

The content in this preview is based on the last saved version of your email - any changes made to your email that have not been saved will not be shown in this preview.



OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

A Message from the Director

Dear Community Members,

I would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous Lunar New Year!

The District of Columbia is home to many residents representing various backgrounds, languages, and cultures. At OAPIA, we help provide District government agencies with technical assistance and guidance on providing language assistance to limited-English proficient (LEP) and non-English proficient (NEP) Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) residents.



This year marks the [10th anniversary](#) of the passage of the [Language Access Act](#). Since the implementation of the act, OAPIA and District agencies have made great strides in ensuring language and cultural barriers are minimized for the District's residents, including AAPI residents, when accessing government services. The Language Access Act has helped to ensure that those with limited or non-English level proficiency are able to receive assistance from District agencies in the native language of their choice. Since the passage of the act in 2004, the District has become a more diverse and prosperous city.

As we recognize the [10th anniversary of the Language Access Act](#), we urge you to join us in celebrating the tremendous impact this act has had on the AAPI community. The legacy of Language Access Act will be remembered from January through September through the following projects:

- 10 of 10: 10 highlights of OAPIA's resources on language access in the District of Columbia.
- 2014: A Language Odyssey: Policy report and panel discussion on the effects of the act on the District's AAPIs.
- I Got a Story to Tell: Stories about the District's AAPIs who are impacted by the act.
- Language Arts: An AAPI artistic perspective on the act.
- Ground Broken: A reception celebrating the AAPI pioneers of language access.

Whether you have benefited from the [Language Access Act](#), or simply want to learn more, we look forward to your continued participation and support in the community.

Warm Wishes,



Soohyun "Julie" Koo
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

OAPIA in the Community

OAPIA Participates in Protecting Our Diversity: A Criminal Justice Forum



OAPIA providing resources and informational material to forum attendees.



The audience at the Criminal Justice Forum.

OAPIA, in partnership with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, hosted the Criminal Justice Forum in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on January 15, 2014 at the Old Council Chambers of One Judiciary Square, 441 4th St NW.

The program, called "Protecting Our Diversity - a Criminal Justice Forum," focused on addressing criminal justice issues, including hate crimes that affect the various diverse communities and affinity groups in the District of Columbia. The forum was a unique opportunity for the community to come together to discuss the issues affecting civil rights and the ways that people and organizations can work together to understand and protect them. OAPIA offered a resource table at the forum that provided resources and informational material. Approximately 65 individuals participated in the forum.

OAPIA Presents a DC Public School Choice Webinar on My School DC



OAPIA, in partnership with My School DC, presented a webinar on DC public school choice for local community-based organizations working with families and children on Wednesday, January 15, 2014. The webinar provided local community based organizations with key information to

share with families on changes to the application process and information on how to apply through My School DC. For the 2014-2015 school year, DC Public Schools (DCPS) and DC public charter schools are participating in My School DC, the common lottery system for public school choice in the District of Columbia.

For more information on [My School DC](#), please visit [here](#).

Mayor Vincent C. Gray and OAPIA Participate in a Video for the Lunar New Year



Mayor Vincent C. Gray and OAPIA Director Koo participate in a video for the Lunar New Year.

Mayor Gray and OAPIA Director Koo participated in a video recording for the Lunar New Year for Washington Chinese Media on January 16, 2014. Washington Chinese Media, an online media company, was founded in 2013, and offers online internet radio, news, video, and media coverage for the Chinese speaking community in the greater Washington area. Washington Chinese Media aims to promote greater Chinese cultural awareness and to bridge the mainstream American community and the Chinese community. The video will be played at the Council of Chinese American Associations' Chinese New Year Gala event on January 31, 2014 at 7:30pm at the George Mason University Center for the Arts.

Mayor Vincent C. Gray and OAPIA Attend the 25th Annual Korean American Grocers Association of Washington, DC (KAGRO-DC) Scholarship Banquet



Mayor Vincent C. Gray and OAPIA Director Soohyun Koo speak at the KAGRO-DC scholarship banquet.



From left to right: Mayor Gray, OAPIA Director Koo, KAGRO-DC President Yosup Lee, DC Public Schools Chancellor Kaya Henderson.

Mayor Vincent C. Gray, OAPIA Director Koo, and DC Public Schools Chancellor Kaya Henderson, among others, attended the 25th annual Korean American Grocers Association of Washington, DC (KAGRO-DC) scholarship banquet on January 26, 2014. KAGRO-DC was

established to help address common needs and problems experienced in the retail business industry among the Korean American business community. In addition, KAGRO-DC has distributed over \$300,000 in scholarships to over 300 youth through the past 25 years. This year, KAGRO-DC awarded 15 scholarships to District students.

OAPIA and the DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority (HBX) Promote DC Health Link at the National Gurdwara Sikh Temple



OAPIA and HBX registering temple attendees.



National Gurdwara attendees worshipping at the temple.

On Sunday, January 26, 2014 the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) along with its partner agency, the DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority (HBX), extended its faith based outreach to members of the National Gurdwara Sikh temple. This is one of many OAPIA's efforts to promote the importance of the Affordable Care Act and DC Health Link to the AAPI community. Assistants and insurance brokers were onsite before and after the temple service to answer questions and to help enroll members in affordable health plans through DC Health Link.

For more information on [DC Health Link](#), please visit [here](#).

OAPIA News

OAPIA Welcomes Additional Spring Interns

Frank Huynh was born and raised in the suburbs of Newburgh, New York. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biology as a senior at the George Washington University. Frank is an active advocate for the Vietnamese American community and plays a strong role within the communities pertaining to youth. Though born in the United States, he holds strong ties to his Vietnamese culture as he promotes the retention of the Vietnamese language within the rising Vietnamese generations by helping to start an online Vietnamese language class program. Frank dedicates much of his free time to volunteering for various non-profit organizations that ultimately benefit the Vietnamese American diaspora. As an avid supporter of the arts, Frank believes that creative solutions are the best solutions for problems that may arise, and lives by this mantra as he plows his way through life.

Born in South Korea, Hillary Lee moved to the United States when she was ten years old. At the



Frank Huynh

time, Hillary's English language skills were limited, thus she and her family depended heavily upon the help of the Asian community to adjust to life in America. Through that experience, Hillary learned early on how crucial community involvement is, which motivated her to study political science at the George Washington University (GWU). To contribute back to her community, Hillary tutors Korean and English. She



Hillary Lee

specializes in tutoring those who have recently moved to the United States. In her spare time, Hillary has been playing the harp for eight years and was invited to play for the University Orchestra at GWU. She sees everything as an opportunity to develop herself and serve her community.



Samuel Kim

Samuel (Sam) Kim was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, but lived in Southeast Asia for 14 years. While in Malaysia, he attended a Chinese elementary school and later a Chinese middle school before moving to Singapore. Currently a freshman at Georgetown University, Sam is interested in dialogue and policy making, and is active in his school's chapter of the Roosevelt Institute and the Philodemic Society. He is proficient in both Mandarin Chinese and Korean, and as a Korean American, is involved in issues pertaining to North Korean human rights through Now Action & Unity in North Korea (NAUH). Prior to this involvement, he has also worked for the Youth Inter-Cultural Association - a Republic of Korea Ministry of Foreign Affairs project - as a translator. Sam takes pride in his multicultural childhood upbringing, and cherishes the qualities of optimism and hard work.

Spotlight: Chùa Giác Hoàng Temple



The Chùa Giác Hoàng is a Buddhist temple that was established in 1976 and is found in the heart of Washington, DC at 5401 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20011. While visitors are welcome every day after 10:00am, there are scheduled services on Sundays starting at 12:00pm followed by a religious sermon that is about an hour in duration, which is conducted completely in Vietnamese. Funeral services are offered upon request, and community events are often held at the temple year round as well, such as a small festival in celebration of the Lunar New Year happening this Thursday, January 30, 2014 at 9:00pm.

For more information about the Chùa Giác Hoàng [temple](#), please visit [here](#), or call 202-829-2423.

January is National Blood Donor Month



January is National Blood Donor Month. The month not only recognizes the important role of blood donors in our society, but also encourages potential donors - able-bodied men and women - to help. During the winter holiday season, potential blood donors are in high demand due to family vacations, a wide array of illnesses, and harsh winter conditions. The shortage of blood donors is met by a crucial problem - every 12 seconds an American needs a blood transfusion. On any given day, up to 44,000 blood donations are needed across the United States to treat cancer and conduct surgeries. By sacrificing 8-10 minutes of their time, blood donors could potentially save those that are fighting for their lives.

Compared to the much needed blood transfusions, the number of blood donors in the U.S. is only at a meager 11 million per year. However, doctors contend that one transfusion could help up to three patients. At the time of year when blood donors are needed more than ever, the Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals (ADRP) encourages those who are 17 or older and weigh 110 pounds or more to give blood.

For more information on National Blood Donor Month, donor centers, or related resources in the

District, please visit:

- [American Red Cross](#)
- [Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals](#)
- [Children's National Medical Center: Blood Donor Center](#)

oapia@dc.gov | www.apia.dc.gov | Phone: (202) 727-3120 | Fax: (202) 727-9655



[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to oapia@dc.gov by oapia@dc.gov |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

OAPIA | 441 4th St NW | Suite 721 North | Washington | DC | 20001