

# IMAGE

spring 2007  
vol 12 no 1



OCA | EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS



happy new year!  
oca celebrates  
**the year of  
the boar**

a new home  
oca national center  
**grand  
opening**

on the hill  
inside  
immigration  
**reform**

**national  
convention  
2007**  
sacramento ca  
28 june - 1 july

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**IMAGE | embracing the hopes and aspirations  
of asian pacific americans**

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cover: K.L. Wang, former US Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, and Alex Mark cutting the ribbon during the grand opening ceremony of the OCA National Center for Asian Pacific American Leadership.



## message from the president

Ginny Gong | OCA National President

*Dear OCA members, friends, and supporters,*

*I would like to share with you excerpts of the speech I gave at the grand opening ceremony of the OCA National Center, the first permanent home for APAs in our nation's capital. This is a historical moment for OCA and for the Asian Pacific American community. As you know, dreams and historical moments don't just come on their own. OCA has many people to thank for helping us realize our dreams, including you and your continued dedication to OCA. Thank you!*

**Good afternoon** and a warm welcome to history in the making. Here we are gathered together in this beautiful facility on this drizzly winter day to relish in this miracle that few believed would really happen. Let me refer to a phrase that has been coined as this campaign's inspiration – "The Stars are Aligned". As if by some orchestrated plan, the pieces have come together when they needed to. This opening ceremony is definitely an example.

Who would have thought that 9 months after identifying this beautiful site in December of 2005 we would be signing the ownership papers at our September 21st settlement and today, 13 months later, cutting the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening. After 34 years of perseverance, we have arrived... and we're all here to celebrate together.

How wonderful that our founders, **K.L. Wang** and **Alex Mark**, can be a part of this momentous event.

Our chapters and our members came together in the spirit of a family united and unanimously contributed to the cause. We can truly pat ourselves on the back for doing something very few thought we would accomplish.

Our vision for the OCA National Center for APA Leadership is that it will

serve as a gathering place for the APA community – a place where the hearts and minds of an immigrant community can come together to ensure the American dream is a dream for all Americans... a place where collaborations and partnerships would be formed... and, a place where those seeking to meet with the community will find many willing to be at the table.

Let me take a moment and acknowledge a few individuals who played key roles in this campaign. Let me begin with **George Cha**, whose commitment started the ball rolling and **Ken Lee** whose commitment made it possible for us to close the deal. We could not have done this without their personal and financial investments and donations.

**Claudine Cheng** for her leadership as chair of the Campaign. **Amber Hsu** for identifying the site and providing legal guidance along the way. **Walter Hsu**, for his generous personal donation and whose construction company has been doing its best to ensure we are able to celebrate today. **Debbie Chen** and **Ted Chiou** for their assistance and advice with our technology needs. **Cindy Tong** for being there to do everything and anything she was ever asked to do. And our very ener-

getic **staff** for their dedication and their hard work.

Let me acknowledge one other significant member of this campaign, **Robert Wone**, OCA National's Legal Counsel, who was taken from us suddenly in August... we miss him dearly. I know that Robert is smiling down at us and proud that we made it.

And last, but certainly not least, I want to acknowledge **Michael Lin**, our current Executive Director who is one of OCA's Past National President and Past Chair of the Building Campaign. His long history with OCA has been instrumental to the success of this project. Michael and George, the retired engineer, worked hand in hand on a daily basis to get us to this point.

We should be truly proud that we've been able to bring this project to fruition with total grassroots support – all of our donors are either members or friends of OCA. But, things are changing... and we hope that today's special announcement is an indication of good news to come. I'd like to extend OCA's sincerest appreciation to **State Farm Insurance** for their most generous contribution to OCA's future programming at the Center.



## message from the executive director

Michael C. Lin | OCA Executive Director

**It has been** four months since I took on this new challenge. Up to the end of last November, I was the Program Director at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, a component of the National Institutes of Health, responsible for allocating tens of millions of dollars to fund cutting-edge cardiovascular research. And so, why would I give this all up for a non-profit advocacy organization where the results of one's effort are often intangible and can only be measured, at best, in millimeter increments?

I did not have to search far for the answer. It had everything to do with my nearly 20 years of involvement in this organization, OCA. In the early 70s, I was aware of OCA but was pre-occupied with my professional career and raising a family. My commitment started in 1989 when I was recruited to serve on the OCA-DC board, one of three founding chapters. This led to being elected Chapter President, and then two terms on the Executive Council as the National Vice President of Education. From 1995 to 1998, I was privileged to have served as the National President. With an exceptional staff headed by the former Executive Director, **Daphne Kwok**, OCA enjoyed the status of "premier organization" during this golden era.

I chaired the building campaign in 2003 with full appreciation of the magnitude and the challenge of the initiative. After nearly two years of effort in launching the campaign, I decided to step down to focus on my personal career. However, due to my close proximity and my experience as a Managing Partner of a hotel project, I was constantly dragged into helping with the campaign in many ways. Over time, it became evident that I could not sustain a full time job at NIH and a full time commitment to OCA.

**During the last two years**, OCA went through unexpected transitions on several fronts. The departure of the Gates Millennium Scholarship program, as originally planned from its inception, became a reality in 2006. This separation created a significant financial burden as OCA now had to be responsible solely for all shared resources, such as equipment, facilities and supporting staff time. The APA community has evolved over the last ten years with increased competition for public attention and corporate funding. In addition, the departure of the longest serving executive director, the subsequent turnover of the succeeding executive directors and several long-time staff created a serious disconnect in the infrastructure. In addition, with the changes in corporate America came changes in the membership on the Business Advisory Council.

In the midst of this transition, miraculously, under the leadership of National President, **Ginny Gong**, Campaign Chair, **Claudine Cheng**, Vice Chair, **George Cha**, major supporter, **Ken Lee**, and many others, we proceeded to complete the acquisition of the OCA National Center last September. At that critical juncture, I was asked to assume the position of the Executive Director. I did not want to accept this calling, knowing all the challenges, but in the end, I was not able to walk away.

As a result, on December 1, 2006, one day after I left NIH, I became OCA's Executive Director. We immediately had to prepare for the grand opening of the new building, coordinate the renovation and convene the National Board meeting. Then, came the packing of more than 30 years of history, the move on Valentine's day, the loss of internet connectivity and the unpacking...always carrying on with the day to day activities.

After serving for four months with an outstanding staff of six, I realize that there are just not enough hours in a day, to even come close to completing what has to be done that day. The convention is less than three months away, this issue of IMAGE is expected by the National Board meeting in April, and the second phase of building renovation will start within the next few weeks. Because of the multitude and magnitude of the tasks needed to bring OCA to where we should be, we have to carry out many urgent tasks concomitantly.

**We have been** making a concerted effort to outreach to our corporate partners and colleagues in the community and in Congress. Fortunately, many of the colleagues whom I once worked with are still actively involved. We seize every opportunity to speak out, reflected by the number of press releases and correspondences issued during the last few months. We are updating and consolidating our mailing lists to ensure the greatest outreach into the community. I have visited a number of chapters to ensure they feel connected. Staff are fully informed, encouraged and supported to enhance morale. We are in the process of establishing a national partnership with the Families of Children from China and exploring partnerships with academia to realize our vision for the OCA National Center.

Broadening our funding sources remains very challenging. With the creation of a national Development Committee and a fundraising plan in place, I am hopeful OCA will be in a more strategic position in the years to come. I thank our **dedicated members**, the **National Board** and **Executive Council** for their continued support.



## message from the editor

Mia Youhne | Vice President of Communications

### Greetings from Korea!

I write this message from overseas and I can honestly say that I am glad to be on vacation. I was in desperate need of one; I just finished teaching two undergraduate courses. My students are enrolled in a fast track program, and because I taught those two courses, I had no weekends to travel anywhere!

Sitting on a plane for 12 hours is not my idea of fun, but the idea of being able to be on vacation is a wonderful feeling indeed. For some reason, it makes the 12 hours bearable and I can watch movies that I missed at the theatres, listen to music, and catch up on sleep. During my visit, I enjoyed eating home cooked meals, visiting friends and family, and resting (something I hardly get to do in Vegas)! I only have a couple of days left until my vacation is officially over and I have to head back to Vegas.

**Ah, yes, OCA...** Who knew that I would be the next VP of Communications? It feels like it was just yesterday that I was an intern for OCA. I joined OCA after being inspired by its passion for education and civil rights for Asian Pacific Islander Americans and I never left.

OCA truly is a family and perhaps that is why if I leave even for just awhile, I come running back. There was a point in my life where I wasn't as involved with OCA as much as I had been in the past, but that didn't last long, because after a couple of months I came back and ran for VP of Communications.

As a past intern, past Chapter President, and now Executive Council member, I really can't leave OCA, can I? As

a past intern, my motto was and always will be, "once an OCA intern, always an OCA intern!"

**Our talented and ambitious** past VP of Communications, Cindy Tong accomplished the ultimate goal of taking IMAGE to the next level, and I can only hope that I can maintain and progress the IMAGE magazine to its audience. As Cindy has stated, "nothing is impossible," so I will go for it and take on this challenge.

My goals for this year are to enhance IMAGE magazine to reach out to all levels of leadership, create a national forum to expand local exposure to the national spotlight, and provide and update communication tools with the latest trends to aid chapters in outreach and recruitment efforts.

**In this issue** of IMAGE, we are featuring the grand opening ceremony of our new home, the OCA National Center. The grand opening was truly a historical moment for OCA and for the Asian Pacific Islander American community and we hope that this issue will do justice to bringing the historical moments to life through pictures and words.

Following the opening of our new OCA National Center and the unveiling of our new website ([www.ocanational.org](http://www.ocanational.org)), the look of IMAGE has slightly changed and we hope that this look will enhance IMAGE magazine to reach out to all levels of leadership, and increase circulation to the general public. We hope you enjoy the new look and feel of IMAGE!

**Grow. Lead. Succeed.**

Mia Youhne

# welcome aboard staff transitions



**Clara Chiu** returns to OCA as a consultant after a short hiatus. Clara was the OCA Director of Chapter Development and Outreach and based in Los Angeles at the OCA-Greater Los Angeles Chapter. Clara will be responsible for providing staff support for the OCA National Convention in Sacramento, assisting with independent projects as assigned, and exploring new funding sources. Prior to coming back to OCA, Clara was with Kaiser Permanente.



**Hope Chu** joined OCA in February 2007 as **Communications Manager**. Prior to joining OCA, Hope spent three years working with non-profits managing communications, development, and policy programs. She has also served on the education committee of the Grassroots Global Justice, the national planning committee of the U.S. Social Forum, and the board of Nairobi-based Solidarity Africa: Network in Action. Hope holds a BA in International Relations (Political Economy and Development) from Brown University. She was born and raised in Denver, CO, and has lived in DC for four years.



As a consultant, **Cindy Tong** will be the **OCA Special Events Coordinator** and primarily responsible for planning and coordinating the OCA National Convention and the OCA National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards Banquet. Cindy has been with OCA since 1988, and has been a staff member, as well as a member of the National Board and the Executive Council as National Secretary, and VP of Communications. Cindy is the Grants/Development Manager and Events Coordinator for Community Youth Center in San Francisco.

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## oca executive council

OCA would like to acknowledge and thank the executive council for their hard work and dedication to the organization.

We welcome the following board members to the OCA Executive Council:

- Rogene Gee Calvert**
- George Cha**
- Michael Kwan**
- Duy Nguyen**
- Mia Youhne**

Thank you for your continued support and guidance!

<b>National President</b>	Ginny Gong
<b>Immediate Past National President</b>	Raymond Wong
<b>Executive Vice President</b>	Ken Lee
<b>Secretary</b>	Michael Kwan
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Kaung
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	
<b>Chapter Development</b>	Duy Nguyen
<b>Communication</b>	Mia Youhne
<b>Economic Development</b>	Rogene Gee Calvert
<b>Education and Culture</b>	Sharon Wong
<b>Finance</b>	George Cha
<b>Membership Services</b>	Debbie Y. Chen
<b>Public Affairs</b>	Kathay Feng
<b>General Council</b>	Bill Ng
<b>Executive Director</b>	Michael C. Lin

# tomorrow's leaders

## oca collegiate programs

Douglas Lee | Program Manager

### apia u: leadership 101

We're proud to announce that one of our most popular programs, APIA U, just completed its eighth year. Over 400 college students from across the country participated in weekend trainings focusing on examining identity issues and cultivating leadership skills.

Programs were held at the following colleges and universities during the 2006-2007 academic year:

- University of Missouri (Columbia)
- Loyola University New Orleans
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- University of North Texas
- Northeastern University
- Syracuse University
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Midwest Asian American Student Union)
- University of California (Berkeley)
- University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)
- Hamline University
- California State University (Fullerton)
- University of Colorado (Boulder)

If you know of college or university students who would be interested in hosting this leadership training, an online application can be filled out starting May 2007.

Many thanks go to our facilitators who have worked effortlessly on educating and training our future leaders in the APA community!

### internships

Since 1993, OCA's signature Internship Program has been providing unique opportunities for college students to intern at OCA headquarters, Congressional offices, federal agencies, and prominent Washington-headquartered non-profit organizations. This hands-on experience provides approximately 20 to 25 OCA interns with a clearer understanding of the political process, the APA community's role in this process, and the challenges of a grassroots non-profit organization to move an agenda forward.

Interns have the opportunity to engage with prominent elected APA officials and attend the weekly Brownbag Lunch Series which educate the interns on national APA issues, enhance their Washington experi-

ence, and meet and network with other interns. The interns will also work cooperatively on a toolkit project to combine their experiences with working on various issues affecting APA college students. Topics that were selected last year were coalition building, Asian American Studies, and hate crime and bias incidents.

OCA extends its appreciation to individuals and corporate sponsors for their support of this important program.

### scholarships

OCA will again be offering scholarships to entering freshman at a college or university for the 2007-2008 academic year.

The scholarships offered this year will be the OCA-UPS Gold Mountain Scholarship, OCA-AXA Achievementsm Scholarship and the OCA-Verizon Scholarship. Approximately 50 scholarships will be offered to deserving APA students.

Scholarships for entering freshmen for the 2008-2009 academic year will be made available starting in January 2008. Please check the OCA National website for more details: [www.ocanational.org](http://www.ocanational.org). ■

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## oca spring interns



**Bola Chin** was born and raised in East LA. She is a junior at the University of California (UC) Riverside, where she working towards a BA in Sociology Administrative Studies. As a child of Chinese immigrants, she is very cognizant of traditional Chinese values. So, when she discovered that she had a passion to travel,

she was hesitant to ask her parents for permission and support. Luckily, just a smidgen of convincing and a dab of compromise over dim sum did the trick.

During the summer of 2002, Bola lived in Tokyo, Japan, where she learned more about the culture than she could have ever learned through books. That experience encouraged her to take advantage of every 'experimental learning' opportunity.

In the fall of 2006, Bola participated in the UC Center Sacramento Scholar Intern Program, where she interned at the California Governor's Office of Constituent Affairs while taking classes. The location, the nature of the internship, and the election season all inspired her to become actively involved in politics and public policy.

Following that impulse, Bola applied for an internship at OCA, her first in-depth exposure to the APIA community. During her internship, Bola was involved with the logistics and the preparation for the APIA U Trainings, National Board meetings, the grand opening of the National Center, and the JAACL/OCA Conference. Interning at OCA has encouraged her to begin her own journey as an APIA advocate.

After her internship, Bola is on to exciting things: next on her agenda is a summer in Madrid, Spain studying Spanish! ■

## oca spring interns



**Lina Lum** was born and raised in Lower Manhattan. Even though she is a fourth generation Chinese American, growing up helping her grandparents run their porcelain shop in Chinatown, she has been imbued with a great sense of diligence and kinship and reminded of her family's origins that trace back to Guangzhou, China.

However, it wasn't until her sophomore year in college that she was first exposed to the national APIA community while serving on the programming committee of the East Coast Asian American Student Union (ECAASU), hosted at the George Washington University. Wanting to learn more about issues facing APIAs around the country, she went on to intern for the National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD) and during the summer of 2006 she participated in Fannie Mae's American Dream Team Program as intern researching APIA serving community development financial institutions.

During the fall of 2006 Lina spent a semester abroad in Shanghai, China studying Mandarin Chinese. While studying the language, she also found time to travel throughout China to places as far south as Guangzhou and further west to Tibet.

Upon her return to Washington, DC in the spring she began interning at the OCA National Center. OCA has given Lina the opportunity to explore a different dimension of the APIA community in which advocacy and youth outreach play a central role.

Lina is currently a junior at the George Washington University majoring in English and Asian studies. ■

# invest in our future the internship fund needs you!

*One of OCA's missions is to nurture youth leadership. Since the establishment of Internship Fund in 1994, the OCA Internship Program has become the largest in the Asian Pacific American community. We need your help to continue our efforts in building a strong APA youth leadership!*

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

If we are able to sustain this level of operation for an additional 5, 10, 15 or more years, we will have created a formidable political network to make our presence known and our voice heard.

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

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

During the last three years, OCA has focused fundraising efforts on the building campaign, as a result, the Internship Fund has suffered. We need to replenish the Fund quickly to meet the demand of this summer.

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

The following generous individuals and chapters have fully funded one intern:

**Houston Chapter**  
**Georgia Chapter**  
**K. Lee Foundation**  
**Las Vegas Chapter**  
**Westchester-Hudson Valley Chapter**

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

**Florence Chen**  
**Frances Lee Len**  
**Linda Tse**  
**Columbus Chapter**  
**DC Chapter**  
**New Jersey Chapter**

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this urgent request.

*Please make checks payable to OCA Internship Fund and send to OCA National Center, 1322 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Call 202 223 5500 if you have any questions.*



# chinese-american left indelible stamp on postal service

Carolyn Goosen | New American Media

*The nation's first Chinese American postmaster is little-known today but in his time was a rare role model for Asian Americans and also radically changed what the Postal Service looked like. On the occasion of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and the 30th anniversary of San Francisco's Chinatown post office, Carolyn Goossen explores the legacy of Lim Poon Lee.*

**No one really knows it**, but it was Lim Poon Lee who made the postal service look like San Francisco.

“We used to joke that you had to be an Irish Catholic from St. Anne’s parish to become a postal worker,” retired California State Senator John Burton says. “By the time Lim finished with it, it looked like the face of San Francisco, with Asian, African American, Latino and female workers. His appointment as postmaster was like a big bomb going off.”

Community members celebrated the 30th anniversary of the first post office in San Francisco’s dense Chinatown on Friday, March 9. Lim Poon Lee, the first-ever Chinese American postmaster in the country, established it. Lee passed away at the age of 91 in 2002.

**But Lee’s legacy** in this city is felt far beyond the walls of the bustling, multi-lingual Chinatown post office. His radical transformation of the postal service and his activism in the Chinese community make him a little-recognized pioneer of affirmative action and immigrant rights in this city.

“Lee was one of the underappreciated but pivotal figures in the history of Chinatown activism,” says Doug Chan, San Francisco attorney and former director of the Chinese American Democratic Club.

Lee, born in Hong Kong in 1911, moved to San Francisco with his family as an infant. The son of a laundry operator, he went to college, graduate school, and law school after serving as a U.S. Army counterintelligence specialist during World War II.

He would often tell the story of how while he was in Hokkaido, Japan, at the end of the war, the Chinese POWs rioted against their Japanese captors when news of the Japanese surrender came through. As the only U.S. Army representative there who spoke Japanese, Chinese and English, Lee was given the role of mediator. Lee prompted his commanding officer to say that the Chinese officers be temporarily assigned to the U.S. Army and thus enlisted their help in quelling the riot.

**All his life**, Lee continued to play the role of mediator and peacemaker, enabling real communication between various parties. He worked with the Chinese community, WWII Veterans, and the Democratic Party. In fact, Lee was one of the founding members of the Chinese American Democratic Club (CADC), an organization which had a key role in securing rights for Chinese Americans at a time when Republicans were attacking them as foreigners to be weeded out.

“He and other members of the CADC countered the campaign against the Chinese headed by Republican attorneys around the ‘confession program’ sponsored by the federal government,” Doug Chan says. This crackdown on illegal immigration targeted those who used false names to enter the country -- the “paper sons”. It was Congressman Phil Burton and the CADC who rose to defend the Chinese community against this selective prosecution. Lee and the CADC were also very active in lobbying against the Chinese Exclusion Act until it was finally repealed in 1943.

Retired Senator John Burton and his

brother, former Congressman Phil Burton, were instrumental in Lee’s appointment to Postmaster in 1966. Senator Burton attended the small gathering Friday, Mar. 9 to celebrate the post office’s 30th anniversary, and reflected with emotion on how his “uncle” Lee transformed the face of the postal service.

**Lee was so well connected** that his transformation of postal service hiring practices met little opposition. Mel Lee, an old friend of Lee’s, and a Chinatown resident for the past 50 years, says, “Lim was a powerful guy. He knew how to handle people. He had many friends from every community, including the Irish community. He knew it was very important to maintain these relationships.”

The idea for the 30th anniversary celebration of the Chinatown post office came out a dinner organized by the Chinese American Voter Education Committee (CAVEC). “No one at the post office knew about Lim Poon Lee,” says David Lee, executive director of CAVEC. “Yet he was a very important figure in San Francisco.”

The opening of that post office in 1977 was a significant moment. And the appointment of Lim Poon Lee was a milestone in Asian American political history. “At a time when there were few role models, few political leaders, Lim Poon Lee was someone Chinese Americans could look up to,” David Lee says. ■

This article originally appeared in New American Media, the country’s first and largest collaboration of ethnic media organizations.

# a changing of the guard at JACL

Floyd Mori | JACL

**At the close** of the Japanese American Citizen League's (JACL) biennial convention in Phoenix last summer, John Tateishi informed the National Board that he would be resigning his position of National Director. He indicated that he would stay on until a replacement was found. While the National Board was in the process of a search, Tateishi fell seriously ill and it was necessary to name an Interim National Director. In November 2006, Floyd Mori, the Director of Public Policy for JACL, was named to take the interim post. Mori was named the National Director in late February, 2007.



John Tateishi

ultimately named the National Redress Director of the JACL. Tateishi helped to formulate, guide, and nurture the congressional efforts that resulted in the passage of HR 442, which provided redress for the surviving internees and required an apology from the President. This legislation was ground breaking as never before had this country apologized for past actions. The advocacy work of a small minority civil rights organization gained national attention under the skilled guidance of Tateishi.

In the fall of 1999, Tateishi was asked by then JACL Vice President of Operations, Floyd Mori, to serve as the Interim National Director. He was named to the permanent position in the Spring of 2000 and served the JACL in that position until his illness in November 2006. During his reign as the leader of the JACL, the stock market crash of 2001 caused major shortfalls in organizational revenue. Tateishi has been responsible for a major outreach to the corporate community for funding which filled the fiscal gaps and allowed the JACL to maintain its operational levels. He was able to respond to national issues which brought visibility and credibility back to the organization. While the JACL faced several issues that divided the members, Tateishi was able to help heal deep seeded wounds and maintain a united organization.

**Floyd Mori served as** the National President of the JACL from 2000 to 2004



Floyd Mori

after previously serving four years as the Vice President of Public Affairs and the Vice President of Operations. Mori's experience includes elected office as councilman and Mayor of Pleasanton, California, and as a State Assemblyman for California. His early career included ten years as a professor of economics at Chabot College in Hayward, California. In recent years Mori had been an international business consultant helping American businesses establish a foothold in Japan and Taiwan. Mori also has been involved in the golf industry as an owner of a golf equipment marketing and manufacturing company.

Mori became the Director of Public Policy for the JACL in the summer of 2005. His experience in public office allowed him to have close relationships with several current members of congress. One of his first challenges was the introduction of a bill to provide funding for the preservation of the World War II internment camps. His friendship with then Congressman Bill Thomas, the chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, garnered his agreement to carry the bill and push it through congress. The bill is now law.

**Tateishi and Mori** carry the same passion for social justice while each comes from a different background. While they have different styles of leadership, the JACL will continue as one of the leading Asian American civil rights organizations in the nation. ■

This changing of the guard at JACL signals the conclusion of a long and illustrious civil rights career for Tateishi. His childhood was spent behind barbed wire fences at the Manzanar, California, World War II internment camp where he and his family spent the war years. During this time, 120,000 other detainees of Japanese descent were likewise interned in ten such camps that were spread throughout desolate areas of the United States. His early impressions of life were etched in images of stark living conditions and a quiet resolve of a group of people wanting to prove their loyalty to the country which had incarcerated them. Injustice was part of concept of life from the beginning.

**Tateishi is the product** of the "fifties and sixties", the rebellious generation of Japanese Americans. While he served in the Army during the early sixties, he became an ardent critic of the Vietnam War. He studied English literature at the University of California at Berkeley and Davis and later taught English at the University of London and at the City College of San Francisco.

His passion for social justice motivated his involvement in the JACL's movement to gain redress from the U.S. government for the injustice of the World War II internment of Japanese Americans. He was

# oca recognizes our corporate partners

Julie Hwang | OCA-Dallas/Fort Worth

*On October 20, 2006, OCA celebrated eleven amazing individuals at the OCA National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards. The awards banquet was hosted by the OCA Dallas-Fort Worth (OCA-DFW) Chapter and was well attended by OCA members, community leaders from the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and members of the OCA Business Advisory Council (BAC).*

The evening began with a reception and silent auction, where guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, networking, and bidding on auction items. Under the coordination of **Debbie Chen**, volunteers from the local OCA-DFW chapter kept everything running smoothly, checking in guests and encouraging bidders to sign up and support OCA.

Mistress of Ceremonies **Carol Wang**, well regarded in the local community as a reporter for Dallas NBC affiliate KXAS, kicked off the awards dinner with a rousing welcome. She was followed by greetings and remarks from OCA-DFW Chapter President William **Chi Tong** and Corporate Achievement Banquet Chair **Henry Leung**, an invaluable member of OCA-DFW and a past Corporate Achievement Award recipient himself. OCA National President **Ginny Gong** and OCA Business Advisory Council Chair **David L. Kim** spoke next and led the way into the awards presentations.

**Anheuser-Busch Inc.**, received the 2006 Outstanding Corporate Partner Award. Anheuser-Busch Inc. was recognized for its exemplary support and commitment to OCA and to the Asian Pacific American community. The company has been a member of the OCA Business Advisory Council since the 1990s and has demonstrated its commitment to OCA's mission by supporting community events and programs at both the national and local chapter levels.

The guests of honor for the evening, the eleven recipients of the 2006 Corporate Achievement Awards, were presented next. Each of the award recipients was chosen not only for their impressive climbs up the corporate ladder but also for utilizing their expertise to mentor other APA employees and to support their communities.

Dallas resident **Julia Wai-Yin So** of the Dallas County Community College Dis-



trict also received a special Institutional Excellence Award.

**Christie Kennett** was also named the Community Service Award recipient, a special honor presented to the individual who exemplifies the commitment of a corporate employee to community service.

All of the award recipients were proud to be honored by OCA and accepted their awards with inspiring and encouraging words. Awardee **Seong Ohm** of Wal-Mart offered an especially memorable thank you to her young daughter, who had to give up her birthday party so that her parents could come to the awards banquet. Ms. Ohm mentioned that her employers were kind enough to throw a small party for her daughter on the flight to Dallas.

The evening came to a perfect end with a delicious dessert buffet sponsored by

**The 2006 Corporate Achievement Award recipients are:**

- Yuen-Kwok Steve Chin, *General Motors Corporation*
- John Coons, *McDonald's Corporation*
- Christie Kennett, *State Farm®*
- Judy Li, *Verizon Communications, Inc.*
- Charlotte Lin, *The Boeing Company*
- Tom Lopez, *Kraft Foods Global, Inc.*
- Paul Odanaka, *Brinker International*
- Seong Ohm, *Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*
- Gloria Rodriguez, *UPS*
- Jaci Woody, *DaimlerChrysler Corporation*

# business advisory council

The OCA Business Advisory Council (BAC) is a partnership with the corporate community that has enabled OCA to increase its visibility, improve its repertoire of educational programs and establish greater links to mainstream society. For the BAC members it has translated into access to an untapped client base for both business purposes as well as recruitment efforts.

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

- To foster the principles of equal rights and opportunities for APAs;
- To promote and enhance career opportunities for APAs;
- To educate the corporate community in understanding the issues which affect the APA community; and
- To advise OCA on strategies for increased productivity in membership and fundraising

OCA would like to acknowledge its generous and dedicated BAC members:

- Allstate Insurance Company**
- Anheuser-Busch, Inc**
- AT&T**
- AXA**
- Brinker International**
- DaimlerChrysler Corporation**
- Ford Motor Company**
- General Motors Corporation**
- IBM**
- JC Penny**
- Kraft Foods Global, Inc**
- McDonald's Corporation**
- MGM MIRAGE**
- PepsiCo Inc**
- Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc**
- State Farm ®**
- UPS**
- Verizon Communications, Inc**
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc**
- Yum! Brands, Inc**



**MGM Mirage.** Other sponsors who made the successful evening possible included **Wal-Mart Stores, Brinker International, UPS, Allstate Insurance Company, the Boeing Company, DaimlerChrysler Corporation, General Motors Corporation, IBM, Kraft Foods Global Inc., McDonald's Corporation, State Farm®, Verizon Communications Inc., AT&T, Coca-Cola, Dallas County Community College District, JC Penney, and PepsiCo Inc.**

OCA is grateful to all the sponsors for their support of OCA and for their support of the all the award recipients. The commitment of the sponsors to the Corporate Achievement Awards is a testament to the achievements of the award recipients and the importance of diversity and community involvement in the corporate world.

The Corporate Achievement Awards Banquet was the centerpiece event of a

successful weekend, which also included an OCA BAC Diversity Forum hosted by OCA-DFW, a BAC luncheon, and OCA National Board Meeting on October 21, 2007.

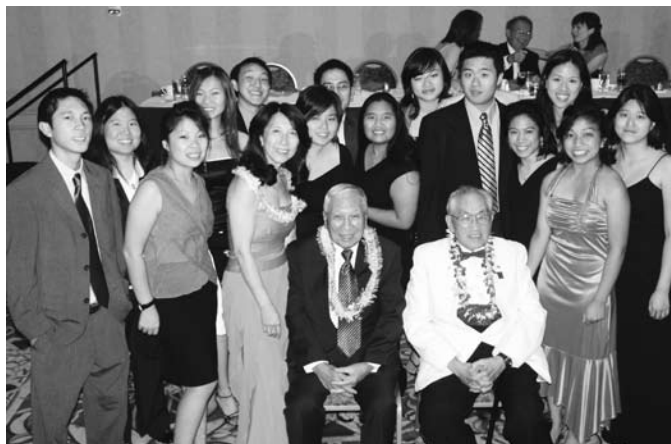
Following the board meeting, OCA National Board members were treated to a special dinner by OCA-DFW. OCA-DFW members **Julie Hwang** and **Linda Tran** led a talented cast of junior OCA members in a mystery skit presentation of *Who Shot J.R.?*, featuring **Tracy Nguyen** as J.R. Ewing, a good OCA member gone bad. Following a performance by the cowboy hat wearing cast, the dinner attendees solved puzzles to figure out who shot J.R. Local club OCA-DFW had the home town advantage in the Dallas themed mystery, and figured out that OCA-DFW member **Karen Liu** was the culprit. As Karen was led away by the Sheriff, everyone enjoyed cake and margaritas to end the weekend. ■

# california here we come!

## 2007 national convention update

### sacramento california

28 june -  
1 july 2007



Sacramento, the state capital of California. This is where the dream of “gold mountain” began, in the hills of the gold country. This is where the Transcontinental Railroad and the Union Pacific built tracks eastward to meet the Central Union at Promontory Summit. And, this is where the 29th Annual OCA National Convention heads out west to California, June 28-July 1, for four days of fun, thrills and adventure!

Nowhere else but in Sacramento is it more appropriate to celebrate this year’s convention theme, **Light the Torch for the Next Generation**. The region is rich in history, politics and culture. Nowhere else will there be a convention that will include some of the Asian Pacific American community’s most highly recognized elected and appointed officials or feature the only one who can, **Martin Yan**.

Only at this OCA convention will you be a part of the Sacramento premiere of **Homeland**, the musical about two star-crossed lovers – a native son from rural West Texas and the daughter of Korean immigrants – struggle to survive the battle for the hearts and minds of America, where race, religion and values collide.

Nowhere else but at this convention will you be able to dine among the trains at the **California Railroad Museum** and take a tour of **Locke**, the only town built by Chinese for Chinese, with a slight detour to a local winery.

And of course, an OCA convention would not be an OCA convention without something for everyone, including special tracks for high school and college students, senior citizens, and OCA chapter leaders. Families with Children from China will begin a dialogue to explore a formal national structure, and many of OCA’s corporate partners, sponsors and exhibitors will be displaying products and services.

But that’s not all! Need a feng shui master? Look no further. Want to learn more about investing your hard earned dollars? The buck stops here. Want to be the next “Dancing with the Stars” celebrity? Bring your dancing shoes. Need to get your blood pressure checked? We will have that too...all these in workshops, and much, much more including the State of Asian Pacific America Summit where you’ll be updated with the hottest issues and concerns affecting our community.

From the moment of the torch lighting ceremony at the Welcome Reception to the Gala Awards banquet, the OCA National Convention in Sacramento will be sure to keep you busy!

**For more information on the convention and other special tours and activities, log onto [www.ocanational.org](http://www.ocanational.org) or [www.ocasacramento.org](http://www.ocasacramento.org).**

OCA Sacramento is excited to host the 2007 Convention! We cordially invite you and your family to join us as we "Light The Torch For The Next Generation". Programs and workshops during the convention are informative and promote health care, education, leadership, culture and current issues affecting Asian Pacific Americans.

**registration update:**

A registration packet is available online  
Access [www.ocanational.org](http://www.ocanational.org) or  
[www.ocasacramento.org](http://www.ocasacramento.org)  
to obtain registration information

**A registration form can also be found at the back of this issue of IMAGE**

**special events:**

Job Fair & Corporate Exhibits  
Black Tie Gala Dinner & Dancing  
Dinner at the CA State Railroad Museum  
Chapter Advancement Track  
College Day and Youth Day  
Senior Day  
Community Health Fair  
Financial Planning Workshop  
Feng Shui Workshop  
State of APA Summit  
Locke and Winery Tour  
and much much more!

**don't miss these special performances!**

*Thursday, June 28th, early arrival special:*  
A day trip to the Town of Locke and Delta Wineries

*Thursday, June 28th, Welcoming Reception:*  
Attend the exciting "LIGHT THE TORCH" ceremony,  
come in your cultural attire

*Thursday, June 28th, special presentation after  
the Welcoming Reception:*  
Let's "Can" with Yan: An Evening with Martin Yan

*Friday, June 29th, after the dinner:*  
Sacramento Premiere Show "HOMELAND"  
The San Francisco's New Theatre Workshop  
A New Musical by Jack Kuo  
Directed by George Quick

**hotel accommodations:**

Reserve a hotel room at the Sheraton Grand Hotel for \$109 available now until May 29, 2007  
Hotel Toll Free # 1 800 325 3535 and mention the 2007 OCA National Convention

# light the torch for the next generation

## convention highlights



# vincent chin remembered

Roland Hwang | OCA-Detroit

*When Chinese American Vincent Chin was brutally beaten to death in Detroit a quarter of a century ago and his assailants let off with just a slap on the wrist, the Asian American community was galvanized to unprecedented action. Roland Hwang, civil rights attorney and OCA Detroit chapter member, recounts the incident and the affect it had on Asian Americans around the country, and explores the lessons learned from the case.*

**On June 19,** 1982, Vincent Chin, a 27 year old Chinese American was with three of his friends for a bachelor party at the Fancy Pants Bar in Highland Park, Michigan a few days before his upcoming wedding. By the end of the evening, Vincent had been beaten by two white auto workers with a baseball bat and died four days later.

Vincent got into an altercation with Ronald Ebens and his stepson Michael Nitz. Vincent, his friends, Ebens and Nitz were told to leave the bar. Ebens got a baseball bat from the trunk of his car, and Vincent and his friend Jimmy Choi ran away. Ebens and Nitz drove around for 30 minutes looking for Vincent. Ebens and Nitz caught up to Vincent Chin on Woodward Avenue outside a nearby McDonald's. While Nitz held Vincent, Ebens beat him with several swings of the baseball bat. Vincent Chin died on June 23, 1982 after he was taken off life support.

In a state criminal proceeding Ebens and Nitz were charged with second degree murder, but later plead guilty and no contest respectively to manslaughter in a plea bargain. Without a prosecuting attorney present at the sentencing, Wayne County circuit judge Charles Kaufman heard only from defense attorneys and sentenced the men to only three years probation and a \$3,000 fine.

The Chinese American community and soon the whole Asian American community were outraged at the lenient sentence.

On Leong president and honorary mayor of Chinatown Kin Yee called me for a meeting to talk about the sentence, as I was then the president of OCA-Detroit, and combining the efforts of two groups would be a stronger force for the case. At the meeting at On Leong Hall, we formed a new APA civil rights group, American Citizens for Justice (AJC), to show broad support for justice for Vincent. Kin Yee, Marisa Chuang Ming, Helen Zia, and myself were the first officers.

Attorney Liza Chan filed a motion to reopen the sentence, claiming misrepresentations were made during sentencing in front of Judge Kaufman. Appeals to reopen the sentencing in the state appellate courts were not successful.

Later, after investigation by AJC and journalists, it was learned that Racine Colwell, one of the dancers in the bar, overheard Ebens say "nip", "chink", and "because of you motherfuc---s, we're out of work." Ebens's words reflected the sad state of the domestic auto industry in the early 1980s but also racial stereotyping.

Research revealed that the most viable option for justice for Vincent Chin was the pursuit of federal civil rights charges against Ebens and Nitz. After Lily Chin, Vincent's mother, met with the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights William Bradford Reynolds, the FBI agreed to investigate the case, and a federal criminal trial proceeded.

The federal trial resulted in a guilty verdict against Ronald Ebens and a 20-year sentence. However, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the verdict citing trial errors. Later, a change of venue motion was granted, and the case was moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. At a second trial in Cincinnati, Ohio, a jury found Ronald Ebens not guilty of a civil rights violation in the killing of Vincent Chin.

## lessons learned

Identifying and interviewing all of the witnesses is crucial

We cannot assume that law enforcement will always identify all of the facts and the motivations for an assault. Here, police investigation was lacking. The detective did not interview the dancers at the Fancy Pants where such interviews would have revealed the motivations of Ebens and Nitz, what was said, and what occurred about a half an hour before the beating.

## coalition building is important

After the sentence of probation, AJC and the APA community could not get a meeting with the then-county prosecutor William Cahalan. It took the intervention of New Detroit, the urban coalition that arose from the 1967 Detroit Riot, and the Detroit Organization of Black Organizations, for a meeting to occur with the prosecutor. The importance of coalitions cannot be overemphasized. Twenty years after the death of Vincent Chin, representatives of New Detroit, the Detroit branch of the NAACP, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee – Michigan

branch, and the Anti-Defamation League, all participated in the 20th Year Remembrance in Detroit.

### **pressure brings results**

Federal involvement is most often discretionary. Usually cases are left for local prosecution, and the decision to prosecute a case as a hate crime is the choice of the local prosecutor. Without community pressure, a local prosecutor may not apply the hate crime provision. Federal interest in a particular case or a set of facts likely will not arise without community pressure and media attention on a case.

### **sentencing is a crucial part of the case**

The county prosecutor's office did not treat the sentencing hearing as a very important part of the justice process. The cases were treated as complete after the plea bargain. Assistant prosecutors routinely did not appear at sentencing. Since the Chin case, the county assistant prosecutors have appeared more often during the sentencing phase.

### **the media plays an important role**

ACJ was very fortunate to have journalist Helen Zia, then a writer for the Detroit Free Press and Metropolitan Detroit, and later managing editor of Ms. Magazine, as its first secretary and later president. It was Helen who was able to gain the attention of the news desks of the media in Detroit and later the attention of a writer for the New York Times. Without the scrutiny of the media, it is quite possible the later investigations in the case, the involvement of the FBI, and the Department of Justice decision to proceed with a civil rights trial involving an Asian American victim, all might not have occurred.

### **the victim's loss must be a matter of record**

At the time of the Vincent Chin case, the impact of the victim's death was not a

matter of record. The Chin case became a cornerstone for the state statute that gives representatives of the victim's family an opportunity to make a statement about the impact of the loss on the victim's family at sentencing.

### **changing venue changes results**

We now know after the Rodney King case how a change of venue (in that case to suburban Simi Valley from Los Angeles) can vastly affect the results of a case after a jury trial. The same held true in the Vincent Chin case when the second federal trial of Ronald Ebens in Cincinnati, rather than in Detroit, resulted in a not guilty verdict, rather than guilty.

### **activists can wear different hats**

Many of the activist volunteers in the Vin-

cent Chin case went on to wear different hats so their advocacy could take place in different forums. The Asian American Bar Association of Michigan came into being during the Vincent Chin case. Many of the same volunteer attorneys were involved in ACJ and the founding of the Asian American Bar. Attorney Harold Leon, who appeared in the movie "Who Killed Vincent Chin?" went on to become the first president of the Asian American Bar Association of Michigan in 1985.

### **a lasting legacy**

The legacy of the Vincent Chin case lives on today. What must we as leaders and activists remember?

**organize** To be ready to fight harassment and hate violence, the APA community wherever it may be must be organized. That is a matter of importance for OCA

– to have chapters in every state and every metropolitan area where sufficient numbers of Asian Americans reside.

**build coalitions** Wherever there is an opportunity to identify and work on civil rights issues and to develop a common agenda, whether it is harassment, hate violence, or immigration reform, OCA and its chapters should explore working with other civil rights organizations, both locally and nationally.

**engage the media** Never be afraid to contact the media with your story of harassment, discrimination or hate violence. Each chapter should identify its media point persons hopefully ahead of time, and identify media outlets that are willing to cover those stories.

## to be ready to fight harassment and hate violence, the APA community must be organized.

I hope that the lessons of the Vincent Chin case will be remembered anytime an incident of intolerance, ethnic or racial discrimination, or hate violence occurs and that OCA, its chapters, and the APA community at large will be prepared to respond. ■

Roland Hwang is a past president and vice president of OCA-Detroit. He served as the first Treasurer and later as President of American Citizens for Justice. He was appointed a hearing referee for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, and was a past member and chair of the Michigan Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He can be reached at [hwangr@aol.com](mailto:hwangr@aol.com).





left: students protest the decision on the Denny's case in 1997

## syracuse students speak out on hate

Jennifer Gong | Asian Students in America

**On the night of April 11, 1997**, a group of seven Syracuse University students – three Asian American, three Japanese international and one white – exited Denny's restaurant in Syracuse, NY after being denied service.

A large group of white males then followed the students into the parking lot, yelled racial epithets at them and beat them up, leaving two unconscious. Off-duty security guards just stood by and watched. Afterwards, the Syracuse district attorney, William J. Fitzpatrick, dismissed the affair as a drunken brawl and chose not to prosecute the men and the Syracuse police failed to produce an effective investigation.

**Almost immediately after** the Denny's hate crime, Asian Pacific American (APA) students at Syracuse banded together with other student groups like the NAACP, Latino Undergraduates Creating History in America (La LUCHA), and Pride Union (an LGBT organization), to protest the

Syracuse officials and campaign for justice.

However, the civil lawsuit brought against Denny's was dismissed. No proper investigation was made into the violent accusations. The perpetrators were never punished.

**Ten years later**, we want to remember the social injustices of the Denny's incident. At that time, APA students took the steps to speak out against what had happened, but were discouraged from further pursuing justice after their efforts were ignored. And today in 2007, a majority of APA students still lack the voice and courage to confront ignorance and racism.

Mainstream society already perceives APAs as the model minority – passive, easily silenced, unwilling to stand up and stand out. However, we want to take this opportunity to prove that we don't hold up to that standard. In fact, we want to be

heard. We care about how racism and bigotry affect us. We want to be a proactive and vocal force on our campus and in our communities.

On Wednesday, April 11, 2007, Asian Students in America (ASIA) at Syracuse University kicked off a three-day event in remembrance of the Denny's incident of ten years ago. A remembrance circle on the Syracuse Quad served as a venue for APA students and our supporters to confront discrimination by getting our voices heard and not going ignored.

We read personal narratives from students, faculty members, alumni and other supporters that demonstrate the persisting effect of ignorance and bias on the APA community. We invited alumni, community members and other supporters to visit our campus and take part in this event.

Additionally, that evening we held a discussion to reflect on what the Denny's incident means to our community. On Thursday, we hosted a career panel, featuring alumni who've pursued careers in non-traditional fields to give back to current students who are still in the process of determining their futures. And on Friday, we held a workshop entitled "Fighting against Ignorance" to equip APA students with the resources they need to combat bias and hatred in their everyday interactions.

**We hope** that in remembering the Denny's hate crime and reflecting on the ten years since the incident, we will educate Asian Americans to understand how all instances of bias affect them. And that this in turn will encourage them to be an outspoken force to be reckoned from their college days on. ■

Jennifer Gong is the president of Asian Students in America at Syracuse University.

# two plead guilty to hate crime in queens

Elizabeth R. OuYang | OCA-New York

**For seven months now**, OCA-NY has successfully monitored the prosecution of two white males charged with a hate crime against two Asian American college students in Douglaston, Queens. In March 2007, before a packed courtroom, both defendants pled guilty to hate crimes, and the main defendant was sentenced to 3and1/2 years prison time.

Widely covered in The New York Times and the ethnic press, the incident occurred on August 12, 2006, when Kevin M. Brown and Paul A. Heavey, following a traffic confrontation, pursued Reynold Liang and John Lu in their car, called them “gook” and attacked them. Mr. Liang and Mr. Lu both required stitches and sustained injuries. Two other people in the car were not injured.

Four days later, OCA-NY called for a community meeting with Queens District Attorney Richard Brown. In a letter to D.A. Brown, Jerry Cheng, then OCA-NY President stated, “As you know, such a hate crime impacts the entire Chinese American and Asian American population because it is a crime that targets people sharing the same immutable characteristics. With over 147,000 Chinese Americans living in Queens and with 21% of Queens population being Asian Americans, this is a matter of grave concern for our communities.”

Two weeks later, representatives from OCA-NY, OCA-Westchester, OCA-Long Island and other community groups met with D.A. Brown, representatives of his staff and his Asian American Advisory Council. Speakers expressed concern over the impact the incident had on the APA community and demanded that a strong signal be sent that these crimes would not be tolerated.

**The community at large** was also

concerned about this incident. On August 28, 2006, New York City Council Member John Liu called for a peaceful march and rally in Queens. Before a racially diverse crowd of supporters, OCA-NY Board member Leo Lee addressed the rally condemning the hate crime. U.S. Congressman Gary Ackerman, and Queens Borough President Helen Marshall were present to show their support.

Throughout this time, OCA-NY remained in close contact with the victims. Jerry Cheng, Leo Lee and I met with three of the students involved expressing our support. We stressed the role of the community in monitoring the criminal proceedings as a necessary tool to educate and to deter future hate crimes. At John Lu’s family’s request, Leo Lee and I assisted in advocating their concerns to the D.A.’s office and to the Victims Compensation Board for his medical bills.

**In a subsequent meeting** with the prosecutor and John Lu and his family to discuss a potential plea bargain, we stressed the importance of both defendants pleading guilty to the hate crime felonies. Jail time for Kevin Brown, the main defendant who had a prior arrest record and who used a weapon on Reynold Liang was imperative. For first time offender Paul Heavey who was less involved, community service in addition to a lengthy probation period was demanded. Both the victims’ and the community’s concerns were met.

On March 8, 2007, Kevin Brown pled guilty to the hate crime and was sentenced to 3and 1/2years in prison. Reynold Liang and his family, OCA-NY President Vicki Shu Smolin, Board Members Rose Eng, Yu Sing Yee, myself and other community representatives including John Liu and New York State Assemblywoman Ellen Young were present. At the sentencing,

Reynold Liang’s and John Lu’s statements were read into the record.

**Reynold Liang stated**, “... On August 12th of last year, I was the victim of a brutal, racially motivated assault at the hands of the defendant, who savagely beat me about the face and head with a club while shouting racial slurs. I was hospitalized as a result of the assault with wounds that left my face swollen and disfigured. No parent should have to experience the pain that my parents did when they arrived at the hospital and saw my bruised and battered face and I am thankful for their love and support . . .”

**John Lu stated**, “Regarding this incident, it was one of the darkest times in our community. It is sad that Mr. Brown must go to jail, but a strong signal must be sent that discrimination will not be tolerated in our home. This country is a great country and the only country with so much diversity and so many different cultures. I’m grateful to be born and to grow up in this country. As Asian American, we want to be respected as real Americans too. I hope this incident will not happen to anyone else. Thank you to everyone who have (sic) supported me and my family in dealing with this incident.”

On March 9, 2007, Paul Heavey pled guilty to the hate crime felonies, and received 5 years probation and 75 hours of community service. He is expected to make an apology to the community.

John Lu’s reaction to Paul Heavey’s sentence was simply, “He is a college student like me. He should not follow people who hurt others, but be a leader to do the right thing. This plea gives him a chance to not do this again or his career will be ruined.”

■

# announcing hate crimes initiative grantees

Stephanie Kao  
Program Manager

OCA National is proud to award the 2007 Allstate Hate Crime Initiative Grants to the following five chapters: **Columbus, Detroit, New York, Long Island, and Philadelphia.** We also thank the **Allstate Insurance Company** for their continued and generous support of this essential program.

This is first time in planning the conference for Columbus, New York, and Philadelphia, so please support them and cheer them on.

Columbus and New York Chapters will be focusing on youth education which we very excited to see since youth are often overlooked in hate crime/bias incident education.

Additionally, the OCA Detroit Chapter will be commemorating the 25th anniversary of the death of Vincent Chin in June before our National Convention. Philadelphia Chapter will be focusing on law enforcement and community education. Long Island Chapter will have a series of conferences through out the year ending with a large event in the Charles B. Wong Center at Stony Brook University to close out the year.

OCA National is excited to see the innovative conferences that the chapters are planning. We strongly encourages those near the chapters to drop by and learn something new! Further information will be on our website. ■



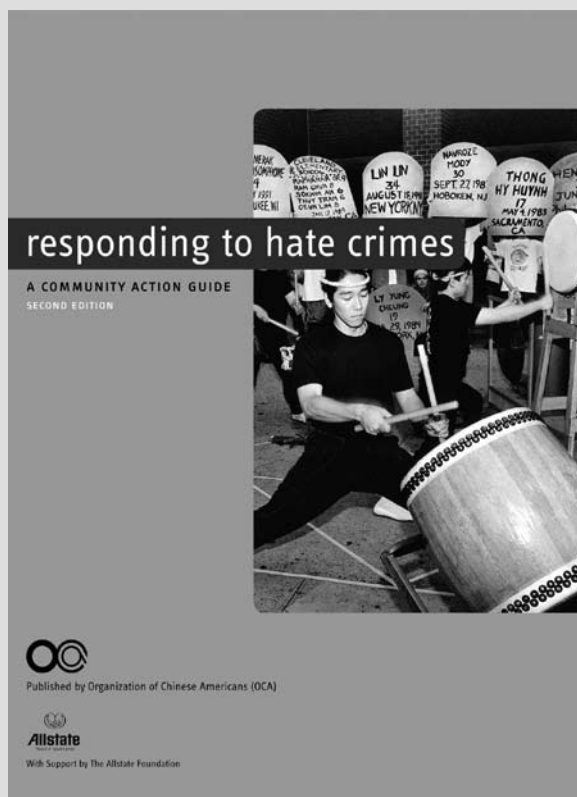
If your Chapter would like to host a Hate Crime Initiative Conference in 2008, please contact Stephanie Kao at the National Office about planning, possible ideas, and your goals. The grant application will go out this November/December.

## Responding to Hate Crimes

### A Community Action Guide

*Published by OCA with generous support from The Allstate Foundation*

An educational tool for OCA chapters and all communities seeking a practical, step-by-step guide to hate crimes response.



### Introduction to Hate Crimes

Learn about what a hate crime or hate incident is, how they are tracked, and the importance of reporting them.

### Victim Support

Provides resources for victims, including legal referrals, mental health counseling, how to apply for monetary compensation, and the role the community can play in providing assistance and advocacy.

### Community Response

A guide for actions a community can take in the aftermath of a hate crime. How to organize a community, interact with the media, provide education, and build coalitions.

The guide speaks to all community members and leaders, from those who have little to no organizing experience to veteran activists. The guide also has resources for law enforcement personnel, attorneys, educators and parents, youth, and victim assistance providers.

**The guide is free to the public for those who request the manual. Copies are limited.**

Contact Stephanie Kao to request a copy:  
call 202 223 5500 or email [skao@ocanational.org](mailto:skao@ocanational.org)



# fast facts on apa legislation

## Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (LLEHCPA) H.R. 1592

### what is the legislative history of the LLEHCPA?

Originally introduced in 1999 in the 106th Congress and every year after that.

Introduced by Congressman John Conyers in 110th Congress on March 20th, 2007 as H.R. 1592

Currently awaiting the U.S. Senate to introduce similar bill

### what does the legislation do?

This bill will enhance the federal response to hate crime violence by including all violent crimes based on race, color, religion, or national origin, not just those that prevent the victim from exercising a "federally protected right."

It will provide federal grants to support state & local law enforcement criminal investigations and prosecutions of hate crimes.

Finally, this bill would also expand hate crimes categories to include gender, sexual orientation, gender identification, and disability and set penalties for hate crimes involving state borders or interstate/foreign commerce.

### why is the legislation necessary?

The incidence of violence against individuals based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of the victim poses a serious national problem, disrupts communities, and is deeply divisive. Existing federal laws are inadequate to address this problem, especially in states that do not have adequate laws covering hate crimes. In addition, many state laws do not cover gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity if they do have hate crime laws in their state and they often don't have the resources to pursue justice when a hate crime occurs.

### what are the benefits of this legislation?

This legislation would extend the protected classes to include gender, sexual orientation, disability, and possibly gender identity. Also it would provide greater funding and resources for states to respond and investigate more hate crimes.

### where can i find more information about the act?

<http://thomas.loc.gov/> and search for "HR. 1592"

### how can i become more involved?

Contact your House and Senate Representatives and urge them to cosponsor the bill. Find them at:

<http://www.house.gov/> or <http://www.senate.gov/>

## Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions H.R. 2616

Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are one of the fastest growing minority populations in the United States, yet they are left behind in numerous programs which help minority students bridge the gap to higher education attainment.

Currently, the educational support system fails to meet many of the substantial needs of the AAPI population. This lack of resources is especially detrimental to low-income AAPI students whose unique needs are overlooked due to these wide-reaching preconceptions based on anecdotal evidence and aggregate perceptions.

H.R. 2616, the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Serving Institutions authorizes grants for institutions of higher education to address the urgent needs of AAPI students. H.R. 2616 seeks equity by providing increased higher education opportunities for low-income and underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander students.

H.R. 2616 would create a designation of Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions, authorizing the U.S. Department of Education to provide grants of assistance to higher education institutions that have at least 10% Asian American and Pacific Islander undergraduate enrollment and a significant proportion of students who are low-income or receiving need-based financial aid.

This designation will provide much needed federal leadership and support to universities and colleges to create programs to address critical challenges facing AAPI youth and communities in our nation.

This bill would provide the Department of Education the authority to designate within Title III of the Higher Education Act Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions, enabling higher education institutions with undergraduate populations of at least 10% Asian American and Pacific Islander American students to improve their capacity to provide higher education opportunities to disadvantaged Asian American and Pacific Islander students.

Sponsored by Congressman Wu, HR. 2616 still remains under consideration in the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

# welcome home

## oca national center opens

Claudine Cheng | OCA National Center Campaign

Claudine Cheng is the chair of the OCA National Center Campaign and a former OCA National President.

### a defining moment

January 12, 2005 was a typical cold and dreary winter day in Washington D.C. with occasional drizzles. Yet, the scene at the 1300 block of 18th Street in Dupont Circle was anything but gloomy. Over three hundred OCA members and friends gathered with excitement to attend the dedication and witness the ribbon cutting to officiate the opening of the new OCA headquarters and the establishment of the OCA National Center for Asian Pacific American Leadership. National President Ginny Gong greeted everyone entering the front door with a big smile and a warm “welcome home.”

This day was particularly poignant for the two founders of OCA, Kung Lee Wang and Alex Mark. OCA was incorporated in 1973 because these two pioneers shared a vision that the growing Chinese American population should have a voice to advocate for their interests in the country’s capital where legislation and policies impacting our lives are enacted. Accompanying this vision was also a plan to build an effective grassroots organization with local chapters which would strengthen the collective voice of the community.



### celebrating a proud past

OCA started with three chapters and a modest office of a hundred square feet with no heat. Thirty three years later, the OCA family has grown to a national network of eighty chapters and affiliates, with a proud record of accomplishment advancing the social, political and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans. This was the result of the dedicated efforts of countless individuals who shared the vision of the founders and took action: they established local chapters, participated in community affairs and engaged in the discussion and advocacy of public policy.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was another glorious example of how, by taking actions to support a shared vision, a dream can be transformed into reality. It was a manifestation of our collective strength and what we can accomplish together if we put all of our hearts, our souls and resources behind a goal. It was a defining moment in OCA’s history: it captured the essence of the organization’s motto “Embracing the Hopes and Aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans,” and at the same time, launched the next phase in OCA’s quest to fulfill our mission and goals.

### pursuing a promising future for next generations

left: OCA National President Ginny Gong delivers a welcoming speech during the grand opening ceremony  
 below: K.L. Wang, Linda Ng, Alex Mark, Michael Lin, and Jimmy Lin with OCA members in front of the National Center building



During the dedication held at the beautiful facilities of our new neighbors, the National Association of Broadcasters, former US Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta made reference to the progress made by the Asian Pacific Americans over the decades and concluded with the following: “Thirty-three years ago, no one had an idea that OCA would have their own headquarters in Washington, DC,” he said, “The center of gravity has now changed to 1322 18th Street.”

What a powerful statement and what a statement to live up to. Yes, we have taken a giant step forward but our mission has not been accomplished. As we celebrate this significant milestone, we must remind ourselves of the purpose for acquiring a permanent presence: to build a promising future for the Asian Pacific American community by nurturing the next generations of leaders. The building is a means towards the end but not an end in itself.

As history has demonstrated, if we dedicate ourselves to a shared vision and a collective purpose, we can succeed. Let’s continue to do what we can to build a legacy for future generations. Together, we can make sure that the gravity that has shifted to 1322 18th Street, will stay there with pride and will have a lasting impact on the next generation. ■

- Having celebrated our successful past, now is the time to
- renew our commitment to the OCA National Center and take
- action again.
- 
- **OCA needs your support and the following are some of**
- **the things you can do:**
- **Send a contribution** today or make a pledge for future
- giving. Be sure to find out more about how you can
- honor a family or friend by contributing to the OCA
- Legacy Fund.
- **Share OCA’s vision** and purpose with your family and
- friends and encourage them to support the same
- **Arrange for OCA leaders and officers to speak at**
- community events so that more people can learn about
- OCA and what we try to achieve
- **Tell us about new program ideas** can further our goal to
- strengthen the organization and nurture future leaders
- **Let us know if you can connect OCA** with prospective
- corporate partners or program funding sources
- 
- **THANK YOU!**

# national center campaign

## Special Acknowledgements

We thank the following contributors for supporting the establishment of the OCA National Center for Asian Pacific American Leadership. These acknowledgments represent donor records as of February 28, 2007. We regret if any contributor's name has been inadvertently omitted. Please contact OCA Development Manager David Chu at 202 223 5500 or [dchu@ocanational.org](mailto:dchu@ocanational.org) for clarification and correction.

left: Norman Mineta and Congressman David Wu with past OCA National Presidents  
below: Ken Lee



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continued on page 26







right: K.L. Wang and his sister Anchen in front of the National Center building

below: OCA National staffer Kelly Wu and friends



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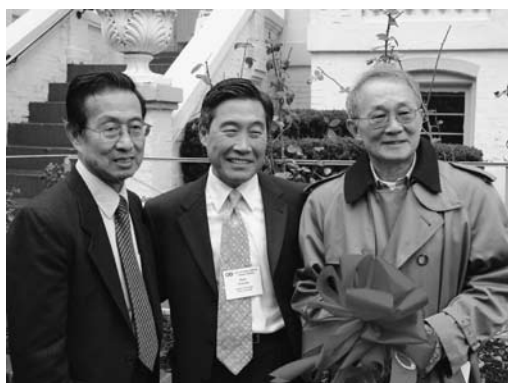
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# why should i care about immigration reform?

Elizabeth R. OuYang | OCA-New York

*If you're not among the thousands of people in the US waiting to be reunited with a family member, or if you're a second, third, or fourth generation Asian Pacific American, or if you don't perceive immigration as an issue threatening the APA community, you might wonder how the current debate on immigration reform impacts you. If you've wondered, I hope this article will provide you with some compelling reasons to engage in the debate.*

## racial profiling

As long as the anti-immigrant rhetoric is laced with “anti-foreignness,” everyone who doesn’t fit the American image, whether you’re first, second, third or fourth generation and beyond, is a potential target for racial profiling. We only need to remember Judge Lance Ito, the third generation Japanese American who presided over the O.J. Simpson trial, being mocked in 1995 by then U.S. Senator Alfonso D’Amato in an Asian sounding accent on a radio talk show. Even though D’Amato was forced to apologize on the Senate floor, this embarrassing episode underscored the fallout Asian Americans face from being perceived as outsiders or foreigners.

Who bears the brunt of law enforcement tactics to hunt down undocumented immigrants or potential terrorists? Not a white Canadian male who overstayed his student visa and is working unnoticed in a car dealership. After 9-11, Arab, Muslim and South Asian businessman, green card holders and citizens have borne the brunt of racial profiling at airports. Even Filipino lawful permanent residents who held positions as airport security for years had their loyalty to the US come under question. Stories have surfaced regarding other APAs being profiled in Chinatown by local police assuming the duties of immigration officers. The case of Captain James Yee, the Chinese American army chaplain at Guantanamo Bay who was falsely accused of espionage, only to have the charges dropped after spending 76 days in solitary confinement, is still an open wound in the APA community.

**The internment** of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II who were never charged or convicted of a single act of sabotage or espionage is frighteningly similar to events today. In 2002 and 2003, the US government required Arab, Muslim and South Asian nationals who were not naturalized citizens or green card holders to report to immigration. They included legal foreign students and workers as well as undocumented persons. 82,000 Arab, Muslims and South Asians complied with this controversial special registration program and not one was charged or convicted of a single act of terrorism. During World War II, Chinese Americans did not want to be mistaken for Japanese Americans. During the Cold War, Japanese Americans did not want to be mistaken for Chinese Americans. Post 9-11, Indians don’t want to be mistaken for Pakistanis.

Do you remember the April 2001 incident where the U.S. spy plane entered China’s air space and collided with the Chinese fighter plane killing the Chinese pilot? Why did Asian Americans shudder when radio talk hosts “joked” that U.S. should intern Chinese in the U.S. because China was holding the American pilots hostage? Does the strong language directed now against North Korea for its nuclear armament stir uneasiness against Asian Americans at home? Why?

History has demonstrated that ethnicity can become a crime when the US engages in Asian-bashing or anti-foreigner campaigns at home under the guise of “immigration reform” or “homeland security” during times of war. If Asian Americans don’t stand up against these policies, history will repeat itself.

## protecting family reunification

The cornerstone of immigration policy is family reunification. Historically, Asians came to the US as laborers who were barred by immigration policy from bringing their families

# the bottom line is

to join them. Laws like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882; the Immigration Act of 1917 which barred immigrants primarily from India; and the Immigration Act of 1924 that excluded immigration from all Asian countries except the Philippines were instrumental in splitting families. To mitigate the impact of past laws, the 1965 Immigration Act has tried to unite spouses, parents, children and siblings, precipitating an Asian immigration boom in the 1980’s onward. According to the 2000 Census, 60% of the Asian American population in the U.S. is foreign born. Your family’s history may well fall along the timeline of this immigration boom. So if immigration enforcement policies fly in the face of family reunification, where do you stand?

What about policies that separate US-born children from their undocumented parents? About one in ten families in the US is of mixed status: at least one parent is a non-citizen, and one child a citizen. OCA-Virginia chapter recently successfully advocated on behalf of the US citizen children of Chinese descent who were facing separation from their undocumented mother. Introduced by Congressman Jose Serrano, the Child Citizen Protection Act

(HR 1176) would, if passed, require courts to consider the impact on a US child if her parent(s) were deported. Would you support or oppose this bill?

**Another challenge to family reunification** lies in the current debate around increasing immigration fees to pay for homeland security. For example, the application fee to apply for permanent resident status (a green card) is currently \$325.00, but could rise nearly 300% to \$905.00. Becoming a citizen is often the pathway for immigrants to sponsor their relatives abroad. The current citizenship application fee is \$330.00 with a proposed sudden increase to \$595.00, which will delay or prevent applications from being filed. Should immigrants unfairly bear the cost of homeland security?

Even if hard-working immigrants could afford the increased fees, the backlog of petitions is a major roadblock to unifying families. Currently, petitions for brothers and sisters, the category where most Asians enter, are backlogged to applications filed in 1995, meaning that people have been waiting for over a decade to be reunited with their siblings. For applications petitioning brothers and sisters in the Philippines, it's backlogged even further to 1984. Can you imagine waiting a minimum of 12 years to be reunited with your brother or sister? Shouldn't immigration reform meaningfully address this backlog? Why should you care about this backlog if you are not petitioning for a relative? Because it affects the size of the APA population in the U.S., our voting power, and consequently, our ability to mount a successful challenge to discriminatory practices.

### **the hidden benefits of undocumented labor**

If you argue against undocumented immigrants, are you prepared to lose the benefits you gain from them being here? How many of us turn a blind eye to the non-unionized laborers shoveling snow after a storm and pounding an axe in 100 degree heat to break up a sidewalk? Their cheap labor can make or break the size of

### **immigration reforms**

In an effort to appease the frustrated American electorate over the stalemate in addressing immigration reform, Congress passed the Secure Fence Act before the 2006 mid-term elections, a bill that deals only with immigration enforcement and does not deal with the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants living in the US. Did you know the Secure Fence Act was passed? What then is the cost to the American public if these laws are passed without informed debate?

The Secure Fence Act authorizes the construction of a 700 mile fence covering 1/3rd of the border between Mexico and the US, while Canadian/US borders remain fenceless. The cost of the fence is estimated at \$10.4 billion. Even the bipartisan Congressional Budget Office's own statistics reveal that increased funding for border control has not curbed the number of undocumented immigrants entering the US. Do you think taxpayers' money used to build this fence then will be effective? Every dollar spent on this is a dollar less for domestic needs. I don't know about you, but I am recovering from a nasty flu. I would much rather see this money spent on flu vaccinations for everyone than a "porous" fence.

Not being informed of changing immigration policies can also have criminal consequences. In late 2002, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) changed its policy with respect to penalties for people who fail to notify immigration of their address changes. Lawful permanent residents have since been required to notify immigration if they change their address within 10 days of moving. In the past, if they failed to, immigration did not enforce penalties, but in late 2002, DHS decided it will enforce the penalties which include a misdemeanor penalty of \$200.00 or up to 30 days in jail or both. DHS can also deport someone if they determine that failure to file a change of address was intentional. Did you know that?

### **tying the immigration debate to English only issues**

A clear example of the domino effect of misguided immigration policies is the effort to align the immigration debate with English

only laws. Contained in the Senate version of the comprehensive immigration reform bill is a provision that would make "English the national language of the US." Is this a warning sign of official discrimination?

To understand this issue, one has to know the history of "English only" proposed legislation that has been defeated time and time again, in the courts and on referendum ballots. How have we managed for over 200 years without such legislation? Does anyone doubt that English has remained the overwhelmingly dominant language in which government business is conducted? Why then have "English only" bills emerged again? What is it about the changing post 9-11 anti-immigrant climate that makes these bills more acceptable? If people cannot speak their native language or be given bilingual assistance to obtain basic social services, does that foster unity and democracy or isolation and exclusion? If

## **the immigration system is broken. the question is, how do we fix it?**

the maintenance increase we co-op or condo owners moan about paying from our hard earned savings. Not to mention without undocumented labor, what the cost of chicken, lettuce, tomatoes, and grapes would be? Or the taxpayer cost of cleaning up after 9-11, Katrina or the Florida hurricanes?

A major national policy concern is whether there will be enough money for social security. Yet it's been undocumented immigrants who have helped keep the social security coffers full. Many undocumented immigrants use false social security numbers to pay taxes. An article in The New York Times on April 5, 2006 by Eduardo Porter reported a flood of W-2 earnings with incorrect social security numbers. In the current decade, this amount of unclaimed money has grown on average by more than \$50 billion a year.

### **the hidden costs of not being informed of**



anything, we should be demanding the government to provide more English instruction classes so that limited English proficient constituents are able to more fully participate in society.

### **fundamental issues of fairness**

Ideally everyone should wait in line before coming to the U.S., but the reality is that the lines are unequal and not everyone waits in the same line. For rich investors and certain highly skilled immigrants, there are no lines. For poor, unskilled labor, it is a different story. The U.S. immigration system has only a limited number of visas and the system is not responsive to the immediate labor needs in the US. Hence, there are an estimated 12 million undocumented persons living in the US. While applicants who have already filed and are waiting for their visa numbers to be processed should come first before undocumented persons benefit from a legalization program, the issues faced by such undocumented persons should be considered. They are some of the most vulnerable people holding some of the most dangerous jobs. Shouldn't they be protected from exploitation, paid fair wages, and receive the protection of our labor and health safety laws?

**The bottom line** is the immigration system in the U.S. is broken. The question is, how do we fix it? Your voice is important to weigh in on this important debate that will profoundly impact you, directly or indirectly.

### **OCA-National has taken a public stance, supporting comprehensive immigration reform that:**

**Reduces or eliminates** the tremendous backlog in family immigration;

**Provides a path** to lawful permanent residence for undocumented immigrants who are hard working, who have paid or are willing to pay taxes, have learned or are willing to learn English and civics, and have undergone security checks;

**Creates legal and** orderly processes for people who want to come to the United States to work, either temporarily or permanently in such a way that provides strong protections for both immigrants and U.S. workers; and

**Provides more assistance** to immigrants for learning English and preparing for citizenship.

This is an important step in beginning the dialogue on this critical issue. It is these reforms, if enacted into law that will shape the composition and power structure of this country for decades to come. In the true spirit of democracy, let us debate these issues and have our voices be heard! ■

Elizabeth OuYang is the Executive Vice President of OCA-NY. She has been a civil rights attorney for the past 20 years. Her practice includes immigration. She also teaches a pre-law course at New York University and Columbia University on constitutional challenges affecting African, Latino and Asian American communities.



# oca chapters celebrate lunar new year



from top right, clockwise:  
OCA-Long Island  
OCA-Pittsburgh  
OCA-Sacramento  
OCA-New York  
OCA-Pittsburgh  
OCA-East Tennessee

## OCA-Central Illinois

New Collaborations, New Friends was the theme of events held this past winter by OCA-Central Illinois and the McLean County Museum of History, the McLean County India Association, and other APA organizations. Activities included a Dessert Reception, Yoga and Tai Chi, Children's Culture Camp, and the Art of Dance, and provided insight into Asian culture to over 600 visitors.

In January, the Chapter collaborated with local APA organizations, Chinese schools and universities to celebrate the Lunar New Year. We are proud to be part of this celebration which drew a crowd of more than 800 people and appreciate our sponsors (Illinois State University, Heartland Community College, State Farm Insurance, and many local businesses). The event included a Festival Market, performances, and a raffle. Chapter President Wendy Wilber recognized the many local officials attending the event. A special thank you goes to Ruifang Cao.

In March, the chapter held its Annual Meeting & Dinner, and was fortunate to have OCA National Executive Vice President Ken Lee as the keynote speaker. Christine Chen, Executive Director of APIA-Vote, also joined. The Board recognized outgoing Chapter President Christie Kennett for her tireless efforts. During this event we also announced the winners of our Annual High School Essay Contest. Next year we plan to expand the essay contest to a larger number of schools. A thank you to our essay judges this year: Leslie Moe-Kaiser, Norene Ball, and Linda Stockton and to our sponsors and supporting organizations (the NAACP, McLean County India Association, students from the Japanese Student Association at Illinois State University, to name a few).

We will collaborate with the McLean County India Association (MCIA) to hold our second "Taste of Asia" event during APA Heritage month. We will have food and cultural goods, a silent auction, and a Children's Corner. Central Illinois Chapter is also celebrating its 5th Anniversary in 2007!

## OCA-Columbus

OCA-Columbus partnered with Young Asian American Professional Network (YAAPN) to host a Chinese New Year dinner event. Nearly 300 people attended the event. Many government agencies sent their representatives to speak at the dinner. Among them were Franklin County commissioners Mary Jo Kilroy and Paula Brooks, Ohio Civil Rights Commission Program director Toni Ann Delgado, Mayor Michael Coleman's representative, and State Secretary Jennifer Brunner's representative. Ohio Senator George Voinovich also greeted all participants through a declamation.

Other than the individual participants, corporations and grassroots organizations also sponsored and contributed to the great success of the event. Asian American Commerce Group, Asian American Community Services, Columbus Chinese Christian Church, Ohio-Health, Kahiki Inc., American Red Cross, and Today's Child are among the sponsor list. The event was successful with a traditional Lion Dance. Other traditional Chinese instrumental and dance performances also entertained the evening. The dinner ended with an open floor dance for all participants.

## OCA-District of Columbia

OCA-DC continues its efforts for advocacy and awareness in the Asian American community through the OCA Forum, created to provide a venue for member communication and highlight is-



top to bottom:  
 OCA-Columbus  
 OCA-East Tennessee  
 OCA-New York

sues impacting APAs. The forums attract diverse participation from the APA community, with lively and open discussions on a broad range of topics. Members express themselves freely, sharing personal stories, bringing members closer and providing a network of support. The forums deal with the real life scenarios and issues that we can all relate to as APAs, and provides resources and new information on issues that participants found valuable.

OCA-DC held its Lunar New Year Dinner to celebrate Chinese cultural heritage and the Maryland Lunar New Year Day. Last year, the state of Maryland passed a bill proclaiming Lunar New Year as an official day of commemoration and celebration in the state. In a packed restaurant, many elected officials and dignitaries such as Congresswomen Mazie Hirono (HI), officers from Chinese and Japanese embassies, and OCA executive director Michael Lin joined local chapter members. Chapter president Lily Qi accepted proclamations from Montgomery County, the state of Maryland, and Senator Barbara Mikulski's office.

Ms. Qi said that the Lunar New Year is a millennium-long institution and part of who we are as people. Dr. Michael Lin highlighted OCA National's new permanent home in the nation's capital and Congresswoman Hirono called for APAs to be vigilant and fight against any form of injustice. The dinner ended with fun cultural activities such as OCA Trivia and "Year of the Boar" activities.

### OCA-Detroit

ACA/OCA-Detroit celebrated the year of the golden pig with over 200 guests from all over the greater Detroit Metropolitan area. Marie Weng, ACA/OCA-Detroit President, wished everyone a happy and prosperous new year, and swore in all board members present: Jennifer Zaborny, Helen Zhou, Sarah Bordas, Leong Dong, Fred Ferris, Cecilia Machese, Marilyn Russell and Ronald Wong. Emcee Victor Whang gave interesting tidbits on individuals born in the year of the golden pig. In addition to the delicious 12-course dinner, the audience was treated to a colorful folklore dance from north-eastern China, Hu-yang play the er-hu, a traditional Chinese string instrument.

The main attraction was the auction, where items donated by ACA/OCA-Detroit members were auctioned. Northwest Air Lines donated a pair of round trip first class international tickets to the auction. After a much heated bidding session, Clyde Wu, a

long time member and generous supporter of ACA/OCA-Detroit emerged with the winning bid. ACA/OCA-Detroit thanks the many guests who honored us with their presence. Among them: State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Karen Jackson, and Stephen Ogundipe. Many thanks to our sponsors, General Motors Corporation, Daimler-Chrysler Corporation, DTEEnergy, New Detroit, Comerica Bank and Northwest Air Lines.

We celebrated the end of the Chinese New Year, the Lantern Festival, at the newly renovated ACA Chinese Community Center. Over 400 people and many organizations participated, including: the Asian Pacific Conference, Chinese Bible Study Group, Chinese Association of Greater Detroit, Detroit Mission, Detroit Chinese Schools, Michigan Women Association, Evergreen Society of Detroit, Healthy Asian American program, AnHui Friendship Association, and Michigan Chinese Dance School. This is the first time that so many Chinese organizations had come together to celebrate one of our most famous holidays.

**OCA-Dallas/Fort Worth**

OCA-DFW brought together over 400 members, family, and friends to celebrate the Year of the Pig. Mayor Gary Slagel of Richardson, TX, proclaimed February 10 “Lunar New Year Celebration Day.” Guests enjoyed a traditional Chinese banquet and tried their luck at a raffle drawing. A large program highlighting Asian culture past and present entertained the guests with a lion dance, modern APA ballet, martial arts demonstrations and a Korean music performance.

The highlight of the evening was a multicultural fashion show featuring clothing from various Asian countries and time periods, ending with a parade of OCA members in contemporary outfits. Local dignitaries were also invited on stage to present hong bao to delighted children. The OCA-DFW banquet provided a fun and enlightening evening. OCA-DFW’s next big events will be Feed the Homeless at the Union Gospel Mission in Fort Worth in April, our annual Junior Leadership Seminar and Camp in June and July. Also, in August, OCA-DFW will continue to spread cultural awareness through our sponsorship of the 6th Annual Asian Film Festival of Dallas.

**OCA-East Bay**

OCA-East Bay held its Annual Membership and Fundraising Dinner with the theme “Nurturing the Next Generation of Lead-

ers.” Monique Tsang, Executive Director of the East Bay Asian Voter Education Consortium, spoke on an effort to increase voter participation. Recognition was given to two organizations that serve Oakland’s youth, East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC) and Oakland Asian Students Educational Services (OASES). Six scholarships were given to local high students. The keynote speaker was California Congressman Mike Honda.

During an annual business conference in San Francisco on March 8, 2007, Ted Turner (founder of CNN and Turner Broadcasting) made an offensive comment. OCA-East Bay and OCA National immediately sought and obtained an apology from Mr. Turner. The quick action resulted in an hour of discussion on a popular radio talk show in the area and an apology from Mr. Turner.

We are launching our quarterly newsletter (VOCAL) as well as our new website ([www.ocaeastbay.org](http://www.ocaeastbay.org)) in early April. On April 26, 2007, we will host a luncheon with a panel on glass ceilings in public sector employment in the East Bay. On September 28, 2007, we will host our annual dinner. The theme will be “Speaking the Language of Success in a Complex World” and our keynote speaker will be California State Controller, John Chaing.

**OCA-Fairfield County**

The Fairfield County Chapter of OCA in Connecticut celebrated the Year of the Pig with over 355 guests. The program kicked off with a dragon dance performed by the Chinese Language School (CLS). Service awards were presented to Randy Tam and Michael Wu. Then the entertainment composed of musical, dance and Kung Fu performances by the children of the CLS. A traditional program followed featuring an er-hu performance, folk dance and Beijing opera.

The keynote speaker was William Tong, Esq, the first APA elected to the Connecticut State Legislature. The menu for the evening was a 10-course catered meal by Jasmine Restaurant of Westport, CT. Raffle sales benefiting the CLS totaled well over \$1300. Music and dancing was enjoyed by the young and young-at-heart.

**OCA-Georgia**

In October 2006, OCA-GA held an Angel Island presentation for the public to meet OCA members, enjoy dinner and learn the history of Angel Island. OCA-GA also



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OCA-Long Island  
OCA-DC  
OCA-Denver  
OCA-South Florida  
OCA-Houston





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 OCA-Georgia  
 OCA-Georgia  
 OCA-Georgia  
 OCA-Sacramento  
 OCA-Westchester/  
 Hudson Valley  
 OCA-Houston

supported the 9th Annual Chopstix for Charity, a fundraising event organized by various APA organizations which raises corporate and community awareness about needs of APA non-profit human services organizations in metro Atlanta. Almost 400 guests attended the event which raised \$35,000, which was donated to 17 local non-profit APA organizations.

In November, OCA-GA hosted the 10th Annual Diversity Career Fair. Net proceeds from this event will fund the annual Asian American High School Excellence Scholarships awarded to 10 Georgia high school seniors. OCA-GA also held a General Membership meeting and an election of 2007-2008 Officers. Alfred Yin was elected as President.

OCA-GA celebrated the Lunar New Year with a dinner banquet and awards presentation. The 2005-2006 board recognized Daisy Wu (OCA Asian American Community Excellence Award) and Robin Soh (Outstanding Board Member Award) for their dedication and contribution to the mission of OCA. OCA-Georgia works with many dedicated individuals and it was a difficult task for the Board to select only two. Alex Wu, former OCA president and keynote speaker, gave an impressive history of OCA and challenged our members to continue OCA's mission. Master of Ceremonies Betty Nguyen, a CNN/U.S. news anchor, founded a nonprofit called "Help the Hungry" and inspired banquet attendees to donate over \$3,200 to her organization.

### OCA-Houston

OCA Greater Houston Chapter co-hosted the 2nd Annual Business Networking Reception in conjunction with its regularly scheduled APIA 1st Thursdays Mixers. OCA-GH holds monthly networking mixers on the first Thursday of each month at various venues around town. Collaborations with other local organizations help to introduce groups to each other and exchange information and ideas. Mixers are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces while meeting new ones.

### OCA-Long Island

On November 8, 2006, John Tandana, Gladys Yan and Donna Lee joined City Councilmen John Liu and Jim Gennaro to commemorate the Kristallnacht – the night the Nazis broke the storefronts of business owned by Jewish people in 1938 in Germany. OCA-LI executive VP John Tandana joined panels of Holocaust survivors. Members of OCA-LI also attended the re-

dedication of Martin's Field Memorial Park in Queens, NY, a burial ground of Black and Native Americans. Attending were Gladys Yan, John Tandana, Jim Chin Bow, Ann Chan and Howard Chan. OCA-LI is proud to promote the name of OCA in the community and has been active in various programs in the area for many decades

In January 2007, OCA-LI attended the inauguration of the 110th congressional session at the Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. We are very grateful to Congressman Gary Ackerman for the invitation and hospitality. What a nice way to kick off the New Year 2007. We were also invited to Senator Hillary Clinton's inauguration party and met President Bill Clinton and Senator Hillary Clinton. Joining the delegation were Gene Woo, Janis Woo, Matthew Woo, Gladys Yan, John Tandana, Debbie Leong, Donna Lee, and Kevin Kim.

OCA-LI welcomed the Year of the Golden Pig by participating in the annual Lunar New Year Parade in downtown Flushing, Queens. The grand marshalls of this annual parade were our OCA-LI lifetime member Peter Koo, along with John Liu, and Flushing NY State Assemblywoman Ellen Young. At the end of the parade chapter members shared a dim-sum lunch to celebrate.

### OCA-New Jersey

OCA-New Jersey members welcomed the Year of the Boar with lots of food, family and friends at our Lunar New Year celebration. President Florence Chen welcomed the guests and the golden lion of the CCCNJ Youth Group, under the direction of Albert Chin, performed. The golden lion danced and moved slowly through the tables while OCA members and friends fed the lion to ensure a harmonious New Year of luck and success.

During the festivities, OCA-NJ member Helen Yu received a special award from HSBC Bank. Among the honored guests were representatives from HSBC Bank, All State Insurance, Asian Pacific Islanders for Professional and Community Advocates (APCA) at AT&T, and LaSalle Hong Kong Old Boys Association, East Coast Chapter. Special guest Choi Sun gave out specially made OCA gold chocolate coins; which were enjoyed by all.

At the October Executive Board meeting of the officers of OCA-NJ, it was decided to donate the proceeds from the Lunar New Year Dinner to support the OCA Legacy Fund and support the OCA National Cen-

ter. Over 100 raffle prizes were solicited by chair Virginia Ng. Over \$3000 was raised that evening. We would like to thank all who came and supported OCA-NJ Chapter.

### OCA-Northern Virginia

On January 13, 2007, 230 members, friends, and guests attended OCA-NOVA's annual New Year's Banquet and Dance. Proceeds went to benefit the Willston Center English for Speakers of Other Languages Scholarship Fund. National Public Radio reporter Wilma Consul was our Master of Ceremonies. Honored guests included several members of the Fairfax, Virginia School Board and members of OCA's National Board. National President Ginny Gong provided an update for the opening of the OCA National Center. Eric Byler, director of the acclaimed film "Charlotte Sometimes" and currently the writer/director of PBS program "My Life...Disoriented," gave an inspiring keynote speech. He was also honored with the OCA-NOVA Community Service Award.

OCA-NOVA also sponsored a bone marrow drive with Cammy Lee Leukemia Foundation for the National Bone Marrow Registry. There are two Chinese Americans with leukemia who need a bone marrow donor match. Wincheng Lin is a 26-year old woman who was recently diagnosed with an extremely rare combination of cancer. Ma Lan is a 37-year old woman with a 5-year old daughter who was recently diagnosed with leukemia, and also needs a matching bone marrow donor. Due to our efforts, 22 members signed up for the registry.

OCA-NOVA would also like to thank our sponsors Booz Allen Hamilton and State Farm, and the APA groups who supported the events. We would also like to thank our board and volunteers Bill Hoofatt, Cammy Lee, Evelyn Lee, Michele Kee, Karen Lee, and Diane Xiao.

### OCA-Greater Philadelphia

OCA-Greater Philadelphia held its Annual Lunar New Year Banquet, a ten-course fundraising banquet attended by approximately 130 members and supporters of OCA. Congressman Joe Sestak spoke on issues of immigration, health care, and the Iraq War in his keynote speech. Cynthia Gouw, a three-time Emmy Award-winning news anchor and journalist was the Mistress of Ceremonies. Harry Kao, Executive Director of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs, also made remarks.



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OCA-Philadelphia  
OCA-St. Louis  
OCA-Central Illinois  
OCA-Denver

## chapter highlights

The overall message of the banquet was well-said by longtime OCA-GP members and event sponsors Ophelia and Jim Fetter, “For ourselves and the next generation, support OCA.” Representatives of State Farm, a generous supporter of OCA and sponsor of the Banquet, were also in attendance. The evening ended on a high note, with announcements for over twenty raffle prizes donated by OCA members and local businesses.

### OCA-Pittsburgh

OCA-Pittsburgh, with support from University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Montefiore Hospital, Pittsburgh Chinese Physician Association, Tzu Chi Foundation, and Three Rivers Families with Children from China, held a successful Free Medical Clinic in October 2006. Altogether 16 doctors volunteered, as well as a comparable number of nurses and supporters. More than 45 patients showed up and visited different departments.

In November, OCA-Pittsburgh along with the Tzu Chi Ren Wen Chinese School, TRFCC, and the Pittsburgh Chinese Restaurant Association participated in the WPXI TV/Macy’s Celebrate the Seasons Parade. OCA members participated, dancing, diabolo spinning, and the dragon dancing. It was a perfect opportunity to publicize the rich Chinese culture and heritage.

The signature event of OCA-Pittsburgh is the annual Chinese New Year Banquet. More than 300 dinner guests joined the celebration. The event was presided over by the current Chapter president Wen-Ching Yang. Michael Lin, OCA Executive Director, was the honorary Chairperson of the event. The performance, choreographed by VP of Cultural Affairs Chia-Pih Shaw, was emceed by Katrina Owens, a local TV celebrity. Participating dignitaries included Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato and his wife Shelly, and Congressman Tim Mulphy who awarded Congressional Awards to members of OCA Youth.

### OCA-Sacramento

OCA-Sacramento and the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center (SCCSC) held its much anticipated Annual Lunar New Year Senior Luncheon for more than 300 Sacramento APA seniors. OCA member Rosalind Wong and her Seven Pearls Performance Group entertained with music and dancing. Director Rung Fong Hsu and Alice Palecek also displayed their talent by singing a number of songs. The ye woo duo was dynamic and captivating.



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OCA-Detroit  
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OCA-Central Illinois  
OCA-Central Illinois

Our guests had a wonderful time. They lip-synched, danced and clapped hands. It was indeed a pleasure to see how they have enjoyed this special occasion with their friends.

OCA savors this remarkable collaboration with SCCSC every year. For a moment in time, we infused a little sunshine and cheer into those who participated in our Senior Luncheon. We salute Henry Kaklowsky, Executive Director, and Kevin Thai, Program Director, and their staff at the SCCSC. Also sincere thanks to Alice Palecek, Manager of Cathay Bank, who always showered our guests with plenty of gifts and calendars.

**OCA-San Francisco**

OCA-SF joined with two other local OCA chapters in Northern California to co-host an OCA booth at the annual Chinese New Year Festival and Parade in San Francisco’s historic Chinatown. OCA-San Francisco, OCA-San Mateo, and OCA-Sacramento were out in full force to renew & recruit members as well as to promote the upcoming OCA National Convention in Sacramento June 28-July 1, 2007. Thanks to the generosity of Southwest Airlines, a free round-trip ticket was available for drawing by members who renewed or joined that weekend. The event was a great opportunity for the chapters to share ideas for future collaborations.

**OCA-South Florida**

OCA-SFL has been very busy working on a few Chinese New Year celebrations. We assisted the Perfect Balance & Fitness Academy in organizing the first Chinese New Year Celebration in the City of Coral Gables; Winnie Tang, Chapter President, did a cultural presentation at State Farm Insurance South Regional Office’s first Chinese New Year celebration lunch; and OCA-SFL continued its partnership with the Chinese Cultural Foundation in hosting the 19th annual Chinese New Year Festival at Miami Dade College, where attendance reached almost 8,000. OCA-SFL also participated at the 17th Annual Asian Culture Festival and took this opportunity to announce the repeal of the Alien Land Law from the Florida Constitution. In addition, OCA-SFL supported the Florida Chinese Federation to host the annual Lunar Senior Appreciation celebration by serving lunch to over 100 elders and providing an exciting lion dance and cultural program. As result of these celebrations, OCA-SFL has recruited and renewed some members.

In celebration of March Women’s History

Month, OCA-SFL successfully nominated two APA women, Betty Lee and the late Peggy Tanaka, to receive the prestigious In the Company of Women award for their tremendous social and cultural contributions. This is the fourth consecutive year in which OCA-SFL successfully nominated candidates for the award to promote a positive image and role models from the APA community to the mainstream society.

OCA-SFL will celebrate May Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with the OCA-SFL Excellence Award V banquet on May 5 to honor individuals, businesses and organizations for their outstanding services and contributions to the South Florida community. In addition, the 9th annual APAHM Cultural Series will start on May 6 and run through May 23 at various libraries in the area. The Chapter will finish the series at the Sandy Nininger State Veterans Home on Memorial Day weekend. OCA-SFL partners with various local APA organizations to provide these programs.

OCA-SFL has been working with the Emma L. Bowen Foundation to create career opportunities in the media industry for minority youth through a program that focuses on scholastic achievement, work experience and professional development. OCA-SFL is also working with State Senator Joe Geller and State Representative Reginald Brise to repeal the Alien Land Law from the Florida State Constitution. OCA-SFL has built an extensive coalition with various organizations in the South Florida community, who have already expressed support for OCA’s effort to get rid of this discriminatory language.

**OCA-St Louis**

OCA held its annual banquet with over 170 guests. Keynote speaker was Tom George, Chancellor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) played two delightful pieces of piano music after his talk. St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley and his wife also attended. Hung-Gay Fung, president of OCA-St. Louis, announced planned events for 2007.

In 2006, the OCA-St. Louis held our annual joint picnic with the Family with Children from China (FCC) which has always been a success. Chinese Schools also joined our picnic, and seeing so many adopted children loved by their families has inspired us to support FCC wholeheartedly.

We started a monthly column in the St. Louis Chinese American News, an oppor-

tunity for OCA to communicate with our members and the Chinese community. We also organized a youth leadership program to improve the success of the younger generation and seminars for the American youth with which to promote Chinese culture.

OCA-St. Louis spearheaded the Chinese Culture Days event at the Missouri Botanical Garden. A Beijing opera group from China came to perform along with wonderful programs offered by local Chinese communities. OCA-St. Louis also conducted two seminars on Chinese culture at Rockwood Middle School. We will continue to promote Mandarin Chinese as an optional foreign language in local elementary schools.

For 2007, the OCA-St. Louis chapter will continue to bridge the gap between Chinese Americans and other Americans. We will work with FCC on the annual banquet and youth leadership program. We will continue to work with other Chinese organizations in St. Louis on more events in order to enrich the St. Louis community.

**OCA-Westchester/  
Hudson Valley**

OCA-Westchester /Hudson Valley in co-sponsorship with the Westchester Chinese Association (WCA), the Evergreen Club, Families with Children from China (FCC) and the Westchester Hua Xia Chinese School, proudly presented a special Chinese New Year Celebration on Feb. 24, 2007 at White Plains High School. Nearly 1,000 guests attended the feast and festivities, which included entertainment, ranging from the traditional Lion dance, the magical “changing faces” master, to modern dance. With six different Chinese restaurants catering the event, the food was delicious and plentiful. It was truly an enjoyable day for the whole family.

OCA-WHV is also the proud recipient of a \$2500 state Grant from the Westchester Arts Council. This grant will be applied to our annual Asian American Festival in May 26th.



*Has your chapter or one of your members done something exceptional that you’d like to share with the rest of the OCA community? Please send a 1-2 paragraph write up and high resolution photos (if available) to Hope Chu at the National Office or at hchu@ocanational.org.*



# our members our leaders

Martin Jung | OCA-San Mateo

**It was my good fortune** to be one of 15 OCA and 15 JACL members to attend the 13th annual **JACL/OCA Leadership Conference** which was held in March, in Washington, DC. I would like to thank the coordinators, JACL director Floyd Mori, OCA staffer Stephanie Kao, and our sponsor, Leslie Moe-Kaiser from State Farm, who were attentive, friendly, and helpful.

It was a rewarding trip that involved culture, education, and politics with the theme of leadership, membership, collaboration, and sponsorship. I would recommend the JACL/OCA Leadership Conference to those who are interested in learning about APA community issues and how to effectively work with OCA National. I met and spent time with OCA and JACL members from various chapters across the country; from California, Hawaii, Illinois, New England, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Texas.

In addition to the conference program, we met with APA members of Congress and visited various historical sites. We viewed the Potomac River and the surrounding Washington area. We visited the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, a monument to the Japanese who were placed in the interment camps. The names of the ten World War II relocation camps and the number of people interned at each location are inscribed at the memorial.

**The conference topics** were diverse, interesting and relevant. The speakers were enthusiastic and dynamic, especially Michael Lieberman of the Anti Defamation League and Hilary Shelton of the NAACP. Speakers covered topics such as the history of APAs from railroads to the new millennium, an APIA analysis of 2006 elections, federal agencies' impact on the APA community, APAs and the legislative process, media and message training, developing political capital and local involvement, the census and the APA community, comprehensive immigration policy reform, and coalition building across communities of



color. State Farm® and their partner organizations held a workshop on Auto and Child Safety. An important issue? You bet it is. Startling details from Safe Kids show that a major cause of death to children is related to car accidents.

**Our luncheon** with Bruce Yamashita was inspirational. A Hawaii native whose dream was to become a United States Marine, he endured racist remarks aimed at his Japanese heritage while at Officer Candidate School, was kicked out prior to his graduation. He fought for his civil rights, exposing a history of institutional racism in the Marines, and finally the legal case was settled in his favor.

I enjoyed Congresswoman Mazie Hirono's company at dinner at the Burma Restaurant. She is the first immigrant woman of Asian decent elected to statewide office – serving two 4-year terms as Hawaii's ninth elected Lieutenant Governor. We also had dinner with Norman Mineta, former Secretary of Transportation, a humble man indeed.

Our visit to meet the members of Congress was a true highlight. They took time from their extremely busy schedules which was very much appreciated. As our group arrived at the Capitol on Tuesday, we were led to the room to meet the members of Congress. Congressman Mike Honda passed us in the hallway and said, "The meeting has been cancelled." He was joking, of course.

**It was an honor** to meet the following members of Congress: Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA) was candid with his

opinion regarding the situation in Iraq; he felt it is due to the US's arrogance, ignorance, and incompetence.

Congresswoman Mazie Hirono (D-HI) felt the presence of her role model, former Congresswoman Patsy Mink (a Japanese American from the state of Hawaii), with her as she cast her vote to nominate Nancy Pelosi to become the House Speaker.

Congressman Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa) shared his challenging responsibilities that deal with the current and evolving relationships between Taiwan and China.

Congressman Xavier Becerra (D-CA, Assistant to Speaker Pelosi) gave a passionate plea for the Filipino American Veteran issue. The pending legislation would recognize surviving Filipino WWII veterans and provide veterans with the benefits due to them for serving in World War II under U.S. authority but which have been denied for decades. ■



## 2007 OCA/JACL Leadership Conference participants

Cliff Akiyama, Kathy Aoki, Marsha Auchard, Anthony K.U.Chang, Tennie Cheung, Betty Chu-Fujita, Karl Endo, Joyce Eng, Dale Ikeda, Oren Iwanaga, Martin Jung, Susan Leedham, Eva Li, David Lin, Sha-Li Lin, Wendy Lin, Wen-Tong Lin, Jenny Yen Ling Liu, Brian Moriguchi, Andrew Munemoto, Eric Nakano, Christine Qian, Haruka Roubush, Jeffrey Selby, Nancy Takayama, Carl Takei, Linda Tran, Brig Walker, Wendy Wilber, Jenny Wong

# informative interactive inspirational oca's new website

Dawn Li | OCA-DC

Have you visited OCA's website lately? If you haven't, you will be pleasantly surprised when you point your browser to <http://www.ocanational.org>. OCA has a new website, a dynamic site that reflects the image of OCA, an organization with a clear mission and rich history having served Asian American communities for over three decades.

## informative

Information is at the heart of any website. How to present information clearly for easy access by all visitors can be a challenge. We have achieved clarity in content structure by utilizing two navigation bars. The top bar lists all major categories with subcategory drop-downs. The right navigation bar showcases most frequently visited elements like calendar, chapters, and photo gallery. Suppose you are looking for OCA internship opportunities, just select Programs and then Internships. You will see summer internships, intern alumni as well as application forms. If you do not know you should click Programs, you can do a site search and find the same pages.

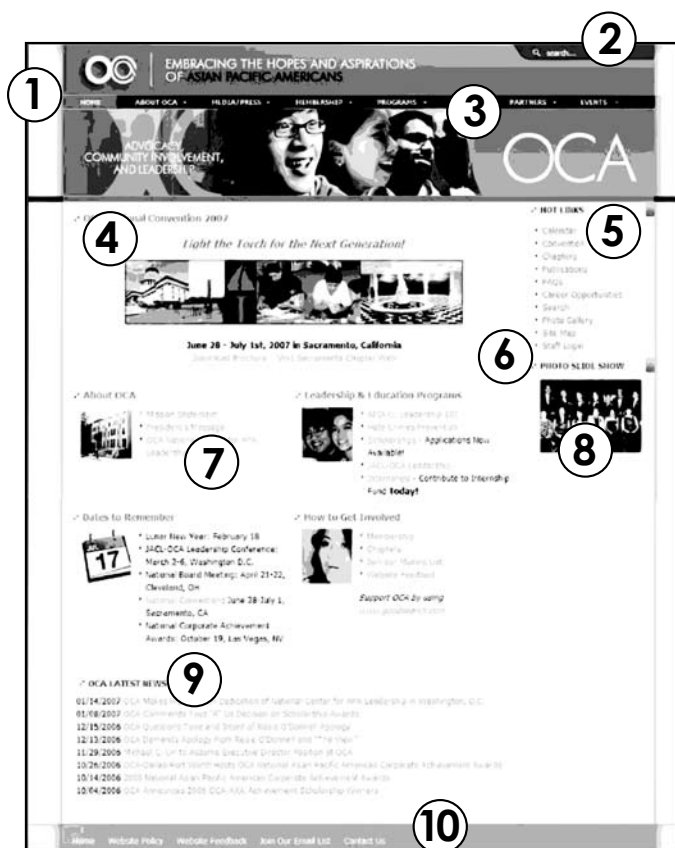
## interactive

The entire website is powered by a Content Management System (CMS). The CMS allows timely update of news and other content. Staff can enter content directly through a workflow that enables editing and proofreading. Registered users can submit news items directly. These news items are reviewed by staff who are responsible for publishing news content. In addition, visitors can convert web pages to PDF, and print or email all content pages.

## inspirational

Images of OCA founders, former presidents, as well as partners and regular members are presented on rotating banners, photo slide shows and photo galleries. The Photo Gallery is a special place where visitors can savor a large number of event images.

In all, the website is a powerful platform for members and visitors to build a participatory and influential presence on the internet. More dynamic features such as a blog, online event registration, chapter websites are in the planning. If you have not visited [www.ocanational.org](http://www.ocanational.org) lately, it is time to check it out, and participate!



- 1 top navigation bar
- 2 search engine
- 3 rotating banners
- 4 hot events
- 5 right navigation bar
- 6 registration
- 7 content sections
- 8 photo slide show
- 9 latest news and press releases
- 10 footer with RSS

# where are they now? oca interns

Victoria Tung | CAPAC

*Victoria Tung was an OCA intern during the summer of 2001, and worked at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a BA in International Relations. Vicki is the Executive Director of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC).*

**How did you get involved in OCA?** I heard about the internship through an advisor at school who had been an OCA intern herself. I was doing a lot of cross-cultural coalition building, community organizing, and advocacy on campus, and I wanted to gain a better understanding of how public policy works. I wanted to see how national policy was being made and how it affected advocacy and I thought the best place to learn about that was DC.

**What motivated you to get involved in APA issues?** I've always been interested in race relations and multicultural issues. I went to a very racially and socio-economically diverse high school and the administration felt it was important for the student body to talk about various issues to get us out of our "comfort zones", so I started learning about those issues in high school. In college, I wanted to open up a similar dialogue on campus, so we created a program called confronting cross-cultural issues.

These programs focused mainly on the black-white paradigm and APA issues were rarely talked about. I wanted to provide a voice for our community so I became involved in the Asian Pacific Student Coalition on campus. During the backlash after 9-11, I worked with the APA community and with other ethnic communities to educate our campus about racial profiling and civil liberties. Through my involvement on campus, I started learning more about the APA community and where we were politically. We were behind in many ways – we were engaged, but still behind in mobilizing and having elected officials address our needs.

**What were some highlights from the internship?** My best memory from that

summer was meeting Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA). Getting to meet APAs in politics and communicating with policy makers was exciting. I was pleased to find that Congressman Honda was extremely connected with the APA community and concerned about the issues we face.

I thought the brownbag lunches were very important – they connected us to other interns and taught us more about important issues and the different work my fellow interns were doing. Because OCA is so connected with organizations around town, it really helped us network and get a good understanding of policy and legislative issues. It was very eye opening.

### **What did you do after your internship?**

After I graduated, I interned at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center doing hate crimes education and then I worked on the 2003 California recall election campaign with YouthVote. I also worked with the Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition in Oakland. In 2003, I received the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) fellowship and moved to DC.

In 2004, I received the California Endowment Public Health Fellowship, based in Congressman Honda's office, and I stayed on for another year to working on racial and ethnic health disparities. After my fellowship ended, I was hired on as the Executive Director of the CAPAC.

**What do you do for CAPAC?** The caucus acts as an advocacy arm for APA issues in Congress. We are an organization made up of members of Congress that educates members and staff on APA issues, and makes sure our issues are being heard and addressed. If there's a bill being drafted

we make sure there's an APA voice. I also educate community leaders on how the legislative process works and how organizations can better advocate in Congress.

### **What issues would you encourage readers to get involved in?**

The community should be deeply engaged in the immigration debate. Health care issues will also be big this year. Language access and cultural competency are always of concern to APAs and play an important role in health care, in education, in Katrina disaster recovery - it's been more than a year and a half and the Vietnamese community there still needs our help.

It is also important to be aware of the men and women who are currently fighting in the War on Terror and ensuring that our veterans are getting the benefits they deserve when they return. CAPAC is actively working on ensuring that Filipino WW II veterans who were denied benefits for decades are awarded full recognition. I want to make readers aware that there are veterans who have served our country who do not receive the proper benefits they deserve.

OCA is powerful because of its chapters. Chapters should make sure to engage with their community – hold town halls, engage other communities. It is important to educate the community. Stay engaged with your member of congress. Members and staff need to see the faces of APAs. If the opportunity is open to you to speak up on an issue to a policymaker, you should take that opportunity to speak up. Don't be silent, don't be complacent. Every phone call you make counts. Every visit you make to your congressman and state and local officials makes an impact. ■

# getting to know our partners national CAPACD

## National CAPACD

In May 2006, Father Vien Nguyen, a priest at the Mary, Queen of Vietnam Church in New Orleans East, spoke at a convention and told the powerful story of Hurricane Katrina's destruction in his community. He spoke about the community's ongoing struggle against the city's efforts to locate a landfill only one mile away - a landfill for toxic construction materials, including asbestos, uncontained electronic components and other contaminants.

That convention was the annual event of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD), the first national advocacy organization dedicated to addressing the housing and economic development needs of Asian Pacific American (APA) communities - and immediately, National CAPACD's members and staff responded to Father Vien's call to action.

We coordinated a coalition of local and national partners, helped develop a "Save New Orleans East" website, co-sponsored a National Solidarity Week of Action, and engaged numerous advocacy efforts to pressure New Orleans to close the landfill. The efforts met with success, and in August 2006, the landfill was forced to close.

Today, the partnership continues. National CAPACD and Mary, Queen of Vietnam have leveraged more than \$300,000 to rebuild the neighborhood, provide affordable housing for seniors, and address environmental justice issues affecting the community.

### a national voice for local needs

We were founded in 1999 to be a voice for the unique housing and economic needs of diverse and growing APA low-income, immigrant and refugee communities. A network of more than 100 community-based organizations and individuals in 17 states, National CAPACD's members build affordable housing, offer job training and human services, fight predatory lending, construct community centers, provide access to capital and financial services, fight gentrification and revitalize his-

toric and cultural neighborhoods like Chinatowns, Koreatowns and Little Saigons.

Now entering its 8th year, our annual convention brings together hundreds of community development practitioners, advocates, grantmakers and allies to share resources, best practices and expertise - just as Father Vien did. This year's convention is co-hosted by the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, and will take place in Honolulu, Hawaii in August.

### making an impact

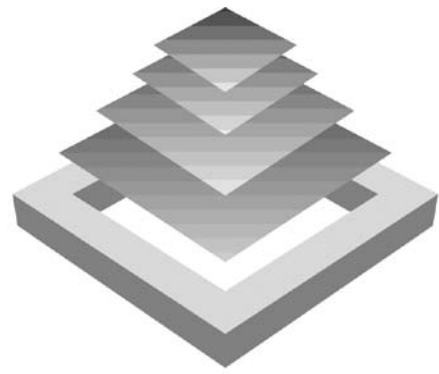
National CAPACD's strategy centers on APA communities "telling our stories" - to forge policy change and take action on the real-life housing, community and economic development needs of APA families. Our programs focus on:

**access to housing.** Low-income APAs face a lack of quality, affordable housing and experience linguistic and cultural challenges to accessing housing programs. We work to increase homeownership, affordable housing, credit counseling and financial literacy, as well as to end housing discrimination. We particularly promote cultural competency and language access.

**equality in federal programs.** APA communities are underserved by national housing, community and economic development programs. We are working to end these disparities by working with federal agencies to broaden their knowledge about APAs and improve the data available about our communities.

**economic justice.** Income inequalities are increasing, creating greater challenges for low-income APAs, immigrants and those who are limited English speakers - and some APA groups have incomes substantially lower than the national median. We fight predatory lending and supports banking that serves our communities.

**community preservation and revitalization.** Many historically Asian enclaves



national **CAPACD**

national coalition for  
asian pacific american  
community development

are fast disappearing and threatened by major commercial developments and gentrification. At the same time, there are APA business districts that are thriving. We connect APA community-based organizations to programs that support sustainable small business growth and invest in low-income and minority communities.

National CAPACD programs provide support to local organizations serving low-income APAs; develop APA leaders who work in housing, jobs creation, banking and economic development; and bring people together to learn, network, share resources and mobilize.

### through our efforts:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity provided, for the first time ever, fair housing education grants targeted to APAs.

NeighborWorks America, the country's largest federally-funded community revitalization and housing training and technical assistance provider, has committed to increase APA access to their programs.

The Congressional APA Caucus created a Housing and Community Development Task Force to improve the lives of low-income APA families and communities. ■

To learn more about National CAPACD membership, the convention and other programs, please visit [www.nationalcapacd.org](http://www.nationalcapacd.org) or e-mail [info@nationalcapacd.org](mailto:info@nationalcapacd.org).

# capturing the chinese-american experience

Wen-Tong Lin | OCA-Columbus

*Wen-Tong Lin is the creator of the Chinese Documentary Project, a photodocumentary focusing on the lives of Chinese Americans. Wen-Tong was born in Fuzhou, China and emigrated to the US in 1989. He currently resides in Columbus, OH where he is an environmental engineer and a member of the OCA-Columbus chapter. He can be contacted at wentong\_lin@yahoo.com or 614 288 0479. More information at www.chinesedocumentary.org.*

**You had some pretty interesting adventures when you first moved to the US.**

I came to the US because I wanted to see the world, to see the people. I came as a graduate student because it was the only opportunity for me to come to the US. After I graduated, I took 8 months to drive around the country.

I drove as far as I could until I ran out of money, then I would get odd jobs – washing dishes, working in mechanics’ shops, anything I could find. Working for mechanics was great because at every stop before I left, they checked my van to make sure I could make it to the next stop.

**You returned to China after being in the States for a few years. Why?**

I grew up in China but didn’t see much of the country or know much about the people. When I graduated, I didn’t know what to do so I thought it would be a great time for me to learn about China and its people. I worked in Tennessee for a year, and saved up enough to fly back. When I left I wasn’t sure if I was coming back.

I spent a year in China and traveled around the country by trains, buses, and hitchhiking. I ended up in Tibet living with a family and helping out around the house in exchange for being fed. It was a very hard life – they lived in a very rural area – but it was a great education for me.

After a while, I started to miss civilization, so I came back to the US and moved to Columbus. I was broke and I needed a job and so I stayed. It somehow fits my definition of “home.”

**When did you start photography?**

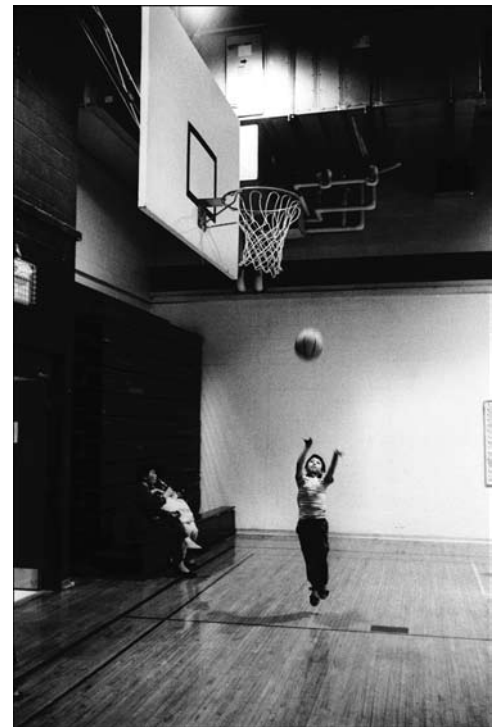
I was educated as an engineer, but early on, I realized I didn’t have a great passion for engineering. I always had interest in social issues. At the time, the Chinese education system didn’t allow students to change their studies so I finished my degree and went on to work in the shipyards as an engineer. That’s probably the first time I encountered so many working-class people so directly. It made me wake up and think that I want to spend my life doing something more meaningful. Five years in the shipyards made me a different person, more socially conscious.

I started photography because I was dying for something to express myself with. I was never really good with words, but the first time a friend of mine handed me a camera, and the first roll of film came out, there was something that caught on right away.

**What inspired you to begin the Project?**

I was looking through books but could find little information about Chinese immigrants. I couldn’t find a comprehensive record of how this community works and lives as a whole. I felt angry and insulted and adding to the fire, there seem to be plenty information about other groups but not much about Chinese Americans.

When I started, I didn’t know the magnitude of what I was getting into. It’s still got a long way to go. I’m starting to actively pursue and talk to community leaders. The more I work with different groups including OCA and local Asian communities, the more I realize there’s so much out there. At the beginning I was worried about find-



ing subjects, but now I’m worried about how to finance and move this project forward because of the great interest.

A lot of people are very supportive and understanding; I think a lot of people feel the same way about not being as included in US history as we deserve.

**What will the Chinese Documentary Project look like?**

I envision a series of books, but along the way it will be a series of exhibits and presentations in museums, galleries, and classrooms. It will be a series of black and white images with accompanying words. I don’t see the words being major components because I strive to make the images speak for themselves. It’s a two way street; I hope that as more people see the images, they will get involved in the conversation.

This is just the beginning. There has to be more than one person to document all of the stories and take all of the pictures, but there has to be a beginning so future generations can use this as a basis of knowledge of who we are, where we came from, and what we do. It will also document our lives as a part of this country’s foundation.

**How did your experience as an immigrant influence your work?**

I think that with many new immigrants, there’s a period of time when you sort of, sub-consciously,



photos by Wen-Tong Lin

want to become part of the mainstream. You've witnessed enough discrimination against minorities, and somehow you want to stay away from your own communities. You feel like you're a new generation, you can adapt a new life. For years I was running away from my own community. When you run away for long enough you miss being home. The Project is helping me reconnect.

#### **How are you financing the project?**

This is one of the biggest problems. The project is self-funded right now; everything is out of my own pocket. Last year, solely for materials, I spent about \$3000. That doesn't even count the printing process. Doing a show would cost about \$4000, but I could use this money for another year of materials. I realize the importance of a show because it energizes people and will gain publicity, but since the project is so new, I'm going to use the resources to gather more images and materials.

Because it's such a new project, it's hard to get funding. Most of the organizations that have heard about it are excited and are willing to help out where they can. OCA Columbus has been very responsive, and I want to thank them for a grant recognizing and supporting the project. The city of Columbus is very excited and wants to have exhibits in their galleries.

Currently, I'm putting out grants to arts

organizations and other foundations. The response has been positive, but I don't want funding to dictate the direction of this project. I want to keep this project independent and flexible to collaborate with different partners.

#### **Why are you shooting with film? And why black and white?**

I decided this would be black and white because I didn't want color to take away attention from the subjects. I find there's a certain quality in film that digital can't capture. Digital is a great medium for something that needs to be quick, but it still lacks something that I find in film.

#### **How do you approach your subjects?**

I think the most important thing is you really have to turn off your clock. You have to have the mentality that you have all the time under the sky. You have to realize the subject is the most important thing. You have to have time to talk to them, and observe them, and hopefully have a friendship with them. The first time, second time, even the third time I meet the subject, I don't even take my camera. I sit down and talk to them.

Even with very open people, you really have to know that person. I try to get into their personal life as much as I can, as much as they can share with me. In the final product, I am only going to have one or two pictures of each subject, so I

have to listen very hard to what they tell me. This is a great process for me to get to know other people, to know that people you run into on the corner, each holds a whole set of stories in their heart.

#### **How do you find time since you are working a full time job?**

I basically sacrifice everything else. I sense that a year or two down the road, this project will take off and I hope that by that time, the project will be funded by outside sources. That's a big goal. In the meantime, I sacrifice my vacation, my sleep, but it has been great fun.

#### **How can readers get involved?**

I think the best hope I have with all the readers is to support the project and to understand the greater scope of the project. I would like for all Chinese Americans to be a part of this project, because the project is about the community and how we struggle as people.

I don't want anyone to look at the project and say, what are the personal motivations behind this. It's been a bit of a struggle to make this understood that this is needed not for me or any individual, but for the community.

It would also help me a lot to know people across the country to connect with different communities, and, of course, to have a couch to stay on when I travel. ■

# growing up yellow

Stephanie Kao | Program Manager

**American Born Chinese**  
by Gene Luen Yang

240 pages

First Second Books

**2006 National Book Award Finalist**

After flying home for Christmas with my family, I snuck the Christmas presents I had brought for my parents and brother into my room. There was one in particular that I had been waiting for with bated breath—one of those gifts that you really bought for yourself. With only the slightest sense of guilt, I opened up the packaging of the present intended for my brother, slid the bright yellow volume out of its wrapper, breathed in the new book smell and cracked it open.

**For everyone who grew up** wanting books that described their adolescent APA experience in America, this is the one. *American Born Chinese* by Gene Yang describes not only experiences common to APAs growing up in America but mixes in the most classic of classic tales of East Asian cultures: the epic story of the Monkey King. The book explores the classic themes of coming of age; social isolation, self-discovery, and falling in love, all with an APA point of view. It does all of this through the engaging comic book format, making it appealing to all age groups, from elementary school students to young adults to all adults.

I grew up with children's literary heroes like Madeline, a little white girl who gets in trouble, and Angelina, an ethnically ambiguous ballerina mouse, neither of whom had the same problems that I had growing up as a Chinese American in the US. I didn't even know something was missing from my childhood until I read Yang's book. I really appreciate the space that *American Born Chinese* fills in my heart. As I flipped through the pages, I found myself nodding empathically, laughing out loud, and having my jaw drop in amazement.

**Many will be startled** by the fact that the story is told in a comic form but the pictures do not detract from the storyline or its unexpectedly cohesive message, it actually enhances it. Don't be detracted by the idea that comics are for children, this book is really meant for anyone with a love for a good and interesting story. It is for my grandparents, my uncles and aunties, my cousins, and maybe even for you.



images by Gene Yang, courtesy of First Second Books

The book has three wonderful story arcs; the first is the tale of the Monkey King, the fable of the monkey god and his aspirations to be recognized. It brings back wonderful childhood memories of my mother's stories. The second story follows the book's hero, Jin Wang, as he moves from San Francisco's Chinatown to a new town where he's the only Asian American student in his school. It's the APA story that is so often missing from the usual pantheon of coming of age stories. I related to this story the most; the disdained lunch food and the struggle to find your place in a world that doesn't seem to include you. The final story follows a white boy named Danny, whose high school life is told as if it's a television sit-com. Danny, blond, blue-eyed, athletic, faces his own personal demons when his cousin Chin-Kee, the ultimate negative Asian stereotype personified, pays Danny a visit.

**It's amazing** how many topics this comic book covers, making an inspiring fable applicable to a new generation and highlighting the APA coming of age experience. The three stories run throughout the book and come to a surprising ending. I'll leave the rest to you to find out. ■

# attend the 2007 oca national convention!

Join fellow OCA members in Sacramento, CA for a weekend of education, entertainment, and community!

Please fill out and sign the registration form below and return to the OCA National Office. Please use one form per participant. Full payment is due and must accompany the form. Fees can be paid by credit card, check, money order, or government purchase order. Please make your check payable to: OCA National Convention. Cancellations and requests for refunds of transfers of registrations will be accepted in writing until June 15, 2007.

After June 15, 2007, all registrations are non-refundable. There is a \$25 handling fee for all returned checks.

Further information on refunds and liability at: [www.ocanational.org](http://www.ocanational.org) or call 202 223 5500.

**Badge information:** This is how your badge will read. Please print clearly. Please use one form per participant

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Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Dr.

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

Chapter affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt/Suite: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate/Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Registration fees:** The convention workshops and exhibit/career fairs are free and open to the public. A full registration packet includes access to all workshops, Thursday through Sunday meal events, receptions, and OCA Convention program book, bag, and other souvenirs.

**Please check one:**                      **Pre-registration**      **After May 12, 2007/On-site**

(postmarked by May 12, 2007)

<input type="checkbox"/> OCA/BAC Full registration	\$275	\$300
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-OCA/BAC Full registration	\$350	\$400
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Full registration	\$100	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> College affiliate/Young OCA	\$75	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Group (10 or more)	\$75/each	\$75/each

**Individual Meal/Event Tickets:** You may also purchase individual meal tickets in lieu of, or in addition to, the full registration packet.

<b>Please check choices:</b>	<b>Before May 12</b>	<b>After May 12 or On-site</b>	<b># of Tickets</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome reception, June 28	\$30	\$40	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Allstate Chapter Awards luncheon, June 29	\$45	\$55	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Railroad Museum tour and reception, June 29	\$60	\$70	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast session, June 30	\$35	\$45	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Recognition luncheon, June 30	\$45	\$55	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gala reception and banquet, June 30	\$75	\$100	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Locke tour, July 1	\$25	\$25	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> "Homeland" musical performance, June 29	\$25	\$25	_____	_____
			<b>TOTAL:</b>	_____

**Method of Payment:** Please print legibly. If paying by check, money order, or purchase order, please enclose payment. If paying by credit card, please fill out the information below.

Check     Money order     Purchase order                       Visa     Mastercard     American Express

Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name exactly as it is on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**For more information, contact:**

OCA National Center  
1322 18th St NW  
Washington DC 20036

telephone 202 223 5500 | fax 202 296 0540  
[oca@ocanational.org](mailto:oca@ocanational.org) | [www.ocanational.org](http://www.ocanational.org)

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Date rcvd: \_\_\_\_\_  Form only     Form and payment    Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Amt rcvd: \_\_\_\_\_ Balance due: \_\_\_\_\_ Card receipt provided? \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Rcvd by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Updated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# become an oca member today!

We encourage you to join the OCA chapter nearest you (chapter map on back cover)!  
If there are no chapters in your area, you are welcome to join as an OCA Member-at-Large.

*If you would like to join as a Member-at-Large, please complete the membership application form below and submit along with your dues payment. If you would like more information on joining a local chapter or starting your own chapter, please send us your information and check the appropriate selection on the form.*

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

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## OCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\$10 Student                       \$25 Single                       \$40 Family

\$100 Century Club                       \$250 American Club

\$1,000 Lifetime Single                       \$1,500 Lifetime Family

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

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

**Please send me information regarding:** \_\_\_\_\_

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### For more information, contact:

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