

IMAGE

SPRING/SUMMER 2008



OCA | EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS



celebrating
oca's
35th
anniversary

hot issues
photo
identification
and
discrimination
at the polls

also
the amazing
race's
christina hsu
the vietnamese
community in
new orleans

Our Diversity Starts With Our Products...



**and Builds With Our
Franchising, Careers,
Community Support
and Supplier Partnerships**

For more information visit www.yum.com



Yum!

oca lifetime members

OCA would like to take this opportunity to highlight our Lifetime Members and salute them for their lifetime commitment and dedication to the organization. We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted anyone from this list. Please contact the OCA National Office at 202 223 5500 or oca@ocanational.org to provide any updates you may have.

Mary Au Greater Washington DC
Linda and Alan Bien San Mateo
Jason Bobadilla Westchester/Hudson Valley
Janet Lew Carr Wisconsin
Charles W. and Alice Cha Greater Chicago
Flora and Shu-Wing Chan San Mateo
Alice Chang Northern Virginia
Colin Chang Dallas/Fort Worth
Stanley and Jean Chang
Westchester/Hudson Valley
Theresa Chang Greater Houston
Felix Chao Dallas/Fort Worth
Andrew Chen Pittsburgh
Grace Chen Columbus
Jane Chen New Jersey
Claudine Cheng San Francisco Bay
Jessie Cheng Hawaii
Deborah F. Ching and Mark M. Mayeda
Greater Los Angeles
Joe N. Chiu Dallas/Fort Worth
Michelle Chiu Greater Los Angeles
Chi-Ming Chow Detroit
Gregory Christopher Detroit
Jaclyn Allison Chu Westchester/Hudson Valley
Thomas Eng Long Island
Frank C.S. Fang Eastern Virginia
Celine Fong Westchester/Hudson Valley
George Gee Greater Houston
Herbert H. and Virginia C. Gee
San Francisco Bay
Ginny Gong Greater Washington DC
Hwa-Shan Ho Greater Houston
Johnny C. Hsu Denver
Helen Y.H. Hui San Francisco Bay
Kenneth Hum Greater Washington DC
Jeanne Lee Jackson New York
Stanley Jsa Kentuckiana
Edward and Nancy Kang Long Island
William and Rose Tan Kaung
Westchester/Hudson Valley
William Kwan Dallas/Fort Worth
Cassandra Kwoh Greater Los Angeles
Elaine Lai Westchester/Hudson Valley
Wai Ching Lam At Large
Albert Lau Long Island
Amy Ai Yu-Mei Lee San Francisco Bay
David S. Lee At Large
Geoffrey Lee Lehigh Valley
Marjorie Lee At Large
Robert E. Lee San Francisco Bay
Songbae Lee Northern Virginia
Wen Ching Lee Greater Houston
David F. Lee III San Francisco Bay
C. Joanna Lei Westchester/Hudson Valley
Frances Leung Dallas/Fort Worth
Patrick Leung Minnesota
Kai Tung Li Dallas/Fort Worth
David T. Lin New Jersey
Michael C. Lin Greater Washington DC
Pearl Lin Fairfield County
Dominic Ling Greater Sacramento
Frank Liu Pittsburgh
Alex Mark At Large
George M. Ong San Francisco Bay
Sam Ong Greater Sacramento
Karl Frank Rosenberger Detroit
Paul Y. Sha Greater Houston
Chung Shu and Sue Pai Yang New Jersey
Rene Snuggs and Dean Francis Long Island
Betty Lee Sung New York
Alfonso and Lana Tan Long Island
Austin Tao St Louis
Peter To Westchester/Hudson Valley
Stanley F. Tseng Eastern Virginia
James Tso Northern Virginia
William C. Uy East Bay
K. L. Wang Greater Washington DC
Keith Wang New Jersey
Philip Wang San Mateo
Stanley Wang San Mateo
Claire Faith Weinan Detroit
Andrew K.C. Wong Long Island
Dai-Shan Wong Greater Houston
David Wong Long Island
Martha Wong Greater Houston
Raymond Wong Greater Houston
S.B. Woo Delaware
Clyde Wu Detroit
Moses and Marie Wu Detroit
Raymond Wu Columbus
Robert Wu Hong Kong
Victor Yau Westchester/Hudson Valley
Aiden Yee Detroit
Aiden Christopher Yee At Large
Jessie Lee Yip San Francisco Bay
Mary Ann Yu Westchester/Hudson Valley
Ai Zheu Xu and Qu Zhou Detroit



2008 OCA CHAPTERS



OCA National Center
 1322 18th St NW
 Washington DC 20036

PRE-SORT STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 TC MAILING

IMAGE

in this issue

spring/summer 2008

- 3 from the board**
- 6 national office updates**
Introducing our newest staff members and interns, updates on OCA's programs, reports from OCA-Allstate Hate Crimes Initiative grantees and the 2008 JAACL/OCA Leadership Conference.
- 14 partnerships**
Coverage of the 2007 National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards.
- 16 oca at 35**
A timeline of major events in OCA's 35-year history, OCA founding member KL Wang campaigns against racism, and former OCA interns reflect on their experience.
- 18 community focus**
What our chapters and community partners are doing: OCA-Georgia helps two educators facing discrimination at work; OCA-New Jersey and Families with Children from China monitor local airways.
- 22 honoring our veterans**
Over 60 years after World War II, Filipino veterans still await justice; and a national campaign to recognize Japanese American WWII veterans.

cover:
members of the OCA-New York chapter march in the New Year's celebration in New York City's Chinatown.

photo courtesy of OCA-New York

- 32 national issues update**
The state of the Vietnamese community in New Orleans, 3 years after Hurricane Katrina; the US/Vietnam repatriation agreement; the impact of welfare reform on APA communities; the REAL ID act; photo identification requirements at the polls and other barriers to voting; a national APA policy platform; and the Supreme Court considers a case of employer discrimination.
- 47 chapter highlights**
- 56 apa community spotlight**
We profile former OCA intern Mai Dang and partner organization South Asian Americans Leading Together.
- 58 arts + entertainment**
An interview with Kam Mak, the artist behind the new Lunar New Year postage stamp series, and a profile of former OCA intern and *Amazing Race* contender Christina Hsu.
- 60 thanking you**
Thank you to all who have contributed to keep OCA fighting for the rights of Asian Pacific Americans and all Americans for 35 years!



message from the president

Ginny Gong | OCA National President

Founded in 1973, OCA was the first Asian Pacific American advocacy organization to establish national headquarters in the nation's capitol. I joined the organization approximately ten years later and have found myself not only drawn to its mission but to the people who have committed their time and energies to its cause as well. Now, more than 25 years later, my commitment remains as passionate as ever as I consider OCA's accomplishments over the last 35 years.

Twenty five years of commitment to an organization is a long time—but the years seem to have come and gone quickly. I have transitioned from serving as the representative for the Long Island chapter at National Board meetings to chairing the National Board meetings as OCA's National President serving my 4th term. During this time, I've had the unique opportunity to witness OCA's emergence from a struggling organization of 3 chapters with very little budget and no full time paid staff to a fully functioning non-profit organization of 81 chapters and affiliates around the country. In 1994, I oversaw the move from our small office to a more spacious office on K Street and again, in 2007 to our current home at the OCA National Center in the heart of Washington DC's historic Dupont Circle.

We've transitioned from programming to meet the needs of a predominantly "mature" membership to one that is fully inclusive of the next generation. Internships, scholarships and leadership training opportunities have become OCA's signature programs. Our leadership on the National Board and the Executive Council is more representative of the community's diversity. The combination of newcomers and those who have been with OCA for years have been critical to the stability and growth of the organization. New blood combined with institutional knowledge continue to serve OCA well. We've transitioned from an organization founded by Chinese Americans for Chinese Americans to one that appreciates the diversity in the Asian Pacific American community. I am truly proud of OCA's commitment, made in 2005, to a marketing strategy that reflects the organization's dedication to inclusiveness.

OCA has played a significant role in the formation

of coalitions that represent the diversity of the Asian Pacific American community. Over the years, we've offered our experience and expertise in supporting the establishment of Asian Pacific American organizations in the Washington D.C. area. OCA has been credited with spearheading the effort that culminated in the issuance of the Lunar New Year stamps over the last 13 years.

This process of emerging has not been easy for an organization consisting primarily of volunteers. OCA has, at times, suffered setbacks in terms of chapter vitalization and internal management. But in the last few years, we have been on a roll. With focus and determination, we are able to point to significant milestones. They include the purchase of our new home at the OCA National Center, steady increases in funding, increases in national convention revenue, flourishing programs, and much, much more.

Through it all, OCA has demonstrated its ability to endure the challenges and point to many significant accomplishments. It has resisted offers that would have compromised its integrity as an organization and always taken the high road. In this short stroll down memory lane, it is obvious that OCA has grown... but as Robert Frost reminds us there are "many more miles to go before we sleep." Memories are wonderful in reminding us where we have been. Let us go from here and imagine where we can be 35 years from here.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to be a part of shaping OCA's future and leaving a legacy for generations to come. Our resources are limited, but with your support, there is no limit to the influence OCA can have on how this great nation moves forward. Please consider making a generous donation to the Legacy Fund to support the OCA National Center, to the Internship Fund to support our signature Internship Program, or to general operations, to support the many worthwhile programs and activities mentioned throughout this magazine. Thank you in advance for believing in OCA and in our efforts to advance the social, political and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans, and all Americans, in the United States. ■

our mission

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

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

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

Founded in 1973 as the Organization of Chinese Americans, OCA aims to embrace the hopes and aspirations of nearly 13 million Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.

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

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

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

oca executive council

National President Ginny Gong
Immediate Past National President Raymond Wong
Executive Vice President Ken Lee
Secretary Michael Kwan
Treasurer Bill Kaung

Vice Presidents

Chapter Development Duy Nguyen
Communication Mia Youhne
Economic Development Rogene Gee Calvert
Education and Culture Sharon Wong
Finance George Cha
Membership Services Debbie Y. Chen
Public Affairs Kathay Feng
General Counsel Woon-Wah Siu
Executive Director Michael C. Lin

IMAGE

publisher OCA

editor in chief Ginny Gong

executive editor Mia Youhne

managing editor Michael Lin

editor Hope Chu

art direction Hope Chu

contributors Douglas Lee, Mingchee Wen,

Kelly Xu, Pei-Un Yee

photo contributors Hope Chu

**contact IMAGE with comments
or sponsorship rate inquiries**

OCA

attn: IMAGE magazine

1322 18th St NW

Washington DC 20036

telephone 202 223 5500

fax 202 296 0540

email oca@ocanational.org

web www.ocanational.org

IMAGE is published nationally by OCA, Inc. Entire contents copyright 2008. Printed in the USA. All rights reserved. Submissions to IMAGE are welcome, including: feature stories, poetry, fiction, artwork, photos, editorials, and letters. All submissions become the property of the publication. No contents may be reproduced without the express permission from the Publisher. Every precaution has been taken to ensure the accuracy of information a press time; neither the Publisher nor the editors shall be liable for damages arising out of errors or omissions. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of IMAGE or the publisher. We reserve the right to refuse or edit all submissions.



message from the executive director

Michael C. Lin | OCA Executive Director

As the Executive Director of a national organization, it is critical that I take the time to think about the organization's vision which reflects our mission. The environment changes as the time progresses, as do our challenges and opportunities. How we strategize and formulate our goals and actions becomes an ongoing effort.

In order to understand the evolving dynamics, we need to be cognizant of the sentiment of our community in terms of its political, economical and societal needs. We need to continue to engage OCA's leadership at the levels of the National Board and the Executive Council, to involve the staff and to outreach to the general membership in this soul searching process. Equally important, we need continuous dialogue with our community and corporate partners. We need clarity for our short-term strategies and for our long-term vision.

OCA is dedicated to the social, political and economic well being of our community. We advocate for justice and opportunities, promote participation and leadership, advance coalition-building and cooperation, and foster cultural heritage. At times, our effort may appear to be lofty and intangible. Therefore, it is up to us to translate our action into something relevant and tangible to our membership and the community.

We are committed to championing our causes by visiting members of Congress and engaging public officials to address issues impacting on our community. We will continue to be

vigilant in challenging negative portrayals of Asian Pacific Americans by media or by public figures. At the same time, we are stepping up our effort to seek funding for programs which can benefit our membership in fulfilling their dreams and aspirations.

The most recent example is to provide training for aspiring entrepreneurs. In partnership with a national coalition of business development centers and with the support of a major funder, we have completed a three-month training program in the greater Washington, DC area. Now the partnership continues with programs in the Chicago and New York areas. Working with other chapters, we will bring this highly sought after program to other areas in the fall. This new initiative allows us to realize OCA's mission of advancing the economic well-being of our community.

In order to expand and capitalize OCA's highly successful Internship Program, we recently received a significant funding for a new Mentorship program. After our former interns go out to the workforce for a few years, they will begin to wonder about their next step in their chosen profession. We will unveil a program to match young and mid-career professionals who are ready for the next phase of their careers with mentors who are highly accomplished individuals and ready to give back to the community by training the next generation of leaders in business, public service and non-profit sectors.

We continue to take leadership trainings to college campuses around the country with our APIA-U student

leadership, make available our various scholarships to individual students and support student organizations with grants through our College Affiliate Program. With these programs and scholarships, we provide the next generation of leaders the tools to understand who they are and their responsibilities to the community.

We also help our chapters raise awareness of the effects of hate crimes in our community and how to respond and prevent such incidents. We recognize our members who diligently work behind the scenes to make things happen with annual Unsung Hero Award. Working with the corporate sector, we showcase the best and the brightest Asian Pacific Americans who not only excel in their chosen professions, but also unselfishly serve the community.

Nurturing leadership is one of the most important OCA's core missions and serves as the foundation for advancing the well-being of our community in every aspect. We will continue to expand the funding opportunities for nurturing our next generation through our internships, scholarships and the new mentorship initiative. We will also take the leadership development to our 51 chapters nation-wide at the grassroots level. When we reaffirm our commitment to leadership during the celebration of our 35th anniversary, there is no limit in what we can achieve together making an impact socially, politically and economically on the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans. ■



message from the editor

Mia Youhne | Vice President of Communications

Happy Lunar New Year and Greetings from Las Vegas!

As we enter 2008, I would like to wish all of you a Happy Lunar New Year! As we celebrate the coming of the year, I wish you and your family prosperity, happiness, wealth, and good health.

2008 is OCA's 35th Anniversary and in this issue of IMAGE we celebrate 35 years of the leadership and commitment of OCA's members and chapters. For this issue, we want to showcase our own Voices for Progress—our members—in celebration of this year's OCA National Convention theme Voices for Progress: 35 Years of Leadership and Commitment.

Throughout this issue we featured the photos from our OCA members across the nation. We asked our chapter members how they showed their leadership and commitment through action. Photos from chapter programs, community centers, rallies, voter registration drives, debates, service events, and/or cultural events were requested. We would like to thank all the OCA members and chapters who participated in our first photo contest.

In this issue, we feature the National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards Banquet, which was held in Las Vegas in October 2007 at the Treasure Island Hotel and Casino and sponsored by OCA's Business Advisory Council. I would sincerely like to thank the Las Vegas Chapter board, chapter members, and dedicated volunteers for their hard work in preparing for a successful event.

In addition to honoring those in the corporate sector, the local chapter honored Rozita Lee with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her dedication and commitment to the Asian Pacific Islander Community across the country. As an APA advocate, I find myself always looking up to "Auntie" Rozita as an influential role model. If there is an event that is important for APIAs to be involved, you know the first person to spread the word is Rozita. It is not only an honor to know Rozita Lee, but it is a true honor to work with her in truly making a difference to better our community and country.

APA advocates, leaders, and role models inspire the younger generation to grow, lead, and succeed. It is important to provide an avenue for APA leaders to inspire our young generation by meeting them and providing them guidance to become our future leaders. As a former OCA intern, I always thank my local chapter for providing me the opportunity to come to Washington DC.

During my internship, I was provided the opportunity to meet national APA leaders who inspired me as a young advocate and gave me the strength and the energy to be a leader myself. I find myself excited and looking forward to our upcoming convention, a time where I become rejuvenated, inspired, and ready to take on any task.

We are now gearing up for our 2008 National Convention on July 31st – August 3rd in Washington DC, home our OCA National Center. We hope that you will come help us celebrate 35 years of leadership and commitment and our voices for progress this summer!

Grow. Lead. Succeed. ■



new faces oca welcomes new assistant director

George C. Wu | OCA Assistant Director

Since starting as the Assistant Director here at OCA, I've been asked over and over why I decided to join the staff at the national office. While my list of reasons can take up half this edition of IMAGE, one factor really rises above the rest—the chance to join all of you in the 35-year community building endeavor first started by K.L. Wang and his cohorts.

I'm excited to join OCA at a time when we can renew our commitment to advancing the well being of our community for another 35 years and beyond. Each of us has not only a stake and voice in shaping the future of the Asian Pacific American community, but also a responsibility to honor our heritage.

Each of you represents the best of both OCA's history and future, and I can't wait to try to meet and speak with everyone. Already, I have been impressed by the passion and commitment of the individual OCA chapter members and the national leaders that I meet each and every day. I want to thank all of you who have so warmly welcomed me to OCA, especially the national staff who are another major reason I wanted to join OCA.

Many people have also asked me: "What exactly does the Assistant Director do?" After a few weeks on the job, I'm beginning to think that the answer is a little bit of everything! And I wouldn't have it any other way. From implementing our new mentorship program to representing OCA in the Halls of Congress, and from contributing to our upcoming 35th Anniversary Convention to meeting with potential new funders, I'm glad to be in a position to look at how we can improve all aspects of this great organization and community.

One thing that I am very excited to work on at OCA, is enhancing our long history of policy advocacy on federal and local issues. The late civil rights leader Howard Thurman once wrote: "Community cannot feed for long on itself, it can only flourish where always the boundaries are giving way to the coming of others from beyond them: unknown and undiscovered brothers [and sisters]."

As America searches for new leadership and sound policies to help it flourish once again, OCA must continue to reach beyond ourselves to include the voices of our yet undiscovered community members. Our nation of immigrants is being challenged on a daily basis and OCA can help craft policies that honor the historic and future contributions of the Asian Pacific American and other minority communities.

The choice to join OCA was an easy one. Now I look forward to getting to know all of you and welcoming our yet unknown and undiscovered brothers and sisters. ■

GEORGE C WU joined OCA as the **Assistant Director** in March 2008. Prior to coming to OCA, George was a staff attorney in the Immigration & Immigrant Rights Program of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC). While at AAJC, George worked on projects increasing the civic participation of APAs, advocating for comprehensive immigration reform, defending against anti-immigrant legislation, and educating and mobilizing APAs on key immigration issues.

George was also the recipient of the 2006 National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) Partners Community Law Fellowship, an initiative designed to address the shortage of attorneys working on behalf of the APA community.

George is a graduate of the George Washington University Law School, where he received the Justice Thurgood Marshall Civil Liberties Award for outstanding performance in the field of civil rights and civil liberties. In 2004, he was recognized as an Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund Fellow (AEF) for his work with AAJC's Affirmative Action Program and received the NAPABA Law Foundation Anheuser-Busch Presidential Scholarship.

A graduate of Johns Hopkins University, George currently serves on the Board of Directors of AEF and has served on the Board of the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) in Washington, D.C. and Equal Justice Works (EJW), which funds more than 100 legal fellowships each year.



JAIME CHAO was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, in a large and happy interracial family. Jaime interned with OCA in the summer of 2004 and worked at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In her capacity as **Program Assistant**, she is leveraging her experience as a former OCA intern working with programs that connected OCA with college students across the country.

Jaime moved to Washington DC in 2007. She is pleased to bring her experience with Asian Pacific American community organizing at Michigan State University to OCA. In addition to her OCA internship, Jaime has worked with Asian American women's groups, and has experience with conference management and organizing strategy.

Jaime holds a BA in International Relations from Michigan State University, and is currently working towards her Master's in Technology in Education at University of Michigan. The pilot online educational program she designed for her degree is currently being run, in partnership with the Fair Labor Association, as a program for high school students in DC by Asian American LEAD. Through her work with this and other programs, Jaime is interested in linking students around the globe in online dialogue around globalization.

Throughout her studies, Jaime has considered service to her community crucial, and she is proud to contribute through her work at OCA. Having completed a multi-media project that helps deepen discussion in the APIA-U program, she is now working with OCA's internship and scholarship programs.



OLIVER RODRIGUEZ was born in Mexico and raised in sunny San Diego, California. He is a senior at the University of California at Riverside, where he is working towards a BA in English Literature, a BA in Race Relations and a minor in Spanish Language. A child of immigrants, Oliver is immersed in traditional Mexican values and has always kept close to home. Never having traveled his entire life, Oliver jumped at the opportunity to spend a semester in Washington, DC, through the University of California's UC in DC program.

From 2001 to 2007, Oliver worked with the Neighborhood House Association coordinating the children/teen adult literacy program. He learned more about not only his culture, but others as well as such as the Asian and African American populations with which he worked closely.

In the summer of 2007, Oliver participated in the Introduction to University Life teaching program, where he taught classes at the University of California, Riverside for incoming freshmen. The hands-on experience of creating a curriculum, hosting workshops and counseling students, inspired him to become involved in education and public policy.

The internship at OCA is his first in-depth exposure to the APIA community. During his internship, Oliver was involved with the logistics and the preparation for the APIA U Trainings, National Board meetings, the National Conference and the JACL/OCA Conference. Interning at OCA has encouraged him to continue his advocacy for the APIA, Hispanic and African American communities specifically involving education.



NATASHA WU was born and raised in Orange County, California. She recently graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a BA in International Studies/Political Science. A second generation Taiwanese American, Natasha remains close to her cultural heritage through her university studies and frequent visits to her second home in Taipei, Taiwan.

As a young teenager, Natasha was a participant in the biannual Taiwanese American Citizens League Leadership in Development camps. There she learned more about her culture and traditions and about what it meant to be identified as an Asian Pacific American. She later served as a camp counselor, hoping to instill upon a younger generation what she gained.

During her second year of college, Natasha became part of the first executive cabinet of TASA, the Taiwanese American Students Association. In the years since its inception, TASA has expanded greatly in membership and is now a well-known and respected cultural organization on campus.

In the summer of 2006, Natasha studied abroad in Shanghai, which opened her eyes to the cultural richness of a country with such history and depth. For her last quarter at UCSD, Natasha applied for an internship at OCA through the UC in DC program to further her experience as an advocate for the APA community, and to explore and research avenues available to the APA community to increase equal opportunity in education, politics, and employment.

Following her internship, Natasha plans to travel to various parts of East Asia and aims to attend law school in her near future.

oca national office updates

Douglas Lee | Senior Program Manager
 Pei-Un Yee | Program Manager

OCA MENTORSHIPS

We are currently working with The UPS Foundation to create a mentorship program to support former OCA interns, APA young professionals and professionals, and recent college and university graduates. The mentorship program will match participants with established APA leaders in business, government, and non-profit organizations to help develop professional leadership skills. We are excited to begin to offer this program to the APA and OCA communities!

OCA VOTE '08

Our chapters have been involved in promoting civic participation for years. This year, we are documenting their efforts online. *Read more about selected chapter activities on page 47.*

APIA U: LEADERSHIP 101

We're proud to announce that one of our most popular programs, APIA U, just completed its ninth year. Over 500 college students from across the country participated in weekend trainings focusing on examining identity issues and cultivating leadership skills.

Trainings were held at the following colleges during the 2007-2008 academic year:

- Cornell University/Ithaca College
- Boston College
- University of Virginia
- University of Arizona
- Northern Illinois University
- California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- University of Florida
- Southern Methodist University
- University of Washington, Seattle
- University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
- San Francisco State University

If you know of college or university students who would be interested in

hosting this leadership training, an application can be filled out online. Applications are due August 2008.

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

OCA INTERNSHIPS

Since 1989, OCA's signature Internship program has been providing unique opportunities for college students to intern at OCA, Congressional offices, federal agencies, and prominent Washington DC nonprofit organizations.

This hands-on experience provides approximately 20-25 college students a clearer understanding of the political process, the APA community's role in this process and 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 experience and network with other interns. The interns will also work cooperatively on a toolkit project to combine their on-campus experience with various issues affecting APA college students. Interns will also develop fact sheets on various topics relevant to the APA community.

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

COLLEGE AFFILIATE PROGRAM

In its first year of the revamping of the College Affiliate Program, OCA was proud to award the following



schools with a grant to help extend their outreach and effectiveness of the programs.

- Filipino Intercollegiate Network Dialogue (FIND), Virginia Tech
- Southeast Regional Conference of Asian American Leadership (SERCAAL), University of Florida
- East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference, Cornell University
- Midwest Asian American Student Union Conference, Kansas University
- Rice University

OCA and Wal-Mart look forward to continuing this relationship and expanding the opportunities for APA college students across the nation.

OCA SCHOLARSHIPS

OCA will again be offering scholarships to entering freshman at a college or university for the 2008-2009 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 academ-

ic year will be made available starting in January 2008. Please check the OCA National website for more details.

ENTREPRENEUR EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Last fall, OCA partnered with State Farm® and the Association of Women's Business Centers to offer members of the OCA and APA communities scholarships to business development classes hosted by AWBC affiliates.

The program kicked off in the early fall of 2008 in the greater Washington DC area with 15 participants. Currently, programs in Chicago and New York City are helping over 20 APA entrepreneurs achieve their dreams.

OCA is planning another session for 2008, and has plans to roll the program out to new areas in 2009. We would like to thank State Farm®, AWBC and its partners, and OCA-Greater Washington DC, OCA-NOVA, OCA-Greater Chicago, OCA-New York, OCA-New Jersey, OCA-Long Island, and OCA-Westchester county for your help and participation.

JACL/OCA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

This annual four day conference is held in Washington, DC, and brings together over 30 leaders from OCA and JACL chapters to discuss issues that affect the APA community and local strategies to address those issues. This year, representatives from other APA organizations also took part in the program, expanding the dialogue further to throughout the APA community. See story on pages 12-13.

ALLSTATE HATE CRIMES INITIATIVE

OCA partners with The Allstate Foundation to support chapter efforts in educating their community leaders, elected officials, and law enforcement officials. *Read about three of these programs on pages 10-11.* ■

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 of its kind.

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

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

To continue this commitment into the future, we need your generous donation—your investment in the future of our next generation and our community. During the last three years, OCA has focused fundraising efforts on the building campaign. We need to replenish the Internship Fund quickly to meet the demand of this summer and continue its legacy.

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

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

- Arcata Associates
- Ford Motor Company
- General Motors Corporation
- K. Lee Foundation
- Marriott International
- Mary Anne and Paul Yu Internship Fund
- State Farm®
- Wei Tai Kwok
- OCA-Chicago Chapter
- OCA-Houston Chapter
- OCA-Georgia Chapter
- OCA-Greater Washington DC Chapter
- OCA-Las Vegas Chapter
- OCA-Sacramento Chapter
- OCA-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 ■ Cindy Cheung ■ Frances Lee Len
- Dorothy L Thong ■ Linda Tse ■ Helen H Wu
- OCA-Columbus Chapter ■ OCA-New Jersey Chapter
- OCA-Wisconsin

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 St, Washington DC, 20009. For more information call 202 223 5500.

2008 allstate hate crimes initiative events columbus, long island, and philadelphia



top to bottom: participants at Hate Crimes Initiative events hosted by OCA-Greater Philadelphia, OCA-Long Island, and OCA-Columbus

oca-columbus

Theresa W Lee | OCA-Columbus

Ignorance is the seed of hatred and education is the best way to reduce ignorance. As part of our ongoing efforts against ignorance and the hate incidents it can produce, we strive to educate and bring awareness to our youth, our future generations. That was the message of the Hate Crimes Prevention Conference organized by OCA-Columbus, cosponsored by The Ohio Civil Rights Commission, the City of Columbus Community Relations Commission, the Multicultural Center of the Ohio State University, and supported by a grant from the Allstate Foundation.

The centerpiece of the Hate Crimes Prevention Conference was a contest featuring participants from six youth programs in the area. Each youth group was challenged to present the issue of hate crime in a creative manner, and was given a budget of \$400 to develop their project.

The Columbus Youth Commission of the Mayor Coleman's Office of Education presented video interviews addressing hate crimes. The Ohio Chinese Contemporary School conducted a phone interview with a Muslim student who had been continuously discriminated against. A student from the Somali Women and Children Alliance read an inspiring poem. Columbus Chinese Christian Church made a video reflecting the general public's perception about hate crimes in the community. Ohio Hispanic Coalition performed an interpretive dance. And students from Asian American Community Services performed a skit based on an actual experience with racial profiling.

Marilyn Brown, Franklin County Commissioner and a member of the judging panel, quoted Anne Frank saying, "Nobody needs to wait

a single moment before starting to improve the world". She encouraged all participants to come together, improve understanding and reduce bigotry at all levels in our community.

The spirit of the conference was best captured by the conference logo of the Chinese word "Ren" in ancient seal script, meaning benevolence and kindness, and representing the way how people should treat each other.

oca-greater philadelphia

Anna Perng
OCA-Greater Philadelphia

When Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love, recently garnered national attention with the highest homicide rate in 2006 among the nation's ten largest cities, OCA-Greater Philadelphia joined local Chinese community leaders to pledge their commitment to work in coalition with diverse community groups, law enforcement, schools, parents and youth to make Philadelphia safer.

Following the coalition's successful "Bring Love Back to Philadelphia" rally in August, OCA-GP, a recipient of the 2007 OCA and Allstate Foundation Hate Crimes Conference Initiatives Series grant, hosted the "OCA-Allstate Anti-Hate Crimes Training" on October 13 at Philadelphia Loews Hotel. The goal was to provide the community with resources to effectively address crimes/hate crimes in the Greater Philadelphia area.

Approximately 70 community leaders, law enforcement personnel, and concerned members of the community attended the day-long training. Nearly two dozen expert panelists from federal, state, and local law enforcement and community agencies presented vital information and addressed audience concerns. Keynote speaker Tuyet Duong from the Asian American Justice Center briefed participants on recent federal hate crime legislation.

Tom Ho, a risk analyst for a Manhattan bank, spoke about his father, Kwok Wai-Ho, who died from injuries after being brutally attacked in a South Philadelphia neighborhood in July of 2007. To honor the memory of Kwok

Wai-Ho, the family established the Kwok Wai Ho Foundation, which raises reward money for Asian Americans and their families who are the victims of senseless, violent crimes.

Participants received OCA and Allstate's Responding to Hate Crime: A Community Action Guide and a directory of federal, state, and local resources. Following the training, OCA-GP was invited to join the PA Inter-Agency Task Force on Civil Tension, which works to both prevent and respond to bias-related incidents in Pennsylvania.

OCA-GP thanks OCA, the Allstate Foundation, co-chair Cliff Akiyama, and Advisory Panel members for making the event a success.

oca-long island

Janis Woo | OCA-Long Island

On October 22, 2007, the OCA-Long Island Chapter co-sponsored the 15th annual Conference for Prejudice Reduction (CPR) with generous funding from OCA National and the Allstate Foundation. Over 200 educators and social workers attended the event which was held at the Huntington Hilton in Melville, NY.

The event opened with a plenary session featuring three distinguished speakers who all shared personal stories regarding violations of human rights. The workshops that followed offered attendees an opportunity to address topics such as hate crimes, cultural understanding, institutional racism, civil rights, and the "N" word.

The conference came to a close with two inspirational performances. A young 13-year old student shared an interview and research he conducted on the life of Holocaust survivor Irving Roth to make sure Roth's powerful story will never be forgotten. We also heard from Chris "Kazi" Rolle, an artist who beat all odds to survive, and who demonstrated hip hop music as a tool which can be used to heal, teach, and inspire young people.

The evening program, held at the Charles B. Wang Center at Stony Brook University, featured an interview by journalist Bill Zimmerman with

Ruthanne McCunn discussing her new book, God of Luck. Dr. Gary Mar, Professor of Philosophy at Stony Brook University; Roberta Richin, Executive Director of CPR; and Karina Kim, a counselor at Stony Brook University Counseling Services shared information and reflections on hate crimes on Long Island to attendees. DVDs that include footage of Bill Zimmerman's interview with Emmy award winning film director Loni Ding and her daughter May Ying Welsh were distributed at each location.

The final event of the Hate Crimes program will take place at the Charles B. Wang Center on May 1st. The OCA-Long Island Chapter is grateful to Dr. Mar, who coordinated the event on behalf of OCA-LI and the Allstate Foundation for their generous support of this project.

2008 hate crimes initiative grant awardees announced

Pei-Un Yee | Program Manager

OCA is happy to announce the 2008 OCA/Allstate Hate Crimes Initiative event grant awardees. This year, four chapters were chosen as host sites: OCA-Greater Los Angeles, OCA-Greater Seattle, OCA-Greater Houston, and OCA-New York. Each site will be presenting different aspects of hate crimes awareness.

OCA-Greater Los Angeles will host an event reaching out to the community by providing insight on the impact of hate crimes and education on how to identify and track hate crimes. In the same vein, OCA-Greater Seattle will hold a seminar bringing local communities, law enforcement, and schools together to cultivate a hate-crime-free community.

OCA-Greater Houston is hosting a series of workshops targeting both young adults and high school students. Their goal is to educate the youth to prevent hate crimes in the future. And, following on their successful program last year, OCA-New York will be focusing on youth education through an art competition. Their aim is to create a forum for youth of all ages and backgrounds to speak up and learn about hate crimes.

OCA is excited to see the innovative events that each of the chapters will be planning and thank the Allstate Foundation for their continued support.

from the chapter to the capital JACL/OCA's 2008 Leadership Conference

Every year, chapter leaders from OCA and JACL come to Washington, DC, for an intensive four-day session introducing the legislative process, policy issues affecting the Asian Pacific American community, and our partners in government and the non-profit world. The weekend is generously supported by State Farm®. Three of our participants reflect on the experience

building bridges in the apa community

Bill Chen | OCA-Fairfield County

This March, I attended the 2008 JACL/OCA Leadership Conference in Washington, DC which allowed thirty-three participants from around the country to renew the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)-OCA collaboration, to build skills for Asian Pacific American advocacy, and to network. Connecting our experiences across the Asian Pacific American spectrum and building a future for the next generation were underlying themes of the conference.

Founded in 1927, JACL's history in internment redress advocacy and focus on civic participation has served as a model for other civic organizations. The JACL participants were the third, fourth, and fifth generation Japanese Americans and it is powerful to see the Japanese American achievement in perspective. The Leadership Conference, to me, was an incredible resource for APAs who immigrated in the 60's, 70's or 80's to think about building for their third, fourth, and fifth generations—and to learn how to maintain cultural identity while being civically active.

Through three days of workshops on topics such as immigration, demographics, hate crimes, and voter registration, we strengthened our skills in policy analysis, advocacy, and community building. We were briefed by Michael Lin of OCA, Floyd Mori of JACL, Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA), Congressman Eni Faleomavaega



above: Leadership Conference participants with OCA and JACL staff, and members of OCA-Greater Washington DC.

(D-AS), General Antonio Taguba, as well as representatives from the White House, the Democratic National Committee (DNC), the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the American Jewish Committee (AJC), and NAACP to name a few. In addition, several policy experts also addressed the conference, including Larry Shinagawa, the director of the Asian American Studies Program at University of Maryland. These briefings and panels were helpful for understanding the legislative framework and building chapter advocacy.

The JACL/OCA Leadership Conference connects participants across the APA spectrum. One of the great challenges facing OCA and JACL is reaching out to other communities such as Korean Americans, Southeast Asians, and South Asians. This year, the Conference included participants from partner organizations National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC), Hmong National Development (HND), and South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT). OCA must continue to reach out to other ethnic communities in our advocacy work and educational mission.

Floyd Mori spoke about building political capital. Political capital,

like economic capital, is accumulated slowly, over generations. It took a full generation to win redress the internment experience and it was the work of subsequent generation to redress the wrong. OCA and JACL have a rich heritage of civic advocacy. Knowing our history inspires us to build a future for our successors. Our predecessors worked to bequeath us an organization, a heritage, and political capital. The great task for our generation is to transmit this great work to our successors and in the process, contribute our part to the American Dream.

learning from each other

Les Tung | OCA-Dallas/Fort Worth

For several years, I have been involved with OCA Dallas/Fort-Worth (DFW) chapter as a volunteer and board member. This year, I was honored to be selected to attend the Conference on behalf of the DFW Chapter.

I did not know what to expect, but I knew that having an open mind and a willingness to learn would guide me through the days I would spend in Washington, DC. I would not be disappointed.

Every conference speaker and guest opened my eyes to the amount of effort needed to shape our society's definition and views on what equality means in the United States. Each of the speakers displayed passion for their work, why they were in Washington, and the mission of their respective organizations.

I also learned more about my fellow attendees and the successes and challenges faced by other individuals and chapters across the country. I saw some similarities but also differences in how each chapter operated. But in the end, all of us attending the conference were passionate about learning about the political process as well as meeting our fellow chapter representatives.

I encourage those who have considered attending this conference to apply next year. I enjoyed my time

and appreciated the opportunity for personal growth, being educated on the ongoing national and grassroots efforts, and learning about what I can do for the betterment of my local chapter.

reflecting on the past and envisioning the future

Woon-Wah Siu | OCA-Greater Chicago

Like other OCA supporters, I am proud that our organization has a permanent home. Each time I've visited, the build-

ing has showed more improvement, and by the time the JACL/OCA Leadership Conference kicked off in late February, the front room on the ground floor was in great shape to host a reception for nearly 50 people!

The vision of the building as a home for the APA community was shared by this year's Leadership Conference—for the first time, representatives from other national Asian Pacific American organizations participated in the annual conference. We were a diverse group: we came from different parts of the country, from different age groups, and from different backgrounds, but we shared a common aspiration: to give back to our communities. The participation of other APA organizations brought new perspectives and added breadth to the conference, and I hope the conference will continue in the



accounts. These stories brought home the struggles faced by early immigrants and the battles they fought so that we have a better chance of having equal opportunity. The stories also illustrated the many contributions of immigrants to our nation and the folly of closing the door behind us.

The APIA Issues Roundtable was also informative. We were briefed on the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) Platform, which outlines the member organizations' collective position on a number of issues that impact APAs, including civil rights, economic justice, education, health, and immigration (See story on page 44). We also visited the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism and the National Portrait Gallery. The visit to the memorial was very moving and we learned about the heroism of the

Japanese Americans who served during World War II.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the conference was meeting my peers and learning what issues they faced and how they solved those issues. I welcomed the opportunity for the whole group

to talk about local projects and issues, and would encourage more time for this type of networking in future conferences.

The Leadership Conference was a rewarding experience. The work was intense, but there was time to play too. I was able to catch up with old friends and meet new ones, to go on post-dinner food expeditions with fellow foodies, and to take part in the "group therapy session" that lasted until the wee hours of the morning! ■

The three and half days that followed were action packed with meetings and panels, where we discussed APA history, civil rights, immigration and other current issues that impact APAs, and lobbying. We learned how to message, deal with the media, develop political capital, and build coalitions.

I found the session on APA history led by Phil Nash especially interesting. Professor Nash asked us to say something about what happened with our families at specific times in history, for instance, in 1849 when gold was discovered in California. Some of us could not reach back far in our family history, while others gave detailed

photo (this page): Leadership Conference participants at the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism with Warren Minami. photo courtesy of: Hiroshi Shimizu.

celebrating leadership and diversity in business

2007 National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards

Andy Luong | OCA-Las Vegas



In October, OCA-Las Vegas had the honor of being able to host this annual national OCA event in Las Vegas. The annual National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards are dedicated to celebrating and recognizing Asian Pacific Americans in the corporate sector who exemplify not only excellence in their profession, but also leadership and commitment in their respective communities.

Each year, companies have an opportunity to nominate one of their APA employees for their accomplishments and contributions. OCA's Corporate Achievement Awards is the only national program of its kind to recognize corporate achievement and service to the community among APA corporate employees.

The Awards also celebrate corporate diversity initiatives and their supporters. The Corporate Achievement Awards and Awards Banquet are sponsored by OCA's Business Advisory Council (BAC). The BAC provides financial, professional, and corporate guidance to OCA, and, in return, OCA helps BAC members promote awareness of APA culture and issues. OCA believes that it is essential to honor inspiring role models, and the Corporate Achievement Awards celebrates those dedicated individuals and companies in the private sector.

This year, 12 honorees have been chosen to receive the award and Verizon received the 2007 Outstanding Corporate Partner Award. OCA National, the BAC, and OCA-Las Vegas would like to congratulate the 12 honorees for their contributions:

In addition, OCA-Las Vegas honored Rozita Lee with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her dedication and commitment to the APA community. Rozita works with APIAVote and OCA-Las Vegas to educate high school students about the importance of civic engagement. A former special assistant to former Nevada Governor Bob Miller, and initiator of his APA Council, she is also the owner of the long running show "Drums of the Islands" at the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino. Rozita has achieved numerous awards such as Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Humanitarian Work from U.S. Senator Harry Reid; Commendation for Outstanding Contribution during APA Heritage Month from U.S. Congresswoman Shelley Berkley and Top 100 Most Influential Women in Las Vegas by Women of Diversity.

We would like to thank all the corporate sponsors and members for their continued support in making another memorable event! ■



oca's corporate partners meet in las vegas

Rogene Gee Calvert | BAC Liaison

OCA's Business Advisory Council (BAC) held its luncheon meeting in Las Vegas on Friday, October 29, sponsored by Vice Chair David Lin (AT&T). Bernie Collins (UPS), BAC chair, opened the meeting with greetings to over forty attendees. He welcomed new BAC members including Booz Allen Hamilton, Comcast, Sodexo USA, Wells Fargo and Southern California Edison, as well as two returning BAC members, Avon and Boeing. In addition, current BAC members in attendance were UPS, AT&T, McDonald's USA, Kraft, State Farm®, MGM MIRAGE, Brinker International (Chili's), General Motors and several Executive Council members and special guests.

BAC members shared their reasons for being involved with OCA and the BAC, stating that the partnership between OCA and companies on the BAC is unlike most other business councils. The BAC provides an ongoing relationship in which there is a genuine two-way return on investment: OCA benefits from having Fortune 500 companies advising the organization and supporting its agenda and programs, and BAC members have access to a national network of OCA chapters and a membership of diverse Asian Pacific American individuals and families across the country.

Local chapters also benefit from this relationship through the support and involvement of local offices or branches of BAC member corporations. A few chapters have plans to start local BACs, with the Sacramento Chapter making much progress since the first gathering of local corporations at the 2007 summer convention.

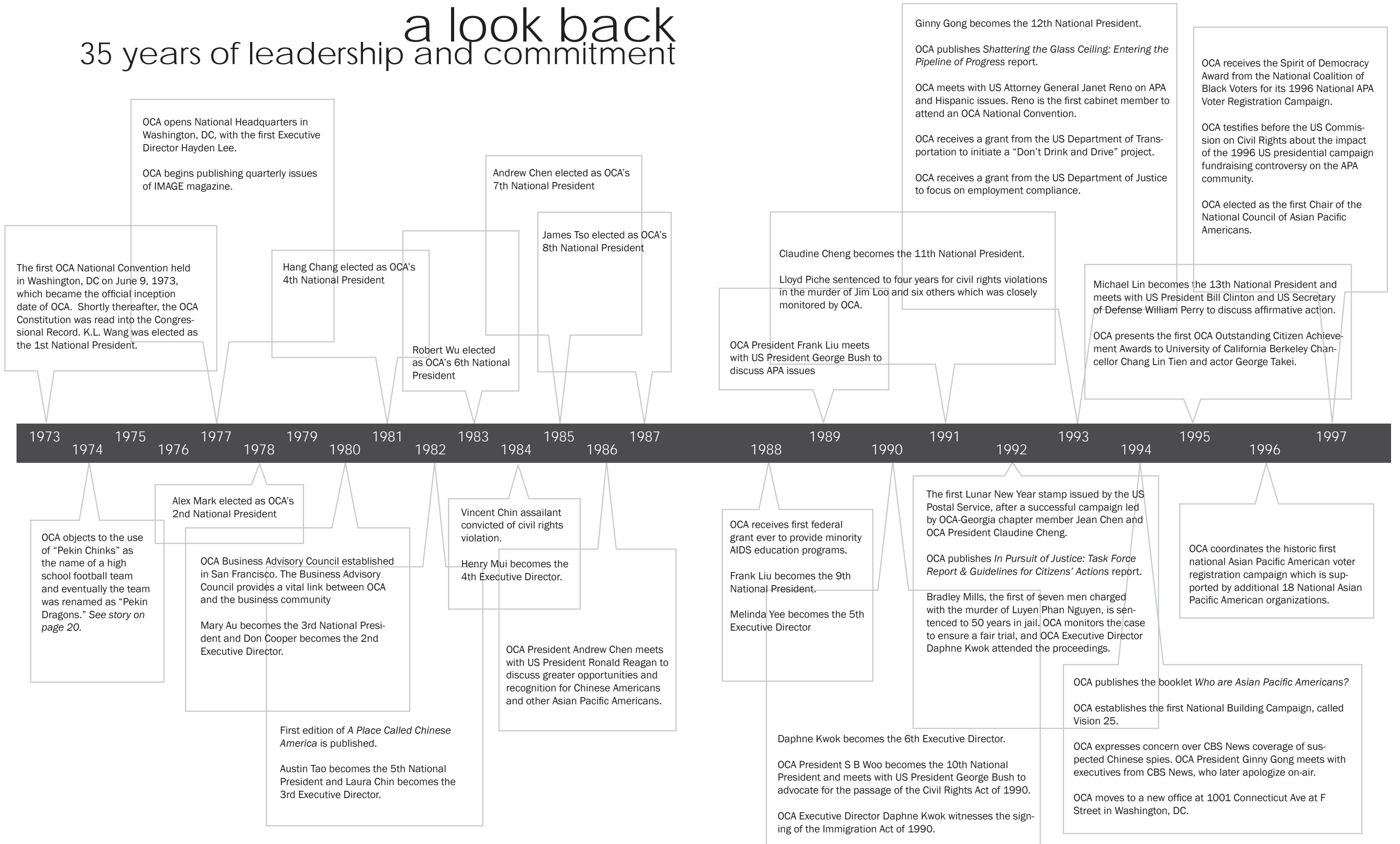
The BAC plans to meet again in the first quarter of next year to continue its progress in increasing BAC membership and further developing partnerships with BAC corporate members.

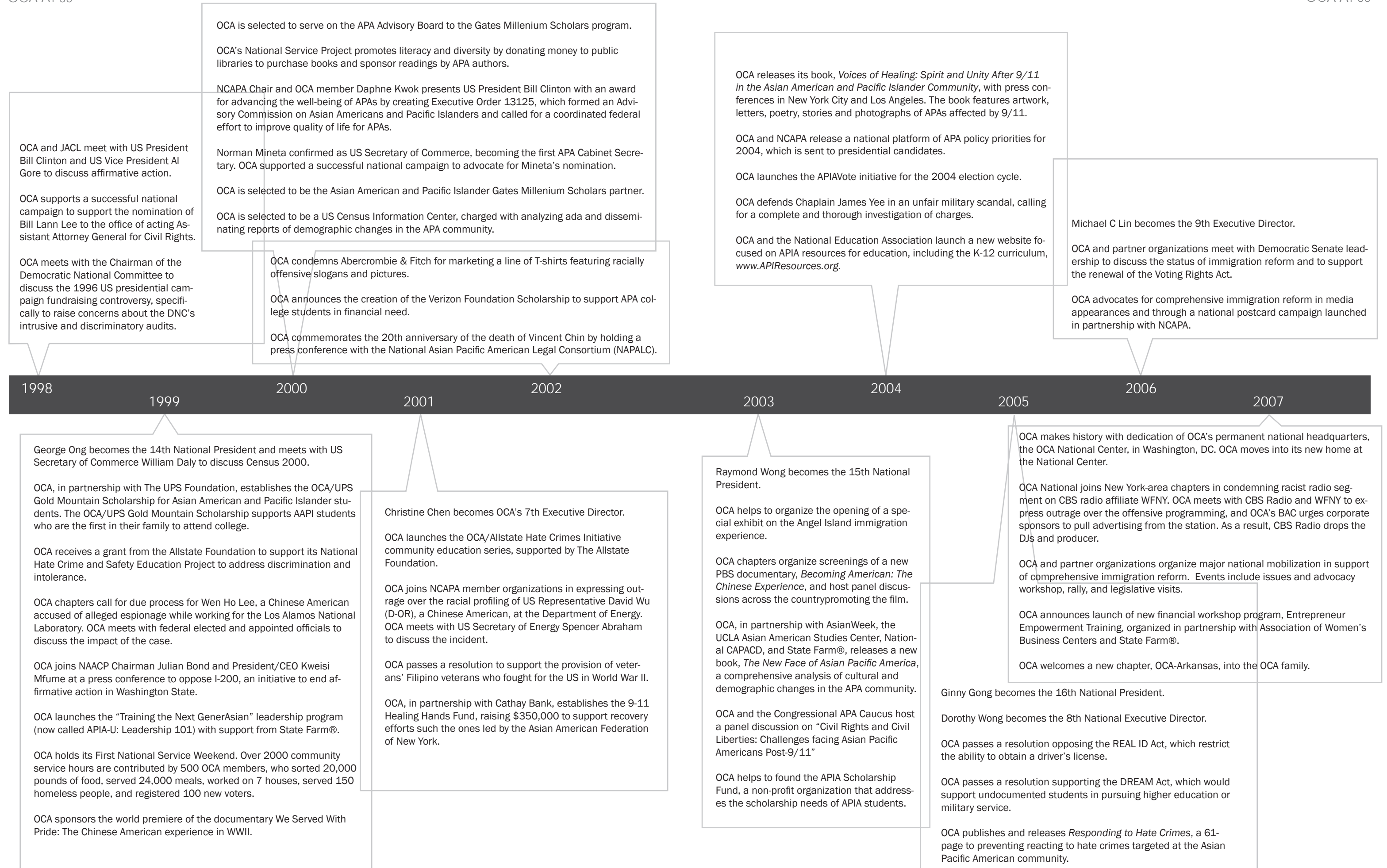


2007 NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN CORPORATE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDEES

DEV BANERJEE The Boeing Company
MOHAMOOD BHATIA Sodexo USA
RICHARD FU Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.
KAREN CHO GARCIA McDonald's USA
LORRAINE HANSEN Kraft Foods
CINTYA HATO Avon Products, Inc.
DOREEN WOO HO Wells Fargo & Company
JOE NGUYEN Chrysler, LLC
PUNAM MATHUR MGM MIRAGE
SANDRA SHERMAN State Farm
ED SHINODA UPS
DARWIN WANG General Motors Corporation

a look back 35 years of leadership and commitment







old mascots die hard oca founding member KL Wang takes on racist mascots in Illinois

Dan Mergens | Northern Illinois University

In August 1974, OCA founder K.L. Wang visited Pekin, Illinois, to protest the local high school's use of the term "Chinks" as its team name and its mascots "Chink and Chinklette." Wang's visit set in motion events that would eventually bring an end to the high school's use of an overtly racist term. Despite that victory over 30 years ago, the town of Pekin continues to cling to the former name, and the decision to change the team name set off years of debate and controversy in the town with effects that continue even today.

In a November 2007 interview, Wang told me he became aware of the high school's use of the name because the school's basketball team "often won or were competing for the state championship. This was called to our attention... And we wanted to do something about it, see how we could change it." When Wang visited the town—which lies about 170 miles southwest of Chicago—he was immediately met with strong resistance.

During his visit, Wang met with the town mayor and school admin-

istration. The mayor responded that he "had no power over the schools" and would not take a stand on the issue. He went on to offer other examples of racial nomenclature in the town, including an Italian group that called itself the Dago Club. The school administrators were equally unhelpful, leaving the decision up to the students who overwhelmingly voted to retain the name. After meeting with the administration, Wang returned to his car in the school parking lot where he found a large dent in his rear fender. He had planned to stay with some friends nearby, but they had "received so many threats that they thought it better I not stay there," said Wang.

Wang visited Pekin again in October of the same year but was met with resistance for a second time. During this visit he and other members of his delegation conducted a "teach-in" with members of the high school student council and high school administration. One council member defended the name, saying, "It's just our team name. We aren't calling you 'Chinks.'

We are calling our team 'Chinks.'" The mayor went on to tell Wang he thought the use of the word "Chinks" was a tribute to China. Wang informed the mayor that the name, far from being a tribute, was a strong ethnic slur.

Wang visited the town again in November 1974, one day after the student body voted to keep the team name in a landslide 1,034-182 vote. One faculty member commented on the results saying it "reflects the students' resentment over outsiders telling them what to do." Wang was not defeated, however.

It took another six years and immeasurable effort, but Wang's remonstrations paid off in 1980 when the school superintendent renamed the team "Dragons." The students and town were furious; students protested with signs and petitions while some demonstrated their disapproval by not attending classes. One townsman objected to the change saying, "Chinks is not no slur. To me all it means is a little spirit. The word 'chink' has a lot of meanings."

Despite the eventual success of Wang's visits, the town still held tight to the former name and continues to do so. For example, the high school class of 1971 maintains a website that still declares "Chinks Forever!" and the class of 1980 displays banners at its reunions that read "Class of 1980: The Last of the Chinks." Other Pekin alumni continue to protest the name change and proudly declare their allegiance to the former team name on various websites and blogs.

I first became aware that the bitterness from the 1980 decision still lingers in the town when I visited Pekin in November 2005. Despite being a lifelong Illinois resident, I had never heard of the town or the mascot controversy until I was enrolled in an Asian American History course at Northern Illinois where the professor had devoted a lesson to the "mascotting" of various minority groups. It was during this lesson that she brought up the incident in Pekin, and in doing some minor research, I found that very little had ever been written about the incident and virtually no one had even heard of it.

When I visited the town I encountered the enduring resentment and realized the town was intent on preserving the former team name. For



instance, the local public library keeps all materials pertaining to the incident in a locked section of the library with access available only upon request. After I was granted access to the room, I attempted to make copies of some of the materials only to be told they were not available for duplication despite being housed in a public library. In addition, a local t-shirt store maintains a room filled with various "Chinks" memorabilia including t-shirts, jackets, sweat-

shirts, pennants, and bumper stickers. This room, too, was kept locked with restricted access.

In two years of researching the incident and writing the thesis, I became aware that the effects of K.L. Wang's visit extend far beyond the 1980 decision to drop the offensive name. In interviews with various Pekin residents and alumni, they placed the blame for the name change on everyone from the media (whom they claim blew out of proportion the use of the name) to "outsiders" (including the OCA) to "liberals." Furthermore, a current member of the Pekin City Council responded to a November 2007 email I sent to all six members requesting comment on the incident, saying, "Hope you never return to Pekin. We do not need people



like you bringing up things from the past that we had no control over."

Pekin has a long history of racism. The Ku Klux Klan's presence in the town was so strong in the 1920s that they owned the local newspaper in which they ran sections of official Klan rhetoric as editorials. In 1970 the high school newspaper (six years before Wang's visit) ran an article which revealed the school administration had received multiple complaints regarding the team name in years prior. The article featured a letter from a man in Los Angeles protesting the use of the term. A writer for the newspaper then responded in an article beneath

the complaint asking the student body, "What should be done about this?" followed by the suggestion, "Ignore people (after all, they are a minority) who are insulted by the name?"

While Wang's efforts in Pekin were heroic in terms of achieving progress towards confronting blatant racism, institutional racism is still rampant in Pekin. The town continues to battle with bigotry. In 1999, a spectator shouted a racial slur at an African American high school cross country runner during a meet in Pekin. In November of that same year, the Ku Klux Klan conducted a recruitment meeting in Pekin, complete with their traditional cross burning ceremony. In July of 2007, two boys ages 10 and 11, were arrested after they circled an African American woman who was pushing her baby in a stroller and called her a racial slur. One of the boys threw an empty soda can that hit the woman's baby.

Regardless of the attitudes that remain in Pekin, they hardly diminish the impact and magnitude of Wang's actions. Only recently have protests against offensive

mascots been brought to the forefront; Wang's endeavors were roughly 15 years ahead of the curve. In a modern era where countless colleges, universities, and high schools spend years and years fighting to keep their Native American-themed mascots, there's no telling how much harder it would be to end Pekin High School's use of a blatantly racist team name were it not for K.L. Wang and OCA's trailblazing efforts. ■

Dan Mergens is a Senior History major at Northern Illinois University. He can be reached at dmergens19@hotmail.com to answer any questions or for a complete copy of his thesis on the Pekin Mascot Controversy.

from interns to leaders former oca interns reflect on oca's 35th anniversary



JULIE SU was an intern with OCA during the summer of 1989. Julie is now the Litigation Director at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in Los Angeles.

How did you first get involved with OCA? I was a sophomore at Stanford University, and I wanted to spend the summer in Wash-

ington, DC. I already had an internship with another organization, but I really wanted to focus on Asian Americans. I was intrigued by a national organization representing a progressive Chinese American voice.

What did you find to be the most rewarding part of your internship at OCA? I often tell the story about how that summer, there were three of us crammed into a tiny office with two desks. We had a copy machine that didn't do automatic feed, which was actually good because if you made more than a couple copies at a time, you used too much electricity for the building and the air conditioning would short circuit.

Despite the dearth of resources, I felt that just the fact that OCA existed in our nation's capital was significant for Chinese Americans and Asian Americans committed to civil rights and racial justice. It was inspiring to watch Asian American activists, particularly an Asian American woman—the Executive Director at the time was Melinda Yee—meet with and push elected officials to hear the voices of our communities.

That summer, among the issues we worked on were anti-Asian violence and language access, two issues that remain timely today. Much of the way anti-Asian incidents played out was about how “foreign” we seemed and how we were not “real Americans.” OCA was at the forefront of developing the vocabulary and strategy to address these issues. At the same time, questions about how we lead within the Chi-

nese American community, how much we represent existing views of the community, and what OCA should do when the two were in tension were always present, and I relished the opportunity to be part of these challenges.

What have you doing since interning with OCA? The summer after my internship with OCA, I did a Peace Corps summer internship in Belize, and upon graduation, I went to Harvard Law School. In 1994, I graduated and got my dream job at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) in Los Angeles through a Skadden Fellowship, which supports young attorneys to work on public interest projects.

My fellowship focused on low-wage workers, and I spent the next 10 years fighting alongside garment workers for corporate accountability and an end to sweatshops. The case of 72 Thai garment workers who'd been held against their will, forced to sew garments for the nation's top manufacturers and retailers, catapulted the issue to national and even international prominence. APALC represented those workers and a group of Latino workers against the corporations and won over \$4 million in settlements.

We continued to bring litigation against companies, including XOXO, BCBG, and Forever 21, with Asian and Latino garment workers, and played a critical role in the passage of legislation in California that made such companies responsible for wages to garment workers when contractors fail to pay. In 2002, I was honored when OCA—Greater Los Angeles recognized me and a group of Chinese garment workers who had sewn in an L.A. sweatshop for years, and then united to fight back against the exploitation.

In addition to workers' rights advocacy, I have worked alongside my amazing colleagues at APALC on equal educational access for African American, Latino and Asian kids from K-12 to college, employment discrimination, consumer fraud and immigrants' rights, and yes—on hate crimes and language access, issues to which I was exposed first-hand as a summer intern at OCA.

What motivated you to get involved in APA issues? I grew up in Cerritos, California. In 1987, the year I graduated from high school, a national study found it to be the most ethnically diverse community in the country. That diversity had a profound effect on me, and I valued it everywhere I went. When I got to Stanford, I could not believe that my Asian friends had grown up in all white neighborhoods. I

experienced a complete disconnect between the racism I saw, particularly that which was directed at African Americans, the exclusion that people accepted as natural, and my experience in the world.

At Stanford, I saw more than I ever had, not only how even the well-educated could hold views on race that were disturbing and wrong, but that there were many divides between those with privilege and those without. In addition to my activism on campus around issues of faculty and curricular diversity, I also volunteered off campus, including working with Chinatown youth. It was my work with those kids that brought me to workers' rights—I saw how the fight for a decent education and safe childhood was intimately tied to just wages and working conditions for their parents.

In law school, I continued to be very active on campus and I became increasingly aware of how much privilege I had as the daughter of Chinese immigrants, who now had this education. I felt that that privilege should be exercised in the service of something larger, and I felt that movements for racial justice, combined with the intersection of other struggles against oppression, were urgent and exciting. I saw how important it was for Asian Americans to take our place in such movements and I was hooked.

How are you currently engaged with the APA community? As Litigation Director at APALC, I get to work at what I believe to be one of the most dynamic places for thinking about, working for, and collaborating with others committed to Asian American civil rights. I talk to low-wage APA workers who have labored for years in exploitative conditions and I not only hear their stories, but I work with them to fight back. I work with APA young people who are just developing their own voices as advocates. I also work with elderly Asian immigrants, many of whom do not speak English and who never thought of using the legal system, empowered when they get the opportunity to stand up against fraud and abuse.

Do you have any thoughts on OCA's 35th anniversary? It is clear that, through years of hard work alongside OCA and others, our issues are no longer novel or foreign, they are part of the very fabric of what it means to talk about justice and equality in this country. Having been at OCA, albeit briefly, so many years ago, I can say I am genuinely moved at how much it has grown. The myriad issues on which OCA has expertise is stunning. I know there are countless other interns who were similarly inspired by an early experience with OCA to devote their lives to making the world a better place. I am proud that APALC has OCA as an ally in the ongoing struggle over the rights of all Americans, but how America will live up to its ideals.



VICKI SHU SMOLIN was an intern at OCA during the summer of 1990. Vicki now owns a special events and projects consultancy in New York City and is the OCA-New York chapter president.

How did you first get involved with OCA? In the spring of 1990, I was a political science

major at University of California in San Diego and decided to go to Washington DC for an internship. OCA caught my eye—especially since then Executive Director, Melinda Yee, also attended UCSD.

What did you find to be the most rewarding part of your internship at OCA? In school, you learn about some of the history of the issues affecting the Asian American community, but there was nothing at that time at UCSD that connected our history with current events. During my summer in DC, I really learned how immigration, welfare reform and language rights affected our community. In addition, I learned how the political system worked—to sit in on a Senate hearing on immigration reform was eye-opening and it was my first glimpse of having to compromise to get something done.

In addition, I volunteered with the District of Columbia to teach English as a Second Language in Chinatown. It was extremely humbling to be teaching my elders and really made me appreciate how hard immigrants work to succeed in this country. Most of my students worked in the restaurants and stores in Chinatown and lived over an hour away. Still, they would be there at 7am to learn English and go to work at 10am, go home to take care of their families, then do homework and be back the next morning at 7am.

What have you doing since interning with OCA? After graduating from UCSD, I returned to DC and, through a contact I made during the internship, got a job at California Senator Alan Cranston's office. I then moved on to Human Rights Watch before returning to OCA as its Special Projects and Legislative Manager. During my last year with OCA, I started cooking in a restaurant and decided to go to culinary school.

After 6 years away from the non-profit world, I returned, working as the Special Projects Manager for the Asian American Federation of New York, where my biggest project was to finish the production of its documentary, “Tribute and Remembrance: Asian Americans after 9/11.” I left the Federation to start my own special events and projects business, combining my years of experience working in non-profit and the hospitality industry. Most of my clients are Asian Pacific American non-profits.

Continued on page 24.

What motivated you to get involved in APA issues? My internship with OCA.

How are you currently engaged with the APA community? I am the President of OCA-New York and in my business, I work mainly with APA non-profits.

Why have you continued to work with OCA? My passion for what is right keeps me involved with OCA. In New York, OCA is the only volunteer organization that works on issues like immigration, language rights, voter rights, welfare reform.

What APA issues or projects would you encourage readers to get involved in? It really depends on the community. In New York, immigration is a huge issue, as well as voter registration and education access.

Do you have any thoughts on OCA's 35th anniversary? Over the years, OCA has established itself as a very well respected civil rights organization in Washington DC. It has been integral in the development of other Asian American civil rights organization in DC, and I hope OCA continues on this path.



KATHAY FENG was an intern with OCA in 1993. Kathay is now the Executive Director of California Common Cause.

How did you first get involved with OCA? I was really interested in working on Asian American and civil rights issues and wanted to find an internship in

Washington, DC, and OCA's internship really fit the bill.

What did you find to be the most rewarding part of your internship at OCA? I loved sitting in meetings with all of these incredibly smart, progressive, passionate Asian

Americans who were committed to changing the world. At the time, we were deeply involved in fighting for justice for workers in canneries in Ward Cove, Alaska, and passing a new Civil Rights Act that would reverse several negative Supreme Court decisions. I remember sitting in a meeting with then Attorney General Janet Reno and watching leaders like Daphne Kwok and Karen Narasaki hold their own on issues important to our community. It was incredibly inspiring.

What have you doing since interning with OCA? Despite all the warnings, I disappeared for 3 years to attend law school. Then, in my last year, Sam Luk found me and invited me to an OCA-Greater Los Angeles dinner, and I was hooked again. After graduating from law school, I joined the staff of Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) to work on hate crimes, voting rights, and employment discrimination. I am proud to have helped secure justice for Dr. Wen Ho Lee, create an Office of Independent Counsel to oversee the Sheriff's Department, pass consumer protection and hate crimes enhancement laws in California, and to have organized our community to participate in and monitor our major elections for 9 years.

In 2005, I took on a new job as the Executive Director of California Common Cause to fight for government accountability and voting rights. We are now in the middle of a campaign to try to reform our redistricting process to make it more fair and open to communities.

What motivated you to get involved in APA issues? There was a hate crime on my college campus and I found out that the University Codes did not have any language to address such attacks. I crusaded to change Cornell's University Code, and also helped to create our own Asian American Studies Program with Professor Lee C. Lee.

How are you currently engaged with the APA community? I serve on OCA National's Executive Council as the Vice President for Public Affairs and am involved in OCA-Greater Los Angeles. Also, at Common Cause, I am helping introduce a lot of the mainstream organizations we work with to our community leaders. I also serve on the LA County Human Relations Commission and on various committees with the Secretary of State and LA County Voter Registrar to ensure our community has a voice in these bodies.

Why have you continued to work with OCA? I think OCA is just as relevant today as ever. Often, OCA is the only group

that has the energy, creativity and goodwill to champion a cause, build support, and win. In addition, OCA's efforts to nurture the leadership in for the next generation are vital.

What APA issues or projects would you encourage readers to get involved in? Promote voter participation, build coalitions across issues, and build the foundation for a strong inter-generational organization. In this important election year, I saw for the first time, APA voter preferences reported repeatedly on CNN and other mainstream news channels. I watch Disney Channel (now that I have a baby girl) and MTV (that's my own addiction) and am heartened to see more inclusion of APA faces. But we can never take that for granted. OCA adds an important voice to ensuring American society is inclusive and truly democratic.

Do you have any thoughts on OCA's 35th anniversary? I am so proud of our accomplishments. We have moved into our own building and can now serve as an anchor for other APA organizations. We have a vibrant membership and a strong youth program. We have won major victories like the re-authorization of the Voting Rights Act and shutting down racist radio and TV programming and advertising. We have added to America's cultural life with the Lunar New Years stamp and all the activities that our chapters host throughout the year.



FRANKLIN M KANG was an intern with OCA in 1994. Franklin is now a judge in the San Francisco Bay Area and a member of the OCA-San Mateo chapter board.

How did you first get involved with OCA? In 1993, Bill Kaneko, now the President of Hawaii Institute for Public

Affairs, recommended interning at OCA's National Office in Washington, DC as a solid way for me to become involved in the civil rights community.

What did you find to be the most rewarding part of your internship at OCA? Watching former OCA Executive Director Daphne Kwok tirelessly work to promote and defend the APA community was and remains an inspiration to my personal commitment to public service.

What have you doing since interning with OCA? After serving with the U.S. Army where I was promoted to the rank of

Major, I moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where I now serve as an Administrative Judge for the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board adjudicating Federal sector employment matters. I have two sons and my spouse is an employee benefits litigation counsel in San Francisco.

What motivated you to get involved in APA issues? As the child of immigrant parents, I watched my parents endure discrimination, both subtle and overt, with the lesson that we must learn to defend one another. While attending Capitol Hill functions sponsored by the APA Bar Association and other APA groups, I experienced the power of inspiration, and realized that the doors are indeed unlocked for us, even if we need to give it an extra firm push compared to others.

How are you currently engaged with the APA community? After serving as a Chapter President, I rejoined the OCA San Mateo County Board of Directors where I continue my involvement.

Why have you continued to work with OCA? It's not possible to walk away from OCA knowing that former Executive Directors Daphne Kwok and Christine Chen; former National President and current Executive Director Michael Lin; and National President Ginny Gong, each of whom served OCA National while I was an intern more than a decade ago, continue to actively lead the APA community into the 21st century.

What APA issues or projects would you encourage readers to get involved in? I encourage all readers to become involved in the nearest APA organization such as an APA student association or local chapter a civil rights group such as OCA and/or JACL, so long as that particular chapter is able to function at a practical level. Watching the nuts and bolts of ordinary individuals achieving admirable goals will inspire you.

Do you have any thoughts on OCA's 35th anniversary? We must continue to stay together, stay involved, and groom our leaders year by year, to ensure an effectiveness that can only come from a sense of common mission. ■

THIS SUMMER CELEBRATE 35 YEARS OF COMMITMENT AND LEADERSHIP at the **2008 OCA National Convention**

JULY 31-AUGUST 3, 2008
WASHINGTON DC
HILTON WASHINGTON

The OCA National Convention is one of the preeminent annual events for the Asian Pacific American Community, drawing hundreds of people from around the country for educational, cultural and networking events. Over 1,000 people are expected to attend this year's convention in Washington, DC, to celebrate our 35th anniversary. It's the event of the year you won't want to miss!

Workshops and plenary sessions provide attendees with a wide range of thought-provoking, informative and balanced views of issues and concerns related to the APA community.

Special tracks for high school and college students, young professionals, and senior citizens.

Roundtables bring together groups and individuals from different communities to meet and strategize around critical issues facing the APA community.

A **Job Fair and Corporate Exhibit** for government agencies and companies to recruit qualified employees, for corporations to showcase products and services, and for community organizations to promote programs.

A **community health fair** with screenings and the latest healthcare information relevant to the APA population.

Meal events provide opportunities to hear inspirational and high profile speakers and give recognition to OCA chapters, OCA members, seniors and youth.

Special offsite events that capture the sights and sounds of the host city.

The **Gala Awards banquet** honors individuals for their accomplishments and contributions to the APA community.

TO REGISTER VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.OCANATIONAL.ORG

WELCOME RECEPTION THURSDAY

Join us when the OCA Annual National Convention kicks off our 35th anniversary in the nation's capital with the Welcome Reception. It's reunion time for OCA friends, members, families, sponsors, exhibitors and special guests from across the country.

OPENING PLENARY SESSION FRIDAY

The convention officially opens with this session and focuses on the convention theme *Voices for Progress*. What progress has OCA and the APA community made in the past 35 years? How can OCA continue to be a powerful voice for the community?

CHAPTER AWARDS LUNCHEON FRIDAY

Join OCA as we celebrate the core of OCA, its chapters and the members who work tirelessly at the grassroots level to advance OCA's mission and work on behalf of the APA community. This luncheon is an opportunity to recognize our chapters for their outstanding service and accomplishments in the community.

NIGHT OF RECOGNITION AT THE SMITHSONIAN AND NIGHTTIME TROLLEY TOUR FRIDAY

For over a decade the Smithsonian's APA Program has produced exhibitions and programs to increase and diffuse knowledge about the nation's richly diverse APA communities. Tonight we recognize the Smithsonian's APA Program and Program Director Dr. Franklin Odo. After the Reception, a guided tour will take attendees pass the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial, and more.

JOB FAIR AND EXHIBITION AREA FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Major corporations, government agencies, local businesses, and community organizations will be on hand to provide information. Many of our exhibitors are looking for qualified job applicants and will be accepting resumes and conducting on the spot interviews. This year we will also be continuing our popular Authors' Booth, featuring APA authors and books.

OCA CHAPTER ADVANCEMENT TRACK THURSDAY AND SATURDAY

After a successful launch at the 2005 OCA National Convention, the Chapter Advancement Track continues to provide OCA chapters and affiliates the tools needed to strengthen their chapters and assist the communities around them.

BREAKFAST WITH INSPIRATION SATURDAY

The topic and speakers are still to be determined, but you will be sure whatever OCA organizes for this, it will wake you up!

THE STATE OF ASIAN AMERICA SATURDAY

This highly popular annual plenary session will examine critical issues facing the APA community. Advocacy organizations from both within and outside of the Asian Pacific American community will discuss topics of common interest and to explore areas for future partnership and cooperation.

YOUTH RECOGNITION LUNCHEON SATURDAY

The OCA Internship Program has brought nearly 300 students to Washington DC over the last decade. OCA is also responsible for awarding over 1600 scholarships to enable eligible students the opportunity to pursue their dreams for a college education.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR SATURDAY

At the Community Health Fair, conference attendees will have the opportunity to get free health check ups, screenings, and learn more about diseases affecting the APA community.

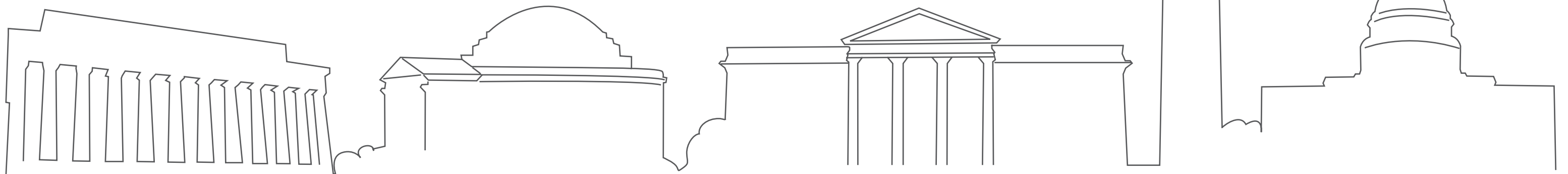
SENIORS DAY SATURDAY

For APA families, taking care of senior citizens is of great importance. The OCA Senior Day provides Washington, DC-area senior citizens with the opportunity to attend the OCA National Convention and participate in workshops specifically tailored to their interests and language abilities.

GALA AWARDS BANQUET SATURDAY

The OCA Convention culminates with the Gala Awards Banquet and the presentation of the OCA Pioneer Awards to those who have made exceptional contributions to the Asian Pacific American community.

Volunteers will also be recognized with the OCA/GM Unsung Hero Awards, along with the presentation of the OCA/UPS Gold Mountain Scholarships.



OCA-Georgia assists in two employment discrimination cases

OCA chapters around the nation help community members on a variety of issues. In their own words below, Emelita and Gloria share their experiences working with OCA-Georgia in discrimination cases that remind all of us that there is much more work for OCA to do in its next 35 years.

EMELITA BREYER

I am an Asian American of Chinese and Filipino heritage. From 1999-2006, I was an Assistant Professor at the Department of Chemistry of Georgia State University (GSU). I was unjustly denied tenure and promotion even though my research work was quoted as “unique” and “groundbreaking” by world-renowned experts in my field.

In 2007, Mr. Richard Belcher from WSB-TV Channel 2 investigated my year-long struggle with Georgia State University where I served for more than 6 years. This media coverage prompted an immediate response from the OCA-Georgia Chapter President Mr. Alfred Yin and OCA-Georgia committee members Ms. Wooyi Yin, Ms. Varinee Sangmalee and Mr. Robin Soh. Mr. Alex Wu of the Asian Pacific American Council of Georgia (APAC) has also been active in my case. Mr. Yin and Mr. Wu have been evaluating and supporting numerous cases of civil rights violations in Georgia.

The group's evaluation of my documents in July of 2007 found that Georgia State University and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia have not provided reasonable grounds for the denial of my tenure and promotion. Furthermore, in their opinion this action by a state academic institution is as a result of my race and national origin. Their belief was further enforced when they saw an e-mail of an eminent Chinese scholar stating that



one faculty stated that, “there are too many Chinese in the department” a month after the GSU President's denial of my tenure and promotion.

OCA brought this case to APAC, whose members joined to give an objective evaluation of the case. My case is an example of the current glass ceiling that exists for Asian Pacific Americans. With OCA's guidance and support, I was able to establish a website at www.emelita-breyer.com and raised funds for my initial legal fees. I am currently in a discovery phase of the trial while Mr. Yin and the rest of the OCA group are seeking further local and national support to pay for the rest of my legal fees. Mr. Yin was also very supportive in terms of a political campaign by writing letters to members of our legislation. Together with the OCA-Georgia Chapter, we seek further national support in our cause to promote equality and justice here in the Georgia.

GLORIA CHENG

Mr. Yin, Mr. Wu and several OCA leaders have led several initiatives to promote social justice and civil rights across the State of Georgia. Their history of support in the community in the past 25 years has resulted in many successes.

My name is Gloria Cheng and my recent reinstatement after a hard two year battle with a Fulton County School district principal, is one of

OCA's success stories. I am a creative and outstanding teacher, but was terminated because of my ethnicity after 25 years of excellent service in the same school district. OCA held an objective investigation of my case followed by consistent and dedicated support before and during the two week tribunal trial in front of the Fulton County Board of Education.

My case resulted in justice being served, my reinstatement in the school and reputation in the community. The Fulton County Board of Education overturned the principal's recommendation against me. Now, I am proudly continuing my teaching program, in a different school in the county. This victory further reinforced the significant role of the community and OCA's leadership in a number of cases here in Georgia that would otherwise be lost without the community's support.

Although the glass ceiling for Asian Pacific Americans is still prevalent nationwide, discrimination in the Southern states has been more pervasive than in other parts of the nation. We have seen the courage and dedication of OCA-Georgia in upholding the mission of OCA, by standing together in support of all these cases in order for the organizations to address this systemic problem of inequality towards all Asian Pacific Americans. ■

media watch OCA chapters and FCC members cooperate in New Jersey

Florence Chen | OCA-New Jersey

On December 18th, 2007, between 7:45 a.m. and 8:05 a.m., WDHA 105.5FM in Cedar Knolls, New Jersey, aired a segment which featured Santa Claus calling a computer help desk, where the technical assistant mimicked an Asian accent. Peter Minde, a member of Families with Children from China (FCC), was listening and was deeply offended by the segment. Peter called the radio station right away to protest, and then contacted Daniel Lewis, another FCC member, who was also on the board of OCA-Westchester/Hudson Valley. Daniel quickly notified OCA-New York, Westchester/Hudson Valley, and New Jersey chapters.

Our immediate reaction was disappointment and disbelief. It was only seven months earlier in May, 2007, when OCA chapters in the greater New York area joined with a coalition of Asian American organizations to protest against WFNY 92.3FM, a CBS-owned radio station of New York City, for airing a prank call to a Chinese restaurant using insulting and obscene language. As a result of the protest and the withdrawal of advertisers, WFNY apologized, terminated the show and removed the show's hosts as well as the producers. While we commended CBS for taking swift action in addressing the issue, we hoped that the national exposure received by the WFNY 92.3FM incident would make media outlets everywhere more mindful in producing socially responsible programming.

In recent years New York City metropolitan area OCA chapters, along

with other Asian American organizations, has been successful in raising awareness about offensive radio programming. Such programming included a song on New York's HOT97 which mocked the victims of the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean; the mocking an Asian American mayoral candidate in Edison, NJ, on NJ 101.5 FM; and the “Are You Smarter Than An Asian?” segment on WKTU 105.1 FM. With so many high-profile cases drawing criticism over the past 3 years, we thought that radio stations would have learned from these incidents, but sadly they haven't.

WDHA, a popular radio station in New Jersey (a state with one of the most diverse and fastest growing immigrant population from Asian countries) aired a segment that was ignorant of the community which they serve. By making fun of an Asian accent, they sent a message to their audience that it was okay to ridicule Asian Pacific Americans in this country. This kind of stereotyping is one way in which racism is perpetuated and the seeds of hate crimes are planted. WDHA was remiss in not making sure that their programming was socially responsible.

On January 3rd, 2008, OCA-New Jersey, New York, Long Island, & Westchester/Hudson Valley chapters jointly issued a letter to Peter Smyth, President & CEO of Greater Media, Inc., the parent company of WDHA 105.5FM; Dan Finn, VP/Regional General Manager of Greater Media, Inc. in charge of New Jersey; Nancy McKinley,

WDHA Station Manager; and Tony Paige, WDHA Program Director. We protested against the racist programming and demanded an on-air apology. In the meantime, we kept in touch with Daniel Lewis and Peter Minde, who kept the FCC community informed.

According to Finn, WDHA bought the Santa Claus segment from an independent company that developed sound bites like this and marketed them nationwide to different radio stations. Also, Finn stated that, in its entire history, WDHA, had never been accused of being racist or racially insensitive, and the Santa Claus segment was not broadcast to offend anyone. In as much as OCA recognized that WDHA had no known prior record of airing any racially insensitive programs, and that the Santa Claus segment was developed by an outside independent company, we nonetheless held WDHA responsible for buying the segment and airing it. The segment was clearly racially derogatory and claiming ignorance on the part of the radio station simply was not acceptable.

As a result of the joint effort by OCA National and the sister chapters of New Jersey, New York, Long Island, and Westchester/Hudson Valley as well as concerned FCC members like Peter Minde and Daniel Lewis, WDHA 105.5FM issued an on-air apology on the morning of January 14th, 2008. Furthermore, Peter Minde is now a brand new member of OCA-New Jersey. ■

filipino veterans equity act partnerships to restore justice for our veterans

Ben de Guzman | NAFVE

In February, when many Asian Pacific Americans were celebrating Lunar New Year and sending wishes of prosperity and good fortune, Filipino Americans were commemorating a much darker chapter of their history with the United States, even as they were working with their diverse coalition partners to close this chapter.

On February 18, 1946, Congress passed the 1946 Rescission Act. This bill stated, in part, that the Filipino soldiers who fought in World War II under the command of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East, “shall not be deemed to be or so have been service in the military or naval forces of the United States or any component thereof for the purposes of any law of the United States conferring rights, privileges, or benefits.”

In essence, this bill revoked United States veterans status for the over 200,000 Filipinos originally conscripted in the U.S. Armed Forces by President Roosevelt. In one fell swoop, the service of the brave Filipino soldiers who fought side by side with Americans in some of the most grueling battles of the war, including the infamous Bataan Death March, was shunted aside. President Truman, voicing his opposition to this provision, said, “I consider it a moral obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of the Filipino Army veterans.”

Sixty two years later, the National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity (NAFVE) is working with a diverse coalition of partners to make sure this obligation is met. NAFVE is a coalition of organizations and individuals working to pass legislation in support of Filipino WWII veterans. In the 110th Congress, NAFVE’s primary focus is on the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. This bill, if enacted, will provide

specific supports for Filipino veterans in the United States and the Philippines, including old-age pensions. Perhaps more importantly, it will restore United States veterans’ status for Filipino WWII veterans, giving back to them the honor and dignity that their wartime valor and sacrifice deserves. Estimates from the Philippine Embassy indicate that this bill will affect 18,155 veterans, about 6,000 in the U.S. and about 12,000 in the Philippines.

The Senate version of the bill is S.1315 and the House version is HR 760. While this bill has been in Congress since 1990, it has moved further than ever before in the 110th Congressional session. Both the House and the Senate bills have been successfully reported out of committee, an important milestone for any piece of legislation. Currently, both bills are awaiting a floor vote.

Unfortunately, some serious hurdles remain. In the Senate, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-NC) has introduced opposing legislation to strip out the pension for Filipino veterans in the Philippines. In the House, ongoing partisan wrangling between House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Filner (D- San Diego, CA) and Ranking Member Steve Buyer (R- West Lafayette, IN) has threatened to pit veterans groups against each other and weaken the support the bill currently enjoys

from well-respected organizations such as the American Legion.

The good news is that with the backing of champions such as Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Rep. Bob Filner (D- San Diego, CA) and Rep. Mike Honda (D- San Jose, CA), the bill continues to move forward. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D- San Francisco, CA) have also spoken out in support of this bill. Bipartisan support for this bill has come from longtime allies such as Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Sen. Darrell Issa (R- San Diego, CA).

OCA has been a longtime supporter of the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. In 2005, OCA and its Houston chapter were critical in putting on an unprecedented National Video Town Hall meeting that focused on this issue and highlighted activity going on in sites around the country. Most recently, OCA invited NAFVE to provide a presentation to its chapter leadership and begin developing local and national strategies. NAFVE Action Alerts have been sent to OCA’s members, calling on the Senate and House to bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

Other organizations supporting this bill include the Japanese American Citizens League, the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the National Council of La Raza, the Mexican Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and the League of United Latin American Citizens. ■

Ben de Guzman is the National Campaign Coordinator for the National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity.

For more information on NAFVE and the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, visit the website at www.nafve.org or contact Ben de Guzman at nafve2007@gmail.com or 202 422 4909.

national campaign for postage stamp to honor japanese american veterans

Wayne Osako

One way that our nation remembers its history is through postage stamps. Open the newest U.S. Postal Service catalog for 2008 and you will find stamps honoring famous American journalists, actress Bette Davis, and African American writer Charles W. Chestnutt.

The updated Year of the Rat stamp is featured on the cover of the latest Postal Service catalog. OCA led a historic effort to create the first Asian Pacific American stamp, the Lunar New Year series, which was released in the 1990s. This groundbreaking stamp series has since helped open the door for stamps recognizing APAs in our nation’s history. Besides the Lunar New Year series, only four stamp subjects have featured an Asian Pacific American, and only two of those four featured APAs exclusively: stamps celebrating Duke Kahanamoku, the father of modern surfing (2002), and sculptor Isamu Noguchi (2004).

A national, grassroots movement has been growing over the past four years seeking a commemorative postage stamp to honor American World War II servicemen and women of Japanese heritage. Begun by a group of wives of servicemen, family members and friends of the veterans, the campaign was notified last fall by the Postal Service that its stamp proposal is currently being reviewed. This would be the first Asian Pacific American military stamp in history.

2008 marks the 20th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, when Congress and then President Ronald Reagan apologized for the World War II internment of Japanese Americans. After Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan in 1941, the U.S. forced

over 110,000 Japanese Americans into internment camps due to suspicions of their loyalty. Over two-thirds were American citizens by birth. Thousands of young Nisei, American-born children of Japanese immigrants, enlisted in the Army from the camps, saying “I want to prove my loyalty to America.”

The outstanding record of Japanese Americans during World War II was prominently given as justification for the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 by President Ronald Reagan at his signing of the legislation.

Japanese American World War II veterans overcame great adversity at home and abroad through their patriotic service and sacrifice. This group is recognized to be one of the most decorated and acclaimed in U.S. military history. Most served in the Army’s famed 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, or as linguists in the legendary Military Intelligence Service (MIS). Many women of Japanese descent served in the Women’s Army Corps and Cadet Nurse Corps.

The Postal Service has set a precedent for honoring minorities in the military. Latinos in uniform were honored in “Hispanic Americans: A Proud Heritage” in 1984. The African American special unit, “Buffalo Soldiers,” was honored in 1994. Last year, the Postal Service announced that it was considering an African American Tuskegee Airmen stamp.

The Nisei Stamp campaign has many supporters nationwide. An open Congressional letter of support from Rep. Mike Honda received 40 signatures from lawmakers. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi wrote her own letter. The state legislatures of Hawaii and California overwhelming passed resolutions of

support this year, and Illinois will soon vote as well. Over 60 cities and counties have expressed support through resolutions, including Honolulu, Hawaii, and Los Angeles, California. Over 11,000 people have signed the campaign’s on-going petition, and 9500 have signed an internet petition.

Other APA leaders have been among those to prominently step forward. State Rep. Mike Eng led the successful effort for the California resolution. Former Mayor Betty Tom Chu sparked the nation’s first city resolution for the stamp in Monterey Park, California. The Chinese Elected Officials Organization of Southern California was among the first groups to endorse the campaign last year. In addition, OCA members have been among those important voices of support from prominent organizations.

The Japanese American Citizens League, Japanese American Veterans Association, Go For Broke National Education Center, Japanese American Living Legacy, Japanese American Bar Association, Japanese American National Museum, Simon Wiesenthal Center – Museum of Tolerance, American Jewish Committee, and the National Association for Uniformed Services have joined the growing coalition for the stamp. Support has even come from leaders and citizens of French towns liberated by Japanese American soldiers in the war. ■

Through this stamp, the campaign seeks to honor the proud, diverse heritage of our military that continues today through the Asian Pacific Americans who serve in Iraq and around the globe. Visit www.nisei-stamp.org for more information.

new orleans' vietnamese-american community continues to recover post-katrina

Lung Vu and Kathleen Carlin | Tulane University

August 27 and 28, 2005: nearly every individual in New Orleans is preparing to flee or hunker down as Hurricane Katrina draws closer and closer. Every radio and TV station gives constant and increasing dire updates on storm location, strength, and likely landfall. They also provide advice about storm preparations, and relay the urgings of officials—state, parish, city, even church and neighborhood leaders—to evacuate. The approximately 12,000 Vietnamese living New Orleans discuss their options in church meetings, with their neighbors, and in their families. Most—though not all—evacuate.

The largest Vietnamese-American community east of Texas lives on the floodplain of New Orleans East. Two additional (but smaller) Vietnamese population centers are just across the Mississippi River on the “West Bank.” On Monday morning, August 29th, the hurricane came ashore twenty-five miles east of New Orleans. The eye of the enormous storm slowly shouldered its way past the city, taking more than six hours to pass. Its winds—“only” 145 m.p.h. now that it was no longer moving over warm water—caused structural damage to buildings and fell trees and utility poles as it writhed over New Orleans for more than six hours.

When the storm was gone, those who had decided to remain in the city went outside to assess the damage—not so bad. Most buildings are roughed up but intact. But telephone lines, cellphone towers, even most emergency communications were not operating, so there was no way to learn the situation from one part of town to another.

Unbeknownst to the exhausted residents and evacuees who went to sleep that night, the city had already begun to flood. Levees and flood gates on Lake Pontchartrain, just north of the city, had broken during the storm and water was pouring in. Those remaining

in New Orleans East awoke to find water seeping, bubbling, eddying, rolling up to their homes, into their homes, filling their homes with salt water driven in by the storm, three, five, even ten feet high; the fate of the house depended on the elevation of the site.

This was not the first disaster that Vietnamese families in New Orleans had experienced. They had fled from South Vietnam after the collapse of their government in April 1975. For many in this community, the move to America was their family’s second major displacement, since most Catholics fled North Vietnam for the South after partition in 1954.

The hurricane and levee failures resulted in a third evacuation and dislocation for the inhabitants of this major Vietnamese enclave.

Everyone left, some straight away; some via the squalor in the Superdome. The city’s mayor closed the city to everyone for six weeks. Like the rest of the city’s population, Vietnamese New Orleanians found themselves away from their homes for weeks or months, which have now turned into years for those who have not yet returned.

For those who were able to return, the majority found catastrophic damage, mold rotting their possessions, and also major disruptions to their

lives—schools closed, employers bankrupt, businesses gone; most of what had been familiar was forever changed.

By chance, our research team at Tulane University’s School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine collected a wide array of health measurements just before Katrina struck to assess how international migration affects the health and well-being of this significant immigrant population, relative to those who never left Vietnam. We had been working with the major community leaders and institutions for several years before the Katrina disaster occurred,

and these long-standing relationships have helped us to continue our study with follow-up assessments of these same individuals.

While the disaster was unlucky for everyone, one happy accident was a rich assortment of pre-disaster health assessments which can now be used to study the impacts of such disasters upon immigrants, with the benefit of knowing what each person’s health status was before the disaster.

The original component of the overall study is a quantitative assessment of pre- and post- health outcomes of a representative sample of work-

ing-age (25-49 years old) Vietnamese-Americans living in the greater New Orleans metro area. One hundred and twenty-eight people were interviewed in the summer of 2005, and 82 of them were located and interviewed again one year post-Katrina.

The results of the survey at the one year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina showed that crime, medical care, and insects are among the biggest concerns. Forty percent of the respondents said that they feared crime at an “extreme” level; 35% report having “extreme” difficulties with insects (mosquitoes, flies,

those who have yet to return, since we have a pre-Katrina sample. Our results show that those who were not currently married are more likely to still be away; the married are more likely to have returned. Those unemployed before Katrina are more likely to still be away; this was true for professionals and business owner, too, as well as for families who rented housing or who did not have school-age children. On the other hand, those engaged in skilled occupations (e.g., electricians, plumbers, carpenters) were more likely to have returned than other groups. Overall, the rate of return in the Vietnamese community has been

much higher than it has been for the city as a whole.

Our preliminary results demonstrate that Hurricane Katrina had measurable negative impacts upon the health of this community. All of our standard measures of mental and physical health show moderate to large declines after Katrina struck. Those in the age group 40-49, who surely bear most of the burden of worry and care for their families, suffered a greater decline than did younger adults age 20-39 on several of our key outcomes; and those who were unemployed before Katrina also appear to have fared worse

than those who were employed.

This year (2007-2008), our study has added a qualitative component. We’re asking members of the community to tell us about their lives during the 3rd year of rebuilding in post-Katrina New Orleans. We’re especially interested in their successes and challenges regarding the rebuilding of their homes, the quality and security of their jobs, their success in finding proper education for their children, and obtaining adequate health care for their families.

We also have a set of questions that we ask community leaders to give us a “big picture” perspective. These interviews will complement our longitudinal quantitative results and will make it more clear to us – and to policy makers and to our community of

Vietnamese New Orleanians - to what extent the response of the Vietnamese community to Katrina differs from the responses of other key communities, and why.

Our team consists of ourselves, Kathleen Carlin, Ph.D., and Lung Vu, M.D., M.P.H.; Mai Do, Dr.P.H., Thi Mai, M.P.H, Carl Bankston III, Ph.D., and Mark J. VanLandingham, Ph.D.

For further information, please contact Professor Mark J. VanLandingham <mvanlan@tulane.edu>.

hurricane katrina was not the first disaster that vietnamese families in new orleans had experienced

etc.) A third also complained about “extreme” difficulties getting information from the government regarding recovery. Many reported having great difficulties receiving medical care since the hospital and almost all medical clinics in their part of the city closed. Sadly, crime has continued to worsen in the city and especially in this part of the city during the second year post-Katrina, and we anticipate that our second follow-up survey (recently completed) will reflect this extremely negative trend.

We are also able to compare those who have returned already versus

the us/vietnam repatriation agreement

Helly Lee | SEARAC

On January 22, 2008, the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency announced that the governments of the United States and Vietnam signed a repatriation agreement. This agreement now makes it possible for Vietnamese nationals who arrived in the United States on or after July 12, 1995, and who have received final orders of removal, to be deported to Vietnam. Prior to this, the Vietnamese government did not have a formal agreement with the US to accept deportees from this country. We talked to Helly Lee of the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) about what this means for the APA community.

Who will be deported?

ICE states that this new agreement will impact nearly 1,500 Vietnamese individuals currently living in the US. This agreement will only affect those who:

- + arrived in the US on or after July 12, 1995; and
- + have received orders for removal for a violation of US laws (including criminal offenses and immigration violations); and
- + who is not a citizen of the US or any other country besides Vietnam; and
- + who currently does not have residence in another country.

Vietnamese citizens who arrived in the US before July 12, 1995 are not affected by this repatriation agreement. Vietnamese Americans who have not broken any US laws and/or individuals who are already US citizens will also not be subject to deportation. In the event that an individual who immigrated to the US from a third country where that person has permanent residence is ordered removed from the US, the agreement states that "the US government will seek to return that person to the third country or consider allowing that person to stay in the US, before requesting removal to Vietnam."

If I have an order of removal but came to the US as a refugee before July 12, 1995, should I apply for my citizenship now to avoid deportation in the future?

The agreement does not affect those who arrived in the US before July

12, 1995, even if you have an order of removal. However, if you already have an order of removal, you are not eligible for naturalization. If you do not have an order of removal and would like to obtain your citizenship but you have a criminal background, you should consult an immigration lawyer before applying. If you have questions about your specific situation, you should seek an immigration lawyer who is knowledgeable of deportation issues.

Why should I care about deportation issues?

Current deportation laws deny individuals who are not yet citizens (including immigrants and refugees who have their green cards) due process. In 1996, Congress passed the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act which significantly impacted deportation laws in the following ways:

+ The number of deportable offenses increased through the expanded definition of what constitutes an "aggravated felony." Individuals can now be ordered deported for a number of criminal offenses, even minor ones such as shoplifting, minor drug possessions, writing a bad check—an individual was even deported to Cambodia for urinating in public.

+ The laws were made retroactive, meaning that individuals who committed their crimes many years ago, even if they have served all of their court ordered sentence, can still be ordered deported.

+ Immigration judges no longer have the ability to consider individual circumstances of those being ordered deported. For example, even if an individual committed a minor crime eight years ago, has served all of their time and have since lived a law abiding life, started a family and is the primary provider for his family, immigration judges are unable to take factors such as these into consideration, and the individual can automatically be subject to deportation.

What can I do?

We encourage APAs to learn and educate others about immigration and deportation policies and how they impact Asian refugee and immigrant communities. You can also educate your members of congress about the impact unfair deportation policies have on our families and our communities.

Where can I find additional resources on deportation?

+ Additional information is available at http://www.searac.org/cambrepbak6_02.html.

+ General information on detention and deportation issues can be found at: www.detentionwatchnetwork.org, www.rightsworkinggroup.org, and <http://www.ilrc.org/immigrantjusticenetwork/>. ■

Helly Lee is the Director of Policy at the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC). SEARAC can be found online at www.searac.org.

welfare reform and welfare-to-work programs what works for the aapi community?

Julian Chun-Chung Chow, Grace Yoo, and Catherine Vu

Although federal welfare reform has been framed as a black and white issue, the transition from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program to Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) has major implications for low-income Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) populations.

AFDC, more commonly known as welfare, was established in 1935 to enable states to provide cash payments for children whose father or mother was absent, incapacitated, unemployed or deceased. In 1996, with the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act, AFDC was replaced with TANF. Two significant differences between TANF and AFDC are that TANF, the new federal assistance program, limits benefits to families to five years, and makes the receipt of benefits dependent on employment status.

*In this article, Julian Chow and his research team explore the ramifications of the transition from AFDC to TANF for the AAPI community. They focus on the impact the transition has had in the state of California and outline various strategies to help solve potential problems with TANF. The following is excerpted from an article originally published in *aapi nexus*, a publication of the Asian American Studies Center at the University of California, Los Angeles.*

Despite the fact that the average family income of AAPIs is higher than other racial/ethnic groups, AAPIs have a lower per capita income and higher poverty rates than Whites. The 2000 Census reported approximately 1.6 million AAPIs with incomes below the poverty level in 1999. At 12.89%, the poverty rate of AAPIs is notably higher when compared to 8.28% of non-Hispanic whites.

This article provides an overview of current research examining the impact of welfare reform on AAPI recipients and the welfare-to-work services available to this population. Emphasis is placed on TANF in the state of California. California's TANF program, known as the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), limits aid to five years with specific work requirements. The existing literature on welfare reform and AAPIs is modest and provides only a glimpse of AAPI welfare participation. Because the available information on AAPI welfare use is sparse, inferences on the effects of welfare on AAPI will be drawn from the literature on general immigrant welfare use.

In January 2003, the first cohort of welfare recipients timed out of welfare in California. Of the 5,573 cases that reached their time-limit, a high proportion of were AAPI. While AAPIs make up about 8% of the population on public assistance in California, 37% of all individuals who timed out in 2003 were AAPIs. The figure on the next page illustrates the percentage of welfare recipients who have reached the five-year time limit in six California counties in early January, 2003. The figure shows that recipients who speak an Asian language have a significantly higher rate of timing out than other recipients. Asian languages included in this survey were Cambodian, Cantonese, Hmong, Laotian, Korean, Mandarin, Mien, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

January 2003 also marked the first month of California's state funded Safety Net program. In California, only adults are affected by the five-year time limits; children remain eligible for the Safety Net program which provides a reduced cash grant to families once the adults have timed out. *Continued on page 36.*

out. As more CalWORKs participants time out, Safety Net cases are expected to rise. By September of 2003, there were already 24,415 cases in the Safety Net program, making up 7.7% of the caseload. In March 2006, the number of Safety Net cases reached 41,860, or 13.9% of the CalWORKs caseload.

As AAPI participants time out of CalWORKs, the proportion of AAPI in Safety Net cases will rise. The high proportion of AAPI among those who timed out in CalWORKs and Safety Net cases indicate that the AAPI population face unique barriers and extensive unmet needs that prevent them from successfully transitioning from welfare to work.

Welfare-to-Work and Employment Services: Four Program Models

Program models for hard-to-employ TANF recipients to assist recipients with employment services have been identified by LaDonna Pavetti and Debra Strong. These models include some or all of the following elements: pre-employment preparation and planning, employment in real jobs that pay, intensive supervision, increasing performance standards, and formal and informal support systems.

Paid work experience programs find short-term employment for participants at program-operated businesses. With a focus on building job skills, these “social enterprises” are set up specifically to provide jobs for groups and individuals who are not able to find a job on their own and would otherwise be unemployed due to lack of work experience.

Competitive employment programs that include support services place participants directly into the competitive job market while providing extensive support services to help them maintain their job placements. The goal of these types of programs is to place hard-to-employ TANF recipients into competitive paid employment as soon as possible while providing services such as case management and job coaching to promote success.

While these programs may not be specifically geared towards the AAPI population, recommendations can be based on these programs as models of support for AAPI welfare recipients who are transitioning from welfare to work.

Recommendations: What Works?

Given the institutional, language, and personal barriers faced by immigrants in general and AAPIs in particular, specialized strategies need to focus on assisting this population in obtaining welfare-to-work services. The strategies and programs described below are based on the components of the four program models. While these strategies can be used to help AAPIs overcome some of their barriers, it should be noted that more specific programs need to be developed to address the unique needs of AAPIs in order to alleviate their high risk for timing-out.

“One-stop shop” intervention can improve access. “One-stop shops” include mixed strategies which combine a work focus with opportunities for job skills training and education. Programs can combine intensive ESL courses for immigrants with low levels of literacy, ESL and employment services for higher proficient English speakers, job placement services that assist immigrants to find well-paying jobs with advancement opportunities, and job training and career development resources.

Transitional job programs can facilitate employment. The transitional jobs program combines time-limited subsidized employment with complete job-training services to overcome barriers and build skills. Transitional jobs programs typically include various components such as assessments to identify barriers, develop short-term and long-term goals, and match participants’ work interests to available placements; life skills and job readiness training; work-focused case management; enhanced worksite supervision; connection to other work-related resources, such as child care and transportation; and unsubsidized job search and job placement activities. The positive impacts on hard-to-employ participants in such programs suggest that these types of programs can have a significant effect on AAPI participants given that they face multiple barriers.

Welfare-to-work programs must be comprehensive and family focused in nature. In addition to employment related programs, other support services must be used to assist immigrants overcome institutional, language, and personal barriers, such as community-based organizations which can provide culturally competent support services. Practitioners also need to establish credibility and rapport with clients and in the larger community to help AAPI recipients overcome institutional barriers. Because most AAPIs are likely to frame issues in terms of family or community contexts, services should be family-focused by including family members in service planning or treatment.

Additional research on AAPI-specific participation, needs, and barriers is essential. Given the sparse information on the AAPI welfare recipient population, it is important to continue to expand the knowledge about this unique population. Comparative studies on AAPI participation rates in welfare, welfare-to-work activities, and timing out rates in relation to other ethnic groups is also needed.

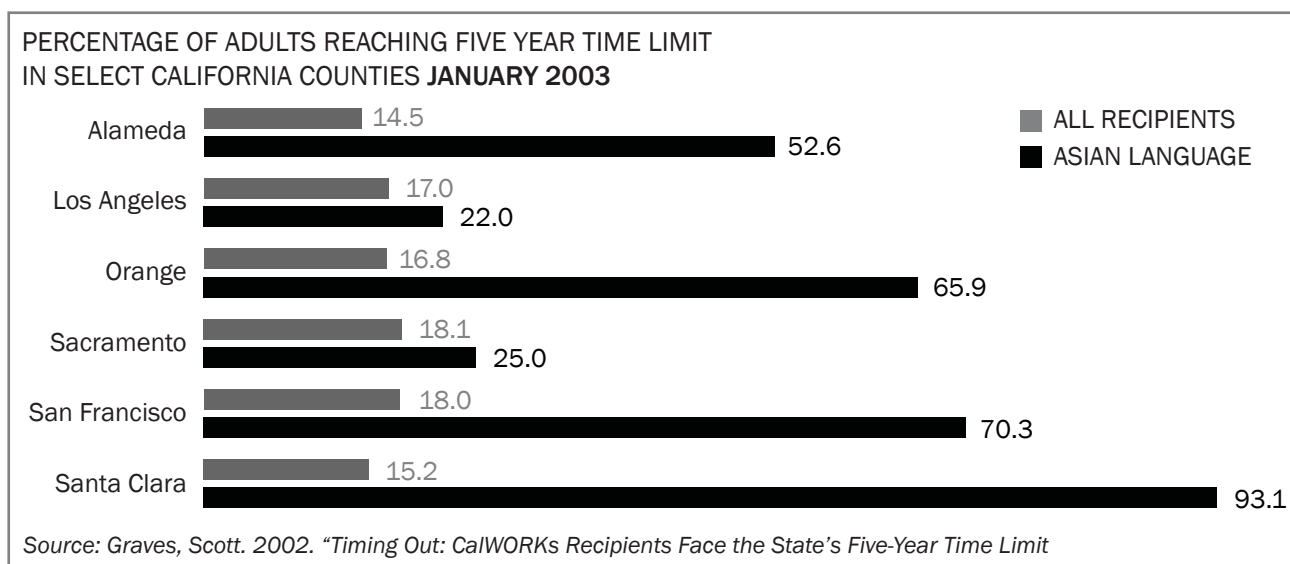
Ensure that all materials and outreach are language-specific to immigrant populations. Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act requires that federal and state welfare office provide access to services not based on national origin, which includes those who do not speak or write English. Moreover, the California Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act passed in 1973 specifies that state agencies that serve a substantial non-English speaking population by at least 5% of its welfare participants, must have bilingual/interpretative services available and must have all written materials translated in that language. This means forms, written notices, and information regarding CalWORKs services and CalWORKs requirements need to be translated into languages that CalWORKs participants can access. ■

This article is excerpted from “Welfare Reform and the Delivery of Welfare-to-Work Programs to AAPIs: What Works?” aapi nexus: Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Policy, Practice and Community, volume 5, number 2, Summer/Fall 2007, pp. 77-97, published by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

The authors would like to thank Dr. Don Nakanishi, aapi nexus, and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center for the permission to publish excerption of this article.

For inquiries about publication rights of this article, research citations, and aapi nexus, please contact Melany Dela Cruz-Viesca at UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546.

Julian Chow <jchow99@berkeley.edu> is an associate professor and Catherine Vu <cathy_vu@berkeley.edu> is a graduate student research of Social Welfare, UC Berkeley. Grace Yoo <gracey@sfsu.edu> is an associate professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University.



Barriers to Work

AAPIs face a variety of barriers that prevent them from obtaining job services that could help them gain and maintain employment. Some personal obstacles that AAPIs might face include one or more of the following: substance abuse; mental and physical health issues; disability; low educational attainment; limited work experiences; limited English proficiency; and exposure to domestic violence.

At the same time, the limited literature that exists on AAPIs also points to structural and institutional barriers that prevent self-sufficiency, such as lack of access to welfare-to-work programs, lack of long-term employment opportunities, lack of healthcare benefits, access to childcare, housing costs, transportation assistance, and discrimination. Many AAPIs experience at least one or more of these structural and personal challenges, making it difficult to achieve self-sufficiency. These barriers place AAPI welfare recipients at a higher risk for timing out.

Transitional jobs provide temporary paid work experiences in non-profit organizations, public agencies, or private businesses through individual placements. These placements include case management services to assist participants in overcoming any personal and family challenges they may have.

Transitional structured employment programs that include support services emphasize the creation of transitional jobs in nurturing work environments before placing participants in competitive job placements. These programs provide intensive personal and employment assistance such as on-site supervision, case management, and job coaching.

REAL ID

a real nightmare for the asian pacific american community

Bela Shah | SAALT

Approximately 60% of the Asian Pacific American (APA) community was born outside the United States, encompassing a diverse mix of native-born and naturalized U.S. citizens; green card holders; refugees and asylees; immigrants on temporary visas; and undocumented immigrants. In recent years, many policies negatively impacting immigrants have been enacted. One such policy, signed into law on May 11, 2005, is called the REAL ID Act which, among other things, creates rules and restrictions for who can receive driver's licenses in this country.

In January 2008, the government took steps to put into effect many parts of this policy. Despite the significant impact this will have on APAs, many community members are not aware of it. This article answers basic questions about REAL ID and illustrates its potential impact upon the Asian American community.

What exactly is REAL ID?

REAL ID creates national standards for state-issued identification, making it the first of its kind in the history of the United States. As a result of this law, all states will have to change their own driver's license rules if they want their licenses to be recognized by the federal government for any "official purpose." What that means is that anyone who engages in certain everyday activities, such as entering a federal building including immigration offices, obtaining federal benefits such as Medicare, or even boarding an airplane will have to show identification that has been approved by the federal government.

In addition, states will only be able to issue driver's licenses once an applicant's immigration status has been verified as legal. Specifically, three different types of identification would be created: Tier One for U.S. citizens, lawful permanent and conditional residents, asylees and refugees; Tier Two for those in the U.S. on temporary visas and asylum applicants; and Tier Three for immigrants who do not fit into the first two categories. However, under the REAL ID Act, undocumented immigrants (those without legal immigration status) would not have any access to a license or identification.

The new identification cards will include machine-readable information about race and ethnicity. The law also requires each state to create and maintain an electronic database containing all the information on each person's driver's license or identification card, as well as information on each person's driving history.

REAL ID also makes significant changes to immigration laws in the United States. Immigrants who are ordered to be deported would not be able to challenge the decision, and federal courts will not be able to review various immigration decisions made by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In addition, the law expands the bases for denial of admission to the United States.

What impact will REAL ID have on the Asian Pacific American community?

By creating national identification standards and making the issue of driver's licenses dependent on immigration status, REAL ID will have a devastating impact on Asian immigrants and on citizens of Asian descent. In addition, bureaucratic delays at driver's license agencies across the country will increase, impacting all applicants. And, many individuals may choose to drive without licenses if they are ineligible to receive them under the new law, making roads unsafe. Below is information on why this policy is a serious issue for the APA community:

Asian immigrants could be discriminated against by police and private businesses. As immigrants, discrimination continues to impact the APA community, whether at work, in places of business, or on the street. By labeling Asian individuals differently based on immigration status through the tiered identification system, private individuals (including merchants, landlords, and security guards) as well as police officers and government agencies may treat them differently.

The possibility of discrimination is even greater against those with Tier Three identification cards and undocumented immigrants who would have no identification at all because their immigration status will likely be brought into question. This could lead to the arrest and deportation of many Asian individuals who lack status.

Asian Pacific Americans could be discriminated against at driver's license agencies. Under REAL ID, a state cannot issue a driver's license or identification card without proof of the applicant's immigration status. This means that the driver's license agency would have to determine the immigration status of each applicant forcing agency employees to make decisions on immigration status without having any prior knowledge of immigration law. Anyone even slightly familiar with immigration law knows how complicated it is. Incorrect decisions can easily be made, denying many individuals the right to a driver's license.

Applicants who "look" or "sound" foreign to an agency employee, even if they are citizens, might be treated

individually. Because thousands of DMV employees nationwide will now have access to each state's electronic database, there is strong possibility of identify theft. It will also make it easier for the government and businesses to track and surveil activities of individuals in the country.

What can the Asian Pacific American community do to stop REAL ID?

States are at different stages when it comes to incorporating REAL ID into their own laws. Some have already taken steps to comply with it, including California. Others are currently debating it, including Maryland, New York, and Texas. Still others have stated that they will not support it, including Georgia, Hawaii, and Washington. At the national level, Senator Akaka of Hawaii has already introduced legislation in Congress to repeal the REAL ID Act.

Given the debate that is taking place around the country about REAL ID and the movement of state lawmakers on this issue, Asian Pacific Americans cannot afford to stay

by creating national identification standards and making the issue of driver's licenses dependent on immigration status, REAL ID will have a devastating impact on asian immigrants and citizens of asian descent

differently. For example, a Chinese immigrant who may speak with an accent could be interrogated more than other applicants or have their documents scrutinized more closely than those who don't look like immigrants.

Asian Pacific Americans may not be able to challenge incorrect immigration decisions. Many of the decisions related to immigration applications made by the Department of Homeland Security, regardless of whether they are correct or not, will be difficult for immigrants to challenge. This will have severe consequences for the APA community. Take, for example, a Korean-American church that has applied for a religious worker visa for a pastor from Korea. If the visa application is denied for any reason, the church and pastor would not be able to do anything about it.

Asian Pacific Americans will have their privacy violated. In addition to opening the door to racial discrimination, the shared database created by this policy will violate the privacy of all

silent. Let your friends and family know about the devastating impact of this policy. Keep up to date on what is going on in your state on this issue. Call your state governor and legislators to express your opposition. Together, we can support the rights of all immigrant communities in this country. ■

Bela Shah is a legal intern at South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), a national non-profit organization dedicated to fostering civic and political engagement among South Asians in the United States through a social justice framework. Visit us online at www.saalt.org.

the danger of voter photo identification to asian american communities

Terry M Ao | AAJC

Voter photo identification requirements are one of the most serious threats to the right of every eligible American to vote in decades and have become increasingly pervasive in public dialogue. Seven states currently require a photo ID to vote: Arizona (which also requires proof of citizenship), Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Bills requiring photo IDs to vote have been introduced in many states in the recent past. Attempts have also been made to introduce such onerous voter photo ID requirements at the federal level in the last several years.

There have been numerous legal challenges brought against these photo ID requirements, such as cases in Arizona, Indiana and Georgia. The U.S. Supreme Court recently heard arguments in the Indiana voter identification case and will consider whether Indiana's law, which requires government-issued photo identification to be presented in order to vote, is discriminatory and unconstitutional.

Indiana's voter ID law is considered by many to be the "most onerous" voter identification law in the country. Indiana requires a voter to present photo identification issued by the federal government or the state. Without identification, the voter must use a provisional ballot, which will only be counted if the voter goes to the circuit court or county election board within 10 days to produce the required identification or to sign an affidavit that he or she is indigent and cannot obtain proof of identification without paying.

The Asian American Justice Center (AAJC), formerly known as the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, submitted an amicus brief (available online) to the Supreme Court addressing the impact of Indiana's voter identification law on Asian Americans. OCA signed onto AAJC's amicus brief, along with 24 other national and local organizations dedicated to protecting the rights of Asian Americans.

These organizations represent Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Hmong, South Asian, Pacific Islander, Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese American public-interest groups, and include some of the largest and oldest Asian American organizations in this country that are involved in challenging racial discrimination, safeguarding civil rights, and advocating for voting rights.

Arguments in AAJC's amicus brief

The Indiana statute sets a new requirement for voting in Indiana: only those who possess a federally issued identification or an identification card issued by the state of Indiana, such as a driver's license, can cast a ballot.

However, this restriction on the right to vote creates an unreasonable barrier to voting by naturalized citizens of this country, disproportionately depriving Asian Americans of that fundamental right. Asian Americans are further deprived because racial and ethnic minorities, including Asian Americans, do not have the same access to identification as whites and are "consistently less likely to have" the required identification.

Furthermore, the Indiana statute is problematic for Asian Ameri-

can voters because of unique challenges Asian Americans face at the polls as perceived "outsiders" or "foreigners" rather than "real Americans" with the right to vote. In states where poll workers already have the discretion to ask for photo identification, studies have shown they are more likely to ask for identification from minority voters.

Even when all voters must show identification in order to cast an official ballot, poll workers are still charged with ensuring that the photo identification is adequate, that the picture matches the person presenting the identification, and that the name "conforms" to the voter rolls. Even benign influences, such as inadequate and poor training of poll workers, lead to the rejection of eligible Asian American voters from the polls. The Indiana statute all but legalizes such exclusion, not only by requiring identification that Asian Americans are less likely to have but by legislating an additional proof requirement of eligibility.

Given the barriers the law erects to legitimate Asian American voter participation, AAJC concluded that the law is unconstitutional. The history of voting in this country is filled with examples of states enacting seemingly neutral voting requirements that have the effect of preventing racial minorities from voting.

Indiana's example is particularly dangerous, as it raises barriers to voting for minority groups such as Asian Americans under the guise of addressing a problem that may not even exist (voter fraud), thus dividing voters between insiders and outsiders, between native Indiana residents and U.S. citizens from other states and nations.

Fallacy in voter fraud argument by supporters of voter ID bills

Supporters of Indiana's voter ID statute and other such voter ID laws claim that voter ID measures are necessary to combat fraud and election misconduct. However, while there is no question that election misconduct exists, there is no evidence that the type of fraud that these voter ID requirements purport to address—voters who misrepresent their identity at the polls—is anything but an anomaly.

There is certainly no evidence of an endemic problem that would require such a harsh measure. In fact, Indiana, and its Secretary of State Todd Rokita, in defending the voter ID law in court documents, admitted that it could not find one single instance of voter impersonation fraud in the history of the state. The lack of evidence of voter fraud and the existence of current anti-fraud laws that work means that the voter fraud argument is a non-starter.

photo identification requirements will disproportionately disenfranchise people of color, older americans, individuals with disabilities, rural and native voters, low-income and homeless people, and married women

Arguments in opposition to voter ID bills

Voter ID laws are detrimental to the fabric of our society and to our cherished right to vote for a number of reasons. First, no citizen should have to pay to vote. This basic principle, a key inspiration for the Voting Rights Act of 1965, would be greatly undermined by such voter ID laws.

While it is difficult for most people to imagine living without a photo ID, many individuals do not have one—and it costs time and money to obtain one. For example, the only generally available federal identification card for most citizens is the passport. Nationwide, just over one-quarter of all Americans have U.S. passports. Obtaining a passport requires both time and some expense, with delays up to three

months or more, and a current fee of \$97.

Some states have attempted to address this issue by enacting requirements that would also provide free photo ID to voters who cannot afford them. However, this is not sufficient. Our most cherished civil right should never be left to the mercy of the yearly appropriations process. Furthermore, citizens would still be faced with the expense and time (such as taking time off work and transportation to and from the agencies) involved in getting the documentation, such as a birth certificate, required to obtain a photo ID.

The expense and time involved is exacerbated for those who are naturalized citizens, including Asian Americans, who are still primarily foreign-born. Obtaining a Certificate of Naturalization requires \$380 and it can take up to a year to receive a new certificate. For many, the time and expense necessary to obtain the required

documentation can be an insurmountable obstacle, such as in the case of the hourly worker whose job could be placed at risk or whose family's income could be severely compromised because of the time off taken to obtain the required documentation.

Secondly, photo ID requirements will disproportionately disenfranchise people of color, older Americans, individuals with disabilities, rural and Native voters, low-income and homeless people, and married women, who are all less likely to carry a photo ID. For example, a recent survey of voters in California, New Mexico and Washington State found that Asian American and foreign-born individuals are eight percent less likely than their white counterparts to have a valid driver's license

and a Univ. of Wisconsin study found that nearly half of African American and Latino men in Milwaukee do not have government-issued photo ID.

Finally, photo ID requirements also give poll workers an unacceptable level of discretion at the polling place, opening the door to discrimination at the polls against racial, ethnic, and language minority voters. As noted above, studies have shown that poll workers are more likely to ask for identification from minority voters than Caucasian voters. Even when poll workers are supposed to ask all voters for identification, these photo ID requirements provide the poll workers with absolute power to decide whether they will accept the voter ID provided and allow the voter to vote.

Conclusion

The future looks bleak if the Supreme Court decides in favor of these voter ID laws. If the Supreme Court decides to uphold the Indiana voter ID law, we can be sure that many more state legislatures will rush to pass similar onerous voter ID laws that will disproportionately impact our communities and create more barriers to voting as well as federal attempts to do the same.

The right to vote, and to have one's vote be counted, is one of the most important civil rights that Asian Americans have. Photo ID requirements are one of the greatest threats to fair and equal voting rights today by erecting barriers to legitimate Asian American voter participation. Our country should be encouraging full participation of our citizenry, not developing ways to limit the right to vote—there is no place for such onerous photo ID requirements in our democracy. ■

Terry Ao is the Director of Census & Voting Programs at the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC).

For a copy of AAJC's amicus brief, please visit www.advancingequality.org and look under Litigation Briefs.

election protection

AALDEF monitors asian american voting rights

Glenn D Magpantay, AALDEF

Like other minority voters in Florida in 2000, Asian Americans had to overcome a series of discriminatory barriers to exercise their right to vote.

For example, poll workers were rude or hostile toward Asian American voters; poll sites had too few interpreters and so limited English proficient voters were turned away because there was no one to assist them; translated voting materials were missing or hidden from voters; and ballots have been mis-translated, one time listing Democratic candidates as Republicans and Republicans as Democrats.

Then, when the news media reported on election returns and the vote by specific demographic groups, Asian Americans were overlooked.

In response, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) has worked with OCA and other organizations to conduct a non-partisan survey of Asian American voters to document Asian American voting patterns. AALDEF has also monitored the elections for compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act, which mandates bilingual ballots and forbids anti-Asian voter discrimination.

AALDEF issued a report that detailed several obstacles faced by Asian American voters in nine states in the November 2006 Midterm Elections.

The report, Asian American Access to Democracy in the 2006 Elections, documents violations of the Voting Rights Act and Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and other incidents of anti-Asian voter disenfranchisement in 25 cities in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Washington, Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Commenting on the findings of the report, AALDEF Executive Director Margaret Fung said: "As states prepare for the 2008 Presidential Elections, election officials must remove barriers that prevent Asian American citizens from exercising their right to vote."

VOTING BARRIERS

On Nov. 7, 2006, AALDEF monitored 172 poll sites in 9 states and conducted a multilingual exit poll of over 4,700 Asian American voters. AALDEF received more than 200 complaints of voting barriers, which are described in the report. They include:

Poll workers made improper or excessive demands for identification—often only from Asian American voters—and misapplied HAVA's ID requirements. In Boston, an interpreter

appointed by the Elections Department required all Chinese-speaking voters to show IDs before they could receive a translated ballot; none of the English-speaking voters were similarly asked for their IDs.

Poll workers hindered voter access to interpreters and translated voting materials required under the Voting Rights Act. In New York, Chinese American voters were given Spanish-language ballots.

Asian American voters' names were missing or incorrectly transcribed in voter lists at poll sites. HAVA requires that these voters be offered provisional ballots, but poll workers denied voters this right. In New Jersey, poll workers told Asian American voters to go to the Borough Clerk's office instead.

Poll workers were unable to direct

dressers. In New York, a husband and wife were improperly sent to different lines at different election districts within the same poll site.

RESULTS

AALDEF sent complaint letters to local election officials that detailed these voting obstacles and offered recommenda-

Court is currently considering the constitutionality of voter identification requirements in two consolidated cases: Crawford v. Marion County Election Board and Indiana Democratic Party v. Rokita. AALDEF, representing OCA and twenty-five local Asian American organizations, submitted an amicus brief to the Court, citing results from

Volunteers will administer a multi-lingual voter survey in one or more 3-hour shifts and document voting problems on Election Day. Polls are generally open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. A short ninety-minute training will be provided. All volunteers must be non-partisan during the time they help.

Volunteers will be dispatched to poll sites in the following states: Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

AALDEF and OCA hope to mobilize 1,500 attorneys, students, and community volunteers to defend the Asian American vote. Join us!

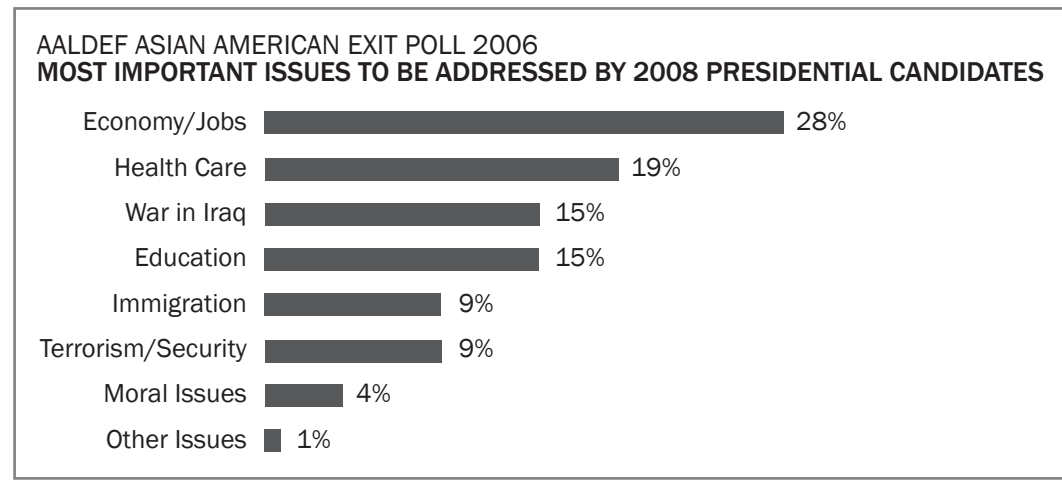
Glenn D. Magpantay is a Staff Attorney at the Asian American Legal

Defense and Education Fund. AALDEF is a national nonpartisan organization that protects and promotes the voting rights of Asian Americans, through litigation, legal advocacy, and community education.

The report, Asian American Access to Democracy in the 2006 Elections, is available online at www.aaldef.org.

AALDEF's amicus brief on voter identification requirements can be downloaded at <http://www.aaldef.org/docs/2007-11-09-aaldef-crawford-amicus-brief.pdf>.

To sign up to help defend the Asian American vote on Election Day, go to www.aaldef.net, call 800-966-5946, or email info@aaldef.org.



voters to their proper poll sites or precincts. In Philadelphia, one voter was driven to tears after being sent to several places and given no correct ad-

tions for improvements. Copies of the report and complaint letters were sent to the U.S. Department of Justice's Voting Section for further investigation.

The findings demonstrated that vigorous enforcement of the Voting Rights Act is still very much needed. In support of this, at a hearing by the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties on February 27, 2008, Congressman Bobby Scott (VA) questioned the Department of Justice on AALDEF's findings and the Department's effort to address Asian American barriers to the vote.

In regard to voter identification requirements, the U.S. Supreme

its 2004 and 2006 election monitoring efforts. AALDEF's brief contends that voter ID laws disenfranchise Asian Americans and prevent racial and language minorities from exercising their fundamental right to vote.

GET INVOLVED

On November 4, 2008, AALDEF and OCA have entered into a strategic partnership, along with several other Asian American groups across the nation, to monitor the Presidential Elections and conduct a non-partisan exit poll at poll sites in Asian American neighborhoods in at least a dozen states. We need your help.

unveiling the 2008 national council of asian pacific americans policy platform

Floyd Mori | JACL

In a policy platform released on April 10, 2008, OCA joins the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), a broad coalition of national Asian American and Pacific Islander organizations, to call on presidential candidates to address the needs of APA communities. The NCAPA platform was unveiled in a series of coordinated events in New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, Seattle, Chicago and Washington, DC, and is available electronically at www.ncapaonline.org.

NCAPA was founded in 1996 as a nonpartisan coalition of 26 national organizations that represent Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage. The 2008 platform follows a similar document produced in 2004. According to NCAPA's Chair, Floyd Mori of the Japanese American Citizen's League, the platform "presents information and policy recommendations of vital importance in order to enrich discussion leading to the fall 2008 elections." Mori added, "We call on the Presidential candidates, their political parties, and others vying for public office to seriously consider and publicly respond to the information and policy recommendations put forth in the platform."

The platform argues that progress for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in all public policy areas—including civil rights, economic justice, education, health care reform, and immigration—depends on progress in information collection and presentation; equal access to programs and services regardless of English language ability; and comprehensive immigration reform that keeps families together, creates a path towards citizenship, and is fair and humane.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are significant forces in American politics, and diverse in terms of party affiliation. A well-respected study carried out after the last presidential election found that 41 percent of likely voters in the communities were not able to pick between the Democratic and Republican parties when asked which "regards the opinions of their national or ethnic group in a more important way." "This general picture remains true today, and no candidate can afford to take us for granted. There's a good chance we will decide who becomes the next President," said OCA Executive Director, Michael Lin, who co-chairs the NCAPA Civil Rights Committee.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Americans with heritage in Asia and the Pacific Islands number over 15.5 million, which is roughly equal to the combined populations of Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, and New

York City. Since 2000 the Asian American community, which now includes over 14.6 million people, has grown by over 23 percent, making it the fastest growing racial group in the country. Over the same period the Pacific Islander community grew by over 13 percent. Rapid growth trends continue, and by 2050 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are projected to number well over 35 million.

Different data for specific APA communities

One of the NCAPA platform's main themes is that data must be collected and presented for specific communities, as well as for overarching groups such as Asian Americans, or Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. The platform argues that when data are provided only for the overarching groups, important differences between the ethnic groups become invisible. In addition, the platform emphasizes that accurate and readily available data focused on specific Asian American and Pacific Islander communities are the foundations upon which effective public policy must be built.

Full language access to publicly funded programs

The platform's second main theme is that communities must have full access to all publicly funded programs. Citing Census Bureau statistics, the platform states that in 2004, 34 percent of Asian Americans and nearly 8 percent of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders lived in households where English was not the primary spoken language, and they spoke English "less than very well."

The platform argues that while the vast majority of immigrants strive to learn English, many face language barriers in making use of essential services that are supported by the federal government. This happens, the platform states, despite the fact that the U.S. Supreme Court has found that these barriers constitute discrimination based on national origin and are forbidden under legislation as well as presidential executive order.

Fair and humane immigration reform

The platform's third main theme is that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders need comprehensive immigration reform. According to the Census Bureau, over 60 percent of Asian Americans and 4 percent of Pacific Islanders are foreign-born, compared to just over 11 percent of all people in the U.S., and the communities account for over 25 percent of the nation's foreign-born population.

"Many of the challenges outlined in the platform are faced most acutely by immigrants and the people who are close to them. The next President needs to create the political will for Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform that keeps families together, creates a path towards citizenship, and is shaped by American values like fairness," according to OCA Assistant Director George Wu, who co-chaired the NCAPA Immigration Committee.

Wu stated, "Family unity is a fundamental cornerstone of the American immigration system, and yet people coming to join our relatives face terrible backlogs. We have to wait between 6 and 22 years to be reunited with adult children and siblings after petitioning on their behalf. Strong families help people integrate with American society. It's better for everyone if our immigration system keeps families together."

Floyd Mori is the current Chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) and the National Executive Director of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL).

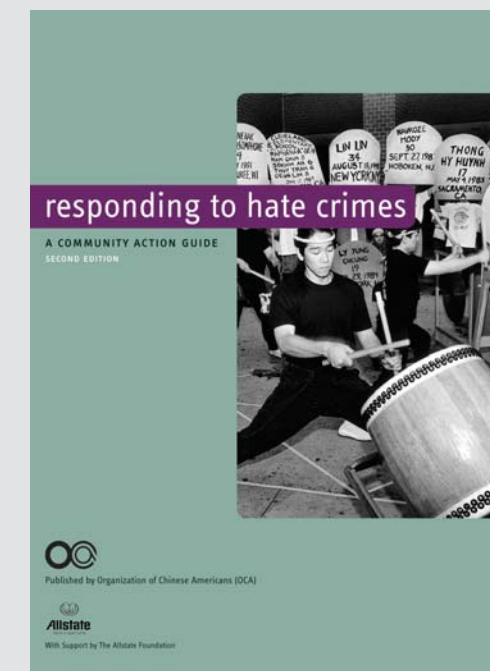
The NCAPA platform can be found online at www.ncapaonline.org.

JACL can be found online at www.jacl.org.

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, the legal community, educators and parents, youth, and victim assistance providers.

The guide is free to the public upon request. Copies are limited.

Contact Pei-Un Yee to request a copy: call 202 223 5500 or email pyee@ocanational.org

lily ledbetter v. goodyear and the fair pay act

Tsiwen Law | OCA-Greater Philadelphia

In 1979, Lily Ledbetter celebrated her new job as a supervisor at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber plant in Gadsden, Alabama. Nineteen years later, Ms. Ledbetter learned through an anonymous tip that she was being paid thousands of dollars less than her male counterparts. In a lawsuit that she filed after retiring from Goodyear in 1998, she discovered that she was making \$6500 less than the lowest paid male supervisor at Goodyear.

Ledbetter went to trial and received an award of \$3.8 million for back pay and punitive damages. Goodyear appealed the award all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which issued an opinion in 2007 reversing the award and finding in favor of Goodyear.

In the 5-4 opinion, Justice Samuel Alito held that Ms. Ledbetter was out of time when she filed her suit, because the 180 days from the time of the discriminatory act had expired 18 or 19 years ago when Goodyear had decided to pay her less than her male colleagues.

The opinion challenges the longstanding paycheck accrual rule followed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to allow claims to be filed 180 days from the last paycheck that reflected a pay disparity. In *Bazemore v. Friday*, 478 U.S. 385 (1986), the U.S. Supreme Court found continuing intent in a racially discriminatory pay structure which paid African Americans less than whites. The Court reasoned that each paycheck created a new event for which the worker could file a new charge with the EEOC. Since *Bazemore*, the EEOC has accepted cases filed within 180 days of the last paycheck reflecting a disparity.

In *Ledbetter's* case, Justice Alito held that the Plaintiff was unable to prove a continuing intent by Goodyear

to discriminate against her with subsequent pay raises, since the decisions were being made by different managers through neutral evaluations conducted over the course of an extended period of time.

In her dissent, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg recognized the realities of the current workplace, where pay disparities are often not discovered for many years following the decision to discriminate, because salaries and pay raises among non-union employees are kept confidential. Critics have noted that the *Ledbetter* decision allows employers to continue to discriminate with impunity, if the original decision is not discovered or made the basis of an EEOC claim within 180 days.

Because Ms. Ledbetter did not file her claim within 180 days following the discriminatory event, Goodyear will never be liable for the difference in pay that she experienced due to her sex. During the trial, the EEOC introduced evidence of hostility and sexual harassment toward women, including Ms. Ledbetter, at Goodyear. Nevertheless, the majority of the Supreme Court rejected the dissent's argument that her case resembled a hostile work environment by distinguishing between the single decision to pay her less from the pattern of harassment.

Because the *Ledbetter* deci-

sion affects not only women, but also persons discriminated based on race, national origin, disability, age and religion, the U.S. House passed the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, H.R. 2831, on July 31, 2007, to reverse the effect of the decision. Representative Maizi Hirono (D.HI) argued for its passage.

The Fair Pay Act will do nothing for Ms. Ledbetter, but it will assure that future claimants will have some recourse, even if they do not discover the pay disparity within the first six months on the job.

The U.S. Senate has introduced a similar bill, the Fair Pay Restoration Act, S. 1843, which would restore the paycheck accrual rule. Hearings have begun on the bill. The bills do not expand the time for back pay, which has been limited to two years. Employers still retain their defenses to stale claims. Most importantly, the rule restores the Congressional intent to eliminate workplace discrimination against protected classes of workers.

OCA chapters need to contact their Senators to support the Fair Pay Restoration Act. ■

oca vote '08 oca chapters prepare for the 2008 elections

OCA chapters have been actively engaged in encouraging civic participation in their communities for decades. This year, OCA National will attempt to coordinate and document our chapters' efforts. We hope that by doing so we will be able to provide a snapshot of grassroots civit participation in APA communities and share this information with the general public.

The following chapter reports give an example of the types of activities OCA chapters will pursue this year. Other chapter activities will be posted on the OCA National website.

OCA-COLUMBUS

OCA-Columbus and The Multicultural Center of Ohio State University will collaborate in the initiation of the "Women's Votes and Women's Voices" project. We received a grant of \$10,000 from The Women's Fund of Central Ohio to support the project.

Young women are among the least registered and least voting populations in our country. Only 20.6% of 18-24 year old women voted in the mid-term election of 2002. Women's Votes, Women's Voices seeks to change this. In 2008, all citizens, especially young women, have enormous rights at stake. Their votes are crucial and issues are many. Through registration, education and voting, the project will empower young women to participate in the most critical and fundamental political process in our democracy and effect lasting social change.

OCA-Columbus has collaborated before with The Multicultural Center on the 2007 Hate Crimes Prevention Conference, a great example of the shared mission and partnership of the two organizations. The partnership of OCA Columbus Chapter, The Multicultural Center of the Ohio State University, and The Women's Fund of Central Ohio is a wonderful model of how we can make a difference through coalition, community building and civic participation.

OCA-LONG ISLAND

In 2008, we will continue to help register APA residents to vote, OCA-LI priority this year. At the invitation of the New York State Chinese Auxiliary Police Association, we hosted a Membership and Voter Registration Drive on January 26th. Thank you to our volunteers and translators for giving your time and making the community more aware of OCA and our chapter! On February 2nd, we co-sponsored an important "Voting Machine Education Workshop" to provide multilingual instructions on how to vote.

OCA-DETROIT

ACA/APIA Michigan Vote Program

In January, three members of the OCA-Detroit/ACA board—Ron Wong, Roland Hwang, and Margaret Wong—participated in the APIA Vote Michigan Norman Y. Mineta Leadership Institute Training Symposium. APIA Vote-Michigan is one of seven organizations nationwide affiliated with APIA, a Washington DC-based non-partisan organization. It holds Asian-American voter registration drives and offers multilingual voter guides and organization training to strengthen the Asian voice.

Michigan is a small but dependable voting bloc, according to a 2004 study of Michigan voters by APIA Vote. The study showed that about 90% of the state's registered Asian-American voters cast ballots in 2000 and 2004. In 2006, Asian Americans comprised about 2% of the state's 10 million residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Yet fewer than 55% of the state's Asian Americans 18 and older were registered to vote in 2004, according to Michigan Voice, a nonprofit project on voter participation. The weekend Symposium identified an opportunity to raise the potential of the Asian voice. APAs are a fast growing but often overlooked voting bloc whose top concerns include the economy and access to affordable health care.

OCA-Detroit/ACA and APIA Vote-Michigan have initiated the following collaborative activities to support this important initiative. With support from APIA, we will: identify potential ACA voter registration by conducting ACA membership list match, conduct voter registration awareness and registration at the our Lunar New Year Banquet and Red Lantern Festival. We will also provide materials, education and registration support at the ACA Chinese Community Center, integrate with ACA citizenship activities, and provide facilities at the Community Center for future APIA Vote meetings. ■



oca chapters highlight leadership and commitment

OCA chapters and members are leaders in their neighborhoods and communities, committed to OCA's mission and dedicated to improving the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans. This year's National Convention theme is *Voices for Progress: Celebrating 35 Years of Leadership and Commitment*. For this issue of IMAGE, we wanted to showcase our own Voices for Progress—our members!

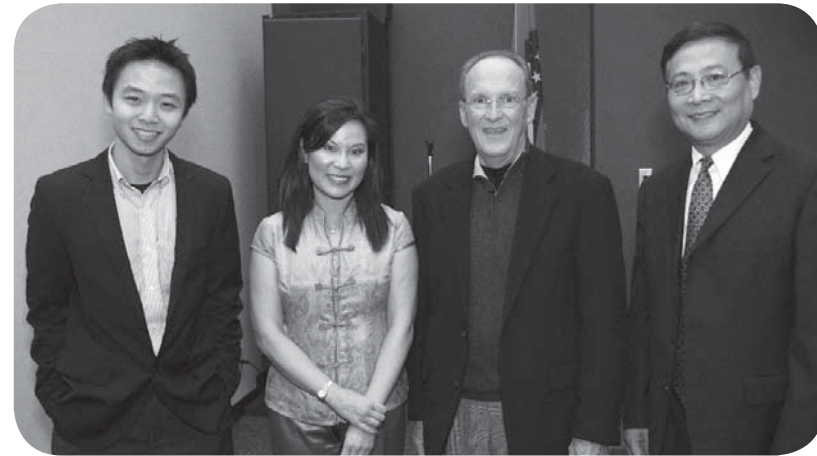
Featured on this issue's cover is the OCA-New York chapter, the winner of the Spring/Summer 2008 IMAGE Photo Contest. On this page and on the following pages are photos featuring our Voices for Progress in action, a celebration of our community's leaders.



clockwise from center:
OCA-Arkansas, OCA-Colorado, OCA-Hawaii, OCA-Pittsburgh,
OCA-Sacramento, OCA-Utah, OCA-Georgia

above: OCA-Eastern Virginia





OCA-ARKANSAS

On November 3rd, 2007, OCA Arkansas held its first professional development workshop. Our guest speaker, Scott Pleiman, Vice President of Finance at Wal-Mart discussed strategy and planning in business and career development. Debbie Chen, OCA National Vice President of Membership Development, also visited with us following the workshop.

To kick off 2008 and the Year of the Rat, we celebrated the Lunar New Year with 200 guests and friends of the community. The event featured a lion dance performance by the Shaolin Lohan dance troupe of St. Louis, a magic show and raffle drawings. Guests were treated to an eight-course traditional Chinese dinner and the mayor of Bentonville, Arkansas, proclaimed January 12th as "OCA-Arkansas Day." Our event was made possible by the generous sponsorships by 3M, General Mills, the IW Group, Mars, Premier Retail Network, SAM'S Club and Wal-Mart Stores.

Over the winter months, we have also participated in welcoming key diplomatic delegations visiting Arkansas, including a visit in December from Madame Qiao Hong, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Houston and her trade delegation, and another in January from the Hon. Margaret Fong, J.P., the Hong Kong Commissioner for Economic and Trade Affairs. OCA Arkansas was recognized at an evening reception for Commissioner Fong by Esther Silver-Parker,

Senior Vice President of Diversity Relations at Wal-Mart, for our community outreach and diversity efforts.

OCA-CENTRAL ILLINOIS

In September 2007, we hosted JACL's Midwest Director, William Yoshino for "Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis: The Japanese American Internment Experience" in our "Honoring the Past, While Challenging the Future" series. We had a great turnout of all ages, backgrounds, veterans, and personal experience. It was an excellent collaboration between two national Asian Pacific American social justice groups.

In November, Dr. S.J. Chang at Illinois State University, brought Korea to life for us at a presentation on Korea's history, culture, and language. A reception of Korean food at Hayashi Japanese Restaurant was available for all attendees, including a group of Heartland Community College students. It was great to see youth active at a local event and special thanks to Dr. Ruifang Cao for her support!

In collaboration with Our Chinese Daughters Foundation headquartered in Bloomington, IL, we co-hosted a winter event that coincided with the community's Downtown Tour de Chocolate to raise awareness of both organizations in the community. In addition to this event, a chapter board member and family housed an OCDF employee.

Many in our community celebrated the beginning of the Year of the Rat at our local Chinese Lunar

New Year Celebration! Outstanding talent, a variety of performances, many special guests, fun raffles, and wonderful grand prize of a laptop computer donated by Ming's. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in this superb event!

OCA-COLORADO

2007 was a good year for our Chapter in terms of activities. We completed at least 90% of our goals, and during the last quarter of the year, our Chapter threw a holiday party for some 55 senior guests, with lots of gifts, bingo games, and plenty of good food. It was a fun evening for everybody. In another evening, OCA-Colorado and members of Mile-Hi JACL joined together for a potluck party with home cooked dishes, and cooking demonstrations.

In October, our president and vice president attended the Corporate Achievement Awards and the OCA National Board Meeting in Las Vegas, meeting many long time friends as well as new National Board Members. We fully enjoyed all the programs and the Achievement Award Dinner. Thanks to Las Vegas Chapter for a job well done!

And on February 23 this year, OCA and JACL celebrated the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Rat, with a dinner party attended by over 350 members and friends of both organizations. Live entertainment was provided and lots of Door and Raffle prizes were given through drawings. The event was a complete success.

OCA-GEORGIA

OCA-Georgia is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2008! We are proud to be able to serve the community for the last 25 years. On February 17th, 2008, we celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a Lunar New Year Banquet.

In January 2007, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Yin sponsored chapter board members to attend a leadership seminar—the Get Motivated Seminar. On February 24th, we celebrated the Year of the Pig with a dinner banquet. In March, OCA-GA participated in a Naturalization Drive and Information Session sponsored by the Atlanta Chapter of the American Immigration Layers Association.

On May 18th OCA-GA cele-

brated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with the OCA-GA Scholarship Awards Dinner Banquet, in partnership with NAAAP-Atlanta. In August, OCA teamed up again with NAAAP in the 10th Annual Chopstix for Charity, an event to help fund local organizations that provide service to the APA community. On July 28th, OCA-GA provided the Entrepreneurial Skills Workshop sponsored by State Farm®.

In December, we hosted the "OCA Police Officer Appreciation Dinner" to recognize the service rendered by APA law enforcement officials in Atlanta. We also held our 11th Annual Diversity Career Fair, partnering with the Association of Chinese Professionals to serve about 300 participants.

The exhibitor fees help fund our High School Senior scholarship.

In September, we helped to reinstate a teacher in the Fulton County School System who was dismissed on grounds the organization felt were unfair. Gloria Cheng's case is the first success for OCA-Georgia in several ongoing cases of possible discrimination in the Atlanta area. OCA-GA is also helping Dr. Emelita Breyer, a professor at Georgia State University who was denied tenure. She claims that this was due to her ethnicity. (See story on page 28)

For detailed descriptions of events, please visit www.OCA-Georgia.org/.



opposite (right to left): OCA-Central Illinois, OCA-Arkansas

this page (clockwise from top left): OCA-Hawaii, OCA-Colorado, OCA-Central Illinois, OCA-Utah



clockwise from bottom:
OCA-New York, OCA-Georgia, OCA-Sacramento,
OCA-New England, OCA-South Florida

OCA-GREATER PHILADELPHIA

OCA-Greater Philadelphia recently helped organize a community coalition with JACL, the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation, the Queen Village Neighborhood Association, the Pennsylvania Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and the Anti-Defamation League in order to address an offensive restaurant name in Philadelphia. Chink's Steak is a cheesesteak restaurant, named for former owner Sam "Chink" Sherman. According to his widow, the nickname came from his childhood, because he had supposedly "slanty" eyes.

The current owner of the restaurant had planned to open a new store last week under the same name in south Philadelphia. He had posted large signs announcing the opening. The Coalition reached out to the owner, politicians, concerned civic groups, and the landlord. Last week, the landlord informed the owner that he would not be able to sub-lease the property. The restaurant signs at the new location came down during the last week of March. The Coalition will continue to monitor other expansion efforts by the owner.

OCA-GREATER WASHINGTON DC

OCA-DC chapter celebrated its 34th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala on December 2, 2007 with 400 guests

including many elected officials and other dignitaries. Keynote speaker Michelle Rhee, Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools, talked about her career choices that led to her post as the youngest and the first APA chief of the public schools system in the nation's capital.

OCA-DC chapter president Lily Qi presented her with the 2007 OCA-DC Leadership Award, noting that Chancellor Rhee epitomizes this year's theme, "Commitment to Excellence and Service." Qi called for more APAs to take leadership roles in education, saying, "In the field of higher education, there is a serious lack of APA leadership. Nationwide, less than one percent of the CEOs of higher education institutions are Asian Americans."

Our annual gala is not only a celebration of the achievements of APA leaders, but also an important venue to educate the public including local leaders about APA issues. Also honored at the gala were a group of high school students who won the OCA-DC Annual Scholarship Awards for Arts Competition. The OCA National Building Fund received a donation of \$10,000 from the East Coast Family Camp and \$5,000 from OCA-DC.

Looking ahead to 2008, OCA-DC is excited to partner with the NOVA Chapter to co-host the National Convention in Washington, DC. We hope to see you there!

OCA-LONG ISLAND

On October 5th, OCA-LI held a successful dinner/dance awards gala where our 320 guests dined and danced the evening away. A big "thank you" to Dr. Frank Shih, our wonderful and energetic emcee for the evening. Applause to Debbie Leung for being our 2007 OCA/GM Unsung Hero; and to our OCA-LI Team Unsung Heroes. You are the best!

On November 27th we co-hosted a well-attended Disaster & Hurricane Preparedness Workshop sponsored by State Farm®. We were informed of the history of disasters in our area, and ways to protect our homes, and also ways to protect ourselves.

It is so important to make sure our volunteers and members are recognized and appreciated for their support. Our Membership Appreciation Luncheon was held on December 6th with over 40 members in attendance. In addition to the great food, there were lots of jokes, singing, good company, and bonding galore.

OCA-LI members participated in many community events, including the Flushing Chinese Business Association's Terrace in the Park event, Flushing Lunar New Year parade, the American Cancer Society's Volunteer party, the Chinese Center's annual dinner, and the Asian American Postal Employee's Association's annual dinner, where we were honored to meet Mr. Kam Mak, the designer of the new Lunar New Year Stamp series.

OCA-NEW ENGLAND

On December 16th, 2007, OCA-New England held a Crystal Brunch at Boston's Museum of Science to honor George and Assunta Cha for their unwavering support and selfless dedication to the betterment and well-being of the Asian Pacific American community. Even though the Boston area had a huge snowstorm that weekend and many roads were closed, people still managed to find their way to the celebration brunch. The proceeds from the event will be contributed to the OCA Internship fund.

On March 8th, OCA-NE held a Chinese New Year's celebration banquet featuring guest speaker Daniel Golden, George Polk Award and Pulitzer Prize winning author of The Price of Admission, which chronicles the uneven playing field in college admissions. One chapter of the book discusses the dilemmas facing APA students. Copies of the book were available for purchase and autographing. The banquet also presented children's performance and activities.

In March, OCA-NE participated in the 2008 Wellesley College Not-For-Profit Fair to promote OCA and its student leadership programs. We were visited by many students, some of whom said they will be applying for the summer internship programs. We also talked with representatives of nearby colleges and universities about OCA's college programs. Our participation in the fair was a success.

OCA-PITTSBURGH

OCA-Pittsburgh, with support from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Montefiore Hospital, the Pittsburgh Chinese Physician Association, the Tzu Chi Foundation, and Three Rivers Families with Children from China (TRFCC), sponsored our annual Free Medical Clinic on October 29, 2007. More than 15 doctors volunteered, providing dentistry, internal medicine, urology, allergy, ophthalmology, orthopedics, and OB/GYN services, as well as a number of nurses and supporters. The annual Clinic is popular with the employees of Chinese restaurants and temporary visitors and immigrants from China.

On November 24, 2007

we participated in the annual WPXI TV/Macy Celebrate the Season Parade. More than 35 OCA members participated, including performers in traditional Chinese costume and the dragon dancers. It was a perfect opportunity to introduce the rich Chinese culture and heritage.

Our signature event is the annual Chinese New Year Banquet. More than 260 dinner guests joined us in celebration on February 9th. The event was presided over by the current Chapter president Wen-Ching Yang and featured a dance performance choreographed by VP of Cultural Affairs Chia-Pih Shaw. We were joined by emcee and local TV personality Timyka Artist. We would like to thank our cor-

porate sponsors, patrons, and benefactors. Congressman Tim Mulphy awarded the Congressional Awards to members of OCA Youth and Ginny Gong was presented with a \$5,000 donation from Pittsburgh Chapter to the OCA National Legacy Fund.

OCA-SACRAMENTO

In the fall of 2007, OCA Sacramento formed a Chapter Business Advisory Council (BAC) to provide guidance to OCA Sacramento to nurture programs that mutually benefit OCA Sacramento, the BAC members, and the APA community. We have hosted two meetings with potential BAC members and plan to hold quarterly meetings. Potential members have receptive and are inter-

below: OCA-Pittsburgh, OCA-Utah



clockwise from top left: OCA-Central Illinois, OCA-Arkansas, OCA-Utah, OCA-Georgia

ested to learn more about collaboration. Chapter Council Members include Chair Sam Ng, Vice Chair Tom Bhe, Joyce Eng, Janice Low, Linda Ng, Ken Avelino and Shirley Su.

On February 15th 2008, over 350 Sacramento seniors celebrated the Year of the Rat at the 2008 OCA/Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center (SCCSC) Lunar New Year Senior Luncheon. The Far East Lion Dance Group performed a traditional lion dance. OCA member Rosalind Wong and her China Jewels Performance Group entertained our seniors with a variety of opera songs, hit songs, line dancing, waltz and cha cha. In addition, Mr. Gao (90 years young) and Mr. Hau (85 years young) sang folk songs and energized our audience with their enthusiasm. Since 2002 the Lunar New Year Senior Luncheon has been a successful collaboration between OCA and SCCSC. All proceeds benefit our community's seniors. This year we are honored to have received a grant from the Asian Pacific Rim Foundation to support the Luncheon.

Last November, after serving for two years on the Fair Employment and Housing Commission (FEHC), immediate past chapter president Linda Ng was reappointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to a new four-year term on the Commission pending Senate confirmation. FEHC is a quasi-judicial public commission active in enforcing California's civil rights laws regarding discrimination in employ-

ment, housing and public accommodations, as well as family and medical leave, pregnancy disability leave and hate violence. Congratulations, Linda!

OCA-SOUTH FLORIDA

On January 5th, OCA-South Florida chapter presented the 2008 New Year New Resolution New Lifestyle "Health-to-Hearth" Health Talk, discussing heart attack prevention and new theories of "reverse aging." The Philippine Nurses Association of South Florida also provided free blood pressure checks. On January 26th, we held our first successful Lunar New Year Festival with over 500 attendees. In addition, the Mayor of Pembroke Pines presented a Proclamation of OCA Day.

In February, we co-sponsored the annual Senior Lunar Appreciation Luncheon in honor of our community elders. We also co-sponsored the 20th Annual Chinese New Year Festival at Miami-Dade College-Kendall Campus. Over 8,000 attendees enjoyed a day of Chinese cultural performances and Taiko drumming, Asian food, and arts and crafts. We were honored by US Congressman David Wu's visit to the Festival to deliver New Years greetings and meet with community leaders.

On February 23rd, chapter president Winnie Tang was one of the Honorary Chairs for the 2008 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Spirit of Excellence Awards and Scholarship Gala where the new Lunar New Year stamp series was launched. The first stamp in the series was presented to OCA-

South Florida and the 31st stamp in the Black History series was presented to Mr. Karl Wright, President of Florida Memorial College.

On March 1st and 2nd, OCA-South Florida participated in the annual Asian Culture Festival where we distributed information on an amendment to the "Alien Land Law" which is expected to be on the Florida ballot in November.

OCA-South Florida has been building a partnership with Florida Compulsive Gambling Council to research APAs and gambling. Currently we are in the process of developing an OCA Community Job Fair with various federal agencies and State Farm to be held in May. Also in May, we will be supporting the Women's International Film Festival to present night of films by APA women.

OCA-UTAH

On December 8th, 2007, OCA-Utah held our annual meeting. About 150 people attended the meeting, where we held a ceremony to officially swear in all chapter board members. Immediate past chapter president Rachel Yee turned the chapter over to president-elect Terence Chen. Everyone enjoyed the great food, company, and karaoke and dance. There was also a silent auction with items provided by the board members to help raise fund for the chapter. ■

oca interns where are they now?

Mai Dang was an OCA intern in the summer of 2003. Mai graduated from the George Washington University in 2006, and now works with the Vietnamese community in New Orleans.

How did you get involved with OCA?

In 2002, I was a winner of the OCA-Avon Scholarship, and attended the OCA National Convention in Salt Lake City. It was an amazing experience and I was able to connect with the summer interns that year. I applied for the OCA Internship the following year. I was very interested in educational policy and was placed at the National Education Association.

What motivated you to get involved in APA issues and other social justice issues?

I always knew I had an interest in working within the Asian Pacific American community, but it was not until I got to college that my awareness of my APA identity emerged. I joined many different APA organizations on campus such as the Vietnamese Student Association, the Philippine Cultural Society, and the Asian Student Alliance. I also sat on the Programming Committee of the 2006 East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference. All of these experiences helped me to explore my identity and taught me how to get people from different cultures and backgrounds working together on issues.

In addition, I explored my identity as a woman, especially as it related to being Asian American. As a Women's Studies major, I became very interested in the patriarchal structures of many APA (and other) groups and the gender stereotypes and roles that are encouraged. During my senior year, I produced a documentary of the convergence of these two identities entitled "There's No Such Thing As Sex: Asian American Women Break the Silence."

What did you do after your internship?

While I completed my undergraduate degree, I continued my involvement with various on-campus organizations, and I began to focus more on APA identity and policy. I studied abroad in Vietnam and New Zealand, and worked with the Conference on APA Leadership (CAPAL) and the Smithsonian Institution's APA Program.

After I graduated, I moved to New Orleans where I worked as a Community Organizer at the Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation. The placement was through the National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies (NAVASA) Fellowship and aimed at helping to gain social and economic justice for Vietnamese communities ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. I helped lead the Campaign to Reclaim and Rebuild that will empower Vietnamese refugees in New Orleans to protect and advance their rights to return, reclaim and rebuild their homes and communities, participate in public planning processes, gain access to public resources, access living wage jobs, affordable housing, health care, and education, and form a government that represents the diversity and interests of all people.

I was able to continue my work with Mary Queen of Vietnam through the New Voices Fellowship. I organize the community to raise their voices in public meetings and to elected officials. I am also involved with the language access campaign and policy-oriented work that directly benefits the Vietnamese community. The highlight of the work I do now is seeing a community member who has limited English proficiency be

able to speak up. Empowerment is at the core of the work I do here.

One of the more concrete successes of this work was our campaign around the Chef Menteur landfill, which was located near the local Vietnamese community and was not suitable for holding toxic containments from the debris of the Katrina cleanup. Through a popular education campaign, working with city officials, and organizing elders and youth, we were able to have the Chef Menteur site closed.

What issues would you encourage readers to get involved in?

I want all readers to continue to be aware of the effects of Hurricane Katrina and the ongoing rebuilding effort." Katrina fatigue" has caused elected officials and the general public to forget about the rebuilding and rehabilitation that still needs to be done.

Also, two issues that I've been confronted with in my work have been environmental racism and gentrification. The Chef Menteur landfill campaign highlighted existing environmental racism and the need to monitor what types of projects are being funded and how they affect the local health of a community. And gentrification is a constant struggle in New Orleans, as land continues to be appropriated by private developers without regard to the well-being of the community. ■

getting to know our partners



Aparna Kothary | SAALT

With a population of more than 2 million people, South Asians were the fastest growing Asian American group in the United States between 1990 and 2000. While the largest South Asian populations are found on the East and West coasts in New York/New Jersey, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, and the Washington DC Metro Area, there are sizable emerging populations in other parts of the United States.

Despite this growth, a public perception still exists that South Asians are a "model minority" who face few challenges or obstacles. However, this is not the case for a significant number of South Asian immigrants. Poverty, limited proficiency in English, and discrimination affect many members of the South Asian community. Moreover, beyond this common misperception is the reality that many South Asians remain fairly disengaged from the communities in which they live.

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), as the only national South Asian organization in the country that addresses issues affecting the community through a social justice context, plays a unique role in this context. There are few national efforts targeted towards identifying needs of marginalized South Asians, connecting with policymakers and governmental entities, and documenting challenges, concerns and trends in our community. SAALT's work attempts to fill this void.

Our mission is to foster an environment in which all South Asians in America can participate fully in civic and political life, and have influence over policies that affect them. Through our work in the South Asian

community, we increase access to basic information about how immigrants can obtain services, exercise their rights, and become more engaged in civic life. SAALT's programming includes capacity building, leadership development, policy analysis and advocacy, community education, and coalition building strategies aimed towards empowering the South Asian community.

Some of our recent and ongoing work includes:

South Asian Summit. A convening of over 150 individuals from nearly 40 organizations working with underserved South Asian community members in Washington DC.

Building Community Strength Report.

A ground-breaking report about the South Asian community and community-based organizations. The 30-page report provides information about the needs, opportunities and challenges facing South Asian organizations.

Be the Change (National Day of Service).

Our signature leadership development program aimed at improving social conditions through service to others, while engaging South Asians in civic engagement and leadership. The event, which has been coordinated by SAALT for seven years now, draws hundreds of South Asians between the ages of 18 and 35 to cultivate volunteerism and public service within the South Asian community.

SAALT Circles. Groups of individuals around the country who believe in SAALT's mission and wish to engage in projects such as voter education, voter

registration, and community service. Currently, there are active SAALT Circles in New York, New Jersey, Washington DC, and the Bay Area.

Coalition Building. To build solidarity with other immigrant groups and communities of color, SAALT participates in a range of coalitions including the National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans, which enables SAALT to work closely with organizations such as OCA and many others. We look forward to strengthening these coalitions to build a stronger Asian American presence in this country.

"What's At Stake in 2008" Townhalls.

Townhalls aimed at engaging South Asians around the country in discussions and action geared towards increasing political education and activism.

We are excited to expand on our work in 2008 and mobilize South Asians to become more civically engaged during such a historical and important time in our country's political history! For more information about SAALT, we invite you to visit our website at www.saalt.org. We are available to provide presentations to OCA chapters about the South Asian community and to link OCA members at the local level with SAALT members. We look forward to hearing from you! ■

Aparna Kothary joined SAALT in August of 2007 as the Fundraising and Development Assistant through the Americorps VISTA program. To reach Aparna, please email aparna@saalt.org.

his chinatown

Kam Mak is the artist behind the US Postal Service's new Lunar New Year stamp series, which was unveiled this year. He has also illustrated numerous children's books. Mak talks about growing up in New York's Chinatown, current projects, and his work on the Lunar New Year stamp. Mak currently lives in New York City and teaches at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

In 1971 my parents and I immigrated to New York City from Hong Kong. I grew up on the Lower East Side in a tenement. It was tough for me, but much tougher for my parents. My dad worked and my mom was working and taking care of the children. I was working at a car wash across the street to help out. My mom worked 12 hours a day, six days a week. She used to bring home sewing and my sister and I would help her in the evenings.

I wasn't a very good student and I was struggling with my English. Fortunately, I was very good at drawing and it took me away from a lot of the trouble I could have gotten into. In the 70s there were a lot of gangs in Chinatown. I had a friend who was killed in the Chinese theater in junior high. It motivated me to work harder. My art teacher took the time to nurture my skill, and helped me to get into a good arts school, LaGuardia High School.

I got a summer internship with City Art Workshop, which was a big turning point in my life. City Art Workshop brings youth in the city together to work on a mural. This was the first time I had ever met Asian artists, and it really inspired me. In addition, City Art got us out into the city. I had never left Chinatown before that. I won a full scholarship to School of Visual Arts, and in 1984, after I graduated, I started working as a freelance illustrator.

In 2001, I wrote and illustrated a book, *My Chinatown*, which is my favorite project to date. The book is autobiographical, set in Chinatown when I had just come to the US. It all started with a small painting I did of two catfish in a plastic tub. I spent a lot of time with my grandmother in her kitchen, and I was fascinated by those animals. I was happy to be able to include my

parents in the book—my dad passed away six months ago, and it's the only painting I have of him and my mom.

Currently, I'm working on a series of paintings of live animals you find in Chinatown—snails, tilapia fish, ducks. I find them fascinating. These are very personal paintings. Everything I do is very informed by my culture and growing up in Chinatown.

It's been a great honor to have been asked to do the new Lunar New Year stamp series. I got involved in the project when one of the art directors at the US Postal Service called me to do another stamp, and in the middle of the job she hinted that they might be renewing the Lunar New Year series

just weren't looking right, and I finally came up with the concept of using other elements—lanterns, lion dances, red envelopes. I think that this approach has never been done before. Every image I select is something I'm familiar with. The lanterns are a festive element that my mother used to use to decorate the house, and the color red is for luck.

The stamp job came with lots of responsibilities that I didn't expect—it's not just something that you put on an envelope but a way for Asian Americans to share their culture with the rest of the US and the rest of the world. The stamp is a very powerful means of communication, so I felt I had to do a really good job.



and that my name had been mentioned. The other stamp was never released but when the New Year series was approved, I was very excited.

At first I followed the concept from the last series, using the zodiac animals. I drew lots of rats, but they

Before I worked on the New Year stamp, my mother had never really been willing to admit that I was an artist. But now that she's seen people's positive reaction to the stamp, it's really made her proud of what I do, and that's a great satisfaction for me. ■



left: OCA-Northern Virginia chapter president Jack Hom with Christina Hsu

Although Christina's father was portrayed as an emotionally distant parent and was shown treating her very harshly during arguments between the two, Christina is quick to point out that "My father is hard on me, but out of love. There's a lot that CBS chose not to show and they chose clips of when we only had two hours of sleep and no food." Christina added, "He comes from the 'school of hard knocks' since he was the eldest of 5 and took care of the family. He's the ultimate sacrificer."

Christina credits her summer internship with OCA in 2000 as being the experience that really catapulted her involvement with the organization and the APA community. She was placed in the Department of Health and Human Services, where she learned about and became inspired by issues affecting the APA community.

She turned this knowledge and experience into action and brought it back to her school, Duke University, to become the President of the Asian Students Alliance. As President, she helped to establish an Asian American Studies program at Duke University by encouraging more faculty hires and the creation of the department, one of the first of its kind on the East Coast. The effort was aided from the OCA network provided to her by the internship.

Despite the instant fame that comes with being on a popular television show, Christina remains grounded and does not expect that this fame will have a great impact on her character, especially as a role model. When asked if she considered herself a role model, she replied, "People like Grace Lee Boggs, Yuri Koyichama and the work that OCA National does should be the model for the younger and older generations in getting involved with the community. I respect OCA because it represents APAs and take on the challenges of trying to unite the community." ■

the amazing christina hsu

Douglas Lee | Senior Program Manager

Near the top of the long list of Christina Hsu's accomplishments is her appearance on the reality television show *The Amazing Race*. Hsu appeared on the show with her father, Ronald Hsu. Together, daughter and father traveled around the world and endured fatigue, hunger, and extreme challenges; all the while grappling with the challenge to understand one another that can be found in many Asian Pacific American father-daughter relationships. Defying the record of previous father-daughter teams and unfavorable predictions, Christina and Ronald captured second place in the televised competition, which was made more remarkable considering they were almost eliminated early in the show.

With the recent successes of Asian Pacific Americans on reality television—most notably *Survivor* contes-

tant and winner Yul Kwon—Christina's appearance on *The Amazing Race* was sure to garner a lot of attention from the APA community. In particular, the focus was on how Christina's ethnicity and gender were covered on the show. In our interview, Christina noted that, "People will judge me a certain way because I am an Asian American, a woman, the age that I am, a daughter, et cetera. There are just so many angles on reality television."

One of the angles that *The Amazing Race* chose to highlight was the father-daughter relationship which became a compelling storylines during the season, partly because of the team's success. The relationship rang true with the children of many Asian American and immigrant families, with many echoing the sentiment, "Your dad is like my dad!"

thank you for your support!

We thank the following contributors for supporting the work and mission of OCA and the establishment of the OCA National Center. These represent donor records as of April 1, 2008. We regret if any names were omitted. Please contact us for corrections.

Community Benefactor (\$500,000 and above)

State Farm®

Community Patron (\$100,000 and above)

George and Assunta Cha
K. Lee Foundation
Chi Wang
Andrew K.C. Wong

Community Mover (\$25,000-99,999)

Charles and Alice Cha
Claudine Cheng
DAE Advertising
Walter and Amber Hsu
Dr. Jhemon H. Lee
Arielle Lui
Leon and Joyce Wang
Miriam and Horatio Yeung

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

Jean and Stanley Chang
Debbie Chen
Hwei-Sze and Selina Chen
James and Diana Chin-Bow
Deborah F. Ching and
Mark M. Maveda
Daphne Kwok
Lam Family Foundation
(Shau-Wai & Marie Lam)
Michael C. and Ellen Lin
Ty and Susan Mak
Marisa C. Ming
Jy-Hong and Ching-hua Su
Betty Lee Sung
William and Annie Tao
Carol Tsai
Sharon Wong
John Yang

Community Leader (\$5,000-9,999)

Herbert H. and
Virginia C. Gee
Ginny, Jennifer, Brian and
David Gong
Peter, Irene, Steven, and Michelle
Gong
Cassandra and Daniel Kwoh
Leo Y. Lee
Mr. & Mrs. David Liu
David Lu
Pang L. and Hope Man
Alex and Lillian Mark
Virginia and John Ng
Philippine Chinese American
Medical Association
Sik Woo Ting
Carlos H. and Maple Tiu
Ada S.Y. Tom
G.K. and Raymond Tong Family
(Theodore and Cindy Tong)
Chris Wang
Kung-Lee Wang
Austria Wong
Raymond L. Wong

Community Supporter (\$1,000-4,999)

APIASF
Jason and Carol Bobadilla
Dennis H. Chao
Margaret L. Chan
Mark and Elizabeth Chan
Helen and Canyon Chan
Michael and Macy Mak Chan
Ying Chan
Richard C. Chang
Victor and Berman Chang
Robert and Ann Chao
Arthur and Carole Chen
Danny C.H. Chen
Frances Chu
Grace Chen and David Hinds
James C.M. Chen
Mark T. and Elizabeth Y. Chen
Wai Chun Cheng
Alan and Dora Cheung
Han Chiang
Albert Chin
Cora May and Stephen Chin
Douglas Chin
Maurice R. and Olive Chin
James and Diana Chin-Bow
Wallace S. J. Ching
Al and Minda Chu
Frances Chu
Jimmy Chu
Rose Chu
Mabelle Dong
Pearl Lee Dong
HC "Dick" and Lida Du
Albert Eng
Dennis Eng
Joseph Eng
Kwong Eng
Rose Eng
Tak Eng
Thomas Eng
Victor B. Eng
Kathay Feng
Finest Produce Corp.
(c/o Kai-Wing Cheung)
Catharine Fogg
Dennis Fong
Susan and Wendell Foo
K.C. and Celine Fong
Herbert H. and Virginia C. Gee
Jose Gomez
Sandra Gong
Lee Hawley
Ray and Barbara Hing
Kathleen Hjiung
Alan and Sylvia Ho
Bill Ho (Duke Printer Center)
James C. Ho
Jimmy Ho
Elaine Hoo
Kathy Hsiang
Peter & Vivien Hsueh
James and Cynthia Hu
Joseph C. and Nancy W. Huang
Una Tsou Hunter
Tim & Winny Hurr
Mary Jung and Adrian Sacharski
Polly Kam
Jeffrey Y. Kao
Rose and William Kaung
Helen D. Kho

Robert and Nelly Koetzner
Peter Koo
Robert W. and Shirley Koo
Kwok Hsu Fund (Wei-Tai Kwok &
Violet Hsu)
C.F. and Florence Kwok
Frank and Ancilla Kwok
Alice and Eusebio Lee
Drew and Dorothy Lee
Kathleen Wah Lee
Lehman and Linda Lee
Amy Ai Yu-Mei Lee and
Robert E. Lee, M.D.
Roberto (Bob) and Mei Lee
Theressa W. Lee
Debbie F. Leong
Cecilia and Henry Leung
Dawn Li
Eva Li
James C. Li
Thomas M. Li
Mable F. Lim
Robert Lim
Victor Lim
Anchen and Jimmy Lin
Jeff Liu
Kam and Sadie Liu
Chi-Man and Esther Lo
Alexander Lock
Ellen C. Loo
Antonio V. and May Kwan Lorenzo
Frank and Susan Lu
Samuel K.Luk
Mr & Mrs T. Y. Mak
Pang L. Man
Leslie D. Moe-Kaiser
Perry M. and Lissa (Choiwan) Moy
Alberto D. Ng
Linda Ng and Michael Head
Shirley Chu-Ng
Duy Nguyen
Sam K. and Peggy P. Ong
Harding C. Pan
Charles T. Pan
John and Katherine Pan
Monica Peng
George and Jessie Poy
Vuttinan and Linda Sankanung
In Memory of Dr. and
Mrs. Mei Sheng Shaw
Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock
Edward and Helen Sing
Woon-Wah Siu
Der-Song Song
Patrick & Marguerite Sung
Astrid L. Szeto
Tai Living Trust (Dr. Diane Tai)
Claire Tan
Winnie Tang
Austin P. and Mary F. Tao
Robert and Sylvia Ting
Peter To
Evelyn and Lucky Tom
Cindy Tong
George C. Tong
William and Ann Tong
Teresa Ning and
Benjamin Tsang, M.D.
Christopher Tuey
Jackie and William Tung
Edward and Ping Wan
Christopher Wang
Julie and Keith Wang
Yunshen Wang

Michael and Pearl Wei
Linda Mar Weidman
Richard and Donna Wen
Robert and Katherine Wone
Calvin and Susan Wong
Henry and Constance Wong
Lin & Ella Wong Foundation, Inc.
(Vera H. Wong)
Sharon Wong
Mei Ling Woo
Alex and Daisy Wu
Thomas Wu
Gladys M. Yan
James Y. and Regina L. Yan
George & Stringer Yang
George Yap
Victor and Hun King Yau
Cora and Albert Yim
Alfred Yin
Ben You Chen Ying
Grace Young
John L. and Diana D. Young
Peter and Helen Yu
Wei Zhang

Community Friend (Up to \$999.99)

Alexander and Alan Abramson
America's Charities Fiscal Services
Cam Ashling
May Lee and Maidey Au
Gale Awaya McCallum
Conrad Ball
Betty A. Banks
Marjorie Bee
Gloria Besthoff
Zarina Blankenbaker
Pauline Brody
Stewart Bunker
David T. and Audrey H. Chai
Anna E. Chan
Betty Chan
Chris Chan
Irene N. Chan
Jeffrey R. Chan
Johnny Y. and Summe Chan
Samuel Chan
Shu-Ping Chan
Teresa and Steven Chan
Connie K. N. Chang
Emily P. Chang
Ming Hong and Yeh Chang
Sam Chang
Ted Chang
Theresa Chang
Ti-Hua Chang
Armand Chao
Edith Chao
Jason Chao
Ping Chao
Yung-An and Jean Chao
Hedgehog Cap
Armand Chau
Hanley Chan
Ted Chan
Alice Chen
Andrew Chen
Anna E. Chen
Chih Ping and Virginia Chen
Fang Chu Chen
Florence Chen
Frederick Chen
Herbert K. Chen
Jean C. H. and Robert Chen
Ken Wen Sherng Chen
Selena Chen
Shao-Lin and Fengchi Wu Chen
Shium A. and Veronica Chen
Amber Cheng
Benny B. Cheng
Fai M. Cheng
Peter Cheng
Richard Cheng
Veronica and Basel Cheng
Irene Cheung

Charles T. Chiang
Thomas Chien
Calvin Chin
Herbert Chin
Jack and Marilyn Chin
Laura Chin
Leeann Chin Foundation
Michael Chin
Vern Chin
Keemin Chin-Sang
Clara Chiu
Joan and Frank F. Cho
Carole Chong
Elsie Choo
Hong-Ling and Rev. Y.H. Chou
Lena Chou
Robert and Jean Chou
Rosalind and Pei Chi Chou
Terence and Phoebe Chou
Ting Chao and Dorothy Chou
Yu Chen Chou
Catherine Chow
Franklin F. Chow
Henry and Cynthia Chow
Lily Chow
Paul Chow
Wen Tsao Chow
Steven Choy
Colangelo Associates
Chu Family Charitable Fund
Elaine B. Chu
Henry F. Chu
Jacob Chu
James Chu
Mindania E. Chu
Norman Chu
Rose C. Chu
Shirley Chua
Locus and Theresa Chuang
Amy Chung
Anmin and Tsushan M. Chung
Chia Mou Chung
Josephine and Kelvin Chung
Min-Li and Riley Chung
Susanna Chung
Bernard Collins
Marc and Doris Ling Cohan
Colangelo Associates
Tim J. and Libby Benson Cummings
Marie and Savino D'Agostino
Catherine C. Damoan
Janella Del Mundo
Linda Deng
Stephen Deng
Patricia Din
Mabelle Dong
Joyce and Danny Dow
Kunxian Jing and Ying Du
Theodora H. Du
Arthur and Millie Eng
Betty Eng
Ida Wong Eng
Kee Juen and Jean Gee Eng
Kenneth and Paula Eng
Patrick Eng
Rose Eng
Stanley Eng
Wai Ling Eng
Dennis Engoff
Carson & Kemay Eoyang
Blair Ewing
Quan Feng
Fred Fernandez
Ophelia T. Fetter
Mark J. Freihage Associates
John and Winnie Fitzpatrick
Monica Flores and Genesis Lodise
Nathan and Christina Fong
Bernard Fu
Lotus and Lo Teh Fu
Yu Chun Fu
Hung-Gay and Linda Fund
David L. Fung
Paul J. Gam
George Gee

Steven and Phyllis Shuck Gee
Thomas Gee
Robert and Elaine Gim
Kathleen Gobo
Cynthia G. Gouw
Yolanda P. and Alfred Hansen
Chong Hoe Hao
Lian and Margaret Hao
Harris Bank
Lillian Gee Hirschfeld
David and Angela Ho
Gin C. Ho
Sophia and Yu Chi Ho
Maily Hoang
Jack Hom
Mary Hom
Wen Chen Hsia
Edward and Shirley Hsieh
Robert Hsieh
David Hsu
Ching-Yeh and Kathy Hu
Hugh Hu
James and Cynathia Hu
Janelle Hu
Jean-Han Hu
Joseph Hu
Cecilia Huang
Joseph and Nancy Huang
Mei Sien and Yen Yu Huang
Misa Huang
Selina Huang
Vikien J. Huang
Yao Wen Huang
Merrie L. Huey
Helen Y. H. Hui
Sai-Kit Hui
Robert H. Huie
Nancy and Paul Hwang
Roland Hwang
Henry Hwong
Miranda Jaffe
Thomas Jao
Martin Jer
Charles Jim
Frank and Jeanette Kam
Anthony Kan
Franklin M. and Clarissa A. Kang
Linda Kao
Maeching Li Kao
Michelle Kee
Christie Kennett
Jenny Kho
Nora Y. Kim
Wai Kong King
Jan and Joe Kish
Miranda Ko
Tong Chui Koh
Rene Tang Kong
Herching Ku
James and Annie Kun
Florence Kung
Mou Liang Kung
June Kwan
Thomas and Amy Kwei
Edwing and Beulah Kwoh
Bill Kwong
Cheung Hing Kwong
May Lai
Philip H. Lam
Calvin and Helen Lang
Chuen-Yen Lau
Louis and Sophia Lau
Mamie Lau
Peter and Lisa Lau
Ken & Karen Lau
William and Carol Lau
Willie Lau
Weber S. Lauh
Audrey Lee
Brenda Lee
Chester and Diana Lee
Christopher Lee
Doug Lee
Frank Lee
Fred and Mary Lee

Gary Chung-Yi Lee
Henry J. Lee
Hoover Lee
James and Helen B. Lee
Joanna and Peter Lee
Lehman and Linda Lee
Linda and Christopher Lee
Margaret and Christopher Lee
Mark and Mei Lan Lee
Nicole T. Lee
Peter B. Lee
Romana S. Lee
Rose E. Lee
Sam Lee
Shee Hing Lee
Tak and Melinda Lee
Theresa and Siu-Leung Lee
Thomas H.C. and Nina Lee
Thomas J. Lee
Vincent Lee
Dave Len
David Lai Len
Frances L. Len
Bow F. and Shuk Ying Leong
James and Janet Leong
Nia and Fook Y. Leong
Sing Leong
Barbara Leung
Cho King Leung
Lam Leung
Linus and Judy Leung
Paul and Wendy Leung
Tony N. Leung
Thomas H. and Agnes Li
John Liang
C.S. Liao
Chung Kuo and Ming Djan Liao
Dr. Sutek and Dr. Haiyee Lie
Ray and Mable Lim
David T. Lin
Eric and Aryani Ong Lin
Howard Lin
James G. Lin
Jeff and Sandra Lin
Jenny and Arthur Lin
Ming-Jyh Lin
T.Y. Lin
Vida Chan Lin
Douglas Ling
Elsie Ling
Sherwin W. and Linda Liou
Andy and Carol Liu
Eva and Roger Liu
Frank Liu
Jason Liu
Victor Liu
Wan Cheng and Emily Liu
Sew Y. Liyu
Chu Sek and Theresa Lo
David K. Lo
Eddie Lo
Frank and Grace Lo
Fred and Mary Lo
Theresa Lo
Wendy Loh
Lenny and Ngan Chung Loo
Cindy Loo-Wang
Bette Bao and Winston Lord
Juanita T. Lott
Sophie Lou
Stan Lou
Linda Louie
Sen M. Louie
Susan Lu
Y. K. Bill and Lillian K. Lui
Kevin and Linda Luke
Stanton Lum
Eileen (Lai Wang) Lundquist
Quang Ma
Donald L. and Mieke Mah
Ting Hei Mak
Ty Mak
Wing Mar
Lillian Mark
Robert and Wendy May

Keith McAllister
Rika McNally
Freddie Mendoza
Richard A. and Nancy Millstein
Matthew Y. Mo
Stella and William Mo
Michael Moon
Terri F. Morse
Winnie Y. Mou
Patrick and Win A. Moy
Serena Moy
Yookyee and Doris Moy
Roger Wong Mulley
Frances and David Namkoong
Virginia Nelson
Francis K.T. Ng
Johnny Ng
Max S. Ng
Patrick and May Ng
Christina Nguyen
Duy Nguyen
Sophie Nichoson
Clyde Nishimura
K. Patrick Okura
George M. Ong
Elizabeth OuYang
Harding Pan
Lili Pao
S. Paul and Juliet Mao Pao
Sophia S. Pao
Nick and Von Pappas
Donna Pascua
Monica Peng
Stephen Peng
Eleanore and Alton Phillips
Wilson Poe
Alfred and Lin Poy
Claire Pruet
Lili Qi
Mary Quan
Irma Rodriguez
Rene Rodriguez
Amy Sangiolo
Caryn and Paul Schmidt
Siew Ling Seah
Fernando A. Serpa
Bessie H.M. Shao
Kent and Anita Shao
K.S. and A.H. Shao
Kameelah Shareef
Anne and Bob Shaw
Lilian and June Sang Siak
Julia Wai-Yin So
Mirchell and Annie Song
Colleen M. Sousa
Allison Stock and Patrick Bordnick
Jy-Hong and Ching-hua Su
Rona C. and Peter K. Sun
Joseph and Quinnette Sze
T.L. International Corporation
C.T. and Lila Taam
Choy Taam
Henry Tam
Thomas Tam
Chung Jen and Lorraine Tan
Claire Tan
Diane M. Tan
Gregory and Connie Tan
Xue-Yi Tan
George Tang
Jason and Nancy Tang
Sherman Shick-Jue Tang
Ping Tcheng
Jean and Richard Tekin
Chung Wei Teng
Daniel and Stephanie Teo
Dorothy C. Thom
Dorothy L. Thong
Ling Thumin
Patrick L. Ting
Kathleen To
Darryl Tom
Ging and Anna Tom
William and Ann Tong
Mark Tou

Ban Tran
 Vana Tran
 Amy Tsai
 Chen Tsai
 Frank and Julie Tsai
 John and Alice Tsai
 Stephen and Iris Tsai
 Linda and Anthony Tse
 Judy Y. Tseng
 Pauline Woo Tsui
 Lawrence Tzou
 Larry H. Uno
 William Uy
 Linda Ventriglia
 Lien Vu
 Chiaan and Lily Wan
 Cindy-Loo Wang
 David and Lydia Wang
 Hai Po Wang
 George and Nora Wang
 James Wang
 James and Joanne Wang
 Jeannette Wang
 Kung Yeh Wang
 Stanley and Catherine Wang
 Ting Wang
 Tony Wang
 Martha Watanabe
 Rosemary Watts
 Thomas C. Welch
 James and Katy Wei
 Michael and Pearl Wei
 Victor and Sylvia Wei
 Wendy L. Wilber
 Jean W. Wilson
 Women's Club of Dumont
 William Won
 Albert Wong
 Alysona and Wyman K. Wong
 Andrew and Olive Wong
 Angus Wong
 Be Gin and Gordon Zen Wong

Cindy L. Wong
 Cynthia and Ruth Wong
 Dennis R. Wong
 Francis P. Wong
 Helena Wong
 Janlee Wong
 Jenny Wong
 Linda Wong
 Michael Wong
 Robert and Jane Wong
 Ruth Wong
 Samuel and Mercedes Wong
 Samuel M. Wong
 Tai C. and Sau Ling Wong
 Violet and James Wong
 Walter and Anna Wong
 Darrel Woo
 Edward K. Woo
 Matthew (Gene) Woo
 Warren Woo
 Jessie Wood
 Benjamin and Teresa Lee Wu
 Chin Chao Wu
 Frank Wu
 Irene Wu
 John T. and Amy M. Wu
 Phillip and Malay Sarivong Wu
 Raymond Wu
 Roy S. Wu
 Yu-Yee Wu
 Hefeng Tian and Feng (Kelly) Xu
 James Yan
 AlanYang
 Alice Yang
 Chung S. and Sue Pai Yang
 David and Ruei Wen Yang
 George and Dora Yang
 Sue Pai Yang
 Zong-Yee Wilson Yang
 Carlton Yearwood
 Al Yee
 Bark Lee Yee

Carl Yee
 Henry J. Yee
 Kenneth C. Yee
 Melinda Yee
 Yu Sing Yee
 Alice Yang and Jack Yeh
 James and Regina Yen
 Mae Yih
 Cathy and Cheng Zong Yin
 David L. Yin
 Helen Yin
 Robert K. Yin
 Sui Chun and Alice C.H. Ying
 Chun and Joanne Yip
 Chun Keung Yip
 George and Marion Yip
 Phillip Yip
 Kai Yong
 Thanitha Yongvanichjit
 AdelineYoong
 Jun Fah and Nancy Yoong
 Howard B. Young
 John L. Young
 Kan and Lih Young
 Vincent and Grace Young
 Vincent and Joanne Young
 Arthur Yu
 Kai Tung Yu
 Leepo and Victor Yu
 John Young
 John L. and Diana Young
 Liping He and Young Yu
 Norma Yueh
 Stanford Yuen
 Jixiong Zhu

Thank you to the following OCA Chapters

Community Mover (\$25,000 - 99,999)
 Georgia

Greater Chicago
 Hawaii
 Long Island
 New Jersey
 Westchester & Hudson Valley

Community Builder (\$10,000 - 24,999)
 Dallas/Fort Worth
 Eastern Virginia
 Fairfield County
 Greater Houston
 Greater Seattle
 Greater Washington, DC

Community Leader (\$5,000 - 9,999)
 East Bay
 Greater Sacramento
 Las Vegas
 Lehigh Valley
 Pittsburgh
 San Francisco Bay
 San Mateo
 South Florida

Community Supporter (\$1,000 - 4,999)
 Columbus
 East Tennessee
 Greater Cleveland
 Greater Los Angeles
 Greater Philadelphia
 New England
 New York
 Northern Virginia
 St. Louis
 Wisconsin

Community Friend (Up to \$999)
 Detroit

HUALIAN TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL CORP.

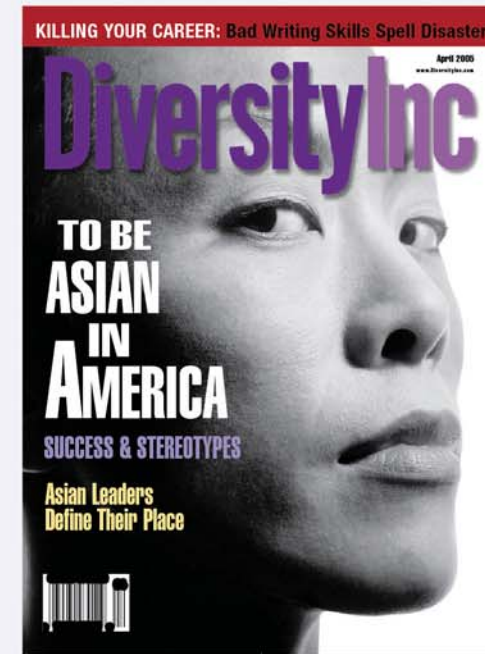
China travel consulting
 Leisure or business
 Visit Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai... or Tibet!
 Fully customize itineraries
 Private accomodation, transportation, and guides
 International and domestic airline tickets and visa applications

We are a full service travel agency owned by an OCA Lifetime Member specializing in customized China travel arrangements, catered to your special needs.

EMAIL PLS168@MSN.COM
 TELEPHONE 1 800 388 8163
 FAX 212 791 5375
 WEB www.hualianintl.com

17-23 East Broadway, 5/F Suite 503
 New York NY 10002

FREE DiversityInc Magazine Subscriptions For all OCA members



Get your FREE electronic subscription today.
 Visit www.DiversityInc.com/OCA

become an oca member today!

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

If you would like to join as a Member-at-Large, please complete the membership application form 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.

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 \$40 Single \$50 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: _____

for more information:
OCA National Center

1322 18th St NW
Washington DC 20036

telephone 202 223 5500
fax 202 296 0540

email oca@ocanational.org
web www.ocanational.org

