

SUNRISE

ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS OF LONG ISLAND NEWSLETTER



Summer 2010
Vol. 29, No. 2

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, June 11, 2010 - 7:30 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
5 Durham Road
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

PROGRAM

Gina Sillitti, Deputy Commissioner in the Town of North Hempstead, will discuss her background, her job, events and programs, which the Town has to offer. She was one of the key coordinators of the First Asian Festival at North Hempstead Beach Park.

Asian Festival Committee Members and vendors were invited to speak and participate at this meeting.

Legislator Judith Bosworth of Nassau County will talk about the Able-Ride transportation program for seniors.

Food and refreshments will be served.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By ANN CHAN



At Nassau County Department of Senior Citizen Affairs event held on May 14, 2010, OCA-LI President Ann Chan was recognized as *Senior Citizen for 2010*. In photo: Grandson Adam Isler, daughter Laura Isler, son Bob Chan, husband Howard Chan, Ann Chan, County Executive Edward P. Mangano.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Team OCA-LI Relay for Life
Relay for Life- Bayside HS
June 12, 2010. Please donate.

OCA National Convention
Houston Texas
June 17-June 20, 2010

OCA-LI Scholarship Essay Contest
Go to OCA-LI website for details
Deadline is July 1, 2010

OCA General Meeting
Trinity Lutheran Church
September 10, 2010

OCA Multi-Chapter Picnic
Van Saun Park, New Jersey
September 12, 2010

OCA-LI 29th Anniversary Gala
Dae Dong Manor in Flushing
November 6, 2010

Positive Mental Attitude Got Me Through: After my accident on April 29, 2010, I fractured some bones under my right eye, and cracked a tooth, but this mishap didn't stop this Senior Asian American from doing what was expected of me. My children Laura Isler and Bob Chan practiced filial piety by driving me to doctors and tenderly cared for my needs. The next day, my right eye was blackened, and a bump the size of a pigeon egg appeared on my brow. Husband Howard didn't stop staring at me with a horrified look, and he wondered how in two weeks I could appear at the Nassau County Department of Seniors Affairs luncheon as the honoree in front of 500 attendees. Additionally, our OCA National President Mr. Ken Lee would be meeting our OCA-LI Board that same day. I too was shaken by this thought.

On the day of the event, everything worked out perfectly. After I gave my speech, my grandson gave me a thumbs up. I owe Helen Chin a million thanks for nominating me for this award, which makes me the first Asian American Person to be selected in Nassau County as Senior Citizen of the Year. Similarly, the meeting with Ken Lee was also very productive for our chapter. In spite of my accident, I was able to accept my award from County Executive Mangano, and I had a great day!

(See more photos of Ann on page 3)

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

In this issue, we feature the immigration story of Sam Herbert Huey, whose biography was submitted into the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation as a collaborative effort by the Huey children. His story exemplifies the perseverance and courage of immigrants whose belief in American ideals of freedom and justice was unshakable despite hardships and discrimination in this new world. We thank Sam Huey's widow, Merrie, a staunch supporter of OCA-LI, for allowing us to experience Sam's life.

Sincerely,
Janis Woo

Stories from our Father: Sam Herbert Huey (aka Sam Shu Huey), an Angel Island Immigrant

Contributed by the Huey Children; Written By Cynthia Huey Chin

Known to family and friends as "Herb," Sam Shu Huey lived an interesting and accomplished life. Arriving on Angel Island when he was 10 years old, Sam endured two months of questioning before being reunited with his father. Years later he served in the U.S. Army until 1952 when he was discharged with the rank of Major. A career as a civil engineer followed. In his retirement years, Herb remained actively engaged in the Asian American community.

Sam Shu Huey was born on August 7, 1913 in Enping, China, into a privileged life. He was the 61st generation descendant of the Great General Cen Peng of the Eastern Han Dynasty and the 24th generation of the Sam (Cen) family that settled in Guangdong Province. He was told that his grandfather, Sam Nuan Da was the richest man in the county, a landowner and a rice, silkworm and peanut oil merchant, with three wives, eleven sons, and three daughters. Our father recalled of his early childhood, "We had servants. I had a wet nurse. I wasn't allowed to walk. I was carried most of the time as this was the custom for only sons like me." He shared the story of his grandfather getting kidnapped in Macao. "He dared his captors to kill him saying that he had eleven sons and they will avenge his death. They released him."



Our grandfather, Sam Hoi Sang, was the ninth son. In China, he was a high school teacher and merchant before traveling to America in 1915 with \$1,000 gold and the intention to visit for one year. He stayed for seven years, working as a Chinese school teacher and a produce market salesman, while investing in restaurants and stores in California. In 1923, he returned to China to take his son back with him to America. So at the age of 10, Sam Shu Huey's life changed forever. He said goodbye to his mother and sister and boarded the SS President Wilson for a three week journey to America. In later years, our father told us "at that time I didn't know any better. I just said to my mother, I'll be back. To me it was just a trip. Then I was stuck here. Now it's more than 60 years later and I never got to see my mother again."

On November 12, 1923, he and his father arrived at Angel Island but they were immediately separated. His father was quickly released due to his merchant status, but Sam Shu Huey was detained for two months, forced to live in barracks with adult strangers. He was a young boy who did not speak English and did not understand what was happening. Immigration officials neglected to reverse his surname and given name, so from then on, his first name was Sam and last name was Huey. Finding himself with hundreds of other detainees was lonely and bewildering. "It was terrible, but there were people there for years, months. It was like a prison."



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OCA is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan civil rights organization, with 81 chapters and affiliates across the country. It was founded to ensure the civil rights of the APA Community. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

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Ann Chan Selected as *Senior Citizen for 2010* by Nassau County Senior Citizen Affairs



On May 14, 2010, OCA-LI President Ann Chan was honored at the Marriott Hotel in Uniondale by Nassau County's Department of Senior Citizen Affairs for her continuous service and leadership in the community.

County Executive Mangano presented Ann with her award. Ann's family, friends and elected officials from both Democratic and Republican parties attended the luncheon to celebrate this special occasion with her.

John Tandana is Chairman's Honoree at Josephine Foundation's 2010 *Follow Your Dreams* Gala



Held at the Chateau Briand in Carle Place, Dr. Tandana was honored at a spectacular gala on May 7. He is the Past Executive VP of OCA-LI, and current VP of the United Nations Association—USA, Queens Chapter. He serves on the Board of Centerstage: The Queens Center for Performing Arts. His favorite motto is: *If we would learn the languages and understand the cultures of other people, we would bring peace one step closer.*

Gladys Yan Honored by Chinese American Real Estate Association (CAREA)



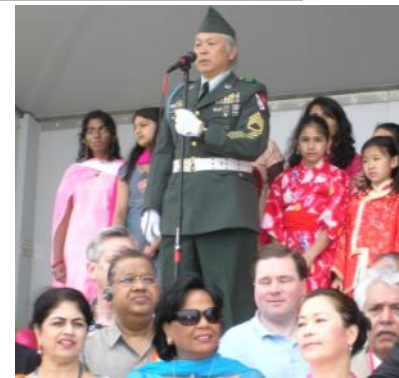
On March 19, the Chinese American Real Estate Association honored past OCA-LI President Gladys Yan in appreciation of her outstanding leadership and devoted support in the Asian community. The celebration took place at Mudan Banquet Hall at Queens Crossing. Rick Lazio, candidate for Governor, stands with Gladys & OCA-LI members in photo.

1st Asian American Festival in Town of North Hempstead

OCA-Long Island is proud to have been invited to participate in the planning of the first Asian American Festival in the Town of North Hempstead. As part of the Chinese Committee, OCA-LI President Ann Chan and VP of Communications Janis Woo collaborated with Alice Chan of CAANH, Helen Chin of CCLI, Stella Shieh and Tai Wang of AACCU and CCALI to organize the Chinese portion of the festival. They worked with Town staff in conjunction with committee members from other Asian countries of India, Japan, Korea and Pakistan.

The festival, which took place on May 22 at North Hempstead Beach Park in Port Washington, was a huge success. The event featured food, folk art and performances from 12 to 6 PM.

Opening ceremonies included a color guard, *Pledge of Allegiance* led by Peter Gong, multi-cultural children's choir singing the *Star Spangled Banner*, and *We are the World*. Town Clerk Leslie Gross and elected officials welcomed all to the festival. Supervisor Jon Kaiman feels "the opportunity to experience each others culture will not only lead to better understanding among neighbors but enhance North Hempstead's standing as one of the best places to live in America." Americana Manhasset was a sponsor.







NEWS FROM NATIONAL

OCA Criticizes Arizona's Anti-Immigrant Law

OCA raises strong concerns over Arizona's new immigration law, SB 1070. As a community of immigrants, APAs have historically suffered from harsh discriminatory policies based on perceived ethnic heritage. Signed by Governor Jan Brewer on April 23, SB 1070 will further increase discriminatory practices by allowing police officers to detain anyone based on the suspicion that they are undocumented. Such a far-reaching and general stipulation for questioning will undoubtedly perpetuate racial profiling in a state that already has a history of anti-immigrant legislation. SB 1070 sets a dangerous precedent of legalizing and engendering racial profiling as the status quo.

Implementation of Arizona's anti-immigrant law will have a negative impact on all communities of color and immigrants, including those who are U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents, by fueling discrimination and debilitating trust between immigrants and law enforcement. SB 1070 demonstrates the need for immigration reform on a comprehensive federal level. The broken immigration system must be addressed nationally by providing a fair path to legalization, restoring due process, alleviating backlogs of family-based immigration, and creating additional programs for individuals to enter legally into the U.S. to work temporarily or permanently.

(Sam Huey, continued from page 2)

Our father never spoke again about the months he spent on Angel Island, but after he passed away we obtained his immigration records from the National Archives. There are unexplained discrepancies between the records and his stories. Even though he came here legitimately as a merchant's son, it seems they still had to have prepared answers to be safe. Sam Huey and his father were interrogated separately and asked 100 questions, including "what are the names, ages, and whereabouts of your mother's brothers and sisters?", "how tall were the walls surrounding your property?", "where did the servant girl come from and where does she sleep?", "what is the name and distance of the nearest market, what kind of road leads to that market, do you cross any bridges or rivers going there?"



On January 14, 1924, Sam Huey was finally admitted to the U.S. Over the years, he and his father moved from San Francisco to Los Angeles to Chicago, back to San Francisco, then to Cleveland and eventually to New York. While in school, he took "Herbert" as his middle name because it meant "glory of the army". He attended Stuyvesant High School, then City College of New York where he earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering. In 1942, he became a U.S.

citizen when he joined the Army. After Officers Training School, he was sent to Yale University Army Language School to learn Mandarin. During World War II, he was stationed in Kunming, China, where he served as Instructor in Artillery Gunnery and as Liaison Officer with the Chinese Army. He returned to the U.S. to study military government and was sent to Korea as Civil Affairs Officer during occupation until 1946. In 1950, Sam Herbert Huey was recalled to active duty as Chief of Interrogation in the Korean War. He received a Korean Presidential Citation Award and was honorably discharged in 1952 as Major.

What you can do to join us in supporting fair and humane immigration reform:

- Sign the Reform Immigration FOR America [petition](#) telling the President and Congress that America needs comprehensive immigration reform today.
- Contact Arizona Governor Jan Brewer residents and ask that this law be rescinded immediately. Her office can be reached at (602) 542-4331 or azgov@az.gov.

OCA-LI at First Asian American Heritage Legislative Day in Albany

Assemblywoman Grace Meng sponsored the first Asian American Heritage Legislative Day at the NYS Capitol in Albany on May 24, 2010. It was a historic first legislative on Asian American issues. Gene and Jean Lau Chin represented OCA-LI at the event with more than 20 advocacy and service organizations reflecting the diverse interests of health, mental health, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimers, law, civic, civil rights, legislative action, cultural, and social services. Our presence was important to state legislators promoting the visibility and needs of the Asian American communities in New York.

In 1948, his father decided to return to China. "He didn't get a re-entry visa. He went home. So when the Communists took over and destroyed everything, I wanted him to come back, but there was no way of getting back here. Besides, he didn't want to. He had too much pride, too much conviction." Our father sent money to China to support his father for the remainder of his life. Sam Hoi Sang passed away in 1965.

In 1945, Sam Herbert Huey married Merrie Lee in New Haven, Connecticut. They settled on Long Island, in New Hyde Park, New York and raised four children. He worked for 35 years as a civil engineer specializing in reinforced concrete and structural steel design for industrial plants and oil refineries. He was known as Herb to his friends. He enjoyed family vacations, his bowling league, poker club, gardening, reading, coin and stamp collecting.



His Angel Island experience inspired his passion for social justice and pride in his Chinese heritage. He became a leader and active supporter of the Organization of Chinese Americans-Long Island Chapter and the Chinese Center on Long Island for many years. His volunteer work has encouraged his children to become involved in the Asian American community. He died in 1990 at home at age 76. His legacy and life's stories will live on through his grandchildren, Bryan Jung, Allison Jung, Skyler Chin and Devin Chin.

Sam's four children, Jacqueline Huey, Carolyn Huey Jung, Stephen Sam Huey & Cynthia Huey Chin contributed to this story.

Liberty and Justice for All, Says Who?

10th Annual "With Liberty and Justice for All" Symposium

In Memory of Loni Ding (1931-2010)

By Gary Mar and Roberta Richin



The 10th Annual "With Liberty and Justice for All" Symposium at Stony Brook University on May 6th was dedicated to the memory of filmmaker, media advocate, and university educator Loni Ding (1931-

2010), who helped launch this landmark series in 2000 by serving as keynote after Stony Brook students and faculty advocated that Asian American month be added to the university's diversity calendar. To celebrate and honor her memory, this year's program included Judge Dorothy Chin-Brandt, the first Asian American to preside over a jury trial in NYS, Bryan Pu-Folkes, founding director of NICE (New Immigrant Community Empowerment), and a series of student performances. "In your absence we shall create your presence in the telling of our true stories..."



The event began with a dance *Shirtwaist Legacies: Woven to Wear* choreographed by Amy Yopp Sullivan, commemorating the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire of 1911, the worst workplace disaster in New York City until September 11, 2001. The Stony Brook students resurrected the stories

of the Tillies and Nans and Elizabeths, who were allowed to burn or jump as company men raced in to save dresses from the flames—in movement, perfectly spare costume and a backdrop of windows revealing every promise of spring and youth to remind us to honor—to remember—to give voice to those who came here to pursue their American dream.

Yet women and children continue to bend over just such sewing machines, trapped and laboring in the most dangerous places, producing today's version of the shirtdress and immigrants are still making the dangerous trek to come to America—sometimes ending in death in the desert, trafficking, or the daily insult of degrading work and living conditions. What do we know about these new and often undocumented fellow human beings?

A video produced by Dini Diskin-Zimmerman interwove the three immigrant stories of Matilde Parada, the founder of an immigrant workers rights organization Human Solidarity featured in the documentary *Farmingville*; Helena Soosan, a Stony Brook student who was detained in Iran for four years; and Joanna Kraczoroska, a world-class violinist now in Stony Brook's Music Department. Professor Edward Casey, President of the American Philosophical Association commented, "What an amazing event it was last evening! I was blown away by the passion, imagination, and artistry of what I witnessed! The very diversity of the various phases of the show seemed to embody the ethics and politics of

diversity itself, as did the fact that there was considerable role reversal going on: e.g., a Chinese-American student playing a Mexican husband, etc. ... Helena was stunning in her presentation on Freedom... Her thinking was deep, and her delivery was convincing and moving."

Stony Brook students in an Asian American history class were an integral part of performances directed by Teaching Assistants Simranjit Gill, Qudsia Hussain, and Venu Pasrich. Mohammed Nagi noted "all of us were immigrants in the past and if not then an ancestor was, so we should be treating immigrants the same way we would like to be treated and cared for..." Rather than merely listen to speakers, classmates became cast members working together, with distinguished guests—to tell their own stories. The event, wrote Toddy Marotta, "educated [us about] real life situations.... This class taught me more than any textbook could." Garture Li, who choreographed the dramatic closing *Lion Dance*, noted that in addition to cultural and ethnic insights, "another part of the show that has captured my attention was our involvement in activism and politics.... to encourage a stronger affiliation between all advocates, scholars, and educators... to fight to be identified as equals...." Surely this is a way for OCA to pass on its torch of "embracing the hopes and aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans."



Ed O'Connell and Pam Wolfskill from United University Professionals read a reflection "Born on the Wrong Side of an Imaginary Line", and Sandra Dunn, who directs the immigration portfolio for the Hagedorn Foundation, gave a powerful summary of the findings of a delegation of fifteen community leaders from Long Island to Oaxaca, Mexico run by the Witness for Peace organization, highlighting the devastating effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for both Mexico and Long Island.

Madiha Hamdi, a Stony Brook student who had helped to bake 207 loaves of bread at Little Portion Friary (along with Ed and Pam) to raise funds to build a fish farm in Mexico, presented a check to Bob Barker and Greg Metzger, who will use those "loaves-to-fishes" funds to build a prototype of an aquaponic fish farm, for a projected exchange between Stony Brook University and the University of Guanajuato. Brother Tom Carey joined with Madiha to present the check, and had earlier introduced the immigration video by adding a satirical verse about NAFTA to Woody Guthrie's populist anthem "This Land is Your Land."

As Roberta Richin, executive director of the Council for Prejudice Reduction, noted that events like these inspire us with optimism that on stages and streets and in homes and houses of faith from sea to sea, we will finally acknowledge—as Woody Guthrie taught us—that indeed, if we have the courage to pass on the vision of a nation dedicated to principle of "liberty and justice for all", this land is our land "from the red wood forests to New York Island."

JOIN US TODAY!

OCA-Long Island Chapter

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E Mail _____

Check one of following membership terms & rates:

Individual: 1 yr (\$40) Individual: 2 yrs (\$70)

Individual: 5 yrs (\$140)

Student: up to full time undergraduate (\$10)

Family: 2 children & 2 children under 18 (\$50)

Family: 2 yrs (\$90) Family: 5 yrs (\$180)

Senior 65+: 1 yr (\$20) Senior: 2 yrs (\$30)

Senior: 5 yrs (\$60)

Individual Life (\$1000)

Family Life: 2 adults & 2 children who age out
after 18 (\$1500)

New

Renewal

Spouse's Name _____

Children's Names & Ages _____

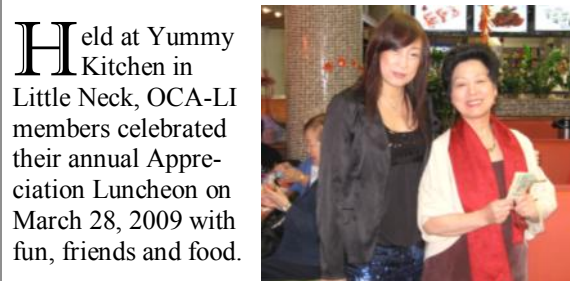
Please make check payable to: OCA-Long Island

Mail to: Shuet Lam, VP Membership
42-05 147 St., Flushing, New York 11355

Phone: 917-969-5092

Email: shuetlam@msn.com

OCA-LI Held Appreciation Luncheon



Held at Yummy Kitchen in Little Neck, OCA-LI members celebrated their annual Appreciation Luncheon on March 28, 2009 with fun, friends and food.



Organization of Chinese Americans
Long Island Chapter
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