

ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS OF LONG ISLAND NEWSLETTER

SUNRISE



Spring 2009
Vol. 28, No. 1

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, March 6, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
5 Durham Road
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

PROGRAM

Dr. Steven Lee, a board certified plastic surgeon will discuss aesthetic, reconstructive, and hand surgery.
(See page 4 for information on Dr. Lee)

Loni Ding film will be shown: *From Madera, California To Kaiping, China*, a poignant documentary which unravels the mystery of a Chinese tombstone placed next to a California highway.

Second speaker will be announced

Food & refreshments will be served.



UPCOMING EVENTS

General Membership Meeting
March 6, 2009—see above

AARP Convention
Las Vegas, Nevada
October 22-24, 2009
(See Ann Chan for details)

**Relay for Life—Team OCA-LI
American Cancer Society**
Christopher Morley Park—May 30, 2009
Flushing HS—June 6, 2009

OCA National Convention
San Francisco, CA
August 6—9, 2009

OCA Multi-Chapter Picnic
Van Saun Park, Paramus NJ
September 6, 2000

OCA-LI's 28th Anniversary Gala
October 16, 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY GLADYS YAN



For those of you who didn't get a chance to bring in the January 1st New Year the way you wanted, you had a second chance to start anew again when the Asian Lunar New Year arrived on Monday, January 26, 2009. Why be boring and celebrate the New Year only once? Happy Lunar New Year Everyone!!

In this new year, the OCA-LI Board of Directors would like to thank outgoing Board member Edward Kang. Thank you and your wife, Nancy, for your past input and support. We look forward to having you join future events with us.

Our Board is also proud to welcome new Board Members Mary Tsang, Ben Chan, and Mary Chu. The infusion of new blood is always vital to the growth and strength of any chapter. And, our chapter looks forward to their new ideas and expertise as we welcome in 2009, and the Year of the Ox (4707).

OCA-LI Community Events

December 6: At our annual appreciation luncheon, a great time was had by those in attendance. It was held at the Broadway Seafood Restaurant in Elmhurst, Queens.

January 17: Attended Grace Meng's inauguration ceremony at the Lefrak Concert Hall at Queens College. OCA-LI members Karen Leung, Peter Koo, Jimmy Meng, Ann & Howard Chan, Donna & Wai Lee and I were invited to the swearing-in ceremony of NYS Assemblywoman Grace Meng as she represents Flushing 22nd Assembly District for the next two years in Albany.

January 20: OCA-LI co-sponsored a community viewing event of the historic inauguration of Barack Obama, the first African-American to be elected as President of the United States, at the Flushing Town Hall in Queens. Ann Chan, OCA-LI Executive Vice President, was asked to talk about OCA-LI to the audience.

January 31: Once again, OCA-LI marched in the Flushing Lunar New Year Parade with many members and friends participating. What an exciting time for all as we helped to celebrate the Year 4707 of the Ox.

February 7: The Asian American Postal Employees Association's (AAPEA) 16th Annual Dinner Dance was held at the East Manor Restaurant in Elmhurst, Queens. OCA-LI members had a "blast" helping AAPEA to celebrate the Year of the Ox.

February 7: Sponsored annually by the Chinese American Association of North Hempstead, OCA-LI members enjoyed a series of performances by students and professionals, including Shaolin kung fu, Chinese flag dance, magic show, face changing act, crafts, and much more at the Herricks High School gymnasium.

February 13: American Cancer Society's annual Volunteer Party will be held at the Asian Jade Restaurant in Flushing, Queens. Please volunteer and join us for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life *Team OCA-LI* this coming June. As a cancer survivor myself, I did not volunteer to seek recognition. Rather, my mission was to educate Asian Americans that cancer can touch us. The myth that Asians don't get cancer is just that – a myth. Cancer doesn't discriminate. It can happen to the best of us. That's why, through education, early detection, and knowledge, we can help to rid cancer in our lifetime; these facts should inspire all of us to do as much as possible to see this goal come to fruition.

March 6: Our first OCA-LI Open House General Meeting will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church. Please JOIN US! Food and refreshments will be served.

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *Sunrise* features Helen Chan, a remarkable woman, who grew up with immigrant parents in New Jersey at a time in American history when Asians were not perceived favorably. Yet Helen survived, and found a way to improve the quality of life for her young family. In the process, she participated in the founding of an establishment on Long Island that has touched the lives of thousands of Chinese American families in the area for over five decades.

Many thanks to Helen for sharing her story, and for blazing a path for Chinese Americans so that we may have pride in our heritage, opportunities for socialization with each other, and realistic hopes of fulfilling our dreams in America.

Respectfully,
Janis Woo

A SMALL TOWN GIRL CAME TO THE BIG APPLE

By Helen Lee Chan



I, Helen Lee Chan, was born and raised in a small town called Mount Holly, New Jersey, nine miles from Fort Dix and eighteen miles from Philadelphia. Holly was discovered on the mount; thus the town was called Mount Holly.

My parents came from South China from *Sun Woi Hotoon, Bok Mil*. My father came over as a merchant's son through Nova Scotia in 1911, and my mother came through Seattle around 1921. I often wondered why my father established a laundry business in Mount Holly, and stayed for 30 years. Afterwards, they moved to Philadelphia and opened up another laundry.

I was the third child of four daughters, and grew up in the laundry where there was no bathtub. We cooked on a two burner stove and had chicken every Sunday. We were the only Chinese family in town. There were times when my oldest sister faced discriminatory remarks from others, but that did not happen to me. Occasionally, my family and I traveled by bus to a center at 1006 Race Street in Philadelphia to socialize with other Chinese. My sisters and I attended church services there, and studied Chinese. A wonderful social worker directed the place, and stayed for 40 years.



In 1932, Helen (left) with older sisters Mary and Jane marched in a town parade in Mt. Holly

In 1943, I graduated from high school, and went to work right away at a bank four doors from the laundry. My salary was \$13 a week. My two older sisters went to business school, but there was no money for college for me. In 1945, I attended a party at a Catholic Church in Philadelphia in honor of soldiers returning from the war. That was where I met my husband, Kenneth. He came back after serving in the Army Air Force.

Kenneth Chan and I were married in 1948 in Philadelphia and came to New York, settling in St. Albans and then to Hempstead in 1951. I am still residing in Hempstead even after my husband passed away several years ago. We had three children—Jeffrey, Pamela and Phyllis. To provide for the family, Kenneth worked nights, and I worked days. I was employed at Helping Hands, a health care agency for 22 years, and at Staff Builders, another help care agency for 13 years before I retired at age 71 in 1997. Our children have all graduated from college and married. I have one grandson, Patrick.

I have to give thanks to Kenneth for taking me to a meeting where I met other Chinese mothers, who had a vision to provide friendship, retain their Chinese culture, and provide social activities. Our early family life revolved around activities within this group. There were beach parties, talent shows, and Chinese school. Older children joined the Chinese American Teens (CAT). I was so engrossed and interested in the

(Continued on page 6)

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	Kevin Kim
VP Programs	Mary Tsang
VP Membership	Shuet Y. Lam
	Monica Lam
VP Hospitality	Mary Chu

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Jim Chin Bow Helen Chan

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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Flushing Lunar New Year Parade



On January 31, 2009, many hardy OCA-LI members and friends marched in the Flushing Parade celebrating the Year of the Ox! Kudos to Monica Lam, Ed Chu, MaryTsang, Sherry Tsang, Donna Lee, Wai Lee, Mary Chu, Winnie Mou, Lily Lee, Peter Gong, Betty Leong, Evergreen Chou, Su Leong, Angela Lee, Leona Chin, Mike, Friends & Family

Meet New Board Members



Ben Chan: I was born in 1981 and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Both of my parents are Chinese immigrants who came to America in the late 70s. I have been blessed with the education, career and social opportunities that were not available to those who came before me. At the same time, I have experienced the hatred and prejudice that so many Asian Americans have experienced. My experiences fuel my passion for justice and equality.

I currently work full-time as a paralegal for the Center for Family Representation, a non-profit organization that provides free legal assistance and social services to parents in Manhattan

Family Court. Additionally, I attend law school at night. I will graduate from New York Law School in February 2010. After graduation, I hope to pursue a career in government and politics.

I first heard of OCA-LI when I met Gladys Yan while I served as Co-Coordinator of the Asian Pacific American Voters Alliance (APAVA). Before APAVA, I served as Co-Coordinator for the Coalition Against Hate Media, a coalition of community organizations that formed to protest Hot 97's hateful *Tsunami Song*.

I applaud the community work that OCA-LI has done for Asian Americans in Queens and Long Island. Whether through voter registration, workshops or supporting other organizations, I believe OCA-LI has shown a commitment to Asian Americans that few other organizations can match. I am honored to serve on OCA-LI's Board as one of the VPs of Community Affairs.

When I was 20 years old, I was not excited to meet anyone from the *gold mountain*. I feel I disappointed my parents so many times. Finally, I listened to my parents and married my husband. Again, I had to leave my friends, my brother and sister, and my parents when I came to the USA to meet my husband. Otherwise, I would never have my own family. I was lonely and scared. Looking back, my husband was the only person I knew. Therefore, I understand how a new immigrant feels.

After I attended the 2008 OCA National Convention, it opened my eyes. Outside of my circle, I saw many Asian Americans advocating for the rights of our people. I felt I'd like to be part of them. As a novice in this field, I look forward to learning, educating, and being part of the OCA-LI Chapter.



Mary Tsang: I'd like to thank Ann Chan and Gladys Yan and the OCA-LI Board of Directors for their confidence and trust in me as a new team member. It's my first time as a Board member of a non-profit organization.

Born in China, I left to go to Hong Kong with my mother and sister to join my father when I was four years old. I grew up in Hong Kong and liked it as more relatives arrived from China. I didn't feel so isolated and Hong Kong became my hometown.

All parents always want their children to have a better life. At that time, most of the parents wanted them to go abroad to the *gold mountains* of America. My parents were no different.



Mary Chu: I grew up in New York City and graduated from Lehman College with a major in Secretarial, Marketing and Accounting, Education, Guidance and Counseling. I also attended St. John's University and received a Professional Diploma in Administration. In

addition to working in industry for five years, I have 23 years experience as a business teacher and guidance counselor in a high school in Queens. I have a great desire to work as VP of Hospitality for OCA and enjoy meeting people from all over the world, working with teenagers, traveling, playing tennis, walking, dancing, and yoga.

Educating About Hate Crimes: A Continuing Story

By Gary Mar, VP of Education at OCA-LI & Member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission

The Long Island Community was shocked when Marcello Lucero, a 38 year old immigrant from Ecuador who moved to Patchogue over 15 years ago, on the night of November 8, 2008 was fatally attacked by seven students from Patchogue-Medford High School. An evening vigil on Monday, November 24, was held at Stony Brook University at which University President Shirley Strum Kenny, campus chaplains, Latin American students, and faculty spoke.



As a result of previous year's grant to engage in Hate Crime Education, Professor Gary Mar, who is VP of Education at the Long Island Chapter of OCA, and a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission spoke at this vigil. Following are excerpts from Professor Mar's speech:

Marcelo Lucero came from Ecuador to participate in our American experiment—working in America for some 15 years, a year or two less than the ages of the youth who hunted him down, stabbed him, and left him to die on what should have been common ground.

Like so many of us, our families and our friends, Marcelo Lucero was an immigrant. All Americans—except for Native Americans—came from families who emigrated from elsewhere. How could this violent and hateful crime happen just as we have elected our first African American President? What has happened in America? Isn't America supposed to be the land of the free in which Lady Liberty's torch is a beacon of hope, saying to the world, in the words of the famous poem by the Jewish American poet Emma Lazarus "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free"?

Whether you are a Native American, a child of immigrants, a child of slaves, a combination of all of these or others, you're part of the most diverse nation in the world.

Let me speak a moment about Asian immigrants. Most Americans know that Chinese labor and technological know-how built the Transcontinental Railroad which when completed in 1869 created a nation from "sea to shining sea." Fewer know that "Pie-biter" a Chinese worker on the Transcontinental Railroad created the hand-held American apple pie. When their labor was no longer needed, the Chinese were resented by other unem-

ployed American workers put out of work during economic hard times. Chinese immigrants were scapegoated then as Latino immigrants are now.

It was 1882—just one year after Emma Lazarus penned her famous poem, "The New Colossus," later to be engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty—when the United States passed the first law in American history to exclude a group by race and class, the Chinese Exclusion Act. This act was not repealed until 1943, when Chinese Americans, like my father, served in World War II. But the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed only nominally since Chinese immigration from anywhere in the world was limited to a quota of 105 Chinese per year, compared to the quota of 65,721/year from Great Britain and Ireland.

Even before immigration law legalized discrimination, other laws encouraged violence against Chinese laborers. The 1854 case of *People vs. Hall* ruled that Chinese were non-white, and so—like Indians, Africans and Mulattos—were not allowed to testify against whites in a court of law. This law declared "open season" against Chinese who could not testify against their white assailants in a court of law. This law was eventually ruled as a violation of the 14th amendment.

As a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission, I wish to inform you that due to a law passed last June by the US Congress, undocumented workers can now give testimony to the Suffolk County police without fear of deportation.

So let us see ourselves in Marcello Lucero's life and death—our hope, our loss, and our redemption. The American experiment cannot long endure as a beacon of freedom if we forget our cherished ideals. Betsy Kim, a Korean American active in getting out the API community vote, said it memorably: "Rosa *sat* so Martin could *walk*; Martin *walked* so Obama could *run*; Obama *ran* so our children could *fly*." By God's mercy and grace, may our children fly.

How can we make this a teachable moment? We can commit ourselves to upholding immigrant rights as human rights, and to remember that all these rights were Marcelo's, they are ours, and they are as American as Thanksgiving and apple pie. Let this be our teachable moment.

Plastic surgeon Dr. Steve Lee will give presentation



Born in Taiwan, Dr. Steve Lee immigrated to the United States at the age of 10. He has been a New York City native since 1981. He attended Stuyvesant HS and received his undergraduate degree at New York University and medical degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Following medical school, Dr. Lee had his general surgery residency at Maimonides Medical Center.

He then went on to conduct plastic surgery research at the New York University Medical Center, where he was awarded an American College of Surgeons Resident Research Scholarship and Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation Basic Research

Award. Dr. Lee then completed a plastic surgery fellowship at the renowned Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Ohio.

Dr. Lee has conducted many research studies over the years and has had numerous published articles. Following his plastic surgery training, Dr. Lee entered private practice where he worked for many years. Dr. Lee is an Attending Physician at North Shore University Hospital (Manhasset), Long Island Jewish Medical Center (New Hyde Park), Forest Hills Hospital (Forest Hills) and New York Hospital Queens (Flushing). Dr. Lee's expertise includes cosmetic surgery, breast surgery including reconstruction, skin cancer surgery, and hand surgery. His office is at 136-20 38th Avenue in Flushing. If you'd like to make an appointment to see Dr. Lee, please call (718) 395-8118 or go to www.steveleemd.com.

2009 OCA-LI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT	E-MAIL
January 19	Martin Luther King Celebration, Flushing	John Tandana	dringtang@gmail.com
January 20	Co-Sponsor Inauguration Viewing Flushing Town Hall, 11 AM	Gladys Yan Ann Chan	gladysyan@aol.com annachan80@verizon.net
January 23	FCBA 27th Annual Dinner Dance, Terrace on the Park, Queens	Gladys Yan	gladysyan@aol.com
January 30 to February 1	OCA National Board Meeting Washington, DC	Gene Woo Joseph Chu	gjmwoo@juno.com joechumail@gmail.com
January 31	Flushing Lunar New Year Parade OCA-LI Marching, 11AM—1 PM	Mary Tsang Ed Chu Donna Lee	bikyau@yahoo.com echupow@yahoo.com donna_ocali@hotmail.com
February 7	CAANH New Year Performance, Herricks HS	Janis Woo	gjmwoo@juno.com
February 7	AAPEA— East Manor Restaurant, Elmhurst, 6 PM	Karen Leung	kleung0805@yahoo.com
February 13	American Cancer Society's Volunteer Party Asian Jade Restaurant, Flushing	Donna Lee Ann Chan	donna_ocali@hotmail.com annachan80@verizon.net
March 6	OCA-LI Open House/General Membership Meeting Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hyde Park	Ann Chan, Donna Lee Mary Tsang Mary Chu	annachan80@verizon.net donna_ocali@hotmail.com bikyau@yahoo.com silverazn@aol.com
March 7	CCLI Lunar New Year Party East Manor Restaurant, Flushing	Helen Chan Ann Chan	516-481-5124 annachan80@verizon.net
March 21	CAANH Gala, Leonard's, Great Neck, 7:30 PM	Janis Woo	gjmwoo@juno.com
March 27	CAREA's 16th Annual Banquet East Manor, Elmhurst, 6:30 PM	Lily Lee Gladys Yan	lily.lee@att.net gladysyan@aol.com
April 17– 18	OCA National Board Meeting, Atlanta, GA	Gladys Yan	gladysyan@aol.com
May 3	Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) Asian American Heritage Festival Union Square, NYC	Ann Chan Joseph Chu Donna Lee Gene Woo	annachan80@verizon.net joechumail@gmail.com donna_ocali@hotmail.com gjmwoo@juno.com
May 30	American Cancer Society — Asian Initiative Unit Team OCA-LI—Relay for Life, Christopher Morley Park, Manhasset	Ann Chan Gladys Yan	annachan80@verizon.net gladysyan@aol.com
June 6	American Cancer Society—Asian Initiative Unit Team OCA-LI—Relay for Life, Flushing High School	Mary Tsang Donna Lee	bikyau@yahoo.com donna_ocali@hotmail.com
June 12	OCA-LI General Membership Meeting Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hyde Park	Ann Chan Donna Lee Mary Tsang Mary Chu	annachan80@verizon.net donna_ocali@hotmail.com bikyau@yahoo.com silverazn@aol.com
August 6—9	OCA National Convention, San Francisco, CA	Gladys Yan	gladysyan@aol.com
September 6	OCA Multi-Chapter Picnic, Van Saun Park, Paramus, NJ	Gene Woo Joseph Chu Peter Gong	gjmwoo@uno.com joechumail@gmail.com gongho@verizon.net
October 16	OCA-LI 28th Anniversary Gala	Gladys Yan Donna Lee Ann Chan Mary Tsang	gladysyan@aol.com donna_ocali@hotmail.com annachan80@verizon.net bikyau@yahoo.com
October date to be announced	Candidate's Forum	Kevin Kim Donna Lee	Kim.Kevin@yahoo.com donna_ocali@hotmail.com
October 18	American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Walk Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens	Donna Lee Gene Woo Mary Tsang	donna_ocali@hotmail.com gjmwoo@juno.com bikyau@yahoo.com
October 23	OCA Corporate Achievement Awards, Washington, DC	Ann Chan	annachan80@verizon.net
October 24-25	OCA National Board Meeting, Washington, DC	Donna Lee	donna_ocali@hotmail.com
November 6	OCA-LI General Membership Election Meeting Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hyde Park	Mary Tsang Donna Lee Ann Chan Mary Chu	bikyau@yahoo.com donna_ocali@hotmail.com annachan80@verizon.net silverazn@aol.com
December 6	Holiday Celebration Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon	Gladys Yan Donna Lee Ann Chan	gladysyan@aol.com donna_ocali@hotmail.com annachan80@verizon.net

 NEWS FROM NATIONAL

OCA Supports Dr. Steven Chu as Energy Secretary

Last December, OCA supported President Barack Obama's decision to nominate Dr. Steven Chu, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, as the next Energy Secretary.

Chu was one of three scientists who shared the Nobel Prize for physics in 1997 for work in cooling and trapping atoms with laser light. He is a professor of physics and molecular and cell biology at the University of California at Berkeley and has been the director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory since 2004, where he has pushed for more research into alternative energy.



Chu's parents were Chinese immigrants who came to the United States to further their education in engineering and economics. Chu was born in Missouri and received his doctorate degree from University of California at Berkeley in 1976. He has worked as the head of the quantum electronics research department for AT&T Bell Laboratories and chair of the physics department at Stanford University before his transition to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Chu was raised in Long Island, graduating from Garden City High School before enrolling at the University of Rochester.

Ken Lee is New OCA National President

On October 18, 2008, the OCA National Board elected Ken Lee as its National President for a two-year term starting January 1, 2009. Lee was the former OCA Executive Vice President and served as the President of the OCA-Georgia Chapter from 1999 to 2000. His experience on the OCA Executive Council also includes serving as the VP of Chapter Development for two terms and VP of Economic Development. Lee was recently the Vice President of Security of UPS and retired in early 2008. In 1997, Ken was selected by UPS to be the recipient of the OCA National Asian American



Corporate Achievement Award.

Joining Lee on the 2009-2010 Executive Council will be:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Judge Michael Kwan | Executive Vice President |
| Sharon Wong | Secretary |
| Linda Ng | Treasurer |
| Duy Nguyen | VP Chapter of Development |
| Mia Youhne | VP of Communications |
| Rogene Gee Calvert | VP of Economic Development |
| Miriam L. Yeung | VP of Education and Culture |
| Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock | VP of Finance |
| Wendy Wilber | VP of Membership |
| Debbie Chen | VP of Public Affairs |

George Wu is New OCA Executive Director

George C. Wu, who joined OCA as Assistant Director in March 2008 and was subsequently promoted to Deputy Director, became OCA's Executive Director on January 1, 2009.



Since beginning his career at the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center in Washington, D.C., Wu has focused his energies on advocating for the rights of the APA community at both the local and national level. Prior to coming to OCA, Wu was an Immigration and Immigrant Rights staff attorney at the Asian American Justice Center, where he also served as a National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Partners Community Law Fellow.

I am honored and delighted to be named Executive Director of OCA at a time when our community has an opportunity to truly build upon the foundations that have made OCA such an integral part of the social justice movement, said Wu. I look forward to providing opportunities for emerging leaders to address such issues as education, immigration and health care reform.

Wu received his JD from the George Washington University Law School, and is also a graduate of Johns Hopkins University. Wu will be replacing Dr. Michael Lin, who has served in the capacity of Executive Director since 2006.

(Helen Chan, Continued from page 2)

group and the challenges that I stayed with the Long Island Chinese Circle (LICC) for over 50 years. This club was the first Chinese Club on Long Island. The LICC was featured in *Newsday* upon our 50th anniversary in 2004, and on another occasion.

Some of the members were energized and wanted to look for a building, so with the help of the husbands, a group was formed and looked for a building. The group was very successful, and with the help of many contributors, the group established the Chinese Center on Long Island in West Hempstead, New York. I have been involved since its inception.

In addition to being involved in the Circle, the Center, and OCA-LI, I am also a long time member of the Congregational Church of South Hempstead, serving on different committees for the last 57 years. In recognition of my service to the Church, I was featured in a *Newsday* article in 2008. Presently, I am on the *Missions & Stewardship* Committee.

Being born in the Year of the Ox, I think I exemplify the symbol of the Ox. Those who are born in that year are hard-working, dependable, caring, calm, good listeners, and have strong ideas. I like to be involved since it brings experiences and desires to want to do more.

My faith in God has made me come this far.

OCA-LI, OCA-NY & OCA National Discuss Immigration Reform with Gillibrand Representative

By Joseph Chu, Executive VP of OCA-LI



NY Senator Gillibrand

On January 31, Gene Woo, Chairman of OCA-Long Island; and Joseph Chu, Executive Vice President of OCA-Long Island; along with Vicki Shu, President of OCA-New York; Ken Lee, President of OCA-National; and George Wu, Executive Director of OCA-National met with Kevin Fink, staff member on immigration issues for new Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. The meeting, held in Washington, DC, was arranged by Vicki Shu to coincide with the national board meeting that weekend. Representatives of OCA-Westchester were unable to attend.

The meeting was to introduce OCA National and the local New York and Long Island chapters to Senator Gillibrand as she reviews her previous policies on immigration and formulates a new evolving policy representative of a broader New York State constituency. Senator Gillibrand's current stance on immigration, as a former member of the House of Representatives, is reflective of a very conservative area in New York State she represented.

Her immigration policy has been a source of significant criticism from downstate minority and civil rights groups.

OCA National and the local OCA chapters wanted to communicate that OCA is both a leading advocate for Asian American issues and a resource for understanding Asian American concerns on a national and local basis. OCA emphasized not only the national scope of its advocacy but how each local chapter could address the different local community needs also. On immigration reform, OCA currently advocates clearing of the backlog of immigration applications and getting a family-based immigration policy instituted.

After a brief discussion on the growth and extent of the Asian community in the downstate region, Kevin Fink acknowledged that Senator Gillibrand understood the demographics and had long had an interest in Asian matters as an Asian studies undergraduate at Dartmouth. The meeting was very productive and will hopefully establish a relationship where OCA National and the local chapters can be an advocate for Asian American issues and a resource for the new Senator.

What is Your Opinion of the Miley Cyrus Incident?

To recap on what has happened at National concerning Miley Cyrus, here's a timeline:

- On February 2, 2009, a personal photograph of celebrity Miley Cyrus making slant eye poses with her friends was leaked onto the Internet.
- OCA issued a [statement](#) on February 3, where we stated that we wish for Miley to apologize to the APA community.
- On February 5, Miley released a lukewarm response on her blog stating, "I've also been told there are some people upset about some pictures taken of me with friends making goofy faces! Well, I'm sorry if those people looked at those pics and took them wrong and out of context!" OCA felt that this was not a real apology and media continued to press for one.
- On February 9, Miley released an official apology on her website where she stated the following, "I have learned a valuable lesson from this and know that sometimes my actions can be unintentionally hurtful. I know everything is a part of God's ultimate plan, and mistakes happen so that eventually I will become the woman he aspires me to be."
- On February 11, a woman filed a \$4 billion lawsuit against Miley's slant eye photograph on behalf of the APA community; OCA is not affiliated with this lawsuit. We are continuing to monitor the media stories to ensure we are not associated with the suit.

Year of Ox Stamp Unveiled



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OCA is pleased to announce the unveiling of the Year of the Ox stamp on January 8, 2009 by the United States Postal Service in New York at the Fashion Institute of Technology. This vibrant stamp depicting a dragon was designed by artist Kam Mak.

OCA Joins Barack Obama at Signing of SCHIP Bill

On February 4, OCA was pleased to join President Barack Obama in the White House as he signed the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Bill.

"OCA applauds President Obama and Congress for taking this step to provide proper health care to some of the most vulnerable in our American society," said Ken Lee, OCA National President.

SCHIP provides federal matching funds to states in order to provide health insurance for families that do not qualify for Medicaid but do not make enough to afford private insurance. The bill Congress sent to President Obama to sign into law



also includes the Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA), which extends coverage to low-income lawful residing pregnant women and immigrant children without a five-year wait time.

"Health care is too often an unaffordable human need for ALL Americans," said OCA Executive Director George Wu, who attended the signing ceremony at the White House. "This is the first step toward health care reform in the United States and OCA looks forward to

working with the Obama Administration and Congress to ensure that the needs of the Asian Pacific American community are included in future laws or policies."

JOIN US TODAY!

OCA-Long Island Chapter

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E Mail _____

Occupation (Optional) _____

Membership Type:

- Individual (\$30) Family (\$50)
- Student (\$15) Business (\$100)
- LI Single Life (\$500) LI Family Life (\$750)
- National Single Life (\$1000)
- National Family Life (\$1500)
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Community Outreach to US Merchant Marine Academy

Contributed by Ann Chan

Three Asian Pacific American organizations--OCA-Long Island, Chinese Center on Long Island (CCLI), and MORUS Cultural Educational Advancement Association, visited the US Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) in Kings Point on November 19, 2008. Approximately 50 attendees were welcomed by Dr. George Billy, Director of the Bland Library at the USMMA in Kings Point.



Ann Chan and Mary Tsang present gifts to Dr. Billy at Bland Library

The organizations donated gifts to the midshipmen at the USMMA: the CCLI Senior Group donated two books-- *1421* and *1434* by author Gavin Menzies; OCA-LI donated two DVD discs-- *Marco Polo* and *Admiral Zheng He* by Michael Yamashita, although the second DVD had not arrived in time for this presentation. Additionally, Kevin Kim, a representative of Congressman Ackerman, presented a certificate to the MORUS group of 30 attendees from Chinatown, who arrived on two busses organized by Mary Tsang. They were recognized for their efforts in bringing future recruits to the USMMA.

All groups toured the campus, including the American Merchant Marine Museum and the Barstow/Lundy Estate, learning about war artifacts housed in the museum and the history of real estate on site from their volunteer hosts.

Mr. Kim also presented certificates to those who served their communities. Mr. Richard De Martino, who is Vice President of State Bank on Long Island as well as President of the Chamber of Commerce in New Hyde Park was recognized for his service to the Asian community. Midshipman Sea Chan was honored for his dedication to the USMMA as well as his willingness to give of his time to Asian community organizations. The entire group enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch with a beautiful scenic view, and visited the University Chapel before heading home.



Kevin Kim presents certificate to Kong Hui Chen



Organization of Chinese Americans
Long Island Chapter
P.O. Box 2052
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