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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 am pleased to announce a historic event at the end of this summer and encourage the active participation of our community; on Saturday, August 24, 2013, we are going to rally with Mayor Vincent C. Gray on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. While Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of equality has finally been achieved half a century later, we, the people of this city, now dream a new dream: a grandeur D.C. with statehood and self-determination. Please register your group and bring banners and signs advocating for your favorite cause. For more information or to register a group, please visit www.marchondc50.dc.gov.



Additionally, OAPIA remains committed to assisting the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in finding and accessing resources that promote community development. We are currently expanding our partnership with the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) and are delighted for the 2013 Business Opportunity Forum to be held on September 24, 2013 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. This opportunity aims to help AAPI small businesses find opportunities within the DC government, private sector, and other regional entities.

These are just a few examples of OAPIA's current involvement within the District of Columbia. I encourage you to visit our website at www.apia.dc.gov for more ongoing and forthcoming activities. With the help of key community partners and all of us working together as "One City," we will continue to move forward and achieve more.

Sincerely,

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

OAPIA in the Community

OAPIA Welcomes Additional Summer Intern



Hongru Xu

Hongru Xu is a rising junior at Washington University in St. Louis. He is on a pre-law track and is pursuing a major in history and a minor in political science. Before interning at OAPIA, Hongru worked at Jianping International School in Shanghai, China, NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri, and the DC node of the Millennium Project.

He speaks both Mandarin Chinese and English fluently, and has published in China an autobiography detailing his experience as a 19 year old foreign exchange at a US high school. Hongru intends to attend law school in the near future.

Spotlight: KhushDC



KhushDC is a social, support and political group that provides a safe and supportive environment, promotes awareness and acceptance, and fosters positive cultural and sexual identity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ) and additional gender or sexual minority South Asians in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

KhushDC represents a broad array of nationalities including those of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

For more information about KhushDC, please visit [here](#).

August is National Minority Donor Awareness Month



August is National Minority Donor Awareness Month. Of the 118,000 men, women and children listed on the national organ transplant waiting list, 56 percent are minorities. Minorities are disproportionately affected by illnesses, like hypertension and diabetes, which can lead to end-stage renal disease and the need for dialysis or a kidney transplant, contributing to the higher number of minority patients on the national organ transplant waiting list. Amongst the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, bone marrow donors are especially needed, as race and ethnicity matter when finding a genetic match for patients with blood cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma, sickle cell and other life-threatening diseases.

For more information about donor programs, please visit:

- [DC Department of Motor Vehicles Organ and Tissue Donor Program](#)
- [Donate Life DC](#)
- [Asian American Donor Program](#)
- [Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches](#)
- [South Asian Marrow Association of Recruiters](#)

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