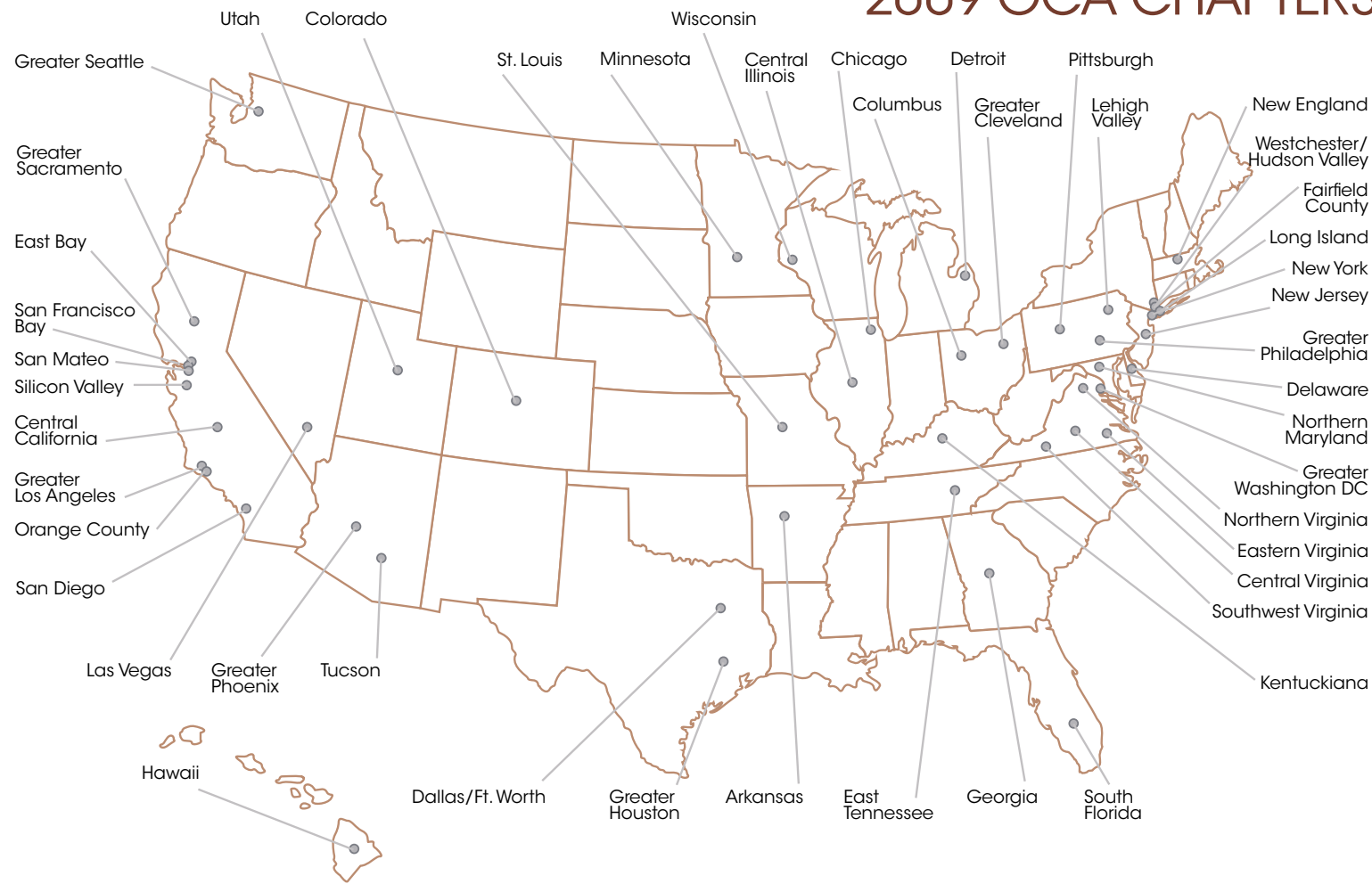


# 2009 OCA CHAPTERS



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FALL 2009



# IMAGE

OCA | EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS



**Empowering  
APA Voices  
at the 2009  
Convention**

**Keeping Up  
with the Former  
Interns**

**Hot Issues:  
OCA Serves,  
Mentorship,  
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# IMAGE

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About the Cover:  
2009 Convention participants enjoy the San Francisco City Hall Reception

Photo courtesy of Tom Eng

## Our Mission

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

To fulfill its mission, OCA has established the following goals:

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

Founded in 1973 as the Organization of Chinese Americans, OCA aims to embrace the hopes and aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.

OCA is engaged in organizing its over 80 chapters and affiliates across the nation to develop both leadership and community involvement. OCA chapters and our organizational and college affiliates are establishing strong local programs in all parts of the country.

OCA's base in Washington, D.C. gives the national office an effective vantage point for monitoring legislation and policy issues affecting Asian Pacific Americans. In addition, OCA is able to build national support and to work in coalition with other national groups around issues affecting Asian Pacific Americans.

OCA takes no collective position on the politics of any foreign country, but instead focuses on the welfare and civil rights of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.

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## Message from the President

Ken Lee | OCA National President

It seems as though it was just yesterday since we wrapped up the 2009 National Convention on August 9, and here it is, autumn, and we have exciting new upcoming events happening within OCA.

First off, I'd like to reflect on this year's Convention, "A Call to Action: Empowering Asian Pacific American Voices," and share with you what a tremendous pleasure it was to attend Convention as your National President. As I've mentioned, we hosted the convention in my hometown of San Francisco, and the City did not disappoint! It was so wonderful to be able to host one our largest turnouts ever just a few blocks away from San Francisco's thriving Chinatown. And of course, the events that took place during the Convention did not disappoint. I've received so much positive feedback about the receptions, panels, seminars and the gala. I was told the City Hall reception hosted by the local community featuring local Asian chefs was "awesome," and that hearing Mayor Newsom speak about the historical past was inspiring. Having the first Chinese elected congress woman address our convention attendees was a great honor.

Many Convention attendees mentioned that they enjoyed the various tracks and the speakers were informative and interesting. My personal favorite part of Convention was the Angel Island Immigration Station tour. It's so important for Asian Pacific Americans to know their history, and while it was a grim reflection of the past, it was also a positive reminder of the obstacles we have overcome.

Speaking of overcoming obstacles, hopefully by now you have heard that on September 15, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a Resolution acknowledging the historic role of San Francisco's government in advancing the

policies of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The Resolution also calls for encouraging the learning of history as well as celebration of the contributions of Chinese Americans. OCA commends Mayor Newsom and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for acknowledging the past injustice thrown on Chinese Americans, and we proudly look forward to a future where we can erase any prejudices or imperceptions of APAs.

As a person with a corporate background, it gives me great pleasure to announce the upcoming 2009 OCA National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards, which recognize corporate excellence and community service, on October 23 at the W Hotel in Washington, D.C. As a past recipient of the Corporate Achievement Award (in 1997, to be exact), I believe I can safely say that this award is important to showcasing the contributions of APAs in the corporate sector, and I hope you will attend this great event. We will also be launching two new emerging programs during this time, the young professionals group called Bamboo: Build, Breakthrough and Believe, and the DC chapter of Mentoring Asian American Professionals (MAAP), which pairs APA professional with leaders and mentors. OCA Nationals will be happy to give you more information about these exciting programs.

I have enjoyed an eye-opening summer filled with camaraderie, organizing and advocacy, and I look forward to seeing you in the fall. Thank you for empowering YOUR voice. ■



## Message from the Executive Director

George Wu | OCA Executive Director

Throughout this year's National Convention in San Francisco, I was energized by the stories OCA Convention participants shared with me. Collectively, these stories demonstrate how OCA has brought communities together for more than 36 years. The stories of our 2009 Unsung Heroes illustrate what it means to be an OCA member, and that is why I would like to dedicate this column to our Unsung Heroes who were honored at this past Gala Awards Banquet.

I truly believe that we should keep sharing stories about those in our community, so that the National Center can honor those who take little to no credit for their dedication to our organization.

We have members like **Anna Wong**, of OCA-Wisconsin, who has been a member of OCA-WI for over 20 years and is currently serving on the board as Communication Chair. Without proper communication, OCA could not continue to thrive. Others excel at fundraising, like **Benjamin Yeung** of OCA-San Mateo. He is Chair of Events and Fundraising and has planned events such as "Health Care Issues in the APA Community."

It's also important to be organized and think outside of the box at OCA, that's why we have **George Yin** of OCA-Greater Los Angeles. He was the driving force behind organizing an artist reception with a renowned painter from China. He also organized "Summer Relief", an event to raise money for relief efforts for the survivors of the Myanmar and China disasters.

And, of course, OCA would be nowhere without those who chair our membership events, like **Ian Lim** of OCA-Dallas/Fort Worth, who worked hard to ensure the success of OCA-DFW's New Year Banquet, a major fundraising event for the chapter, and also **Joan Jia**, of OCA-Westchester & Hudson Valley, who is a current chapter board member who volunteers at every chapter event.

Knowing how hard so many members work to host local events, fundraise, and spread the mission of OCA, makes me proud to be an OCA member. Whether you are an intern, a former intern, a chapter member or a lifetime supporter, it has been a privilege seeing so many people come together. I thank you for your time, your energy and your dedication to embracing the hopes and aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans.

We always encourage you to let us know at the National Center what others are doing to help out, and to share their stories. We welcome stories that will be published in IMAGE, our monthly e-newsletter and news articles. We want to hear what you have done, and once again, thank you.

Cheers! ■



## Message from the Editor

Mia Youhne | Vice President of Communications

### Greetings from Seoul, Korea!

It is officially fall, and as we are putting together the final last touches of this fall issue of IMAGE, it is truly amazing how time flies. In less than three months, we will be celebrating the year 2010.

I must say that I am quite excited about this issue of IMAGE. The reason is because in this issue, we celebrate 20 years of the OCA Internship program. As a former intern myself, I always find it quite exciting to highlight who our past interns are, where they are located, and where they are in their careers. During the 2009 Convention held last August, the Internship Alumni Summit Forum took place. It was great to meet all of the interns and create a network support for former, current, and incoming interns. For this issue, we showcase and share with you our OCA former interns from the past 20 years. We would like to thank all those who participated in this celebration.

In this issue, we also highlight the 2009 OCA National Convention which took place in one of my favorite cities, San Francisco, California. I always love going to the Bay, but this time, it was even more special, memorable, and double the fun. I recall writing something like this a year ago in my editorial about Convention, but when I'm at an OCA Convention, it hits me. What hits me? Why I am part of this organization. It is always inspiring and a great joy to meet fellow advocates, colleagues, and friends at OCA Conventions.

I would like to applaud the co-chairs of the 2009 Convention: Claudine Cheng and Sherman Tang, the San Francisco, chapter, and the surrounding California chapters who helped organize and put this fabulous event together. As the past co-chair of the Las Vegas convention, I truly understand the hard work and dedication that goes into putting it all together. I especially would like to take this time to acknowledge and thank the young professionals of the San Francisco chapter and surrounding California chapters who helped organize this event and make it into a reality. I was amazed by the energy and the partnership between the chapters and members. I was especially amazed by the young professionals, students, interns, and all those who made everything go smoothly. When you can escort nearly 1,000 people from the second floor of the ballroom to the main ballroom on the first floor for the gala event without disturbing a wedding, you said it all! For those of you who were at the gala dinner, you know what I am talking about!

If you missed this year's convention, do not worry! Mark your calendars for the 2010 OCA National Convention in Houston, Texas, June 17-20, 2010. We hope to see you next year in Houston.

Grow. Lead. Succeed. ■

# 2009 Summer Internship Class



**ALEXANDER TSAO** is a senior at the University of Missouri studying Journalism, Strategic Communications. He was placed in the Environmental Protection Agency – Office of Human Resources and the Office of Environmental Information.

**ANDREW CHANG** recently graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He was placed at the Department of Transportation – Policy and Quality Control Division.

**ANGELA LAM** is a senior at Tufts University studying International Relations and Asian Studies. She interned at Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote.

**BRIAN CHIU** is a senior at the University of California, Los Angeles studying International Development Studies. He was placed at the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development.

**CAMDEN LEE** is a junior at the University of Maryland, College Park studying Physics with a minor in Asian American Studies. He interned at the OCA National Center.

**CASPAR WANG** is a senior at Rutgers University - New Brunswick studying Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering. He was placed at the Federal Aviation Administration – Air Traffic Organization.

**CATALINA YANG** is a senior at California State University, Sacramento studying Government. She interned at the Office of Congresswoman Doris Matsui.

**CHRISTINA CHIN** is a junior at the University of Michigan majoring in Organizational Studies. She interned at the OCA National Center.

**CHRISTINE TRUONG** is a junior at Old Dominion University studying Business Management. She was placed at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund.

**CINDY DINH** is a junior at Rice University majoring in Sociology and Health Policy Studies. She interned at Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

**CYNTHIA VUONG** recently graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Asian American Studies. She interned at the Equal

Employment Opportunity Commission – Office of Employment Opportunity.

**ELISA YU** is a senior at Harvard University studying Government with a minor in East Asian Studies. She was placed at the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance.

**HELEN LEI** recently graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies and Asian American Studies. She interned at the Office of Congresswoman Laura Richardson.

**JASON WU** recently graduated from Vassar College with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in Chinese. He was placed at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission - Office of Research, Information and Planning.

**JENNIFER WONG** is a senior at Vassar College studying Political Science and Japanese. She was placed at the Department of Justice - Voting Rights Section.

**JOYCE YIN** recently graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in Gender and Women's Studies and a minor in Sociology. She interned at the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium.

**JUAN SERAFICA** is a junior at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas studying Early Childhood Education. He was placed at the National Education Association.

**MANISHA PADI** is a senior at Massachusetts Institute of Technology studying Economics and Mathematics. She interned at Booz Allen Hamilton.

**MINH DANG** is a senior at Cleveland State University studying Chemical Engineering. He was placed at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**MINHCHAU DINH** is a sophomore at the University of the Pacific studying Geology and Economics. She interned at the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center.

**PAM SRAN** is a junior at the University of California, San Diego studying Political Science. She interned at the Office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.

**RAYMOND FLORES** is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania studying Economics. He was placed at the Office of Management and Budget.

**ROHAN GROVER** is a junior at the University of Pennsylvania studying Economics and Urban Studies. He was placed at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission – Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs.

**SHERWIN LI** is a sophomore at Cornell University studying Computer Science and Operations Research. He interned at the OCA National Center.

**STEPHANIE TANNY** is a senior at Colorado State University studying Ethnic studies and Sociology. She interned at the OCA National Center.

**TARA VANG** is a senior at University of California, Davis studying Community and Regional Development. She was placed at the Department of Veteran Affairs – Construction and Facilities Management.

**THU NGUYEN** is a junior at Cornell University studying Urban and Regional studies and Africana Studies. She was placed at the NAACP.

**TIFFANY CHEN** is a senior at Columbia University studying Political Science and East Asian Studies. She interned at the Department of Justice - Voting Rights Section.

**WILLIAM XU** is a senior at Rochester Institute of Technology studying Packaging Science. He was placed at the DC Mayor's Office, Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

## Apply now for the 2010 JACL/OCA Leadership Conference!

You can be one of the 15 OCA members selected to join 15 JACL (Japanese American Citizens League) members and spend four intensive days in Washington, DC to learn about the political process. You will have the opportunity to meet members of Congress, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Administration officials, government agencies, as well as with OCA's and JACL's colleagues in the Washington, DC social justice community.

Develop your skills in media and message training, working with a 501(c) 3, and learn how to better communicate with your Representative's office and coalition building. You will have a chance to share about your local projects and build new relationships. Past participants have described their experience as an inspiration to be a stronger leader in the APA community.

OCA members are strongly encouraged to apply to participate in the conference. In the past, it has proven to be extremely helpful to members in realizing how OCA chapters can most effectively work with OCA National on issues important to the APA community. The next conference will take place in March of 2009. To learn more about the conference, contact the National Office or go to [www.oconational.org](http://www.oconational.org). ■

JACL/OCA Leadership Conference

# OCA Mentoring Asian American Professionals Program

Iimay Ho | OCA Program Associate

OCA is proud to offer its new mentorship program to three different sites this year. The Mentoring Asian American Professionals (MAAP) program, sponsored by the OCA/UPS Mentorship Initiative, has already launched successfully in Atlanta and the Greater San Francisco area. The third cycle of the program will kick off on October 23 in Washington, DC.

“With the generous support of UPS, OCA has created an innovative and successful mentorship program that helps Asian American professionals develop their leadership skills, build a team of supportive mentors, and advance their careers,” said OCA National President Ken Lee.

The goal of MAAP is to cultivate the next generation of Asian Pacific American professionals through mentoring, skills building, and networking. MAAP is a three-month program that pairs Asian American professionals with experienced leaders in their fields. The program includes four one-on-one mentoring meetings structured around professional development topics, as well as three group convenings. Also, as part of the mentoring process, mentees create a personal strategic plan to identify ways to achieve their personal and professional goals.

“This program highlights the need for mentors early on in your career and having many mentors through out your career. Many of us don’t realize the importance of mentors until it is too late,” said Ken Lee.

The initial run of the MAAP program in Atlanta had a total of 36 participants. UPS, State Farm, and Georgia Power all donated space to use for the group convenings. When the cycle ended in August, almost all of the participants said they’d like

to continue meeting with their mentor or mentee. Mentees said that expanding their networks, improving their communication skills, clarifying their goals, and receiving advice and honest feedback from their mentors were some of the most valuable experiences they gained from the program.

“We gained new members through the MAAP program and increased the visibility of OCA-Georgia. The program has given our chapter a great opportunity to connect with Asian American professionals in Atlanta and build a stronger relationship with UPS,” said OCA-Georgia chapter president Norman Chu.

The MAAP program moved on to its second location in September with a total of 16 participants representing a variety of different fields. USPS hosted the orientation, and has generously offered space for the next two convenings. The orientation was well-attended, and the participants expressed excitement about the start of the program.

“OCA-San Francisco Bay is excited about the launch of the MAAP program in the Bay Area. As a mentor and facilitator, I look forward to helping to make this cycle a success,” said OCA-San Francisco Bay Vice President Clifford Yee.

The third and final cycle of this year will kickoff in Washington, DC on October 23 before Corporate Achievement Awards.

Anyone interested in learning more about the program should contact Iimay Ho at [iho@ocanational.org](mailto:iho@ocanational.org). ■

# OCA Serves: APAs Helping Others

Pei-Un Yee | OCA Senior Program Manager

OCA launched its first ever OCA Serves service day on September 11, 2009. OCA Serves is a project in which OCA has designated two days in the year for Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) to give back to their community. OCA, along with other large state and national organizations, is committed to expanding service opportunities in their communities by mobilizing their constituencies in support of service and planning a Day of Action event. The two OCA Serves days OCA selected are September 11<sup>th</sup> and January 19<sup>th</sup> to commemorate 9/11 and Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday.

All the chapter activities are brought together with an assigned theme for each service day. For the launch of OCA Serves, OCA chapters participated in a nationwide food drive in the days leading up to September 11. Chapter leaders and members volunteered their time to either give or serve food to those in need. The response from our members was astounding and all their work went to an incredibly good cause. Each chapter gave back to their communities in different ways.

OCA-Central Illinois conducted a monetary contribution drive to benefit the Midwest Food Bank which would go towards the purchase of food and gas for food distribution. The chapter was able to raise over \$100 dollars in donations.

OCA-Utah organized a service project at the Utah Food Bank, the largest food bank in the Greater Salt Lake area. A total of 31 people with ages ranging from 10 to 72 attended their service event. They were able to pack over 8,000 food items into 350 boxes which were uniquely decorated by local school children.

OCA-Greater Washington DC collected non-perishable food for the Manna Food Center known for providing food for many needy people in Montgomery County, MD through its various programs. The chapter delivered over 180 pounds of food in total and approximately \$100 in cash donations.

OCA-Georgia worked in coalition with the Chinese Culture School and the Chinese School of Atlanta to collect canned goods, dry goods and personal toiletries to donate to the Pan Asian Commutation Services (CPACS) and Tzu Chi Foundation.

OCA-Colorado chapter members volunteered hours to serve food at the Denver Rescue Mission.



OCA-Utah, winners of the chapter participants’ drawing, stands proudly with their items. Utah won one free trip to the October Corporate Achievement Awards in Washington, DC.

OCA-New Jersey collected non-perishable food at their annual summer picnic. Everybody who attended the picnic was asked to donate a food item for the Center for Food Action in Englewood, New Jersey. With over 75 people in attendance, the chapter was able to collect 12 bags of food for donation.

OCA-Greater Houston helped sponsor the Unity Talent Show, an event that allows Asian-American organizations at the University of Houston to come together and showcase their talents. This annual event was a forum for the chapter’s Service Day to collect cans for the local food bank. OCA-GH’s college affiliates at Rice University (Vietnamese Students Association) and the South Texas College of Law Asian Pacific American Law Students Association also collected cans at their September events to donate along with the items collected by the chapter.

OCA is proud of all its chapters for the effort they put in to collect every item and donation for this past service day. Chapters have always taken the time to give back to their communities and OCA Serves provides an opportunity to bring all their activities together and show our efforts on a national level. Siu Lin Santee, president of the OCA-Utah chapter put it succinctly saying, “It was fun, easy, filled an important need in our community, and left us all with a greater sense of accomplishment and team spirit. What more could you ask for?” ■

# Perspective on the New Bamboo Program: Build, Breakthrough & Believe

Victoria J. Rumsey | OCA Development Manager

Bamboo, the new aspiring young professionals program came to flourish in late spring 2009, just as I began my position at OCA. I was happy to see that there was a program OCA was developing that focused on capturing aspiring young professionals. Being a young professional myself, I was happy to be working on a program that not only other APAs my own age would benefit from, but a program I could benefit from as well.

When you look at the programs that OCA offers; the scholarship program, internship program, and mentorship it only seemed fitting to add another piece that would bridge the general age range and the youth of OCA. Bamboo possesses vital opportunities for aspiring APA professionals within OCA to connect with not only each other, but poses an opportunity for other APAs to get involved with OCA.

The goal of Bamboo is to engage APA aspiring professionals in networking, professional development, and mentoring. OCA has been lucky to partner with Yum! Brands to help grow this program, as a presenting sponsor of Bamboo. The Bamboo team has been working side by side with Richard Rugnao, Senior Manager Government Relations and Global Diversity for Yum! Brands. He is also an active BAC member.

In April, a few of the staff members including myself were in Atlanta for the OCA National Board meeting. We had a chance to attend eMerge, a program that was developed for Hispanic aspiring professionals. It was a great event for us to attend, we met some great people and it truly helped us get some insight on how we wanted to create the program for Bamboo.

With the support of the Executive Council and the Business Advisory Council, Bamboo was born (literally). Since late last spring, we have created a name, crafted a logo, set an agenda, created a Twitter and Facebook account, created a scholarship, and coordinated an amazing panel of speakers! OCA has been blessed with great talent and people have verbally expressed to me how proud they are to be part of Bamboo. It will be exciting to hear their stories and see the roads they have taken and (are still on) to get them where they are now.

For me, it has been what seems as a long road in building this program, roughly six months of careful planning, but Bamboo will continue to grow and OCA will continue building on to the wonderful program that it has established! OCA is excited and proud

to launch the program during the Corporate Achievement Awards at the end of October in Washington, DC. What will be next in store for Bamboo?! Wait and see!

**More information about Bamboo:** Build, Breakthrough, Believe is the three-word mantra of the 'Bamboo' program and will be used as building blocks for the event agenda. The workshops topics will range from personal branding to corporate success tactics and strategies.

'Bamboo' will be held at the W Hotel, DC on October 23 with a kick-off reception taking place Thursday, October 22. Participating speakers

**Bamboo@**  
Build. Breakthrough. Believe

will include; Sandi Karrmann, Yum! International Chief People Officer, Richard Lui, News Anchor for HLN, Wong Fu Productions, and Lisa Lee, Publisher for Hyphen Magazine.

Co-sponsors include: Anheuser-Busch, Kraft, Southwest Airline and State Farm. ■

## Convention 2009

# A Call to Action: Empowering Asian Pacific American Voices

Sarah Smith Nester | OCA Communications Manager

More than 1,000 OCA members and friends came to celebrate the 36th OCA Convention in San Francisco last Aug 6-9. The event, which was hosted by the OCA-San Francisco chapter with support from other Northern California chapters (Sacramento, East Bay, San Mateo, and Silicon Valley) who were on-hand throughout the planning process. The event took place at the historic Westin St. Francis in downtown San Francisco, with the theme A Call to Action: Empowering Asian Pacific American Voices.

Photos by Frank Jang





**Thursday August 6**

The OCA Convention kicked off on August 6, culminating what volunteers and staff had been preparing for since earlier in the week. **Chapter Advancement Track, College Leadership Training, and Youth Leadership Training** started the morning off.

The Business Advisory Council (BAC) was also networking during the **BAC Luncheon and Meeting** at the Wells Fargo Headquarters, which followed with a **National Board/BAC Reception** where our National Board got to see and great with the BAC.

That evening, OCA hosted the **Welcome Reception** to kick off with a warm welcome and pay tribute to the legacy of APA veterans. American Legion Post #384, known as Cathay Post performed the moving National Anthem and flag ceremony. Richard Lui, an anchor at HLN was the emcee. Maj. Gen. Eldon Reguda gave the address and various musical performers kept the crowd entertained during the reception.

**Friday August 7**

The morning started off with a bang with the Opening Plenary Session: *Empowering Our Voices and Defining Our Future*. Speakers discussed: What's the future of leadership for our community? What about electing the first APA President: who, when and how? Assemblyman Warren Furutani, Founding President of the Glide Foundation Janice Mirikitani, Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles Jadine Nielson, White House Director of Public Liaison Tina Tchen and the Rev. Cecil Williams gave were the impressive list of panelists for this session.

Convention guests could also mingle about the **Exhibits Hall/Career Fair** which provided major corporations, government agencies, local community businesses and community organizations an opportunity to recruit as well as showcase their products, services and programs.

The **Youth Recognition Luncheon** recognized the Summer Internship Class of 2009, thanked our many sponsors for their commitment to education, and celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Internship Program. Mia Mingus, a member of Spark Reproductive Justice Now, gave an interesting speech about being a queer, disabled





APA working for women's rights. It was also a special day for Past Executive Director Michael Lin, who received a special award during the luncheon for his service to OCA. That evening, guests made their way over to the **Community Reception** at San Francisco's City Hall, which featured elected and appointed APA officials such as Congresswoman Judy Chu and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. The Asian Chefs Association catered the event with a plethora of foods from the Philippines to Japan.

**Saturday August 8**

Saturday started off by working on improving our health at the **Community Health Fair**. The **State of Asian Pacific America Summit** focused on the economic and political impact of the 2010 Census makes achieving a complete count one of the most important issues facing APAs. The high-caliber speakers were: Executive Officer of IW Group Bill Amada, Ditas Katague of Census 2010, Thomas L. Mesenbourg, Jr, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Census Bureau, Executive Director of Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) Vincent Pan and Adrienne Pon, of the SF Mayor's Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs

The **Chapter Awards Luncheon** was, as always, a fun-filled event where chapters came together to recognize their achievements. OCA was proud to announce the OCA-New York chapter as the Chapter of the Year for their hard work and efforts.

Finally, it was time for folks to get dressed in their finest for the **Gala Awards Banquet**. OCA presented their Unsung Heroes and UPS Gold Mountain winners and announced Kraft Foods, Inc as this year's Corporate Partner of the Year. OCA was thrilled to award the Outstanding Citizen Achievement Award to Congressman Mike Honda, and APA historians Phil Choy and Him Mark Lai (posthumous). These men are all leaders to the APA community for their efforts in civil rights. The Pioneer Awards were presented to acclaimed fashion designer Anna Sui, and Youtube founder Steve Chen, two people who have had success well beyond their years. It was an awesome way to end the evening!

**Sunday August 9**

For OCA National Board members and staff, Convention did not end, and after the National Board meeting. The **Angel Island Immigration Station Tour and Picnic** was an exciting yet somber event to pay witness to those who passed through Angel Island, particularly Asian Americans who came to this country only to face discrimination and imprisonment. OCA members reflected on what it means to be an American, and what it means to truly Empower our Voices. ■

## New York Wins OCA Chapter of the Year

Every year, guests of the Convention anticipate finding out who will receive Chapter Excellence Awards at the Chapter Awards Luncheon. This year, the 2009 winner of Chapter of the Year was presented to OCA-New York.

Vice President of Chapter Development, Duy Nguyen, said, "The OCA-NY chapter excelled in all areas of advocacy, communications, projects/programs, economic development and membership. The leadership of the chapter's board is crucial to the betterment of the local area. Congratulations to Vicki Shu and the rest of the board for a job well-done!"

Duy and a Chapter Awards committee selected the awardees based on their application. ■



OCA-NY

### Chapter of the Year

1st Place – New York  
2nd Place – New Jersey  
3rd Place – Central Illinois

### 5 Star Award

Greater Los Angeles  
Greater Houston

### Rising Star

San Mateo

### Advocacy

Greater Sacramento

### Communications

Greater Los Angeles

### Economic Development

New Jersey

### Programs and Projects

Westchester & Hudson Valley

### Local Community Involvement

Long Island

### Membership

Utah

### Unsung Heroes Recognized for their Work Behind the Scenes

Each year, OCA awards several special people who are highly motivated members who volunteer their time to work behind the scenes and let others take the credit. OCA believes it is important to honor those who don't always receive the spotlight, but have continuously put their hearts into keeping OCA alive. The 2009 Unsung Heroes are:

**Anna Wong** (OCA-Wisconsin)

**Benjamin Yeung** (OCA-San Mateo)

**George Yin** (OCA-Greater Los Angeles)

**Ian C. Lim** (OCA-Dallas/Fort Worth)

**Joan S. Jia** (OCA-Westchester & Hudson Valley)

## 2009 Corporate Partner of the Year Award Goes To Kraft

Victoria Rumsey | OCA Development Manager

To OCA, Kraft is more than just the "brands you know and trust." Kraft is about commitment to diversity in the corporate sphere. Kraft is not only committed to putting food on tables of our families, but also to developing programs and initiatives that support Asian Pacific Americans in the workplace.

As a global business, Kraft Foods has been recognized as a leader in advancing diversity and fostering an inclusive culture. Kraft's dedication and support of OCA, the OCA mission and the Asian Pacific American Community it what makes Kraft OCA's 2009 Corporate Partner of the Year.

Kraft has been one of the most valued supporters of the OCA National Convention and the National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards for over a decade. Kraft has not only sponsored OCA events, but they have also been an integral part of the Business Advisory Council (BAC) which provides critical support for OCA's programming. Kraft has also been an important partner on the community level, and has more recently participated on the leadership panel for one of OCA's Chicago chapters.

Kraft received the 2009 Corporate Partner Award at the OCA Gala Awards Banquet on Saturday, August 8 at the Westin St. Francis in San Francisco. This was Kraft's first time accepting the award. Michael Hsu, president, Grocery Kraft Foods North America accepted the award on behalf of the company. He is also a 2009 Corporate Achievement Awards Recipient and will be honored on Friday, October 23, 2009 at the Awards Banquet in Washington, DC.

"Kraft Foods is a proud supporter of OCA's mission of social justice and equal opportunity. As a global corporate leader, it's critical that the cultural diversity of our consumers is reflected in our workforce and that we help build stronger communities," said Irene Rosenfeld, chief executive officer of Kraft.

OCA's Corporate Partner of the also contributes to OCA in other meaningful ways. Through their respective corporate and community foundations, OCA's corporate partners have supported worthwhile endeavors such as scholarship and internship programs, leadership development for youth, special outreach and education programs, and various innovative community projects.

OCA is honored to recognize Kraft for their continued support and commitment to the mission of embracing the hopes and aspirations of APAs. ■



Michael Hsu accepts the award for Kraft at the 2009 Gala Awards Banquet. He is standing with David Lin, Rogene Gee Calvert and Bernie Collins of the BAC, and also National President Ken Lee.

# Highlighting Photos from OCA Members

Photo by Camden Lee



Photo by Bryan Tam



Photo by Yao Lee



Photo by Tom Eng

*OCA Nationals received photos from several members, affiliates and interns who captured the 2009 Convention in their own way. Here are just some of the photos that were submitted.*

Photo by OCA-Long Island



Photo by Bryan Tam

# 20th Anniversary of Interns OCA Former Interns: 20 Years of Where Are They Now?

Mia Youhne | OCA VP of Communications

*OCA Nationals reached out to the former interns to get a sample of profiles featuring information on where our interns are, and what they are doing. Thanks to all who responded, OCA is very proud of your many accomplishments.*



## Yen Ling Shek - Class of 1997

**Placement during your internship at OCA:** National Office

**Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how?** The relationships I built in the internship helped me with my leadership activities when I returned to campus, putting on conferences, inviting speakers. I continued to draw from those relationships when I entered my career as a student affairs professional.

**In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today?** I learned a lot about APA issues on a national level and the importance of having policy advocates. It helped me to connect with people on a regional and national level. A large number of those relationships I still have today on both personal and professional levels.

**Where are you now?** Los Angeles, CA

**What are you doing now?** 2nd year doctoral student in Higher Education and Organizational Change at UCLA

**Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable?** I attended the 2009 Convention. The convention was a great opportunity to see the impact of the OCA internship program on so many people. I had a great time reconnecting with people. The most memorable thing for me was doing the facilitator training for APIA-U. I am thankful for the opportunity to continue working with college students on a national level through OCA.



## Camden Lee - Class of 2009

**Placement during your internship at OCA:** OCA National Center

**Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how?** It gave me valuable experience in my field of study - Asian American Studies.

**In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today?** The internship not only showed me the how I could get involved in the APA community, but also the influence the APA community has on not only the local level, but also the national level. I also met many amazing people and made a lot of good friends.

**Where are you now?** Washington, DC metro area

**What are you doing now?** In school at the University of Maryland finishing up my undergraduate degree.

**Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable?** I attended convention in 2009 as an intern working at convention. It was a stressful experience, but I did learn a lot and gained experience both planning and running a large event.

## OCA Former Interns: 20 Years of Where Are They Now?



### Marivic Tolentino - Class of 2003

**Placement during your internship at OCA:** Congresswoman Susan Davis

**Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how?** Yes, my placement allowed me to understand the inner workings of a federal public office, from managing constituents to creating policy, I was able to gain first-hand experience that has helped advance my career today.

**In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today?** My internship was an amazing experience. Besides spending the summer in our country's capital, it was a great experience to be a part of an internship class for an organization that values Asian Pacific American Heritage and invests in the awareness APAs in main stream society. I truly value my experience as an OCA intern and take with me a deeper appreciation for my culture, my heritage and my identity as an Asian American woman.

**Where are you now?** San Francisco, CA

**What are you doing now?** I am an Enterprise Business Development Representative for a company in the high-tech industry.

**Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable?** I've attended two OCA Conventions, the first in Hawaii (2003) and the second in San Francisco (2009). The most memorable convention I attended was Hawaii. That year I was an intern volunteer for the event with my class. We worked rigorously to organize the event and there were many late nights at the OCA office - together we pulled off a great convention where we also created some great videos to share with the convention guests, OCA members and corporate sponsors.



### Clifford Yee - Class of 2001

**Placement during your internship at OCA:** National Office

**Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how?** Yes. My placement increased my knowledge about many issues affecting the larger APA community and led me to want to continue my involvement at the local level and to educate my peers about these issues. During this time, we were also trying to coordinate a California-wide APA student coalition, and my involvement further developed my facilitation and organization development skills.

**In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today?** I became educated on the many challenges that the diverse APA community faces in regards to immigration, health care reform, education, etc. Upon completion of the internship, I returned to UC Santa Cruz to educate my peers about these challenges and was energized about them more involved in the APA community. Through this transition, I became involved with the OCA - San Francisco Bay Chapter, became involved in the APA community in Michigan while completing my MSW at the University of Michigan, and continue to advocate for the APA community through providing culturally competent health care services within my job at Asian Health Services; getting involved with the planning committee for the 2009 OCA National Convention in San Francisco, and recently being elected as the Vice President of the OCA - San Francisco Bay Chapter.

**Where are you now?** San Francisco, CA

**What are you doing now?** I work at Asian Health Services, which is a comprehensive community health center located in Oakland, CA. I am the Youth Program Coordinator where my program focuses on providing free and confidential, comprehensive reproductive health services to teens. I supervise health educators, manage a weekly teen clinic and school based health center at Oakland High School, oversee our Peer Leaders program, and coordinate our grants.

**Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable?** I attended the 2009 Convention in San Francisco. I thought it was a very successful Convention where we were able to honor the APA veterans, host a City Hall reception which included many APA - elected officials including Congresswoman Judy Chu and State Controller John Chiang; and honor our awardees in front of hundreds at the annual Gala. Having the National Convention in San Francisco is special because it was also a great opportunity to bring in new community members to become involved with OCA and was a great opportunity for the East Bay, Greater Sacramento, and San Mateo and Silicon Valley chapters of OCA to work together on the planning committee to ensure a quality convention. The most memorable moment of the 2009 National Convention for me was going to Angel Island, where my grandfather was detained before he was allowed to immigrate to the United States. I recall being very exhausted from assisting with the Convention the previous 3 days, but was excited to visit the newly renovated Immigration Station, particularly at a time when California was announcing state parks to be closed. The best part for me, as a participant and planning committee member, was interacting with everyone and seeing their smiles as they departed the ferry and boarded the buses back to the hotel.



### Pam Sran - Class of 2009

**Placement during your internship at OCA:** Office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

**Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how?** This internship helped me to decide what I wanted to do after I graduated from the University of California, San Diego. Before I wasn't sure what path to take, whether to take a year off, or continue my education. Now I am 100 percent sure that I want to go to Law School and become an advocate for API's.

**Where are you now?** La Jolla, California

**What are you doing now?** I am currently a junior at the University of California, San Diego.

**Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable?** I attended the 2009 Convention. It was an amazing opportunity to meet amazing APA community leaders and to learn about the issues we face today, and what we, as students, can do to help. My most memorable moment was escorting Congress member Mike Honda to the stage so that he could accept his award! It was amazing to meet such an amazing leader in our community. He stands for hope, change, and prosperity! He is my role model and someone I hope to be like in the future!

### Elizabeth Yu - Class of 2002

**Placement during your internship at OCA:** Congresswoman Shelley Berkley's office

**Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how?** Although my career is not in politics or social reform, my placement has always been a positive point of conversation in interviews.

**In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today?** My internship has led me to a greater awareness of political issues impacting APAs and the need to represent our often underrepresented group. OCA helps break the stereotypes of being a "silent minority." I have come to embrace my heritage even more and have a greater appreciation for the Asian Americans before me, who have blazed a path for younger generations.

## OCA Former Interns: 20 Years of Where Are They Now?

**Where are you now?** Las Vegas

**What are you doing now?** I work as a Financial Institutions Division Examiner for the State of Nevada

**Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable?** Yes! The 2002 Salt Lake City convention and the 2003 Boston Convention. Both were a ton of fun! It was great to see APAs come together and celebrate the achievements of other APAs.



**Andrew Chang Class of 2009**

**Placement during your internship at OCA:** Department of Transportation (DOT)

**Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how?** Yes, being placed at the Department of Transportation gave me an exposure to a federal agency work environment and lifestyle, as well as the entailing responsibilities. Being placed at such a high level of bureaucracy within DC makes me want to come back to DC later in the future to work on issues affecting the community and society. The experience gained also translated into tangibles for classroom discussion for graduate school.

**In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today?** The internship reaffirmed my desire to pursue a career concerning APA issues in the community and in society. I recently graduated with an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering, and am now pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Affairs, thus the internship served as a bridge from engineering to political science and community involvement. Because of the OCA internship process, I am more knowledgeable about APA issues and resources, possess a better sense of DC bureaucracy, and understand better the mechanics of how the federal government is involved with the public community. I hope to use the knowledge and experiences gained from the internship to educate and empower others, whether it is my family, friends, classmates, or citizens in my local community.

**Where are you now?** Gainesville, FL

**What are you doing now?** University of Florida, 1st Year MA in Public Affairs Graduate Student

**Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable?** I enjoyed the host setting of San Francisco, and the 2009 Convention was well put on. Everything went smoothly for the most part, and I enjoyed meeting many local Californian politicians and activists. The most memorable part was working with an amazing group of fellow 2009 OCA interns, as well as the OCA National and local chapter staff, meeting other college students from the state of California during College Day, and hearing motivational and informative speeches from local politicians and APA activists (i.e. California Assemblymember Warren T. Furutani).

**Shan O-Yuan - Class of 2000**

**Placement during your internship at OCA:** Congresswomen Shelly Berkley

**In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today?** As one tries to articulate himself, ultimately, one tries answer some very basic question about self, society, and the relationship that between self and society. OCA created a platform for me to articulate my voice, meeting others who are going

through similar journeys, and participate in a movement that challenges the status quo and furthers the cause of equality and justice. During my internship, the friendship and discussion that resulted from it still impacts me today, reminding me that my heritage is not a curse, but a blessing; my rights is also my corresponding duty; and my involvement will make an impact.

**Where are you now?** Beijing, China

**What are you doing now?** General Manager of an Interior Design & Engineering Firm, Infinity Interiors

**Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year?** I attended the 2000 Convention in Atlanta and the 2001 Convention in Seattle.

**Viva Mogi - Class of 2007**

**Placement during your internship at OCA:** GMS/APIASF

**Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how?** It gave me a greater understanding on what is needed and expected in our current high school youth. I feel my experience at GMS gave me a stronger reason to continue to advocate for quality equal education for all.

**In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today?** The OCA internship provided me a strong network of dedicated and passionate APA college students who all strive for social justice and equality. It also allowed me to step outside of the box and explore the world deeper than what was taught to us in the textbooks. The DC experience strongly impacted my decision to continue with my current career path. Lastly, the OCA internship gave me lifelong friends whom I admire and miss so much!

**Where are you now?** San Francisco, CA

**What are you doing now?** Lead Pre-K Teacher at a private non-profit preschool in SF

**Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable?** Well, since I was on the 2009 Planning Committee with a great group of members, I thought it was awesome! I thought the Honoring the Veterans was a great event. It was amazing to see so many Veterans come together and be recognized. It's not often where they are given a space to be put on the spotlight.



**Franklin M. Kang - Class of 1994**

**Placement during your internship at OCA:** OCA National Office

**In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today?** Working for OCA, in particular with former Executive Directors Daphne Kwok and Christine Chen, reaffirmed my commitment to public service professionally and personally. I know that my obligation to the nation and community is part of my daily life, and I convey these obligations to my sons.

**Where are you now?** San Francisco, CA.

**What are you doing now?** Administrative Judge, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board

**Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable?** I attended the 2009 Convention, and it was great to see that OCA remains alive, strong, and engaged, although I thought the logistics at the hotel could have been better. It was memorable seeing everyone again, and meeting the new leadership.

## OCA Former Interns: 20 Years of Where Are They Now?



### Felicia Chao - Class of 2001

**Placement during your internship at OCA:** National Office

**Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how?** OCA definitely gave me the foundation and confidence to work in non-profits for a couple years after graduation before moving on to the private sector. However I still use many of the skills I practiced in community organizing, research, and convention logistics.

**In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today?** Living and working in Washington, DC immerses you in the political culture. With OCA, I had the opportunity to attend hearings and observe the triumphs and tribulations that is democracy. I still fully appreciate our system of governance and how we can contribute to making it more equitable. I also formed strong friendships with many of my fellow interns and continue to be inspired by them.

**Where are you now?** Seattle, WA

**What are you doing now?** Catalog Coordinator for Sur La Table

**Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable?** I only attended the intern roundtable but I am glad was an opportunity to get feedback from interns because many of us want to sustain and improve this program.



### Elaine Kam- Class of 2004

**Placement during your internship at OCA:** Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

**Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how?** My interest in urban planning began when I was a junior in college, and the placement provided me with my first experience in the urban planning field. Through the internship, I realized that the APA community was still being overlooked in urban planning policies. I was further determined to pursue a master degree in urban planning after the internship.

**In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today?** The internship opened my eyes to national politics affecting all minorities and especially APAs. I also learned about many local and national resources for the community. I believe that it is time for APAs to stand up for ourselves, no longer only be seen in the community but also have our voices be heard, and take concrete actions to help the community. Therefore, after I earned my master degree in 2008, I began working in affordable housing development which serves the diverse communities in the Bay Area that are in need.

**Where are you now?** Bay Area

**What are you doing now?** Assistant Project Manager for an Affordable Housing Developer

**Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what did you think about it and what was most memorable?** I was at the 2009 Convention. It was great to see the collaboration among the five chapters in the Bay Area. Big thanks to Cindy Tong and Martha Watanabe for their work on another convention! Since I was on the planning committee for this convention, the convention reminded me of my intern days – running around the hotel, staying up “early” to do work, etc. The most memorable moment was at the Community Reception at SF City Hall, where all the attended APA government officials were together.

## OCA-GLA Announces Mentored Path to Citizenship Grant

Rita Chen | OCA-Greater Los Angeles



Becoming a US citizen is a goal of many immigrants who come seeking the American dream. Although many may qualify for U.S. citizenship, some may not have the financial means to pay for it. Current application fees can be up to \$675 per individual, which represents a 67 percent increase from 2007. In an effort to ensure that the American dream is accessible to all, the OCA-Greater Los Angeles (OCA-GLA) chapter announces a grant to help a qualified individual with his or her naturalization application to become a US citizen.

This one-time grant will provide financial assistance towards application fees, while also giving the recipient the opportunity to receive assistance from the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) throughout the application process.

The idea to provide this grant was conceived by OCA-GLA board member Bryant Yang, who is an attorney with Morrison and Foerster LLP in Los Angeles. Bryant came up with the idea of this grant through his pro-bono work dealing with immigration issues.

As part of their summer internship with OCA-GLA, Jessamyn Huang and Eric Ku turned Bryant's idea into a reality. The press release was sent out at the beginning of September and all application materials are available in print and online at [www.oca-gla.org/programs](http://www.oca-gla.org/programs). The application deadline is Friday, September 25, 2009.

OCA-GLA hopes this grant will be the first of many to come and looks forward to a continued partnership with APALC on important issues facing our community. ■

## FOCUS ON HEALTH CARE

The Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) recently provided grant opportunities for OCA chapters to speak up about health issues for Asian Pacific Americans (APAs). Select chapters have been chosen to host local forums to help educate people and keep the APA community abreast of the latest issues relating to health care. They also have the opportunity to send one representative to Washington, DC to meet with state representatives to speak on health care.

OCA-Greater Seattle participated in a Community Health Fair on September 26, 2009 to promote awareness of availability and access to affordable health care.

OCA-Detroit conducted two community health conversation forums on September 20 and September 27. Dialogue around issues such as immigrant status, language barriers, cultural practices, and mental health treatment in relation to the US health system was encouraged.

# OCA-GS Financial Series Workshop

Vanessa Diego | OCA-Greater Seattle



This past summer, OCA-Greater Seattle completed its 3-day Financial Series Workshop at CISC (Chinese Information Service Center) located in the International District, in downtown Seattle. The 3-day Financial Series Workshop provided the participants information about basic banking, credit education, retirement planning, and home-buying process.

The motivation behind organizing the 3-day financial workshop derived from the increasing need that seems to reflect from the alarming rise of unemployment and uncertainties people have in the stability of our economy. Thus, proper preparation of one's financial future only makes sense to prepare people from unexpected losses and at fault experiences. In addition, financial literacy is instrumental for individuals to develop positive banking relationships and financial skills. Therefore, discussion topics such as Basic Banking, How to Build Wealth in Your Family, Retirement Income planning, Credit Education and Achieving Your financial Dreams, Saving for your Child's Education, Predatory Lending as well as First-Time Home-buying were included in the curriculum. That is why OCA-Greater Seattle organized the 3-day Financial Series

workshop to help individuals, especially those who have little or with no banking experience to enhance their budgeting skills and develop a more positive banking relationships with their financial institutions.

OCA-Greater Seattle is grateful for the partnership with State Farm Bank, IDHA (International District Housing Alliance), CISC, and HomeSight WA in completing the Financial Series Workshop, because our team was able to provide our participants with educational materials that will help them build financial knowledge and develop financial confidence so that they can use banking services effectively.

Overall, the board members of OCA were pleased with the end result and heard wonderful feedback from the participants. So, whether one is planning to buy a home, budgeting his or her checkbook, or make decisions between investing his or her dollars on pre-tax investment plans, one could find a workshop like this to be an important resource program that can help him or her make better investment decisions. ■

# 'Detroit Chinatown: Work in Progress' Opens at OCA-Detroit's Center

Shenlin Chen | OCA-Detroit

OCA-Detroit is excited to announce the "Detroit Chinatown: Work in Progress" exhibit recently opened at OCA-Detroit's Chinese Community Center. Created by Chelsea Zuzindlak, this exhibit chronicles the development of Detroit's Chinatown from the 1870s to present day. The exhibit was first shown at the Detroit Historical Museum. After its run ended on July 5, the exhibit was transferred to the Chinese Community Center with the help of Chelsea, chapter Executive Director Shenlin Chen, and 27 University of Michigan law students.

The "Detroit Chinatown: Work in Progress" exhibit, coupled with the "Rights and Sites" gallery of Corky Lee's photographs, donated by General Motors, will serve as the cornerstones of the Chinese Community Center as a regional Asian American education center.

The OCA-Detroit chapter, locally known as the Association of Chinese Americans, invites all OCA members to come visit the Chinese Community Center, and the "Detroit Chinatown: Work in Progress" exhibit. The Center is located at 32585 Concord Drive, in Madison Heights, Michigan. Contact OCA-Detroit Executive Director Shenlin Chen at [schen@acacc.org](mailto:schen@acacc.org) for arrangements. ■





## Cultivating History: A Museum Solely for Chinese Americans Get Bigger Home

Sarah Smith Nester | OCA Communications Manager

Many OCA members were in attendance when the relocated and newly designed Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) held its formal opening on Sept. 22.

While the MOCA was founded in 1980 to collect historical information and artifacts about New York's Chinatown, the museum has expanded over time to witness the paths of Chinese Americans, which broadened the vision beyond Chinatown into a national scope.

According to the MOCA Web site, the expanded MOCA at 215 Centre Street in Manhattan (near Chinatown) will continue to be a national home for the precious narratives of diverse Chinese American communities, while striving to be a model among interactive museums.

Members from OCA-New York, OCA-New Jersey, OCA-Long Island and OCA-Westchester/Hudson Valley were on hand to celebrate the reopening and exhibit of *With a Single Step: Stories in the Making of America*, MOCA's new core exhibit. The intention of the museum is to educate the larger public about the Chinese American experience, to showcase the past of overcoming stereotypes and prejudice and to break barriers and hopefully create a better understanding of Chinese Americans.

Ann Chan, of OCA-Long Island, said that the event was a "wonderful time and a very moving experience."

MOCA is open from Monday, 11 am-5 pm; Thursday, 11 am-9 pm; Friday, 11 am-5 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 10 am-5 pm. The Museum is closed to the public on Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information, visit [www.mocanyc.org](http://www.mocanyc.org). ■



## City Government of San Francisco Acknowledges Past Injustice Toward APAs

Sarah Smith Nester | OCA Communications Manager

Those who attended the Angel Island Immigration Station tour during the 2009 Convention know that San Francisco has a history of anti-immigration legislation efforts, and to many, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the height of such sad efforts to show that certain people were unwanted in America. While this act exclusively affected Chinese Americans, we know that all Asian Pacific Americans have endured prejudice as a result of this legislation. As an example, alien land laws were instilled all over this country at one time or another which specifically targeted Asian Americans as "nonwhite," and therefore, unable to the same rights as Caucasians.

During this time of exclusion, The Chinese Exclusion Act was passed, which implement the suspension of Chinese immigration and was not repealed until 1943. This past September 15, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a Resolution acknowledging the historic role of the city government in advancing the policies

of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The Resolution also calls for encouraging the learning of history as well as celebration of the contributions of Chinese Americans.

Speaking on behalf of OCA-San Francisco, Past National President Claudine Cheng said, "This Resolution is of historic significance because for the first time, the San Francisco city government acknowledges this part of our city's history and take a step towards making sure that the civil and human rights of Chinese Americans will not be infringed upon again. This Resolution is not simply a symbolic gesture; given the ongoing national conversation on healthcare reform and just counts for all Asian Pacific Americans in the 2010 Census, this Resolution affirms the city's commitment to treat Chinese Americans and all ethnic minorities fairly and equally."

OCA applauds the efforts made by the city of San Francisco to showcase the contributions Chinese Americans have made, and to bring some positivity to a history of exclusion. ■

## OCA's Building Fund

Sarah Smith Nester | OCA Communications Manager

OCA started with three chapters and a modest office of a hundred square feet with no heat. Thirty three years later, the OCA family has grown to a national network of eighty chapters and affiliates, with a proud record of accomplishment advancing the social, political and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APA). One last vision was to establish a permanent home for OCA in Washington, DC.

We have completed our vision in establishing a permanent OCA National Center.

Located in the heart of Washington, DC the OCA National Center has become the single location for federal officials, Congressional staffers, supporters, civil rights advocates, APA community leaders, and corporate sponsors to access APA National organizations. It has also become a permanent and welcoming home for all OCA members.

The OCA building has provided a tremendous amount of space for staff, a library, facilities to hold coalition meetings, educational programs and press conferences. But we still need your help. Your gift is essential to OCA's building fund as we continue to meet challenges in maintaining the building while sustaining and developing our programs.

We must remind ourselves of the purpose of acquiring a permanent presence.

We are building a promising future for the APA community by nurturing the next generations of leaders. Lets continue to build on the purpose, for the FUTURE LEADERS in our community. We ask you to remember the building in future donations. All donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, contact [vrumsey@ocanational.org](mailto:vrumsey@ocanational.org), or call 202.223.5500. ■

# OCA Chapters Highlight Action and Empowerment

OCA chapters are leading their communities, and this year's Convention theme, A Call to Action: Empowering Asian Pacific American Voices proves just that. People lifted their voices all spring and summer long by celebrating APA Heritage Month, getting together at local parks during the warmer months, organizing events and workshops, and coming together to celebrate our 2009 Convention in San Francisco. Featured in this issue's chapter highlights are various photos and articles submitted by members.

## OCA-New York

OCA-NY had a very busy summer with many projects including the Third Annual Hate Crimes Prevention Art Project: This year, despite significantly less funding, over 50 NYC high school students submitted art work – double that of previous years!

On July 15, OCA-NY coordinated a community meeting with the Queens District Attorney to learn more about a murder case involving a Chinese American male victim.

On July 30, OCA-NY worked in coalition with Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, South Asian Council for Social Services and YKASEC – Empowering the Korean American Community to coordinate a

candidates forum for the District 20 City Council race. The event attracted over 300 people. District 20 covers areas of Queens with high Asian American populations.

On August 6, OCA-NY Dragon Boat Team won the 250 Meter mixed-team race at the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival! On August 27, OCA-NY worked with Asian American Bar Association of New York, Asian Americans for Equality, Chinese Progressive Association, Chinatown Youth Initiative, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, Korean American League for Civic Action and YKASEC to coordinate the District 1 City Council Candidates Forum, an event that attracted nearly

200 people. District 1 covers lower Manhattan, including Chinatown and the Lower East Side.

On September 18, OCA-NY held its 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Community Service Awards and Gala. This year, we honored Wayne Ho, Executive Director of the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, Alice Hom, Principal of PS 124 in Chinatown and Kingman Wong, Special Agent in Charge at the FBI. In addition, attorney Karen King delivered the keynote address, in which she talked about the Title VII case she lead on behalf of the Asian Jade Society of the Port Authority of NY & NJ against the Port Authority of NY & NJ.



OCA-New York



## OCA-Washington, DC

During May Asian Pacific American Heritage month, OCA-DC took part in the major DC street festival, Fiesta Asia, staged by Asia Heritage Foundation. Over 20,000 visitors were attracted to the celebration. Also during the month, the chapter joined in the Asian American Business Conference at the University of Maryland and the Asian American Health Conference in Montgomery County, MD.

In the summer, OCA-DC became involved with the DC Chinatown's Revitalization Project, joining a coalition of several groups to start executing a plan to restore a major ethnic presence to the area that has been overwhelmed with other non-Asian businesses and projects. Immediate goals are to create a street market and to hold a Mid Autumn Moon Festival celebration.

Related to the Chinatown project is involvement with the Smithsonian Institution's plans to feature the DC area APA community at the 2010 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, an

annual event held over two weeks each summer and attracting 1.5 million visitors.

The chapter's summer picnic drew over 200 guests and featured the recognition of over thirty outstanding students from various Chinese schools in the metro area, presentation of 2010 Census information, and a Bone Marrow registration drive.

Finally, to climax the busy summer, several members attended the swearing-in ceremonies of member Edward Chow as Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the State of Maryland. Following that, on September 8, OCA-DC hosted a celebration for Mr. Chow that was attended by many community leaders.



OCA-Washington, DC

## OCA-Greater Cleveland

OCA-Greater Cleveland is still producing IMAGE TV, which has been very successful in discussing important issues that affect the OCA-GC chapter and friends



OCA-Greater Cleveland



FALL 2009



## OCA-Columbus

OCA Columbus Chapter held its annual member gathering Picnic in a Park. Most current members and many friends attended the event. This year, they used the occasion to honor current and past board members, and celebrate the past achievement to highlight the importance of our organization in the APA community. They also used the occasion to conduct a member survey to get more realistic feedback, and we aggressively pursued more members among the attendants of the event. Census 2010 was invited to talk to

the attendants about the importance of it and gave some practical advice about how to outreach the community for a more accurate count of our population. The event was support by the OCA-Columbus chapter and State Farm Insurance. Many individuals contributed food and labor for a very successful event.

In the spirit of the new National Day of Service, OCA Columbus Chapter participated in an event called Rebuilding America – National Day of Service and Remembrance of

9/11 on August 29. Our members, Robert Lee, Linh Ta, and Theresa Lee, volunteered on behalf of our chapter. The project was held at Rebuilding Together Central Ohio's Office. Volunteer's activities included: Energy Efficiency Outreach Project, which was the assembling and distributing Energy Efficiency Outreach bags to local residents, Community Garden Maintenance, a program to clean up local community gardens, and Food Bank Street Clean Up: Canvassing local streets for trash by separating recyclables from non-recyclables.



OCA-Columbus

## OCA-OC

OCA-OC has had quite a year. Under the leadership of President, Ellen Lu and Vice President, Yao Lee, OCA-OC has grown by leaps and bounds. This year we have increased our membership by more than five times, we've recruited new board members and officers, gained corporate sponsorship, and last but not least held a number of successful events. Our chapter focused on diversifying our events as much as possible as we always keep our members' needs in mind.

Here are the events OCA-OC held in 2009: Lunar New Year Mixer (January), Speed Networking Event (February), Asian Heritage Night with the Anaheim Arsenal Basketball Team (March), Membership Dinner (April), Leadership Conference (May), Changing Media Images of Asian Americans (June), Career Development Workshop (July), Backpack Drive & BBQ (August), Officer Recruitment Dinner (August).

At our recent Officer Recruitment Dinner we were touched to see how many members are interested in becoming more involved with OCA-OC. We were also extremely fortunate to have most of our officers and board members attend the OCA

National Convention in August, and we were all inspired, motivated and empowered to continue working hard in Orange County on behalf of OCA. As a young chapter, we have learned many valuable lessons this past year. Our mission for next year is to keep up with the momentum this year has provided us. We would love nothing more than to keep growing and working hard to spread the word about OCA in Orange County. We remain passionate about building a community of empowered and mobilized Asian Pacific Americans who are equipped with the tools and support they need to get out and make a difference!



OCA-OC



## OCA-Dallas/Fort Worth

OCA-DFW joined with Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce (GDAAC), State Farm and the City of Dallas for 2009 State Farm Asian Festival in Dallas, TX. The Asian Festival strives to introduce Asian Cultures to the North Texas population as a part of the celebration of May as the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The festival promotes unity within various Asian American communities.

On May 17, OCA-DFW raced down the Carolyn River at the Annual DFW Dragon Boat, Kite and Lantern Festival. OCA-DFW won First Place in Community Blue Bonnet Division! Congrats to our team for doing a wonderful job!

On June 13, the CYLC Junior Leadership Seminar was hosted by CYLC (Community Youth Leadership Club), and sponsored by the OCA-DFW Chapter, CIE/USA-DFW, and Dallas Community College District. This annual junior leadership seminar

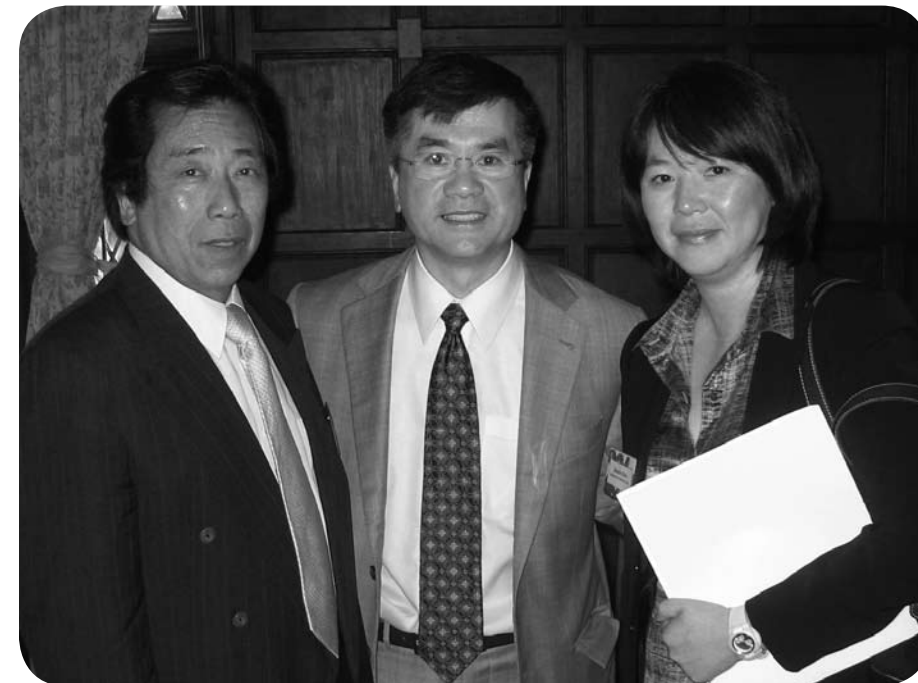
was designed for teenage youth from grades 9 – 12 and this year forty-five students attended the one day workshop.

The seminar was focused on helping students to build up their self-confidence in preparation for college. Workshops focused on personal development, communication to build people relationships, enhance individual strengths and positive mental attitude.

In July, the Community Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC), hosted by Community Youth Leadership Club and co sponsored by CIE-DFW Chapter, OCA-DFW Chapter and Dallas Chinese Community Center was held at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. 250 students, ages 8-18, as well as 30 volunteer teachers, attended the week-long residential summer camp dedicated to fostering leadership skills in young people. The campers had a lot of fun through all different activities and hard working.

## OCA-Detroit

OCA-Detroit held its Celebration 2009 fund-raising banquet at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn on September 26. They also held their first Asian American Health Disparity Community Conversations session on September 20. The meeting was successful and there were approximately 30 participants who joined the dialogue to express their concerns and comments on health issues among the Asian Pacific American population. Among the participants were representatives of Chinese, Korean, Hmong and Vietnamese Communities. Board member Stephanie Chang facilitated the discussions. Stephanie also facilitated the next session on September 27.



OCA-Detroit

## OCA-Utah

On Saturday, September 12, the Utah chapter organized a service project at the Utah Food Bank, the largest food bank in the Greater Salt Lake area.

A total of 31 people attended our community service event, with ages ranging from 10 to 72. Several entire families came out to help. We packaged over 8,000 food items including bottled drinks, canned foods, cereals, beans, and desserts into 350 12"x12"x12" boxes. The boxes had each been uniquely decorated by local school children. The boxes we packed were almost immediately sent out to needy recipients.

In August, UOCA put on a great party in Millrace Park just before school started. Many of our members, family, and friends came and joined us for this once-a-year gathering to enjoy some good food, fun games, and friendship.



OCA-Utah



## OCA-San Francisco

OCA - SF Bay hosted the 2009 OCA National Convention from August 6-9 at the Westin St. Francis. The OCA National Convention could not have been possible without the support from other regional OCA chapters (including Sacramento, East Bay, San Mateo, and Silicon Valley), Cathay Post, and other community members. The chapter would like thank all of our planning committee members, OCA National staff and interns, and volunteers for all their support. Photos in chapter reports by Bryan Tam.

OCA - SF Bay also announced the launching of the Mentoring Asian American Professionals (MAAP) program in collaboration with OCA National and OCA regional chapters. They hosted a Midway Convening networking session on October 17.



OCA-San Francisco



OCA-New Jersey

## OCA-San Mateo

Members of OCA-San Mateo congregated at Bel Mateo Bowl on June 23 to bowl.

There were many members of OCA who joined this fun and players wore their OCA T-shirts and the required bowling shoes. The gathering was not just a game of ten-pin bowling, but also an opportunity to catch up with the old friends, meet the new buddies, and have a good summer time.

In May, San Mateo kicked off Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with the 9th Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration. On May 9, both young and old convened to San Mateo's Central Park for a day of entertainment, history, food, raffles,

and festivities. The festivities could not have happened without the efforts of the Asian American Curriculum Project, San Mateo's OCA Chapter, San Mateo's JAAC Chapter, and the Downtown San Mateo Association (DSMA).

We were lucky enough to feature exhibits from Brush Painting Circle (brush work art by Amy Da-Peng King), Beautiful Things (handmade items), Bunka Art, IB Character Asian Calligraphy, Kayako Design (jewelry), Pomegranate Designs (creative art), Tuicom (Pan Pacific shopping), Waka Ozawa (clothing), Yao-Pi Hsu Photography, and author Eve Kushner.



OCA-San Mateo



## OCA-New Jersey

On April 25, OCA-NJ conducted a program which featured speakers from the Census Bureau. We learned that the accuracy of the Census affects the nation's ability to ensure equal representation and access to government resources.

On May 23, the Chapter held its annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Scholarship Luncheon honoring the scholarship recipients and interns. The OCA Robert Wone Scholarship essay winner this year was Kenneth Lin.

OCA members went to the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in NY on May 30. There, we learned of the struggles and sacrifices the immigrants experienced when they came to this country seeking a better life.

On June 27, OCA-NJ held its premiere event themed "The Road

to Success: Insights from Leading Asian Pacific American Professionals". The speakers consisted of Cindy Hsu (WCBS TV Anchor/Reporter); Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula (NJ, Legislative District 17); Lora Fong (Attorney at Law, Senior Corporate Counsel, Salesforce.com); and Special Agent Cochi Ho (FBI, Newark Division). The speakers discussed their professions and offered advice. The event was inspirational and enjoyed by all; and this will be an annual program

The chapter, along with its three sister chapters from New York, Long Island, and Westchester & Hudson Valley and FCC (Families With Children from China) enjoyed the annual summer family picnic on September 13. The weather was great and everybody had a good time.

Our next event will be our fundraising gala in December.

# Invest In Our Future

## the internship fund needs you!

*One of OCA's missions is to nurture youth leadership. Since the establishment of the Internship Program in 1988, the OCA Internship Program has become the largest of its kind.*

Every summer, OCA places more than 20 interns in Congressional offices, federal agencies, non-profit organizations and the OCA National Center. Each year, we receive applications from motivated college students across the nation. In order to provide the "experience of a lifetime" for as many students as possible, it is imperative that OCA's Internship Fund is adequately funded. The goal of the Internship Fund is a formidable political network to make our presence known and our voice heard.

Past interns are already making an impact as OCA full-time staff, OCA Chapter Presidents, Members of OCA Executive Council, Civil Service Commissioner in San Francisco, Executive Director of Common Cause in California, and Executive Director of the Congressional APA Caucus.

To continue this commitment into the future, we need your generous donation—your investment in the future of our next generation and our community.

For a donation of \$4,000 or more, you can name the internship after your chapter, in memory of your loved one or anyone you wish. However, any amount is most welcome and equally important!

*The following generous individuals and chapters, and companies have funded one or more interns in 2009:*

Booz Allen Hamilton  
Comcast Foundation  
OCA-New York  
OCA-San Mateo  
State Farm  
K. Lee Foundation  
The Mary Ann & Paul C. Yu Internship Fund

*We also would like to thank the following individuals and chapters for their vital support of the internship fund:*

Jeanette and Frank Kam  
Sandy and Martin Woltman  
Kevin W. Leong  
OCA-Greater Houston Chapter

Please make checks payable to OCA Internship Fund and send to  
**OCA National Center, 1322 18th St, Washington DC, 20009**  
For more information call 202 223 5500.

# Getting to Know Our Partners

## National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

Amanda Allen | NAPAWF

Founded in 1996, the **National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum** (NAPAWF) is the only national multi-issue Asian Pacific American (APA) women's advocacy organization in the country. NAPAWF'S mission is to address the concerns and increase the rights of APA women and girls, and to build an APA women's movement among those who believe in advancing social justice and human rights.

NAPAWF's programmatic and policy work is inspired and informed by their 11 chapters—Washington, D.C., Seattle, San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Chicago, St. Cloud, Las Vegas, New York City, Yale University, and University of Michigan—and our individual members across the country. Our main program areas include reproductive justice, anti-trafficking, immigrant rights and youth leadership development.

**Advancing Reproductive Justice:** NAPAWF is at the forefront of building coalitions and cross-movement strategies that address the intersection of reproductive justice with other social justice movements. As one of three convening organizations of the National Healthy Nail Salon Alliance, NAPAWF helps coordinate local, regional and national initiatives to improve nail salon worker health and safety. NAPAWF also advocates for policy changes to a broad range of sexual and reproductive justice issues that impact the lives of APA women and girls, and continues to educate its members, policymakers and the public on these issues.

**Combating Human Trafficking:** NAPAWF's anti-trafficking program focuses on how human trafficking impacts APA women and girls in the United States. Our progressive anti-trafficking project brings together policy advocacy and grassroots organizing to address all forms of forced labor, including domestic servitude, sweatshop labor, servile marriages and forced sex work. NAPAWF's anti-trafficking program also incorporates issues of race, class and gender to broaden the discussion and to promote strategies that more comprehensively address human trafficking.

**Promoting Immigrant Rights:** NAPAWF believes that a race and gender analysis is critical to the development of fair and just immigration reform and immigration-related policies. Accordingly, NAPAWF is building a program to highlight the issue of immigrant rights and API women. As a convener and co-chair of the National Coalition for Immigrant Women's Rights (NCIWR), they currently engage in cross-movement building work by fostering relationships and developing policy strategies among reproductive rights/justice, women's rights and immigrant rights organizations on the federal, state and local levels.

**Cultivating New Research and Young Women's Leadership:** The California Young Women's Collaborative, is a youth-led research-to-action and leadership project based on college campuses across California. Through empowerment, leadership development and skills building, immigrant and second generation APA female college students lead and develop their own community-based research and organizing campaigns, resulting in groundbreaking data to guide larger campus and community organizing efforts.

NAPAWF recently became officemates of OCA National Center staffers at 1322 18th Street NW in Washington, DC.

For more information or to join NAPAWF, visit [www.napawf.org](http://www.napawf.org). ■





## 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 oca@ocanational.org to provide any updates you may have.

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**Please return this form to the address at the bottom and make your check payable to OCA.**

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First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a US Citizen?  Yes  No US Permanent Resident?  Yes  No

Spouse/Partner name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### OCA Member-at-Large Dues Category (please check one):

\$10 Student  \$40 Single  \$50 Family

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I would like to join an OCA chapter in my area. Please send my contact information to the local chapter.

I am interested in starting an OCA chapter in my area. Please send me information.

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