it was the wine on the table. If I get hit by a Mac truck and end up six feet under, that's probably one of the things I'll remember, that \$3,300.

Q: So, when Mia and Duy approached you with the idea of providing the photos for this

year's convention logo, based the on the theme "Faces of Diversity," you agreed to do it. How did you go about getting all the photos used in the mosaics?

A: As far as the faces are concerned, I photographed people in Detroit, North Carolina, and from other parts of the country. I actually submitted a total of 912 photographs. I took them over a period of about three months.

At one point in Chinatown, I photographed probably two dozen teachers at the tail end of an OCA meeting. There are also some people from OCA that I ended up photographing, Long Island, New Jersey, Westchester; they were the easiest people to get to. I remember the last photographs of a Cambodian celebration of New Year. That's where I got the Asian baby, the only infant (in the group of photos).

I photographed some Arab Americans in Detroit; they have the largest Arab community. I learned how they got there. When Henry Ford started his business, Arabs moved to this place called Dearborn from wherever they were. And in Dearborn they are building a museum on the diverse nature of what Arabs have done, and in light of 9/11, I think that's important. They're pretty tight with the Japanese American museum in LA, so you have another example of diversity. Arab Americans, Japanese Americans, both groups were racially profiled in our history, but there's a commonality.

One of the photographs I submitted was Captain James Yee, the Chinese Muslim. I even submitted some photos from last year's convention in Boston. But to select 900 photographs of individuals is pretty intense. I even have photographs of the actress Kelly Hu. If you look hard enough at the poster, you should recognize some of these people.

Q: Over the years, how have people reacted to your work and the photos you've taken?

A: It's interesting what people like about the photos, my work. This guy wanted to buy the one taken in the garment factory for his wife. Her mother worked as a seamstress and she used to go do her homework after school in the garment factory, just like in the photo. That's one of the most rewarding things, is when people tell you the memories it brings up.

Q: What's it like being Corky Lee?

A: It's tough being Corky Lee. There are demands on me that I think the average person shouldn't take on. On Friday, I photographed a banquet of Filipino WWII vets where they had set places for those who have passed away. There was a piece of lemon on the plates to symbolize the bitterness of not being treated equally in their lifetime, and it was very touching. It's one of those things you want to put in a bottle. But for me it'll be a big bottle. Or a whole bunch of bottles. Then on Saturday I photographed the rapper Jin's birthday party. It's not like he had a cake, he was giving out buckets of chicken! And I also took photos of Miss Info, you know Hot 97? She's got her own show now on Hot 97.

If someone asked me what's happening, or what's that phrase, 'what's up?' I can tell them what's up, at least in Asian America. You go from a banquet for Filipino veterans to Jin's birthday, how much more diverse can I get? I guess you want to put that in a bottle—the diversity of Corky Lee.

**BE THE ONLY ONE IN
THE WORLD TO OWN
AN ORIGINAL FRAMED
AND AUTOGRAPHED
OCA 2005 CONVENTION
THEME POSTER!**

Don't pass up the opportunity of a lifetime to own an original framed convention theme poster autographed by Corky Lee. The poster is a composite of all four mosaics designed by Gari Gregorio around the 2005 convention theme, "Faces of Diversity," using the more than 900 photographs donated by Corky. **Only ONE copy of this poster will be produced; NO COPIES OR REPRODUCTION WILL BE MADE.**

The poster will be auctioned at the OCA National Convention during the Gala Awards Banquet on Saturday, July 31st. All proceeds will go towards the OCA Internship Program. Corky will be on hand to personally autograph and make the presentation to the winner.

OCA AND JACL MEMBERS BOND AT 12TH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 12th annual JACL/OCA Leadership Conference, created to educate members from both organizations about the political process through various workshops and seminars, took place in Washington, DC on March 5-8. Participants from all over the country come to attend the conference and subsequently form a large network that will be essential to future collaboration on projects and community concerns. In addition to meeting prominent Asian Pacific Americans from Capitol Hill and various government agencies who are invited to speak, participants also have an opportunity to meet with the civil rights colleagues who work with OCA on a daily basis. Aside from gaining valuable advice and first-hand accounts of the speakers' experiences, participants also gain an understanding of the importance of coalition building.

OCA-Northern Virginia Chapter President Ann Marie Meegan remarked that the leadership conference was one of the best she has attended and that she will continue to "apply what I've learned as I interview to be the Director of a nonprofit."

"State Farm shares these organizations' view that grassroots leadership is key to social and political action that ensures the development of strong APA communities. Through an awareness of issues from legislators and staffers, the national political process, and networking with other chapter leaders, the Conference provides an impactful experience that participants can share with their local chapters. State Farm is proud to sponsor this important pipeline called the JACL/OCA Leadership Conference," said State Farm's Corporate Relations Manager, Leslie Moe-Kaiser.

"The conference was a unique opportunity to convene not only for the purpose of receiving invaluable technical information and training, but to be directly inspired by so many accomplished leaders and experts," said OCA-Greater Los Angeles board member Tom L. Hayashi. "Not only was the presence of prominent guest speakers, such as Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta and The Honorable Neil Abercrombie an inspiration, but their words were also a



JACL/OCA Class of 2005

Chu Lan Schubert-Kwok Photo

reassurance of the political force that APAs have established over the years."

"[The Leadership Conference] went beyond merely a learning process – rather [it was] a journey of being inspired by selfless public servants who are the soul of this beautiful country," said OCA-Delaware Chapter President Pingsheng Ken Hu.

Seminars and workshops were not the only events on the agenda. After-hour activities, such as Karaoke Night with Congressman Mike Honda and trips to the Smithsonian and Capitol Hill created new acquaintances and friendships among OCA and JACL members. During the visit to the Hill, attendees had an opportunity to meet and hear speakers, including U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye (HI), U.S. Representatives Neil Abercrombie (HI), Xavier Becerra (CA), Madeleine Bordallo (GUAM), Mike Honda (CA), Jim McDermott (WA), Adam Schiff (CA), and Christopher Van Hollen (MD).

The learning experience did not end at the conference. OCA-Northern Virginia Chapter



Ginny Gong with U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta

board member Jeannie Ho described the conference as an invaluable experience because it made her aware of the many approaches one can take when working on APA issues. OCA-San Mateo board member William C. Kwong said the conference exceeded his expectations. He felt the best part of the conference were the other participants, adding that the people he met are "folks he can count on in the future as friends and colleagues."

OCA-New York board member Susan Wong said, "I have learned so much that I am still overwhelmed with this entire experience. I would encourage all OCA members to take part in opportunities such as this JACL/OCA Leadership Conference."

Editor's Note: JACL began the leadership conference in Washington, D.C. in the early 1980s. OCA later joined their efforts in 1994 and the two organizations now jointly organize the five-day conference, funded by State Farm®. The conference is now known as the JACL/OCA Leadership Conference.



State Farm representative Leslie Moe-Kaiser with conference speakers

FOUR OCA CHAPTERS AWARDED HATE CRIMES PREVENTION GRANTS



"OCA-Long Island chapter sponsored a conference on bias crimes titled 'Abetting Hate, Abating Hate.' The message to the audience was, 'Don't remain silent about hate crimes in your community because that supports those who commit them. Here's how YOU can STOP hate crimes.'"

OCA National and the Allstate Foundation are pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Allstate Foundation Hate Crimes Prevention grants. As in previous years, the generous support from the Allstate Foundation will increase OCA's reputation as a valuable resource for the Asian Pacific American community and their local general community when fighting hate crimes.

Congratulations go to the OCA-Dallas-Fort Worth, OCA-Long Island, OCA-Sacramento and OCA- Wisconsin chapters.

These communities can look forward to an array of events this year. In Wisconsin, the Hmong shooting incident that left six Caucasian hunters dead resulted in a series of hate incidents ranging from threats to graffiti and vandalism. The Wisconsin chapter plans to address some of these issues with an open forum, statewide hate crime prevention workshops and a lecture series featuring Dean Frank Wu of Wayne State University's Law School.

OCA-Long Island arranged a series of events culminating with the co-sponsorship of a major law enforcement and educator's

conference on bias crimes with the Suffolk Association for Jewish Educational Services.

OCA-Sacramento is planning events around the anniversary of the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The events were all selected for their emphasis on public involvement.

OCA Dallas-Ft. Worth will be pulling in a broad spectrum of people reflecting the ethnic diversity of that community for their hate crime prevention event.

"This strong partnership with OCA supports the Allstate Foundation's national efforts to end hate crimes. By working together, we hope to heighten the reputation of OCA as a leading advocate for social justice and encourage people to take appropriate action when faced with this horrible crime," said Jan Epstein, Executive Director of the Allstate Foundation. "I am very happy to see OCA's continuous efforts in the fight against hate crimes."

The caliber of this year's competition made it especially difficult to choose the recipient chapters who were selected on the basis of the quality of their response to a competitive RFP process. This is the first time the application process has been conducted electronically. Due to the favorable response, this method will be used for selected future grant applications as well. The four grantees have until the end of the year to execute their visions for community hate crimes prevention events. Some of the various events to look forward to are community forums, guest speakers and a series of lectures.

The Allstate Foundation and OCA have been partners in fighting hate crimes since 2001.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DREAM ACT

Passed April 23, 2005

- Whereas: OCA strives toward embracing the hopes and aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States; and
- Whereas: OCA supports any and all efforts to expand education for students who desire it; and
- Whereas: OCA recognizes the invaluable contribution of immigrants to the economy and educational systems of the United States; and
- Whereas: Many immigrant students have grown up in the U.S., excelled in high school, and shown the drive and potential to attend college,
- Whereas: These immigrant students have come to the U.S. with their parents, most without any control over their immigrant status,
- Whereas: These students deserve to be judged according to their own character and merit, regardless of their country of birth or immigrant status, and should have an equal opportunity to pursue higher education, and contribute to and become citizens of the country they call home, the United States; and
- Whereas: The DREAM Act would repeal section 505 of the Illegal Immigration and Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 which discourages states from providing in-state tuition or other higher education benefits without regard to immigration status; and
- Whereas: The DREAM Act would further grant immigrant students who qualify, the opportunity to apply for conditional permanent resident status upon acceptance to college, graduation from high school, or being awarded a general equivalency diploma and granted lawful permanent resident status after having met the required criteria; and
- Whereas: The DREAM Act already has more than 40 cosponsors from both parties in the Senate and the Student Adjustment Act has a bipartisan list of more than 130 cosponsors in the House.
- Therefore: BE IT RESOLVED, that OCA supports the DREAM Act which will provide immigrant students with a pathway towards lawful permanent resident status, open up opportunities for higher education and encourage them to become proud and productive role models in their community by giving back through community service; and
- Further: BE IT RESOLVED, that OCA will continue to recognize the diversity that immigrants from all over the world bring to the United States, the positive contributions they have made and the legacy they are leaving for the future generation, regardless of their immigration status.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE REAL ID ACT

Passed April 23, 2005

OCA is a national civil rights advocacy and educational organization dedicated to advancing the social, political and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) through legislative and policy initiatives at all levels of government, and to bettering the lives of the more than 12 million APAs across the country.

OCA represents APAs who are concerned about the country's future with respect to national security and protecting our country's borders. OCA recognizes the need for national security measures to protect our country against terrorist activity. OCA supports comprehensive reform of U.S. immigration laws. As an underlying principle, OCA supports federal laws to protect against terrorist entry, and applauds efforts of Congress to enact enhanced security measures designed to identify terrorist activity, based on actions, rather than race or ethnicity. Any measures, however, must be consistent with the American tradition of individual rights and liberties.

OCA is deeply concerned that the Real ID Act of 2005 imposes unreasonable burdens on our nation's immigrants, and significantly undermines fundamental due process and basic fairness in our immigration system, while doing little to enhance our safety or reform our immigration system.

- Whereas: Approximately 60% of APAs were born outside of the United States, and
- Whereas: APAs are a diverse mix of native-born and naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents, refugees and asylees, and
- Whereas: OCA opposes enactment of laws that are discriminatory against our community, unduly infringe upon our privacy, or create barriers to APAs who seek driver's licenses, and
- Whereas: OCA supports strong hate crime laws and does not support asylum laws requiring asylees to prove central motive of the persecutor's intent, and
- Whereas: OCA always supports a person's right to due process, and
- Whereas: OCA opposes all instances of guilt by association, and
- Whereas: OCA believes that immigration enforcement should not be the responsibility of private bounty hunters, and
- Whereas: OCA believes that the Real ID Act of 2005 undermines the principles OCA promotes,
- Therefore: BE IT RESOLVED, OCA joins the over 600 recognized civil rights advocacy, civic, APA and business organizations, and opposes the passage of the Real ID Act of 2005.



OCA CHAPTERS CELEBRATE APA HERITAGE MONTH

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The **OCA-Sacramento chapter** and three other APA organizations joined together with the Muslim community to hold a fundraising event for Chaplain James Yee on May 14. The OCA-Sacramento Chapter showed a documentary film about Chaplain Yee at Shahrzad Restaurant.

The **OCA-San Francisco Bay chapter** joined with nearly 40 community organizations and individuals to form the APA Heritage Celebration Committee, a consortium of nonprofit organizations, community activists and officials dedicated to planning and coordinating programs and activities for the annual celebration of APAHM in San Francisco. Founded by OCA Past

National President Claudine Cheng, the committee organized the first annual APAHM Mayor's Proclamation Signing Ceremony and Reception held at City Hall with nearly 1,000 people in attendance to enjoy food, music, and performances from the various APA communities in San Francisco as well as an exhibit of photographs depicting the theme "Celebrating Heritage, Celebrating Generations." The committee also produced a calendar poster listing citywide APAHM events by APA community organizations and groups; produced an ad that was posted on 200 public buses and trolleys; and developed a website at www.apiaheritagesf.org to promote APAHM in San Francisco. The chapter then hosted a National Legislative Issues and Public Affairs

Briefing, followed by a reception, on May 5 with OCA National President Ginny Gong and U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Michael Yaki. Also present were representatives from the offices of Senators Feinstein and Boxer, Congresswoman Pelosi and Governor Schwarzenegger.

The **OCA- Central Illinois chapter** hosted a panel discussion on intercultural marriage. The public was invited to attend an engaging discussion on culture and diversity and learn more about Asian Pacific American heritage and values. The panelists included four married couples who shared their perspectives and experiences with bringing two cultures together under the same roof. Complexities exist within any relationship,



Brenda Lee Photo

Heritage Month proclamation ceremony at San Francisco City Hall was well attended by State and local elected and appointed officials, including OCA Past National President Claudine Cheng (center) and OCA-East Bay board member Norman Hui (far right).



Brenda Lee Photo

OCA-SFB Chapter President Pat Din (far right) and chapter member Karen Law (far left) with a few of the 60 children who participated in the proclamation ceremony at City Hall.



(l to r) At Union Square Park, OCA-Long Island members Gene Woo, Gladys Yan, Dorothy Wong, Joesph Yee and Kwong Eng.



Pearl Dong Photo
Mother and her Chinese American daughter enjoy Heritage Month festivities in NYC.



OCA-LI Photo
CUNY Queens College School of Law luncheon with (l to r) the Dean of the CUNY School of Law, makes a presentation to Chaplain James Yee, standing with OCA-LI Executive VP Gladys Yan, businessman Peter Koo and CUNY School of Law's Dean of Students, Frank Shih.

but the couples explained additional challenges of intercultural marriages. From everyday basics like language, food, finances, and politics, to topics such as male/female roles, religion and raising children, this program examined the adventures of crossing cultures faced by intercultural couples.

For more than eight years, **OCA-Dallas Ft. Worth** has hosted an annual Feed the Homeless program. This year, to help celebrate their blessings during APAHM, the Union Gospel Mission and the chapter served Chinese food to over 400 guests during two lunch shifts. The Union Gospel Mission is home to homeless women and their children and includes a separate housing facility for men and a kitchen to serve other homeless in the Fort Worth area. Through their various fundraising efforts, including matching sponsorship by Verizon, the chapter negotiated with area restaurants for enough Chinese food to feed over 400 guests. OCA-Dallas Ft. Worth board and members and their

families, along with Verizon volunteers gave a break to the kitchen staff and served lunch to all of the Mission's residences and guests. OCA-DFW, as always, was welcomed at the Mission and the chapter members received a tremendous amount of thanks from the residences and the entire staff.

The **OCA-Long Island chapter** staffed a booth at the 26th Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival in Union Square Park, New York City. The festival is the largest pan-Asian outdoor festival on the East Coast with live music, martial arts, film screenings, children's activities, arts and crafts and over 100 participating organizations.



(l to r) OCA-DFW members Julie Hwang, Shannon Chen, Jun Zhang and Jeffrey Cheng at the Dallas Asian Festival.



Jeffrey Cheng Photo
"At your service" for the Feed the Homeless event. (l to r) Front: Louis Lai, Karen F. Liu, Jodie Nguyen, Jackie To, Karen H. Liu, Gerald Napoles. Back: Richard Chang, Tommy Vu, Julie Hwang.



DFW board and volunteers along with the Fort Worth Union Gospel staff served over 400 guests at the Feed the Homeless.

The **OCA-Cleveland chapter** commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the Ending of World War II with honors to APA war veterans and civilians. Major Jesse Baltazar, retired Filipino American WW II Air Force Officer and survivor of the Bataan Death March also served as keynote speaker. The event was held on May 28 at Cleveland City Hall.

In Pembroke Pines, FL, the **OCA-South Florida chapter**, in partnership with the Veterans Allied Association, observed Memorial Day at Sandy Niniger's Veteran Nursing Home. The chapter presented a program that featured Asian folk dancing, Chinese kung-fu demonstrations and music

EDUCATION

The **OCA-Columbus chapter** sponsored an exhibition at the Columbus Metro Library-downtown main library. All display items were provided by the OCA-Columbus chapter members. To ensure the best use of the display areas, the members decided to concentrate on traditional Chinese education, life, medicine, art and artifacts. The exhibit was on display throughout the month of May.

OCA-South Florida presented an exhibition at the Southeast Regional Library in Coral Springs. Along with the Coral Springs Chinese Culture Association, Ikebana International, the local Indian community, NAYNAY, Inc., Polynesian Cultural Association and Motorola's Asian Business Council, the chapter organized a program that included folk and lion dancing, origami and a feast of Asian food.

OCA-Chicago unveiled their eighth in a series APAHM commemorative bookmarks. This year's theme was "Eat, Drink, and Be Merry." To carry out the theme and incorporate the Chinese horoscope symbol of this year, the bookmark doubles as a recipe card for cooking chicken recipes. The bookmarks were distributed free of charge to libraries, schools and stores throughout the Chicago area.

In Houston, a special tour of "Unlikely Liberators" and "Sugihara: Japanese Righteous Gentile" took place on May 18th at the Holocaust Museum Houston. "Unlikely Liberators" is an exhibition documenting the story of Japanese American and African American soldiers who courageously participated in the liberation of the concentration camps of Europe. The evening included a special look at the exhibit "Sugihara: Japanese Righteous Gentile," an exhibit of rare documents and artifacts on loan from Edith Hamer, a Holocaust Museum docent who was rescued by Japanese Diplomat Chiune Sugihara. Hamer spoke about the artifacts and how Sugihara saved her family from almost certain death at the hands of the Nazis. The event was a People 4 People project co-sponsored by the Holocaust Museum Houston, the OCA-Greater Houston chapter and the Japanese American Citizens' League.

OCA-Dallas-Ft. Worth hosts an annual Scholarship Essay Contest opened to all high school 11th and 12th graders in the Dallas/Fort Worth area school districts. Each year, the winners are announced in May, in conjunction with celebration of APAHM. This year, seven awardees were selected and the first, second and third place winners received scholarship awards of \$1500, \$750, and \$500 each. Every year the chapter partners with local sponsors like Citi Cards and State Farm to host a Scholarship Fundraising Golf Tournament. Another committee selects an essay topic and distributes the essay contest rules to all Dallas/Ft. Worth area high schools. The committee also reads and selects the scholarship awardees. OCA-DFW then hosts a local business exchange, where the scholarship funds are distributed. "We're very proud of all the participants and especially happy to provide these scholarships to such desiring students," says Karen H. Liu, OCA-DFW board member and event chair.

OCA-San Francisco Bay joined with other community groups and companies to

provide scholarships to students through the Ronald McDonald House Charities Scholarship Awards. Pat Din, OCA-SF Bay Chapter President, also helped with the selection process and the administering of the awards which were presented at City Hall on May 26. She was also this year's guest speaker and helped Special present special scholarships to selected APA students interested in a career in public service in memory of the late Congressman Robert Matsui.

The **OCA-San Mateo County chapter** awarded nine scholarships at their awards luncheon on May 15 at the San Mateo Senior Center.

The **OCA-New Jersey chapter** took a break from fighting hate radio to award scholarships at their scholarship luncheon.

CULTURE

OCA-Greater Houston, the National Asian American Telecommunications Association, and PBS co-hosted a Media Day reception to highlight the contributions of APAs and to foster the continued community partnerships amongst APIA organizations in Houston. Held as a part of OCA-Greater Houston's monthly film screenings, the evening reception included welcome remarks from City of Houston Council Members Gordon Quan and M.J. Khan and a town hall meeting on the Veterans Equity Bill with Sonny Izon, the director of "Untold Triumph" a film about Filipino American War Veterans immediately following the screening of the film. PBS was there with their camera crew recording various APA community leaders on the impact PBS has had on the APA community. The event drew a crowd of 125 different APA community leaders and was a showcase for the impact that APA films can have on the community and the importance of PBS being a forum for ensuring that our stories are told. To celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the designation of May as APAHM and honor Greater Houston's cultural diversity, a fun-filled event welcomed all Houstonians to the heart of Asiatown on Bellaire at Boone

in the US/International Center. The event highlighted OCAs' role in establishing the designation of May as APAHM and served as the kick-off event for the new local mini-magazine, 4A—Art, Awareness, Advocacy, Activism. The OCA-Greater Houston chapter organized the first annual night market and festival in Houston with Asian vendors and festive decorations reminiscent of an Asian bazaar or night market and a stage for public karaoke

OCA-Greater Sacramento staffed a booth at an annual street fair for APAHM which drew more than 20,000 attendees.

OCA-San Mateo County held a cultural event at the San Mateo Public Library that featured storytelling, folk dance and martial arts demonstrations.

The **OCA-Eastern Virginia chapter** held a cultural celebration at the MacArther Foundation in Norfolk, VA with speeches, folk dancing, music and food from all over Asia.

On May 28th, the **OCA-Westchester Hudson Valley chapter** held their Seventh Annual Asian American Heritage Festival, a county-wide event that has seen attendance exceed 2,000 visitors in previous years. Among the program highlights were Korean, Chinese, Japanese and Malaysian dancing, a lion dance, martial arts and Chinese instrument performances. There were also local vendors selling ethnic Asian food and goods, as well a free medical and dental clinic. Young OCA-Westchester Hudson Valley members operated a booth with face painting and activities for children.

The Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce, in association with State Farm, hosts an Asian Festival with participation from over 100 Asian community groups and other organizations. OCA-Dallas-Fort Worth hosted an information booth. On three separate open theaters, various Asian cultural dances and events are held and a wide assortment of culinary delights available for sampling. Festival attendance was free of charge and attracted 12,000



OCA-GS Photo

OCA National President Ginny Gong at OCA-Greater Sacramento's 10th anniversary gala.



OCA-GS Photo

OCA-GS Chapter President Linda Ng (third from left) with banquet sponsors from Allstate State Farm, and Pacific Gas & Electric Company.



OCA-GS Photo

The twin daughters of OCA-GS members Rung Fung and Dwan Chun Hsu provided entertainment for the evening.



OCA-GS Photo

(l to r) Featured speaker Congressman Mike Honda, Ginny Gong, and OCA-East Bay Chapter President Joe Wong at OCA-GS's event.

guests and participants. OCA-DFW has a close working relationship with both the Great Dallas Asian Chamber of Commerce and State Farm.

SOCIAL

The OCA-Greater Sacramento chapter's 10th Anniversary Celebration and Dragon Boat Festival was held on May 7 and began with wine tasting provided by six wineries and vendor exhibits. Dinner and entertainment followed with OCA National President Ginny Gong and Congressman Mike Honda addressing the audience. The chapter honored Cecilia Chang, civil rights advocate for Dr. Wen Ho Lee and Chaplain James Yee, provided four scholarships to area students attending college in the fall and honored the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center as a community partner. Entertainment included karaoke (a favorite of Congressman Honda) and ballroom dancing. Over 400 people attended the festivities.

OCA-South Florida chapter's Excellence Awards banquet was an APAHM

kick-off event to recognize outstanding Chinese Americans and others who have made significant contributions to the quality of life for the South Florida community. The honorees were Zona & Wayne Ho Sang, Tommy Lam, Janet Launcelott, PhD; Su Luo and Antonio Wong, MD. The keynote speaker was the Honorable Samuel Mok, Chief Financial Officer of U.S. Department of Labor.

OCA-Long Island participated in a victory celebration for Chaplain James Yee's complete exoneration and attended a viewing of the movie, "The Year of the Yao." OCA-LI supported Asian American arts by getting together a theater party to attend the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre's "China Doll" – the re-imagined life of the first famous Asian American actress, Anna May Wong.

OCA-San Mateo County members participated in an APAHM themed mixer/happy hour with Oriented.com and the Chinese Historical Society of America at the CHSA Museum in San Francisco.

OCA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

OCA congratulates the following members for their accomplishments.



Linda Ng

Appointed to California Commission

OCA-Greater Sacramento Chapter President Linda Ng was appointed to the Fair Employment and Housing Commission on February 23, 2005, pending Senate confirmation. The Commission enforces California's civil rights laws regarding discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations; pregnancy disability leave; family and medical leave, and hate violence. The Commission engages in four primary activities: administrative adjudication; regulations; legislation; and public information and training. Linda is a Housing Representative for the California Department of Housing, Community and Development, where she provides financial assistance to affordable housing development projects. Prior to joining the public service ranks, Linda worked 20 years in the private sector for the banking and lending industry.



Jerry Lee

Selected as UPS Congressional Coordinator of the Year

Jerry Lee, OCA-SF Bay board member, was Chairman. This is a national award, presented by UPS Public Affairs to the District Congressional Awareness Coordinator with the best overall results and relationships with local Congressional Leaders. The award was presented to Jerry in February in Washington, DC.



Amy Tong

Appointed to Advisory Council

Amy Tong, OCA-Greater Sacramento board member, was appointed to the California Exposition and State Fair Board of Directors' Advisory Council to address the areas of culture, art and agriculture. Comprising of three members, the Council was established to enhance the outreach efforts of the Board and staff in the communities each serves throughout the State; to advise the Board on matters pertaining to multi-cultural, youth, agricultural and art programs related to education, entertainment and other activities at the annual California State Fair; and to support Board objectives to showcase a broad range of activities during the annual State Fair as well as throughout the year at Cal Expo. Amy is an IT Project Manager for the State Water Resources Board.

If you, or another OCA member you know has received an award, been appointed or elected to serve in public office, or recognized for outstanding work or accomplishments, we want to know! Please submit a short description or summary (no more than 150 words), along with a photo to Anh Phan at aphan@ocanatl.org, or send to OCA IMAGE, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 601, Washington, DC 20036.

APIA SUMMIT CONVENED ON CAPITOL HILL

The second Asian Pacific Islander American Summit was co-hosted by the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) on Tuesday May 17, in Washington, D.C. The first summit was convened by OCA over 10 years ago in 1994 and held in Los Angeles during the OCA National Convention. This year's summit provided an opportunity for Members of Congress, state and local elected officials, educators, community leaders, students, business professionals, and advocates to gather to share and exchange ideas regarding the most significant legislative issues affecting the Asian Pacific Islander American community.

"Having an APA presence on Capitol Hill is important for the political empowerment of our community and makes a concrete statement to the political leaders that APAs do take civic participation seriously," said Daphne Kwok, APAICS Executive Director and former OCA- Northern Virginia chapter president. "The APAICS/NCAPA and CAPAC Congressional Hill Summit made a very tangible presence. With 10 Members of Congress in participation, we were worthy of their time. Next year, let's double or triple the participation of the APA participants and the Members of Congress! Hopefully in the not too distant future we will have 1,000 APAs on Capitol Hill and will have ALL Congressional leaders stopping by to greet us!"

Congressman Mike Honda (CA-15), CAPAC Chair, gave the opening address, followed by comments from APAICS Chair Clayton Fong, OCA Executive Director Christine Chen representing the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) and Frances Nam of Sodexo USA "As Chair of CAPAC, I am pleased to have a coalition support from APAICS and NCAPA that made the APIA Summit a success. The APIA Summit is a milestone for CAPAC and its members as we continue to address the disparities that

exist in our community. We will listen to the concerns of the community by keeping an open dialogue with community leaders and local elected officials," said Honda.

Members of CAPAC stopped by throughout the day to provide their perspective on the issues that matter to the APIA community, including Representatives Neil Abercrombie (HI-01), Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Joseph Crowley (NY-07), Barbara Lee (CA-09), Jim McDermott (WA-07), Grace Napolitano (CA-38), Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), and Hilda Solis (CA-32). One of the topics discussed was the impact of Social Security and Medicaid on APIAs. Abercrombie and Becerra spoke against privatization of Social Security and expressed concerns with the impact privatization would have on this segment of the population. The proposal would cut guaranteed social security benefits by 40% for senior citizens. Newer immigrants would get the short end because they would not have the benefit of history. This proposal would overlook many of the immigrants that cannot be governmentally tracked. Many APIA immigrants receive below the average social security benefit of \$950 a month.

Another topic addressed was the state of education among APIAs. Khin Mai Aung, Staff Attorney with the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Kevin Kumashiro, a Senior Program Specialist at the Office of Human and Civil Rights in the National Education Association, Hawaii State Representative Maile Shimabukuro, and Debbie Wei, Curriculum Specialist, Philadelphia School District, all spoke about the state of education among APIAs. Kumashiro stressed the need to pay more attention to the stories that are told to children because many times they carry complex and underlying meanings, which may feed into stereotypes.

The consensus of the speakers was that the model minority stereotype definitely has an impact on APIAs. Although some APIAs may have higher overall income, the breakdown



Christine Chen and Kevin Kumashiro speak about the state of education among APIAs at the Summit.

between ethnicities is vastly below the average income. They recommended that policy makers should pay attention to desegregated data to gain a more accurate picture of educational status among APIAs.

The last session featured a panel represented by Betty Wu, Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs, Alhambra City Council Member Gary Yamauchi, Sandy Dang, Executive Director of Asian American LEAD, and Marisa Castro-Salvati, Deputy Director of Public Affairs for Southern California Edison. The conversation focused on the various resources that could be tapped for the community.

The summit concluded with a White House Briefing with Ed Moy, Special Assistant to the President and Associate Director for the Office of Presidential Personnel, and Eddie Badrina, Executive Director for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Badrina outlined the Initiative's goals for the year, and Moy shared his experience working with the President for the last four years and how he came to be in charge of Presidential Personnel. "The Asian Pacific Islander American Summit provided a vital opportunity for Members of Congress to listen to community leaders and local elected officials speak on the issues and disparities affecting the APIA community," said Becerra. "As we move forward to find solutions to the challenges we discussed, I am confident that the members of the APIA community will provide the fundamental leadership necessary to promote political awareness and empowerment."



Comprehensive Immigration

The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act (SAOIA) of 2005, Senate bill S.1033, was introduced May 12 by Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and John McCain (R-AZ), and Representatives Jim Kolbe (R-AZ), Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Luis Gutierrez (D-IL).

In February of 2004, the OCA National Board passed a resolution to support humane immigration reform that takes into account the preservation of national security and the economic well-being of the U.S. OCA supports comprehensive immigration reform that:

- Reduces or eliminates the tremendous backlog in family immigration by splitting visa requirements and alleviating pressure on visa quotas, thus speeding up the reunification of family members;
- Provides a path to lawful permanent residence for undocumented immigrants who are hard-working, who have paid or are willing to pay taxes, have learned or are willing to learn English and civics and have undergone security checks;
- Creates legal and orderly processes for people who want to come to the United States to work, either temporarily or permanently, in such a way that provides strong protections for both immigrant and US workers; and
- Provide more assistance to immigrants for learning English and preparing for citizenship.
- 1033 would accomplish the goals of comprehensive immigration reform as described. One early notable supporter of SAOIA is U.S. Representative Mike Honda (D-CA) and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus of which he is Chair.

Real ID Act

On Wednesday, May 11 2005, President Bush signed into law H.R. 1268, the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005," which provides emergency appropriations for military operations, relief and reconstruction, and related activities critical to building stable democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan. This Act also provided

funds to assist reconstruction and relief for victims of the tsunami that occurred in December 2004. Unfortunately, this legislation also included the Real ID Act provision.

In April, OCA joined a coalition of over 600 organizations representing Asian Pacific Americans, civil rights organizations, businesses, communities of faith, environmentalists, civil liberties advocates and human rights advocates who opposed the Real ID Act. The Real ID Act of 2005 imposes unreasonable burdens on our nation's immigrants, and significantly undermines fundamental due process and basic fairness in our immigration system, while doing little to enhance our safety or reform our immigration system.

Hate Crime Prevention Act

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 was introduced on in the House on May 25, 2005. This legislation will provide assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies and amend federal law to streamline the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. In the last Congress, this legislation had almost 200 bipartisan cosponsors. OCA signed onto letters of support for this legislation in 2003 and 2004.

IN THE INTEREST OF ANNA MAY . . .

OCA-Greater Seattle Chapter Files Amicus Curia Brief in Custody Case Before Tennessee Appellate Court

By Richard Bergeon

A visiting Chinese couple has waged a nearly five-year long custody battle for the daughter they had put in the care of a volunteer couple in Memphis, TN. Taking twists and turns unforeseen by any family law attorney, the couple was not only denied the return of their daughter, but last May was stripped of their parental rights and declared unfit parents in a ruling by a Shelby County judge.

The ruling was appealed to the Appellate Court, Western District. The OCA-Greater Seattle Chapter submitted a final copy of the brief on February 7, 2005 in Jackson, TN. The appeal was heard on February 16, and, at the time of this writing a ruling still has not been issued.

The He case has received national and international attention for years. Articles have appeared in several leading national newspapers, magazines and even "Good Morning America. The case has been followed internationally as well as in the U.S.

The situation began when the young couple was put into severe financial stress shortly before the birth of the daughter. They sought assistance from a local Christian charity and the county. The county, rather than providing the assistance requested steered the couple back to an adoption agency, which also offered temporary placements to families in need. They decided to give temporary custody to a local family who had volunteered to care for the child for 90 days not asking for, and literally refusing any monetary contributions from the birth parents. At the end of the period the couple was still in trouble and unable to either leave the U.S. or find a reliable person to take the child back to China where it could be cared for by relatives. The foster couple volunteered to care for the child longer.

Unbeknownst to the birth parents, the foster parents had taken a strong personal interest in the baby. They talked the birth parents into giving them guardianship of the child so that they could cover the youngster's

medical needs. Getting what they wanted, they began to curtail visitation and forbade the birth parents permission to even visit with the child outside their home. The birthparents went to Juvenile Court to reverse the custody, but were challenged by the now guardians.

Following an angry confrontation, when the foster mother cut short the visit on the child's first birthday, the police were called and the birthparents were told by the police to never return. They went back to court to force the child's return. Just as the Juvenile Court was to grant their wish, the foster parents asked for, and were granted, a delay. As in most states, Tennessee law requires sets a time period at the end of which, if there has been no financial support and no visitation, a child is considered abandoned. That time period lapsed during the delay. The foster parents charged the birth parents were with abandonment in a friendly Chancery Court.

"The amicus brief filed by the chapter tasked the socio-political climate of the community, how it influenced the handling of the case and the rulings that were handed down."

The judge was hostile to the Chinese couple from the outset and in a questionable move terminated their visitation rights without a hearing and without their benefit of counsel. Since that time the birth parents have been denied visitation. The couple filed charges against the judge who was forced to recuse himself from the case pending judicial review of his actions. Another judge in the same jurisdiction took up the case and after more than two years the case was finally heard.

After about a week of testimony and a month of deliberation the judge made his ruling known. Not in the required and normal way, but by blasting it out on the Internet and rushing a copy to the judicial review court still waiting to decide on the fate of the first judge. The ruling surprised court attendees, family law professionals and the local Chinese



Anna May He and her parents in 1999.

community as well as the parents. The judge had found them totally destitute of care for their daughter, liars, frauds and criminals not fit to raise the child. Using a vocabulary not even used by judges for murderers, the judge successfully got the charges dropped against his fellow judge.

The amicus brief filed by the chapter tasked the socio-political climate of the community, how it influenced the handling of the case and the rulings that were handed down. It provided the court with information on ethnocentrism and its manifestation as stereotyping and aggression against other peoples by the judge. It also notes the judge's refusal to consider culture in either of its findings in relationship to the motives of the birth parents or the affects of raising the child in a trans-racial family.

Already the ruling that strikes hard at minorities has influenced another judge in the state. A Wilson County judge gave a Mexican woman who had been cited for neglect of her 11-year-old daughter, and who spoke only Mixteco, the commandment to speak English at a fourth-grade level by the time of her next court hearing in six months. He warned her that, if she failed, he would begin the process of termination of parental rights.

Anyone interested in the brief can find a copy on the chapter's website at www.ocaseattle.org.

Richard Bergeron is a board member of the OCA-Greater Seattle Chapter and newsletter editor and chair of the communications committee.

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES . . .

Visualize the Reality

IMAGINE . . .

- Visiting or reaching out to many of the APA organizations all in one central location
- Looking for a venue to hold a forum, press conference, community meeting or reception
- Accessing information on the latest legislative proposals
- Talking to a policy expert about an issue of your concern
- Searching for information for summer internships or unique scholarship opportunities

VISUALIZE . . .

- An exhibit by an emerging Asian Pacific American artist or a wonderful traveling exhibit
- A screening of a film produced by one of the outstanding Asian Pacific American filmmakers
- A book reading or book signing of the latest release by an award winning Asian Pacific American author
- Spending an hour of free time catching up on recent issues of magazines and journals and learning about the latest happenings in the Asian Pacific American community
- Inquiring about making arrangements to visit to your Congressional representative on Capitol Hill

THE OCA CENTER WILL BE THERE FOR YOU!

To realize our vision for the "OCA Center" in the heart of the nation's capital, our goals are to:

- secure resources to nurture and promote leadership in our community
- solidify and strengthen the presence of the APA community in Washington, D.C.
- facilitate closer collaboration and sharing of resources among organizations
- provide convenient access to APA community organizations
- provide a venue for Asian American artists, authors, filmmakers and musicians

The "OCA Center" will be a significant symbol of our community's national presence, and a valuable resource for the entire Asian Pacific American community as well as the public.

**Be part of the Asian Pacific American community's legacy.
Join us in our campaign for the "OCA Center" today!**

*The term "OCA Center" used here is only a conceptual name and will not be the actual name of the Center."

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We thank the following supporters of the OCA Building Campaign Fund for helping OCA's vision become a reality.

We regret if we have unintentionally and inadvertently omitted anyone from the list for a donation or pledge made between the periods of March 2005 through June 2005.

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

Claudine Cheng

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

Michael and Macy Chan

Pang L. and Hope Man

OCA-Georgia Chapter

OCA-Greater Houston Chapter

OCA-New Jersey Chapter

OCA-Greater Sacramento Chapter

Tai C. Wong

Peter Yu

Community Friend (up to \$499)

Ti-Hua Chang

Lenny Loo (in memory of Chi Luen)

Virginia L. Ng

Cindy L. Wong (in memory of Chi Luen)

CONTINUING THE TRADITION OF GIVING BACK

It is through my work in the corporate sector that I became exposed and involved with OCA. However, it was through OCA that I have come to truly realize the tremendous work and the growing needs of Asian Pacific American organizations across the country. Because the APA community is so fragmented, the power of synergy to share resources and create a single voice in common matters becomes even more essential.

As Asian Pacific Americans, we should all view a national center as an excellent way to unify these organizations. It should be a personal goal for all of us to do what we can to make this center a reality.

— Robert W. Lim, VP Sales-West, Kraft Foods

As a fourth generation American surviving into his Golden Years, I may affectionately identify myself as an Old Sojourner (Lao Hua Qiao) as my forefathers were, but in reality I have become too Americanized to feel natural any place else. Therefore, I strongly support the OCA Building Fund as a gesture to shed the sojourner's mentality and focus on planting roots in this country on the one hand, and indulge in my cultural preference for ownership over renting on the other hand. I also truly appreciate the functional advantages and symbolic uniqueness of having our building located in Washington, DC. Many of us Old Sojourners can really afford to be financially more supportive, but unfortunately do not realize it or the rare opportunity at hand to transcend the frugalness that often helped them survive the hard times. I have been struggling with this myself these days and hope to be more generous soon.

— Jim Chin-Bow, OCA-Long Island Chapter

A conscientious contribution to the OCA building fund is a concrete diversified portfolio invested towards the future of Chinese Americans in this country. It is the civic duty of those of us who have reaped the benefits of this society to plant the seeds of full participation in the political process. Invest in yourself, invest in your children's future, invest in the world with a contribution to the building campaign and benefits will return to you multifold.

— Mariam and Horatio Yeung, OCA-Fairfield Chapter

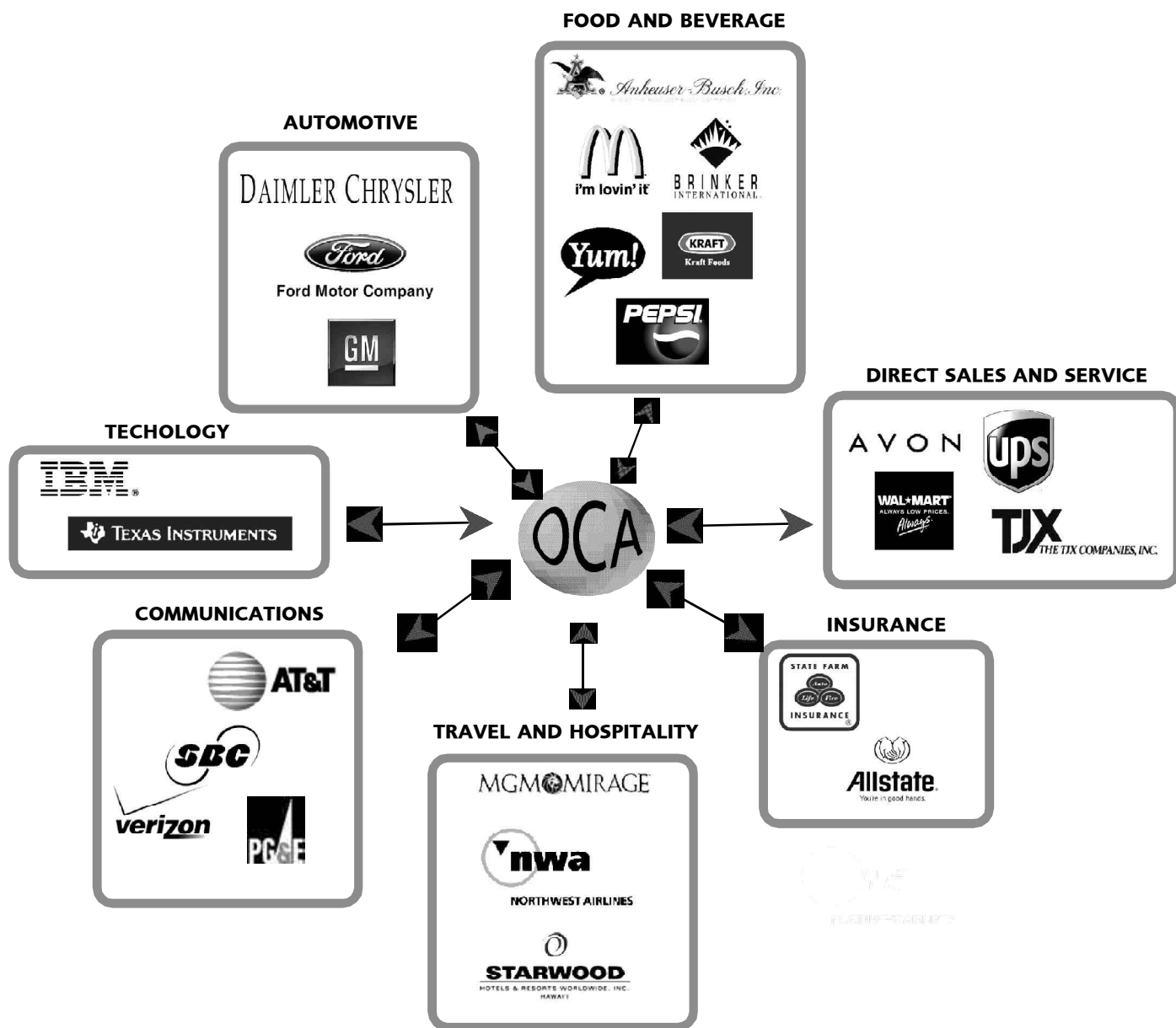


DAVID KIM (BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR):

"The diversity of the OCA Business Advisory Council can be seen in the many and varied corporations comprising its membership. Several Fortune 500 companies have been long and dedicated supporters of OCA. It is through this unique and strong partnership with OCA that the members of the BAC collectively, and individually, play a role in promoting the hopes and aspirations of the Asian Pacific American community."

David L. Kim, BAC Chair
 Director, Sales and Community Relations,
 Anheuser-Busch, Inc

OCA BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL 2005



OCA LIFETIME MEMBERS

OCA would like to take this opportunity

to highlight our

Lifetime Members and salute them

for their lifetime commitment

and dedication to the organization.

We apologize if we have inadvertently

omitted anyone from this list.

Please contact the OCA National Office at

202-223-5500 or

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to provide any updates you may have.

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Charles & Alice Cha	Northbrook, IL	Chicago
Colin Chang	Arlington, TX	Dallas/Fort Worth
Alice Chang	Chantilly, VA	Northern Virginia
Theresa Chang	Houston, TX	Greater Houston
Jean Chang	Scarsdale, NY	Westchester
Felix Chao	Arlington, TX	Dallas/Fort Worth
Jane Chen	Park Ridge, NJ	New Jersey
Claudine Cheng	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco
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Michelle Chiu	San Gabriel, CA	Greater Los Angeles
Chi-Ming Chow	Ypsilanti, MI	Detroit
Jaclyn Allison Chu	Manhasset, NY	Westchester
Thomas Eng	Maspeth, NY	Long Island
Frank Fang	Williamsburg, VA	Eastern Virginia
Celine Fong	Rye, NY	Westchester
George Gee	Houston, TX	Greater Houston
Hwa-Shan Ho	Spring, TX	Greater Houston
Helen Y.H. Hui	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco
Kenneth Hum	Arlington, VA	Greater Washington, DC
Stanley Jsa	Louisville, KY	Kentuckiana
Edward Kang	Garden City, NY	Long Island
William Kaung	Pelham Manor, NY	Westchester
William Kwan	Fort Worth, TX	Dallas/Fort Worth
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Albert Lau	Garden City, NY	Long Island
Geoffrey Lee	Allentown, PA	Lehigh Valley
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David F. Lee III	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco
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Patrick Leung	New Brighton, MN	Minnesota
Kai Tung Li	Arlington, TX	Dallas/Fort Worth
David Lin	Bridgewater, NJ	N/A
Pearl Lin	New Canaan, CT	Fairfield County
Dominic Ling	N/A	Greater Sacramento
Sam Ong	Sacramento, CA	Greater Sacramento
Karl Rosenberger	Visalia, C A	N/A
Paul Y. Sha	Houston, TX	Greater Houston
Alfonso Tan	Great River, NY	Long Island
Peter To	Harrison, NY	Westchester
Stanley Tseng	Virginia Beach, VA	Eastern Virginia
Stanley Wang	Belmont, CA	San Mateo County
Philip Wang	Honolulu, HI	San Mateo County
Keith Wang	Ramsey, NJ	New Jersey
Claire Faith Weinan	Torrance, CA	Detroit
David Wong	Freeport, NY	Long Island
Dai-Shan Wong	Houston, TX	Greater Houston
Martha J. Wong	Houston, TX	Greater Houston
Andrew K.C. Wong	Oakland, CA	Long Island
Raymond Wu	Dublin, OH	Columbus
Victor Yau	W. Harrison, NY	Westchester
Aiden Christopher Yee	Plymouth, MI	Detroit
Jessie Lee Yip	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco
Mary Ann Yu	Los Altos Hills, CA	Westchester

NYU FORUM: A DEEPER LOOK AT THE HMONG HUNTER INCIDENT

By Kathy Lee

On February 18, 2005, I was privileged to work with Professor John Kuo Wei (Jack) Tchen, Director of New York University's Asian Pacific American Studies Program and Institute to help organize a special forum to examine "A Deeper Look at the Hmong Hunter Incident" which occurred on November 21, 2004 in Wisconsin. The forum had at least 100 attendees and was very well received.

Many organizations, including OCA-NY, were community co-sponsors and financial



support was provided by OCA National and the Allstate Foundation. The story captured national attention when a lone hunter, Chai Soua Vang, a Hmong American, was accused of shooting and killing six other hunters, all of whom were white. Conflicting testimonies were given by both parties as to who fired the first shot and whether racial epithets were used against Vang prior to the shootings.

Moderator and Associate Professor Lok Siu of NYU's APA Studies Department led the panel discussion seeking to analyze the full circumstances of the tragic murders and

the impact on the Hmong community. The panelists included Minnesota State Senator Mee Moua; Ka Vang, Minnesota Women's Press columnist and community activist; Professor Frank Wu, lawyer, scholar, and Dean of Wayne State University Law School; and Patrick Clarkin, Assistant Professor, from the University of Massachusetts.

Senator Moua set the tone by sharing some of the historical conflicts between the mainstream culture in Minnesota and Wisconsin and Hmong Americans, as well as Native Americans and other communities of color. She indicated that hunting with one's family is a deeply engrained part of Midwestern culture and one that commonly involves the use of alcohol. One of the most shocking revelations was that Vang did not have access to legal counsel for five days from the time that the tragic shootings

"While we cannot make a judgment about Vang's guilt or innocence, we should be supportive of Vang's rights to a fair trial and to accurate press coverage."

– Frank Wu

occurred. The authorities claim that Vang waived his right to legal counsel.

It made me proud to be an OCA member when Senator Moua stated that OCA National



Minnesota State Senator Mee Moua

and the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) were among the first APA organizations to respond to her request for help, to the point of offering to come to the Midwest on Thanksgiving weekend to demonstrate broader APA support to the Hmong American community by organizing a joint press conference. Additionally, OCA National Director of Communications Anh Phan, helped start a Community Response Group in Wisconsin as part of a concerted effort to have a unified, progressive media response by Hmong Americans in the area to the hunting incident.

Senator Moua remarked upon the nature of the media coverage in the Midwest – how the victims were praised as being of good character early on while Vang's was negative. It was not till December 4, that an article was printed and shed some positive light on Vang's character. Given the "pack mentality" of the media, such that many publications will tend to replicate the tone and focus of earlier articles, she emphasized that it is critical to get a more balanced message out in order to shift the momentum in public sentiment towards Vang. Senator Moua lauded the early efforts by APA journalists in Seattle, Portland,

Houston and Boston to write more balanced articles about the hunting incident.

Ka Vang, a young Hmong American writer and community activist in the Twin

Cities area, talked about the challenges that the Hmong community had to deal with in the aftermath of the shootings, including hate mail, graffiti, racist flyers and bumper stickers, eggings and spray paintings. She noted that the majority of the "backlash" against Hmong Americans took place in the form of stares, whispering, and an atmosphere of fear. She also talked about the different responses from the Hmong American community. While many of the Hmong elders tended to be conservative, other parts of the community—particularly women's and youth groups—tended to be more progressive. Ka noted that the incident drew the elders and younger leaders closer as they held a joint press conference. Both groups agreed to condemn the murders and to apologize to the victims' families on behalf of the Hmong community. The younger leaders had additional objectives of organizing to promote peace and greater tolerance.

Dr. Patrick Clarkin commented on the shooting incident from an anthropological perspective. He said he had a Hmong American childhood friend while growing up in Rhode Island and conducted his doctoral research on the long-term physical effects of war-related stress on Laotian Hmong refugee adults living in the U.S. and French Guiana. For example, 48% of the Hmong refugees he surveyed experienced hunger as children, while 76% of the adults had lost a childhood sibling due to the war and 30% were born in a war zone. Post-traumatic stress is common in Hmong life prior to coming to and living in America and may have been contributing factors in Vang's mind when he encountered the hunters.

Frank Wu helped the audience to imagine what Vang may have been thinking and feeling, particularly the sense that no matter how long the Hmong were in Wisconsin and Minnesota, they could never be viewed as "locals." He asked us to consider three possibilities: (1) the deceased hunters shot at Vang, so his response was to shoot back in self-defense; (2) Vang shot at the white

hunters and was not provoked by racial slurs or other menacing gestures; or (3) some combination of (1) and (2), which is subject to ambiguity. Furthermore, he talked about the irresponsibility of a forced presumption of guilt on a minority community on the basis of the actions of one individual. Wu noted that we should learn from the Dr. Wen Ho Lee incident that sometimes we need to take risks – that while we cannot make a judgment about Vang's guilt or innocence, we should be supportive of Vang's rights to a fair trial and to accurate press coverage. Various APA attorneys and law professors, as well as the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium are assisting Vang in getting a fair trial. Wu talked about the importance of forming coalitions with other APA groups as well as building bridges with other people of color on issues such as this one.

The discussion was followed by a lively working dinner discussion with a smaller, intergenerational group and the guest speakers. Several different themes emerged as possible avenues for future advocacy – especially for balanced media coverage and broader public education. NYU's Asian American Studies Program is committed to finding ways to continue the dialogue and is developing a resource guide to accompany the DVD for this forum. The hope is that this forum will serve as a launch pad for future discussion and learning about the Hmong experience in America. The forum will be downloadable in the near future at www.apa.nyu.edu.

OCA will continue to be active. Two representatives from Allstate, which is supporting OCA's work against hate crimes – attended the forum and were visibly moved, as were all of us who participated, by the emotional toll this and other incidents is taking on the Hmong American community and the hugely positive impact that working in coalition with other groups can have.

Kathleen W. Lee is a board member of OCA-NY.

ABOUT HMONG AMERICANS

- The Hmong are an ethnic group from China and Southeast Asia
- Translated, Hmong means "the free people"
- There is evidence that there were Hmong people living in China 3,000 years ago
- Hmong is pronounced "Mong" or "Mung" (the "H" is silent)
- The Hmong were recruited by the CIA in the 1960s to fight with secret U.S. Forces against North Vietnamese and Laotian communists
- Hmong refugees began arriving in the United States in December 1975
- There are 18 main Hmong family-name clans; no one may marry a member of their own name clan, no matter how distantly they are related
- There are two main dialects of the Hmong language – White Hmong and Green/Blue Hmong

NEW JERSEY RADIO STATION CONTINUES TREND WITH ON-AIR RACIST COMMENTS

Coming on the heels of the racist radio broadcasts in Philadelphia and on Hot 97 in New York City, hateful, anti-Asian American radio incidents continue to happen. Most recently, on April 25, New Jersey talk-show radio personalities Craig Carton and Ray Rossi (aka "the Jersey Guys") broadcasted a show on 101.5 FM in Edison, NJ, that maligned the race, patriotism, nationality and intelligence of Jun Choi, a Korean-American candidate for Mayor, and other Asians and Asian Americans. [See Sidebar for excerpts from the show] OCA and the APA community are pushing back with more organization, vigor and sophistication than ever.

The OCA-New Jersey chapter, along with OCA National Vice President of Chapter Development Virginia Ng, have taken a lead

on the New Jersey 101.5 FM radio incident. The chapter participated in a joint press conference along with a wide variety of community organizations as and Palisades Park council members as well as members of the New Jersey State Assembly. Held during the week of the broadcast, speakers at the press conference denounced the remarks made on show. The event was well covered in the New Jersey and Philadelphia media.

OCA-New Jersey joined a broad coalition of concerned organizations in condemning the broadcast. The group, known as the Coalition Against Hate Media (CAHM), included over 80 members such as the South Asian American Leaders for Tomorrow, Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater

New York (KALAGNY), Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) -New York Chapter, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, and many other OCA chapters around the country.

As of May 25, advertisers such as Verizon and Verizon Wireless, Hyundai Motor America, Applebee's, Cingular Wireless and Bank of America have pulled their sponsorship of the radio show. Continuous pressure has resulted in a scheduled on-air apology, diversity training for the staff and an invitation extended towards Choi to appear on the show.

Excerpts of the dialogue between Craig Carton and Ray Rossi, 101.5 FM's radio personalities and comments of some of their callers:

Carton: Would you really vote for someone named Jun Choi [said in fast-paced, high-pitched, squeaky voice]? I'm using Jun Choi [in same fast-paced, high-pitched, squeaky voice] as an example of a larger problem.

We're forgetting the fact that we're Americans. And here's the bottom line... no specific minority group or foreign group should ever dictate the outcome of an American election. I don't care if the Chinese population in Edison has quadrupled in the last year. Chinese should never dictate the outcome of an election, Americans should!

Rossi: Americans should. Exactly!

Carton: And if we cry about it... you know what's brought up? Slavery... or if we cry about it... well you know, ching chong, ching chong [with Chinese accent] you bombed us [Chinese accent] you know? The fact is, I don't care if whites are a minority, it doesn't matter to me, there's no voice of the average blue collar white guy anymore, cuz all these politicians are worried about the fringe groups.

God forbid you offend an Asian, really! And I hate it... god forbid that a politician was out here and offends Asians, or blacks, or old people...

All right... here's Sharon (listener calling in) in Edison, NJ on 101.5. How you doin' Sharon?

Sharon: You just said it all, the last couple of ... callers, I guess they don't know that they live in America and we're being overrun. I had just moved out of Edison because of what has happened in the past 10 years...Orientals are all along, the whole complete Route 27. And Indians have taken over Edison in north and all over.

Carton: Damn Orientals and Indians.

Sharon: I..I moved out...36 years I've lived in Edison

Carton: And what was the biggest problem you had with the Orientals and the Indians?

Sharon: I can't handle them! There's no American people anymore.

Carton: Eh...

Sharon: They're shoving us the hell out!

Carton: It's like you're a foreigner in your own country isn't it?

Sharon: You go to own store and you can't even see American people, you don't see our own kids, American kids, working in stores anymore...

Carton: All right, you got it baby... I think the quote was damn 'Orientals and Indians.'

In Edison, this is just another example of us losing our own country...the uh...Asian American candidate 'Jun Choi' [same fast-paced, high pitched, squeaky voice] and uh... he's capitalizing on the rapid growth of the Asian community in Edison, but so is his uh... I guess so is his competitor...

Rossi: Well, his competitor is doing the same thing.

Carton: Spadaro says 'I've got the Asians on lockdown.'

Rossi: Right. Exactly.

Jersey Guys update continued page 54



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THE HISTORY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF APA HERITAGE MONTH

By Claudine Cheng

In the mid-1970s, a nationwide advocacy campaign was launched to garner support for the passage of a Congressional Resolution designating one week in the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. This concept originated from Jeanie F. Jew, an OCA board member, and a staff person on Capitol Hill at the time.

Jew was frustrated that APAs were not included as a recognized community in the celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial and wanted to see the U.S. government acknowledge APAs as part of the country. Additionally, she wanted to commemorate her great grand father who had worked as a laborer in the building of the Transcontinental Railroad.

To launch the initiative, Jew enlisted the support of Ruby Moy, then an administrative assistant to Congressman Frank Horton (NY). In June 1977, House Resolution 540 was introduced by Congressman Horton and co-sponsored by then Congressman Norman Mineta (CA), calling upon the President of the United States to proclaim the seven day period beginning May 4, 1979 as "Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week."

SJ Res72, a similar bill, was introduced a few weeks later in the U.S. Senate by Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga. Both bills were subsequently revised to conform to the Census Bureau's designation of the community as "Asian/Pacific" (SJ Res 1007) rather than "Pacific/Asian."

The drafter of the bills selected the week of May 4th because of two significant historical events that took place during that period: the arrival date of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States which was recorded as May 7, 1843, and the date of completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869.

The proposed legislation required the support and co-sponsorship of at least 218

members of Congress in order for the bill to pass the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee and an intense national advocacy campaign was launched. Jew founded and chaired the National Coalition for an Asian/Pacific American Heritage Proclamation and together with Ruby Moy, also founded the Asian Pacific Congressional Staff Caucus.

Major national organizations involved in advocating for passage of these bills included: OCA, Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and OCAW (Organization of Chinese American Women). This was the first national advocacy campaign that involved the youth

This was the first national advocacy campaign that involved the youth and young professionals in our community, notably members of the Young OCA under the leadership of then OCA Executive Director Hayden Lee.

and young professionals in our community, notably members of the Young OCA under the leadership of then OCA Executive Director Hayden Lee.

As a result of persistent efforts, the coalition was able to secure 231 Congressional Representatives to co-sponsor the bill, resulting in the bills being passed by an overwhelming majority in both the House and the Senate.

On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the Joint Resolution into law proclaiming the week of May 4-11 Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.

However, the adopted Joint Resolution did not contain a provision for annual designation and community organizations had to apply to Congress every year for the proclamation of Heritage Week. It took more than 10 years of advocacy before the celebration was extended to include the entire month of May. On May 7, 1990, President George W. Bush signed into law proclaiming Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Subsequently, Congressman Frank Horton introduced legislation in March 1991 to designate May 1991 and May 1992 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This proposed legislation received 200 co-sponsors and was adopted by both the House and the Senate.

In 1992, the Heritage Month celebration was finally institutionalized when Congressman Horton introduced HR 5772 to designate "May of each year as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month." The support for this proposed legislation was unanimous.

On October 23, 1992, community leaders from around the country witnessed a new chapter in APA history as the President signed Public Law 102-450 proclaiming the month of May every year as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in perpetuity.

With this law, the President of the United States is "authorized and requested to issue annually a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the month designated...with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities."

In addition to the Federal Proclamation, the law also provides for a "State Proclamation," and "the Chief Executive Officer of each State is requested to issue annually a proclamation calling on the people of the State to observe the month designated...with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities."

Claudine Cheng served as OCA National President from 1991-1992 and currently serves as Legal Counsel for the OCA-San Francisco Bay Chapter.

REFLECTIONS OF HAYDEN LEE ON OCA'S ROLE IN ESTABLISHING APA HERITAGE MONTH

Q: What is your recollection about OCA's involvement in the establishment of APA Heritage Month?

A: When I became Executive Administrator (title was later changed to Executive Director), K.L. Wang, Alex Mark (who was National President at the time) and OCA were already involved in the campaign. K.L. and Alex were instrumental in determining that the proposed bills were important for both OCA and for Chinese and Asian Americans. Most of the Congressional representatives from the areas where we had chapters joined on quickly as co-sponsors. It was the representatives from the other areas who were more difficult to get as sponsors (218 co-sponsors were needed).

I was authorized by OCA to work with Jeannie Jew, Ruby Moy, and the offices of then Congressman Norman Mineta (CA) and Congressman Frank Horton (NY), as well as others who were willing help. The offices of Congressman Phil Burton (CA) were also very helpful when we needed them.

OCA was the main grassroots organization behind the bill. I worked the Hill by knocking on doors to get co-sponsors, and enlisted the help of the Young OCA (mostly comprised of young professionals at that time) to write letters of support. K.L, Alex and the National Board also worked to get sponsors and support for the bill.

CHINESE AUCTION, CHINESE FIRE DRILL, CHINAMAN'S CHANCE...

What do all of these words have in common? Are they as derogatory as we think, or are they harmless expressions used in today's society?

I have been asked about the terminology "Chinese auction" several times. The nonprofit organization where I am employed has even sponsored fund raisers using this name. I have always objected to this usage and have finally seen the name changed to "Tricky Tray." How many of us have encountered this term or seen signs in our geographical area advertising this kind of event?

What is a Chinese auction? In today's terms, it is a gathering of miscellaneous gift items, some new or slightly used, grouped together by value. The items are then categorized under A (under \$15), B (under \$50), C (over \$50), and D (over \$100), and available for bidding by placing a ticket into a can or a Chinese takeout box placed in front of the items, hence the name Chinese Auction. Group A tickets are purchased as a sheet of 20 tickets and usually sold as the cover charge or entry fee. Groups B, C and D are usually different colored tickets and sold at a higher value.

So where did this name come from? One version is that it comes from a time when the Chinese would put themselves on the auction block to sell to the highest bidder. After the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, the Chinese had no place to go and jobs were scarce. In order to find work, they put themselves up at auctions that were conducted by the very same people who used to auction the slaves. In many cases, these Chinese were slaves, working for cheap wages under the most extreme circumstances. The Chinese worker earned one third of what a white worker earned. The advertising of Chinese auctions came to mean cheap labor.

In today's world, the term Chinese auction has a new meaning, one that is associated with raffles, fund raising and winning a prize. But no one can deny its origin. All of us should be diligent in monitoring the usage of this type of terminology and educate the public of their origins and negative connotations of their usage in today's society.

Next issue: Chinaman's Chance

—Virginia L. Ng, National VP Chapter Development

UH, *WHICH* CHINESE AMERICAN HERITAGE ARE WE TALKING ABOUT ANYWAY?

By Benjamin R. Tong, Ph.D.

In on-again/off-again fashion, I've been looking back on what was written about Chinese America in mainstream newspapers and magazines of the last twenty five years or thereabouts. This was actually not a difficult kind of search. There was no need to dig deep in university libraries or the archives of popular media, at least not initially. At the outset, I simply started with the waiting rooms of Chinatown physicians, dentists and acupuncturists. Consistent with a tradition of conducting business in pragmatic (i.e., cheapskate) fashion, a goodly number of these offices are Smithsonian-bound elephant graveyards for back issues of mags two or more decades old! I mean, this stuff is never thrown out.

Near the bottom of a heap of "literature" in a Stockton Street medical lab waiting room, I happened upon the April 2, 1984 issue of U.S. News and World Report. In a special series on Asian America, a white writer raised the question, "What does it mean to be Asian American? How does one preserve an old heritage and still adapt to a culture so jarringly different?" Television newswoman Connie Chung said that "the term 'Chinese-American' bothers her. "I think I am very American but also extraordinarily Chinese. I think Chinese. I hold Chinese values such as reverence for the family, dedication to the work ethic, propriety, patience, respect for education and an obligation to keep my nose to the grindstone."

Most considerations of this business of keeping "heritage"

alive usually end right there. The assumption is that nothing more need be said. Presumably, we can all be certain as to what Chinese American "culture" is all about. It is a clear and fixed narrative, one not to be thought about at length. So, the issue, it appears, is simply one of preservation.

However, if we should choose to look upon culture as history and its artifacts, the picture turns out to be much more complex and intriguing. For example: can fanatical industriousness and collective cheapskate behavior really sum up Chinatown humanity? Maybe not. In the October 12, 1985 issue of the San Francisco Examiner, a front page article ("Chinatown Gives Its All to Quake Relief") revealed that in response to a fund-raising telethon on KTSF-TV – to benefit victims of a massive series of earthquakes in Mexico – the people of Chinatown raised, in one night, \$110,000 (!). The writer, Mary Ganz, observed that the usual amount in community charity drives is "\$10,000 or at most \$20,000." So how do we account for this apparent contradiction to the prevailing theme of Chinatown social character as anything but philanthropic? Good question, indeed.

Going back even further, our forebears in the late 19th and early 20th century are said to have been quiet, law-abiding, hard working

victims of racist oppression in the U.S. Since the dawn of Asian American Studies, it has been "politically correct" in some quarters to so portray early Chinese America. If "John Chinaman" did anything "positive" or notable, according to historian Zhu Liping (University of New Mexico), it was understood to be accomplishment realized in spite of the brutal encounters with "exploitation, injustice, violence, discrimination on a daily basis."

After 12 years of meticulous research on Chinese Americans in the Midwest, Professor Zhu concluded (in his book, *A Chinaman's Chance: The Chinese on the Rocky Mountain Mining Frontier*) that the experiences of Chinamans there did not always match up with those of their counterparts on the West Coast. The Chinese that Zhu discovered in the Boise Basin of southern Idaho "were not coolies toiling in the mining fields; almost every man was either a free laborer or an independent miner. In general, the Chinese, like the Euro-Americans, enjoyed a fair degree of economic prosperity."

"[V]ictimization, unhappiness, and oppression were not predominant themes."

"Whenever the Chinamans confronted frontier violence, their response was anything but stereotypically 'passive and docile.'"

Unlike courts in other western states, those in Idaho "upheld Chinese civil liberties and legal rights, allowing them both to sue and testify against whites." Moreover, whenever

the Chinamans confronted frontier violence, their response was anything but stereotypically "passive and docile": they "frequently resorted to violent means, either in seeking justice or, sometimes, in committing crimes." At least in this part of nineteenth century America, Chinamans most certainly had a chance and then some. They were "clearly not innocent victims of western violence. Rather, they played all frontier roles: victim, villain, and victor."

"Heritage," then, is something that many if not most contemporary Chinese Americans have yet to fully understand in a comprehensive and accurate manner. There appears to be more than one version of Chinese American heritage. Which means that what should be preserved and passed along to the next generation is an open question. This all-important question is to be carefully explored in the years ahead — with complexity, diversity and inclusivity of the Chinese American experience firmly in mind.

Dr. Benjamin Tong is a native San Franciscan and currently a Professor in the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at the California Institute of Integral Studies. He is also emeritus faculty in Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University, as well as a teacher of Tai Chi Chuan and QiGong, writer, critic, and psychotherapist. Dr. Tong is also Executive Director of the Institute for Cross-Cultural Research.

FROM REVOLUTION TO EVOLUTION:

The Asian American Movement Through the Eyes of a Student Activist

By Doug Chin

The San Francisco Bay area was an electrifying and particularly exciting time for college students in the sixties. UC Berkeley was the scene of continual protests and demonstrations sparked with the beginning of the "Free Speech Movement," followed by protests against American involvement in the Vietnam War, "Peoples' Park" and other anti-establishment causes. The Berkeley Barb, an alternative weekly publication, came into existence and became a popular anti-war and anti-establishment newspaper. The composition on the Berkeley City Council changed from liberal to radical.

The anti-war movement was a big thing in the Bay Area. There were protests against the war in downtown Oakland and the Army Terminal. Both the Berkeley City Council and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to publicly denounce American involvement in the Vietnam War. "Berkeley takes politics seriously," I was told, as I watched on television a council meeting that was delayed for 30 minutes due to an argument over whether or not to recite the "pledge of allegiance" because "...there is no liberty and

"I not only learned that I could question and challenge authority, but that I could also help bring about change for social justice and improve the community."

justice for all." It was hilarious, yet indicative of Berkeley politics.

While opposition and protests to the war were considerable, so was the emergence of the "Black Power" movement. In 1966, there was a riot in East Oakland, not too far from where I lived. At about the same time, Bobby Seale

and Huey Newton were starting the Black Panther Party at Merritt Community College. The party's popularity increased among white liberals when Elridge Clever, who wrote the best seller "Soul On Ice," became its Minister of Defense. The Black Panther Party advocated violence and the use of guns to gain black liberation. Their strategy contradicted Martin Luther King's non-violence tactics, which was

highly debated at the time. Many black students, and to a much lesser extent, white students, were involved with the civil rights causes and tackling poverty in the black ghettos of Oakland, Richmond, and San Francisco.

San Francisco, meanwhile, was having its "Summer of Love," when thousands of young people descended to become a part of the hippie counterculture. The flower children didn't just restrict their activity to the Haight-Ashbury area; they were smoking joints and taking acid all over the Bay Area.

In 1965, the U.S. overhauled its immigration laws to annually allow 20,000 persons from one foreign country to enter America. Consequently, San Francisco's Chinatown experienced a population surge as immigrants from Hong Kong flocked to an area that was already dilapidated and overcrowded. Largely uneducated with limited English proficiency,



Doug Chin's passport photo, circa 1960s

the new immigrants were, at best, relegated to menial, low paying jobs with no health insurance, and little, if any, chance for upwards mobility. Conditions in Chinatown were going from bad to worse and with the prospect of many more Chinese immigrants arriving, things looked pretty bleak.

The San Francisco State Strike

I had no clue that one year after transferring from Merritt Community College to San Francisco State that I would be involved in the longest student (and faculty) strike in U.S. history. San Francisco State, after all, was not known for student protests. In fact, it seemed like a comparatively peaceful and quiet institution aside from a few anti-war rallies. But, San Francisco State was to attract national attention as the daily protests and demonstrations, which were sometimes violent, continued and the campus was closed down.

The Black Students Union and the Third World Coalition called for the strike at San Francisco State. The Coalition was comprised of other racial minority organizations including the Intercollegiate Chinese for Social Action, a Chinese American group headed by Mason Wong.

The student demands centered on the establishment of a School of Ethnic Studies (including a Black Studies Department) with non-white control over the hiring and retention of faculty and the curriculum and greater admissions of non-white students to the college. The key concept, which student strike leaders said repeatedly at the rallies, was "self-determination," meaning non-whites students should determine what was best for them and control their own destiny. As applied to non-white students, it meant learning about your respective racial or ethnic community so that you were better able to improve it.

I went on strike from the beginning, in November of 1968. Typically, there would be a noon rally that began with speeches by student strike leaders, faculty and black community leaders like Willie Brown, Ron Dellums, Bobby Seale and Elridge Clever. There was a speaker's platform not too far from the Student Union cafeteria at the edge of a large green lawn in the middle of the campus. We would enviously march around the green lawn, shouting, "On strike, shut it down!" Many of the buildings on campus circled the lawn so that the loud noise and shouting could be heard in the classrooms, causing a nuisance and making it difficult to hear any of the lectures. On a number of occasions, we would actually march through one or more of the buildings, making enough noise to stop any class that was going on.

I routinely drove from Oakland, where I lived, to attend the noon rally and marches because I felt that the number of demonstrators (show of force) was important. Each school day, I would park a few blocks from the campus and pass the busloads of San Francisco policemen and state troopers. There were a couple of hundred or so students attending the rallies and marches at the start. But as the strike became more violent and disruptive, the police were called in.

Ironically, the presence and actions of police and state troopers, who often swung, hit, and chased student demonstrators, brought out larger crowds of demonstrators. I remember

vividly one day when police on horses chased us across 19th Avenue, the main street in front of the campus, and around the houses on the other side of street. When the strike was in full swing, there would be a noon rally of about a 1,000 demonstrators with the police and state troopers lined-up to the side and helicopters circling overhead.

In March 1969, after five months, the strike was settled. The School of Ethnic Studies was established and the number of admissions of non-white students under the Educational Opportunity Program jumped.

It was disappointing, but not surprising, that a relatively small number of Chinese or Asian American students participated in the demonstrations. But I was pleased to learn that the Asian American classes that began in the Fall of 1969 filled up quickly and that I was able to enroll in one of them. More importantly, I not only learned that I could question and challenge authority, but that I could also help bring about change for social justice and improve the community.

East Bay Action

Meanwhile, across the Bay at UC Berkeley, the Asian American and other students of color were also demanding the establishment of an ethnic studies program. They also had rallies and also called for a student strike, but never received much support, as in the case of San Francisco State, from white students who were much more into the anti-war movement. Asian American students at Berkeley, as I recall, were really into having a class on identity. It took a few years afterwards before UC Berkeley began an Asian American Studies Program.

Some Chinese American students at UC Berkeley were also serious about helping the community and started the East Bay Chinese Youth Council, which I joined. Greg Mark, who was a graduate student in Criminology at the time and later became a professor in Asian American Studies at San Jose State University, headed the organization. While Greg was a soft-spoken, rational, and well-organized leader, Derrick Lew (who later

became a prominent attorney) was a loud and passionate advocate. Then, there was always dependable Wilfred Lim, who was in between the two. He too, became an attorney who worked for community causes. And there was Margaret Woo, who also attended San Francisco State and had just returned from Chicago from her Teaching Corps training. I had known Margaret before I attended SF State as a shy and quiet person. She came back to Oakland as a very confident and outspoken community activist.

The Youth Council met at the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Oakland Chinatown and was involved with bilingual education at the Oakland Public Schools, youth programs, improving Chinatown and just being a voice for Chinese youth and young adults. Not long after, Oakland politicians and government and school officials began regularly attending the Council meetings and asking for support or to talk about various issues. It was a sure sign that the Council has gained credibility and respect.

The East Bay Chinese Youth Council was really becoming a premiere Asian American community group when I left the Bay Area. I was so impressed with what it had become that when I returned to Seattle and had the opportunity to start one, I did. I helped start the International District (Chinatown) Youth Council, which for several years, played an important role in getting Asian American youth involved with their community.

If there is one thing I am grateful for, it's to have lived in the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1960s. It was there and then that the Asian American Movement began. The experience enlightened me. In that period of time, I consumed a wealth of knowledge about civil rights and social change and the Chinese American experience. Even more important, I found my niche and passion to help improve the Chinese and Asian Pacific communities.

Doug Chin is Chapter President of the OCA-Greater Seattle Chapter.

DO YOU HEAR KNOCKING AT THE DOOR?

Opportunities for Asians and APIAs in advertising, marketing, public relations and the media are slow in coming . . .

. . . but they are coming.

By Bill Imada



THEN...

Acting roles for APAs were scarce. When a role did become available, most were cast with non-Asians, such as Warner Oland as Charlie Chan (right). Anna May Wong (left) secured some roles but often perpetuated a long-standing stereotype that objectified all Asian women and made them appear as if they were exotic, sly or mysterious.



AND NOW

We have seen in recent years some exemplary examples of positive APA images on the Big Screen, cable and television. Actors such as B.D. Wong (right) and Ming-Na (left) are being selected for roles that normally would have been performed by someone white.



For many years, the mass-market media and programmers have portrayed Asian Pacific Americans as obsequious and subservient Orientals whose lot in life was to cater to the needs of those in power. When Charlie Chan first appeared on the scene, the primary character was played by a white actor. Acting roles for APAs were scarce. When a role did become available, most were cast with non-Asians, including characters that called for actors of mixed heritage. Anna May Wong secured some roles but often perpetuated a long-standing stereotype that objectified all Asian women and made them appear as if they were exotic, sly or mysterious. Big screen movies such as *Flower Drum Song* and *The Joy Luck Club* provided Asian-American actors an opportunity for larger, more visible roles, but Hollywood studios have largely fallen short on providing adequate roles for Asians and APAs in many of the movies, television and cable shows that we see today.

Although APAs have made strides in the media and in the fields of advertising and public relations, there is still a lack of APA men serving as news anchors, and even fewer APAs leading multinational agencies that specialize in mass-market communications. After years of seeing many Madison Avenue advertising and public relations agencies without any visible

workforce diversity, including APAs, there is now renewed hope that community-supported efforts such as the Madison Avenue Initiative and the LAGRANT FOUNDATION

will offer more opportunities for APAs and other communities of color. The Madison Avenue Initiative is working with ad agencies to ensure that more people of color are given opportunities to help marketers with their

"The APA community must play an active role in educating the general public about how negative stereotypes and images hurt the community."

advertising and marketing campaigns, while the LAGRANT FOUNDATION was established to provide scholarships and mentoring to college-bound students of

Asian-American, African-American, Latino and Native American heritage. Both groups have helped to foster greater corporate and agency awareness of the need for more APAs

in industries where APAs have traditionally been underrepresented.

In the late 1990s, a group of APA-owned and operated advertising and

marketing agencies resolved to provide opportunities for Asians and APAs by casting them in broadcast commercials and in print advertisements. Today, with ad spending

levels exceeding \$100 million per annum in the APA community, APA agencies and many mass-market agencies are now casting more APAs in corporate and government-sponsored advertisements. This group of pioneer agency leaders created the Asian American Advertising Federation (3AF), a national association comprised of more than 50 agencies, marketing research companies and media organizations. A large part of the group's overall mission is to ensure that there are even greater opportunities to promote Asians and APAs in advertising, marketing, public relations and in the media. Other groups such as East-West Players, Visual Communications, Asian American Journalists Association, National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, OCA, MANA, NAATA, et al. are also doing their part to ensure that more APAs have visible and lasting roles in the theatre, in newsrooms and in broadcast and print media.

To ensure that more corporations, businesses and governmental agencies understand how critical it is to portray Asians and APAs in a positive light, the APA community must play an active role in educating the general public about how negative stereotypes and images

hurt the community. In the past, companies such as Abercrombie & Fitch, Target, and Skyy Vodka were chastised by the community for perpetuating the negative stereotypes that often irreparably damages the image of APAs and other communities of color. Although these companies have apologized and agreed to pull the items that have offended so many, each of these firms should do even more to ensure that all corporate marketers do not allow these transgressions to happen again.

On a positive note, we have seen in recent years some exemplary examples of positive APA images on the Big Screen, cable and television. The California Milk Advisory Board abandoned the use of all stereotypes when it cast a young Asian-American couple overcome by joy in witnessing their toddler take his first, tentative steps. Anheuser-Busch provided roles in their commercials showing APAs enjoying the company of their non-Asian friends in a casual and relaxed setting. Rising APA writers, producers and directors, such as Justin Lin, are creating programs, shows and other opportunities for APAs. And, stage actors such as B.D. Wong have been selected for Broadway and TV roles that normally would have been performed by someone white.

All APA leaders have a responsibility to ensure that the community and its image are promoted in a positive, responsible and visible manner. And, all corporate and media executives should play a greater and more responsive role in creating more opportunities for APAs and other communities of color. APAs are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population and currently represent 4.1 percent of the populace. Yet, despite having \$363.2 billion in annual spending clout, most media organizations and corporate marketers ignore APA consumers.

By 2050, white Americans will be in the minority. If the media and corporate marketers hope to survive in America, they will need to incremental market share among the communities of color. Building consumer confidence by engaging APAs would definitely be a huge step in the right direction.

Bill Imada is the CEO and Chairman of IW Group and President of the Asian American Advertising Federation.



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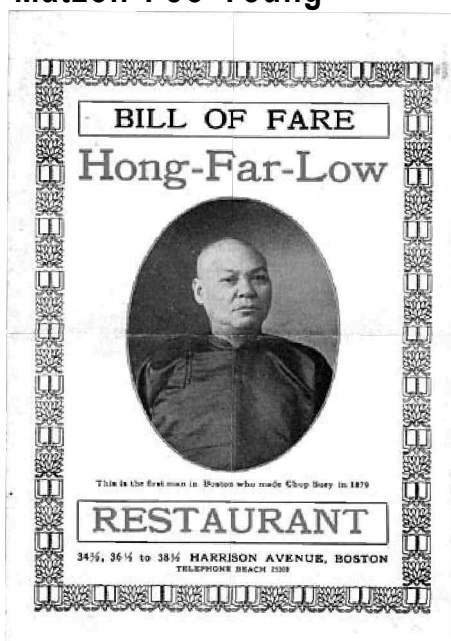
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A Short History of the

Chinese Restaurant

By Gish Jen

From Stir-Fried Buffalo to Matzoh Foo Young



"Have You Eaten Yet?," the wonderful Chinese restaurants exhibit now on view at New York's Museum of Chinese in the Americas, takes a Babel of ephemera and makes it speak. One's visit begins with an absence: the never-photographed first Chinese eateries in America, known as "chow chows," which sprang up in California in the mid-19th century to serve Cantonese laborers. True holes in the wall, they were marked, as per a Chinese tradition, with yellow cloth triangles. No menus have survived, if ever there were any; who knows but that they served stir-fried buffalo. Still, we may gather that the workers liked the fare, for we do have the advertisements of competitors, who suddenly began offering free potatoes with their meals. The spud strategy was ultimately for naught, though: The Chinese restaurant had been born.

Would anyone have bet the bank on Chinese food back then? According to Chinese Restaurant News, there are now more Chinese restaurants in America than there are McDonald's franchises—nearly three times as many in fact. In the 19th century, though, the Chinese were scorned as rat-eaters; nothing could have been more revolting than eating what they ate. An 1877 magazine cartoon titled "Uncle Sam's Thanksgiving Dinner" shows various immigrants contentedly enjoying their respective national dishes—a Frenchman, for example, tucks into his frogs—while an officious African-American manservant conveys a turkey to Uncle Sam. All is harmony, right down to a Native Indian who, unable to abide a chair, squats peaceably beside his fellow guests. Only one personage draws horror from the other diners—the Chinaman, about to eat a rodent.



Chinese Tuxedo, No. 2 Doyer Street, N. Y.

A Chinese restaurant in the 1900s.

Yet despite this prejudice, and despite the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which categorically barred further Chinese immigration, Chinese restaurateurs strove to make a place for themselves. With trepidation: Chinese food was often embedded in the familiar. For example, one early menu lists "Grilled Dinner Steak Hollandaise" and "Roast California Chicken with Currant Jelly," with "Fine Cut Chicken Chop Suey" presented as just another option. As if to counter stereotypes, early interiors featured stunningly sophisticated wood-carving; early images, too, include a surprising number of tuxedos. Observes show curator Cynthia Ai-Fen Lee, "It's as if the owners are trying to say, It's OK. Don't be scared." And indeed, the phrase "Try it" recurs hypnotically throughout the exhibit. Still, despite the best efforts of the restaurateurs, something disreputable remained, not only about Chinese food, but about people who ate it. In 1903 the New York Times described the Chinatown clientele: "It is the men and women who like to eat after everybody else is abed



Dance makes it onto



In the kitchen at a family restaurant, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1950.

like Chung King and La Choy likewise encouraged housewives to "cook Chinese" with cheerfully proffered, sanitized products; visitors to the exhibit should not miss the exuberantly un-PC commercials on CD—click to listen to one here—or the numerous "how-to" pamphlets with their inspired recommendations: "Either boiled or broiled, frankfurters dipped in Shou-you sauce make excellent sandwiches," for example. The "Try it!" that so often punctuates these entries has a distinctly new, profit-oriented tone—the all-American tone of a toothpaste ad.

Happily, change was on its way. The 1965 liberalization of immigration laws brought new arrivals and new food, from Sichuan and Hunan and Shanghai. Multiculturalism and Nixon's visit

to China in 1972, meanwhile, inspired an "authenticity revolution"—a transformation further fueled by a changing clientele. Charles Lai, the director of the museum, recalls wandering into a Chinatown restaurant as a boy in the '60s and realizing that everyone else in the place was white. "I felt like, what am I doing here?" he says. But no more: Today, Chinese and Chinese Americans are important customers, as are other Asians and Asian Americans, and some restaurants are once again catering to newly arrived workers. How "authentic" they are, though, depends on how you define "authentic." "It is and isn't a return to the way things were at the beginning," says Lee. She points out that with globalization, food is changing quickly even in Asia; what constitutes Chinese food is evolving.

The epic kitsch of the exhibit is balanced by touching recollections, on video and in notebooks, of what it was like to work and grow up in Chinese restaurants, both in America and abroad. I loved the many humble, vivid accounts and encourage others to take these in, as one may, sitting atop rice-sack-cushioned stools. While resting there, one might also appreciate the beauty and intelligence of the exhibit and the absence of cliché. There is no red; there are no lanterns or fortune cookies. Here, in the heart of Chinatown, in a kitsch-filled room, one finds, happily, kitsch-free thought.

Gish Jen is the author, most recently, of *The Love Wife*.

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a menu that spoofs "Chineseness."

After the Second World War, mainstream Americans, too, began to see the Americanness—eureka!—of some "Chinese." And Chinese Americans celebrated this: On a menu from the 1950s, a man smilingly paints characters on his "Chinese Easter Eggs." By this point, though, Chinese restaurants were about more than East Meets West. They were sites where not only Chineseness but ethnicity in general was made and made fun of. Fei Xiaotong noted how, "Looking up from the table, I saw right in front of us a troupe of half-naked women doing Spanish dances. ... Suddenly the dancing stopped and, to the same kind of 'music,' a young woman whom one would guess to be Cuban came on ... various cultures of different origins came helter-skelter together ..." Concoctions like Mani-shaiget Cocktails—half Manischewitz wine and half Christian Brothers brandy—were served.

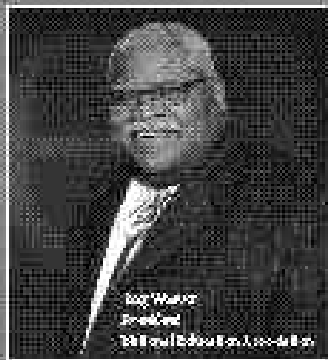
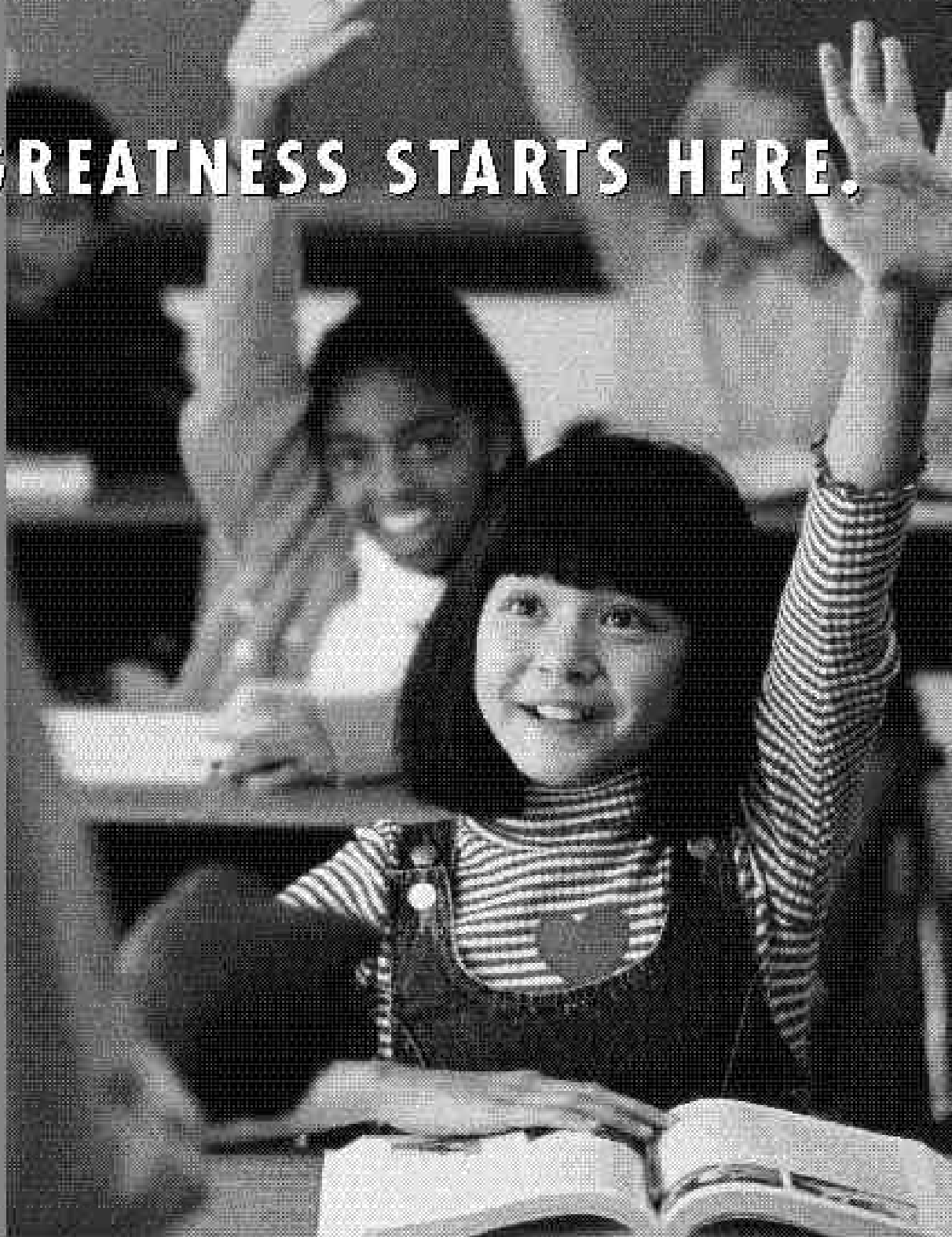
But of course "China" and "Chinese" food remained the focus. Menus gave history lessons and told origin stories—explaining the beginnings of chop suey, or the fortune cookie, or takeout. And in the 1960s, they spoofed "Chineseness," too—citing Confucius freely and frequently and warning things like, "We take care special banquet dinnas but can only takee limit numbers. First comes first serve, you please placee order early for no disappoint."

Chinatown was not the only purveyor of "Chineseness" in the 1960s. In 1967, the Ideal Toy Company brought out a Chop Suey board game, which involved picking things up with chopsticks. ("You don't have to be Chinese to play the Chop Suey game!") Companies

that pour shekels into the coffers of the man who knows how to make chop suey."

Shekels. What an interesting currency to have gratuitously cited. And yet how unwittingly prescient the writer turned out to be, by mid-century: One of my favorite parts of this exhibit is the wonderful collection of kosher Chinese menus from New York restaurants, sporting names like "Glatt Wok" and "Shang-chai," and serving dishes like Matzoh Foo Young. Lee speculates that East European Jews, themselves marginalized, flocked to Chinese restaurants as a way of forging a new, modern, identity—as a way of becoming American. Not that things "Chinese" were generally recognized as American; it took outsiders to see the obvious. Visiting Chinese anthropologist Fei Xiaotong, for example, was amused and amazed by a restaurant he visited in the early 1940s. "It was called a Chinese restaurant," he wrote, "but ... nothing made me feel the slightest at home."

ALL GREATNESS STARTS HERE.



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Every child can learn, but not all children learn at the same pace and in the same way.

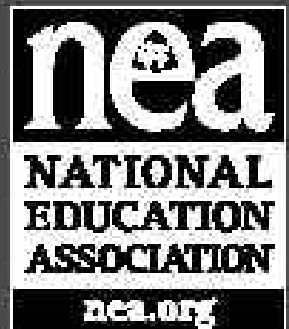
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That's why the National Education Association and the Organization of Chinese Americans have always advocated for quality teaching, smaller class sizes, greater parental involvement and increased resources for programs that improve student achievement for every child.

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A SEAT AT THE TABLE: OCA REPRESENTED AT NEA SYMPOSIUM

On July 2, OCA participated in a symposium hosted by the National Education Association (NEA) in Los Angeles, entitled "Perspectives on Public Education: Voices from the Minority." Approximately 500 delegates of the NEA Convention attended the session which featured distinguished panelists such as the Rainbow Push Coalition's Founder/President, Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr., National Council of LaRaza President Janet Murguía, Center for National Indian Association Director David Beaulieu, and OCA National President, Ginny Gong. The panel was moderated by Mary Futrell, former President of the NEA and Dean of the Graduate School of Education at George Washington University.

The Symposium focused on the community's shared responsibility with schools for ensuring the future success of all its children. With 40% of today's students being students of color nationally, and more than 50% in some areas, it is essential that outreach efforts to communities be in place. This is especially critical when funding and other resources are not always forthcoming for legislated mandates as with the "No Child Left Behind" initiative. Leaders from the minority communities shared issues of particular concern to their constituents, and explored what they considered to be the greatest challenges facing public education today, what they would like to see changed, and strategies for building partnerships among public schools, parents, and the community.



In discussing the educational needs of APAs, Gong commented, "The profile of high academic success of APAs as the "model minority" is very misleading; APAs are dropping out of school, enrolled in remedial classes, and dealing with performance issues on a day to day basis. The issues for APA students are not easily detected by performance on test scores or grades.

"Deep seeded acculturation and communication issues could be attributed to the cultural disconnect between students with their families, as well students with other students," Gong added. She concluded her comments by asking, "What resources are available to support Asian American families in crisis? Support for such families is almost non-existent even in the most progressive school systems. Social workers who are culturally sensitive and able to speak the language should be available to assist these families if we are truly addressing the needs of all students."

Reverend Jackson spoke passionately of the need to continue the fight for civil rights as part of today's advocacy efforts to change education policy and practice. He stressed the importance of being able to speak Spanish, and offered tips for student success.

The Symposium provided OCA with a wonderful opportunity to be engaged at this level of dialog.



kaleen's ad

GROWING UP ASIAN IN AMERICA ISN'T ALL ROSES

By Tracy Li



Seated before a mouth-watering feast, the aroma of steamed dumplings wafting in the kitchen air, I manage somehow to divert my attention from these delectable pork and cabbage morsels to my dad, whose eyes wrinkle with mirth as he recounts one of many stories from his childhood. Tales of purloining eggs from the town cannery, overtaking several adult assailants with his halting kung fu skills, and wooing my mother with his letters of devotion crafted in impeccable penmanship.

I think about what this kind of behavior might mean for someone in my place, at my time, as a young Asian American. I think of the drastically different consequences that might result from adolescent thievery or violence here in modern-day suburbia, including the slew of frightening news headlines and droves of panicked parents. Hardly comical, I conclude. As for love letters? Please, we text message.

It's at these moments that I realize how different my world is from that of my parents. As dinner continues, this schism becomes increasingly apparent. Thus, however skillfully I avoid such topics as gay rights, abortion, or, god forbid, becoming an English major, tensions are bound to arise.

There is, of course, the inevitable mention of how, as a second-generation ABC (American-born Chinese), I was predestined for greatness. The stars must have shined unusually brightly the night I was born as they showered me with good fortune and a predisposition for the Ivy League. After all, I would one day speak English without an accent. Their familiar words resound; "Of course you'll be more successful than us." I sit in stony silence, daring them to define success as four cars and a degree in medicine.

How could I begin to explain that growing up Asian in America isn't all roses? How could I try to show that speaking without an accent won't open all the doors or lift the bamboo ceiling? True, as an American I'm entitled to certain rights, by letter at least, but that certainly doesn't mean my "success" or even an equal chance at success is guaranteed. It wasn't guaranteed to the Chinamen or to

those conspicuously missing from the images of Promontory Point. In more recent decades, it wasn't guaranteed to Vincent Chin or Wen Ho Lee. So who's to say it will be guaranteed to, of all people, me?

Unfortunately, it becomes all too easy for young Asian Americans like me to forget these struggles. With the Model Minority Myth and the unceasing parental assurances of future "success," it's unsurprising that we young Asian Americans come to expect the waves to part for us. It is, in my opinion, this assumption, this taking for granted that our rights are guaranteed, that is the most insidious threat to my generation today. Our ignorance and complacency can not only blind us to the subtle and lurking prejudices of today, but can also pave the road to the eventual degradation of our full rights as Americans.

Luckily, by learning of our collective past as Asian Americans and studying the struggles and successes preceding our own, we can increase our awareness of the steps we still need to take in our own futures. However, because of the scant coverage of Asian American history in our high school curricula, it seems that this study must be self-initiated. And so, instead of the classroom, we must turn to books, newspapers, magazines, the internet, and if we are lucky, our mentors.

"It is, in my opinion, this assumption, this taking for granted that our rights are guaranteed, that is the most insidious threat to my generation today."

The ring of my mom's laughter recalls me back to the present. Sparkling with pride, she recounts yet again, her discovering I was admitted to Yale. For a glimpse of a second, I consider sharing my interrupted train of thought. But then I wonder, what purpose would it serve? Wouldn't it be better, more merciful even, to resist? After all, what else but their daughter's equal chance at a bright future would vindicate all their years of struggle?

I say nothing. Still, silently I resolve to do what I can ensure that the voice of my generation of Asian Americans will not be lost. We will be heard, not only for our own aspirations, but for the hopes of our parents and the future of our children.

Tracy Li is a graduating high school student and member of the Young OCA-Greater Washington, DC Chapter.

“Please take off your shoes...”

By Brian Chei-Fai Lau



As a little kid, each time my friends came to my house, I would always ask them to “Please remove your shoes.” They would often respond with a confused look and then reluctantly take off their shoes. Once, I went to my friends’ house and their parents commented, “Oh, you can keep your shoes on.” Confused, I looked around and noticed I was the only one without my shoes on. When had I taken them off? Apparently, the habit of removing shoes when entering a house was so ingrained in me that I must have taken them off without even thinking.

According to Asian tradition, removing your shoes upon entering a home was a show of respect to the host of the house. Besides taking off my shoes, I knew a few other Asian things such as my Chinese

name, the lunar new year, the lucky red packet, and of course calling every older family friend either “Uncle,” or “Aunt.” That’s been pretty much my knowledge of my Asian culture when I grew up. As a matter of fact, all the way through high school, I did not recognize any differences between my classmates and me. Like them, I was an American kid.

Upon entering college, the perspective of my “Asianess” was shattered. On one occasion when I ended up with a low grade on a test, one of my new, Caucasian roommates expressed his shock. “This class must be hard. Even you can’t get it.” As subtle as the implication was, my roommate was suggesting that a test in which an Asian could not get a good grade meant that the test was exceedingly hard. Although such an assumption by my classmate seemed harmless, it struck me surprisingly hard.

For the first time, I realized that I was not like them. I was an Asian student. By being Asian, it immediately meant that I was supposed to be the smartest, brightest and most scientifically-minded student. I was also supposed to be the quiet, nerdy and boring student who

did nothing but study. In other words, I was regarded as a stereotype in their mind. But I knew I was not. So how could I regain my identity? I could have taken one of two paths: deny the fact that I was indeed different, or embrace my unique difference.

After much soul searching and talking with my parents and siblings, I have chosen the latter and begun my search for what it means to be Asian American. I realized that my Asian culture was far beyond a few stereotypes and founded on over four millennia of history and tradition.

So intrigued, I asked my parents and grandparents to describe the events and stories of their lives. Slowly, a transformation began to take place in my mind. I started to take pride in my Asian heritage. I went to Asian gatherings and joined the Asian American Student Union where I was able to further explore my Asian identity. Soon my roommates wanted to go to “dim sum” and hear all the amazing

“I could have taken one of two paths: deny the fact that I was indeed different, or embrace my unique difference.”

stories. Suddenly, being Asian was cool. It even became an apartment rule that shoes had to be removed prior to entering.

The more I learn about my Asian tradition, the more I realize that that

my Asian heritage is not a hindrance but an addition to my American culture. However, reconciling the two cultures is not easy. Our generation is stuck between the “motherland” of our parents and the American world where we were born and raised. As a result, it is difficult to determine exactly who we are. A major issue for my generation is that we do not want to be the stereotypical Asian. Many of us feel that we can achieve this by ignoring our Asian side. Unfortunately, other people will always see us a little differently. If we ignore our heritage we are avoiding the issue and the prejudice against Asians will never change. If we grasp and take pride in our unique culture we should be able to create our own definition of what it means to be Asian American and in so doing, eradicate the stereotypes.

My hope is that others do not take as long as I did to realize that as Asian Americans we are blessed with not only one heritage to call our own, but two.

Brian Lau is currently the President of the Asian American Student Union at the University of Maryland at College Park.

THE ABCS OF HOLDING A CANDIDATES FORUM

By Kathay Feng

As we well know, OCA is a non-profit organization. At the core of our tax-exempt status is that we are non-partisan and do not support any candidates. Yet, our membership is a uniquely engaged one that cares deeply about civil rights and electoral politics. In order to serve our constituency, and hold candidates accountable, one of the best vehicles for chapters to voice their concerns is through candidate debates.

I was in the middle of organizing a mayoral forum for the APIA and immigrant Los Angeles community and the question came up about who to invite. We have non-partisan mayoral elections and inviting all 12 candidates would have made the debate unwieldy and unendurable. We then decided to invite the top five, only to find out they were all Democrats. What to do?

I pulled out a few handbooks on the subject and found that the IRS does permit non-profits to hold candidate forums, as long as they follow basic rules. (See sidebar for excerpts from the Independent Sector's "Playing by the Rules" Handbook).

Often times, individual chapter members may be very active on a campaign, or even run for an office themselves. It is a credit to our membership that we are so active. What is important to remember is

that the individual is doing campaign work as an individual, not as a representative of OCA.

To give an example, locally, we have many wonderful OCA members who have run for city councils, the State Assembly and the Board of Equalization. While some people work on these campaigns, we cannot sponsor a table at a fundraiser under OCA. We cannot allow the candidates to come to our dinners to distribute materials or make speeches, although anyone can come to eat! And we carefully do not invite candidates to be part of our ceremonies or receive awards during campaign season. Once a person is elected, OCA chapters can highlight the newly elected as much as they want – in newsletters, at dinners, and to the members. So, in Los Angeles, we celebrate John Chiang, Judy Chu, Mike Eng, and Carol Liu – all OCA-GLA members – after they are elected to office, but not before.

Kathay Feng serves as the OCA National Secretary and is the Executive Director of California Common Cause, a nonpartisan nonprofit advocacy organization founded in 1970 as a vehicle for citizens to make their voices heard in the political process and to hold their elected leaders accountable to the public interest.

PLAYING BY THE RULES

The following is excerpted from the Independent Sector's "Playing by the Rules" Handbook." You can visit www.independentsector.org to order the full copy. It is full of relevant advice for all manner of knotty political questions.

- 1 The sponsoring organization must have a record of concern with public and legislative issues." OCA chapters easily meet these criteria.
- 2 All viable candidates must be invited to the forum. The term "viable" has been defined by courts as all major party candidates and "significant minor party" candidates. The IRS has allowed sponsors to adopt "reasonable, objective" criteria to limit participation when it is impractical to invite all.
- 3 The forum location must be chosen based on non-political considerations.
- 4 Each forum must address a broad range of issues.
- 5 Questions must be prepared and presented to candidates by a nonpartisan panel composed of knowledgeable persons from media, educational organizations, community leaders or other interested persons who are independent of the sponsoring organization.
- 6 Each candidate must have an equal opportunity to answer questions.
- 7 Questioning procedures must not be biased to favor or hinder any candidate.
- 8 The forum must be run by a moderator who does not act as the organization's spokesperson, but has the sole function of ensuring the ground rules are observed.
- 9 At the beginning and end of the forum, the moderator must state that the views expressed are those of the candidates, not of the sponsoring organization, and that the sponsorship of the forum is not an endorsement of any candidate.
- 10 The moderator must state that all candidates or all viable candidates were invited.
- 11 The organization may report what happens at the forum, but must do so without editorial comment or endorsement and must circulate its

THE 3 Rs FOR CHAPTERS

By Virginia L. Ng, OCA National VP of Chapter Development

The 3 Rs; the basic three we learned during our primary school years. Most people know them as Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic. But they also stand for RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND RECOGNITION.

These are the 3 basic Rs in volunteerism and something we must clearly think of all the time if we are to groom and retain the members who are the backbone of our chapters.

RECRUITMENT – This is a constant. Strive to recruit and gain more members. Members come from all walks of life. You meet them everywhere. Don't be afraid to speak about your organization to whoever will listen and don't just limit it to Asians. This is the first step. How many of you can spill off the goals and what OCA stands for and is about? If you have passion for the organization, it will reflect in your voice and the words you say. Some lead points include:

- What are your chapter's past and future programs
- What are your chapter success stories
- OCA is a national organization
- OCA's numerous scholarship and internship programs
- OCA's corporate partners and the programs they support
- What corporate sponsors in your area have supported
- Attend as many community functions as possible
- Get invited to be a speaker at community groups
- Wear your OCA button...everywhere
- Contribute newspaper articles to your local press

RETENTION - This works with **RECOGNITION**. Because with RECOGNITION comes RETENTION.

- Send thank you notes to ALL volunteers who work on an event, after the event
- At meetings, recognize the people who have worked diligently on committees
- Announce their names at your programs, giving credit where credit is due
- During the holidays, send a card or small token to your board members with a thank you note saying "We can't do it without you..."
- Recognize your committee during your signature event with a small bouquet of flowers or a beautifully wrapped bottle of wine
- Host a barbecue or dinner party in your home, giving thanks to all volunteers in your chapter
- During the year, keep in touch with members by writing a short note or post card
- Buy a cake or bake a batch of cookies and take to a special volunteer's home

Doing All We Can For Our Members

By Debbie Chen,

OCA National VP of Membership Services

Membership recruitment and retention is a broad area that can be addressed from several different angles. As a grassroots volunteer based organization, the strength of our chapters and the subsequent members we retain and recruit depend on the leadership and skills of local board and committee members, the resources they are able to develop and utilize and the creativity they have in implementing programs and services for the local community. Traditionally, OCA chapters have comprised of individuals who were more active participants. However, as we grow as an organization and community, we need to recognize that not everyone has the same amount of time and energy to dedicate toward direct programs organizing. Yet, that does not necessarily mean that they do not care about the issues OCA works on. To address this reality, we need to reexamine how our chapters are organized, the support materials we provide for chapter officers and the programming needs of each chapter's community in order to assist our chapters to become stronger presences at the local level, which directly affects our collective voice at the national level.

CHAPTER ORGANIZATION:

In preparation for membership recruitment growth, it is important for each chapter to carefully take stock of its bylaws and make sure they are updated to reflect OCA National's current bylaws. A key component for our members to evaluate is how the chapter's executive officers are selected. Generally speaking, under the old framework, a board of directors was elected by the membership and the executive officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) were also elected by the membership. Additionally, some bylaws may require up to a 2/3 vote of all members for any updates. This basic framework worked well when our chapters were still young. But as we have grown and are looking at developing new programs and recruiting larger numbers of members, this framework also makes the actual management of our programs more difficult for local chapter board members.

The recommended framework chapters are now encouraged to adopt has three specific

changes that will help manage programs as we increase our membership numbers.

The first change is to still maintain the election of chapter board members directly by the membership, but have the elected board be the body that elects the executive officers from the newly elected board. The pragmatic reason for this is that board members are the ones who will know who can effectively and responsibly do the work required of an executive officer and best fulfill the duties required of them.

Secondly, as our organization expands and the national board is faced with increasingly numerous and complex issues, it is recommended that chapters reassess the number of terms and the length of terms for the executive officer positions. Many chapters have one or two year terms for their executive officers with term limits ranging from one to three consecutive terms. To help ensure the continuity of knowledge on the national board, it is recommended that chapters consider having two year terms for their executive officer positions and make an effort to have

more than one officer attend the national board meetings.

Lastly, as our organization increases its membership numbers, it is highly recommended that chapters revise those bylaws that state major decisions be restricted to a direct 2/3 vote of all dues paying members. With oversight from the National Board and staff who are charged with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization, it is not practical to expect a dues paying member to be able to vote responsibly on decisions regarding the operations of the organization. I urge you to contact your local board and assist them in this transition as we move towards consistency, continuity, and pragmatism in our operations.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

With the installation of the new membership database program at the national office, management of membership should soon be much simpler for each chapter. Organizational documents are also being compiled as we

continue to work on expanding the officer handbook. I am also a member of the Technology Committee formed to develop website space for every chapter with an interactive administrative backend that would allow each chapter to personalize their section and make updates of their own choosing. One of the areas that this would be especially helpful for local chapters is the updating of membership benefits. However, as we continue developing tangible membership benefits on a national level, chapters need to work on local benefits at the same time. As national works to develop a national membership card and additional benefits through our corporate partners, we would like to see more chapters follow the example of chapters such as Seattle and New York in developing benefits for their members with local businesses such as making arrangements with local restaurants to provide discounts. Part of the support documents for local chapters would be template letters of approach and certificates of appreciation for local businesses to display at their business. Part of the benefit for a local business would be the ability for chapters to list them on the chapter's website. Thus, any member that visits an area with a chapter would also be able to utilize the benefit.

PROGRAMS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

While working on collecting support documents to create templates for chapters to use, it occurred to some of us that we should also be working to compile a "best practices" collection of the different programs that chapters organize. I had collected documents that were burned onto a preliminary CD and distributed to chapters at the January National Board meeting. The next version will be available for review at the upcoming Convention in Las Vegas. If you have an idea for a program or have worked on a program in your chapter, please do not hesitate to contact me so that we can include it in our records.

Many of our chapters conduct unique programs that other chapters might be interested in duplicating. From a national viewpoint, it would make sense for chapters to better coordinate the programs we each work on individually, into a targeted series of programs across chapters. This coordination would also provide the national office development staff with a foundation for program proposals with which to seek additional national funding to support local

programs. This reasoning is part of the basis in which the CAT (Chapter Advancement Track) was developed for this year's convention. This year's focus is on program development for chapters interested in working together to coordinate a program series and look for additional funding as well as assist each other in document creation to save time. In future years, the idea is to develop CAT into a full-blown track encompassing both programs and leadership development to support local chapter board and committee members much like what we now have in place with the OCA/JACL leadership retreat held each year in Washington, D.C.

Essentially, it comes down to this: chapters rely on the strength of our board and committee members to create and run programs that in turn help us recruit and retain members who support the work we do. If you have an idea, contact, or suggestion, please feel free to contact me at debbiechen@earthlink.net, or at 713-446-8430 (after 7pm CST weeknights or all day on weekends). You do not have to be a board member to make your voice heard.

JERSEY GUYS

UPDATE

Jun Choi, the Edison, NJ mayoral candidate who was maligned on the air by the Jersey Guys on April 25, visited the studios on May 25 and personally accepted their apology. Craig Carton of the Jersey Guys offered his apologies first, saying, "...man-to-man...if you were personally offended by the comments we made a month ago today, I'm sorry. And you have my apology. And I appreciate the fact that you've come in here."

Choi replied, "I accept your apology...it wasn't that I, personally was offended. It was the fact that on the broadcast, you had made

fun, and I believe it crossed a line, that it was not just tongue-in-cheek, in my belief, that you had disrespected more than 35,000 Asian Americans in Edison and over half a million Asian Americans state-wide by saying these groups were un-American.

"That was what I was deeply offended by...the fact that I'm on your program means that I accept your apology and we need to move on. But I also want to make it very clear, that although this is an 'entertainment program,' your comments were deeply offensive and it went overboard and we really need to have a

discussion, and we need to move on. Comments like that don't help the situation in New Jersey."

The Coalition Against Hate Media, of which OCA is a member, accepted the apology as well and the station has promised to begin cultural sensitivity training.

* Choi won the June 7 Democratic Party Primary, defeating three-term, 12-year incumbent George Spadoro to become the Democratic candidate in the mayoral race to be held later in the Fall.



SPOTLIGHT ON COALITION PARTNER:

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION FORUM

Established in 1982, the National Immigration Forum is the nation's premier immigrant rights organization. Dedicated to embracing and upholding America's tradition as a nation of immigrants, the Forum advocates and builds public support for public policies that welcome immigrants and refugees and are fair to and supportive of newcomers to our country.

The Forum is unique in that they do not have a specific constituency—the organization speaks for immigration in the national interest. The Forum serves as the lead convener of hundreds of associate organizations and other national groups on a range of immigration policy issues and has been the driving force behind many immigration policy victories. The Forum also works closely with local advocates and service providers across the country.

Immigration has always been an important issue for OCA members. Since 1982, OCA has advocated for increasing visas for family reunification (once called the fifth preference category, it is now known as the fourth preference category) and preserving the category so families can reunite with their brothers and sisters.

Throughout the years, the National Immigration Forum has conducted media training sessions for participants of the OCA/JACL Leadership

Conference. They have also continued to be the experts on crafting public policy and research, spearheading coalition meetings and coordinating advocacy efforts among immigrant and civil rights organizations such as OCA.

This summer, the National Immigration Forum will work with its coalition partners on finding support for the passage of comprehensive immigration reform. The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act (SAOIA) of 2005, Senate bill S.1033, was introduced on May 12 by Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and John McCain (R-AZ) and Representatives Jim Kolbe (R-AZ), Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Luis Gutierrez (D-IL).

"This carefully crafted legislation is an important turning point in the debate over how to best control our immigration system. With the introduction of this bill, we are moving beyond assessing the problem, and beyond piecemeal, enforcement-only approaches that have failed to control immigration and secure our borders for over a decade. The focus of the debate from here forward is: what is the solution? And this bill is the most serious attempt in a generation to craft a solution that will work on the ground, secure our borders, grow our economy, protect workers, and restore the rule of law to our immigration system," said National Immigration Forum Executive Director Frank Sharry.

The National Immigration Forum was instrumental in securing funding for OCA to hire a Policy Advocate who will assist the Asian Pacific American and greater immigrant coalitions in working with local elected officials to build support for comprehensive immigration reform legislation on Capital Hill.



VIETNAMESE AMERICANS GATHER TO COMMEMORATE THIRTY YEARS OF HISTORY IN AMERICA

By Hung Nguyen



Hung Nguyen Photo

top L to R: Jung Lee Nguyen, Hung Nguyen, Congressman Mike Honda, Jorge Alcantara, Oanh Hoang

bottom L to R: Congressman Mike Honda, Trang Nguyen-Do (SunTrust), Tony Nguyen

April 30, 2005 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the mass exodus of refugees from Vietnam. Some call it the "Fall of Saigon," while others called it the loss of family and home. Vietnamese Americans from across the United States descended on Washington, DC from April 29–May 2 to commemorate this anniversary. Hawaiians, Texans, Californians, entrepreneurs, students, and seniors—they all came. They came for a variety of reasons.

Some came to attend an entrepreneur's meeting hosted by the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans and Asian American Press on April 29 to consider forming a national Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce, creating an exclusive club of CEOs who will use their clout and financial wealth to be socially responsible corporate citizens, and developing business opportunities in the government sector. Some Vietnamese Americans networked in a conference room; others met on the golf course at an 18-hole tournament hosted by Thao Dang of Century 21 Alpha.

Although there was much to celebrate, there was much to remember.

Several hundred Vietnamese Americans were joined by their American friends and families for a commemoration with James Webb, former Secretary of the U.S. Navy, at the Vietnam War Memorial. Under the pouring rain with a sea of umbrellas and plastic raincoats, a huddled mass of humanity shared a common bond, a bond that unites men and women of different cultures. They were gathered together to remember the sacrifices made by men and women who died to protect and defend liberty and freedom.

Later that afternoon on the lawn of the West Capitol, several thousand Vietnamese Americans gathered to advocate for human rights and the rule of law, freedom and democracy in Vietnam. Patriotic songs were sung in the folkloric traditions while others were rapped to the beat of the young hipster. Glow sticks were passed out, the rain continued to pour but the people remained. Again, people gathered to remember the sacrifices of those who gave them their liberties.

Thirty years of Vietnamese American history have passed. Yet, this is not even the beginning of the Vietnamese American presence in the United States. To trace the historical presence and contributions of the Vietnamese American community, the Asian Pacific American Program

"Under the pouring rain with a sea of umbrellas and plastic raincoats, a huddled mass of humanity shared a common bond."

under the direction of Franklin Odo has begun fundraising and preparing for a Smithsonian Institution Vietnamese American

History and Heritage Project to open in the Fall of 2006. To raise awareness of this project, a who's who list of executives, community leaders, advocates and your average Vietnamese Americans gathered

for a reception at the Freer Gallery of Art on May 1st to learn more about this exciting project that will set a new record. In the first five to six weeks of fundraising that ended December 31, 2004, the project raised approximately \$107,000. It needs to raise another \$80,000 to complete the fundraising effort for the first three years of the project. The long-term goal is raise an endowment of \$1 million to keep the project going in perpetuity.

The Vietnamese American community is making strides. On May 2, Vietnamese Americans gathered at the Old Executive Office Building on the White House complex to hear Administration officials share their thoughts on social security, the faith and community-based initiatives and the economic focus of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Representing the Administration were Eddy

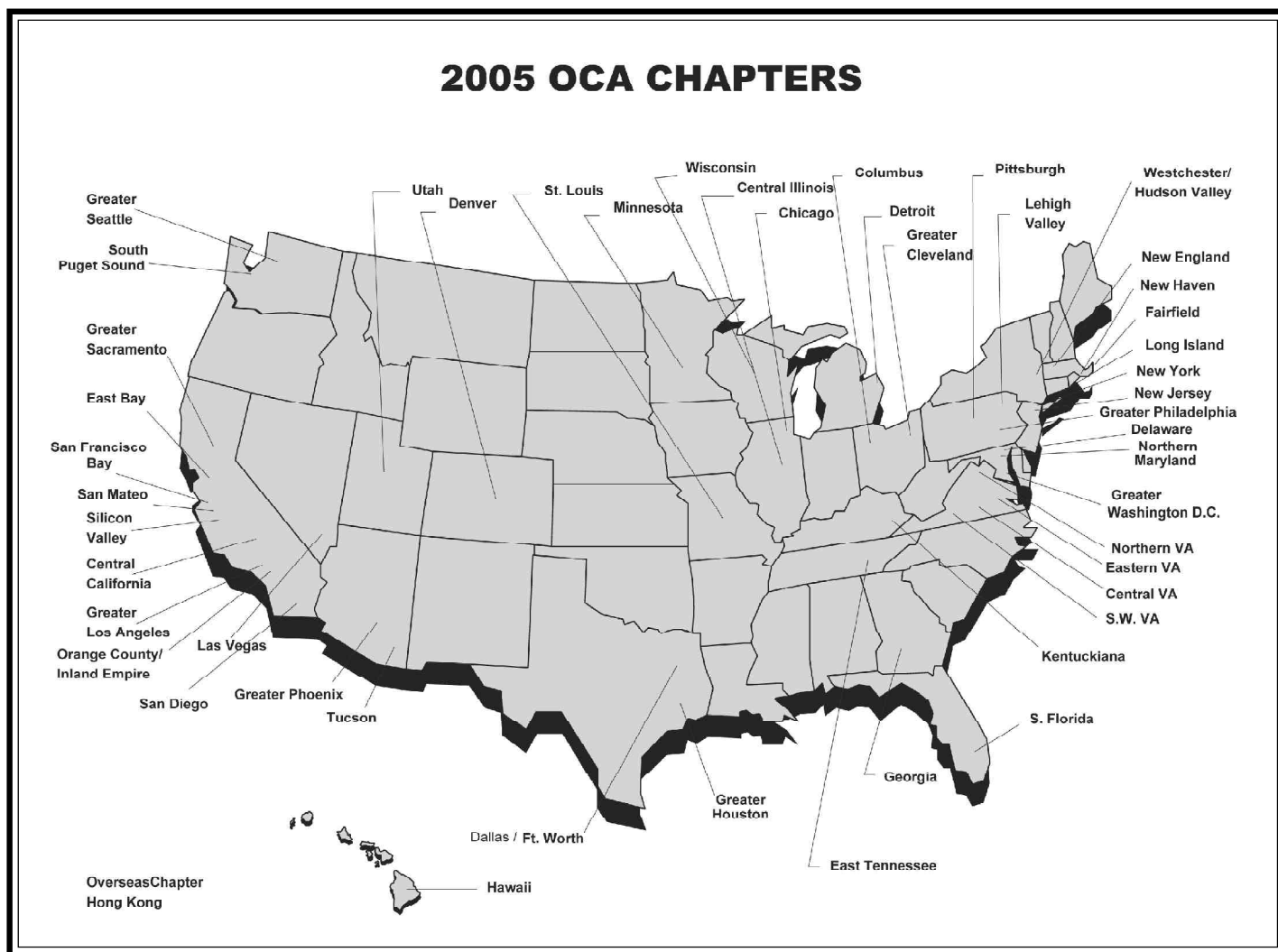
Badrina, Executive Director of the Initiative and Dr. Nguyen Van Hanh, Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which has been instrumental in providing resources to many of the ethnically based organizations throughout the U.S. Immediately after the briefing, guests were shuttled to the Rayburn Office Building for lunch and an opportunity to meet with Congressional staff. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi was represented by Charmaine Manansala who expressed the Leader's continuing support for American values that treat all citizens with dignity and equal opportunities.

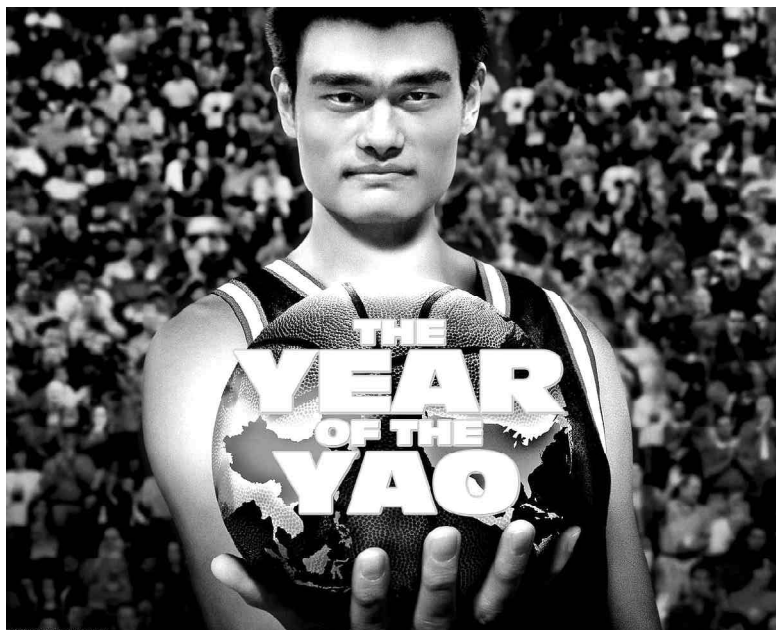
Later in the evening, the second annual Vietnamese American National Gala was held at the Renaissance Mayflower in Washington, DC. This gathering celebrated "30 Years of Vietnamese American Accomplishments in the United States." U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao was the keynote speaker and U.S.

Representatives Mike Honda and Ed Royce shared the podium. Vietnamese Americans from many sectors came, saw, celebrated and re-invigorated to accomplish more. Although it was a glitzy event, it was the countless volunteers that made the night successful.

It is the people that build our nation. It is in a free society that people have the opportunities to express themselves and to commit themselves to being better than they are the day before. Many Vietnamese Americans came to the U.S. with nothing but the clothes on their backs 30 years ago. Today, we may have a few material possessions, but what keeps us living is what keeps all Americans going – the pursuit of happiness.

Hung Nguyen is President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans.





"YEAR OF THE YAO" DOESN'T DISAPPOINT

Review by David Chu

The NBA's newest All-Star, Yao Ming, takes another big step toward super-stardom by appearing in his very first film, *Year of the Yao*. But this is not another chest-thumping film simply to promote oneself. Instead, the film directed and produced by James D. Stern of the 2000 documentary *Michael Jordan to the Max*, gives viewers not only an insight into a rookie NBA player's first year, but also to Ming's struggles to bridge two cultures. Ultimately, the film shines the spotlight on the emergences of Asian athletes participating and dominating in the elite sports arena.

Stern spent about seven months filming Ming's transition into the NBA. The film begins with the NBA 2002 draft. Yao Ming was already an established and well-known basketball star in China since joining the Chinese Basketball Association's Shanghai Sharks at the age of 14. Despite this, many people questioned whether Ming could even measure up against the average NBA basketball player. Ming got that chance to prove himself as the number one overall draft pick for the Houston Rockets in 2002. As shown in the film, critics and skeptics felt they were proven right about Ming's skills during the early part of the season. Viewers

were given a rare insight into the struggles and pressures Ming faced during this transitional phase of this career. Not only did he have to learn the Houston Rocket's basketball system and a new culture, Ming had to deal with his own expectations as well as the expectations of Asian and Asian American fans.

Instead of letting the critics' negative comments and the grueling season schedule get to him, Ming's perseverance, dedication and hard work through those difficult times resulted in his emergence as a legitimate and elite NBA player by earning NBA All-Rookie First Team honors and a starting position for the Western Conference team during the 2003 NBA All-Star Game.

OCA was also featured in the film during the Shaq-Ming rivalry. In response to a reporter's question about whether Ming could challenge Shaq as the most dominant center in NBA, Shaq, mimicking and gesturing as a Chinese person as portrayed and stereotyped by Hollywood, told the reporter that he was still the best basketball player in the NBA. The film showed OCA's response to this incident by showing a television clip from a national sport channel where a reporter read OCA's statement.

"Year of the Yao is a very well-thought out and planned documentary with film sequences consisting of numerous talking heads, live interviews and live action segments all cleverly interwoven into a compelling and informative story," stated David Yao (no relation), OCA-DC Chapter President after a special screening for OCA staff and local chapter members. "Having seen the trials and tribulations of him joining the NBA with the high expectations and intense pressures from all sides, Yao Ming came across as a quiet, thoughtful, talented, hard working, and true gentleman athlete. He was willing to drive himself as hard as he could in order to learn and to succeed in what he had set out to do. In watching this documentary, one cannot help but to root for this young Chinese man who carries on his shoulders the hope of his nation; and as a Chinese American, one cannot help but to feel the exhilaration of seeing someone representing our heritage and culture succeed in this country and be able to point to him and say with pride: 'Yes, he IS one of us!'"

Check the OCA website at www.ocanatl.org for a listing of showings in your cities. The movie is slated to debut later on in this summer.



claudine cheng photo

In celebrating our history and heritage, we should pause and reflect back on the legacy of our leaders and give appreciation to their vision of a better future. We are saddened by the passing of prominent leaders such as Fred Korematsu, Congressman Robert Matsui, and John Tsu, who will be remembered for their perseverance and commitment to ensuring that there be a place at the table for Asian Pacific Americans. OCA has also seen the passing of a number of its leaders and long-time members in the past few months. In tribute, OCA will focus its resources towards making the establishment of a Center in Washington, DC, a reality, and re-dedicate energy to enhancing its signature Internship Program to ensure that future leaders are in the pipeline, ready and willing to continue the vision and commitment of these leaders.

Edwin “Ed” Bock

Edwin Bock, 80, in Rockville, MD, on February 8. He was one of the three drafters of OCA's Constitution, which was written on his kitchen table in 1973. He began his career with the U.S. Post Office in 1962 as a mechanical engineer with its Office of Research and Engineering and retired in 1985. Bock was born in Baltimore, and graduated in 1942 from Baltimore's Polytechnic Institute. He received a Bachelor's degree in Engineering from Tufts University and commissioned as a Navy ensign, one of the first Americans of Chinese descent to attain that distinction. He received a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Perdue University and also attended Johns Hopkins University. Bock is survived by son Gregory Bock of Columbus, Ohio, from his first marriage; son Justin Bock of Raleigh, N.C, from his second marriage; two brothers; a sister; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Fred Korematsu

Fred Korematsu, 86, in California, on March 30. Recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the defendant in the landmark case *Korematsu v. United States*, Korematsu's story was the subject of an Emmy-winning PBS documentary in 2002. "I know what it is like to be at the other end of such scapegoating and how difficult it is to clear one's name after unjustified suspicions are endorsed as fact by the government. If someone is a spy or terrorist they should be prosecuted for their actions. But no one should ever be locked away simply because they share the same race, ethnicity, or religion as a spy or terrorist. If that principle was not learned from the internment of Japanese Americans, then these are very dangerous times for our democracy," he wrote in an editorial to

the San Francisco Chronicle. Korematsu is survived by his wife, Katherine, his daughter, Karen and son, Ken.

James “Jim” Lee

Jim Lee, on March 25. Lee was a past OCA National Treasurer and founding member of OCA. A military veteran and a close associate of OCA National Past President K.L. Wang, Lee is survived by his wife and daughters.

Lily Okura

Lily Okura, 86, in Bethesda, MD, on June 14. Okura was Executive Director of the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation and recent widow of Pat Okura. An accomplished and well-known dancer, she found work in Hollywood, CA where she grew up. The Okuras were newlyweds when they were sent to concentration camps at the beginning of World War II. Their book *Victory Without Swords* is the biographical account of their experiences during that time. The Okuras used their Japanese internment reparations money to establish the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation to benefit mental health professionals of Asian descent and award scholarships for training in the advancement of their mental health careers. They were married for 63 years.

Dr. Sik Woo Ting

Sik Woo Ting, M.D., 88, in Detroit, MI, on March 24. A leader of Detroit's Chinese-American community, Ting was a founding member of OCA and the first president of the OCA-Detroit chapter. He was a World War II veteran, founder of the Four Seas Club and active in the Chinese American fraternity FF. He was also active with Stephens United Methodist Church in Dearborn Heights, in Amvets and in several stamp collectors clubs. After retiring from the Veterans Hospital, he

volunteered at a medical clinic in Detroit's Chinatown. Ting is survived by son Jan, daughter Judith Akaka, daughter-in-law Helen Ting, M.D., son-in-law Thomas Dusky, and five grandchildren: Margaret Ting Ryan, M.D., Brian Akaka, Mary Ting, Adrienne Dusky, and Alexandra Dusky.

Dr. John Tsu

Dr. John Tsu, 81, on February 26. Tsu was Chair of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as well as Honorary Co-Chair of the OCA Building Fund Campaign. A strong community advocate on behalf of all APAs in President George W. Bush's administration, he was always willing to cross the aisle and consider the bigger picture and the larger social agenda as it impacts the community. In addition to his active civic involvement, Tsu was an educator and affiliated with Seton Hall, the University of San Francisco and John F. Kennedy University. His efforts in supporting Bill Lann Lee's confirmation as U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights were pivotal.

Einez Mae Yap

Einez Yap, 60, in Miami, FL, on May 18. Yap was an OCA-South Florida chapter board member and great supporter of OCA for many years. She had great plans for the South Florida chapter's internship program and the OCA Building Fund. For over 10 years, she chaired the annual CCF/OCA Chinese New Year Festival which now attracts over 10,000 people from the South Florida area. Yap put her heart and soul into everything she touched or worked on; a true leader in every sense of the word.

BECOME AN OCA MEMBER TODAY

We encourage you to join the OCA chapter nearest you. If there are no chapters in your area, you are welcome to join as an OCA Member-at-Large.

If you would like to join as a Member-at-Large, please complete the Membership Application Form and submit along with your dues payment to: OCA, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 601, Washington, DC 20036. Please make check payable to OCA.

O C A M E M B E R S H I P A P P L I C A T I O N F O R M

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes No U.S. Permanent Resident? Yes No

Spouse/Partner Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

E-mail: _____

OCA-At Large Membership Category (please check one):

- \$10 Student
- \$25 Single
- \$40 Family
- \$100 Century CLub
- \$250 American Club
- \$250 At-Large Business (under 100 employees)
- \$1,000 Lifetime Single
- \$1,500 Lifetime Family

I would like to join an OCA chapter in my area. Please send my contact information to the local chapter president (or person in charge of membership services).

I am interested in starting an OCA chapter in my local area. Please send me relevant chapter development materials and information.

Please send me additional information regarding: _____

For more information, contact:
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Washington, DC 20036
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oca@ocanatl.org • www.ocanatl.org

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- California**
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Inland Empire
Greater Sacramento
San Diego
San Francisco Bay
San Mateo County
Silicon Valley
- Colorado**
Boulder
Denver
- Connecticut**
Fairfield
New Haven
- Delaware**
- District of Columbia**
Greater Washington, D
- Florida**
South Florida
- Georgia**
- Hawaii**
- Illinois**
Central Illinois
Chicago
- Kentuckiana**
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Northern Maryland
- Massachusetts**
New England
- Michigan**
Detroit
- Minnesota**
- Missouri**
St. Louis
- Nevada**
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- New Jersey**
- New York**
Long Island
New York
Westchester-Hudson
Valley
- Ohio**
Greater Cleveland
Columbus
- Pennsylvania**
Lehigh Valley
Greater Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
- Tennessee**
East Tennessee
- Texas**
Dallas-Fort Worth
Greater Houston
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