

IMAGE

SPRING 2010

OCA | EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS



Interview
with **Tak
Toyoshima**

Qing Wu's
Immigration Story

Hot Issues:
APA May Heritage
Month,
Census Recap,
South Philly HS
Hate Crimes

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Our Mission

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Message from the President

Ken Lee | OCA National President

OCA is off to a great start once again. To celebrate the New Year, some OCA Chapters held grand events including 10-course banquets with lion dancers, traditional performers, and notable guests. We are all excited for the year of the tiger and all of the events to come.

For this 2010 Spring Edition of IMAGE, I would like to highlight the 2010 OCA National Convention in Houston, Texas from June 17th to 20th. The National Convention is the biggest event for OCA and I am confident this year's will be another resounding success. Convention offers great opportunities for students and seasoned OCA members alike. The prominent speakers, professional development, and gala awards are a few components of Convention to look forward to.

The theme for the 2010 Convention is "Diverse Communities – United Commitment". I had an opportunity to see the application of this theme in a local chapter's work. OCA-New York has been fighting diligently on behalf of Qing Wu, a legal resident who immigrated from China at the age of five. Wu faced deportation charges for mistakes made in his youth, despite changing his ways and becoming the vice-president of internet technology at a national firm. The OCA-NY chapter helped publicize the case and led an online petition against the deportation of Wu. We recently learned that Governor

Patterson pardoned Qing Wu and he will no longer face deportation. This wonderful outcome is due in large part to OCA-New York's effort in gathering community support for Qing Wu. This year's Convention theme and OCA's mission are manifested through these efforts.

Furthermore, it gives me pleasure to announce the upcoming annual National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards at the Liaison Capitol Hotel in Washington, D.C. on October 22nd. The award recognizes corporate excellence and community service. OCA will also continue Bamboo: Build, Breakthrough, and Believe, a program that equips young professionals with the tools to become future leaders by providing mentorships, career advice, and personal branding.

Lastly, I am excited to see that our National Center staff has grown to house two additional staff members: Lan Nguyen and Mary Kong. Our National Center staff keeps all our programs running strong and provides support for chapters to do their work at the local level.

2010 promises to be a great year and I look forward to seeing everyone at National Convention and Corporate Achievement Awards. ■



Message from the Executive Director

George Wu | OCA Executive Director

In these pages, I hope you will find some inspiring stories of OCA members making a difference in their communities. I am fortunate to work in an environment continuously energized by Americans who find innovative ways to lead and give back. From students who stand up for their right to have a safe learning environment to communities coming together to highlight the injustice of our broken immigration system, I am reminded each and every day that we can achieve our mission to advance the social, economic and political well being of Asian Pacific Americans.

After working with OCA for more than two years, I've learned that it is fairly easy for OCA to be successful. With our history of civil rights and social justice advocacy, and committed members and partners like yourself, OCA continues to make great strides in providing leadership in our national journey toward equality. That's the easy part...

The hard part, is deciding how to harness the considerable power of OCA chapters, members, and partners toward addressing the changing needs of the APA community and American society. We must continuously educate ourselves on the changing demographics of America and identify the gaps in equality and equity experienced by Asian Pacific Americans.

We must continue to ensure we are counted in the Census and united as families of immigrants. We must also develop new models of growing leadership capacity within our communities and identify who gets left behind in the model minority myth. Finally, we must continue to strive to do better and recognize that issues like our health care system will always need our constant attention.

I hope reading the stories that lay ahead in these pages will inspire you to continue to push OCA to embrace our mission and the potential for America to continue to grow alongside its people. I look forward to seeing you at our many local and national events throughout May Heritage Month and into the year. And if you are ever in Washington, D.C., please do stop by the OCA National Center and say hello. ■



Message from the Editor

Mia Youhne | Vice President of Communications

Greetings from Las Vegas!

Before I speak about IMAGE, I would like to take this time to congratulate and welcome on board Program Associate, Lan Nguyen and Program Assistant, Mary Kong to our OCA Family. It is always a pleasure to work with such passionate individuals. If you haven't met these two wonderful ladies, please read their bios in the pages ahead or visit our website at www.ocanational.org. Better yet, come visit our OCA National Center in our Nation's capitol! We would like to thank our OCA members and friends for your continuous support to OCA and we hope you know that our doors are always open for you.

This past January, OCA held its first 2010 national board meeting in Orange County, California. I would like to thank Taco Bell and Richard Rugnao with Yum Brands for their gracious hospitality and opening their doors to us. At the Taco Bell headquarters, we held our 2010 national board meeting and BAC reception. Even before Richard Rugnao gave us the tour, as we walked in the Taco Bell headquarters, LCD screens welcomed OCA and its members. I couldn't help but take photos as we walked on by. As Richard Rugnao gave us the tour, I was very impressed by the work environment and thought to myself, "I want to apply for a job here! I would love to work in this environment!" Once again, thank you Taco Bell, Richard, and Yum Brands for your continuous support. I would also like to take this time to applaud the OC chapter for their commitment, dedication, and hard work. I was truly amazed by the leadership of the OC chapter and the diversity of its board members. It was great to see young professionals take prominent roles in both OCA and APA organizations across the Nation.

In this issue, we highlight events that have taken place both nationally and in your respective communities. I encourage each chapter to be involved with IMAGE by providing us with your stories, and opening our eyes to what is happening in your community with pictures and words. In this issue, we also feature previews of our upcoming events such as the National Convention, Corporate Achievement Awards, and Bamboo. Please remember in the month of May, we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. In this issue, we share with you a preview of May events and our OCA National media campaign. Please be on the look out for events that will be taking place both nationally and locally.

We also feature the importance of the Census 2010 in this issue of IMAGE. The year 2010 is a very important year for APAs. The reason is Census 2010. According to OCA National's Fact sheet, the Census Bureau has acknowledged that Asian Americans have been undercounted in past censuses and are considered a 'hard to count' population. Asian Americans were undercounted by more than 2.3% in 1990 and had lower-than-average mail response rates in 1990 and 2000 for lower income, predominantly Asian American communities. OCA thanks all of you for filling out the 2010 Census form and making sure we count!

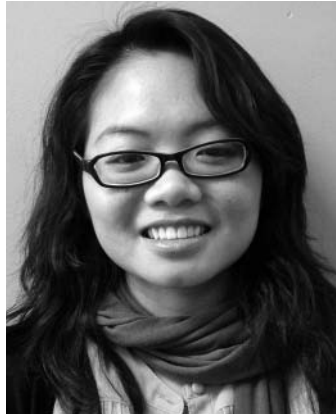
Please mark your calendars for the 2010 OCA National Convention in Houston, Texas from June 17 -20, 2010. I am quite excited to be going to Houston and we hope to see you there!

Grow. Lead. Succeed. ■

Staff Updates



Pei-Un Yee was promoted to Associate Director of Chapter Development and Member Engagement in March. She will continue to work on Chapter Development as a liaison to the National Board and on programs such as the annual JACL/OCA Leadership Conference and Chapter Advancement Track. She will also continue her work on Member Engagement, working with chapters to strengthen OCA's membership base.



Lan Nguyen joined OCA as a Program Associate in February. A transplant from Los Angeles, she graduated from Amherst College in 2008, where she received her B.A. in Cognitive Neuroscience with a minor in Asian American Studies. During her time at Amherst, she was a founding member of the Five-College Pan Asian Network (5PAN), an intercollegiate APA organization that seeks to raise awareness and mobilize students around social issues affecting the APA student community.

Abroad, Lan worked at an orphanage for physically and mentally disabled children in Saigon, Viet Nam through the Tom Gerety Fellowship for Action, and studied in Denmark through the Minorities and Multiculturalism program. Prior to joining OCA, she was a 2009 New Leaders Fellow through the Center for Progressive Leadership and an Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Fellow. During her fellowship, Lan worked at the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum and the Asian American Justice Center on immigrant rights and health care reform issues. She's looking forward to getting to know the OCA family!



Mary Kong joined OCA in February as a Program Assistant. She is a recent graduate of the University of California, San Diego where she majored in Ethnic Studies. As an undergraduate she completed the Ethnic Studies Honors Program, where she focused her research on children of Southeast Asian refugee entrepreneurs.

While attending UCSD, she had the opportunity to intern at the Cross-Cultural Center and the LGBT Resource Center on campus where she spent time programming events for the campus community. Through the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, Mary was able to study abroad in Southeast Asia. This summer Mary had the opportunity to participate in the Southeast Asian Summer Studies Institute where she studied Khmer. Prior to working at OCA, Mary was a Fall 2009 OCA Intern.



Iimay Ho was promoted to Program Manager of Student Leadership Development in February. She previously worked on OCA's Professional Development programs, including the Mentoring Asian American Professionals (MAAP) and Entrepreneur Empowerment Training (EET) programs. She has now transitioned to our internship, scholarship, and APIA U: Leadership 101 programs. Iimay is excited about working with high school and college APA students in her new job capacity.

“I'm really excited about working with APA high school and college students to develop the next generation of leaders.”

—Iimay Ho

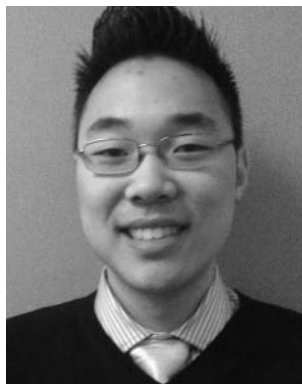
Spring 2010 OCA Interns



Boosaba Pananon

Boosaba Pananon is the Spring 2010 Development Intern at OCA National. In May, she will be graduating from the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) with a major in Sociocultural Anthropology and a minor in Asian American Studies. At UMD Boosaba is actively involved in the Asian American Student Union and Thai Students Association. Outside of school, Boosaba is a part of the Thai Alliance in America's Youth Development committee and enjoys performing Thai classical and folk dance with the Somapa Thai Dance Company.

Programming, and the Maryland Ultimate club team. He also helped to plan the F.U.E.L. Asian Pacific American Leadership Conference. Camden enjoys traveling, playing Ultimate, eating, graphic design, and web design.



Chris Kim

Currently, Chris Kim works at OCA National as the Communication Intern and is pursuing his Bachelor of Arts in Communication, with a concentration in public relations. As an undergraduate, Chris is actively involved with Alpha Kappa Psi, professional business fraternity, and received a minor in Asian American Studies. In his free time, Chris enjoys doing freelance designing and branding for up and coming Asian Pacific American businesses.

Hawaii but will be graduating from the University of Maryland in May with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in Asian American Studies. During her undergraduate career she has worked at a national non-profit in its public policy and advocacy division promoting mental health awareness. She is also involved with the Asian American Student Union and Vietnamese Student Association at UMD.



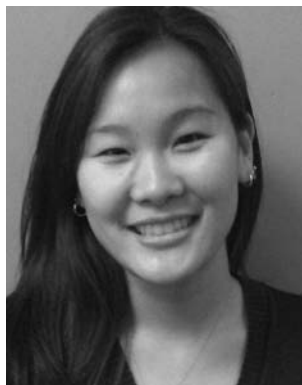
Sharon Choi

Sharon Choi is a recent graduate of the Philip Merrill School of Journalism at the University of Maryland, College Park. Along with her print journalism studies, she minored in Asian American Studies and Korean Studies. College is where she transitioned from questioning her seemingly Korean/Asian identity to discovering the ability to fight for rights against social injustice for Asian Pacific Americans. During college, she was a part of the Asian American Student Union executive board and co-directed the F.U.E.L. Leadership Conference. She is also a sister of Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc. Sharon loves being an intern at OCA.



Camden Lee

Camden Lee, a Maryland native, is currently a junior at the University of Maryland completing an Asian American Studies Independent Major. Since summer 2009, Camden has interned at the OCA National Center. He is also involved with the Asian American Student Union at UMD, as the Vice President of



Kara Young

Kara Young is the Spring 2010 Administrative Intern at OCA National. She was born and raised in

2010 Convention Preview

Mary Kong | OCA Program Assistant



PHOTO BY BRANKJANG

Participants of the Chapter Advancement Track at the 2009 Convention in SF

Since 1978 OCA has held one of the largest annual conferences completely dedicated to APA issues. This year will be no exception as OCA hosts its 32nd annual National Convention in Houston, Texas. The theme for the June 17-20, 2010 National Convention is “Diverse Communities-United Commitment”, which reaffirms our commitment to include all Asian Pacific Americans in our definition of family and our continued efforts in advocating for social justice, equal opportunity, promoting civic participation, education, leadership and community building.

The OCA National Convention is a wonderful opportunity for members in the community to discuss and learn about key issues important to the Asian Pacific American community, network with various community members, and attend workshop sessions and leadership trainings. In 2010, OCA will take advantage of the Houston community to highlight both the

changing demographics of Asian Pacific America and the opportunities for APA leadership in the field of green energy.

This year OCA is adding some new elements to the Convention agenda, including a middle school component to the Youth Day and a track that concentrates on small business development. APAs have a high self-employment rate and this clearly is shown as APA businesses have become economic powerhouses throughout the United States and in the Houston area. This track will provide a framework to discuss growing companies to the next level, understand diversity supplier networks, government contracting opportunities, and share resources for small, minority, and women owned businesses.

OCA has teamed up with the OCA-Houston chapter to assemble an amazing schedule of events that bring together the goals of OCA and highlight the Greater Houston area. These events include the Starry Night Market Festival

and a trip to the NASA Space Center. The Starry Night Festival is an annual event hosted by the local Houston chapter. It is a fun-filled night capturing Houston’s finest food and entertainment. Participants will be bused through Houston’s Asian town and led through a night filled with succulent aromas and savory delights as local performers showcase their talents. The evening will finish back at the Galleria for “OCA on Ice”.

The convention will also end with the Gala Awards Dinner, which celebrates and honors individuals for their accomplishments and contribution to the APA community. Last year’s honorees included fashion designer Anna Sui and Congressman Mike Honda. As the convention wraps up, a trip to Houston will not be complete without a tour to the NASA Johnson’s Space Center for an out of this world experience. Participants will visit the historic mission control center, get a chance to view the space vehicle mock up facility, and check out the new Saturn V Complex at Rocket Park.

Register today at www.ocanational.org and we will see you in Houston! ■



Judy Chu speaks at the 2009 Convention in San Francisco

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

2010 Corporate Achievement Awards

OCA is pleased to announce that the OCA National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards will take place on October 22, 2010 at the Liaison Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

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



Lynne Delveaux accepts the 2009 Corporate Achievement Awards

Dates to Remember

- May 14** Applications will be available on our web site
- August 27** Deadline to submit application via email
- October 6** Deadline for hotel reservations
- October 21** Hill Reception
- October 22** Corporate Achievement Awards

For more information on the Corporate Achievement Awards, please contact Development Manager, Victoria J. Rumsey at vrumsey@ocanational.org or visit www.ocanational.org.

Bamboo@: Build, Breakthrough & Believe 2010

Victoria J. Rumsey | Development Manager



Participants at the 2009 Bamboo during a networking lunch

Bamboo: Build, Breakthrough & Believe is a professional development program introduced in 2009 to create and strengthen a pipeline of inspired emerging Asian Pacific American (APA) leaders. OCA launched the Bamboo program in Washington, D.C. with more than 100 APA aspiring professionals (22-39 years) in conjunction with OCA's annual National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards.

The Bamboo program provided an opportunity for APA professionals to learn from community members who have themselves struggled and succeeded in meeting their true potential in their personal and professional lives. Speakers sharing their own professional and personal breakthroughs at the workshops included: Sue Ann Hong, State Farm

Property & Casualty Claims Manager; Sandi Karman, Chief People Officer for Yum! Restaurants International; Lisa Lee, Publisher of Hyphen Magazine; Richard Lui, News anchor for HLN; and Cathy Tang, Chief Legal Officer of KFC Corporation.

With a successful launch in October, 2009, OCA will be bringing Bamboo 2010 to key cities with large populations of APA professionals. ■

SAVE THE DATE

October 22, 2010

Bamboo will be taking place prior to the Corporate Achievement Awards on Friday, October 22, 2010 at the Liaison Hotel Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

For more information about the Bamboo program, please contact Victoria J. Rumsey, Development Manager at vrumsey@ocanational.org.

Wesley Chan and Philip Wang from Wong Fu Productions and HLC news anchor Richard Lui speak at Bamboo



Another Successful OCA Serves Day

Mary Kong | OCA Program Assistant

To follow up with the successful OCA Serves launch in September, OCA designated January 19th as its second Day of Action and Service. The previous OCA Serves program on September 11, 2009 was a big success, and this time around, OCA chapters honored the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. by participating in a nation wide book drive that help share his love of literacy and learning.

OCA Chapter leaders and members collected and donated several books throughout the month of January. Participants helped to cultivate the knowledge of their community through donating books about and by Asian Pacific Americans, participating in book readings, and sharing the traditions and customs of the Lunar New Year.

OCA Chapters took further initiative by adding their own dimension to the service day:

- **OCA-Central Illinois** collected funds to purchase children's books and books in Chinese during their Lunar New Year Celebration, which was then delivered and donated to Star Literacy, a local program that distributes books through a network of non-profits.
- **OCA-Wisconsin** members approached local libraries with a "Lunar New Year Project Kit" to encourage their libraries to set up displays of books and materials about the Lunar New Year. In appreciation of the displays that were set up, OCA Wisconsin donated books on Asian American identity and culture.
- **OCA-Utah** collected over 500 new and gently used books at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center and donated them to local schools, libraries, family literacy programs, and



OCA-Utah prepares donated books



Students help OCA-New Jersey celebrate the Year of the Tiger

senior centers. While all books were welcomed, the chapter focused on finding books for children and young adults that were written about or by Asian Pacific Americans. OCA-Utah also teamed up with a local library to host a book reading event with activities such as traditional Chinese paper cutting, book mark making, music, and calligraphy.

■ **OCA-New Jersey** invited students to join the chapter to attend their Lunar New Year Celebration: Year of the Tiger program. The event began with reading of poems from *My Chinatown*, by Kam Mak. The book was later donated to their local library for the students to check out. The students also were able to learn some of the customs and traditions of the Lunar New Year. The program concluded with students admiring two beautiful lion heads on loan by OCA-NJ member, Henry Lee.

The work of local chapters to fill their local libraries with books about Asian Pacific Americans and by APA authors helped combat the lack of APA resources. Making these materials readily available to the community allows locals to share and delve into the stories and histories of Asian Pacific Americans who make America what it is today. Reading helps provide a foundation for our own cultural understanding and builds a bridge for us to share our own stories.

OCA is very proud of the service that OCA Chapters provided to collect and distribute reading materials for all ages. OCA Serves provides an opportunity for chapters to bring together their activities and service on a national level. OCA looks forward to the next OCA Serves! ■

2010 JACL/OCA Leadership Conference:

Cliff Yee | VP of OCA-San Francisco Chapter

On March 5, 2010, 32 leaders representing OCA, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Laotian American National Alliance (LANA), and National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) began a collective journey to understand each other's cultural history, learn critical issues that affect Asian Pacific Americans (APAs), and develop new skills to address civil rights issues at the 2010 JACL/OCA Leadership Conference.

The conference started with a dialogue facilitated by Phil Nash, Professor at the University of Maryland's Asian American Studies department, to better understand our cultural history. Nash asked participants to think about where our ancestors and family were during key dates in APA history. During a dinner with Congressman Mike Honda, he said that "It is important that we know our history so that we can challenge what is written about us."

An underlying theme throughout the conference was finding common ground. This message was emphasized by panelists from the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), American Jewish Committee (AJC), and National Association for the Advancement of Color People (NAACP). Participants gained a better understanding of issues APAs and other communities face such as health care and immigration reform by learning how national civil rights organizations worked together to address these concerns. After learning about these critical issues, we met in small groups and prepared for legislative visits. The Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) training, conversations with Bruce Yamashita and key staff working on Capitol Hill helped each group develop strategies for approaching their designated Representative.

This year, participants also had the very special opportunity to attend a

White House briefing and were able to meet prominent members such as Tina Tchen, Director, White House Office of Public Engagement and Chris Lu, Cabinet Secretary, Executive Office of the President.

As I returned home, I took it upon myself to ask more questions regarding my family's ancestry. When speaking with my stepfather, I found out that his father was interned in Heart Mountain, Wyoming and his mother was interned at Tule Lake, California. Although we should not live in the past, it is important to remember where we came from and ensure history does not repeat itself. As Michael Lieberman from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) quoted from Spiderman, "with great power comes great responsibility." Now the question is, what will you do with this power and responsibility? ■



Conference participants visit the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism during World War II

It is important that we know our history so that we can challenge what is written about us.

Keeping cultural **values** - learning the **issues** - developing new **skills**



Participants quietly make their reflections during workshops

Brittani Harada | Idaho Falls JACL Chapter

Reflecting back about the JACL/OCA Conference, I consider myself very fortunate that I was chosen to attend. I appreciate JACL and OCA for organizing a successful 2010 Leadership Conference, and I appreciate the financial support of State Farm, the Intermountain District and the Idaho Falls JACL Chapter for making it possible for me to attend. The amount of planning, preparing, and coordinating must have been near impossible for the Executive Directors and staff of the JACL and OCA. Through their work though, they were able to

show me and the other attendees a national perspective of how the past affects us today on a national scale.

I feel so blessed to have met with leaders of the JACL and OCA as well as with leaders of our country. We had an opportunity to hear from many prominent leaders in the Asian Pacific American (APA) and non-APA community, Congressional Members and their staff, who spoke to us about major and impactful issues. Some of the highlights included Phil Nash, Professor at the University of Maryland, who

spoke about the history of APAs, which taught me pieces about my own family history that I was not aware of and also taught me the timeline of important legislation and events that affected the Asian community. JD Hokoyama taught us leadership qualities and skills. Then, Bruce Yamashita shared his amazing and heart-wrenching story about the racial discrimination he faced while in the Marine Corp. I really appreciated hearing his story because it had the greatest emotional impact on everyone at the conference. I am sincerely grateful for his example of perseverance in overcoming these trials after years of court proceedings. We also had time to visit the Smithsonian American Art Museum Renwick Gallery where we viewed an exhibit of craftwork and paintings made by Japanese Americans during their imprisonment at the internment camps during WWII.

I think that the most important aspect of this conference is the action that is taken after its ending. I realized that communication is the number one quality of any person making a difference – getting ideas out there and forming alliances with other individuals. This type of leadership is crucial when it comes to making a difference. There is no better time than now to take action on knowledge gained. It is a responsibility we all have, and it will make a significant difference to better our communities and our nation. ■

Bruce Yamashita shared his amazing and heart-wrenching story about the racial discrimination he faced while in the Marine Corp. I really appreciated hearing his story because it had the greatest emotional impact on everyone at the conference.

OCA Celebrates Lunar New Year

Chris Kim | OCA Communications Intern

In celebration of 2010, the Year of the Tiger, more than 15 chapters held festive Lunar New Year activities. Chapters held banquets that boasted multi-course dinners, prestigious speakers, lively lion dancers and talented performers. The highlight of the events often incorporated an inspiring speech from a special keynote and members of OCA.

OCA chapters used this time to reflect accomplishments of the past year and remind each other of critical issues and goals to be addressed in the future. These reflections included an exhibit of the importance of Census 2010, a presentation of Congressional Awards, and highlighting of special guests who have made a significant influence in the community.

Other festivities for the Lunar New Year included the reveal ceremony for the United States Postal Stamp for the Year of the Tiger. The stamp project is an ongoing effort to design stamps for each animal of the Chinese zodiac. This year, Esthel Kessler, art director, and



OCA-Detroit board members celebrate Lunar New Years

Kam Mak, illustrator, collaborated and created narcissus flowers representing a renewed hope for the future. Celebrations also took to the streets for Lunar New Year Parades in Chinatowns across the country.

Please see our Chapter Updates for more details and information about our Chapters' impressive Lunar New Year celebrations. OCA National wishes everyone a special and happy Lunar New Year! ■



USPS's 2010 Year of the Tiger stamp designed by Esthel Kessler and Kam Mak



OCA National Center sent out Lunar New Year cards to celebrate the Year of the Tiger

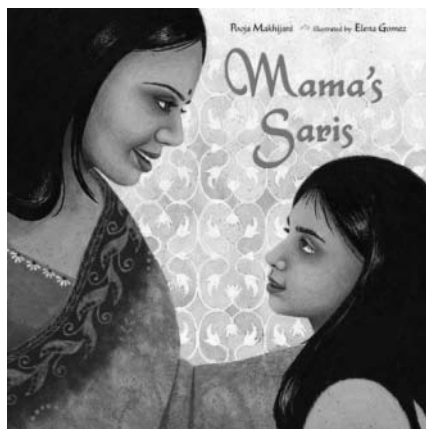
OCA's May Campaign for APA Heritage Month

Lan Nguyen | OCA Program Associate

How will you celebrate APA heritage month? From service project to cultural shows, cities across the country will be a buzzed with activities related to Asian Pacific American Heritage in the month of May. In celebration of the rich and diverse culture of APAs, OCA will be sponsoring special events to promote service, education, and youth engagement.

OCA's campaign for APA Heritage Month contains several components: a National Children's Book Tour, the Nordstrom t-shirt campaign with Phillip Lim, and our annual membership drive.

For the National Children's Book Tour, OCA will feature several APA children's book authors to do book readings throughout the country in collaboration with local OCA chapters. These readings are meant to promote literacy and recognition of APAs in the arts. OCA will also be donating several copies of the authors' books to local libraries and elementary schools. This is a continuation of the wonderful work that chapters have been doing for the OCA Serves day at the beginning of this year.



Mama's Saris by one of OCA's featured authors, Pooja Makhijani

In 2009, Nordstrom partnered with designers Koi Suwannagate and Anna Sui on a limited-edition T-shirt collection that was sold exclusively at Nordstrom for the month of May. Over \$27,000 in proceeds went to the OCA Scholarship Fund. Following this successful campaign, Nordstrom will be partnering with renowned designer Phillip Lim to create this year's T-shirt collection. The shirts will be sold online at Nordstrom.com/apahm and at 16 Nordstrom stores. Stores where the T-shirts are being sold will also have displays relating to APA heritage to inform buyers of the campaign and OCA's Youth Programming. OCA is proud to continue its involvement in this innovative campaign to support youth engagement.

To tie these events together, May also contains OCA's annual membership drive. Through publicity of the excellent work of OCA chapters, we hope to increase our overall membership and expand the OCA family. With our new Democracy in Action database, we will be better able to facilitate online communication with our members and ensure that we connect with every member. ■



Preview of Phillip Lim's t-shirt design for 2010 May APA Heritage month

Nordstrom Store Locations:

Ala Moana Center – Honolulu, HI
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Making Ourselves Count in the 2010 Census!

Lan Nguyen | OCA Program Associate

April 1, 2010 was Census Day. It only happens once every decade and directly shapes how our country is viewed for the next 10 years. The census essentially tries to count every single person who is residing in the United States at the moment. It tries to capture not only the sheer number of people who are here, but also what are the ethnicities, family makeup, and age of everyone in the U.S.

This information is then used to determine how many representatives each state will get and in what districts. It will influence the allocation of over \$400 billion in federal and state funding for crucial services such as community health centers, school funding, public benefits, and job distribution.

In addition to the government—businesses, NGOs, and medical institutions use census data to determine where new services should be established. Academics use census data to analyze the growth and change

of our nation's composition. Advocates and think-tanks use census data to map demographics and make the argument for policy change based on increasing needs in different populations.

This is all to reiterate that the census is **really** important.

Because the Census is so important, the government allocated over \$400 billion to carry out the census and make sure that as many people are counted as possible. National, regional, and local organizations were apportioned some of this funding to do outreach to “hard-to-count” populations. People of color, including Asian Pacific Americans are considered hard-to-count populations. OCA was one of these organizations that received a census sub-grant to reach out to the APA population. With 50 chapters in 27 states, OCA as a national organization was able to mobilize a large network of APA communities.

Even before the national center began its census work, chapters were

engaged in great local census activities to educate and promote awareness of the census. For example:

- **OCA-Greater Sacramento** chapter worked with other organizations in the area to hold a Census Rally and walk at the California State Capitol to kick off the Census Week of Action.

- **OCA-Eastern Virginia** chapter held a “Make Yourself Count” event at their local Chinese language school to help people fill out their forms and educate them on the importance of the Census

- **OCA-Orange County** chapter tabled at Diamond Jamboree, a large Asian American shopping center and had a Census specialist on hand to answer any questions about the Census form.

- **OCA-San Mateo** chapter worked with the Census of San Mateo County, local JACL chapter and San Mateo public library to co-sponsor an education and awareness event where Public Officials and a Census representative spoke.



OCA-Pittsburgh hosts informational tables for Census 2010



OCA-Greater Los Angeles tables for the Census

OCA-Greater Philadelphia Supports

Jason Yu | OCA - Greater Philadelphia, President

We would do well to emulate the resolve of the brave Philadelphia students, fighting for safer schools.

As reported on the news, Philadelphia has recently had racial violence problems in its public schools. While the recent incidents have gained wide publicity and incurred public outrage, the problem of racial discrimination and violence in schools is not a new issue. OCA members can relate stories from their parents about Asian American and Asian immigrant students facing relentless bullying, taunts, and violence in the Philadelphia school system. Unfortunately, this issue has been swept under the rug and the legacy of an unsafe school environment continues.

In late 2008, an especially egregious incident occurred. Five Asian Pacific American (APA) students from South

Philadelphia High School (SPHS) were chased from school by a mob of approximately thirty students and beaten at the nearby subway station. Parents and community leaders, including current OCA-Greater Philadelphia Executive Vice President Allan Wong, met with representatives from SPHS and the school district to demand improved security at the school. As a commissioner on the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on Asian American Affairs, Allan pressured SPHS and other dangerous Philadelphia high schools to demonstrate what they had done to improve security.

Administrators from two Philadelphia high schools, Fels High School and Furness High School, met with Commissioner Wong and showed him the additional security that had been taken to improve



Allan Wong speaks about the issues in Philadelphia's public school

Five APA students from South Philadelphia High School were chased from school by a mob of approximately thirty students and beaten at the nearby subway station.

safety. However, the administration from South Philadelphia High School refused to meet with Commissioner Wong and had not implemented any additional security. On December 3, 2009, approximately thirty Asian Pacific American students were assaulted and beaten throughout the school-day, resulting in seven students requiring emergency hospital treatment.

The scale of the attacks caused media frenzy as the community raced to respond to this crisis. This is where the students truly showed their tenacity and high conviction. The students rose above the race baiting comments of SPHS principle, LaGreta Brown, who first described the mass beatings of APA students as retaliation for the off campus beating of a mentally disabled African American student (a claim that

Students Fighting for Safer Schools

the independent investigation into the incident could not substantiate). The students resisted the urge to solve violence with more violence and staged an eight day boycott of the school. Working with several direct service organizations including the Asian Americans United, the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation, the Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia, Boat People SOS, and the Asian American Legal Defense Education Fund, the students communicated a clear statement about the changes that were needed at SPHS.

Now, several months after the incident, students are back at school and many security measures have been added. However, the work has just begun to repair the trust and sense of safety in our communities. As a membership-based civil rights organization, OCA-Greater Philadelphia sees itself in a unique position to engage the larger community in helping to heal and show support for the Philadelphia students. As a first step, on February 27, 2010, OCA-GP held a lunch reception honoring these courageous students. More than 100 OCA-GP members, students, and community leaders attended the event.

Speaking at the event, Stan Straughter, the chairman of the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on

We would do well to emulate the resolve of the brave Philadelphia students, fighting for safer schools.

African and Caribbean Affairs, helped bring home the point that school violence is an issue that crosses all communities, as African immigrant students have also been targeted with violence. In addition, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC) community organizer Xu Lin gave a heartfelt speech about his own struggle with school violence as an immigrant youth and pleaded for more to be done to support the students. Also in attendance were a number of families from the Chinese for Families school, a Chinese language school geared towards families with adopted children from China. After the program, one of the mothers took me aside and, while holding back tears, told me how her daughter, a very cute five or six year old, just the day before told her about how the other kids at school had been teasing her about being Chinese.

This is just the beginning of what will be a long journey in providing our students with the support that they need and deserve. Looking ahead, OCA-GP can play a big role in helping to bring

more members of the community, especially young professionals, to use their knowledge and experiences to help APA students. OCA-GP has begun holding regular workshops with the PCDC Teen Club, which currently works with youth to encourage their career aspirations, help them navigate the college application process, and help them obtain financial help or scholarships for school. We hope to expand this into a greater community-wide mentorship program.

OCA-GP is continuing in our goal to bridge the gaps between the disparate Asian Pacific American population and other communities. By bridging these gaps that create racial and ethnic tension, we feel that we can solve the perpetual problem of racial violence. ■

OCA-New York Fights for Qing Wu

Liz OuYang | OCA-NY President

For the past several months, OCA-New York has been fighting for the future of Qing Hong Wu through petitioning the New York Governor to pardon Wu, making endless calls to the district attorney's office, meeting with elected officials, and grabbing the public's attention with a front page story in *The New York Times*.

Qing Wu, who immigrated legally to the United States at the age of five, now faces deportation for muggings committed almost 15 years ago in New York's Chinatown. In his teens, Wu was sentenced to 3-9 years in a correctional facility under the ruling of Judge Michael Corriero. Believing that youthful indiscretions should not ruin a person's whole life, Judge Corriero promised to stand behind Wu if he turned his life around in detention. Wu did just that, earning his GED and early release through good behavior. He went on to work towards an associate degree and climbed his way up from a data entry clerk to vice president of internet technology at a national real estate licensing firm.

Problems arose when Wu, finally ready to become a citizen after considering the U.S. as his home for all these years, applied for naturalization in 2007. Because of his previous crimes, his

The board of OCA-New York unanimously voted to seek justice for Qing Wu.

application was flagged by immigration officials. Wu was immediately detained and moved to a New Jersey jail where New York detainees are held and put in removal proceedings due to rigid immigration laws that do not allow for any judicial discretion.

The unique structure of OCA and its chapters proved to be effective in conveying relevant information. Because Wu was detained in New Jersey,



OCA-NY members and Qing Wu celebrate Governor Paterson's pardon

Wu's family reached out to the OCA-New Jersey chapter, who relayed the case to the OCA-New York chapter. The board of OCA-New York unanimously voted to seek justice for Qing Wu. OCA-NY utilized its strength as a member-based organization to activate its large network and publicize Wu's situation.

Not only did the chapter get an article published in *The New York Times* and blog post in *The Huffington Post*, it also waged a major campaign through traditional and social networks to urge the public to sign an online petition. The

petition, written by a pro-bono attorney Kendrick Nguyen, asked Governor Paterson to pardon Wu for his offenses and urge Manhattan

District Attorney Cyrus Vance to grant Wu retroactive youthful offender status. Additionally, letters by former Judge Corriero, Wu's family members, and several community-based groups were sent to the district attorney and the governor. OCA-NY spoke and met with city and state representatives to garner support, they organized a meeting with the District Attorney, and even a meeting with the Governor's counsel.

On Saturday, March 6, 2010, the Governor's office announced Governor Paterson had signed a full and unconditional pardon for Qing Wu. This was a stunning victory as pardons are rarely given. The news of the pardon was covered widely by mainstream and ethnic press.

"We want to thank Governor Paterson for saving Qing Wu's life," stated Elizabeth OuYang, President of OCA-NY chapter. "This case underscores the need for immigration reform, particularly to restore discretion to immigration judges to consider rehabilitative factors." OCA-NY Chapter's work on Qing Wu's case exemplifies the power of community organizing in the pursuit of social justice. As a result of the chapter's successful advocacy, Qing Wu's fiancée, Anna Ng has now joined OCA-NY.

At the National Center we are proud to provide any support for the amazing work that chapters are doing at the local and regional level. ■

Addressing Personal Violence on Campus

Stephanie Tanny | 2009 OCA Summer Intern

As part of my OCA internship, my campus action plan was to evaluate and address how my school, Colorado State University, handles cases of interpersonal violence. This includes all cases of sexual violence such as rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. Multiple studies, including ones funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, have shown that 20-25% of college women are survivors of interpersonal violence. This in itself is a huge problem. Yet my university, with almost 11,000 undergraduate women, had only 7 reported cases during the 2008 school year, yet more than 100 people seeking survivor support services. There is obviously a huge disparity in these numbers.

Last summer, my OCA internship provided me much needed mentorship, connections, guidance, information, and tools that have been extremely helpful in the implementation of this ambitious task. I created a mission statement, set goals, began researching the issue and background, and listed a comprehensive list of action steps. All the interns then had key people review our plans for critical feedback, including fellow interns and those back in our communities. My campus action plan has evolved into an Interpersonal Violence Response Task Force, which was ratified through our student government, and everyone involved has been working hard to bring light to this issue.

We are currently in the process of working with the administration to get their feedback on the current procedures, researching university policies at our peer institutions, conducting a survey of survivors' experiences, brainstorming more survivor centered policies, and gaining support for a student fee increase that would go directly to survivor support services. Many times, survivors hesitate to report because the overwhelming majority of perpetrators are acquaintances. They are afraid others will not believe them



Stephanie Tanny & Joe Howard, Co-Chairs of the Interpersonal Violence Response Task Force at Colorado State University

and sometimes blame themselves for “allowing” something to happen. Often cases are handled in a way that completely re-victimizes and re-traumatizes the survivor. In the end, the perpetrators are still not held accountable. Thus, policies that are currently held allow the continued high perpetration of sexual violence.

While there is support from the university to create better policies, there is also a huge lack of understanding of the intricacies and difficulties of interpersonal violence that needs to be overcome. There are unique factors and experiences that face those with multiple marginalized identities, such as people of color, people with disabilities, GLBTQ, low income status, and/or immigrant status. For example, Asian Pacific American women are more at risk to receive unwanted sexual attention due to the prominent myths of us being promiscuous, hypersexual, submissive, and exotic. One study found that 40% of South Asian women have

been physically/sexually abused by their male partner, while another found that 61% of Japanese American women have experienced physical/emotional/sexual violence (APIA Health Forum; NAPAWF). This is an even harder stereotype and perception to combat when Asian Pacific Americans only make up 3% of the total student population. We hope to put our findings and suggestions into a report by the end of the academic year that will be sent to select administrators in order to start the process of updating our school policies to reflect a harsher stance against sexual violence in our college community. ■

My Campus Action Plan – A Panel Discussion with Nonprofit Community Leaders

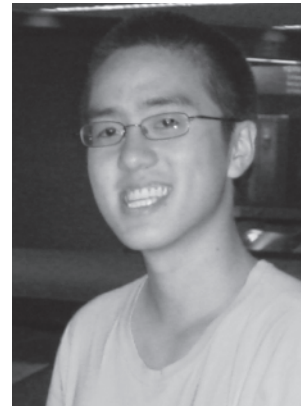
Brian Chiu | 2009 OCA Summer Intern

After my empowering experience in the OCA Internship last summer, I was inspired to carry out my Campus Action Plan (CAP) at my school UCLA. I wanted to apply the skills I had acquired in DC and make a difference on my campus. My goal was simple: to inform and educate Asian Pacific American (APA) students about careers in the non-profit sector. Because I had an amazing experience working at a non-profit organization over the summer, I wanted other students back on campus to learn about careers in non-profit, a field that is seldom considered by APA students, but is highly important toward helping our communities.

I planned to accomplish my goal by bringing together local APA community leaders in a discussion panel format to talk about their experience with

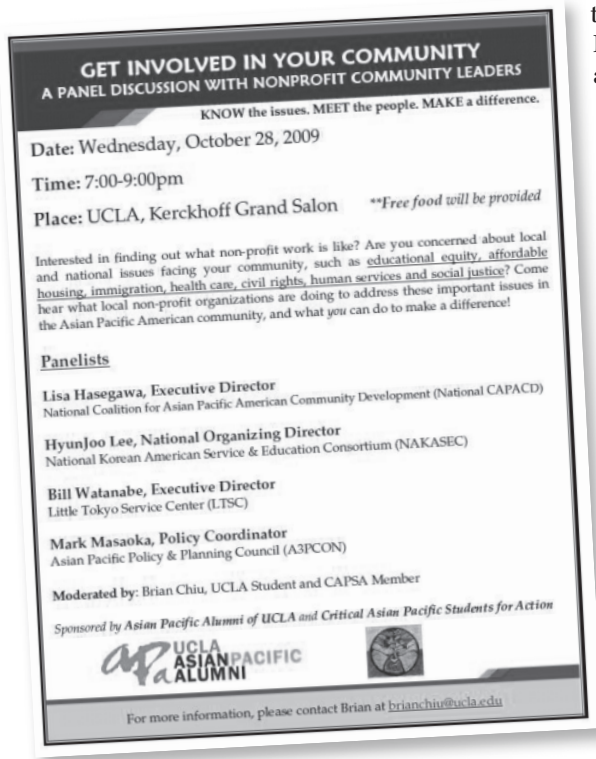
working in a non-profit organization. At the start of the school year, I contacted numerous APA-serving non-profit organizations around Los Angeles. Soon enough, I managed to secure four representatives from prominent organizations in L.A. to come speak to students. In addition to the speakers, I also booked a venue on campus, solicited sponsorship of the event from student organizations, and received a generous donation for the APA Alumni Association to provide food for the event.

On the day of the event, I was naturally a little nervous, but excited to be able to finally accomplish my CAP. As the moderator of the panel, I asked the community leaders about their experience working in non-profit and how their organization serves to help the APA community. In the end, students walked away with a new perspective of non-profit work and a feeling of empowerment to make a difference in their community, much like I had



felt after being in the OCA Summer Internship Program. I feel glad knowing that my plan to inspire others has become a reality. ■

Brian Chiu is a currently a fourth-year student at University of California, Los Angeles majoring in Economics and International Development Studies.



I wanted other students back on campus to learn about careers in non-profit, a field that is seldom considered.

2010 Census on the Tufts Campus

Angela Lam | 2009 OCA Summer Intern

The original mission of my Campus Action Plan (CAP) was to increase the civic engagement of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) at Tufts, especially through political participation. This would help APA students to learn about the local Boston community and encourage them to have a civically engaged lifestyle after graduating. The first part of my CAP was to campaign for Sam Yoon, who was running for Mayor of Boston. Unfortunately, his campaign was cut short in September when he did not move onto the general election from the primary election. However, I have been working on the second part of my CAP, which has to do with promoting the Census.

Through the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, I have implemented “Census on Campus 2010”, the purpose of which is to ensure that Tufts students are counted in the census in 2010. A key component of this is making sure students are aware that they need to fill out the forms that are mailed to them, even if they are international students, live nearby, or

reside in off-campus apartments or on-campus dorms. I and several other students will volunteer in hard-to-count Boston communities to ensure that the larger local community is counted.

It is very important that students fill out their census forms because federal funding allocated to local governments are based on formulas tied to the population count from the Census Bureau. Imagine if 5,000 Tufts undergraduate students were not counted in Medford and Somerville’s population counts, then we would not have enough police officers, public transportation, and other social services would be more expensive. There are also other hard-to-count populations in Boston Chinatown and Dorchester. Populations like the large Asian Pacific American community in Greater Boston face language barriers and are suspicious of government initiatives, but they need to be counted just as much as the next person.

We are not just students taking classes who sometimes go out into Boston to eat and have fun; we also

have to be accountable for the impact of our presence that we make on the local community. I believe that everybody should have the same information so that they know about the Census. The “Census on Campus 2010” student group is planning for a week of on-campus events to occur before April 1st. We will be inviting speakers from the Bureau to learn about the significance of the Census and will involve the Senate, Drans, and other students to ensure that Tufts students get counted.

Dr. Robert Groves, Director of the Census Bureau, thanked us for our work on the Census after reading the Tufts Daily article about how we painted a mural about the census in Dorchester, where there is a large Vietnamese American community. We were featured in the Boston Globe and Tufts Daily, the student newspaper. ■

Angela Lam and colleagues promote Census 2010 on Tufts campus



Invest In Our Future

the internship fund needs you!

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

Past interns are already making an impact as OCA full-time staff, OCA Chapter Presidents, Members of OCA Executive Council, Civil Service Commissioner in San Francisco, Executive Director of Common Cause in California, and Executive Director of the Congressional APA Caucus. To continue this commitment into the future, we need your generous donation—your investment in the future of our next generation and our community.

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

As of April 16th, 2010, the following generous individuals, chapters, and companies have already funded one or more interns in 2010:

Ken Lee Foundation
Comcast Foundation
OCA-Greater Houston
OC-New York
State Farm
The Mary Ann & Paul C. Yu Internship Fund

One of OCA’s missions is to nurture youth leadership. Since the establishment of Internship Fund in 1988, the OCA Internship Program has become the largest of its kind. Please make checks payable to OCA Internship Fund and send to OCA National Center, 1322 18th St, Washington, D.C. 20036.



LANA

LAOTIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE, INC.

“A Decade of Dedication to Laotian Americans”

Vision

LANA is the premier resource and advocacy organization in the United States that strives to cultivate the strengths and leadership of all Laotian Americans comprising of the diverse ethnic communities from Hmong, Iu-Mien, Khmu, Lahu, Lao, Tai Lue, Phu Tai, Tai Dam, Tai Phuan and other descendants from Laos who make up the dynamic, collective Laotian American community.

Mission

LANA as a national organization is dedicated to advancing the social and economic well-being of Laotian Americans in the United States through civic participation and public policy advocacy.

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

1. Advocate for social justice, equal opportunity and fair treatment for all multi-ethnics from Laos;
2. Promote civic participation, education, and leadership;
3. Develop a new generation of non-profit, public sector, and corporate leaders.
4. Advance coalitions and community building;
5. Increase funding support for Laotian Community and Faith Based Organizations: CBO & FBO.
6. Foster cultural heritage.

History

1999 December 9: Launch of the Laotian American National Alliance in Berkeley, California. Mr. Vilay Chaleunrath, Executive Director of Newcomer Community Service Center (NCSC), Washington, DC donated office space and served as LANA’s fiscal agent until 2007. December 2007: LANA obtains 501(C) 3 IRS status.

Who We Are

LANA is the oldest and only national Laotian American non-partisan, non-religious, 501(c)3 resource, leadership and national development organization in the United States. We advocate for social justice, civil rights, public education, economic well-being and public policy by representing the Laotian national identity and interests at the national tables in promoting equality and opportunities for all multi-ethnic people from the country of Laos. Since inception we have been 100% volunteered-based, as a national working Board of Directors. In the fall of 2009, LANA’s first CEO, Sirch Chanthayasack was approved by the Board of Directors.

Our main programs are:

- **U.S. Decennial 2010 Census:** Laotian American Complete Count Committee (CCC) – National – “Be Proud of Being Laotian: Your Count is Our Future, Write Laotian” (LANA National Slogan)
- **1st LANA National Conference** – First Laotian National Conference planned for April 8-9, 2010 at Hotel Whitcomb in San Francisco. Please register at www.LANA-USA.org
- **2nd International Lao New Year Festival (ILNYF)** at San Francisco City Hall’s Civic Center Plaza on Saturday, April 10, 2010. Call for Contestants for Miss Lao International Pageant and Call for Nominations for Outstanding Achievement Awards. Please visit www.LaoNewYear.com
- **44th Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival** at the National Mall in Washington, DC June 24-July 5, 2010 – LANA is a fiscal agent of the **Laotian American Folklife 2010 Planning Committee (LAF) 2010**.

Laotian American National Alliance

1628 16th St., NW | Washington, DC 20009 | 202.210.3731 | Fax 202.462.2774
www.lana-usa.org

“Be Proud to Be Laotian: Your Count is Our Future, Write Laotian” © LANA 2010 Census

Interview with

Chris Kim | OCA Communications Intern

BIO

Tak Toyoshima, born in New York City and now residing in Boston, has authored and designed *Secret Asian Man* for eleven years. The comic strip, published online as well as in print in weekly, daily and ethnic media newspapers, is from Osamu "SAM" Takahashi's perspective of race, religion, politics, sexual orientation and more. Toyoshima recently published his new book *Secret Asian Man: The Daily Days*, which is a collection of every daily comic strip produced for more than two years of syndication with United Features.

INTERVIEW

OCA: *When did you discover comic strip writing and illustrating?*

Tak Toyoshima: The first comic I produced was with my brother when we were kids. I think I was about 6 years old. We did our own version of Robocon (a Japanese show about a red robot). That's probably when I discovered comics and sequential art. I grew up reading a mix of Marvel comic books and Japanese manga. As for the specific medium of comic strips, that didn't come until I started doing SAM for newspapers. At a glance it's a similar medium but comics strips and comic books are very different in tone, pace and advantages/disadvantages.

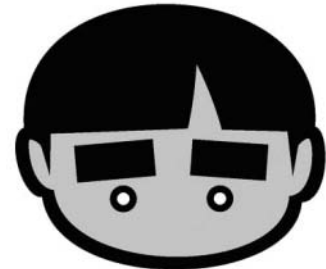


Tak stands outside of Boston's Chinatown

OCA: *Receiving a degree in advertising to creating comic strips. What happened in that transition?*

TT: As I was graduating from Boston University with a degree in advertising, I was working as a pre-school teacher. The closer I got to graduation the more I didn't want to go into advertising. I continued teaching for about 6 years while doing freelance illustration work for anyone who needed it. I did band flyer/posters, shirts, tattoos, auto body, racing helmets, etc. Along the way I landed a gig working on The Tick comics published by New England Comics. I worked on that title for a few years and started developing my own material. Fast forward a couple more years and I meet a guy who wants to start a magazine that I ended up doing a lot of illustrations for, he gave me 2 pages every month to do whatever I wanted and SAM was born on those pages (gross!). More years go by and I get a call from Ted Rall, (now former) acquisitions editor for United Features Syndicate with an offer to take the strip daily. It's been a long haul but at the same time it's felt like a blink of an eye.

My first SAM comic (I gave my parents the original art for it) was about a game I call "Count the Asians". I asked readers to count how many Asians they saw on TV during any given 10 minute time span. I guessed none but if they did see them, what were they? Ninjas? Delivery man? Chinese chef?



secret asian man

OCA: *How do you think SAM being Asian affects readership?*

TT: Hard to say. In the beginning I assumed the only people who would be interested in the strip would be Asians. But I was quickly proven wrong. SAM readers have a funny tendency to identify what they are ie: "I'm a white, female thirtysomething from the south..." so I get good demographic data! The fact that there are so few Asian comics out there I would have to think the readers are a little more open minded and are willing to take a chance on something different. I get young readers, old readers, liberals, conservatives, military, academics, knuckleheads...so it's a pretty wide range.

OCA: *Where do you get inspirations for your characters in Secret Asian Man?*



Tak Toyoshima

TT: The characters are combinations of people in my life:

- Obviously SAM's family resembles mine (white wife, hapa son with another on the way). Most things tend to roll off his back and he rarely gets bent out of shape about things. He'd rather focus on more important things like his comic strip and UFC fights.

- Charlie is physically based on a huge black friend of mine who everyone seems to be afraid of but I threw in a few qualities from other friends like not being interested in pursuing romantic relationships, being an IT technician along with my fascination with inventions and gadgetry.

- Simon, SAM's militant Asian cousin, reflects all the hardcore Asian Americans (AA) out there. The people who I feel have lost their sense of humor and often will make decisions based on race just for the sake of supporting that race like voting for an Asian politician regardless of policies. He's also like the many AA students I've had the pleasure of meeting during my speaking engagements who are still in their early processes of learning about AA history and identity issues.

- Richie is the only white guy at the Million Man March. He's a well-meaning, overly politically correct preschool teacher who often ends up offending people with his over the top sensitivities. He partly reflects my experience as a pre-school teacher.

OCA: *Is the content from personal experiences/exposures?*

TT: My ideas are a combination of personal experiences, current events, random thoughts, inspirational figures and events and a child-like curiosity about what makes us the same and different.

OCA: *What kind of message do you want to send to readers?*

TT: Don't be afraid to talk about race issues, or for that matter, any issue that has a tendency to divide us. The only way we can move toward a deeper understanding is by talking about things with each other. Having open discussions where no one is made to feel incompetent or ashamed of their point of view. It's actually one of my favorite qualities of our current president.

OCA: *How does your being Japanese-American influence your writing and story ideas?*

TT: If influenced, a lot of my earlier work when I talked very specifically about JA issues like internment camps, atomic bombs, harakiri, anime, the Rape of Nanking, ninjas, Pearl Harbor...I still talk about issues like that from time to time but have broadened my subject matter considerably to include many other groups.

OCA: *What changes have you seen in Asian Americans and popular media?*

TT: It's definitely better than it used to be. There are some hard working AAs out there making names for themselves in Hollywood, sports, politics, sciences/technology, etc. But I think the challenge is the perception of these AAs. Even if we see a percentage of AAs in the popular culture equal to the actual percentage of AAs in the U.S., it's still going to seem like we are under-represented. While we are the fastest growing ethnic minority in the country, there really aren't that many of us here compared to blacks and latinos. Hell, there are more unemployed people in the country than there are Asians.

OCA: *What moved you to put all the strips together?*

TT: I'd been dying to put together a book for years, but when my syndication ended with United Features I jumped on the opportunity to publish them. The daily work I did definitely opened up my readership and I figured those were the strips with the widest potential audience.

OCA: *Any future projects in the works?*

TT: Several. Many are in very early stages of development so I don't really want to reveal anything about those, but I'll just say since syndication stopped I've been free to pursue whatever I want. It has been so liberating that I've been reaching out to a lot of seemingly random people because I want to take the SAM character to new mediums and audiences.

OCA: *Do you see comic strip writing and illustrating as a permanent career?*

TT: I foresee doing this for as long as I can draw. ■



OCA-Colorado

Events

- OCA-Colorado co-hosted a spectacular Lunar New Year Party with Mile Hi JACL on February 6. Mr. Richard Lui of CNN presided as Master of Ceremonies and entertainment included Lion Dance and Kung Fu Demonstration, Pipa Performance by Miss Yu Ying Chen, Chinese Folk Songs by Ms. Moon Lee and Ms. Hing Ryder, and Mirai Daiko drum performance. Then on October 3, OCA-Colorado held its 2nd Annual Mid-Autumn Moon Festival Party. There was a fantastic turn-out for dinner at the Palace Restaurant.

Advocacy/Policy

- For OCA Serves National Service Day on September 11th, OCA-Colorado members volunteered to serve breakfast at the Denver Rescue Mission's transitional homeless shelter, The Crossing.

Other Highlights

- There was an APIA U training at Colorado University, Boulder in November. This leadership development seminar is put on by OCA for college students and provided a chance for OCA-Colorado members to meet local students.
- For the Senior New Year Party on January 9, OCA Colorado hosted a potluck dance party for residents of Sakura Square and the Volunteers of America retirement communities. A live band, dancing and complimentary photos were provided.
- OCA Colorado volunteered alongside MillerCoors and Project C.U.R.E. volunteers for the Haitian Relief Effort on January 30th.

“APA Heritage Month is not only an opportunity to showcase the vast breadth of Asian cultures, but also a chance to share perspectives and historical reference, which facilitate a deeper understanding by and of our friends and neighbors.”



Will Ha, President, of Korean Association of Colorado; Theodore Lau, President OCA Colorado; Suzy Shimasaki, President, Mile Hi JACL; Donna Hickey Hansen, Board Member, NAAAP Colorado; Calvin Hada, President, Japanese Association of Colorado; Erin Yoshimura, Founder, VisualizAsian.com, Executive Director of the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival; Richard Lui, News Anchor, CNN Headline News

– Chapter President Teddy Lau

OCA-Dallas/Ft. Worth

Events

■ OCA Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter held its 2010 Annual Lunar New Year Banquet on February 20, 2010 to celebrate the Year of the Tiger. More than 300 sponsors, community leaders, OCA members and families attended. Mayors from the cities of Garland, Haltom City, Richardson, Plano as well as the Mayor-Pro-tem from the City of Dallas came to speak at the banquet and issued proclamations. OCA-DFW recognized State Farm and Brinker International for their work in the local community, Marco Polo World Foundation for their activities in creating cultural awareness, and an individual Les Tung for his community contributions. The banquet featured a ten course Chinese banquet dinner and talented performers representing China, Japan, India, Malaysia, and Hawaii as well as traditional lion dances and some great martial arts from the Chinese Cultural Center. Raffles, silent auctions and red envelopes for children made it a memorable and fun evening for all. This is the chapter's main fundraising event. Strong teamwork from the OCA-DFW board made it possible to pull this signature event together. Plans are already underway for next year's banquet which is scheduled for February 5th, 2011.

In 2010, our main goal is to serve our community through cultural awareness, leadership training, youth development and community service.

We are in the process of firming up our 2010 programs which include participating and supporting the youth leadership camps and seminars, implementing the Feed the Homeless program, and setting up booths at the various community festivals during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.



2010 OCA-DFW board and past-presidents come on stage to welcome guests to the OCA-DFW annual Lunar New Year banquet

OCA-Detroit

Events

- OCA Detroit held an event to celebrate its 37th Anniversary. Attended by more than 350 people, the event included video highlights of OCA-Detroit's 2009 activities such as the Health Disparities Community Conversations, Senior Hot Lunch Program, Youth Summer Camp Program, Chinatown Historical Exhibit, Taiwan Typhoon Relief Fundraiser and more.
- For the 26th Annual High School Achievement Awards Banquet, the Scholarship Committee selected 34 honorees and awarded 10 scholarships. Les Wong, President of Northern Michigan University was the keynote speaker. Throughout 26 years, OCA-Detroit has been honored to give out over 150 scholarships. Scholarships were funded by individual donors, Detroit Chinese Engineers Association and Council of Asian Pacific Association.
- Approximately 250 people gathered to celebrate Chinese New Year with a ten course banquet and performances by New Century Chinese School Dance Class and demonstrations of Tai Chi. Celebrations continued with a lantern festival attended by more than 300 people and other community organizations.

Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-Detroit co-hosted two Asian American Health Disparity Community Conversations on September 20 and 27. A productive dialogue was established among the 80 participants and answered key questions related to the greatest health concerns facing our community. A variety of Asian ethnicities were represented and participants included community leaders, physicians, educators, medical students and the general public.
- In observance of National Veterans' Day, OCA-Detroit dedicated a plaque with names of known veterans in Michigan and the Greater Toledo Area.
- OCA-Detroit was selected from the 105,000 census partners to attend the Race and Ethnic Advisory Committee (REAC) meeting in Washington D.C. The chapter shared outreach strategies, activities and issues along with 24 other partners to the REAC committee. OCA-Detroit's efforts were funded with a \$35,000 grant.

Other Highlights

- Haiti Relief Fund: funds were collected to aid the victims of the devastating earthquake in Haiti and presented to the American Red Cross.



Left to Right: Shuh-Yuan Liou, Chelsea Zuzindlak, Shenlin Chen (Executive Director), Margaret Wong, Roland Hwang, Ron Wong (President), Ken Chan (Executive Vice President), Bob Rothman, Stephanie Chan, and Nina Goze.

OCA-East Bay

Events

- On June 12, 2009 more than 220 guests attended OCA-East Bay's 22nd Annual Banquet. The night's theme "Developing Asian American Leadership - Past, Present and Future" was honored by 2008 Beijing Olympic medalist and U.S. Men's Gymnastics Team Captain, Kevin Tan and by Former Deputy Executive Director of the Port of Oakland, Joe Wong. Throughout the night, the importance of mentors in developing future leaders was highlighted.
- The following day we held an event for local students and residents featuring Olympic Medalist Kevin Tan. Tan spoke to the audience about his life experiences and how he reached the Beijing Olympics. After the presentation the audience was given a Q&A period and an opportunity for photos and signatures. Some of the questions asked by the kids included some serious, "What are your plans for the future?" as well as some not so serious, "What brand shoes do you wear?" OCA-East Bay also awarded a student with a \$500 scholarship.



Our goals are to increase membership by 50%, increase young professional / youth participation by co-sponsor two major activities, increase corporate

participation and contribution by \$30,000 and increase collaboration with other organizations.

Advocacy/Policy

- In August, OCA-East Bay supported immigrant workers that were being underpaid and exploited by a local contractor. We also held a membership luncheon featuring Oakland Mayoral candidate Don Perata. Then in September we held a membership luncheon with Dr. Tony Smith, the new Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District.
- In late January 2010, we aided in the search for additional Asian American and Pacific Islander candidates for California's legislative redistricting board.

OCA-Georgia

Advocacy/Policy



- On January 20th, OCA-Georgia chapter president Norman Chu and other APA leaders participated in an immigration rally organized by community partner Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) at Georgia's State Capitol. OCA-Georgia's call to action is to continue to push for CIR legislation this year to counter the negative impacts of the current punitive/restrictive laws in place.
- On January 14, OCA-Georgia participated in the first Georgia Asian American Pacific Islander Community Coalition (GAAPICC) meeting of the year. During the general body meeting, the Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS) and members of the Pan Asian Action Network provided a presentation on the 2010 Georgia Legislative Session, including a summary of the two budgets, key legislation, and community advocacy strategies. Presenters spoke about the political process for GA legislation, lobbying strategies, budget issues, and overviews of key health-related legislation (including a bill to lift the 5-year bar to Medicaid for legal immigrant children and pregnant women). OCA-Georgia intends to continue working in collaboration with all groups to advocate for the rights and well-being of Asian Americans in Georgia and nationally.

Other Highlights

- OCA-Georgia chapter promotes civic participation, education, and leadership through hosting voter registration drives and Census 2010 awareness programs in conjunction with partner organizations like the League of Women Voters. OCA-Georgia also awarded nine scholarships to high school seniors through a joint OCA-ACP Scholarship program. The chapter partnered with UPS for a successful mentorship program that included 38 mentors and mentees from UPS, AT&T, The Home Depot, Georgia Power, and State Farm. State Farm was a key supporter for the Entrepreneurial program where five API members benefited from the Atlanta Micro-enterprise Initiative program through the Women's Economic and Development Agency. In November, BB&T hosted OCA-Georgia's 13th Annual Career Fair which attracted more than 120 job seekers and 10 corporations.



OCA-Greater Houston

Events

- OCA-Greater Houston celebrated the Lunar New Year by participating at the Chinese Community Center, Southern Chinese Newsgroups and Viet Hoa Festivals. Because everyone was gathered, it was a great opportunity to address Census 2010, and inform the guests of its significance. We also addressed National Convention.

Advocacy/Policy

- For the Citizenship Forum, OCA-Greater Houston had volunteers and attorneys assisting with naturalization applications and service providers presenting information on legal issues.
- OCA-Greater Houston has hosted many events around Census Awareness, including getting outreach materials and translated education materials out to other chapters. The chapter also worked on a video with the Census Bureau to promote the 2010 Census in the APA community.

Other Highlights

- OCA-GH invited Rosalinda Chao to discuss her new book “The Myth of the Model Minority”. She will also be in attendance at National Convention presenting her most recent research.
- Chapter members gathered and made 88 baskets to place on the tables for the Holiday Senior Luncheon. Even through the inclement weather, more than 650 seniors were in attendance at the luncheon.
- OCA-GH helped the local CARE coalition raise money for school supplies for low income students through a July 4th Festival.

“Heritage is my connection to the past and a guide for the future. When I enter into the world, I carry the dreams of my family and the lessons of my culture. I remind myself of the sacrifice and suffering of those before me. I honor the past by working for a better future.”

– Gene Wu, Secretary



OCA-Las Vegas

Events

■ College Leadership Event



In Oct 2009, OCA Las Vegas initiated a new signature event, College Leadership Event. In collaboration with Asian Chamber of Commerce and the UNLV ROAR (Raising our Asian Rights), we held a Leadership conference geared towards developing rising AAPI student leaders at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The conference featured workshops taught by guest speakers from Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino, Boyd Gaming, and Harrah's Entertainment Inc on topics such as leadership, career development, organizational development, fundraising and sponsorships.

It was highlighted with two keynote speakers, Hyepin Im and Bonnie Tsui. Hyepin Im is the founder and president of Los Angeles-based Korean Churches for Community Development, whose mission is to help churches build capacity to do economic development work on a greater scale. KCCD, with the help of government funding, has helped bring awareness and support to numerous communities hoping to retain their homes and avoid foreclosures. Bonnie Tsui is the author of "American Chinatown: A People's History of Five Neighborhoods" which features Las Vegas's very own Chinatown in the book.

The conference ended with a mentorship session where many of the community leaders and business executives in their various industries were paired up with UNLV student leaders for a more extensive mentorship.



OCA-Long Island

Events

- On February 20, OCA-LI members marched in the Flushing Lunar New Year Parade to bring in the Year of the Tiger. Thousands of enthusiastic spectators lined the streets in celebration of the New Year.
- On October 16, OCA-LI held their 28th Anniversary Dinner Dance Gala where Congresswoman Judy Chu was the keynote speaker. Honorees included the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) and its president, Justin Yu; retired police detective Lloyd Doppman, CEO of Mary Financial Services Mary Tsang, Senior Partner at NY Life Jimmy Tsang, and CEO of Starside Drugs, councilman Peter Koo.
- On September 13, 2009, OCA-LI participated in the annual multi-chapter picnic at Van Saun Park in New Jersey with sister chapters from Westchester, New Jersey and New York. The picnic was hosted by Families with Children from China. There were many activities to entertain and occupy the attendees who enjoyed the company, food and sunshine!

Advocacy/Policy

- On December 4, 2010, OCA-LI held a general meeting at the Trinity Lutheran Church, where Senator Hemp Hannon and Legislators Judy Bosworth and Wayne Wink addressed OCA-LI members. At the meeting, Senator Hannon (R-Garden City) said, "The Long Island OCA's community-based advocacy and leadership development initiatives provide an incredible service to our state."
- On October 21, 2009, OCA-LI co-sponsored a NYC Council Candidates' Forum. The forum took place at Korea Village in Flushing, where citizens of the community received an opportunity to witness a lively debate among candidates as they answered questions about health care reform, education, business ownership, and the economy.

Other Highlights

- Several OCA-LI board members received awards for their service to the community. Board member Dr. John Tandana received a Good Guy Award from the Center for the Women of NY, board member Lily Lee received an award from the NY State Chinese Auxiliary Police Association, VP of Community Affairs and OCA-LI past president Gladys Yan received an award from the Flushing Chinese Business Association, and current OCA-LI president Ann Chan was selected as one of the 2009 Women's Roll of Honor.



OCA-New Jersey

Events



- On November 7, 2009 OCA-NJ hosted *Still the "Other"?* – *Public Attitudes toward Chinese and Asian Americans*. The event provided the latest in-depth look at public opinions regarding Asian Americans in race relations, social equality, immigration issues and more. The program was co-sponsored by The Committee of 100 and in attendance were Research Director Yong Lu, OCA National President Ken Lee and his wife Ashley, UPS executives Bernie Collins, Don Sheridan, and NJ Councilwoman Maureen O'Brien. The Ice Production Network taped the entire program for online viewing by the public.
- On December 7, 2009, OCA-NJ's hosted its annual Holiday Ball with Weysan Dun, Special Agent in charge of F.B.I., Newark Division, as the honoree. The Corporate Sponsor Award was received by Mr. Bernie Collins, Region Human Resources Manager Information Services of UPS.
- On January 17, 2010, OCA-NJ and OCA-Westchester & Hudson Valley Chapter partnered for the Stamp Unveiling Ceremony of the Lunar New Year: Year of the Tiger Stamp.

Advocacy/Policy

- On November 15, 2009, OCA-NJ members cooked casseroles and donated them to The Eric Johnson House, New Jersey's premier HIV/AIDS housing and supportive services facility for homeless men and women.
- On December 18, 2009, OCA-NJ and OCA-NY partnered to provide a Christmas party for the children of the After School Program at True Light Church in Chinatown, NY. Artist Kam Mak, designer of the current series of Lunar New Year stamps, gave a presentation of his book, *My Chinatown*.
- On January 16, 2010, OCA-NJ hosted a book reading at Verona Library of Kam Mak's book *My Chinatown*. The program also included discussing the customs and traditions of the Lunar New Year Celebration. Books written by Asian Pacific American writers will be donated to the Verona Library.

Other Highlights



- On December 7, 2009, OCA-NJ's Holiday Ball functioned as the single main fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from this annual event enable the chapter to award scholarship and internship opportunities to outstanding Asian American students, which has been a continual project for a decade now.
- May 22, 2010: OCA-NJ will have its annual Asian Pacific American Heritage and Scholarship Luncheon. Scholarships and internship opportunities will be granted to deserving Asian American students.

OCA-New York

Events

- With a roar and dressed as tigers, OCA-NY participated in the Lunar New Year marches in Flushing and Chinatown Manhattan on February 20th and 21st.

Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-NY has been the lead advocate for Qing Wu, a 29 year old man in detention facing removal from the U.S. for crimes he committed when he was a teenager. OCA-New York was successful in seeking a pardon from Governor Patterson and will stop Wu's removal proceedings. His case was reported favorably in The New York Times, please see OCA's press release on Comprehensive Immigration Reform at www.ocanational.org
- On Sunday, February 28th, OCA-NY co-sponsored an event on the importance of the census and education spending at the Sunset Park Recreational Center in Brooklyn. The Census event was held in collaboration with State Senator Eric Adams's office, Asian Professional Extension, Chinese-American Planning Council, Asian Americans for Equality, and United Chinese Association of Brooklyn.
- OCA-NY will also be helping to mobilize people to attend the rally in Washington, D.C. in support of immigration reform on March 21, 2010.

“Asian Pacific American Heritage Month means a celebration of our past and present and a reminder of the unfinished work ahead to become full and equal participants in the political, economic and civic spheres of society.” – Elizabeth R. OuYang, President, OCA-NY



OCA-Orange County

Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-Orange County ended 2009 with the 2nd annual Toy Drive, in partnership with National Association of Asian American Professionals and Young Generation Asian Professionals. More than 100 people attended and the chapter collected 12 bags of toys. The beneficiaries were the Cambodian Family and the UC Irvine Family Center. The Toy Drive was a great way for incoming officers to get acquainted with one another as well as with partnering organizations.



Other Highlights

- OCA-OC took on the challenge of hosting the OCA National Board meeting in January 2010. Yum Brands hosted a reception on Friday and generously provided a meeting room and food for Saturday's meeting.
- With help from a local veteran well versed in planning such events Tom Hayashi, former President of OCA-GLA, we were able to turn our annual Lunar New Year event into an enlightening and entertaining dinner with more than 22 co-sponsoring organizations and 140 attendees. The talented Jinah Kim MC'd and speakers included actor Tzi Ma, Assemblyman Van Tran and UCLA professor and former news anchor Dr. Tritia Toyota. Each speaker shared their experiences and views on what it was like to be Asian American in their profession and how perceptions of Asian Americans have changed. A common message was that APIA's have come a long way yet we still have a long way to go. The California Martial Arts Academy skillfully performed the traditional Lion Dance in celebration of the New Year. It was a memorable occasion that the Chapter was happy to share with more than 22 co-sponsoring organizations and 140 attendees.

OCA-Pittsburgh

Events

■ A traditional style Chinese New Year banquet was held at the Syria Shriners Center on February 27, 2010. The dinner, a 12-course feast, was provided by the Pittsburgh Chinese Restaurant Association. Our honorary chairperson of the banquet was Dr. John Chen who was a past president of OCA – Pittsburgh and the current director of Tzu Chi Foundation Pittsburgh Service Center. Timyka Artist, a local TV reporter from Channel 11, was our celebrity emcee. Congressman Tim Murphy presented the Congressional Awards to three of the OCA - Pittsburgh youth members, Stephanie Kuo, Rachel Dailey and Emily Kuo for their initiative, achievement and volunteer service.

■ A Census 2010 table with banners and promotional giveaways was set up at the banquet by a Census 2010 Partnership Specialist and the importance of the upcoming census was emphasized during the opening remarks by OCA – Pittsburgh President Tong-Chang Lee. The OCA Lion Dance Ensemble and Dance Ensembles together with three other guest groups performed on stage. There were more than 300 guests in attendance at the banquet and everyone enjoyed the good food and the program.



Advocacy/Policy

■ A free medical clinic was organized by OCA-Pittsburgh on the evening of November 16, 2009 to provide medical examinations and consultations to people who are un-insured or in need of language assistance. Many screening tests for high blood pressure, eye examinations, dental evaluations, and prostate exams were provided. We also provided free laboratory testing for cholesterol, liver function, kidney function, anemia, diabetes and hepatitis B screening. Gynecologists also provided physical examinations for breast cancer and pap smears. More than 60 patients showed up at the free clinic, which was funded by donations from our OCA membership. This medical clinic was also supported by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Montefiore Hospital, Pittsburgh Chinese Physicians Association and Tzu Chi Foundation Pittsburgh Service Center.

OCA-Greater Philadelphia

Events

- Mid Autumn Festival Puppet Show held at the Exton Mall - held in conjunction with the Chinese for Families Chinese Language School and Hometown China store in the mall.
- Lunar New Celebration at the UPenn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology that included children's story telling.
- Reception Honoring the Students Fighting for Safer Schools in Philadelphia – for more information, see OCA-Greater Philadelphia's article on page 18.

“Our chapter’s goals for this year are to help unify the Philadelphia APA community (across ethnic and generational barriers) by growing our program of youth mentoring, create a new program that will create dialogue on race and diversity issues aimed towards youth as well as adults, and building a critical mass of membership via programs that inspire people to become more engaged with their communities as well as by high quality social and networking events.”

– Chapter President Jason Yu



OCA-Greater Sacramento

Events

- On January 18, 2010, OCA-Sacramento participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. march through inclement weather to complete a five mile walk for MLK day.



OCA Sacramento joins up with community partner CAIR at the Sacramento Convention Center MLK Day Rally

The march was a poignant reminder to all that the dream is still alive and relevant today. After hours of marching, Team Sacramento met up with many of its local partners and legislators at the Convention Center.

- More than 300 seniors gathered to celebrate the Annual New Year Senior Luncheon on Feb. 26, 2010. Special guests, partner organizations and entertainment made this event a special outing for the seniors.

Advocacy/Policy



- “Youth against the Hate” was the theme of the Annual OCA-Sacramento Hate Crimes Awareness Forum, held on October 29, 2009. OCA-Sacramento partnered with Asian Resources’ Youth Group and the Sacramento Unified School District to put on this forum, attended by more than 400 participants. The forum addressed items relevant to youth and issues currently happening in the school and community today. The program featured an open mic and poetry reading, community organizations and resource tables, and panel discussion and a Wall of Untold Truth. The panel discussion, moderated by Assembly member Mike Eng, opened up a community dialogue about prevention and awareness of hate crimes, their detrimental impact on our well being, and to learn how to report and speak out about hate incidents. OCA-Sacramento has spearheaded census outreach efforts in the Sacramento area by taking a lead role in the Sacramento API Census Committee. Elizabeth Cantu from the US Census Bureau attended the first meeting on March 23 to discuss the process of getting everyone counted. In early 2010, the Sacramento API Census Committee helped spread the word to Sacramento’s API communities about job opportunities and other resources. The committee also provided contacts for local ethnic based media to target specific communities and promote the census. The Sacramento API Census 2010 Committee will also hold a Census 2010 Rally and Walk at State Capitol on Sat. March 20, 2010 to kick off Census Week 2010. The highlight of the event will be the march through the downtown streets of Sacramento. There will also be a community outreach fair with booths for various organizations participating in the event to help get the word out, “Stand Up and Be Counted”!

OCA-San Mateo

Events



(Left to right) Nancy Lim-Yee, Executive Director of San Francisco's Chinatown Child Development Center, State Controller John Chiang and Karen Clancy, a member of the Belmont- Redwood Shores School District Board of Trustees

■ OCA San Mateo hosted its annual Fundraiser and Awards Gala with the theme of "Making a Difference Today for a Brighter Tomorrow." The proceeds of the Gala raises money for scholarships and Speak & Lead with Pride programs, which are workshops designed to improve local high school students' public speaking and leadership skills. Fundraising events included a silent auction and raffle drawings. Among the entertainment was singer Juliet Fernandez and the California Youth Chinese Symphony.

■ On October 24, 2009, the OCA and YOCA members volunteered in a Food Sort for the Second Harvest Food Bank. In order to promote the Food Bank's idea of "Providing food for people in need in our community", OCA showed their enthusiasm and hard work, which resulted in more than 207,000 people to receive food. OCA-San Mateo and the Food Bank plan to continue their partnership.

■ OCA San Mateo celebrated its 2009 annual holiday party on December 6th at Daiki Sushi in San Mateo. More than 50 people attended and enjoyed a Japanese style lunch and the company of special guests from City Council. Then, on January 27, Members of the OCA San Mateo chapter welcomed the Lunar New Year at Spices. The evening gave the guests a chance to meet members, friends, and supporters.



Michelle Lee & Daren Nicholson at the holiday party



Friend of OCA, Victoria Leong volunteers at the Food Sort



OCA member Lee Farinas and longtime friend of OCA Armand Chau

Advocacy/Policy

■ OCA San Mateo had a Census 2010 event on March 18 with special guests Senator Leland Yee and Supervisor Mark Church to encourage everyone to participate and reach out to residents and constituents.

Other Highlights

■ The chapter's goals for the Year of The Tiger are to collaborate with other ethnic organizations like NAACP. We are also reaching out to new companies for potential sponsorships.

OCA-Silicon Valley

Advocacy/Policy

- OCA-Silicon Valley Chapter actively urged APA candidates to apply for membership on the new 14-member California Redistricting Commission, which coordinate the redistricting of county and district lines. The commission will hold public hearings throughout California, evaluate relevant materials, and eventually draw new district maps.

- OCA-Silicon Valley advocated for appointment of minorities to the Santa Clara County Bar Association's Judiciary Committee. The committee evaluates judicial candidates and recommends appointments to the Santa Clara County Superior Court bench. The disproportion of APA population to APA judges and the expected

50% of judges retiring have raised concerns of proper representation. APAs, Latinos and African Americans make up nearly 60% of the population in the Santa Clara County, yet only about 18% of judges in the County. OCA-Silicon Valley has condemned the limited appointment of minority members in concert with the Minority Bar Coalition of Santa Clara County and many other organizations.

- The Silicon Valley Chapter is closely monitoring the case of Chinese technology workers accused of stealing secrets from their companies to benefit the Chinese government. This is the second "economic espionage" case to go to trial. Federal prosecutors argued that people of Chinese origin have an incentive to misappropriate U.S. technology and trade secrets in order to receive some form of

compensation from the Chinese government. This position casts an unjustified cloud of suspicion on the large number of technology workers of Chinese ancestry in Silicon Valley. The first trial resulted in a hung jury and may result in a retrial by the U.S. government. OCA-Silicon Valley and OCA National has strongly condemned anti-Asian racial profiling. The Chapter will continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate action.



Chapter Highlights

- The Lunar New Year parade is an opportunity for students to learn the history of the lion dance and the dragon, and the symbol of what each animal brings. Not all of the students have Chinese ancestry and despite a Mandarin language curriculum, most students have a very American identity, Yee says. "The parade also reinforces the importance of learning another language and being open to other cultures and ages," Yee adds.

OCA-St. Louis

Events



■ On February 20, 2010, OCA-St. Louis Chapter held its annual banquet with over 220 attendees. County Executive, Charlie Dooley, was the keynote speaker and he discussed progress with the Midwest/China Hub commission, a project designed to expand trade between the Midwest and China. In addition, the OCA-St. Louis honored local war veterans and military personnel of Asian descent for their service to the United States. The honorees were from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Annual Youth Leadership Scholarships were also presented to Ranny Tang and Haifeng Zheng for their excellent academic and community service achievements. The banquet was a successful celebration of Asian Pacific American heritage.

Advocacy/Policy

■ In late 2009, the OCA-St. Louis partnered with other groups to host a Citizenship Day event to provide legal services for individuals applying for citizenship. We also sponsored a Thanksgiving Day Lunch for local senior citizens. This is one event that our seniors look forward to every year. Besides lunch, local Chinese schools provided joyful performances. In 2010, we joined the Missouri Adopt a Highway program. We are currently working to organize events supporting the Asian Community's participation in the Census along with career development seminars and the China Day celebration at the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Chapter Highlights

■ In December 2009, the chapter held a vision meeting that sets the direction for the chapter in the new decade. In addition, after many years of dedicated service, Helena Hseu stepped down as OCA-St. Louis President. She will continue to serve in an advisory role with the board. The torch has been passed onto the capable hands of Eling Lam, who has served on the board since 2002.

OCA-Utah

Events:



■ On November 16th, 2009, OCA-Utah held their 2nd Annual Appreciation Awards Banquet and Members Meeting at the Red Maple Chinese Cuisine restaurant. The event honored and appreciated individuals and organizations that contributed endless time and effort for the community. More than 250 members and friends attended the banquet. Three awards were presented: a Lifetime Achievement Award to Mr. and Mrs. Ton Tan, a Humanitarian Award to Miss Jo-Ann Wong, and a Pillar of the Community Award to the Asian Association of Utah. During the banquet, OCA-Utah also elected new board members and recruited new members for the chapter.

■ In commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. and OCA Serves Day, OCA-Utah invited members and families to join the chapter for a book drive on two weekends, January 9 and 16. Approximately 590 books were collected. The event was reported in the local Chinese Newspaper and through the community e-mail list. OCA-Utah donated the youth books to the Sunset Ridge Middle School, the children's books collection to the Family Literacy program of the Granite School District and all other books were donated to the Salt Lake Main Library book donation program.

■ The chapter and Sandy Library united to host a book reading and other fun activities on Friday, Jan. 22. This event included Chinese music, readings of bilingual stories, bookmark making, Chinese calligraphy and book displays, and lots more. This event was promoted in the local Chinese newspaper as well as by posters distributed by the Sandy Library.



OCA-Greater Washington, DC

Events



OCA-Greater Washington DC celebrated its 36th year anniversary with an impressive gala on November 14, 2009. The gala highlighted the chapter's commitment to working in partnership with other groups to outreach to more segments of the diverse APA community. After opening remarks from co-presidents Stan Lou and Stan Tsai and OCA Executive Director George Wu, the program featured presentations from three groups: The Smithsonian APA Program Office, the Hep B-Free DC Network, and the 2010 Census Bureau.

The Smithsonian APA Program Office was represented by Phil Tajitsu Nash, speaking as curator for the 2010 Folklife Festival which will feature the APA community. He emphasized the importance of this project for the APA Community and solicited support. Jane Pan and other representatives from Hep B-Free DC Network spoke on the efforts to prevent the spread of Hepatitis B in the community. Finally, the importance of an accurate count of all within the APA community was emphasized by Eric LaChica from Census 2010. The gala also honored local community leaders: Edward Chow, Jr., Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County, MD, Executive; and the Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington DC.

Following the presentations of awards, OCA-DC presented scholarship awards totaling \$2500 to five high school students. Awards were based on a contest that required the submittal of art work that expressed the student's feelings of being Asian American. The top prize of \$1000 was donated to OCA by the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC). All the entries for the contest were prominently displayed at the front of the stage and were admired by the audience.



OCA's Building Fund

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

In 2006, we took a giant leap forward with the establishment of a permanent home. Located in the heart of Washington, DC the OCA National Center has become the premiere location for federal officials, Congressional staffers, supporters, civil rights advocates, community leaders, and corporate sponsors to access the APA community. It has also become a welcoming home for all OCA members.

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



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

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

For giving and donation opportunities please contact Victoria J. Rumsey, Development Manager at the National Office at 202.223.5500 or vrumsey@ocanational.org.

OCA Lifetime Members

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

Ai Zheu Xu & Qu Zhou Detroit
Albert Lau Long Island
Alex Mark At Large
Alfonso & Lana Tan Long Island
Alice Chang Northern Virginia
Amy Ai Yu-Mei Lee San Francisco Bay
Anchen & Jimmy Lin Greater Washington DC
Andrew Chen Pittsburgh
Andrew K.C. Wong Long Island
Ann Elizabeth Chan & Howard Chan, Jr. Long Island
Austin P. Tao St Louis
Betty Lee Sung New York
C. Joanna Lei Westchester & Hudson Valley
C.C. & Regina Yin Greater Sacramento
Carol Sang Fang Eastern Virginia
Cassandra Kwoh Greater Los Angeles
Celine Fong Westchester/Hudson Valley
Charles W. & Alice Cha Greater Chicago
Chi-Ming Chow Detroit
Chung Shu & Sue Pai Yang New Jersey
Cindy Tong San Francisco Bay
Claire Faith Weinan Detroit
Claudine Cheng San Francisco Bay
Clyde Wu Detroit
Colin Chang Dallas/Ft. Worth
Dai-Shan Wong Greater Houston
David F. Lee III San Francisco Bay
David S Lee At Large
David T. Lin New Jersey
David Wong Long Island
Deborah F. Ching & Mark M. Mayeda Greater Los Angeles
Diana Gin Greater Sacramento
Dominic Ling Greater Sacramento
Dwanchen & RungFong Hsu Greater Sacramento
Edward and Nancy Kang Long Island
Elaine Lai Westchester/Hudson Valley
Felix Chao Dallas/Ft. Worth
Flora & Shu-Wing Chan San Mateo County
Frances Leung Dallas/Ft. Worth
Frank C.S. Fang Eastern Virginia
Frank Liu Pittsburgh
Geoffrey Lee Lehigh Valley
George Gee Greater Houston
George M. Ong San Francisco Bay
Ginny Gong Greater Washington DC
Grace Chen Columbus
Gregory Christopher Detroit
Helen Y.H. Hui San Francisco Bay
Herbert & Virginia Gee San Francisco Bay
Howard & Marie Chan Greater Sacramento
Hwa-Shan Ho Greater Houston
Jaclyn Allison Chu Westchester/Hudson Valley
James Tso Northern Virginia
Jane Chen New Jersey
Janet Lew Carr Wisconsin
Jason Bobadilla Westchester/Hudson Valley
Jean & Stanley Chang Westchester/Hudson Valley
Jeanne Lee Jackson New York
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OVERVIEW

Founded in 1973, OCA, a national organization dedicated to advancing the social, economic, and political well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APA) will host its National Convention in Houston, TX, from Thursday, June 17, to Sunday, June 20. The OCA National Convention is a great opportunity to network with community leaders, learn issues affecting APAs, and further personal growth. The Gala Awards recognizes individuals for their exceptional contributions to the APA community. Past Honorees include Congressman Mike Honda, YouTube co-founder Steve Chen, and journalist Helen Zia.

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CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Prominent Speakers
- Relevant Workshops
- Networking Opportunities
- Gala Awards Reception & Dinner
- State of APA Summit
- Chapter Advancement Track
- Youth & College Leadership
- Professional Development
- Starry Night Market Festival
- Trip to NASA Space Center
- APA Multi-Media Fair



Embracing the Hopes and Aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans

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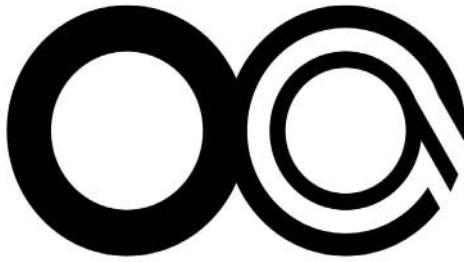
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