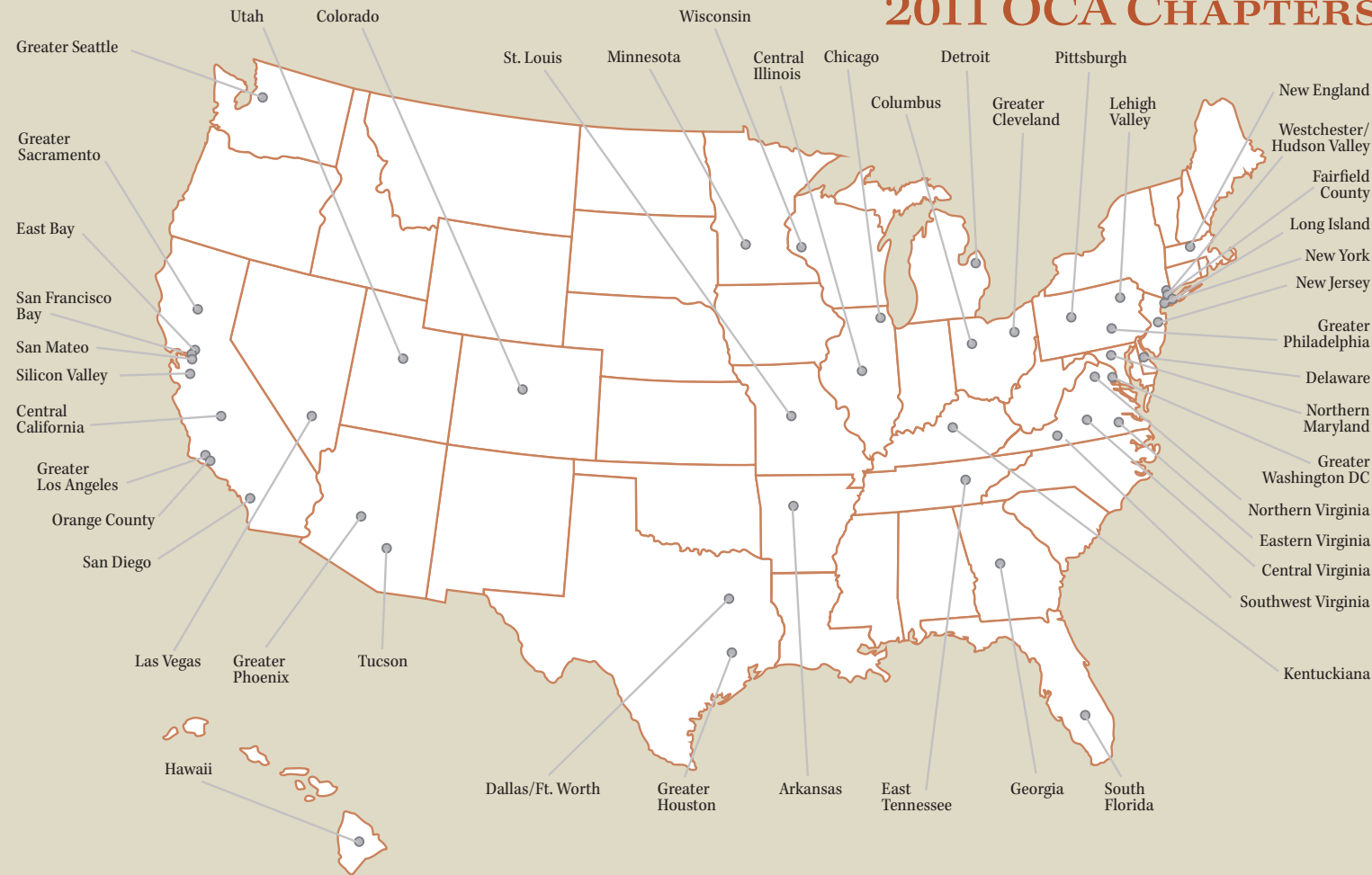


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# IMAGE

SUMMER 2011

OCA | EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

*ORIGINAL*  
*Labaren*  
Certificate of Residence.  
Issued to Chinese *Labaren*, under the Provisions of the Act of May 5, 1892.  
Background image: Certificate of residence for Ju Sing, contractor, age 34 years, of San Jose, California, 3 May 1894



From left to right: Ken Lee, OCA National President; Ted Gong, Vice President, C.A.C.A.; Michael Lin, Chair of 1882 Project; Congresswoman Judy Chu; Floyd Mori, National Director, JACL; Martin Gold, Partner, Covington & Burling; Richard Foltin, Director, American Jewish Committee

Interview  
with **Bryan Jung**

The **1882**  
Exclusion Laws

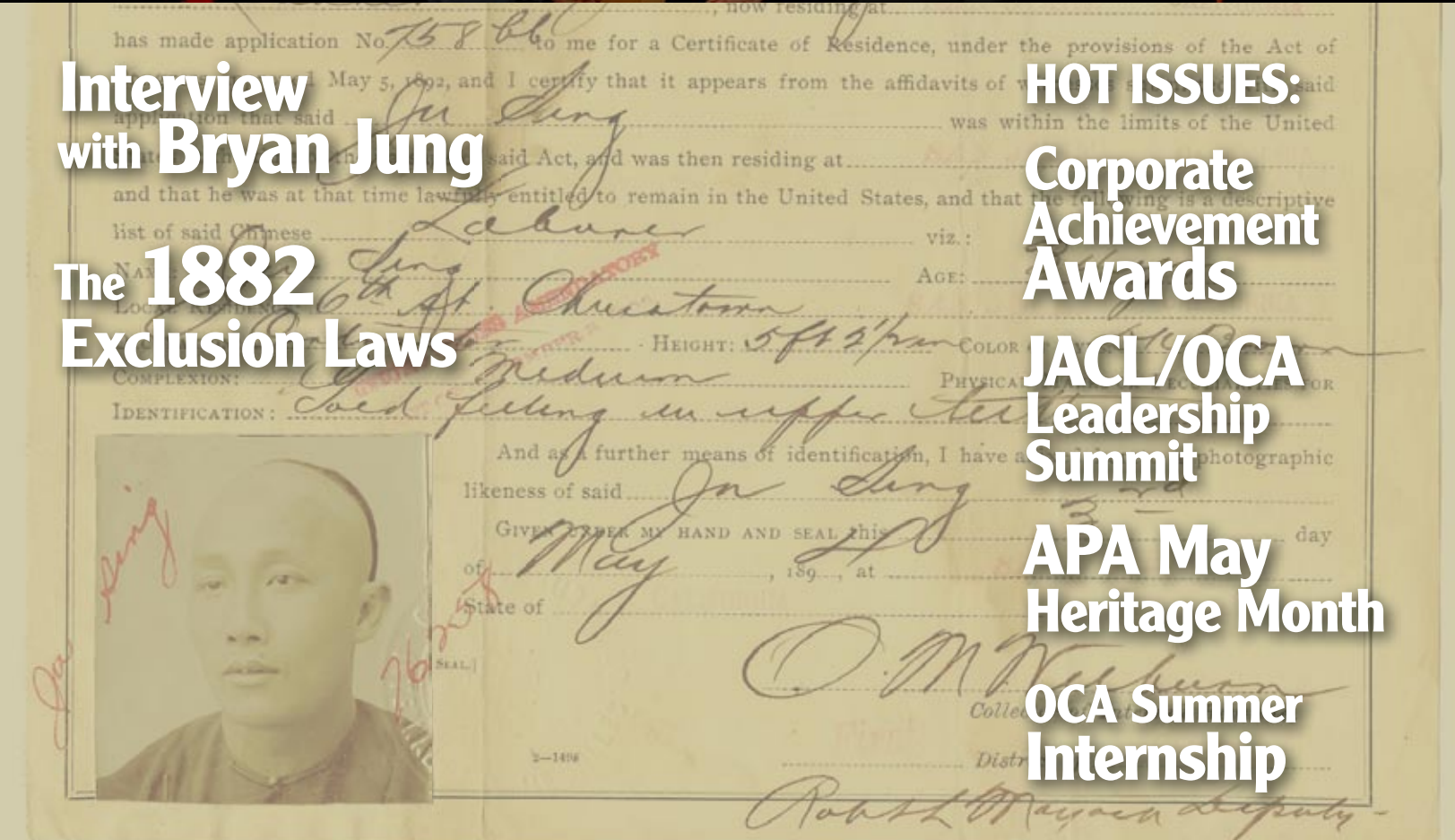
**HOT ISSUES:**

Corporate  
Achievement  
Awards

JACL/OCA  
Leadership  
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APA May  
Heritage Month

OCA Summer  
Internship







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# IMAGE

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### Summer 2011



*Maria Manalac, Rep. Judy Biggert, and Diana Bui*



*2011 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit*



*Caricature of Buddha removed from a "Ghost Rickshaw" ride at Adventureland Amusement Park in Farmingdale, Long Island, thanks to the efforts of OCA-Long Island's Dr. Frank Shih, Executive VP and Dr. Gary Mar, Co-VP for Education*

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About the Cover:

Photo courtesy of Gino Wang of *Asian Fortune* & C.A.C.A. The Remembering 1882 Exhibit in the background was produced by and on loan from the Chinese Historical Society in San Francisco.

Background image from MS 3642, courtesy California Historical Society.

## Our Mission

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

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.

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 affiliates are establishing strong local programs in all parts of the country.

OCA's headquarters in Washington, D.C. gives the OCA National Center 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.

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**Interim Executive Director** Tom Hayashi



## Message from the President

Ken Lee | OCA National President

This year has gone by so fast, especially with so many exciting things that have already taken place. One thing I would like to mention is that in April the National Board approved OCA's first-ever National Civil Rights Fellowship Program. We are excited about this program and look forward to introducing the first-ever National Civil Rights Fellow at this year's National Convention.

For this 2011 Summer Edition of IMAGE, I would really like to take the time to highlight the 2011 OCA National Convention in New York City from August 4th-7th. It has been 18 years since the OCA National Convention has made an appearance in the Big Apple. This year also marks a significant milestone for OCA-New York, as they celebrate their 35th Anniversary in existence.

The theme of this year's Convention, "Advocacy Through Compassion – A New York State of Mind," focuses on philanthropy and activism, as well as showcasing the important work we do on behalf of the Asian Pacific American (APA) community. The Convention also highlights the tremendous growth of the APA community within New York City. Currently, APAs in New York City make up 13% of the population, and represent over 40 cultures and ethnic groups.

This year's Convention also commemorates the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 and reflects upon how all APA communities across the nation have been impacted by this event, especially those living in New York City.

Furthermore, it gives me great pleasure to announce the annual National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards, which recognize corporate excellence and community service, on October 7 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. This year we will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of this program. Over the past 20 years, 190 APA corporate leaders have received this award and I am proud to say that I am one of them. This award really showcases the contributions of APAs in the corporate sector and the work they do in their communities on behalf of all APAs. I hope you will attend the event and join us in this celebration.

OCA National Center staff keeps all our programs running strong and provides support for chapters to do their work at the local level.

2011 continues to be promising and I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events. ■





## Message from the Executive Director

Tom Hayashi | OCA Interim Executive Director

It seems just like yesterday that I was invited to dinner by Clara Chiu, a friend I had met through the LDIR Program at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. At that casual weekend meal was where I was introduced to the Board members of OCA Greater Los Angeles. Little did I know then that accepting the invitation to this seemingly ordinary meal would significantly mark my personal as well as professional journey.

That was back in 2003, and fast forward to 2011 I find myself, as many of our past members, chapter leaders, Executive Council members, and interns must have before, recalling similar reminiscences of warm introductions that have led to a lasting engagement which our great organization is built on: one member's invitation to join in the cause that is larger than any one person, but one that we can all take part in.

Though we were founded as the Organization of Chinese Americans 38 years ago, our beloved organization is more commonly known as OCA, a national civil rights organization which truly embraces the dreams and aspirations of all Asian Pacific Americans (APAs). Today we enjoy a thriving multi-ethnic membership and staff composition including a number of National Board Members and Executive Council Members who are non-Chinese or in some cases, bi or multi-

racial as well as those who racially identify other than APA. The diversity of our organization does not stop there. We also have within our organization folks who proudly identify as Women of Color, LGBT, Elderly, and People with Disabilities—all this acknowledges that we are people who not only hold fast to our racial identities but people who continuously negotiate the intersections of identity as we navigate through society as contributors at home, work, and community. Our work, of course, would not be possible without the dedicated support of our donors, corporate and foundation partners who believe, as do we, that diversity and inclusion is the backbone of a strong economy and communities that make our nation uniquely great.

As we begin to pivot towards our 40th Year Anniversary, the leadership of OCA will endeavor to articulate the Vision statement as a moral compass to guide our journey. It is an honor to serve as your Interim Executive Director and through our work, I pledge to offer up the voices of the past and to cast our hopes as we gaze into the future. Just as the theme of our 2011 Convention in New York suggests, "Advocacy through Compassion," in the words of the Dalai Lama, "it is easy to be passionate... compassion is a harder road, but a necessary one in order to achieve peace and justice." ■



## Message from the Editor

Theodore Lau | OCA Vice President of Communications

People. It is people that give OCA its purpose and that which gives our mission meaning. It is people that drive the wheels of our organization like a locomotive that charges ahead toward its destination. Individuals across the country, tirelessly volunteering, working hard, organizing, communicating, advocating and building the foundation for our success. They provide the strength and determination that pave the way for progress. Since 1973, OCA has been a mechanism for advocacy and social justice, leveraging the democratic process to create a voice for Asian Pacific Americans. It is not just an opportunity but

our obligation as citizens of our community to participate in that process, and we do it through a wide swath of activities that include everything from collaborations and community service projects formulated at the local level, to supporting national initiatives that affect and benefit us as a collective. Within the pages of this issue I hope you will enjoy the fascinating examples of people who have chosen to participate. People driving organizational initiatives to inspire legislative action, people making a difference in the White House, people empowering others to engage. Learn from history, participate in the present, and shape the future. ■



## 2012 National Convention Las Vegas, Nevada

*Stay tuned...*

# 2011 National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards Celebrate 20 Years

Victoria Rumsey | OCA Director of Development

In 1991, the first National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards were held in San Francisco, CA. For 20 years, OCA has been honored to recognize Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) for excellence, achievement, and leadership in the corporate sector. To date, 190 community-conscious corporate leaders have received this award.

OCA will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the National APA Corporate Achievement Awards program on Friday, October 7 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. Established by the OCA Business Advisory Council, this annual event is dedicated to celebrating and recognizing APAs in the corporate sector who exemplify not only excellence in their profession, but also leadership and commitment in their respective communities.

The National APA Corporate Achievement Awards is the only national program of its kind to recognize corporate achievement and service to the community among APA corporate employees. Honorees are nominated by their respective employers and then selected by a panel of judges.

Previous nominees include employees from Anheuser – Busch, AT&T, Comcast, Kraft Foods, McDonalds, State Farm, Wells Fargo, and UPS.

For more information on the Corporate Achievement Awards, please contact Director of Development, Victoria J. Rumsey at [vrumsey@ocanational.org](mailto:vrumsey@ocanational.org) or visit [www.ocanational.org](http://www.ocanational.org). ■

## Dates to Remember

<b>July 29</b>	Deadline to submit application via email
<b>September 9</b>	Deadline for hotel reservations
<b>October 7</b>	20th Anniversary National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards



2010 Corporate Achievement Awards Honorees



# Former Corporate Achievement Award Recipient Highlight: Bob Lim

Jonathan Ho | OCA Intern

Each year OCA recognizes and honors individuals in the corporate sector who exemplify excellence and leadership in their career fields and contribute to the Asian Pacific American community. As a major national organization, OCA believes that it is essential to identify and honor leaders whom inspire us all. As this year marks the 20th anniversary of OCA's National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Award, OCA would like to highlight and recognize one of the many outstanding recipients of this award.

Former Corporate Achievement Awards Recipient, Bob Lim, Vice President of West Areas Sales for Kraft Foods, Inc., was one of nine recipients of the Corporate Achievement Awards, which took place in 1998 in Los Angeles, CA.

Thirteen years after receiving the award, Lim continues to play a vital leadership role at Kraft Foods. Lim remains active within the industry and his commitment to the APA community is stronger than ever. On June 1st, Lim was inducted into the California Grocers Association Educational Foundation Hall of Achievement. Established in 1992, the California Grocers Association Educational Foundation recognizes industry leaders who have made significant contributions to the California Grocery Industry.

Lim's journey began with humble beginnings, growing up as the youngest of six children living in Los Angeles. Both his mother and father had immigrated to the United States, making Lim a first generation Chinese-American. Lim's father was a strong proponent of education thus leading Lim attending the University of Southern California where he earned a degree in Business Administration and Marketing. During his time at USC, Lim juggled a part-time job at a major grocery retailer, requiring him to work long nights while still pursuing a higher education. Little did he know at that time that his part-time job would eventually lead him to where he is today!

Lim is a past recipient of the President's Club award, a four time recipient of the Clare Francis Leadership Award, and was awarded the Kraft Foods Diversity Ambassador Award. He is active in the Kraft Foods Hispanic and Asian Sales Councils and is the past chairperson of the Kraft Foods Sales and Customer Service Diversity Steering Committee.

Outside of Kraft, Lim is an active supporter of the USC Food Industry program, the Western Association of Food Chains, and the California Grocers Association. He assists in representing Kraft Foods on the OCA Business Advisory Council and participated as a panelist on OCA's Professional Leadership Development Program, B3: Build, Breakthrough & Believe last October.

As a major national organization, OCA believes that it is essential to recognize leaders who can inspire others especially our younger generation. OCA is proud to recognize Bob Lim's accomplishments and congratulates him on his recent achievement. ■

Thirteen years after receiving the award, Lim continues to play a vital leadership role at Kraft Foods. Lim remains active within the industry and his commitment to the APA community is stronger than ever.





# B<sup>3</sup>: Build, Breakthrough, Believe Leadership Summit

Jeffrey Moy | OCA Program Manager, Professional Leadership Development

With a new look, B<sup>3</sup>: Build, Breakthrough, Believe Leadership Summit continues to provide aspiring and emerging Asian Pacific American (APA) professionals with workshops and seminar topics ranging from personal branding to corporate success tactics and strategies.

In June 2011, OCA-Dallas/Ft. Worth hosted a mini version of B3 which has taken place annually in Washington, DC since its inception in 2009. The program was held at the Dallas Museum of Arts in Downtown Dallas. This program provided an opportunity for APA professionals and community members to learn the necessary strategies and tools to succeed in today's professional world. Speakers sharing their own professional breakthroughs at this half day event included: Keynote speaker; Sandi Karrmann, Yum! International Chief People Officer; Donna Fujimoto-Cole, CEO, Cole Chemical, Ramey Ko, Austin Municipal Judge and Commission for the White House on Asian American and Pacific Islander; Neena Newberry, President, Newberry Executive Coaching & Consulting; and Richard Rugnao, Senior Manager, Government Relations & Global Diversity, Yum!Brands.

The program's three-word mantra, *Build, Breakthrough, Believe*, serves as the driving force behind the program. B3 will be taking place prior to the Corporate Achievement Awards on Friday, October 7, 2011 at the Capitol Hilton in Washington, DC. For more information about the B3 Leadership Summit, please contact Jeff Moy, OCA's Program Manager at [jmoy@ocanational.org](mailto:jmoy@ocanational.org). ■

**B**UILD *Learn the tactics and tools necessary to win in today's professional arena*  
**B**REAKTHROUGH *Walk away with winning strategies and best practices from some of today's most successful professionals*  
**B**ELIEVE *Meet other aspiring professionals who will expand your network*



Panel discussion at B<sup>3</sup> Dallas

# Mentoring Asian American Professionals (MAAP)

Tom Hayashi | OCA Interim Executive Director

As an extension of OCA's commitment to leadership development, three years ago, under the generous and visionary support of the UPS Foundation, we developed a program that strategically addresses the professional development needs of emerging Asian Pacific American (APA) leaders, now known across the country in five cities and counting as Mentoring Asian American Professionals (MAAP).

MAAP seeks to cultivate the next generation of confident, empowered, equipped, and collaborative Asian American professional leaders through mentoring, skills-building, and networking. Each program cycle spans approximately three months. It includes four one-on-one mentoring sessions and three half-day networking events convening on Saturdays, scheduled approximately every three to four weeks. The curricula provides an opportunity for both mentees and mentors to hone their skills in the art of the dialogue while exploring specific professional development topics.

Since 2008, the OCA-UPS MAAP Program has successfully operated in Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington, DC with cumulative national enrollment of over 80 individuals engaged in skills building, relationship development, mentoring dialogue, and networking. This was made possible with the collaborative leadership of OCA National Board President Ken Lee, Bernie Collins of UPS and the Business Advisory Council, Tom Hayashi, former President of OCA Greater Los Angeles Chapter, as well as a number of OCA National Staff assigned to support the initiative. ■



“Like many other APAs, for me there have been personal and professional obstacles to overcome. One example is my current role as a marketer for a major corporation. This is a non-traditional role for an APA, yet I've been able to be successful in it. Sharing the path I used to accomplish this serves multiple purposes of providing inspiration to those who follow, giving insight on how to do so, and allowing me to gain satisfaction from that act of sharing. In the case of APAs these points may be especially relevant, as in my experience APAs are relatively hesitant to seek out the kind of guidance and inspiration to explore opportunities that are non-traditional. Programs like MAAP provide an opportunity to discuss opportunities and share contrasting perspectives in a “safe,” structured environment. Armed with that additional insight and support structure, APAs are better prepared to meet the challenges that they encounter.”

– **Damon Wei, Mentor**  
(New Jersey)

*Damon Wei is a Director of Experience Marketing for AT&T. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of OCA New Jersey Chapter and has been a mentor for MAAP since its inception in NJ. He lives in Central New Jersey, and is happily married to a beautiful, supporting wife with five great children.*

“At school I focused on Studio Arts, a degree that I didn't know how I would apply in future jobs. It wasn't a typical traditional career path for a first generation Asian American college student. I had followed my heart in college to pursue what I was passionate about and once I got out of college, I was torn trying to figure out how to incorporate my passion with a job that would provide financial stability. After I sent out countless applications, I finally found a job at UCI in student affairs. What was so great about the department was that you could make the position your own and I got to incorporate art on a lot of the projects. It sounded great but I still wasn't sure whether this was a career path I wanted to take. I wanted to learn more about the student affairs career path as well as other paths that other individuals took so I could get a better idea of how people have made decisions about their own career paths. This was one of the reasons of joining MAAP: to be able to reach out to people and to learn about how their lives have been shaped. It was hard for me to find people open about sharing their own career history especially in the arts field. Just knowing that it was possible to financially support myself in the arts gave me more confidence to pursue my dream.”

– **Edwina Dai, Mentee**  
(Orange County, California)

*Edwina Dai is Administrative Coordinator for Student Affairs at University of California Irvine. She is a member of OCA Orange County and is an avid Contemporary Arts fan.*



# Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Phylissia Landix | OCA-Dallas/Ft. Worth Board Secretary

“We are standing on the shoulders of giants,” Warren Minami reminded all of us. As he spoke, the high and pale granite walls of the Memorial to Japanese-American Patriotism in WWII sheltered us all from a brisk D.C. wind. “All of you should be grateful,” the veteran and Japanese American Internment Camp survivor expounded, “Because we stand tall now.”

I concur. We do. We all do.

Great leadership has reverence for the past, zeal in the present, and a clear vision for the future. The OCA/JACL Leadership Summit in February urged participants to consider all three. Over four whirlwind days, we met an array of impressive leaders, past and present, all of whom inspired us to continue our service and leadership within the API community.

For instance Norman Mineta, former Secretary of Transportation, explained

The overarching intent of the Summit seemed to be to groom a new crop of leaders for OCA and JACL’s chapters; to secure a bright and promising future for both organizations.

to us that America is a tapestry. “The unfathomable sense of kinship and pride that Americans feel in each other’s achievements,” he explained in a warm and reflective tenor, “occurs because our personal histories, however varied and diverse, are intertwined, woven together and inextricably bound. Embracing our heritage gives us self-confidence. Our

cultural differences make America beautiful. Our love for this unequivocally diverse country unites us.”

As the granddaughter of one of the first African-American men to integrate and serve in the US Marine Corps in Hawaii during WWII, I know well America’s history of racial and ethnic strife. Thus, it was my distinct honor to meet Mr. Bruce Yamashita. This humble and quietly charismatic man successfully sued the United States Marine Corp after racial discrimination hindered him in realizing his dream of becoming an officer. Mr. Yamashita’s compelling story is a reminder that “equal justice under the law” is still an elusive concept for many of us, even today.

As such, I understand the continued need for zealous and fervent advocacy for the API community, especially considering a multitude of recent

incidents of bullying and harassment. One of our working lunches was dedicated specifically to recently-proposed anti-bullying legislation. Amid a clash of plates and the sweet scent of yellow Thai curry and sautéed flat noodles, my fellow participants and I shared funny and private stories of how we were bullied. We garnered new

insight and prepared to discuss these matters with current leaders.

We were soon ushered through the polished neo-classical hallways of the Eisenhower Executive Office building, which buzzed with activity amid the glimmer of multicolored lapel pins. The sound of heels clattering along the black and white vertical-check floor echoed through the expansive corridor as we scurried into the conference room. We proceeded to enjoy a steady flow of bright and charismatic young people, proof that the White House is brimming with a vibrant youthful energy. Mr. Bryan Jung, aptly lead the discussion, which ended with an impromptu visit from Mr. Chris Lu, the Cabinet Secretary for the Executive Office of the President.

In sum, the OCA/JACL Leadership Summit allowed me to meet my heroes, take pride in the work of the talented next generation, and define the role that I will play in the future of my local chapter of OCA. The overarching intent of the Summit seemed to be to groom a new crop of leaders for OCA and JACL’s chapters; to secure a bright and promising future for both organizations. Mr. Warren Minami also imparted, “in our community, when you do things, you do them for your family.” With an astounding swiftness, the OCA/JACL Leadership Summit organizers and participants became my extended family. Each family, each cultural enclave, each generation, has a slightly different understanding of history. But, what happens to one of us happens to all of us. Every moment of volunteer service that I provide to the API community through my involvement with OCA and JACL will be for my new family and the “giants” that inspired us all. ■

# Reflections on the 2011 JACL/OCA Leadership Conference

Michio Murakishi | JACL Chicago

I was struck by a great revelation while having lunch at the Capitol on the last day of the 2011 JACL/OCA Leadership Conference. Two days earlier, I had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have dinner with Norman Mineta, former Congressman and Cabinet Secretary. That evening Mr. Mineta gave us a short, but powerful talk on, among other things, his take on multicultural America. He said that he never cared much for the melting pot analogy that everyone is so familiar with. Instead, his idea was that America is more like a tapestry, formed by innumerable, unique threads. The tapestry as a whole gets its beauty from the intertwinement of many distinctive strands.

I couldn’t help but recall this analogy as I (a Japanese American) sat there with two Caucasian women and a Korean American woman, all of us part of the conference. Here we were, most certainly four very unique strands, getting ready to talk to a staffer for Congressman Luis Gutierrez (a Latino American) about the importance of the Student Non-Discrimination Act of 2011, a proposed piece of legislation meant to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools. I would have never guessed that I would have been in this situation three days earlier when I arrived in Washington.

As conference participants, we spent four days together learning what makes us unique and ultimately, how to come together while preserving our distinctiveness. Over the course of the conference, we participated in at least a dozen small group activities, giving us the opportunity to really get to know each other. Participants hailed from every corner of the country, each a leader in their own community. I listened intently to their stories—how they had faced discrimination at some

point in their lives, how they overcame prejudice, and how they decided to turn that negative experience into positive action and leadership.

It wasn’t until that moment sitting there at lunch on Capitol Hill that it finally all made sense to me, until I learned what coming together really meant. We were not there to talk about any particular Japanese American, Chinese American, or even Asian American issue for that matter. We were there to talk about civil rights for LGBT students, about one particular

I listened intently to their stories—how they had faced discrimination at some point in their lives, how they overcame prejudice, and how they decided to turn that negative experience into positive action and leadership.

community’s right to freely participate in society, unburdened by discrimination or repression.

What I will remember most from this conference is this idea that by preserving our uniqueness, we enhance the overall beauty of the whole; by protecting the civil rights of others, we protect our own. I will forever be grateful to JACL, OCA, and State Farm for this great opportunity to learn more about what it takes to be a leader. Leadership is about one’s ability to bring together diverse groups through social influence in order to accomplish a common goal. Or, as Norman Mineta would say, it’s about the ability to see beauty in diversity. ■



# OCA Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Pei-Un Yee | OCA Associate Director, Chapter Development & Member Engagement

What does Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) mean to you? OCA chapters nationwide answered this question and came out strong, celebrating their APA heritage and educating communities about the achievements and contributions APAs have made to the United States.

OCA kicked off the month of May with the Comcast campaign. To meet the needs of the Chinese speaking community, Comcast offered television packages with a variety of high quality Chinese television programming in Northern California; Houston, TX; Chicago, IL; Atlanta, GA; Philadelphia, PA; and the Washington, DC metro area. Through our partnership, Comcast donated \$20 to OCA for every new network subscription from late April until May 8. Thanks to all the support from community members, OCA was able to raise more than \$5,000.

OCA chapters also participated in numerous APAHM events throughout the month. Many co-hosted their local APA Heritage Festivals and Street Fairs. Others hosted educational events such as a screening of "Vincent Who?" with Director Curtis Chin and a panel discussion entitled, "The State of Ethnic Studies," that addressed the state of ethnic studies programs today, their impact, and their ties to greater social justice and diversity issues. One chapter partnered with other APA organizations in their city to recognize five local Asian American heroes with all donations around the event going towards the local APA community.

OCA was also proud to continue its partnership with Nordstrom and new partnership with Hep B Free this year to work on a hep B campaign. For 2011,

## According to a recent report by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, of the 1.5 million people in the United States chronically infected by HBV, APAs account for more than half of the cases.

Nordstrom started a new initiative in giving back to the community by focusing on raising awareness around health issues that are prevalent in diverse groups. For the APA community, the attention was on hepatitis B (HBV), the leading cause of liver cancer and the greatest health disparity for APAs.

According to a recent report by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, of the 1.5 million people in the United States chronically infected by HBV, APAs account for more than half of the cases. A simple and inexpensive blood test can diagnose HBV and subsequent vaccination can prevent the associated liver cancer and liver failure.

The Hep B Campaign was created to combat HBV and educate people, especially the APA community, about the disease and find solutions for treatment and prevention. For the month of May, Nordstrom, OCA, Hep B Free and partners, AsianWeek Foundation, AAPCHO, and the Asian Liver Center, asked people to take a quick educational questionnaire about HBV and liver

cancer. In addition, OCA-Greater Los Angeles, OCA-Northern Virginia, OCA-San Francisco, OCA-Greater Seattle, and OCA-Greater Washington DC supported their local Nordstrom by helping with employee hep B screenings and APAHM questionnaire outreach.

For every person who filled out the questionnaire, Nordstrom donated funds to Hep B Free to promote the organization's efforts towards emphasizing the importance of testing and vaccination amongst the APA community on a national level. With a huge outpour of support, the campaign's monetary goal was met in just a few weeks. We also successfully collected more than 5,000 questionnaires that will help Hep B Free strengthen their outreach programs and materials.

We are grateful to all of our partners and local chapters for helping OCA bring together a triumphant May Asian Pacific American Heritage Month for 2011. ■

# APIA-U: Leadership Training 101

Diana Bui | OCA Senior Manager of Student Leadership Development Programs

For the past 12 years, APIA-U Leadership 101 Training has made a difference all across the country, bringing together Asian Pacific American student leaders and deepening their experiences. OCA, with strong support from State Farm and OCA chapters, hopes to reach new campuses and communities for the upcoming 2011-2012 season. Host applications are now available at [ocanational.org](http://ocanational.org).

On May 7th this past year, OCA ended the 2010-2011 season at South Seattle Community College, an AANAPISI (Asian American Native American Pacific Islander

Serving Institutions) school and one of the few community colleges where APIA-U has taken place. Board Members of OCA-Seattle joined APIA-U participants and facilitators at the end of the training for a dinner and open discussion about the Seattle community and APA issues. It is the partnership between community members, younger and older generations, that will continue to help keep the leadership strong and vibrant.

Thank you to all the participants and OCA chapter members for being involved and making 2010-2012 a successful year for APIA-U Leadership 101 Training. To all of our APIA-U Facilitators, thank you for dedicating your time, knowledge and leadership. You help pave the way for new future APA leaders.



Participants break into small groups.

Participants & facilitator Ben de Guzman post training.

## What is APIA-U?

Our mission is to provide Asian/Pacific Islander American (APIA) student leaders and activists with a unique training opportunity which keeps in mind the viewpoints and experiences of APIAs and students of color. The program focuses on the development of leadership and organizational skills that are relevant to APIA campuses and communities.

The interactive college-level leadership training program involves hands-on exercises, small group discussions, and presentations led by two qualified APIA facilitators. The one day training assembles students from each region and focuses on self-awareness, team-building, and direct action organizing. Participants will be asked to challenge themselves, share their experiences, and develop leadership tools in order to effectively serve as catalysts for change.





## History of APIA-U

Since 1999, APIA-U has reached over 100 schools with an estimated 2,000 participants. OCA National is committed to serving APIA communities and partnering with new schools every year.

- 1999-2000**  
University of Utah  
Emory University  
Georgetown University  
University of Washington  
Loyola University  
San Mateo Library  
University of California, Irvine  
Columbia University  
University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Washington University  
Rice University
- 2001-2001**  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Georgia  
Loyola Marymount University  
Loyola University  
University of Maryland  
University of Arizona  
University of Washington  
Boston University  
Fort Range Community College  
Hunter College  
University of California, Berkeley
- 2001-2002**  
George Mason University  
Temple University  
University of Chicago  
Mt. Holyoke College  
Vanderbilt University  
Rice University  
State University of Stony Brook  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Irvine  
University of Minnesota

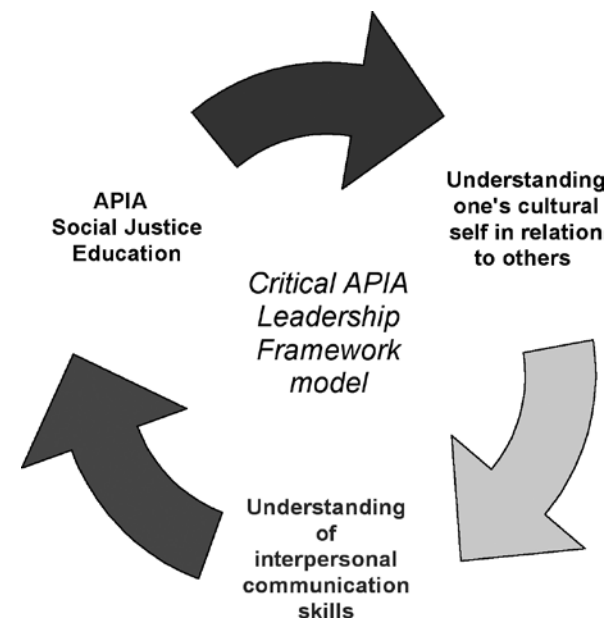
- 2002-2003**  
Univ. of Arizona, Tucson  
George Washington University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Texas A&M University, College Station  
University of Utah, Salt Lake City  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
University of Washington, Seattle  
Illinois State University, Normal  
St. Mary's College of California, Moraga  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Ohio State University, Columbus
- 2003-2004**  
Wellesley College  
Rutgers University  
Northern Illinois University  
University of Hawaii, Manoa  
Southern Methodist University  
University of Miami  
University of Puget Sound  
Hamline University  
University of Denver  
San Jose State University  
Cal State Fullerton
- 2004-2005**  
University of Arizona, Tucson  
George Washington University  
Texas A&M University, College Station  
University of Utah, Salt Lake City  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
University of Washington, Seattle  
Illinois State University, Normal

- St. Mary's College of California, Moraga  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Ohio State University, Columbus
- 2006-2007**  
University of Missouri, Columbia  
Loyola University New Orleans  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University  
University of North Texas  
Northeastern University  
Syracuse University  
University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
Hamline University  
California State University, Fullerton  
University of Colorado, Boulder
- 2007-2008**  
Cornell University / Ithaca College  
Boston College  
University of Virginia  
University of Arizona  
California State University, Pomona  
University of Florida  
Southern Methodist University  
University of Washington, Seattle  
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee  
San Francisco State University
- 2008-2009**  
Columbia University  
Indiana University

- Trinity University  
Northern Illinois University  
University of California Davis  
Old Dominion University  
Georgia Tech  
Reed College  
University of Wisconsin, Green Bay  
Ohlone College  
University of Miami
- 2009-2010**  
Rice University  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
Cornell University  
University of Kansas  
William & Mary  
Tufts University  
University of Connecticut  
Georgia State University  
Santa Clara University  
University of California, Irvine
- 2010-2011**  
Iowa State University  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
University of Oklahoma  
Lone Star Community College, North Harris  
University of Florida  
St. Louis University  
University of Hawai'i, Hilo  
University of Southern California  
University of Illinois, Chicago  
Syracuse University  
Mount Holyoke College  
South Seattle Community College

## Critical APIA Leadership Framework

The APIA U Student Leadership Training curriculum is a workshop series that provides a platform for the development of the individual, student organizations and broader community. This training agenda employs concepts from the Critical APIA Leadership Framework (CALF) model, a model that integrates components from the Social Change Model for Leadership Development from the University of California, Los Angeles, research on the "millennial generation" of students, and experience of the APIA community. The CALF model focuses on developing core competencies that empower participants to develop their identity, build leadership skills and advocate for their community. The one day training will take participants through a series of exercises and discussions that encourage participation and strengthening their commitment and ability to participate in social change.



# OCA Kicks Off Its 2011 Summer Internship Program!

Diana Bui | OCA Senior Manager of Student Leadership Development Programs

OCA starts off another summer by welcoming its 2011 Summer Internship Class! Reflecting the diversity within the country's Asian Pacific American (APA) community, this year's class includes 24 students from all across the United States and from diverse backgrounds, including: Cambodian, Chamoru, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Samoan, Vietnamese, and Thai descent.

This 10-week paid internship provides students opportunities to understand the political process, the current state of APA politics and communities, and the role of grassroots non-profit organizing. Since 1989, OCA has provided this unique opportunity to gain professional experience in various

governmental agencies, congressional offices, and non-profit organizations in the nation's capital. Students are placed with partners such as Congresswoman Judy Chu's office, the White House Initiative for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Department of Labor, National Education Association, and many others.

Following the conclusion of the summer, students will devise action plans to take back to their local communities. Already, students have begun brainstorming their action plans in ways that support OCA's mission of advancing the social, political, and economic well being of Asian Pacific Americans. Some of these action plans include starting an Asian studies

department at school, coalition building between different organizations, addressing gender issues, outreaching to local communities, including APA voices in the queer movement, collecting narratives of undocumented students, and pushing for more APA leaders in high governmental offices. The action plans and continued community dedication of these leaders have lead past OCA interns to become executive directors of various organizations, lead offices in the White House, and community organizing leaders all over the nation.

OCA looks forward to the future in seeing these students grow to become great leaders within our APA community! ■

## 2011 OCA Summer Interns

Name	Home State	College/University
Jane Ahn	IL	University of Illinois at Chicago
Betty Jin Jin Cao	NY	Depauw University
Linh Chuong	CA	Hendrix College
Jonathan Ho	CA	University of California, Santa Barbara
Jennifer Kanjana	CA	University of California, Riverside
Lena Khader	OK	Oklahoma City University
Janice Kim	NJ	George Washington University
Nicholas Kor	MN	University of St. Thomas
Kendall Kosai	WA	University of Washington
Ryan Kwan	MA	Boston University
Amaris Muliaumaseali'i-Leiataua	CA	University of California, Berkeley
Cherry Lim	MA	Tufts University
Johnson Lin	NY	State University of New York, Geneseo
Maria Manalac	MD	Loyola University Maryland
Monique Matautia	CA	State Long Beach
Bao Kou Moua	MN	University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Bao Nhia Moua	MN	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vi Nguyen	CT	Yale University
Neha Raheja	TX	University of Texas, Austin
Sareen Thahir	VA	University of Virginia
Leona Thao	OK	Oklahoma State University
Casey Tran	CA	University of California, Berkeley
Jacqueline Wu	CA	University of California, Irvine
Vang Xiong	CA	Stanford University



# Interview with Bryan Jung

Maria Manalac | OCA Intern

## BIO

Bryan Jung has quite the daunting title. As the Director of Special Projects for the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs, he calls the White House his work place and President Obama his boss. The Office of Public Engagement, formerly known as the Office of Public Liaison, was launched in 2009 by President Obama, to serve as an “open door” so the American public can engage in conversation with the offices of the Executive Branch.

Jung grew up in Southern California, a region with a prominent Asian Pacific American (APA) presence, but it was not until college that he found his role in the APA community. While an undergraduate at Brandeis University, Jung served on the Senior Vice President Student Advisory Board, and was a Board Member of the Boston Asian Student Alliance and the former National Co-Chair of the East Coast Asian Student Union. Jung also co-founded Asian American Action Fund, a progressive political organization dedicated to strengthening the voices and representation of Asian Pacific Americans across the nation.

Jung will soon bid goodbye to his position to pursue graduate school this fall, but before he leaves his office at the White House behind, we took a moment to ask him a few questions about his time as an OCA intern, the role of the younger generation, the Obama administration’s involvement with the APA Community, and what it is like to work in the White House.

## INTERVIEW

**OCA:** *Growing up in southern California, have you always felt a strong connection to the APA cause? When did you realize you wanted to work for the community?*

**BJ:** Growing up in Rowland Heights in Southern California, there were always Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders around me. As a young kid, it didn’t occur to me that things were out of the ordinary. With a critical mass of AAPIs in middle school and high school, I didn’t feel like a minority – so I never thought much of organizing around the AAPI community specifically, rather I focused much more on general community service. It wasn’t until I went to undergrad at Brandeis did I feel like a minority and that I needed to make sure that our underrepresented community at Brandeis had a voice. This was especially true after a racist incident on campus where student radio show hosts sang a racially charged and obscene song about AAPI women.

**OCA:** *What are some of the projects which you work on?*

**BJ:** As the Director of Special Projects for the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental affairs, I get this question often. The title means that you get to play a utility player role on the team. This may happen when there are things that come up that may not fall into anyone’s specific portfolio. This may also happen when you are called to help on a specific task or memo that requires extremely tight turnaround time. Given the intense pressure working as the Special Assistant to the National Economic Council Director for the first two years of the Administration, you develop an ability to deal with issues and projects that need to be taken care of in short order that involve the entire team of people you work with.

**OCA:** *What is it like working in the White House?*

**BJ:** To serve in an Administration for a President who has already accomplished so much in such little time is an honor in its own right. By spending nearly two and half years at the White House, there are so many stories that I will forever remember.



*President Barack Obama holds a briefing prior to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Initiative Executive Order signing, and Diwali festival of lights ceremony at the White House, Oct. 14, 2009*

The one story that I want to share is one that happens every day. Whether I walk, drive, or take the bus to work, a deep appreciation for the privilege to work at the White House comes to me every time I walk through the gates.

I remember speaking to a White House junior staffer from a previous Administration that said, “Although the days and hours seem long, the months and years will pass you by.” Only because I am finally leaving to go to grad school this Fall do I really understand this.

**OCA:** *How has the Obama administration engaged with the APA community?*

**BJ:** The President and members of his Administration have worked hard to improve the lives of the American people. Whether it has been the Recovery Act, the Affordable Care Act, the Small Business Acts, these policies have helped AAPIs throughout the country. Much of this can be read on our report at [www.aapi.gov](http://www.aapi.gov) entitled “President Obama’s Agenda for the AAPI Community” ([http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss\\_viewer/aapi\\_winningthefuture\\_20110506.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/aapi_winningthefuture_20110506.pdf))

The President also signed an executive order in 2009 that established the “White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.” The charge of the Initiative is to improve the quality of life for AAPIs through increased access and participation in Federal programs. Also, the President appointed AAPI officials

throughout his Administration – from the most senior on down – including three AAPI cabinet secretaries: Secretary Stephen Chu at Energy, Secretary Gary Locke at Commerce, and Secretary Eric Shinseki at Veterans Affairs.

All this has demonstrated the President’s commitment to the AAPI community.

My position is just one of the many ways that the AAPI community is served by this Administration. All the AAPI appointees at the various agencies and the staff and commissioners of the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders all strive to better connect and understand the needs of the AAPI community.

**OCA:** *As one of the founders of AAA-Fund YP, how important do you think the role of the younger generation is?*

*What made you want to start such an organization?*

**BJ:** I’ve been a great beneficiary of great mentors throughout my short career. Whether it was a classmate who was a couple years older, teachers, or community leaders. What I realized in high school was that things were a lot easier when you had people around you who would support you and provide you guidance along your path. With that, I always made it a point to mentor those who were less experienced than me. This is true for the AAA-Fund YP group where we tried to engage a younger generation about AAPI issues and politics.

**OCA:** *How do you think OCA has prepared you for this position?*

**BJ:** The summer I spent as an OCA intern in Washington, DC during the summer of 2002 was one of the most formative experiences that I have had. The intense 8 week internship and leadership training really helped me understand the importance of having a voice and ensuring that you are heard by the right people – especially in Washington, DC. The experience gave me a foundation for the work I have done since then. Also, the same people I interned with and the people I had worked for remain friends and colleagues today. Those friendships and relationships are some of the most important ones I have today.

**OCA:** *For the interns toiling away at OCA, what wise advice would you give?*

**BJ:** Work hard. Take advantage of the opportunities. Have fun. Although you may not know where this experience may take you next, it will certainly shape who you are. ■



# A Resolution of Regret for the Exclusion Laws:

Maria Manalac | OCA Intern

Diana Bui | OCA Senior Manager of Student Leadership Development Programs

*“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that from and after the expiration of ninety days next after the passage of this act, and until the expiration of ten years next after the passage of this act, the coming of Chinese laborers to the United States be, and the same is hereby, suspended; and during such suspension it shall not be lawful for any Chinese laborer to come, or, having so come after the expiration of said ninety days, to remain within the United States.”*

– Forty-Seventh Congress, Session I. 1882

In search of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, thousands of Chinese citizens traveled thousands of miles to the United States and settled mostly in the western coast. What they all found was not the promise of the American dream, but exploitative hard labor and prejudice.

The first Chinese were hired for the arduous labor of laying down the tracks for a transcontinental railroad in 1865. They were underpaid and overworked. Others found work as farmers, but they could not own land despite their skilled in the trade. Fishermen were imposed with taxes and domestic workers were underpaid. Already faced by intolerable animosity from the public’s prejudice against foreigners, Chinese immigrants suffered even more with the passing of the 1882 Exclusion Act. The Act declared the cessation of Chinese immigration to the United States and denied those already living in the country the rights to citizenship.

The law was unconstitutional, deviating from the ideals that had framed the American nation, and the aftermath of the law affected more than just individual civil rights. It divided families as married couples were separated by continents and mothers and fathers were unable to connect with their children. Chinese immigrants detained at Angel Island immigrant station endured months of living in crowded and unsanitary conditions. When the immigration policy became more restrictive, the law was extended until 1902 and included other immigrants from Asia. It wasn’t until 1943 when China became an ally of the United States during World War II, that the laws were repealed. Congress has never acknowledged its role in passing these laws that violated the civil rights of generations of Chinese immigrants.

Only now, more than a century after the passing of the Exclusion Act, are we witnessing an initiative for Congress to pass resolutions that express the regret of these laws. Officially known as the Resolution to Acknowledge and Express Regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act, the resolutions were introduced in the House of Representatives by Representatives Judy Chu (D-CA), Judy Biggert (R-IL), Mike Coffman (R-CO), and Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) and in the Senate by Senators Scott Brown (R-MA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Orrin Hatch (R-UT),

Patty Murray (D-WA), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Daniel Akaka (D-HI) on May 26, 2011.

## The Stronger Voices

On a sunny day in the nation’s capital, we walked along the halls of Capitol Hill. We sat with the congresswomen (separately) at the helm of the resolution, Representatives Judy Chu of the 32nd District of California and Judy Biggert of the 13th District of Illinois, and started with a simple question: Why introduce the resolution, and why introduce it now?

Chu, who in college expected to graduate with a mathematics degree, had taken an Asian American studies class where she learned about the Chinese Exclusion Act. Years later, when she found herself holding public office, a group of Chinese Americans approached her about formally acknowledging and addressing the passage of the Chinese Exclusion laws. California had already passed an apology for the laws in 2009, but the American government, and more specifically Congress, had never expressed any remorse about

the laws that discriminated against the Chinese. Chu had a personal history with the laws as well. “My own grandfather came [to America] around the turn of the century and was a victim of the Chinese Exclusion laws,” she explained.

While Biggert may not have been directly affected by the Exclusion laws, her dedication to the resolution is a result of a different kind of history. “Believe it or not, in the 1870s, there was an Illinois Senator who actually fought to

protect and to have citizenship allowed for those of Chinese descent, so I’m just following in the footsteps of past leaders in Illinois,” she said. But similar to Chu, her involvement with the resolution also came about due to a simple visit from one of her constituents.

These visits to lawmakers are precisely the necessary action to take to ensure passage for these resolutions. The aftershocks of these have resonated generation after generation until it was repealed in 1943, therefore many any of those who were affected are in old age.



Maria Manalac, Rep. Judy Chu, and Dana Bui

# Congress Reaffirms Commitment to Justice

While now may be a vital time for constituents to reach out to their representatives about the resolutions, one of the issues facing grassroots campaigns is getting the attention and the commitment of the public, Asian American or not. “Not only does the mainstream American public not know about the Chinese exclusions laws, but many in our Chinese American community do not know about the Chinese Exclusion laws. We certainly have to educate our own community,” Chu reminded.

It is equally important that these resolutions gain support from the full Asian Pacific American (APA) community. Chu explained that other discriminatory acts have happened against other members of the APA community, most notably the internment camps that Japanese Americans were forced to live in during World War II. She explained that although “there was a tremendous injustice, there were not enough voices,” and “there were not enough people to stand up.” Thus, Chu sees this as a new opportunity for the APA community to unite. “We have so much commonality between different groups that if we join forces, I think that we can be a very strong voice against hysteria and scapegoating,” she said.

Creating unity across the APA community certainly makes for a stable coalition of support, but perhaps an even more crucial target for the assembly is the younger Asian Americans, whose familiarity with the exclusion laws mostly come from a paragraph-long explanation in a history textbook. Chu, who had taught in Los Angeles City College and East Los Angeles College for 20 years, believes that public schools across the nation have not dedicated adequate attention to the Exclusion laws. “It is not highlighted very much at all in our history books,” said Chu, “That is one thing that we need to do as a result of this.”

Biggert expressed similar sentiments about the importance of educating the younger generation about the laws. “Young people should know their history and should learn from that. I think that we all want to know our past, what happened, so that it doesn’t happen again,” she said.

It is precisely because of the disconnect between history and education that both Chu and Biggert consider the passage of the resolution vital. “There are a lot of parallels to this law in what is going on today,” Chu said. Passage of today’s resolutions will send a message that Congress is taking whatever action they can to affirm their commitment to justice and fairness. “I hope that young people see that we can do something [today] to deal with the problems of the past,” said Chu.

Garnering support from across the community will need cooperation and commitment, but both representatives are optimistic that the bill will pass. It has strong bipartisan support both in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Chu credits this all to community effort because many “have come forth and seen the importance of this. They’ve met with their own senators and congress members and pressed upon them the importance of this,” Chu stated. Biggert strongly encouraged constituents to make more visits. “They don’t realize how important it is when lawmakers get a call or a visit from somebody.

You can e-mail, call, go in and see them. I think [the Members of Congress] appreciate that,” she said.

So far Congress, in return, has been responsive, regardless of their party affiliation. “The ones who are excited about doing something about this are those who have been directly asked by the people in their district,” Chu explained. For the members of Congress who have not heard stories from their constituents, Chu explained, “their motivation is equality and justice.” The bipartisanship is clear to Biggert, but she also emphasized that the resolution does not attempt to right a wrong, but rather strengthen the government’s commitment to liberty and equality. “We can express regret, but we can never fix the past. Ours is a new generation of Congress members who see that this should not have happened, and this is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to American values,” she said.

The future of the resolution now lies in the support of the public. The 1882 Project, a nonpartisan grassroots effort, is seeking to educate the public about the Exclusion laws and gather their support for the passing of the resolution. Currently spearheaded by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the Committee of 100, the Japanese American Citizens League, the National Council of Chinese Americans and OCA with the pro bono support of Covington & Burling LLP, the 1882 project strives to be a voice for past, current and future generations.

But as the bill finds its way into the hands of members of Congress, Chu reminded us that there are more to come for the APA community in terms of policy. As chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), she is highly involved in promoting the issues and concerns of the APA community. Before the interview’s end, she concluded with a positive outlook for the future of the community. Chu stated that CAPAC, along with Congress, is focused on economic opportunities for APA small business entrepreneurs, equity in the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (also known as “No Child Left Behind”), comprehensive immigration reform, and the fight against racial profiling, specifically against South Asian Americans. “There’s plenty to do. Our plate is full.” ■

Diana Bui interviewing Rep. Judy Biggert





# A Thread of Sky

## Book Review

Stan Lou | OCA-Greater Washington DC

Stories of Asian American (AA) lives are important for the historical and literary records of America, whether they be in the form of documentaries, memoirs, novels and short stories, poetry, or drama. These need to be woven into the fabric of America's culture so that they are just as mainstream as any other American story, so that this country can know us as human beings beyond the myriad of stereotypical Asian images. As an AA, these stories tell me more about the history of people like me and give me thoughts on how to live a more meaningful life with my self-identity. My passion has been to read as many of these stories as I can, and this has helped me to become more comfortable with myself. It pleases me that there are many AA writers who are producing many stories for our reading enjoyment and enrichment.

One of the best novels for me was *A Thread of Sky* by Deanna Fei. Based on my experience and education, I found it to be a truly authentic Chinese American (CA) story. I was captivated by this tale of a family caught in a situation that may be encountered by any American family and the coping of such with the ever-present backdrop of each family member's sense of identity as a Chinese American. This was intricately woven into the story and was powerfully done. The novel revolves around Irene Shen, who becomes a widow after her husband is killed in a tragic accident. She has three daughters, the youngest of whom has just finished high school. To cope with her grief and insecurity, she plans a tour of China with her daughters, her eighty-year-old mother, and her distant sister. These six women's respective personalities are delicately exposed during this profound tour through "must-see" locations in China. Each one of them has a different perspective of her identity, and this influences her life decisions and how she views and copes with the family incidents that have fractured the family. Grandmother Lin Yulan, mother Irene, and sister Susan are first generation Chinese Americans, although Irene

and Susan might be known now as 1.5 generation CAs, having immigrated as college students. The daughters Nora, Kay, and Sophie are second generation CAs.

This interaction of the different generations was a key element in placing Deanna Fei's debut novel in my personal "top ten" list of books. I could definitely identify with the personality traits exhibited by each of the six characters. Their behavior was a good picture of the complexity that we have in our APA community of diverse generations, along with diverse times and circumstances of immigration to or birth in this country. Lin Yulan, who spent the first sixty years of her life in China before moving to the US, was mostly influenced by her past life as a revolutionary and the ideals developed from that life. Irene and Susan were changed by their moves to the US, although each reacted differently. Irene, in particular, wanted to break away from her mother's ideals and become her own person and a different kind of parent. Each of the three American-born daughters has her own state of dealing with her identity in career and personal relationship choices, and each was different from the others. So, how can one so crassly categorize all Chinese, or all Asians, into one stereotype, usually a "perpetual foreigner?"

My age falls between Lin Yulan and Irene, but I am a second generation CA, like Nora, Kay, and Sophie. Of course, the time and circumstances of my life were different, too. So, it is difficult for me to pinpoint the character with whom I most identify. I can appreciate Grandmother's bitterness for her hard life in China and her ambition for her children. I know the struggles and conflicts in Irene's life with career ambitions and raising a family in a troubled marriage. As for the daughters, I have lived my own life as a second generation CA with all the baggage that comes from that. My perspective has told me that the identity that one establishes as a CA determines how one deals with life situations. Deanna Fei did a masterful job in that aspect of each of her six



Cover of *A Thread of Sky*

protagonists. I was especially enthralled with Kay's response to Byron, her fellow CA tour traveler, whose question was how and why she became involved with Asian American issues. Her short answer was "...Asian Americans have always been treated as foreigners, and I wanted to change that." When he asked for the long answer, Kay's answer over the next few pages of the novel was one of the most magnificent explanations I have ever read for why one might become actively engaged in issues that affect Asian American. This was a highlight, among several others, for me. Likewise, I feel that Nora and Sophie showed the complexities of their lives. Irene, however, was definitely the star of the story, and how she learned to deal with the brokenness of her life was related very inspirationally.

The fact that the six protagonists were women did not make this a "woman's book." They were real people with whom anyone can relate. The males in the book were fairly portrayed.

It should be obvious that I loved this book – so much that I read it a second time one month after my first reading. During my initial reading, I was thinking that the book was a real "page-turner." My second time around, I didn't want the book to end! I recommend it highly as an entertaining read, but mostly for its authenticity as a real Chinese American story. I think that author Deanna Fei is very perceptive in her understanding of the traits that many Chinese Americans possess and use. I'm looking forward to her future works. ■

# Updates from OCA Chapters

OCA is engaged in organizing over 80 chapters and affiliates across the country to develop local leadership and community involvement. OCA Chapters are at the core of the work that OCA does in achieving its objective of advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans.

For this issue of IMAGE, we asked chapters to give updates about their work in following three categories:

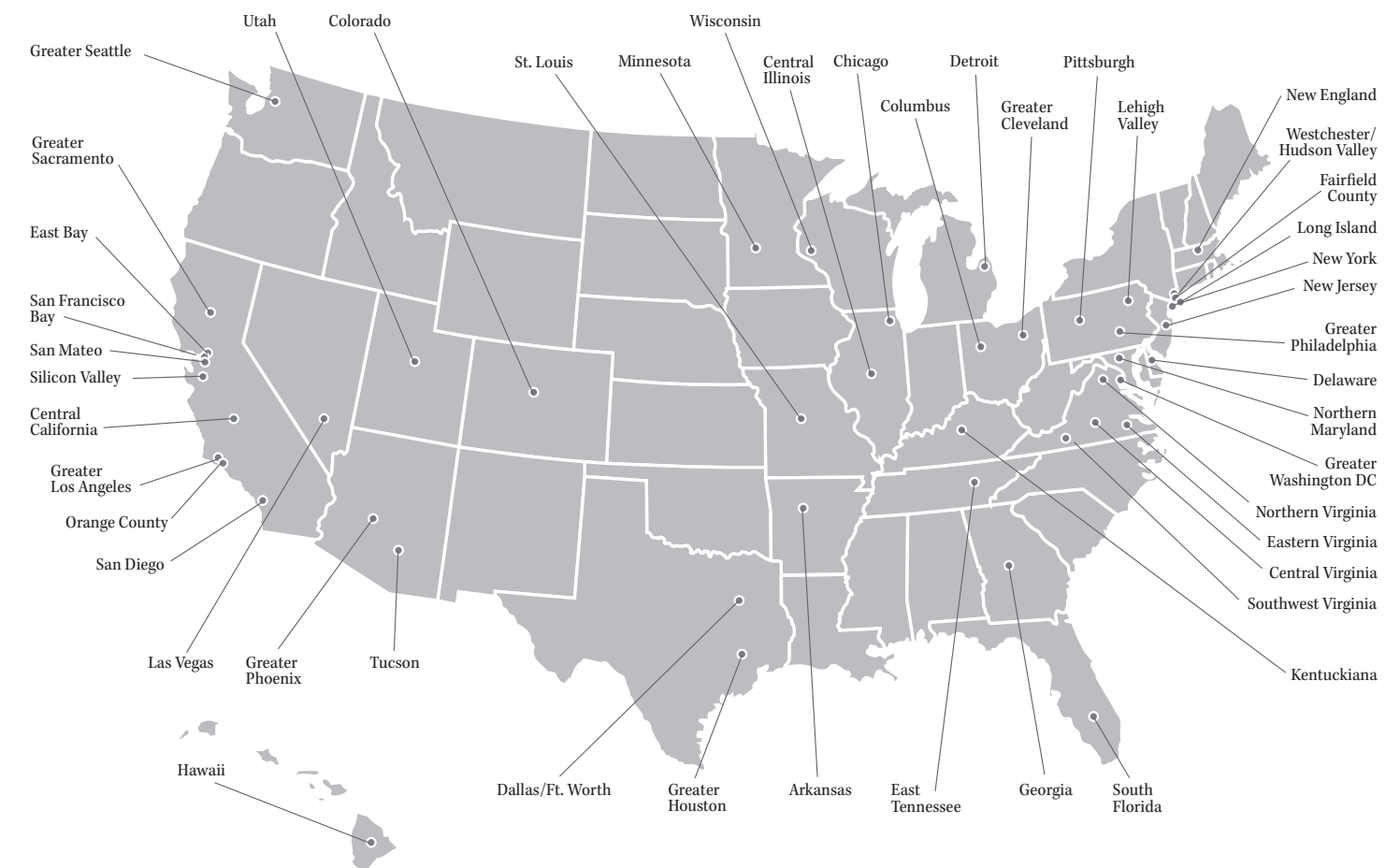
- 1) Signature Events
- 2) Advocacy/Policy Efforts
- 3) Other Chapter Highlights

and answer the following question:

**“In recognition of May APA Heritage Month, who is your APA hero?”**

See the quote in each update for the chapter's unique answer to the question.

For full chapter map, please visit [www.ocanational.org](http://www.ocanational.org)





# OCA-Central Illinois

## Events



OCA-CIL President Lisa Shasky presents the award of appreciation to Dr. Ruifang Cao.

■ OCA-CIL partnered with Heartland Community College to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit on Feb. 5, 2011 at Illinois State University. This was the 10th anniversary for the community event. The chapter presented Dr. Ruifang Cao, organizer of the annual event, with an engraved award to commemorate the anniversary. The night included traditional Chinese dances, songs and performances featuring beautiful Chinese costumes and lyrics. Red envelopes with “lucky money” (coins) for each child were provided. There was a raffle sponsored by OCA-CIL which was a huge success.



OCA-CIL board members and community leaders distribute red envelopes to children attending Chinese New Year Celebration.

## Other Highlights

■ OCA-CIL President, Lisa Shasky, attended the JACL/OCA Leadership Summit held in Washington, DC along with other leaders from JACL and OCA chapters from across the country. Besides updates on many issues relevant to the APA community and visiting with key people in the legal, political and advocacy arenas, a major highlight was a dinner meeting with former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. His personal story of his family being sent to one of the internment camps along with his first-hand account of the events on 9/11 had a huge impact on everyone who attended.

“My APA heroes are the thousands of Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans who were interned at the many US internment camps during World War II. This terrible hardship was endured with a grace and dignity that rose above the situation in which they unjustly found themselves. And so many of the children went on to serve in the US military, open successful businesses, have political careers and much more. To me, this is why it’s so important that we continue to develop leaders in the APA community and continue to foster a climate of inclusiveness and understanding among all APA and non-APA groups.”

– Lisa Shasky, OCA-CIL President

# OCA-Colorado

## Events

■ OCA-Colorado served meals at the Ronald McDonald House in November 2010. The chapter also hosted a holiday party for the seniors in January 2011. For the New Year, OCA-Colorado hosted a Lunar New Year Banquet in February 2011.



OCA-Colorado Board members and their families served meals at the Ronald McDonald House in November 2011.

“Mr. John Yee, a native of Kunming, China, served with the Flying Tigers, an American Volunteer Group, during World War II. A retired Aurora Central High School teacher’s efforts to strengthen bonds with foreign countries – his actions linked the East to West. He has also taught at the University of Denver and has been an active member of the Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership in Denver. He is also the founder of Denver-Kunming Sister Cities. Mr. Yee turns 90 this year.”

– Hing Ryder, OCA-Colorado President

## Other Highlights

■ OCA-Colorado collaborated with other local APA organizations to select the 2011 Asian American Heroes. Furthermore, the chapter put forth a joint effort with other local organizations to raise funds for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami tragedy that took place in Japan. Finally, OCA-Colorado participated in the Annual Community Picnic in July 2011.

# OCA-Columbus

“Mike Honda has raised much political awareness among APA communities.”

– Sam Law, OCA-Columbus President

## Events

- OCA-Columbus hosted a Chinese New Year Celebration with more than 180 people in attendance.

## Advocacy/Policy

- The past year, OCA-Columbus focused on immigration issues.

## Other Highlights

- OCA-Columbus participated in a Japan Earthquake Fundraising Mixer, which raised \$280 and was sent to JAACL Dayton, Ohio Chapter.

# OCA-Greater Cleveland

## Events

- OCA-GC produced two additional episodes of OCA Image TV Ohio, a series focused on Cleveland’s growing AsiaTown community and the success of the first annual Cleveland Asian Festival, which fosters, educates, and promotes Asian culture and traditions while celebrating APA Heritage Month. The Cleveland Asian Festival unites the Asian community through recognition of the many diverse and ethnic groups including Chinese, Indian, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, and many others. Aside from OCA-GC, other organizations volunteered their time, making the festival a success.



OCA-Greater Cleveland

# OCA-Detroit

## Events



OCA-Detroit

- OCA-Detroit hosted the annual 38th Anniversary Celebration Banquet on Oct. 15, 2010, that included political dignitaries, corporate and community leaders, and more than 200 guests. DET Energy was presented OCA-Detroit’s Outstanding Corporate Excellence Award. The chapter also awarded Tracey Fu, Brian Lu, R.J. Quiambao, Shirley Shue, and Anna Zhang the Outstanding Youth Counselor awards. Other events included the 27th Annual High School Scholarship Awards Banquet, held on Dec. 5, 2010. During the event, 17 honorees were recognized and 8 received scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1,000. Finally, OCA-Detroit celebrated Chinese New Year with a banquet on Feb. 12, 2011, which more than 200 were in attendance. The event sponsored authentic Chinese gourmet dinner, performances, and special performances.

## Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-Detroit participated in the “Detroit Works Senior Summit,” where 24 senior delegates of Chinese background shared their diverse perspective to the summit to build a vision for an Elder-Friendly Detroit. In conjunction with ACA and APIAVote-Michigan, OCA-Detroit discussed the results of the Census 2010 and how the redistricting process could potentially have a negative effect on the APIA community for the next 10 years and how to address the issue.

## Other Highlights

- OCA-Detroit moved its headquarters to 4750 Woodward Avenue in Detroit, joining several other non-profit organizations in the well-respected Hannan House. The new location will help the chapter expand and enhance programs and services, as well as reach a new client base near Wayne State University and the cultural center of downtown Detroit. The Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with its Multicultural Advisory Council and other partners, is developing a three-year initiative to combat the obesity epidemic that currently threatens the health and well-being of Wayne County residents. ACA is proud to take part in the “NEW ME” project (Nutrition Exercise Weight Management Effort) to organizing a walking club and nutrition workshop event to promote healthy life style among Asian American residents of Wayne County.



## OCA-Fairfield County

“Katherine Cheung...the first Asian American woman to get a pilot’s license in 1932. Three years later she got her international airline license and flew as a commercial pilot. She flew aerobatics in an open cockpit and regularly entered competitive air races. In 1937, Katherine was planning to return to China and open a flying school but her male friend was killed while flying her plane. Although her father was very supportive of her flying, on his death bed he got Katherine to promise to give up flying. Katherine Cheung epitomizes all the traits I admire...pioneer in a non-traditional career, an individual, lived her life, took risks and wasn’t afraid to fail.”

– Miriam Yeung, OCA-FC President

## Events



OCA-FC members being taught zumba at the New Year celebration.

- OCA-FC celebrated the New Year at the new magnet school, Academy of Informational Technology and Engineering (AITE) in Stamford, CT. The celebration included a keynote speaker, children’s performances, music, dancing, and a zumba class.

## Other Highlights

- OCA-FC supported the annual Lunar New Year Reception at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) at the Capitol in Hartford, where members of the state legislature attended, including Dannel Malloy, the new Governor. OCA-FC will be involved with the planning of the annual Gala of the Asian Pacific American Coalition (APAC) of CT on May 14, 2011. This year the Gala will be co-sponsored by the Asian American Affairs Commission (AAAC) and the Pakistani American Association of CT (PAAC).

## OCA-Greater Los Angeles

### Events



OCA-Greater Los Angeles Board Members, honorees and presenters at the 19th Annual Image Awards

- OCA-GLA hosted its 19th Annual Image Awards, which honors individuals, non-profit organizations, and corporate citizens for their achievements and influential contributions. Honorees this year included Teresa Watanabe of the *Los Angeles Times*, State Farm, and the Chinese Consolidation Benevolent Association. OCA-GLA also managed a clothing and housewares drive for the Asian Pacific Women’s Center for OCA Serves in January 2011. They even collected more than \$100 in monetary donations and more than 40 bags of clothing and housewares donations. Finally, OCA-GLA hosted a series of career talks for high school students entitled “Imma Be” to broaden the students’ imaginations about the types of career paths open to them, featuring Loretta So who works within Creative Artists Agency, a prominent entertainment and sports agency.

“My APA hero is Tani Cantil Sakauye, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. As Chief Justice, she leads the largest state judiciary in the nation. Justice Cantil Sakauye is the first Asian Pacific American chief justice for a state high court in the continental United States and the first Filipina American state high court justice. She has never let her humble background, as a daughter of Filipino farm workers, impede her success. In fact, Chief Justice Cantil Sakauye readily states that she draws strength from her background and upbringing. She is a hero to many because of her resilience and because of her continued involvement and support of the APA community.” – Bryant Yang, OCA-GLA President

## Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-GLA signed a letter of protest with [www.racebending.com](http://www.racebending.com) to Warner Brothers and Legendary Pictures regarding the potential casting of white actors for the Japanese anime-based film “Akira.”

## Other Highlights

- With more than 80 people in attendance, OCA-GLA participated in Homeboy Industries’ community mixer and fundraiser. Homeboy Industries is a gang prevention and rehabilitation center that provides employment, legal, mental health, domestic violence intervention, general education, and tattoo removal among other services. OCA-GLA hosted the “Compass to the Future” Youth Leadership Conference, bringing in more than 40 API students in preparation for college and to connect them with the API community.

# OCA-Greater Washington D.C.

“I will always consider the late author Iris Chang as one of the tops on my list. Her book, *The Chinese in America*, absolutely changed my life from being a quiet, ‘inscrutable’ Chinese American to a passionate and proud Asian American.”

– Stan Lou, OCA-DC

## Events

- OCA-DC hosted its annual Gala Awards Dinner on Nov. 6, 2010, attracting more than 250 attendees. Dr. Wallace Loh, President of the University of Maryland, gave a keynote address during the event in his first appearance with the Asian American community of Washington. OCA-DC presented awards to community leaders, including the Trailblazer Award given to Dr. Loh.

## Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-DC participated in the Hepatitis B Free Gala fundraising dinner on Nov. 14, 2011, as a Gold sponsor in an event that raised more than \$20,000. OCA-DC also partnered with Sheperd’s Table shelter in Silver Spring, MD, to cater and serve a Chinese dinner and present a program to more than 130 guests on Feb. 3, 2011, the New Year’s Day of the Rabbit.

*OCA-DC members and staff of Shepherd’s Table homeless shelter catered and served a Chinese dinner for 130 guests.*



## Other Highlights

- OCA-DC, with the National Center, hosted the second DC Area MAAP program, attracting more than 30 participants as mentors, mentees, and facilitators. The Chapter also helped sponsor the documentary film, “The CYC Experience,” that chronicled the growth and influence of the Chinese Youth Club in Washington, DC, Chinatown from the 1930s until the present. In response to the disasters in Japan, Larry Shinagawa, chapter board member, led the organization of Hope for Japan. The benefit dinner attracted more than 350 attendees and raised more than \$40,000.

# OCA-Las Vegas

## Events



*Reception for Mentorship program*

- OCA-LV initiated its mentorship program in collaboration with the Asian Chamber of Commerce and UNLV’s ROAR.

## Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-LV supported the Asian community by attending the Reapportionment and Redistricting, where Rozita Lee, President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, gave a presentation.

## Other Highlights

- OCA-LV participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that was offered by the United Way and Asian Chamber of Commerce.



# OCA-Long Island

## Events



OCA-Long Island general meeting

■ On Jan. 18, Ann Chan, OCA-LI President, brought hats, knitted by generous seniors, to the children in the afterschool center at Chinatown Planning Council in Flushing. The chapter also donated a copy of the Angel Island book to the group. On Feb. 23, Dr. Frank Shih testified before the Queens Borough Council Budget Hearings for OCA-LI's plans for exhibiting Corky Lee's photographs at the Queens Museum of Art. OCA-LI's general meeting on March 11, 2011 at Adelphi University featured Neeta Shah, MD, VP of Women's Health Services for North Shore-LIJ Health System.

## Advocacy/Policy



■ In February 2011, Dr. Frank Shih, Executive VP, contacted the owners of the Adventureland Amusement Park in Farmingdale, Long Island in an attempt to have racist caricatures of coolies removed from a newly-installed ride "Ghost Rickshaw". The thrill-ride consisted of carriages with terror-provoking "coolies" and other Asian themes including a large statue of Buddha. In March, Dr. Shih and Dr. Gary Mar, Co-VP for Education, met with the management of the Park who demonstrated sensitivity to these concerns. After several meetings all of the offensive images were either removed or painted over.

■ OCA-LI spearheaded the initiative for a solo exhibit by the photographer Corky Lee at the Queens Museum of Art in Flushing, New York. The exhibition, open from June 4-August 14, will showcase Corky Lee's photographs of the Asian American community in New York City for the past 40 years. The co-sponsors include the three sister chapters of New York, Northern New Jersey and Westchester/Hudson Valley.

■ Hosted by the Queens College's Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding, the Queens College International Holocaust Remembrance Day was presented by Dr. Jean Lau Chin, Co-VP of Education. Dr. Lau spoke on the massacre in Nanking by the Japanese during WWII as one of the darkest periods of human history.



## Other Highlights

■ A delegation of OCA-LI members marched in the Flushing, New Year Parade on Feb. 12, 2011, alongside students from Flushing HS in celebration of the Year of the Rabbit.



# OCA-New Jersey

## Events

■ OCA-NJ hosted MAAP with more than 20 mentees and 20 mentors from diverse fields. The mentors were individuals who had at least 5 years professional working experience, some supervisory or managerial experience and community involvement. The program participants explored professional development topics with their mentees in meetings and workshops, which included: Networking, Communications & Negotiations, and Collaborative Decision Making, and Leadership.



OCA SERVES- To commemorate MLK Day, OCA-NJ held their second OCA National Serves Project by providing residents at the Verona Senior Housing in Verona, NJ with an awareness of the traditions of the cultural celebrations of Lunar New Year.



OCA 2nd Day Issue - OCA-NJ & OCA-Westchester & Hudson Valley Chapters, along with the USPS conducted a second day issue of the Lunar New Year Stamp, The Year of the Rabbit at the United States Postal Store in Palisades Mall, West Nyack, NY.



Celebrating its annual Holiday Ball at The Bethwood in Totowa, New Jersey. Proceeds from this annual event provide funding for OCA-NJ Essay Scholarship Competition; Internship Program; and Youth Leadership Programs. The honorees that evening were Kam Mak, artist of the United States Lunar New Year stamps. And Ivy Lee, as the editor and founder of Sino Monthly of NJ, receiving the Outstanding Community Media Award.

## Advocacy/Policy

■ OCA - NJ Chapter members donated monies in the form of a check in the amount of \$1,435 for the Qinghua Earthquake Relief Fund, to members of the Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation.



OCA-NJ Board Members, Linda Lee & Yolanda Hansen presenting check of \$1,435 to the Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, USA for the Qinghua Earthquake Relief Fund.

# OCA-New York

## Events

- OCA-NY participated in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at the Queen Borough Hall, raising \$2,000 in donations from members and friends. OCA-NY also celebrated the Year of the Rabbit by partaking in the Lunar New Year Parade in Manhattan Chinatown and Flushing, Queens. Both parades drew more than 50 members to march.



OCA-NY marching in 2011 Lunar New Year Parade in Manhattan's Chinatown. Happy Year of the Rabbit!

## Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-NY hosted the Conference on Nutrition & Youth / Empowering Youth and Healthy Choices, sponsored by Wal-Mart. More than 150 citywide high school students registered and participated in various interactive workshops. OCA-NY also screened "Vincent Who?", a documentary exploring the legacy of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American murdered in a racially motivated incident that galvanized Asian American advocacy nationwide. More than 100 members of OCA-NY attended.

"I salute all the APA immigrant mothers who have lost a child as a result of hate crime. Neither language barriers nor hate kept you from seeking justice. Your loss has galvanized the APA community to fight for equality and respect. Rest assured, your child's legacy is alive."  
 – Elizabeth R. OuYang, President, OCA-NY

# OCA-Orange County

"My APA hero is Yo-Yo Ma, who takes flight on a musical journey without border. Unlike so many in his profession, he refuses to let his classical renown constrain him. He has recorded albums with Argentine tango bands, performed for the Muppets on Sesame Street, and even traded tunes with bushmen in the Kalahari. His recent Silk Road Project embraces the notion of music as a universal language and helps establish connection to another culture."  
 – Nap Chan, OCA-OC President

## Events

- OCA-OC celebrated the lunar New Year by hosting the Orange County Annual Lunar New Year reception. OCA-OC also hosted the Change Media Image Symposium in May, 2011. To develop stronger professional networks, OCA-OC led a professional development series including speed-networking workshop, MAAP, and B3.



OCA-Orange County Lunar New Year Reception, January 27, 2011

## Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-OC contacted Mike Eng for a letter of support in Asian/Pacific Islander Data Bill (AB 1088), which advocates all API Legislative Caucus in March, 2011. OCA-OC also urged the Board of Supervisors and local official to approve the Restaurant Meals program that would allow homeless, disabled, and elderly citizens to use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cards at participating restaurants. OCA-OC also supported OCA-Sacramento by signing onto the news release regarding Rush Limbaugh's comments towards Chinese President Hu Jintau.

## Other Highlights

- OCA-OC co-presented the film Almost Perfect at the 2011 LA Asian Pacific Film Festival. OCA-OC sent out a Special Alert to all e-mail contacts regarding the earthquake and tsunami disasters in Japan. To aid Japan, OCA-OC hosted a member mixer and fundraiser. OCA-OC and OCA-GLA also collaborated to enhance the partnership between the two chapters.



# OCA-Sacramento

## Events

■ OCA-Sacramento's Annual Lunar New Year Senior Luncheon in partnership with Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center (SCCSC) was held on February 11, 2011 at Asian Pearl Restaurant for more than 450 seniors. The seniors zealously gave their "Lei Si", lucky money red packet to the lion dancers at the opening ceremony and enjoyed tradition dance and music throughout the event. The Lunar New Year Celebration continued on February 18 with a bus trip for seniors hosted by OCA Sacramento and SCCSC and the generous support of Cache Creek Casino.



OCA-Sacramento Lunar New Year Senior Luncheon

## Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-Sacramento, in partnership with the Sacramento Unified School District and YouthRise from Asian Recourses, held "Youth Against the Hate", Awareness Night, OCT 28, 2010 at C. K. McClatchy High School. The event had more than 350 in attendance including students, educators, counselors, parents, community leaders, law enforcement agencies and elected officials and presented relevant issue affecting youth today including bullying and peer pressure.
- The second series was the OCA Sacramento Community Hate Crime Forum in partnership with Assembly member Mike Eng o at the Freeport Blvd Sacramento Police Substation. The forum was moderated by former Sacramento Assistant District Attorney Alice Wong and featured a distinguished panel representing the many faces of Sacramento from the African American, Hispanic, Jewish, GLBT, Muslim communities speaking on a wide range of issues affecting their specific communities and the Sacramento Region.



OCA-Sacramento Community Hate Crime Forum



# OCA-San Francisco Bay

## Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-SFB collaborated with Nordstrom and the AsianWeek Foundation's San Francisco Hep B Free Campaign to increase awareness and eliminate transmission of Hepatitis B during APA Heritage Month.

## Other Highlights

- OCA-SFB called for applications for the 2011 Leadership Academy program, an eight week internship within a local or state APA elected official's office in San Francisco.

# OCA-San Mateo

## Events

- OCA-SM hosted "Speak and Lead With Pride", a free six-week program for high school students to improve confidence and skills necessary to become effective speakers. A final competition was held and the winner was given a prize. OCA-SM awarded scholarships to students transitioning to college in need of financial assistance. The students are selected based on factors such as grades, recommendations, and community involvement. The selected students are then honored at the Scholarship Luncheon.



## Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-SM is currently exploring options to get involved with their local Public Officials.

## Other Highlights

- OCA-SM hosted their annual fundraiser/gala to raise funds for its signature programs. OCA-SM highlighted local APAs who have excelled in their given field, served as a positive role model, and have given back to the community. Other highlights included dinner, entertainment, and a silent auction and raffle prizes. The event is open to the public.

# OCA-St. Louis

## Events

■ OCA-STL hosted their 38th Annual Banquet with special guest Rebecca Wu, former KSDK news anchor, and keynote speaker Ken Lee, OCA National President. Ken Lee's "Paper Son" story opened the eyes of many who heard it for the first time. This year's Youth Leadership Award winner was Dee Luo, a junior at Clayton High School, recognized for her academic excellence and community volunteering. St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley presented OCA with a proclamation for the Chapter's work in the Greater St. Louis area. As OCA-STL's final Financial Puzzle Series, the chapter and Prudential Financial dissected information about Car, Home and Liability insurance at the St. Louis Chinese Modern Chinese School. Many of the school's parents participated in the seminar and learned about various coverage levels and details around their car and home insurance policies. OCA-STL partnered with major Asian organizations to host the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon, which honored more than 200 elders.

## Advocacy/Policy

■ OCA-STL, in collaboration with the Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates (MIRA), has closely watched HB-167, which requires Missouri Driver's License exams to be administered in English. At a public Asian community forum, three State Senators (Maria Chappelle-Nadal, John Lamping, and Eric Schmitt) each publically promised a "NO" vote if and when this bill reaches the Senate floor. OCA-STL hosted a series of forums for the candidates of the St. Louis County Executive position, responsible for proposing and balancing an annual budget, promotes cooperative relationships in matters relating to land use planning, public health, sewers, parks, safety, public welfare and other governmental functions. Mr. Charlie Dooley (Democrat) and Mr. Bill Corrigan (Republican) independently met with OCA and the larger Asian community to present their strength and answer questions that are essential to our community.

## Other Highlights

- OCA-STL participated in the Midwest China Hub (MCHC), where Asian Leaders from the St. Louis Metropolitan area met up to discuss potential candidates as a representative for the MCHC. Three candidates who were interested in serving as a representative to the MCHC were interviewed and assessed. Their profiles have been submitted to the St. Louis County Executive for his review. With the passion and drive from the Asian community, a group of Asian American leaders met to discuss the formation of a chamber of commerce. OCA-STL is an active participant in these meetings. As part of OCA Serves, 13 Board Members and volunteers donated more than 30 bags of clothes to the Goodwill Store.

"Dr. Bill Tao, one of the pioneers and a continuous supporter of OCA-St. Louis and many other local organizations. His dedication and contribution in making St. Louis a better place for APAs in the last four decades has inspired many to serve including me."

– Eling Lam,  
Chapter President

# OCA-Tucson

"My APA hero is Astria Wong from Phoenix AZ. Her sincere devotion and unrelenting effort to the complete count of all APA in AZ and Nevada led to the successful count of APA in both states in the 2010 US Census. And she is the champion who convinced us to revive both OCA chapters in AZ. I nominate her for the Arizona 2011 APA Woman of the Year Award."

– Abe Lai, OCA-Tucson President

## Events

- OCA-Tucson held their first membership drive bringing more than 40 attendees from diverse backgrounds including Japanese Americans, Laotian Americans, Bhutanese Americans, Korean Americans, and more.

## Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-Tucson expressed their concern on bullying at schools in a community meeting with the TUSD Superintendent; our Vice President on community outreach, Mr. Shiraz Peera, is spearheading the anti-bullying effort. On behalf of OCA-Tucson, Abe Lai is working on voter advocacy with APIA Vote and to bring census data training to Tucson. Abe Lai is also working with the National Center and other social justice organizations to use the new data to advance the well-being of the APA community.

## Other Highlights

- OCA-Tucson raised scholarship funds for students in need of financial assistance. Margaret Pasquet, Vice President of Education, will be on the National Center's judging committee. Pasquet will also connect the business community to help new immigrants find jobs. So far four youths have been hired and connected to businesses in Phoenix, AZ.



OCA-STL Board Members and Volunteers  
Delivering Clothes to Goodwill



# OCA-Utah

## Events

- OCA-Utah hosted their annual UOCA Awards Banquet with friends, community partners, and members. The new executive board members were also elected during the banquet. This year UOCA honored JJ Wong, a prominent civic and business leader in Moab with the Humanitarian Award; Zion's Bank with the Pillar of the Community Award for its decades of involvement in our community; and Edith Mitko with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her years of dedicated service to the APA Community in Utah.



*UOCA 2011 Board-1st row: Siu Lin Santee (Membership Chair), Michelle Lee (Chair Elect), Fan Kwan, Stefanie Tran (Chair); Angela Wong (Communications); Karen Kwan (Secretary), Eunice Jones (Absence, Treasurer); 2nd row: Michael Kwan, Jimmy Chen (Webmaster); Pat Santee (Historian), Joe Zhang, Terence Chen, Rick Lam; Chris Tong (Imitate Past Chair)*

## Advocacy/Policy

- Utah's legislature wants to cut all of Utah's Office of Ethnic Affairs funding. This branch of legislation provides resources for the APA community for almost four decades. Numerous UOCA members participated in the rally at Utah State Capitol Rotunda in hopes to continue funding.

## Other Highlights



*UOCA members hard at work, sorting latex gloves to be sent to countries in need.*

- UOCA brought together 39 members to volunteer at Globus Relief, a non-profit organization that strives to improve healthcare for those in less developed countries. UOCA sorted latex gloves to be sent to those countries in need. Laura McDade, Globus Relief volunteer coordinator, thanked the UOCA for the intricate job of sorting all the packages.

# OCA-Westchester & Hudson Valley

## Events

- OCA-WHV hosted their 30th Anniversary & Dynamic Achiever Awards Gala. Attended by 300 people, the event honored Zang Toi, renowned Malaysian American fashion designer; Bill Imada, Chairman and CEO of I.W. Group; Hui-Mei Lin, Ph.D., International Concert Pianist and teacher; and Jean Chang, past member of the OCA National Executive Council and Past President of OCA-WHV. Ken Lee, National President of OCA, was the keynote speaker. OCA-WHV presented Student Leadership Awards to Tom Zhi, Jian Zhang, Jian Xu, and Kelly Yang. The event's raffles endowed the scholarship fund at Westchester Community College, the silent auction for the OCA internship program, and the live auction for our chapter programs. OCA-WHV, in coordination with the Westchester Association of Chinese Americans, Families with Children from China, and the Huxia Chinese School, celebrated the Lunar New Year, attended by more than 700 guests.



*OCA-Westchester & Hudson Valley*

## Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-DC participated in the Hepatitis B Free Gala fundraising dinner on Nov. 14, OCA-WHV sent representatives Helen Tang and Rose Tan Kaung to participate at the Census Focus Group in New York City. Also, OCA-WHV helped organize the Women History Month Panel "Our History is Our Strength" featuring Meow Yee, past President of OCA-WHV, as a panelist. OCA-WHV continues to promote the 1882 project, which Bill Kaung and Vincent Young participated in the initial meeting.

## Other Highlights

- OCA-WHV hosted its 4th annual Golf Outing, all proceeds allocated for the Student Leadership Program. OCA-WHV elected and installed new officers and board members. The chapter also presented \$2,725 to Robert Schlesinger, JD, Executive Director of the Westchester Community College Foundation and VP and Dean of External Affairs. The donation increased OCA-WHV's balance to the Asian Student Endowed Scholarship Fund to \$20,000.

# OCA-Wisconsin

## Events

- OCA-WI participated in the Milwaukee Area International Folk Fair under the leadership of the Walter and Anna Wong family. The Folk Fair is an annual tradition for OCA-WI members who look forward to volunteering their time to share cultural traditions with the community. OCA-WI members and friends attended the annual holiday and volunteer appreciation party, where new board member Professor Wang Ying was welcomed. Attracting more than 400 attendees, OCA-WI and five other community groups hosted the 10th annual Lunar New Year Gala. The program included 15 performances of dancers, singers and musicians.

“In thinking about who my APA hero is, I consider my father, Leroy K. Young, M.D., who was born in Philadelphia, PA, in April, 1914. He was a trailblazer in many ways. The son of immigrants from Guangdong province, my father was the first Chinese American from Philadelphia’s Chinatown to attend college and medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. His interest in foreign languages gave him unique skills in the field of crypto-analysis (code breaking), and during World War II was able to serve the United States by helping to decode communications between the Japanese and Germans. After WWII my father was commissioned by the US Public Health Service to go to Manila, Philippines to serve as Chief of their Tuberculosis Control Division. In the 1950’s Leroy then established a private medical practice in Manila, and became the first hospital administrator for St. Luke’s Hospital in Quezon City. He decided to return to the United States in 1961 so that his children could pursue their education, and settled in Ithaca, NY, where he received a joint appointment at Cornell University, to teach Hospital Administration at Cornell’s Business School, and to provide student health care at the Gannett Clinic. While his accomplishments do indeed show a lifetime of achievements, what I remember most about my father is his love and respect for life, his clever wit in capturing the spirit of the moment, and his charming ability to engage all who came in contact with him, as he was always able to find something that he had in common with others, regardless of their race, color or creed.”

– **Lorna Young, OCA-WI President**

## Other Highlights



Nicholas Hartlep book reading of “Going Public” at Boswell Books, Milwaukee, WI.

- OCA-WI co-sponsored the book reading by Nicholas Hartlep, author of *Going Public: Critical Race Theory & Issues of Social Justice*. Hartlep discussed topics regarding educational policies and its effects to people of color, particularly Asian Americans. Hartlep is a Korean American Ph.D. candidate at UWM-Milwaukee in Urban Education and the recipient of OCA-WI’s 2010 RP&JL Carr Social Justice Scholarship.

# OCA Lifetime Members

OCA would like 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](mailto:oca@ocanational.org) to provide any updates you may have.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Aiden Yee</b> Detroit                                      | <b>George Gee</b> Greater Houston                         | <b>Mary Au</b> Greater Washington DC                         |
| <b>Albert Lau</b> Long Island                                 | <b>George M. Ong</b> San Francisco Bay                    | <b>Michael C. Lin</b> Greater Washington DC                  |
| <b>Alex Mark</b> At Large                                     | <b>Ginny Gong</b> Greater Washington DC                   | <b>Michelle Chiu</b> Greater Los Angeles                     |
| <b>Alfonso &amp; Lana Tan</b> Long Island                     | <b>Grace Chen</b> Columbus                                | <b>Nancy Mah</b> Eastern Virginia                            |
| <b>Alice &amp; Mark Lee</b> Greater Houston                   | <b>Gregory &amp; Marjorie Chin</b>                        | <b>Patrick Leung</b> Minnesota                               |
| <b>Alice Chang</b> Northern Virginia                          | <b>Christopher</b> Detroit                                | <b>Paul Y. Sha</b> Greater Houston                           |
| <b>Amy Lee</b> San Francisco Bay                              | <b>Helen Y.H. Hui Esq.</b> San Francisco Bay              | <b>Pearl Lin</b> Fairfield County                            |
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# OCA's Building Fund

OCA started with three chapters and a modest office of a hundred square feet with no heat. Thirty seven years later, the OCA family has grown to a national network of over eighty chapters and affiliates. With over 10,000 members, partners, and program participants, OCA continues to advance the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APA).

In 2006, we took a giant leap forward with the establishment of a permanent home. Located in the heart of Washington, DC, the OCA National Center has become the premiere location for federal officials, Congressional staffers, supporters, civil rights advocates, community leaders, and corporate sponsors to access the APA community. It has also become a 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. Let's 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 giving and donation opportunities please contact Victoria J. Rumsey, Director of Development, at the National Office at 202.223.5500 or [vrumsey@ocanational.org](mailto:vrumsey@ocanational.org).

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