

ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS OF LONG ISLAND NEWSLETTER

SUNRISE



Winter 2010
Vol. 29, No. 4

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

December's general membership meeting has been canceled. In lieu of this, a holiday luncheon has been planned for December 11. See details below.

Angel Island Centennial



On September 23, the Angel Island Immigration Foundation co-hosted a NYC reception commemorating the station's 100th anniversary. Former Angel Island detainees, Jip Chun, age 90 on left and James Lai, 77, on right, celebrate with authors Judy Yung and Erika Lee. Reception was followed by a book talk and signing of their book, *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America*. OCA-LI President Ann Chan has copies for sale.



Erika Lee and Judy Yung (far right) autograph their new book at Museum of Chinese in America.



UPCOMING EVENT

OCA-LI Holiday Luncheon

Asian Buffet
1902 Jericho Turnpike, New Hyde Park
December 11, 2010, 11 AM — 2 PM
\$10.99 per person
Board elections will be held
RSVP to Ann Chan 516 775-4614
or Janis Woo 516 627-8975

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY ANN CHAN

Greetings, Good Health, Happy Holidays to you and your families!
It was indeed a pleasure to serve as President of OCA-LI in 2010... truly an exciting year. I made new friends and broadened my vision of how we must unite in order to further our goals and efforts for future generations. When I look at the people I admired this year, they taught me that nothing is impossible. I believe a positive mental attitude and being flexible are crucial. Sharing ideas and listening to others with an open mind are also important. When I am helping others, I try to do my best and will follow this as my new year's resolution. As I look back, OCA-LI did a wonderful job because everyone pitched in. Howard & I had some medical problems, but many have reached out to me and my family to encourage us. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and treasure you as our true friends.

OCA-LI's 29th Anniversary Gala—A Huge Success!



On November 6, 2010, OCA-LI celebrated their 29th anniversary at Dae Dong Manor in Flushing by honoring Asian Americans who have excelled in their careers and who have served as an inspiration to others. Photographed above are honorees:

- (1) **Kaity Tong**, one of the most popular news anchors in the NY area, with Ti-Hua Chan
- (2) **Dr. Jean Lau Chin**, Professor and former Dean of the Derner Institute for Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi University, with Dr. Florence Denmark
- (3) **Kevin Kim, Esq.**, former Deputy Director of Community Affairs for Congressman Gary Ackerman, with Pauline Chu
- (4) **Dr. Sunita Mukhi**, Professor & Director of Asian & Asian American Programs at Stony Brook University, with P.H. Tuan.



Thanks to Gold Sponsor Flushing Savings Bank (Nelson Lee, center) and Bronze Sponsors holding plaques—Peter Lau, P.H. Tuan and NYC Councilman Peter Koo of Starside Drugs.

OCA-LI Letter in Support of Kaity Tong

November 23, 2010

Eric Meyrowitz
General Manager
WPIX—TV
220 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Meyrowitz:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership of the Organization of Chinese Americans-Long Island Chapter, we are writing to express our profound dismay regarding the decision of PIX News to replace Kaity Tong as co-anchor of PIX News at 10.

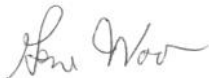
Just recently, we honored Kaity Tong at our 29th Anniversary Dinner Dance Gala. This annual event celebrates individuals who have inspired the Asian Pacific American community. This year, the Board of Directors instituted the "Lifetime Achievement Award," the purpose of which is to recognize individuals whose lives best personify our motto: "Embracing the hopes and aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans."

Kaity was unanimously selected by the Board of Directors for the award and we were elated when she agreed to accept the honor. There was never a question that she should be the first recipient. This was confirmed on the evening of the Gala when Kaity graciously posed for pictures and signed autographs virtually non-stop before accepting the award in front of 300 cheering admirers. This enthusiastic reception from the audience and subsequent feedback from attendees demonstrated Kaity's popularity and the high esteem in which she is held.

As a television news anchor, Kaity has contributed immeasurably to the cultural life of all New Yorkers. For Asian Pacific Americans, in particular, she has been an exceptional inspiration. Not only has Kaity's immense talent been displayed almost nightly for many years but her successful career has helped to dispel many offensive stereotypes about Asian Americans. Needless to say, our community is extremely proud of her accomplishments.

Founded in 1973, the Organization of Chinese Americans is a national association with over 80 chapters and college affiliates. By awarding Kaity Tong the "Lifetime Achievement Award," our chapter has publicly acknowledged her as a role model and pioneer while proudly lauding her for attaining the pinnacle in her field. Kaity's popularity at our Gala is evidence that the community wishes to see her continue in a prominent role on television and the media, one that befits her talents, accomplishments and popularity.

Respectfully,



Gene Woo
Chair, Board of Directors



Ann Elizabeth Chan
President

OCA-SUNRISE

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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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Ways to Support Kaity Tong

- Post on Facebook at "Bring Back Kaity and Jim"
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bring-back-Kaity-and-Jim/163909300301345>
- Write to WPIX General Manager Eric Meyrowitz at address above
- Email emeyrowitz@tribune.com and copy ocalongisland@gmail.com
- Call WPIX at (212) 210-2411

My perspective as a photojournalist on Kaity Tong

By Corky Lee, *Undisputed, Unofficial Asian American Photographer Laureate*

At the silent auction table, many at the OCA-Long Island Gala recently looked with wonder and a bit of confusion at the photograph I had taken of senior citizens holding signs in support of Kaity Tong.

Those of you who were around in 1991 might recall that Kaity was the very first high profile APA anchor with a ten year stint on ABC Channel 7 Eyewitness News. When a new management team came into town, they felt Kaity no longer fit the mold for their station on the evening news. Almost immediately a coalition of APA individuals and organizations formed to demand her rehiring.

When I came to the front of ABC headquarters as a photojournalist, the Chinese community was not the only ethnic group assembled to voice their displeasure. There were at least two dozen South Asians in the crowd of several hundred. It was a pretty diverse group that had gathered. One police sergeant at the rally said, "In my 20 years on the force I've never seen any one group come out to support a local news anchor."

After Kaity left ABC's Eyewitness News, it took two years before Lucy Yang was hired in 1993, and she worked primarily on the weekends at the time. Thus, while Kaity didn't get rehired by ABC, it set the stage for her anchor spot on WPIX. When you add up the time, Kaity has been a local news anchor for local news for 29 years on two networks.

In the year after Kaity was released from ABC, practically every local news station hired an APA reporter. This led me to organize a fundraising event for the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans—a group who has held an APA Heritage Festival every year in Manhattan since 1980. That event was to showcase the work of APA local broadcast journalists and stories which have been aired containing APA content. Eventually, many of those journalists went on to MC the Heritage Festival. Thus, Kaity is directly or indirectly responsible for the hiring of continuous APA TV reporters in the NYC area. That's why Kaity got the Lifetime Achievement Award from OCA-LI, and it is well deserved.

Last August, WPIX's former news director Karen Scott, who was fired, slapped the station with a \$4.5 million lawsuit. Scott contends that New York news legends Marvin Scott (no relation), Sal Marchiano and Kaity Tong all suffered from age discrimination. It appears that Scott was let go because of her



Corky Lee points to the photograph he donated to OCA-LI's silent auction. Kaity Tong holds photograph with silent auction winner, Albert Yim.

age, 60, and not sagging news ratings as she was told. A Daily News article indicates that "Tong, one of Channel 11's main anchors, was also a target, so they loaded the 59 year old New York TV veteran with more work to try to get her to quit."

As Chinese Americans, we are not alone in our praise of Kaity. Richard Huff of the Daily News writes in a headline dated 11/5/2010, "WPIX / Ch.11's Kaity Tong seems miscast as ambassador to

boroughs." Huff goes further to add that it's a mistake to "take a well liked market veteran like Tong and use her audience goodwill as an olive branch to areas often under covered by city TV stations."

It was very exciting to hear Ti-Hua Chang tell us at the Gala that Kaity is a direct descendant of Confucius, going back many generations. If the venerable sage could impart some words of wisdom to all of us (barring any sign of nepotism), he would advise us all to assist in every way possible to ensure that Kaity is back where she belongs— at the helm of the anchor desk. She can certainly walk around presenting the news, just like her replacement.

I encourage everyone to support Kaity. You can tweet, email, or contact her present employer to bring her back on the anchor desk. Let your fingers do the talking. However, we may need to do some walking as well. Just wear some comfortable shoes when and if you have to show up on 42nd Street and Lexington Avenue at WPIX. Unfortunately, Kaity's superiors were not present during her OCA-LI award presentation. They would have had an eye witness account of the adulation and respect that the Chinese American/APA community has for such a pioneer. A WPIX news crew came to video tape the awards presentation, which was aired on the following evening.

Your voices and actions will not go unnoticed. News management feels that if one person responds to a story, they have reason to believe that there are 1,000 other individuals who are of the same opinion. Imagine if all four OCA chapters in the metropolitan area amassed a "We Want Kaity Campaign." It would have ripple effects for some time to come and ensure that other news organizations hire and maintain APA news staff. I am aware that one of the two OCA-LI scholarship recipients expressed a desire to go into broadcast journalism. Let's do it for the next generation.

OCA-LI's 29th Anniversary Gala November 6, 2010, Dae Dong Manor Photos by Chester Mah



Anita Tong, Mother of Kaity, celebrated 88th birthday



Kaity Tong, recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award



Ti-Hua Chang, Fox 5 Broadcast Journalist



Gene Woo, OCA-LI Chairman



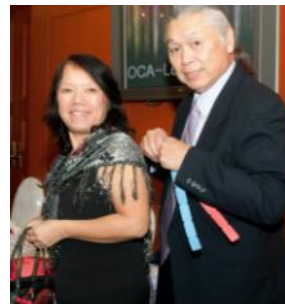
Dr. Frank Shih, Master of Ceremonies



Ann Elizabeth Chan, OCA-LI President



Dr. Florence Denmark, Distinguished Research Professor, Pace University





Jean Lau Chin,
Distinguished Achievement
in Education



Pauline Chu, President of
Chinese-American
Parents Association



Kevin Kim, Esq.,
Distinguished Community
Advocate



P. H. Tuan, Architect of
Charles B. Wang Center
at Stony Brook University



Dr. Sunita Mukhi, Distinguished
Leadership in Asian American
Arts & Cultural Heritage



Peter Koo, NYC Councilman
& CEO of Starside
Drugs



Gladys Yan,
Immediate Past President
of OCA-LI



Janis Woo,
OCA National Unsung
Hero



Conference on Aging in Your Culture

By Dr. Jean Lau Chin

Aging in Your Culture, a conference sponsored by the North Hempstead Department of Services for the Aging, was held at the Harbor Links Clubhouse on October 6, 2010. The presenters were Marvin Colson of SUNY Stony Brook on the African American community, Kwang Kim of the Korean Community Center on the Korean American community, and Dr. Jean Lau Chin of Adelphi University on the Chinese American community; each provided different perspectives on aging relative to their culture. While there are common issues, the importance of cultural differences was emphasized if services are to be culturally competent. The audience was made up of providers and seniors associated with Project Independence—a program to promote independence for seniors.

Dr. Chin answered the question of “What do Chinese American seniors want?” by referencing the classic Chinese blessing of Fook-Luk-Siu, i.e., Prosperity-Wisdom-Longevity—all seniors want to be “healthy, wealthy, and wise.” Dr. Chin framed the rewards of aging against underlying fears and anxiety in the context of transitions faced by seniors as they age in today’s society. Aging in traditional China was premised on a family system of interdependence whereby elders gained respect for their wisdom,

while children repaid their obligations under a social system of filial piety. Social and economic transitions have eroded this social system. The existence of social security, expanded roles for women, and transfer of knowledge via technology have enabled greater independence as they age; however, Chinese American seniors trade for the respect and close intergenerational ties of the past. Conflict today arises as Chinese American seniors lose status as wise elders while children gain social and economic independence. The bottom line is that new psychological transitions and dilemmas for today’s Chinese American seniors now emerge. When health declines, do nursing homes still remain a taboo? As social rules change about wealth distribution, what sibling and generational conflicts emerge about who should have ownership of parental property and resources? While anxiety and fear from the inevitable end or the prospect of being alone will always exist, how do Chinese American seniors adjust to changing values about interdependence, family structure, parental dominance and elder status of the past? There are no simple answers, but awareness of the psychological meaning of these transitions will do much to enable Chinese American seniors to achieve happiness as they age.



Panelists are Kwang Kim of the Korean Community Center, Dr. Jean Lau Chin of Adelphi University, & Marvin Colson of SUNY Stony Brook.



Attending Conference are Elaine Chu, Dr. Jean Lau Chin, Merrie Huey, Mabelle Dong, Mother of Helen Chin, and Helen Chin.

Conference on Reducing Prejudice: A Matter of Education

By Frank Shih, Ph.D

Each year, OCA-LI representatives attend a conference entitled *Reducing Prejudice: A Matter of Education*. This annual conference was developed and coordinated by the Council of Prejudice Reduction, an agency on Long Island that works with public school educators. I attended this year’s conference, at the Charles B. Wang Center of Stony Brook University on November 15th with OCA-LI member Sherry Tsang and OCA-LI’s VP of Education, Dr. Gary Mar.

Primarily targeting K-12 teachers and administrators, the full-day program brought together individuals representing community initiatives, public school teachers, religious leaders, academic researchers, counselors and members of law enforcement. Speakers presented workshops on a wide variety of subjects, and explored topics such as teaching ethics in pre-school, service learning opportunities, community-school partnerships and anti-

bias programs. There were discussions about teaching English to diverse populations, bullying and managing gangs in the community. Gary Mar moderated a session on *Immigrant Stories*. With other members of a Long Island delegation who traveled to Mexico, the session focused on immigration from the perspective of those on the other side of the border. In the keynote, the principal of an award-winning elementary school inspired the audience with his account of a successful effort to turn an inner city public school to one that has become a national educational model for academic success that cuts across racial differences.

An important core mission of OCA is supporting education that combats bias and racial discrimination. I am pleased that OCA-LI was able to participate at this conference, where groups of diverse individuals collaborated to share ideas and promote our mission in a concrete way.

More Gala Photos

By Chester Mah



OCA Multi-Chapter Picnic

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)
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- 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

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Phone: 917-969-5092

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