

# ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS OF LONG ISLAND NEWSLETTER

# SUNRISE



Fall 2010  
Vol. 29, No. 3

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, September 10, 2010 - 7:30 pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
5 Durham Road  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

## PROGRAM

*Transcending—The Wat Misaka Story* will be screened. It's an inspirational documentary about a Japanese American who overcame the racial hostility of the 1940s to become the first person of color to be drafted into the NBA.

Bruce Johnson & Christine Toy Johnson, co-directors and producer of *Transcending—The Wat Misaka Story*, will discuss their experience in working with Wat on the film and the journey it has taken them on together.

Food and refreshments will be served.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCA Multi-Chapter & FCC Picnic**  
**Cammy Lee Leukemia Foundation, Inc**  
**Bone Marrow Drive**  
Van Saun Park, New Jersey  
September 12, 2010, (See page 8)

**Angel Island Centennial Reception**  
Red Egg Restaurant, 202 Centre St, NYC  
September 23, 2010, (See page 6)

**Angel Island:**  
**Immigrant Gateway to America**  
With authors Erika Lee & Judy Yung  
Museum of Chinese in America  
215 Centre Street, NYC  
September 23, 2010, (See page 6)

**OCA-LI 29th Anniversary Gala**  
Dae Dong Manor in Flushing  
November 6, 2010, (See page 7)

**OCA-LI General Meeting**  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
December 10, 2010

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY ANN CHAN



During the OCA National convention in Houston this June, there were many gems of happy moments that were gifted to this year's participants. At the Welcome Reception, lines of hungry leaders, guests and vendors networked together while waiting for the buffet layout, which was filled with colorful fruits, carved turkey, ham and scrumptious desserts. First on the program was a fashion show with beautiful models. But the jewel of the evening was a film called *Transcending—The Wat Misaka Story*, giving a glimpse of a person of color, who in 1947 was drafted into what is now the NBA by the Knicks Basketball team. It was produced by Christine Toy Johnson with camera, editing and digital imaging by Bruce Alan Johnson. WOW!!! Christine Toy Johnson, the actress daughter of Mary and Tom Toy! We knew her since she was a little girl. Christine is a 3rd generation Asian American. Yet she had the foresight to produce this film in telling the struggles in the 1940's during WWII when many Japanese Americans were interned in the barren state of Utah. Yet Wat overcame all problems and even served two years in the U.S. Army, proving his obligation to do his part with pride, and showing he was a true American. After the film, many people showed great interest and purchased videos and Wat Misaka shirts. So please don't miss the OCA-LI meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church on September 10th, where we will duplicate the excitement that was generated during that special occasion. Christine and Bruce will be on hand to tell you their story, and what it is like to produce a film, to be an actress, and to combine marriage and career successfully.



## Meet Bruce & Christine Toy Johnson

Christine Toy Johnson, an award-winning playwright, actress and filmmaker, along her artistic husband Bruce Alan Johnson are the featured guest speakers at our general meeting on September 10th.

As a performer, Christine has had a long and varied acting career on Broadway and Off-Broadway. Additionally, she has been in numerous plays including *The New Deal*, *Paper Son*, *Internal Bleeding*, *Adventures of a Faux Designer Handbag* and *The Perfect Wife*. Nearly 100 television appearances include two years as "Lisa West" on *One Life to Live*, *Ugly Betty*, *The Big C*, *Fringe*, *Crossing Jordan*, *Nunsense*, *Nunsense 2*, and many episodes of various *Law and Orders*.

As a playwright, Christine has written the *No Wave without Wind* and *Jumping the Third Rail* screen plays. Her award winning documentary, *Transcending—The Wat Misaka Story* was produced and co-directed by Christine. An avid anti-discrimination advocate, Christine is a sought after speaker and writer on diversity issues. She is being honored this year by the JACL, the nation's largest and oldest Asian American civil rights organization.

**Bruce Alan Johnson** is the co-director and editor of *Transcending—The Wat Misaka Story*. His love of basketball, digital artistry and commitment to diversity and inclusion made this film a perfect fit for him. He also directed the audience award winning short film *All American Eyes* written by and starring his wife, Christine Toy Johnson. He has worked Off-Broadway as Production Stage Manager for *Falsettoland* and the world premiere of *Victor Woo: The Average Asian American*, and as a performer on Broadway as "Joe Gillis" opposite Elaine Paige in *Sunset Blvd.* Bruce was also the lighting designer for the *Asian Americans on Broadway* concert series in San Francisco and Houston. An award winning photographer, he is the founder of Bruce Johnson Photography and Graphic Design, whose clients have included Oscar nominated, and Tony and Grammy Award winning artists.

## Why America Needs the Dream Act

Speech by VP of Community Affairs Ben Chan, June 10, 2010  
Rally & Press Conference, Front of Senator Schumer's Office Building



**H**i, my name is Ben Chan. I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and I currently reside in Queens, New York. I am here speaking on behalf of the Organization of Chinese Americans Long Island Chapter. We join the New York State Youth Leadership Council in urging Senator Charles Schumer do his part to move the DREAM Act as a stand alone bill. It is time to make the DREAM Act reality. The distinguished speakers that proceeded and follow me have and will speak on why our students need the DREAM Act. I'm going to chart a different course. I'm going to talk about why America needs the DREAM Act and I'm going to start by telling Alex's story.

Alex was born in Nivis, an island in the Caribbean. Alex was born out of wedlock and as a result, was denied membership and education in the church school. At the age of 11, Alex's mother died, leaving Alex and his older brother orphans. Recognizing Alex's intellectual gifts and ambition, community leaders created a fund to send Alex to America. Though he arrived in America at the age of 15, it took Alex only one year to complete his high school education. Alex applied and was accepted to Columbia University. From there, Alex dedicated his life to giving back to America. After serving six years in the military, Alex embarked on a career in government as a public servant. Seventeen years after stepping foot on American soil, Alex, or as he's better known, Alexander Hamilton, was appointed America's first Secretary of the Treasury.

Unfortunately, the path that was available to Hamilton then has been blocked off. It has been blocked off by people who feel that true Americans come in one hue. It has been blocked off by people who see immigrants as a burden and blame them for all that ails America. Yet, oftentimes, the very people who push for America to close its borders and demand draconian anti-immigrant regulations also favor deregulation of business. They conveniently ignore that fact that Wall Street has swindled more money and that corporations like BP have wreaked far more destruction in America than the so called immigrant threat.

Unlike Wall Street, the immigrant students and their supporters are not asking for a bailout. In the DREAM Act, we are asking for the path that was available to Hamilton to be opened up again. America needs that path to be available so that students who have been raised and educated in America can give back to America. Passage of the DREAM Act would add thousands of talented, motivated people to America's workforce. Passage of the DREAM Act would increase tax revenue for cash-strapped federal, state and local governments. Passage of the DREAM Act would open the doors for thousands of immigrant students to seek opportunities to maximize their contributions to our economy and communities.

Along with the economic reasons, there are also moral reasons to make the DREAM Act reality. It is disingenuous to deem immigrants fit volunteer to join the military to fight America's enemies abroad, but to deny them a path to citizenship at home. Anybody who is willing to risk life and limb to protect democracy deserves that path to citizenship.

Senator Schumer, you are the Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration. The time to make a stand and push the DREAM Act as a stand alone bill is NOW. America cannot afford to tell the students to wait. America needs their contributions NOW. Senator Schumer, do not let the DREAM die. The DREAM Act makes fiscal sense, it's morally the right thing to do, and as illustrated by Hamilton's journey, it is the AMERICAN thing to do.

## OCA-SUNRISE

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Jim Chin-Bow

OCA is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan civil rights organization, with over 80 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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# Nassau County Chinese American Night

## Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park

### Sunday, August 1, 2010



**Community Leaders Honored on Chinese American Night:** Legislator Francis Becker & Albert Yim with honorees: Angela Lee, Gladys Yan, Janis Woo, Tai Wang, County Executive Mangano, Sue Sullivan, Karen Bomzer, Yi Xian, Stella Shieh, Eileen & James Vogel, Irma Wu



OCA-LI honorees Gladys Yan & Janis Woo with CCLI Chair Albert Yim & OCA-LI President Ann Chan



Helen Chin & Cammy Lee with Becker & Mangano



Cammy Lee & Friends of Teri Li



Children engaged in arts & crafts



Viewers enjoying Cao Bao An Orchestra



CCLI Lion Troupe arriving on the scene



Ballerina Jade Sullivan



Female vocalist



Heroes Male Quartet



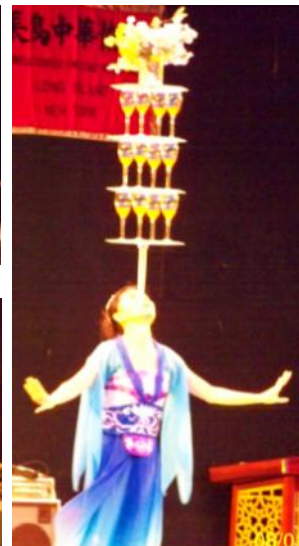
Tenor Arthur Lai



Hsu-Nami Rock Band Leader



A Tribute to Michael Jackson: CCLI Dancers



Golden Fortune Acrobat



Dance of the Fishing Girls



Modern Wushu Martial Arts Troupe Member



Hammered Dulcimer Player from China



Ribbon Dance Finale

# 2010 OCA National Convention

## Houston Texas, June 17-20

*Diverse Communities, United Commitment*  
 Photos by Gene Woo & Rui Barros Photography



OCA Executive Council members Sharon Wong, George Wu, Ken Lee, Michael Kwan and Ginny Gong preside at the National Board meeting.



Chapter Advancement Track equipped OCA chapter leaders with tools to empower, enrich and advocate.



Mayor Annise Parker greeted attendees at the Opening Plenary: *Green Energy, Green Economy.*



Speakers of the State of APA Summit focused on changing demographics of the APA community.



Youth and College Leadership Training developed skills to operate effectively in a diverse environment.



OCA President Ken Lee



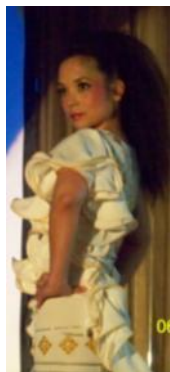
Houston City Council Member Al Hoang



Fashion Designer Danny Nguyen



Co-directors & producer of *The Wat Misaka Story*, Christine Toy Johnson & Bruce Johnson



Fashion model



Taiko performers at Chinese Community Center



OCA President Ken Lee pres



Workshop speaker discusses *Secret Meaning of Body Language.*



2010 OCA Summer Interns



Mary Lee, President of OCA-New Jersey—First Place Chapter of the Year in 2010



At Chapter Awards Luncheon, OCA-LI members seated: Janis Howard Chan, Irene Wu; Standing: Gene Woo, Selena Hua



OCA Founder Alex Mark & Wife are on the bus tour of Asia Town.



OCA members at Johnson Space Center, where Dr. Leroy Chia spoke about his time in space and gave a tour



S. Philadelphia HS student, Wei Chen



1st APA pro basketball player, Wat Misaka



1st APA commander of Int'l Space Station, Dr. Leroy Chiao



Outstanding Citizen Achievement Awardee Dr. Nguyen Thang



Unsung Heroes: Grace Lee—St. Louis; Helen Yu—NJ; Janis Woo—LI; William Kaung—Westchester & Hudson Valley; Yu Sing Yee—NY with presenters Kim Delevett, Wendy Wilber & OCA President Ken Lee



Presenters Corporate Achievement Award to AT&T.



Recipients of the OCA-UPS Gold Mountain Scholarship at Gala



Claudine Cheng with OCA-LI members Irene Wu, Gene & Janis Woo, OCA-LI President Ann Chan and Howard Chan at Gala



OCA Executive Director George Wu acknowledged support from OCA staff members at Gala



Jenny Kho, Ann & Rose & friends



South Philadelphia HS students testified before school, city & state officials, raising concerns to violence faced by Asian immigrant students.



OCA-Westchester members Jenny Kho, Rose & William Kaung and OCA-Westchester President Xiaochun Luo at Gala



Wat Misaka is recipient of 2010 Pioneer Award at Gala.



OCA-Houston Chapter hosted the 2010 convention with co-chairs Victoria Ma & Gene Wu.



OCA-NY Chapter with President Liz Ou Yang will host the 2011 Convention in NYC.

**NEWS FROM NATIONAL**

**OCA Congratulates Daphne Kwok, former OCA Executive Director, on Presidential Appointment**



Washington, D.C. — President Obama announced the appointment of Daphne Kwok as Chair of the Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). In October 2009, President Obama signed an executive order to reinstate the White House Advisory Commission and Inter-agency Working Group to address issues affecting the AAPI community and increase AAPI participation in federal programs.

As Commission Chair, Ms. Kwok will work closely with the White House Initiative on AAPIs to increase awareness of federal resources for underserved AAPI communities. Initiative co-chairs: U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, and Initiative Executive Director Kiran Ahuja will all work in collaboration with Ms. Kwok to address the critical needs of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Daphne Kwok has been a committed advocate and leader in the AAPI community for over two decades. She served as the Executive

Director of OCA for 11 years, from 1990 to 2001, where she also was also the first Chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans.

“Daphne is an extraordinarily capable and passionate leader for the AAPI community. The depth of her experiences and what she has already accomplished will prove invaluable to the commission. OCA greatly applauds this appointment and we look forward to working with Daphne and the Initiative,” said Ken Lee, National President of OCA.

Ms. Kwok is currently the Executive Director of Asians and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California. She has also served as Executive Director for the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies and Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation. In addition, she is Chair and Co-founder of APIAVote, a founding Board Member of the APIA Scholarship Fund, and has been on the board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, National Coalition of APA Community Development and APA Caucus of the American Political Science Association.

**Bone Marrow Drive at Chinese American Night on Long Island**



By Cammy Lee



On Sunday, August 1, 2010, the Cammy Lee Leukemia Foundation Inc. hosted a marrow/stem cell donor recruitment drive at the Nassau County Chinese American Night at Eisenhower Park in NY. The marrow drive was set up with the help of Teri Li’s friends. Teri Li is a member of OCA-Wisconsin and was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML) this past February 2010 and needs to find a matching marrow or stem cell donor to receive a life saving transplant.

OCA-LI was one of the co-sponsors of the event and helped at the marrow drive with the other volunteers, who went around the park with fliers that had information about registering, and pictures of Teri and another Chinese patient, Katie Cramer, who also needs a transplant.



Cammy Lee & Friends of Teri Li prepared materials for distribution and donor registration at the park.

Although there were only seven people who signed up as potential donors at this event, you never know if one or all of them could be the one to save Teri or Katie or any one of the thousands of Asians and Minorities that are diagnosed each year with a blood disease, who are also looking for their “miracle” match.

If you are between the ages of 18-60 and in good general health, register! How would you feel if you could save a life of a stranger? A few days of your discomfort could really mean a lifetime to not just the patient, but family and friends too!

**Angel Island Centennial Commemoration Reception**

This year, the Angel Island Immigration Station celebrates 100 years of Pacific immigration since the immigration station opened in 1910!

Please join the Angel Island Immigration Foundation (AIISF) as they co-host a New York City reception commemorating the station’s 100th anniversary.

When: Thursday, September 23 at 6 PM

Where: Red Egg Restaurant

202 Centre Street, near Hester, NY Chinatown

Cost: No charge

The reception is followed by a New York premiere book talk and signing of *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America* by Erika Lee and Judy Yung.\*

When: Thursday, September 23 at 7:30 PM

Where: Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA)

215 Centre Street, NYC

This book provides a comprehensive history of the Angel Island Immigration Station and is the official publication commemorating the station’s 100th anniversary. It highlights the stories that made Angel Island a place of heartbreak as well as hope. A portion of all book sales will benefit the AIISF.

There is no charge for the reception, which has been sponsored by AIISF and supporters CCBA/NY, State of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, HSBC Bank USA, Jeffrey Hwang/May Chao.

Please RSVP by Sept 20 to [info@aaisf.com](mailto:info@aaisf.com) or call 415 262-4429.

\* Erika Lee is Associate Professor of History at the University of Minnesota, and Judy Yung is Professor Emerita of American Studies at University of California, Santa Cruz.



OCA-LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

You are cordially invited to the

# O C A Long Island Chapter 29TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2010**
**6 PM – 11 PM**
**Dae Dong Manor Ballroom, 2nd floor**

150-24 Northern Blvd., Flushing, NY

Cocktail Reception, 6pm      Dinner/Dance, 7pm

Attire: Black Tie

## HONORING


**Kaity Tong**
**Lifetime Achievement Award**

Emmy Award Winning Anchor for PIX News at 10


**Jean Lau Chin, Ph.D.**
**Distinguished Achievement in Education**

 Professor and Former Dean, Derner Institute for Advanced Psychological Studies  
Adelphi University

**Kevin Kim, Esq.**
**Distinguished Community Advocate**

Former Deputy Director of Community Affairs for Congressman Gary L. Ackerman


**Sunita S. Mukhi, Ph.D.,**
**Distinguished Leadership in Asian American Arts and Cultural Heritage**

 Professor and Director of Asian and Asian American Programs, Charles B. Wang Center  
Stony Brook University

## FEATURING

A Special Tribute to Gladys Yan, President of OCA-LI, 2006-2009

For press kit, tickets, sponsorships and journal ads,  
please email Frank Shih at [ocalongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ocalongisland@gmail.com) or call (631) 848-7917 or visit [www.ocalongisland.com](http://www.ocalongisland.com)

**JOIN US TODAY!****OCA-Long Island Chapter**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Check one of following membership terms &amp; rates:

- Individual: 1 yr (\$40)
- Individual: 2 yrs (\$70)     Individual: 5 yrs: (\$140)
- Student: up to full time undergraduate (\$10)
- Family: 2 adults & 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 &amp; 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 MULTI-CHAPTER PICNIC**OCA-LI, OCA-NJ, OCA-NY,  
OCA-Westchester & Hudson Valley & FCC**Hosted this year by OCA-Long Island***Come join OCA and Families with Children from China for a day of fun***VAN SAUN COUNTY PARK — PAVILION C**

Near the Carousel; Park in Area 3 and cross the road to Pavilion C

**216 Forest Avenue, Paramus, N.J. 07652****SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2010****11:00 AM—4 PM**

Bring a dish (with utensil) to share with 8 people  
OCA & FCC will provide hamburgers & veggie burgers,  
hotdogs, drinks, watermelon & paper goods

CRAFTS, GAMES, BASEBALL/SOCCER FIELDS, TENNIS COURTS,  
CAROUSEL, PLAYGROUND, PONY RIDES, TRAIN RIDE, ZOO

**For Children:** Clown will make an appearance from 12 noon—3 PM  
for magic and free face painting

**EVENT IS FREE****RSVP by SEPT 1ST****Please email [ocalongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ocalongisland@gmail.com)**

**Or call Gene Woo at 516 627-8975,  
Ann Chan at 516 775-4614**

**Cammy Lee Leukemia Foundation, Inc**  
**will host a bone marrow drive**  
**Please register ... You could save a life!**



Organization of Chinese Americans  
Long Island Chapter  
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Garden City, NY 11531