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SPRING/SUMMER
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ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
ADVOCATES



Celebrating OCA's 40th Anniversary



EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

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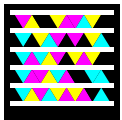


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Samples of IMAGE magazine covers from 1982 through 2012.

About Our New Brand



OCA, a national membership-driven organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs), is proud to announce its new organizational name of “OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates” as a rebranding effort that reflects OCA’s initiative of diversity and inclusion.

Founded as Organization of Chinese Americans in 1973, OCA has since grown to a robust national advocacy organization to advance the civil rights of APAs and aspiring Americans. In 2013, at its 40th Year, the organization presently has over 100 chapters, affiliates, and partners, impacting more than 15,000 individuals all across the country through local and national programming. While the organization’s headquarters remains in Washington, DC, allowing OCA to directly engage in critical public policy issues on a macro level, it continues to largely remain as a grassroots constituency of lay advocates from all walks of life and diverse ethnic identities addressing uniquely local level issues impacting over 19 million Asian Americans across the country.

The new brand for OCA enhances the following key consistent organizational propositions:

1. Fundamentally OCA will continue to be an “advocacy” organization which urges APAs and allies to act as advocate(s) [noun] and one who advocates [verb] for important issues.
2. OCA is committed to diversity and inclusion as an APA social justice organization, with the hope that the new name reflects its members (advocates) as well as the communities it serves.

Since the late 90’s, OCA has begun its branding transition, referring to itself by the acronym brand of OCA instead of the founding formal name of Organization of Chinese Americans. This transition has largely been embraced by members as well as external supporters with the understanding that this new brand serves to accurately acknowledge and advance both the history and current constituent make-up of the organization. This intentional strategy is implemented to support a more inclusive and diverse national organization dedicated to advancing the civil rights of all Asian Pacific Islanders.

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Message from the President

Sharon M. Wong | OCA National President

I would like to start my greeting in this year's Spring/Summer Edition of IMAGE as President by saying Happy Lunar New Year and Happy 40th Anniversary to OCA. What an amazing milestone as we celebrate four decades of advocacy and empowerment.

As I have gotten to know OCA over the years and see how far the organization has come, I would like to share my background with OCA. I became involved with the organization when I moved to Washington, D.C. in 1998. Attending that year's National Convention was a life-changing event – what I saw was an organization that could bring the Vice President of the United States to address the members of our community. I wanted to be a part of OCA and so began my OCA experience, first as a volunteer. I became chapter President, then Vice President of Education and Culture and Secretary, and now President. In 2005, during my first term as Vice President of Education and Culture, we bought the building, which now houses seven full-time staff and three Asian Pacific American (APA) community organizations.

As we take a look back on how far we have come as an organization, I am proud and look forward to inheriting the legacy of our great leaders and great members like you! I would like to take a moment and share with you some of my priorities for OCA under my term.

- **Fundraising** – My first priority is to develop and execute a fundraising plan with diversified funding so we can sustain growth. We need a roadmap to help us get to where we want to be, and a written and documented plan is the first step and so critical to ensuring success.
- **Membership** – Making sure we increase outreach and membership to broaden OCA's brand and

messaging. I would like to conduct a membership survey and hear from our members – like YOU!

- **Capacity Building** – Providing development and support to staff to help enhance retention and ensuring that staff has the resources and training to execute their responsibilities to many of the programs that we have. We discuss OCA's work on Civil Rights, Advocacy, Immigration, and Leadership Development to the APA community, but we need to be able to provide even more support nationally and locally to our chapters across the United States.

This year has gone by so fast, especially with so many exciting things that have already taken place. The opportunities will continue especially as we continue to work with both our host chapters, OCA-Greater Washington, DC and OCA-Northern Virginia, on this year's National Convention on July 18-21 in Washington, D.C. This year's convention theme, "**Celebrating 40 Years of Advocacy and Empowerment**," is an opportunity to not only celebrate our accomplishments over the last four decades, but also an occasion for us to consider how to best move forward on our continued commitment to social justice through civic engagement as a leading civil rights organization.

The opportunities at this year's Convention are endless—everything from networking events to specialized workshops on advocacy.

This year continues to be promising and I look forward to seeing everyone at National Convention and Corporate Achievement Awards. Most importantly I look forward to serving as your National President. Thank you all for being a strong advocate for OUR communities and being part of four decades of advocacy and empowerment! ■



Message from the Executive Director

Tom L. Hayashi | Executive Director

Like many of you, as an Advocate for the community, I have often wondered, to what end are we putting our time, energy, and resources? Since becoming a full-time advocate as the Executive Director of OCA, I have had the honor of being up close and deeply involved in a number of critical public policy fights: addressing hazing, bullying, and abusive practices in the military, schools, and work place; defending affirmative action in higher education; ensuring that comprehensive immigration reform includes addressing the family categories provisions; and ending discriminatory practices against LGBT Asian Pacific Islanders who wish to marry their partners.

In facing all these issues at micro, meso, and macro-levels to bring about greater equity and equality for all Asian Pacific Americans (APAs), I do feel a greater sense of urgency to answer the question, “To what end?” What is our vision for ending racism? I am not sure even if this is the right question that we should be asking. But what I do know for certain is that we face a golden opportunity to empower individuals and communities.

As you are all aware, we have turned 40 years old as a national membership driven civil rights organization this year and I have been remarking publically in jest that OCA faces its organizational “mid-life crisis”...in a positive way. At the proverbial mid-life we, as individuals, tend to take stock of what we have accomplished and what we may yet aspire to as we move through our second and third chapters. We generally think more realistically about identity, opportunities, and legacy. OCA, as an organization, is no different in this regard. At 40, in 2013, we certainly will be celebrating our accomplishments, most notably establishing the impressive and impactful network of chapters that have been born, fostered, and sustained across the country, bringing advocates from all walks of life and

giving voice to the civil rights of APAs. While one of the most notable contribution made by OCA is our membership and chapter network, we have also pursued the three pillars of social change: pressing for change in public policy, enhancing the leadership potential of individuals, and influencing how APAs are perceived in the larger society.

Many of our signature and emerging programs will continue to address and bring about significant structural change that we wish to see in our society now and into the future. We will take a pro-diversity, inclusion, and developmental model to offer engagement opportunities for individuals of all race and ethnicity, gender, age, class, sexual orientation, religion, and ability to be empowered.

Therefore, my vision for our community in this country is: *An American society that consistently affirms the human rights and dignity of all APAs as contributors, citizens, and defenders of democracy. This positive recognition of APAs shall be evidenced by inclusion in leadership roles, access to vital resources, and positive, as well as accurate, portrayals in all forms of media without regard to xenophobia and other forms of racial and ethnic myths, stereotypes, and disparaging characterizations.* In such a nation, racism, discrimination, and all forms of hate motivated assault against our community is a rare and unusual occurrence.

I look forward to seeing you at many joyous celebrations throughout this anniversary year, particularly at our “home coming” National Convention in Washington DC from July 18 – 21 as well as at our National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Award Gala in San Francisco on November 8. ■



Message from the Editor

Mary Lee | OCA Vice President of Communications

This year marks OCA's 40th anniversary and I am so very proud to be the editor of IMAGE during this momentous milestone. While compiling this special issue, I learned about the evolution of OCA – from the organization's humble beginnings and involvement of the pioneer members to the sad and good times that make our organization what it currently is today. I hope this issue is a reflection of how far we've come and the direction we're heading in the future.

This future direction is evident in OCA's rebranding and new name, **OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates**, which are discussed in this issue. Although we are rebranding, the organization's history will always be honored. With the passage of time, the organization must adapt accordingly, and I believe this new branding will enhance OCA's reputation as well as help to convey our messages of advocacy, diversity, and inclusion of all Asian Pacific Americans for personal and professional opportunities.

So much has happened since we celebrated our last anniversary. There have been developments with new immigration proposals, and we are fortunate to be able to share perspective articles about two individuals who have

been personally affected. In this issue, we are also recognizing the outstanding efforts of APA women in politics. They are a testament to the great work that's being done each and every day to raise awareness for APA issues.

A common theme that you'll notice throughout the magazine is one of reflection. After all, to reflect is to learn and celebrate. We are reflecting upon the experiences of William Tao, a member of the St. Louis chapter, which with Detroit and Washington, D.C., are the three founding chapters of OCA. We will always be thankful for these three chapters' visions for OCA and carving the path for what the organizations stands for today.

Rounding out this issue is the introduction of new entertainment and lifestyle columns. I'm always open to new ideas and changes for IMAGE so feel free to get in touch if you ever want to share suggestions.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge and thank everyone for their great contributions and assistance with this special edition of IMAGE. Happy 40th Anniversary, OCA! ■



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April 15, 2013

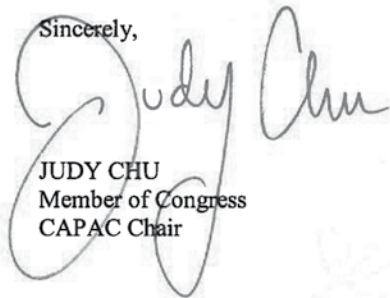
Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate OCA — Asian Pacific American Advocates in this special 40th Anniversary edition of the IMAGE magazine.

OCA is a critical partner in the empowerment of the Asian Pacific American (APA) community. By mobilizing grassroots support around national policy issues or developing a pipeline of APA leaders through its various youth, civic engagement, professional development and mentorship programs, OCA has a proud history of promoting our community's well-being. OCA was also a dynamic force behind the passage of the resolution of regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act in both chambers of the U.S. Congress and helped to highlight the disturbing culture of military hazing that resulted in the deaths of enlisted Asian Pacific Americans like Pvt. Danny Chen and my own nephew, Lance Cpl. Harry Lew.

I want to commend OCA for all of their tremendous work. On behalf of the 41 Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I offer my best wishes for OCA's 40th Anniversary edition of IMAGE magazine.

Sincerely,



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress
CAPAC Chair





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Monday, April 15, 2013

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of congratulations to OCA National as it celebrates 40 years of advocacy and empowerment for the Asian Pacific American (APA) community.

As one of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) founding organizations, OCA has been a model of excellence to its fellow member organizations. With over 100 chapters and affiliates across the nation, OCA has worked tirelessly over the years to develop a pipeline of leaders in the APA community through its college and youth, civic engagement, and professional development and mentoring programs. Additionally, when an issue arises in the community, NCAPA can depend on OCA to collaborate and engage in grassroots movements across the nation on a variety of advocacy issues from hate crimes and affirmative action, to immigration and voter rights.

As OCA enters this next chapter of community leadership, NCAPA looks forward to seeing what new initiatives OCA will embark upon.

Congratulations, OCA! Here's to another 40 years of advocacy and community leadership.

In solidarity,

Deepa Iyer
 Chair, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
 Executive Director, South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)

Historical Reflection and Aspirational Projection in Civil Rights: Our Organizational Past

Tom L. Hayashi | Executive Director

As often noted in our 40th anniversary, both publicly and privately, as an organization, we—our members and leaders—find ourselves in deep reflection. We reflect on not only our identity in the grand cultural tapestry that characterizes the Asian Pacific Islander community but also our individual and community place within the broader American society in the 21st century and beyond. As we meditate on our roots as people, our inner gaze and our outer projection often lead us to the relational or role construct that are undeniably informed by over two hundred years of xenophobia, or literal meaning of this term: fear of foreigners. Staying on this historical arc for a bit longer, this “othering” of Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants with and often over other ethnic groups who too have struggled to be accepted and affirmed by the majority class certainly has not been a matter of benign neglect. In fact, there has long been a pattern of oppression which seeks to exploit the working class immigrants, then targeting them as a convenient economic and political threat. Such a historical cycle of marginalization produce denial of what we call today human rights. For a long time, this lack of protection over basic rights could not technically be called “civil” rights since many of the Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants could not qualify for legal residency or citizenship through the 1900s. Many of the early immigrants were exploited class of laborers after the Civil War, shortly after the Emancipation Proclamation, and on the verge of the westward expansion and at the heels of the industrial revolution. Along with other immigrants from Europe, Asians, namely Chinese immigrants, were exposed to some of the most labor

intensive and dangerous work on the Transcontinental Rail Roads and supplied the labor demands for the mining ventures in states like California and Nevada. Most popularly, the Chinese immigrants joined the Gold Rush sifting and panning in the streams and rivers, as well as one of the first sent in the mineshafts with explosives. Take the historically derogatory term “Chinaman’s chance.” This term originally is said to be based on a California Supreme Court case, *People vs. Hillman*, in 1854 where a white man was acquitted on appeal of murdering a Chinese miner by the name of Ling Sing. While the murder of Mr. Sing was witnessed by plenty of individuals, they were not considered by the legal standards of the time to be credible witnesses according to the opinion issued by Chief Justice Charles J. Murray. He stated, “no black or mulatto person, or Indian, shall be allowed to give evidence in favor of, or against a white man...” and further remarked that the Chinese are “a race of people whom nature has marked as inferior... The same rule that would admit them to testify, would admit them to all the equal rights of citizenship, and we might soon see them at the polls, in the jury box, upon the bench, and in our legislative halls. This is not a speculation...but an actual and present danger.” This type of rhetoric is alive and well in the 21st century, while not being the basis of court cases, but still touted by politicians to carry the support of their base and whipping up the same racist fervor to a frenzy, arguing that Asians

(namely the Chinese) are a direct threat to the political and economic health of the United States.

Moreover “Chinaman’s chance” later also included reference to the high likelihood of injury for front-line Chinese laborers working in the mines, having a slim *chance* of avoiding injury if not death when the explosives were discharged. The reference for this term alone speaks volumes of the mainstream society’s value of people of color in the mid to late 19th century—that Asians were not recognized as deserving of basic rights since they were not citizens. Those who oppressed these mere laborers faced impunity when challenged by the courts, and even in the case of accidental injury or death, there was very little that could be done to protect the health and well-being of people who were not dignified, let alone affirmed. Consistent with the proposition that Asians gaining full and equal rights would prove to be a threat to the mainstream society in the United States, in 1882 Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act to stop the immigration of the laborers from China and a later similar law to stop all Asian immigrants. As one of my colleagues, Professor Phil Nash of the University of Maryland Asian American Studies Department have often remarked when addressing our leadership summit participants, immigration for our community is one of door opening, then closing, and opening again. If there is any community that empathizes with the struggles of the present day class

Post-modern progression of Asian Pacific Islander civil rights consciousness

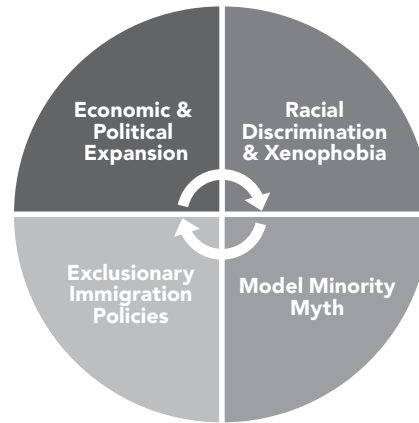


and Road Ahead

of oppressed immigrant, it is the Asian community, especially those of us who are descendants of *paper sons* seeking entry and status perhaps similar to the DREAMers of the present day.

It is only in the last century that we as a community have been allowed to legally emigrate or have our children recognized with status that entitles them access to education, healthcare and ownership of property, but under inconsistent and frequent restrictions or segregated and disproportionately limited circumstances. While the pain of the past remains in the past, we have gained much ground in human and civil rights. When we open our eyes from such mindful and heartfelt retrospection in the present day, the slate is far from wiped clean. We still must fight for a more comprehensive and humane immigration policy. The xenophobia against Asians is much louder and insidious. We have gone from cartoons depicting demonization and violence against the Chinaman frequently appearing in the newspapers during the height of the anti-Asian sentiment around the passage of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act to a 2012 smart phone app called, "Make Me Asian."

Over the last 40 years, OCA has stood up and voiced our objections when mascots were depicted as Chinks as in the case of Pekin High School in Illinois in the 70s and early 80s; in 2006 when radio shock jock Adam Carolla was mocking the Asian Excellence awards on AZN TV with such slang as Ching-Chong; in 2008 when the Spanish Olympic basketball team slanted their eyes with their fingers in unison for a photo op; and again in 2009 when actress and musician Miley Cyrus and her company were in a photograph making the "ch*#! eyes." These incidents are clearly not isolated and the cultural permissiveness of these actions is far from benign. In 2010, OCA, together with a number of community organizations, supported several Asian students in Philadelphia who took a



Advocacy focus

bold stand against bullying. According to the 2009 Department of Education and Justice report, Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) are 20 percent more likely to be bullied compared to other ethnic groups. Last year we memorialized the 1982 slaying of Vincent Chin, 30 years after the incident, but just two years ago, we have risen up to the hazing-related death of Private Danny Chen. Both involved young APA men who have been targeted for race-motivated assault resulting in murder and fatal hazing, respectively. Unlike the centuries past when we have fallen victims to murders and massacres, we as citizens of the United States now feel empowered to galvanize our community. OCA still remains to be a largely grassroots organization made up of vigilant, passionate lay advocates from all walks of life who are part of numerous chapters located in various parts of the country that allows us to authentically and vigorously advocate for the civil rights of Asian Pacific Islanders.

In the so-called post-civil rights era of the 21st Century, OCA must seize the historically unique opportunity to defend and advance the rights of all APAs and Aspiring-Americans. Clearly, our organization must develop a sound strategy for addressing micro, meso, and macro oppression based on theory of social change. To this end, we will take a three-prong empowerment strategy:

- 1.) robust, continuous investments in impactful leadership development of individuals and community,
- 2.) influencing significant cultural change to promote affirming perceptions relationally and in the media, and
- 3.) driving systemic-institutional change by advocating for public and private policy reforms and innovation.

To this end, starting in 2013, OCA will be committed to creating a much wider pipeline of leaders through its internship program and incrementally scaling up to the largest DC-based internship for APAs. With the growing trend of civic engagement in our community, we will seek to support significant growth in the number of registered voters across the country. We also will embrace diversity and inclusion as most recently reflected in our branding announcement. This will be our commitment to have an advocacy home for all Asian Pacific Islanders in the community. To help support this work, we will need to raise a significant amount of funds directly from the community. This call for greater philanthropic involvement is not only critical to advancing the work of OCA; lack of fundraising capacity remains to be a community weakness that must be turned around. Moreover, our organization will need to engage in much greater alliances and solidarity building strategies with other causes and communities to be an active member of the social justice community. What this means is at both the local and the national level, we must reach out and build bridges across communities. Most importantly, none of these initiatives will be possible without persistent and visionary leadership at all levels of our organization. It is truly up to us to ensure not only the survivability of our organization but also the well being of our community. Therefore, our collective vision is Asian Pacific American and Aspiring-American *empowerment through engagement*. ■

Coming Out of the Shadows:

Kendall Kosai | Development Associate

As immigration reform continues to be a hot button issue around the country, Asian Americans are not staying silent. According to a 2012 Pew Research Center report, Asian immigrants now make up 36 percent of new immigrant arrivals to the United States compared to Hispanics who now make up 31 percent, a staggering statistic that exemplifies the force behind the growing population.

Among the new generation of Asian immigration is 22 year-old Raymond Jose of Rockville, Maryland. Jose came to the United States in 2000 from the Philippines with his family in search of a better future. “My mom and dad wanted us to have a better education than they could provide in the Philippines,” says Jose. “There were more opportunities for us here.” As Jose made new friends in his middle and high school, he integrated as an Asian immigrant that was living the American dream. “I thought I was just like everyone else,” says Jose.

During his senior year of high school, Jose was offered a track scholarship to Pennsylvania State University, the University of Maryland, and other universities. “I was excited to tell my mom and dad that they didn’t have to worry about paying for my education,” explains Jose. What happened next would shatter his world as he knew it. After enthusiastically telling his parents the good news, his mother reacted by weeping. “I was puzzled and confused as to why she was crying,” says Jose. “All she said was ‘I’m sorry’ in our native language of Tagalog. She explained that we overstayed our tourist visa which left us in an undocumented state.”

Jose’s story is similar to so many students who don’t find out that they are undocumented until they’re preparing for college. These students are most commonly referred to as DREAMers.

The term “DREAMers” stems from the name given to potential beneficiaries of the Development, Relief, and Education of Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, legislation that is dedicated to providing educational and societal opportunities to youth who came to the United States unlawfully at a young age. According to the Immigration Policy Center, of the 1.8 million DREAMers in the United States, 108,000 are from Asia. Jose, who identifies himself as a DREAMer, only came out of the shadows in the last few years to support common sense immigration reform.

Similar to the millions of other DREAMERS, Jose soon began to struggle with coming to terms with his undocumented status. “I hit this wall that most undocumented students do,” explains Jose. “It was demoralizing that all my hard work had led to a dead end and I didn’t know what to do.” However, Jose’s parents wouldn’t let that happen. They eventually found a way for

Jose, 22, found out he was undocumented in his senior year of high school.



The Story of an APA DREAMer



Jose with his family.

him to attend community college where he was able to enroll in a few classes.

Citing the hard work and sacrifices that his family had made, Jose began to work while attending school to help support his family. But even finding a job that would treat him fair was difficult. “Since they knew I was undocumented,

I wouldn’t get paid what they fully promised, sometimes even less than minimum wage,” says Jose. “They knew my status and took full advantage of it. I wouldn’t be able to do anything about it.”

Today, Jose is the head of the Education not Deportation Program for the Maryland DREAM Youth Committee (MDYC), an immigrant youth led organization created in July 2010 to push for educational opportunities for students with undocumented status. He has been extremely vocal in the community as a DREAMer but continues to live in fear.

“On a daily basis, that fear of being separated from my family is very real,” says Jose. “My parents could be taken away at any time and that worries me.”

As immigration reform continues to be a highly debated issue, the Asian American community has embraced the challenge. “Being undocumented is not only an issue for Latinos,” says Jose. “There are 1.4 million undocumented Asian Pacific Islanders and it’s important for them to speak up. There is a need to diversify the movement.”

As for recommendations to OCA, Jose has some simple yet powerful advice: stand together in solidarity. “Being an ally is a powerful thing and is needed during these difficult debates,” explains Jose. “There is this culture of shame that prevents us from telling our story about being undocumented. But being able to share your story is powerful. It humanizes the issue.” ■

“On a daily basis,
that fear of being
separated from my
family is very real.”

Author’s note: OCA has passed several national resolutions during its 40 year history including: ending arbitrary Immigration and Naturalization Service detentions and deportations (2002), supporting the passage of comprehensive immigration reform (2004) and the DREAM Act (2005).

OCA: No Longer Just

Kendall Kosai | Development Associate

When OCA was founded in 1973, its mission was to unify the Chinese American collective voice. However, since its founding, the organization has shifted its name and its focus to OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates, to embrace the hopes and aspirations of the Pan-Asian American community. In 2013, as OCA celebrates its 40th year of advocacy and empowerment, the organization stands on the leading edge of the civil rights community with thousands of advocates across the country.

The journey of a young OCA advocate begins in Bhutan during the 1990s. At the time many of Bhutan's political leaders regarded a growing ethnic Nepali population as a "cultural threat." In response, the government began enacting discriminatory laws against the population in southern Bhutan including provisions requiring individuals to follow the same dress and language code as the rest of the country. As word spread regarding the new laws, peaceful demonstrations broke out. Those who spoke out against the new laws were deemed "anti-nationals" by the government and soon, mass evacuations were implemented as the government began to burn

protesters' homes and engage in violent clashes that left hundreds dead.

Among the tens of thousands that were evacuated in southern Bhutan was Hari Adhikari, who was two months old when his family was forced to move to a refugee camp in Nepal. "Being in the camps was tumultuous to say the least," says Adhikari. "The local Nepalese treated the refugees pretty badly and you did not get equal treatment. These stories can be pretty painful to tell sometimes."

Adhikari's family was met with the challenge of getting an ample amount of food. "Many of the refugees were not getting enough rations," says Adhikari. "Kids were going to school hungry. People waited in lines for hours to receive a simple medical treatment. There were no jobs for many of the refugees. There were simply not enough opportunities for us."

After 17 long years, Adhikari and his family were able to finally catch a break. In 2007, the United Nations coordinated with the United States and proposed the third country resettlement program. After being one of the first families to apply, they were accepted and sent to Tucson, Arizona. On June 2nd, 2008, the Adhikari family landed in New York City and then went to Tucson, Arizona where they settled. It was their first plane ride.

Adhikari and his family were presented with similar challenges that many newly arrived immigrants face. "The first couple of years were difficult, culturally, linguistically, and socially," says Adhikari. "We had a transportation problem. We had a language problem. We had many social barriers that made life difficult."

As Adhikari went through high school, he soon felt a need to help provide for his family, a frequent situation for many newer immigrant populations. His mother and sister did not have a job and although his father was working, money was tight. "I worked for Johnny Rockets as a server for 35-40 hours a week and went to school full time," says Adhikari. "Since I was still a full time student, I was having all sorts of problems. I'd be up until one or two in the morning finishing my homework and then falling asleep in class." Eventually, Adhikari's father told him to quit his job and just focus on school.

It was in 2010 that Adhikari was able to find new opportunities through his local OCA-Tucson chapter. His father began working on the 2010 census with Abe Lai, the OCA-Tucson President, and started attending the local OCA chapter meetings. "I found out my dad was attending the local OCA meetings," says Adhikari, who soon

"Being in the camps was tumultuous to say the least. The local Nepalese treated the refugees pretty badly and you did not get equal treatment. These stories can be pretty painful to tell sometimes."

for Chinese Americans

became curious about the organization. “When I went, it really struck a chord with me when they said that they are an organization dedicated to the welfare of the APA population. I immediately wanted to be a part of it.”

After a couple of meetings, Adhikari became interested in the work that OCA did for the Tucson community. “There were many things that I was not aware of before,” says Adhikari. “I never knew that such discrimination had taken place in the United States. It really moved me.” After expressing interest, Abe gave Adhikari an opportunity that he immediately jumped on: an internship.

“I was very motivated to give back to the community,” says Adhikari with enthusiasm. Adhikari, now 22, is an undergraduate student at the University of Arizona studying molecular and cellular biology and OCA-Tucson’s secretary. In addition, he works full time at the Amphitheater School District in Tucson as a parent educator that works with families of different refugee populations.

Although Adhikari has been a part of OCA for a short time, he has participated in a number of the organization’s programs: the APA Y-Advocate high school program, APIAU: Student Leadership program, the JAACL/OCA Leadership Summit and the 2012 OCA National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. He is currently an OCA 2013 Summer Intern, placed at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF). Each one has contributed to his personal and professional growth.

“I am so thankful to my local chapter for all the opportunities that they have given to me. It has been a real game changer and has opened so many doors,” says Adhikari. “Being involved in OCA has given me a career boost among the dozens of takeaways that I have been able to benefit from.” Adhikari plans on being a neurologist in the future.

Among the many opportunities that Adhikari has received from each of the programs, he has gained something that he has been seeking a long time: an identity. “One of the most painful things about being a refugee is that you have no identity. No country wanted me when I was a refugee,” says Adhikari. “Now that I am on the verge of becoming a United States citizen, I can almost finally call myself an American.”

As for his future involvement with OCA, Adhikari shows great humility in his plans. “I someday hope to become the OCA-Tucson chapter President and give back all that OCA has given me,” says Adhikari. “OCA is that it’s not just about Chinese Americans. OCA talks about the whole APA community. I feel like I am part of that community.” ■



Adhikari speaks at an OCA-Tucson chapter event.

“One of the most painful things about being a refugee is that you have no identity. No country wanted me when I was a refugee.”

Adhikari at his internship placement at the APIASF.

OCA Member Spotlight

Dr. William (Bill) Tao

Mary Lee | OCA Vice President of Communications



From left to right: Vice President of Communications Mary Lee, Helen Lee, and Bill Tao.

William Tao came to St. Louis in 1947 as a teaching assistant at Washington University. At that time, there were only three or four students from China and Hong Kong. The following year it increased to about ten. Bill was the only one with a home so his place became the “home” for all the students from China and Hong Kong. It was also the frequent venue for holiday meals and celebrations. Bill’s students included Chai Wei Woo, who later became Chancellor of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and S.B. Woo, who became Provost of the University of Delaware, founder of the “80-20 initiative” and served as the National President of OCA. Bill is the founder and president of William Tao & Associates, Inc. and holds an honorary Doctor of Science from Washington University. Dr. Tao and his wife of 70 years, Anne, enjoy tennis, the cinema, and travel. They have three sons: David, Richard, and Peter.

What is the importance of being an OCA member?

We first started a small organization known as the St. Louis Chinese Students Association. K. L. Wang came from D.C. to discuss the potential of forming a national organization to be named “Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA)” with a headquarters in Washington, D.C. and chapters in every state or major cities—hence the beginning of OCA. St. Louis is very proud to be one of the founding chapters of this national movement. The OCA logo was designed, at my request, by the daughter of a college classmate. Her name is Jinee Dunnvatanachit and she was a student at Washington University majoring in graphic art.

Do you see changes in your city/state in terms of how Asian Pacific Americans are now perceived?

As years went by, Chinese Americans and other Asian groups joined forces and mission, hence OCA expanded to include other Asian groups even though its name has not been changed, such as OAA. I don’t know whether there is any talk about changing OCA to OAA, but I think it will cost lots of money and setbacks as OCA has already been well recognized. In general, most Americans view Asians as a block.

What was the atmosphere like in St. Louis when your engineering firm opened in 1956?

During the 1940s, there were stereotypes about the Chinese in the United States. The Chinese were known to work in restaurants and laundries. These are honorable businesses but to label Chinese as “Asian” has caused lots of confusions without any benefits of the cultural differences. I think we should promote our Chinese cultural background while working harmoniously with other Asian groups so that it is beneficial to all.

Of all the graduate schools you could have attended, why did you choose Washington University?

Washington University allowed me to teach a few laboratory classes. This was at the end of World War II and a number of veterans befriended and helped me adjust to the new country.

Another fortunate circumstance for me was that the head of the Mechanical Engineering Department was Raymond R. Tucker, who later became the Mayor of St. Louis. When my wife and first-born son came to the United States 18 months later, I had to



Bill Tao speaking at the National Board Meeting in St. Louis on April 20, 2013.

find an evening job to earn more money to support the family. Mr. Tucker introduced me to the St. Louis Board of Education and had me design and upgrade all the school facilities to meet the new building standards. I was responsible for designing the new electrical and lighting systems for many of the schools. The added work made me an expert in new building construction systems that enabled me to start an engineering company even though I was still a stranger in a new country.

Of all the projects you have been involved with, what are the most well-known ones?

During the subsequent 40 years, I had the opportunity to establish myself as the authority in the design of the Building Mechanical & Electrical System while continuing to serve as adjunct faculty from graduate assistant, instructor, assistant professor, professor, trustee, and emeritus trustee. I have written an engineering textbook that is being used in over 60 universities. I was responsible for the design of most of the ME Engineering in the St. Louis area, including the air conditioning and lighting of the St. Louis Gateway Arch. I was involved in the ME System design of a number of major buildings in Taiwan. Regrettably, I did not do any projects in China as I retired in 1980, prior to China’s construction boom. Last but not least, I must give credit to many of my associates and to my wife, Anne, who served as treasurer to manage our financial resources. Without her, I probably would have spent it all.

Rumor has it that you are the “ambassador of tennis” and have an impressive collection of tennis ball cans—can you elaborate?

My wife and I have played tennis in 60 different countries with the People-to-People International Program from 1960 until 2000. While traveling for tennis, it is natural to collect some memorabilia. My collection was tennis ball cans because they are light and compact. I have 650 cans from various countries. This collection is larger than what was exhibited at the United States Tennis Hall of Fame.

The saying “behind every great man is a woman”—would you like to share with the readers something about Anne?

That is always true. Anne and I are a team. Remember, two can do the work for three, while a single person is one. Anne and I now are living the life of Riley. I am in the midst of completing my memoir. I play tennis with friends and am as busy as ever. ■

Chapter Highlight

OCA-St. Louis Chapter

Jeffrey Moy | Former Senior Program Manager of Professional Leadership Development

As OCA celebrates its 40th anniversary, here's a look at how one of the founding chapters, OCA-St. Louis, learned the importance of cooperation, determination, and passion in maintaining the longevity of advocacy in their community.

In the early 1970s, a grassroots Asian Pacific American (APA) movement that started in Detroit, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C. led to the formation of OCA. The shared vision was to have a united voice in the local community and at the national level. In OCA's 40 years of existence, the St. Louis chapter has hosted a variety of events and programs and has remained active in supporting the community with yearly senior citizen luncheons, bone marrow drives, census registration drives, the St. Louis County Executive Discussion Forum, and participation in the Chinese Culture Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Youth are supported through various internship and scholarship opportunities. They also offer a number of professional development events such as the yearly Asian Career Networking event and the launch of the Mentoring Asian American Professionals (MAAP) program last year.

As one of the founding chapters of OCA, St. Louis has gone through a number of ups and downs. However, thanks to the tireless efforts of its supporters, the chapter has always managed to persevere and is again enjoying great prosperity. In reflecting upon the last few years and discussing the future direction and goals for the chapter, President Thong Tarm described their message using the following three themes: opportunity, collaboration, and advocacy.

With regard to opportunity, OCA-St. Louis has learned that by being creative in the type of support they ask for, they have been able to engage a number of community members. In other words, there is always an opportunity to

engage; it is just a matter of finding out how to do so. The successes of their events have been built on previous experiences and in learning what works and where improvement can be made. Although at times it can be hard to get full attendance at events, they achieve full participation through providing board members with different opportunities to help out. Through new and innovative ideas, the chapter has been able to get the continued efforts necessary to repeat their yearly programs.

As a grassroots organization, collaboration is critical in order to sustain and grow in an effective manner. In deciding which avenues to pursue, the chapter looks to its partnerships with existing and new organizations. They strongly believe in sharing ideas and tasks in order to operate more efficiently. Although at times it may seem easier to lead a program with only one or two people, getting others involved is important in order to encourage those who are interested and to develop new leadership. This is a process that takes time, but is important to the sustainability of the community. In addition, there may be other organizations who have the expertise to help out in certain areas, or who already have similar programming. In these cases, it may make more sense to partner on an existing program rather than starting something new.

The final theme, advocacy, is the heart of what OCA is about. While historically OCA-St. Louis focused much



Members of OCA-St. Louis Chapter.

of their efforts on culture and working only within the local community, presently the chapter's programs and events touch upon civil rights, culture, education, professional development, and other community services. When it comes to deciding which programming should continue on and which new initiatives should be taken on, the important thing is making sure they are relevant to the local and national issues at hand. In the end, it is not about the quantity of programs and events, but the positive impact they will have on the community.

Ultimately, no matter what the task, the chapter always finds itself passionate in helping others. In being guided by these themes, they have been able to find a number of tireless supporters, including members, volunteers, and sponsors. The longevity of OCA-St. Louis and OCA as a whole is proof that people are passionate about this organization and in creating positive change in their communities. ■

Chapter and board members of OCA-St. Louis.



OCA and AARP: Working Together for the Asian 50+ Community

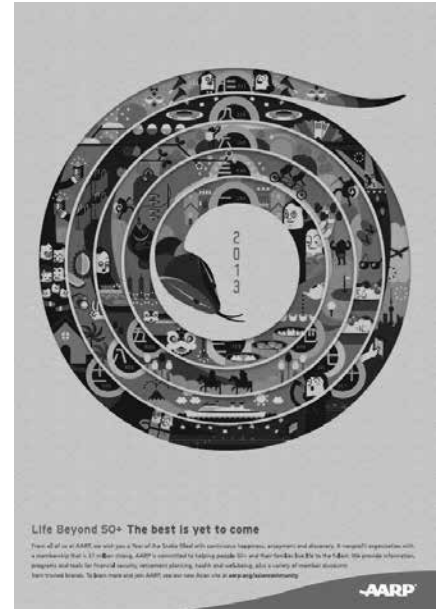
June Kao | OCA AARP 50+ Fellow

When you see the following four letters—A, A, R, and P—what comes to mind? While conducting several focus groups, AARP, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, found that a majority of people from the Asian Community may have seen AARP, but attribute it falsely as an insurance company, part of government, or an association for retired people. AARP is a nonprofit organization, with a current membership of more than 37 million, which helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities. My placement at AARP, while working with OCA, is a great opportunity to expand both organizations' understanding and support of the Asian 50+ community. OCA's partnership with AARP has allowed great growth in being better equipped in providing assistance to the Asian 50+ community and lending a voice for the Asian community.

With the changing demographic of the United States, AARP has made it a goal to integrate and grow their membership to include those from different cultures. In the past two years, they have reached out to the Asian community through the Multicultural Markets and Engagement (MME) Department and other departments at AARP. MME understands that the future of AARP depends on a diverse membership. A quote of the founder of AARP, Ethel Percy Andrus, is

often repeated at AARP and resonates with the work AARP does to include all in the 50+ and their families: "What we do, we do for all."

AARP has been working on ways to reach out to the Asian community by partnering with trusted community partners such as OCA. Through the Community Organization Membership Program (COMP), OCA is able to offer AARP memberships through a discounted rate for the 1-, 3-, 5-year terms for \$15, \$34, \$47, respectively, and a special promotion of the lifetime membership at \$200. For AARP membership, you must be 50 and older to be eligible. AARP advocates for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name, as well as help members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. AARP helps strengthen communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. For those who are new to AARP, OCA is also offering a 1-year Complimentary AARP Membership. With the partnership, AARP offers their content experts to speak to the community about issues such as Medicare, Social Security, Affordable Care Act, etc. AARP Programs such as



AARP 2013 Lunar New Year Greetings Ad

Tax-Aide and Driver Safety is expanding with the help of community partners to reach the Asian community.

On a public presence, AARP has started advertisements in Chinese newspapers in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York. Most notably, they ran the first AARP Lunar New Year Greeting Ad in February 2013. For the AARP Bulletin of April 2013, a multigenerational Asian family was featured on the cover for the first time. On May 23, Ginny Gong, OCA past National President of OCA, was featured in AARP's Asian Thought Leaders Ads, which also included Floyd Mori, President/CEO of Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) and Executive Director of the National JACL, Emeritus, and Retired US Army General Antonio Taguba. ■



AARP Thought Leaders Ad featuring Ginny Gong, past National President of OCA.



AARP Bulletin, April 2013

June Kao is currently placed at AARP's Multicultural Markets and Engagement Department as the OCA AARP 50+ Fellow. Previously to her fellowship, she was an OCA Summer Intern in 2012 working with AARP. At AARP, she continues to learn about the overall 50+ community, be a voice for the Asian community, and use her knowledge to benefit OCA constituents.

APA Women in Advocacy: Former OCA Intern Jacqueline Wu Reflects on Rise of APA Women in Politics

Jacqueline Wu | 2011 OCA Summer Intern

When President Barack Obama was first elected to presidency in 2008, there were 13 members of the 112th Congress who were identified as Asian Pacific American (APA) descent, three of which were women. It would be over a hundred years since the passage of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act that glass and bamboo ceilings would finally be broken for Judy Chu to be elected to serve as the representative for the San Gabriel Valley of California, which is one of the United States' largest Chinese population centers. Demographic shifts over the next four years would lay the foundation for many barriers and ceilings to be broken again when President Barack Obama would be up for reelection. The year 2012 was a tremendous year for APA women. Two more APA women were elected to serve in the House of Representatives and Mazie Hirono made history as the first APA woman elected to serve in the Senate. OCA's national and regional advocacy efforts would bear much fruit as Grace Meng of New York, Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, and Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii were elected in Congress.

At the time of OCA's founding in 1973, there was only one Asian American female in Congress and Patsy Mink of Hawaii left her mark on the American political landscape after twelve terms in the House of Representatives. She truly opened doors for APA women and all women alike by authoring the Title IX Amendment of the Higher Education Act in 1972, which stated that "no person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Our community has come a long way since then, but our work, especially at OCA, one of the premiere APA advocacy organizations in the country, is clearly not complete.

It is truly a shame there are not more APAs, particularly women, in public service around the country because the lack of perspective in decision-making bodies will ultimately harm our community. Of the 100 largest U.S. cities, one has an APA woman mayor. Mayor Jean Quan of Oakland is not only the first APA woman elected to the highest position in Oakland, but also the first woman and the first APA, despite the city being founded in 1852 and the Chinese community's long history in the city. The lack of role models threatens our well-being far into the future as the political climate in this country continues to grow hostile towards communities with strong immigrant ties. Without role models and a diversity of perspectives, it becomes increasingly difficult for APA youth to even seriously consider involvement in politics.

I was in fourth grade the first time I met my first Asian American female elected official. I signed up for a program that provided tutoring and mentorship to at-risk and low-income youth on the weekends and this program was provided free-of-charge. While I disliked waking up to sit in a classroom on the



Jacqueline Wu with Representative Judy Chu in 2010.

weekend, I remember being taken aback by firstly meeting an elected official who cared enough about a bunch of 9-year olds and one that looked like she could be a family member. Congresswoman Judy Chu probably doesn't remember this moment, but I was struck as a 9-year old student who came from a working-class household that did not speak of politics or government. I remember the confidence she had in herself and the trust others placed in her as a government official, and I believe this began my interest in politics.

I would meet another inspirational APA woman in politics about a decade later when OCA recognized Tammy Duckworth as the "OCA Outstanding Citizen Award" in 2011. Tammy Duckworth was honored for the work she did when she served as Assistant Secretary of Veteran Affairs before she was elected to serve as the United States Representative for Illinois' 8th congressional district in 2012. I was an OCA summer intern (Go Class of 2011!) when she was recognized and I had the distinct honor of meeting her and sharing a few words. Her kindness and humility was incredible, considering all she had gone through in serving our country abroad in the military and her distinct position within the Department of Veteran Affairs. It would be no surprise that she would make history as the first Thai-American elected to serve in the House of Representative.

Though public service is often not a career that APA communities encourage their children to pursue, the opportunity to influence policy and shape the way the government treats our communities is one we should not take for granted. There are many ways to become civically engaged, whether that is voting, serving on a local commission, or running for elected office. Decisions for our communities are being made everyday, and others will make those decisions for us, whether or not it is in our best interest, if we do not take a seat at the table. ■

Jacqueline Wu is an alumna of the OCA Summer Internship program ('11) and previously served on the OCA-Orange County board. She currently works as a District Representative for California State Senator Carol Liu of the 25th District.



Where Are They Now?

Letters from OCA Intern Alums

Mary Dynne Montante | Associate Director Programs and Constituent Development

Anthony Tran, Class of 2012

Dear OCA,

Even though it has only been a year since I have been with OCA's internship program, the lessons that I have learned from that experience, interacting with not only OCA's staff and members, but also individuals from a variety of D.C. organizations, have proved extremely useful and memorable. Whether it's using facts gained from APIA-U sessions or leadership skills taught during the weekly Sama Sama class, my experiences with OCA still remain with me, living and constantly influencing my everyday actions. The OCA internship experience has given me the knowledge and capacity to become a better advocate for my communities and it has inspired me to continue to work towards enacting tangible change for the greater good of the entire APIA community.



In less than a month, I will be graduating and looking to attend law school. Though law school can be a time where people's thoughts and mindsets conform to a norm, I know that I will continue to keep my advocacy and my OCA internship in mind as I work on becoming a lawyer. In the future, I hope to take all of my experiences to work on immigration and immigrant rights issues within the APIA community.

Happy 40th Anniversary, OCA and here's to many more great years working towards a better future!

Sincerely,

Anthony Tran, Internship Class of 2012

Neha Raheja, Class of 2011

Dear OCA,

My name is Neha Raheja and I am a 22-year-old senior at the University of Texas at Austin double majoring in Asian Studies and Education. I was an OCA Intern at the Department of Transportation in the summer of 2011. My experience, which I owe to OCA, was life-changing and eye-opening.



Before I went to D.C., I feel like I lived in a bubble. I did not know much at all about the issues that affected the Asian American community, and did not feel personally connected or invested in these various issues either. Being surrounded by such progressive and passionate people such as my OCA family not only educated me on these important matters, but also made me feel comfortable to question and discuss my ideas and opinions. My favorite time in D.C. was our OCA intern class on Friday afternoons. I remember leaving the OCA office feeling so empowered and enlightened every single Friday. What an amazing feeling! I am extremely fortunate to have been an OCA intern and learn how to be an advocate for my community.

Thank you OCA, I am forever grateful!

Sincerely,

Neha Raheja, Internship Class of 2011

Amaris Leiataua, Class of 2011

Dear OCA,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to work alongside empowering AAPI leaders, mentors, community members, and allies. Working with OCA is an experience that I will continue to learn from and share with others as I grow as a leader within the Pacific Islander community.



My placement, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, was one of the most challenging but rewarding experiences of my life. There, I learned that policy can't move without the advocacy and push from the community. It was a grounding experience to see that folks working on policy were completely invested in the well-being of the AAPI community and making large strides to mitigate disparities we face.

I always looked forward to Friday afternoons when my cohort would meet to discuss important issues within the AAPI community. I learned a great deal from my peers when they shared their knowledge and challenged me to think differently. I know that everyone in my cohort will leave a positive mark on the world.

Since OCA, I have graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, studied abroad in New Zealand, and am now in my first year of graduate school at the University of

California, Los Angeles. Outside of school, I am an Executive Board Member for the National Pacific Islander Educator Network and still working with Empowering Pacific Islander Communities. In the future, I know I will progress in my work because of the support of people and organizations like OCA.

Thank you,
Amaris Leiataua, Internship Class of 2011

Pang Dao Moua, Class of 2010

Dear OCA,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to the OCA Summer Internship Program. In 2010, I was selected to be part of the Summer Internship Program, which exposed me to a world I never knew existed. Through the program, I learned about the issues Asian Americans face every day, met many great APA leaders from across the country, and discovered things about myself that positively affected my self-identity.



Since my summer experience, I have remained passionate about educating our youth about the importance of our community. In college, I started a dialogue group called Asian American Voices to discuss issues of identity and the need for a space on campus. Through the dialogue group, I completed my Campus Action Plan when I co-founded the Asian American Student Union. We even brought the OCA APIA-U Leadership Training to campus through the student union.

Additionally, when I graduated from college, I was nominated for and received the Harold Johnson Diversity Service Award for “the student who has contributed most to promoting understanding and acceptance of cultural and racial diversity within the University community”. I credit my receipt of this award to OCA for exposing me to the racial injustices experienced throughout the United States.

Without any of your support, I would have never been a part of the OCA Summer Internship Program and discovered my passion, nor would I have accomplished any of the above, so thank you!

Sincerely,
Pang Dao Moua, Internship Class of 2010

Will Xu, Class of 2009

Dear OCA,

My OCA internship was filled with unforgettable moments and awe-inspiring people. My relationship with them, both peers and mentors, have led me to India, to law school, and to my dream internship this summer with the United Nations. OCA has become a medium in which we speak a common language of initiative, and we all had a lot to say. My first such conversation was with a fellow intern who had worked with survivors of human trafficking in India. I was so inspired by her story that I decided that I too, should go and help. Three months later, we were in India conducting a modified version of the OCA Youth Day workshop to a group of survivors. I also remember hearing APA leaders like Vincent Eng during our after work leadership gatherings on Capitol Hill. I was enthralled by the discussions, and wanted to find context in the controversial social and political issues of our time. I chose to go to law school to find this context, to both understand, and address issues that perpetuate human rights abuse. This is why I set my sights on International Criminal law and obtained an internship with the United Nations Special Tribunal for Lebanon in The Hague. I cherish my OCA experience because it empowers us, challenges us, and expects us to change the world. Its lessons will reverberate throughout our careers as a reminder of our unspoiled potential.



Sincerely,
Will Xu, Internship Class of 2009

OCA Kicks Off Its 40th Year *with Style*

Michael Satyapor | Senior Intern

Representatives of Congress, OCA members, and friends gathered for a night of celebration at the Capitol building on a cold and gray Tuesday this past February. As evening approached, rain began to softly fall, but even the forces of nature could not keep OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates and its many well wishers from celebrating the start of its 40th Anniversary. The Capitol Hill Visitors Center glowed warmly with the merriment and laughter as it was filled with the sounds and sights of around 100 guests from the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area (or DMV as the locals affectionately refer to it) and beyond. The event featured remarks from Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA 17th District), OCA 40th Anniversary Convention Chair Daphne Kwok, OCA National President Sharon M. Wong, and OCA Executive Director Tom L. Hayashi. Longtime OCA supporter Congressman Honda touched on the importance of working with Asian Pacific American (APA) organizations as well as the need to address pressing issues such as bullying in the community.

Daphne Kwok spoke on the rich history of OCA and how the organization has progressed to where it is today. The message was followed by thoughts from Tom L. Hayashi, who noted and remarked on where OCA is going in the future and how we are going to get there together.

During the latter part of the evening, there was a pleasant surprise as Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA 27th District) and Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY 6th District) arrived and gave brief remarks. For those who may not know, Congresswoman Chu is the first Chinese American woman elected to the U.S. Congress, and Congresswoman Meng is the first-ever Asian American elected to the House



Congressman Mike Honda delivers remarks.



OCA Executive Director Tom L. Hayashi presents Congresswoman Judy Chu with a small gift.

of Representatives from New York. Guests had the opportunity to listen to both of these trailblazing APA women leaders share some of their thoughts and congratulations to OCA on its milestone year.

The 40th Anniversary and Lunar New Year Reception marked the beginning of a big year for OCA that will culminate in the 40th Anniversary National Convention hosted in Washington, D.C. from July 18-21, 2013.

Can't wait to see everyone at Convention and to see what accomplishments we'll have to celebrate when OCA turns 45! ■

From left to right: OCA Executive Director Tom L. Hayashi, OCA 40th Anniversary Convention Chair Daphne Kwok, Congressman Mike Honda, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congresswoman Grace Meng, and OCA National President Sharon M. Wong.



K. L. Wang is elected as the first National President.

The first OCA National Convention is held in Washington, D.C. on June 9.

The OCA constitution is read into the Congressional Record.



OCA National President K. L. Wang meets with President Ford.

Alex Mark becomes the second National President.

Hang Chang becomes the fourth National President.

Robert Wu becomes the sixth National President.

Andrew Chen becomes the seventh National President.

OCA blasts "Year of the Dragon" movie as racist and insulting to Chinese Americans.

James Tso becomes the eighth National President.

OCA President Frank Liu meets with US President George H. Bush to discuss APA issues.

Claudine Cheng becomes the 11th National President.

Lloyd Piche is sentenced to four years for civil rights violations in murder of Jim Loo and six others.

Ginny Gong becomes the 12th National President.

OCA meets with Attorney General Janet Reno on APA and Hispanic issues.

OCA receives a grant from the US Dept. of Justice to focus on employment compliance.

Michael C. Lin becomes the 13th National President. He meets with US President Clinton and Secretary of Defense Perry on affirmative action.

OCA presents first OCA Outstanding Achievement Award to UC Berkeley Chancellor Chang Lin Tien and actor George Takei.

OCA receives Spirit of Democracy Award from National Coalition of Black Voters.

OCA is elected as the first Chair of the National Council of APAs.

George Ong becomes the 14th National President and meets with Secretary of Commerce William Daley on Census 2000.

In partnership with The UPS Foundation, OCA establishes the OCA/UPS Gold Mountain Scholarship for APA students.

Christine Chen becomes the seventh Executive Director.

OCA passes a resolution to support the Filipino veterans who fought for the US in WWII.

Raymond Wong becomes the 15th National President.

OCA helps to found the APIA Scholarship Fund, which addresses scholarship needs of APIA students.

Ginny Gong becomes the 16th National President.

Dorothy Wong becomes the eighth Executive Director.

OCA passes a resolution supporting the DREAM Act, which would support undocumented students in pursuing higher education or military service.



Ken Lee becomes the 17th National President.

OCA and partner organizations organize major national mobilization in support of comprehensive immigration reform.

OCA moves into its new home at the National Center.

Mentoring Asian American Professionals (MAAP) is founded.

OCA unveils B3: Build, Breakthrough & Believe—an aspiring professionals program.

OCA announces the launch of the inaugural APA Engage! Civil Rights Fellowship.

OCA's National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards celebrates its 20th Anniversary.

OCA seeks reforms and solutions to harassment and bullying in the military due to the death of Private Danny Chen.

Sharon M. Wong becomes the 18th National President.

OCA celebrates its fourth decade of APA advocacy with Lunar New Year Reception on Capitol Hill featuring Representatives Mike Honda, Judy Chu, and Grace Meng.

OCA supports policy framework presented on immigration reform as outlined by the Senate and President Barack Obama.

Inaugural Asian Pacific American Advocacy, Mentoring, Pride, Democracy (AMPD) is launched.

1973 1974 1976 1977 1978 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

OCA objects to the use of "Pekin Chinks" as the name of a high school football team in Illinois.



Hayden Lee becomes the first Executive Director. OCA opens National Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Mary Au becomes the third National President. Don Cooper becomes the second Executive Director.

OCA Business Advisory Council is established in San Francisco.

Austin Tao becomes the fifth National President.

Laura Chin becomes the third Executive Director.

First edition of "A Place Called Chinese America" is published.

Henry Mui becomes the fourth Executive Director.

Vincent Chin assailant convicted of civil rights violation.

OCA President Andrew Chen meets with US President Ronald Reagan to discuss greater opportunities and recognition for Chinese Americans and other APAs.

Frank Liu becomes the ninth National President.

Melinda Yee becomes the fifth Executive Director.

OCA receives first grant ever to provide minority AIDS education program.

S.B. Woo becomes the 10th National President. He meets with President George Bush on the Civil Rights Act of 1990.

Daphne Kwok becomes the sixth Executive Director.

Daphne Kwok witnesses the signing of the Immigration Act of 1990.

The first Lunar New Year stamp is issued by the US Postal Service.

Bradley Mills, first of seven men charged with murder of Luyen Phan Nguyen in Florida, is sentenced to 50 years in jail.

OCA establishes the first National Building campaign. Vision 25. OCA moves to new office at 1001 Connecticut Avenue at F Street in Washington, D.C.

OCA coordinates first national APA voter registration campaign.

OCA presents the first Pioneer Awards in San Francisco.

OCA and JAACL meet with US President Bill Clinton and VP Al Gore to discuss affirmative action.

OCA is selected to be the Asian American and Pacific Islander Gate Millennium Scholars partner.

OCA is selected to be a US Census Information Center to analyze and disseminate reports about APA community.

OCA announces the creation of the Verizon Scholarship to support APA students.

OCA commemorates the 20th anniversary of the death of Vincent Chin by holding a press conference with the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium.

OCA launches the APIAVote Initiative for the 2004 election cycle.

OCA and NCAPA release a national platform of APA policy priorities for 2004 which is sent to presidential candidates.

Michael C. Lin becomes the ninth Executive Director.

OCA advocates for comprehensive immigration reform in media and through postcard campaign with NCAPA.

OCA Vote mobilizes hundreds of OCA members to help people register with voting in the 2008 Presidential Elections.

OCA criticizes Arizona's anti-immigrant law, SB 1070, and raises concerns over potential racial profiling.

JAACL, APIAVote, and OCA leaders visit the Gulf Coast to gather first-hand accounts on how the BP oil spill directly affected the APA community.

President Obama announces the appointment of Daphne Kwok (former Executive Director of OCA) as Chair of the Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI).

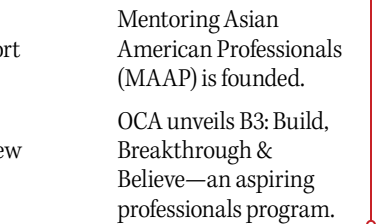
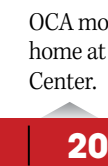
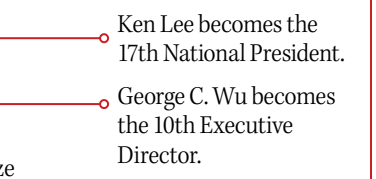
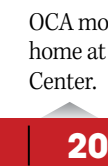
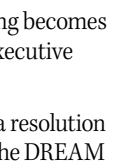
Tom L. Hayashi becomes the 11th Executive Director.

OCA experiences community pride in the passage of the H.Res. 683 by the United States House of Representatives. Introduced by Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA-32), the resolution is an acknowledgement and regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

OCA stands in support of equal opportunity policies with advocates from across the country at a rally in front of the United States Supreme Court. The court heard oral arguments regarding the *Fisher v. University of Texas* case.



OCA meets with the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee to discuss the 1996 US presidential campaign fundraising controversy and raised concerns about the DNC's intrusive and discriminatory audits.



2013 Convention Preview

Victoria J. Rumsey | Director of Development

Celebrating 40 Years of Advocacy and Empowerment, the theme of this year's National Convention and theme that has echoed throughout the country as we have, and continue to celebrate the past, present, and future.

Since 1973, OCA has held one of the premiere annual events for the Asian Pacific American (APA) community. This year the tradition continues in our nation's capital from July 18-21 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. The 2013 National Convention will serve as a homecoming for all who have been involved since our founding and will be the highlight of the anniversary year.

The Convention theme, **"Celebrating 40 Years of Advocacy and Empowerment,"** is an opportunity to not only celebrate our accomplishments over the last four decades, but as an occasion for us to best move forward on our continued commitment to social justice through civic engagement as a leading civil rights organization.

The National Convention is a four-day packed event dedicated to advancing APAs of all ages from youth to experienced executives in advocating for social justice, leadership, education, and community development. For 2013, the host chapters, OCA- Greater Washington DC and OCA-Northern Virginia, will help showcase all the grandeur our nation's capital has to offer and more!

The OCA National Center staff has been working closely with Daphne Kwok, former OCA Executive Director and the Chair of our 40th Anniversary Year, and the host chapters to assemble an amazing schedule of programs and special events that bridge together the goals and theme of the National Convention - Celebrating 40 Years of Advocacy and Empowerment.

Some of these featured events include **Thursday's Welcome Reception** where the host chapters will kick off the National Convention with a sampling of the sights, sounds, and tastes of DC. We will also take the time to honor three individuals with the OCA Award for Lifetime Service for their support to OCA throughout the years.

The **Youth and College Tracks'** theme of "Movement Now" will feature workshops and panels centered around empowerment, personal and leadership development, advocacy issues and much more! The highly anticipated



Panelists state their inputs during the State of APA Summit on Day 2 of the 2012 National Convention.

State of APA Summit will be a discussion with visionary thought leaders representing a variety of fields and expertise to address past, present, and future opportunities found at the intersections of race, politics, and media within the APA community.

The B3: Emerging APA Professionals and Employee Resource Groups tracks will explore the value of diversity and the importance of relationship building in personal and professional growth in today's global economy through skills building, workshops, and inspirational speakers and panels. The **Friday Night Event** will encompass an evening at the Newseum as we take a look back on OCA's history and honor individuals who have helped pave the ways for the APA community.

Continuing to offer opportunities for small businesses, **Meet the Experts: APA Business Development Clinic** will provide an opportunity for both emerging and established entrepreneurs to tap the advice of the experts in legal issues, finance, and marketing, including supplier diversity in a group of 15 to 20. The National Convention will conclude with the **Gala Awards**, celebrating and honoring individuals for their contributions and accomplishments to the APA community.

For more information and to register for the 2013 National Convention visit www.oconational.org. We hope to see you in Washington, DC! ■



An entertaining reception kicks off the 2012 National Convention in Las Vegas.



Summer 2012 interns participating in APJA-U during last year's in convention in Las Vegas.



Interview with The Foodie Photographer

Melanie Lee | OCA Supporter

BIO

Born in Andong City, South Korea, **Shannon Hutchinson** was adopted at birth and grew up amongst abundant evergreen trees in Maple Valley, Washington, the land of plentiful rain and even more Starbucks. A first generation college student who graduated cum laude from Western Washington University with a degree in Journalism/Public Relations, Shannon currently resides in California, enjoying the constant exposure to sunshine and vibrant gastronomy scene. She is a digital advertising professional, currently working at Team One USA on the Lexus account. She previously worked at Microsoft, Penske Media Corporation and Copacino+Fujikado. Her love of food and excitement for tasting as many global cuisines as possible developed organically during childhood. The love grew further as she grew older, reading food blogs and articles voraciously, while also seeking out restaurants in new neighborhoods and cities.



experiences eating foods that intrigued me. Since many people also eat with their eyes, I wanted to create a sensory experience that showed people all the food out there they had yet to try. My aim is not to be a critic, but rather to share photographs and anecdotes with people around me, in hopes that it fuels their own hunger for foods outside their comfort zone.

OCA: *Why the shift from the blog to Instagram?*

S: I work in online advertising and spend much of my day meeting with people on my team and also seated in front of a computer. Over time, I became too tired to come home at night and spend a few more

hours on my laptop creating a new blog article, doing photo editing and creating the layout. Instagram came along and I discovered an instantaneous way to share my foodie experiences real time. I'm reaching 1,000 followers!

For more information

on Shannon's blog, visit www.thefoodiephotographer.com

or follow her on Instagram:

@thefoodiephotographer

(Shannon's note: this is not a spelling typo, there is a text limit and I had to drop the last "o" in "photographer") ■

**Melanie Lee is the daughter of OCA Vice President of Communications, Mary Lee.*

RECIPE

Oyako Donburi (Chicken & Egg over Rice)

I selected this recipe because though it is simple, it delights and satisfies me every time I cook it. Oyako donburi is a chicken, egg, and onion dish served over rice that I began making for myself in college. The key is cooking this dish on low heat so there is still sauce at the end, and your eggs aren't overdone. This is my go-to comfort food any season of the year. I think this is representative of the food I like to photograph because I believe that food doesn't need to be fancy or extravagant to have merits, it only needs to be delicious. I hope you enjoy making it too!

Ingredients (serves 4)

4 cups cooked rice
4 chicken thigh fillets or 2 chicken breast fillets
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 cups dashi stock (made according to the directions on the packet)
10 tablespoons soy sauce
5 tablespoons mirin
5 tablespoons sugar
1 onion, sliced thinly
4 eggs

Directions

1. Cut chicken into bite-size pieces and quarter the onion before thinly slicing.
2. Heat the oil on low then add the chicken and onion to your pan to cook on medium-low for a few minutes, until the chicken is cooked thoroughly through.
3. Mix the dashi stock, soy sauce, mirin, and sugar in a bowl.
4. Add to the pan and reduce heat to low, let ingredients simmer for 2-3 minutes.
5. Whisk the eggs in a bowl.
6. Bring the pan ingredients up to a boil; then pour the eggs over chicken and onion.
7. Turn the heat back down to low and cover with a lid.
8. Turn the heat off after 1 minute.
9. Scoop the rice into four bowls then top with the oyako donburi, spooning any remaining liquid over the top.



INTERVIEW

OCA: *Why a food blog?*

Shannon: To me, food equates to love. My mom made sure we ate dinner together as a family each weeknight when my dad got home from work. Food was one way to express consideration and care for one another. On holidays, my mom always made signature dishes we loved and our whole family gathered to feast and spend time with one another. My sister and I still constantly recall memories and different times in life by the food that we ate!

OCA: *When did you start the blog?*

S: Food is a passion of mine; it spans language barriers and has such a deep history for many cultures once you start researching. I had the urge to share my

Interview with David Choi

Rebecca Lee | OCA Supporter

Making waves in the music world and doing it his way is singer/songwriter/producer **David Choi**. With a global fan base and close to a million YouTube subscribers, the Los Angeles native who grew up in a musical family has written and self-produced all three of his albums as well as toured all over the world. His songs and tracks have been heard on NBC, FOX, VH1, MTV and the Food Network, among others, while he has worked with a myriad of brands including Samsung, JC Penney, GE, Google, Toyota and Hyundai. At just 27 years old, it's safe to say the future remains very promising for David and his music career.

1. Since you are an APA artist, what kind of difficulties did you face in breaking out into mainstream music?

I wouldn't say I've hit mainstream. The only Asian artists I ever seen hit "mainstream" would be Far East Movement and Psy. There are many reasons why it could be more difficult for APA artists to hit mainstream, but I will say that until Asians become somewhat of a majority minority, it will be a steep climb, but that day is getting closer!

2. How does it feel to have an international following?

I feel just as I did when I first started—thankful.

3. How has your background influenced your music?

I grew up in America, so I think the American culture had more of an influence on me. Korean music was never really something I got into.

4. If you could collaborate with any artist, who would it be and why?

I'd love to collaborate with Stevie Wonder. He's definitely one of my influences and it would be amazing to sing something with him.

5. Of all the songs you have composed, which is the most meaningful and why?

Hard to say...they are all meaningful and come from a part of my life.

6. Is there one thing that you can share about yourself that most people would find surprising about you?

I started doing electronic music before I started doing my acoustic stuff!

7. What is one advice you would give to an aspiring musician?

Never give up and work hard!

8. What is one funny story you can share with us from your tours overseas?

I don't think it would be considered a funny story, but in the Philippines, I had something called "balut", which is duck fetus. I think everyone else thought it was hilarious watching



me try it for the first time. It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be, but after I saw the footage, it looked pretty unappetizing. I believe some fans put it up on YouTube.

9. Do you have an APA role model who you look up to for motivation or inspiration?

I'm inspired by all the people in the APA community in all fields. The fact that people are working hard and being successful at what they do inspires me to do so as well!

10. Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Hopefully, I'll still be making music and meeting people all over the world! Maybe open a small café, a place I'd want to chill at myself. ■

**Rebecca Lee is the daughter of OCA Vice President of Communications, Mary Lee.*



Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

Book Review

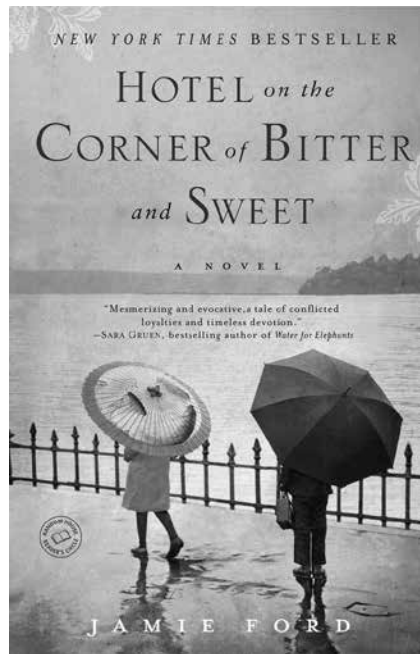
Stan Lou | OCA Vice President of Education and Culture

When I first read *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, written by Jamie Ford, I immediately placed it on my personal list of favorite novels. It is a beautifully written story. While it can easily be categorized as a rather typical love story set in America with the usual emotions from the characters, the novel moves beyond that stereotype and relates a complex and authentic story of Asian America, capturing the essences of the cultures of Asian heritage.

Ford's novel takes place in 1986 and focuses on the life of Henry Lee, a Chinese American, who lives in Seattle and a recent widower after the death of his wife Ethel six months earlier. Henry learns the old, boarded up Panama Hotel in the city is being renovated and that the new owner has discovered personal belongings that were stored there by Japanese American families when they were evicted from the community as the US entered World War II. This news moves Henry to recall his time as a 12-year old during those "war years." Those remembrances are the foundation of the story, moving back and forth between that turbulent time and his current life.

Henry intuitively knows that some of the belongings in that hotel belonged to the Okabe family, whom he had become close with. He had been friends with their daughter Keiko, the only other Asian person in his school. They had relied on each other for support and developed a strong friendship and innocent love, going against the prejudices of the older generation's views of their respective families. Although Keiko's family had accepted the friendship between the two young children, Henry's father fought against the friendship. Henry's father was fighting his own war with Japan and hated anything related to the Japanese.

As the hysteria of WWII swept the Seattle area, it affected the behaviors of many people. Henry and Keiko had realized that trying to maintain their



Cover of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*

relationship was difficult, as society seemed to be conspiring against them. There were strong anti-Japanese feelings, bullying from schoolmates, Henry's father, and finally the American government decree to evacuate Japanese Americans and send them to internment camps in isolated regions of the country. This was difficult for the two to comprehend and the situation shaped their individual lives and identities. All of these factors conspired to separate them, although both had fought valiantly to maintain their relationship.

This experience continues to haunt Henry; finding the belongings in the old hotel presents to him an opportunity to come to grips with what happened. This bittersweet memory has had to stay in the background in the forty years since his separation from Keiko, though he had a full life with his wife Ethel and son Marty. Now Henry copes with reconnecting with Marty while trying to find his lost voice and soul. This becomes a very poignant episode in this story, as

both father and son work together to enter the next phase of their lives. Henry comes to realize that he had somehow subjugated his own identity for almost all of his adult life and acting on that realization was the most meaningful part of this whole novel for me.

I feel that Ford told an authentic story of Asian America that deserves to be an integral part of American storytelling. In particular, the APA community's stories during the "war years" need to be known and appreciated. What the community had to endure while trying to live as American citizens should not have happened. Let's hope that this kind of action does not reoccur. I loved this book and recommend its reading to all. ■

A note from the author, Jamie Ford:

When my dad was a teenager he was given a button to wear that read, "I Am Chinese." It was shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and kids had begun calling him a "Jap," and throwing rocks at him as he was walking to school. "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" began as a short story about that iconic button—about the character of Henry, wanting to give one of these buttons to Keiko, to protect her. I remember meeting with an editor who had read the short story and he said, "The moral territory here is novel length." From there my initial goal was to write an old school, 40s-era love story. (I have a deep, abiding weakness for love stories). But as I was researching the time period and the Internment, I realized how much I didn't know and how much other people weren't aware of. Suddenly I had a great reverence for the subject matter and the people directly affected by these events. In the end "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" became a love letter to the old neighborhood, to Seattle's Chinatown and the International District. It's a place I'm very fond of.



LAURENCE KIM

OCA-Central Illinois

OCA can build bridges with other organizations by looking for commonalities with one another and working together toward shared goals. By building alliances with other organizations, we can have a stronger voice and reach a much larger audience. We believe that with the change in OCA's branding to be Asian Pacific American Advocates, we will be able to attract and retain a more broader and diverse membership that will allow us to better work with other organizations. We look forward to seeing OCA continue to grow and accomplish our goals by working side by side with our allies.



Q: How can OCA build bridges and

OCA-St. Louis

OCA can build bridges by having the National Center provide local contacts and resources for the other organizations to the active chapters to participate in. Start by having in those locations a point person who can meet up with the other organizations' representatives to collaborate on joint events. Provide best practices on the processes and methods to share responsibilities, resources, and financial obligations. Bring in corporate sponsors to help cover the travel, program, and marketing costs for not only on a national level, but also to the local chapters. Every chapter should build connections with their respective local media so when great events are announced, a press release to bring in the reporters to cover the events will greatly shine a light to our efforts.





support other causes as strong allies?

OCA-Greater Washington D.C.

OCA can build bridges by encouraging our youth to be strong advocates. Our chapter leaders and members recently worked with OCA National to host a leadership-training program called Y-Advocate. Through this program, 40 APA high school students from the DC area gained greater awareness of social justice issues and a greater understanding about the importance of advocacy. OCA can also build bridges by serving the needs of our local communities. For example, a dozen volunteers from our chapter worked with a local nonprofit organization to cater and serve a Lunar New Year dinner for approximately 110 homeless guests.

Through this program, 40 APA high school students from the DC area gained greater awareness of social justice issues and a greater understanding about the importance of advocacy.

OCA-Central Virginia

We would like to see OCA work even more actively to promote the civic participation and leadership development of Chinese Americans at the local, state and national levels. For example, national mentoring networks can be established to provide career guidance and internship opportunities to Chinese-American students and recent graduates, particularly in strategic areas such as public policy, government, and community development. Scholarship funds can be set up at the national and local chapter levels to encourage Chinese-American students and young professionals to pursue leadership development and civic involvement opportunities. By formalizing a structure to provide professional mentoring and financial support to future generations, OCA can serve as an even more effective catalyst to thrust Chinese Americans to the forefront of our nation's leadership. We would like to see some Chinese Senators, members of Congress or even the President of the United States in future.



Q: What would you like to see OCA achieve in the next 40 years on a



OCA-New Jersey

I would love to see OCA become a household name. Speaking to people, I find that the OCA name is the best-kept secret. All of us need to be able to state the 3-minute elevator lines about who and what we are. We need the marketing materials and a media blitz. We all hear about and know who the NAACP is. Do you know who OCA is?

OCA-Greater Seattle

Over the next 40 years, the Greater Seattle Chapter would like OCA to become an influential and prominent voice for APIs both locally and nationally.

Chinese American Heritage Societies Conference
Passage to Seattle:
 Past, Present, Future
 Panama Hotel * Chong Wa * Bush-Asia Center
 Friday, April 19-Sunday, April 21, 2013

REGISTER NOW

Distinguished Panelists, Screenings, Workshops, Living Exhibits, Tours, Meals & Lodging

BOARDING PASS

Welcome to CHINA TOWN INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

Sponsors: Chinese Americans in Washington State Heritage Project, OCA-Greater Seattle, University of Washington—American Ethnic Studies, Chong Wa Benevolent Association-Seattle, Chinese American Citizens Alliance-Seattle, Chinese in Northwest America Research Council, Seattle Chinatown/International District PDA Senior Services, The Wing Luke Museum

national scale?

OCA-Utah

We would like to see OCA continue to advocate for all Asian Pacific American communities. According to the US Census, the Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (NHPI) population “increased three times faster than the total US population.” This decade, Utah’s NHPI population grew by 50 percent. While over 70 percent of NHPI’s in the US are living in the West, the diaspora is evidenced by the fact that the South experienced the fastest growth in NHPI population. Fifty percent of the NHPI community also described themselves as multiracial pointing to APA multiple identities. In the next 40 years, we hope to see OCA reflect and be represented by the vast diversity within our APA communities.



OCA-Greater Los Angeles

The Greater Los Angeles area is extremely diverse, with a steadily growing Asian Pacific American (APA) population; our membership reflects this change and our organization embraces Pan-Asian advocacy. At the high school level, OCA-GLA hosted career talks at local high schools with prominent APA student bodies in order to connect them with APA professionals in non-traditional careers in fields such as politics, entrepreneurship, product management, non-profits and entertainment.



In recognition of the daunting task of naturalization, OCA-GLA works with long-standing partner, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, to offer the Mentored Path to Citizenship Grant every year to selected recipients to assist with fees and provide legal counsel. When an offensive mobile app was available for download on Google Play that exaggerated Asian stereotypes, OCA-GLA brought this issue to the attention of National, who quickly reached out to Google, urging them to remove the app, and it was taken down on January 27, 2013. Events such as our professional headshot mixer promote membership and provide a space for OCA-GLA to interact with its members and listen to members' suggestions for future programming. OCA-GLA is active on major platforms of social media, which enables us

to inform and connect with our members about community events in real time, such as the recent Asian Pacific Islanders for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (API FIRE) press event that was live-tweeted by OCA-GLA.

Q: How has your chapter adapted to

OCA-New York

Over the past 40 years, OCA-NY has been at the helm challenging hate crimes by civilians and member of the U.S. Army, combatting inflexible immigration laws, and holding media accountable for racist depictions of Asian Americans. Through grassroots coalition building and now social media, we are unrelenting in our pursuit of justice. The combination of power in numbers and an effective communication strategy raise the public's consciousness and society's responses to our concerns.

Asian Americans are now the fastest growing minority group- if history forebodes the future, OCA needs to be prepared for backlash, whether it be in the form of restrictive immigration policies, hate crimes, or subtle forms of discrimination in the public and private sector. We must be forever vigilant, developing leaders and proactive integration strategies to ensure Asian Americans are treated with equality and respect-no more, no less.





OCA-Sacramento

In order to advance its advocacy effort, OCA-Sacramento reached out to its community partners, elected officials and law enforcement that share the common goal of social justice to form the *Sacramento Regional Coalition for Tolerance*. This is a collaboration of crucial outreach effort to educate our diverse communities, share and exchange information on hate crimes and other advocacy issues that affect our schools, communities, homes and workplaces. Meetings are conducted quarterly.

Currently, we have more than 40 Coalition Participants, including the Asian American Journalist Association, Asian Resources, Council on

the changing advocacy needs of your community within the past 4 decades?

American-Islamic Relations Sacramento Valley, Council of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Advocacy and Leadership, Florin JACL, Indus Valley American Chamber of Commerce, Institute for Advancing Unity, Interfaith Service Bureau, Jewish Community Relations Council, the LGBT Community, NAACP Sacramento, Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Unified School District, Sikh Coalition, Slavic American Chamber of Commerce and Youth Rise.

Our observers also include the Elk Grove Police Department, FBI, Civil Rights Unit, Sacramento Police Department, Sacramento Sheriff's Department, US Attorney's Office, Congresswoman Doris Matsui's Office, Senator Darrell Steinberg's Office, Assembly Member Mariko Yamada's Office.

OCA-Westchester & Hudson Valley

Our chapter's core mission is social advocacy on behalf of all Asian Americans, local and nationwide. To that end, our chapter maintains a strong relationship to our area sister OCA chapters and to local community action and human rights groups where we are able to voice the concerns of our constituency in hot-button issues such as the Private



Danny Chen case, the recent influx of new Asian immigrants and rising health care needs for Asian seniors. We are at the forefront of activities requiring political action such as immigration reform and human rights. And we work continuously towards the goal of placing talented Asian Americans in appointed positions and political office. We are proud that two of our Board members play prominent roles in County affairs:

Q: How has your chapter adapted to

We are at the forefront of activities requiring political action such as immigration reform and human rights. And we work continuously towards the goal of placing talented Asian Americans in appointed positions and political office.

Mark Fang is the current County Commissioner of Human Rights and William Kaung has a long history of leadership in important community coalitions, serving on boards and executive committees in organizations such as We Are Westchester, the Hudson Valley Community Coalition (HVCC), the Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Neighbor Link, the American Muslim Women Association and Livable Communities.

Thanks to our past president Janet Carr, an RP & JL Carr Social Justice Scholarship was established to recognize graduate students who are change agents and making a difference in the communities. This is an effective way to bring social justice-minded young people into OCA-Wisconsin.

OCA-Wisconsin

In the past decade, OCA-Wisconsin has adapted to the changing advocacy needs of our community by reaching out and working with the Hmong and other Chinese organizations, as well as the larger Asian and Milwaukee communities to address various issues. A few examples included the offering of a series of Hate Crimes Prevention workshops and kits (funded

the changing advocacy needs of your community within the past 4 decades?



by OCA and Allstate); painting and beautifying the Hank Aaron State Trail; promoting GOTV at various Asian festivals; sponsoring a number of bone marrow drives to solicit more Asian donors; and co-sponsoring a myriad of community advocacy projects, including the Speak Peace Exhibit last summer. Thanks to our past president Janet Carr, an RP & JL Carr Social Justice Scholarship was established to recognize graduate students who are change agents and making a difference in the communities. This is an effective way to bring social justice-minded young people into OCA-Wisconsin. Collectively, we will continue to improve our advocacy efforts and visibility by volunteering our time in the Milwaukee community; two such events are planned this year.

OCA Lifetime Members

We salute OCA Lifetime Members 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 membership@ocanational.org to provide updates and or corrections.

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 Greater Houston
 Long Island
 New Jersey
 San Mateo County
 Westchester/Hudson Valley

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

Community Leader (\$5,000 - 9,999)
 Central Illinois
 East Bay
 Greater Seattle
 Las Vegas
 Lehigh Valley
 New England
 Pittsburgh
 San Francisco Bay
 South Florida
 St. Louis

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 Colorado
 Detroit
 East Tennessee
 Greater Cleveland
 Greater Los Angeles
 Greater Philadelphia
 Greater Phoenix
 Orange County
 Northern Virginia
 Pittsburgh
 Rho Psi, Eta Chapter
 San Mateo Chapter
 Wisconsin

Community Friend (Up to \$999)
 Greater Tucson
 NAPA

Chinese Community Benevolent Alliance
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What legacy would you want to leave behind?

Certainly, it wouldn't be the memory of you
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About the Staff

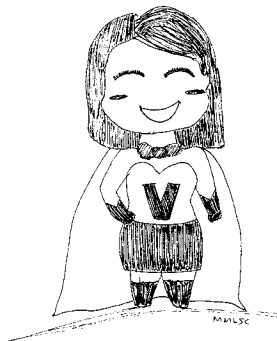
We thought our readers would like to know the staff at the OCA National Center better, so we asked them a few questions to shed some light into their personal tastes, quirks, and achievements.



Tom L. Hayashi | Executive Director

What's your favorite food?

I tend to crave Asian food periodically, but I really like all kinds of foods. I just can't have foods no matter what cuisine they are that have the same texture or flavor. So I do like to change it up a bit. I also like my wine and spirits, particularly well crafted cocktails.



Victoria J. Rumsey | Director of Development

What is one accomplishment (personally or professionally) you are proud of?

Kicking my own cancer's a** nine years ago and now helping my mom with the fight—one day at a time.

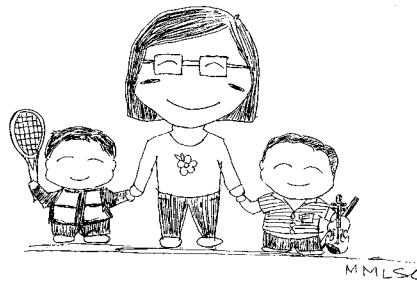
Staff pictures drawn by Maria Margaret Lorisa Concepcion, recent studio art graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Mary Dynne Montante | Associate Director, Programs and Constituent Development

What's your favorite food?

Seafood, everything I see. Ha! Kidding! I'm a pescetarian, so seafood.



Kelly Tian | Administrator

What is one accomplishment (personally or professionally) you are proud of?

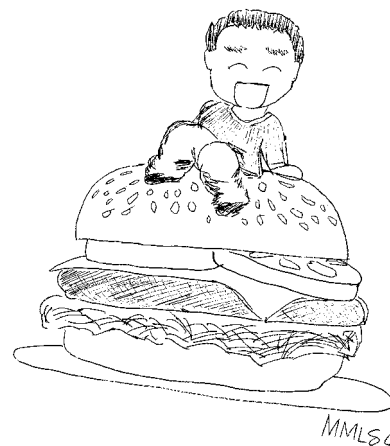
Raising two beautiful boys.



Kha Ly | Manager, Programs & Constituent Development

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

Telekinesis. I would also like the power to block whatever power Mary Dynne has.



Kendall Kosai | Development Associate

What's your favorite food?

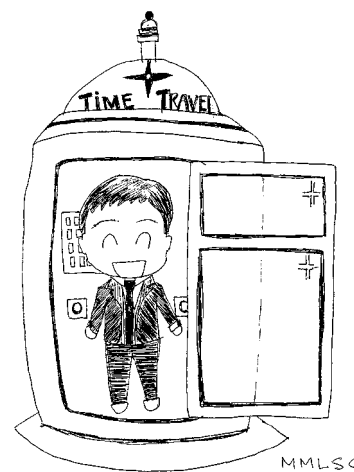
The Obama Burger from Spike Mendelsohn's Good Stuff Eatery.



June Kao | OCA AARP 50+ Fellow

What's your favorite food?

Brie and grapes. Eating these two together always reminds me of the scene in "Ratatouille" when Remy, the main character, explains how eating different food together can create a colorful experience for your taste buds.



Michael Satyapor | Spring 2013 Senior Intern

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

Manipulation of time so that I could time travel to when you and I first met.



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Founded in 1973, OCA is a national organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans.

We encourage you to join the OCA chapter nearest you. If there are no chapters in your area, you are welcome to join as an OCA Member-at-Large. You can also join online at www.oconational.org!

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First name: _____ Last name: _____

Address: _____

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Email: _____

Alma Mater (optional): _____

Birthday (optional): _____

Spouse/Partner name: _____

Email: _____

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\$20 Senior Citizen (65 years and older)

2 years = \$30 5 years = \$60

\$40 Individual

2 years = \$70 5 years = \$140

\$50 Family (2 adults + 2 children under 18)

2 years = \$90 5 years = \$180

\$1,000 Individual Lifetime

\$1,500 Family Lifetime (2 adults + 2 children who age out after 18)

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Please send my contact information to this local chapter: _____

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

“I joined OCA to support an organization’s mission and programs. The journey for justice and equality for APAs is a long one. As a member I can be part of a team. When the time comes to mobilize I will join fellow advocates in our mission.”

– OCA-DC member

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Attn: Membership

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