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OAPIA Update

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

Dear Community Members,

Earlier last week, the DC metro area was hit by Hurricane Sandy. We were very fortunate to have been spared by the enormous damages that were projected. To ensure the safety of our residents, the Mayor's office provided emergency tips and warnings, distributed sandbags to prevent water leakage, and closed the District due to the unprecedented storm.



During Hurricane Sandy, OAPIA worked hard to provide up to date information on the emergency situation to the AAPI community, especially those with limited English proficiency (LEP). Alerts and emergency information, including tips on how to be safe through the storm were promptly translated into Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese and sent out via the OAPIA listserv, community based organizations, the [DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency \(HSEMA\) website](#), the OAPIA website, and social media. OAPIA staff also worked with the [Asian Liaison Unit](#) to deliver the information to buildings where many AAPIs reside in areas such as Chinatown and Columbia Heights. Bilingual staff also made phone calls to LEP residents to make sure they obtained the information needed to stay safe and were made aware of where to seek shelter should it become necessary.

OAPIA will continue to work with the Mayor and other support agencies to effectively respond to emergency situations in the future and to make sure the AAPI community, especially LEP members, receive emergency information regardless of language barriers.

OAPIA supports Mayor Gray's goal to engage the entire community in emergency preparedness and would like to thank all of our first responders and agencies who provide critical support to our District residents.

We highly recommend everyone take the necessary steps to prepare for any natural or man-made disaster.

With the winter season just ahead, we encourage you to all create your own emergency tool kit and check off list.

Below, we have set aside a few preparation tips to remember:

When the outside temperature is extremely low, take these precautions:

- Be aware of the fire danger from space heaters and candles; keep such devices away from all flammable materials.
- Install recommended smoke and carbon monoxide detectors (at least one of each per floor in your home).
- Stay indoors and use safe heating sources.
- Do not use charcoal or other fuel-burning devices, such as grills, that produce carbon monoxide indoors.
- Stay dry and in wind protected areas outdoors.
- Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. Wear mittens, a hat and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.
- Drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids and eat high-caloric foods.
- Watch for signs of frostbite-skin appears white and waxy, numbness or no feeling in that area and/or possible

blisters.

- Watch for signs of hypothermia-shivering and numbness, confusion or dizziness, stumbling and weakness, slow or slurred speech and shock.
- Go to a medical facility immediately if you or someone you know is experiencing signs of hypothermia or frostbite.
- Call the Hypothermia Hotline at **1 (800) 535-7252** if you see a homeless person stranded in the cold. Vans will transport homeless individuals to a shelter.

Nature is unpredictable. Be prepared! Stay informed and sign up for HSEMA's alerts by clicking [here](#). To find out more about emergency planning, visit [HSEMA](#).

Warm Regards,



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

OAPIA in the Community

OAPIA Takes Part in the "Great Shakeout"

As part of Mayor Gray's broader initiative in public safety and disaster preparedness, OAPIA, along with 203,000 individuals and organizations in the District took part in the "Great Shakeout." The two minute drill was coordinated through [HSEMA](#). Knowing when an earthquake will strike can be unpredictable. That's why practicing is essential if you want to protect yourself! To learn more about the Great Shakeout you can visit www.shakeout.org.



Andrew Chang, OAPIA Staff, " Dropping, Covering, and Holding On" for dear life during the Great ShakeOut drill on October 18, 2012.

OAPIA Holds South Asian American Community Dialogue

On October 24, 2012, more than 25 District residents, merchants, and students gathered to attend an event promoting and encouraging an open dialogue among the District's different communities. OAPIA along with other community groups focused the dialogue on Sikh Americans, a religious group within the broader South Asian American population, after a shooting that occurred at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin several months ago. Among some of the topics that were addressed were dispelling stereotypes of Sikh Americans and Sikh culture. The dialogue served as a forum for all to share their thoughts and concerns.

"I commend the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs for their endeavors to bridge the cultural gap that exist in Washington, DC within the many diverse cultures. This was not only beneficial to the Southern Asia countries but to all of us who are working diligently to erase the lines that divides our communities. Again, thank you to the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs for opening up the door to improve race relations and to continue the efforts to make Washington, DC, ONE CITY!," said Dionne Reed of the Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative Inc.

The event was held at the Department of Employment Services Headquarters in Ward 7. The community dialogue was a partnership with the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement, Department of Employment Services, Kaur Foundation, South Asian Americans Leading Together, Washington Area Liquor Retailers Association, Anacostia Coordinating Council, Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative, Inc, Congress Heights Main Streets, Many Languages One Voice, KhushDC, and Natyabhoomi School of Dance.

For the press release, please visit [here](#). For photos from the event, please visit [here](#).



Ward 7 leaders and residents listening at the event.

U.S. Census Bureau National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations Hold First Meeting

The US Census Bureau National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations met during the last week of October for the first time. The Committee is a new direction for the Bureau which combines multiple viewpoints to help direct the decision making at the Bureau. The National Advisory Committee (NAC) will advise the Census Bureau on a wide range of variables that affect the cost, accuracy and implementation of the Census Bureau's programs and surveys, including the once-a-decade census. The committee, which is comprised of 32 members from multiple disciplines, will advise the Census Bureau on topics such as housing, children, youth, poverty, privacy, race and ethnicity, as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other populations.

The focus of OAPIA's involvement will be related to Language Access particularly advising the Bureau on translation of surveys and products they produce, particularly issues dealing with accessibility and quality control. Another focus will be field implementation of the surveys and advising the Bureau on systems to put in place to ensure language is available to Census workers administering the surveys.

The initial meeting was to set up how meetings will be structured and to develop operating procedures. In addition to in person meetings, there will be multiple opportunities to work offline in between the in-person meetings and will occur at least once a year. The NAC is a great opportunity for the Census to learn about different communities and gain advice to improve the implementation of the various Census surveys.

OAPIA Participates in Opening Ceremony of American Islamic Congress Center

Director Koo spoke at the opening ceremony of the American Islamic Congress (AIC) Center in DC on October 25, 2012. The AIC is an independent, non-partisan non-profit organization dedicated to building interfaith and inter ethnic understanding and to supporting human and civil rights in Muslim majority countries. Director Koo congratulated AIC on their achievements and the new community center, and offered to serve as a liaison for the Muslim community and as a bridge between the Muslim community and DC government. Director Koo reiterated Mayor Gray's 'One City' vision where everyone regardless of their cultural, racial, language, and religion background or sexual orientation should have the same high quality service and experience in the District.



OAPIA Director, Soohyun "Julie" Koo and American Islamic Congress Co-Founder and Executive Director, Zainab Al-Suwaij.

右侧图片:(从左至右)

陈雄风、莫天成、周英烈、
吴家鑫、Julei Koo、邵忠田



天籁之音飘华府 重阳唱响玉中国

——2012华盛顿玉中国音乐演奏会完美落幕



(本报特约记者 Sophia Shi 报道)十月的华府秋意正浓,天空澄澈宛如美玉。十月二十三日,恰逢中国的重阳佳节,以“玉·中国”为主题“中国之声大型音乐会”在肯尼迪艺术中心美玉齐鸣,唱响天籁。在这座被誉为全美顶级艺术活动的朝圣之地,中外艺术家同台献艺,共同演绎出一部中西合璧的音乐盛宴。

本次活动由美中国际基金会、美中国际交流合作协会合作举办。中国驻美使馆总领事陈雄风先生,前美国劳工部副部长莫天成先生,马里兰州退伍军人厅厅长周英烈先生,马里兰亚裔办公室主任沈斌先生,华盛顿DC市长亚当办公室主任 Julie Koo女士等中外嘉宾共同欣赏了这场别具一格的音乐盛会。

“中国纤维玉雕第一人”邵忠田先生是本次玉制乐器的雕塑大师。他自幼酷爱玉石雕刻并钟爱音乐,他以平雕、薄雕、透雕、影雕超凡脱俗的技艺,将音乐和雕刻艺术完美结合,创制了玉笛、玉笙、玉中阮、玉扬琴、玉二胡、玉古筝、玉葫芦笙等精美绝伦的中国传统乐器,甚至还有玉制小提琴、玉钢琴,开辟了玉乐器工艺的新时代。潜心佛道的邵先生见到记者时,双手合十,谦恭大度,他说:“我一直有一个梦想,是要让中国的玉文化走向世界!玉石之声舒扬悠远,我想,这种独特的声音一定能传递中华文化的力量。我再次特别感谢国际基金会和美中国际交流合作协会通力合作,促成了中国玉的异彩在美国的绽放。”

作为本次活动的主办方,美中国际基金会会长周续康先生表示,“中国是爱玉崇玉之邦,习惯把玉和道德、君子结缘。这次‘玉中国’的演出,是我们‘文化中国’系列项目之一,我们将坚持开展下去,像玉一样不挠而折,润泽以温,让美国人民都能了解中国文化的深刻内涵。”

在一片祥和欢乐的丝竹声中,华盛顿中国民族乐团室内乐队使用玉制乐器奏响了中国家喻户晓的《喜洋洋》。经玉石敲打的声音舒扬清脆,悠扬婉转,此时,主持人不失时机地邀请玉雕大师邵忠田先生上场,他向观众一一介绍自己制作的玉制乐器。尤其是他用墨玉雕刻的肯尼迪总统的浮雕像,栩栩如生,赢得观众热烈掌声。华盛顿乐团接着又演奏了《大和曲》和《茉莉花》。经玉石乐器抑扬跌宕的演绎,展示出中国民乐的独特魅力,观众听得如痴如醉。指挥康渡说:“我今天非常激动,凝视天地山川,日月精华的华美玉器是中华的国粹国魂。今天是重阳节,在这个特别的日子,能用玉制的乐器演奏中国的民乐,作为美籍华人我感到非常荣幸。”

中国青年钢琴家王笑寒是国际舞台上的钢琴新秀。他毕业于德国汉诺威音乐学院,以该校历史上唯一一满分的佳绩毕业,获得博士学位。当晚,他的钢琴独奏《钢琴画意》如行云流水,绵延三日。中央音乐学院教授赵家珍的古琴独奏《流水》和《广陵散》以高超的琴技穿越地理阻隔和语言障碍深深吸引了凝神欣赏的听众。掌声、惊叹声此起彼伏。她的学生沈红辉女士《秋凤回》独奏指法精准娴熟,丰富演绎了李白诗歌的情切意绵的情绪。

出身名门的中国著名小提琴家刘育熙为大家演奏了《良宵》、《怀念祖国》、《小花鼓》、《北风吹进想曲》。其中《良宵》温馨中丝丝哀婉的旋律,跳跃中趋于平和的节奏,颇见欲说还休的情绪被刘育熙老师演绎得出神入化。

美国华盛顿国际歌剧院首席女高音歌唱家白海波为大家演唱了《我是个卑微的仆人》和《长江之歌》。白海波音色明亮圆润,华丽高亢,将这两首歌曲演绎地旋律激昂,轻松自如。歌唱家用丰富的情感和美妙的音色唱出了对祖国的热爱。“太动听了!真是美不胜收!”特地从纽约赶来观看演出的 Peter Maguire 兴奋地向记者表达他的感受。

著名男中低音歌唱家丁杰为大家献上了《重归苏莲托》和《阿拉木汗》。他那深情优美,浓郁浑厚的音质和丰富精准的肢体语言,带给观众无与伦比的震撼力。青年二胡演奏家、杨悦和钢琴演奏家杨佳月同台演奏的《阳光照耀塔什库尔干》和《庆祝》为“玉中国”音乐会做了完美献艺。她们中西合璧的的表演,中和了二胡的热烈直白和钢琴的含蓄宛转,令观众大开眼界,深刻领略了中国民族艺术走向世界的风采。

最后,在优美音乐伴奏下,华盛顿蕾玲舞蹈学校的学员为这次晚会编排的舞蹈“如此多娇”将古典手法和现代舞技巧妙结合,传达了穿越时空的美妙意境和中华民族的精神元素。舞美的设计和应用颇具匠心。作为这次表演的压轴戏,赢得了掌声不断。一对特地从新泽西州赶来观看表演的夫妇这样说道:“舞蹈背景和服装色彩非常赏心悦目,舞蹈的意境非常优美!”

演出结束了,在一片赞叹声中,“玉·中国”大型音乐会留给了华府一个关于秋天的童话。中外优秀艺术家们用他们的心唱出了天使的语言,唱出了永恒的金玉良言,那就是,中美两国人民友谊长青!



Director Koo delivered welcoming remarks at the A&C Foundation's Chinese Traditional Jade Music Instrument Recital & Folk Song Concert at the Kennedy Center.



On Saturday October 27, Director Koo participated in a panel discussion entitled "Reclaiming Feminine Power in Politics." This half day conference was organized by the Korean Women International Network (KOWIN), Washington DC Chapter.

OAPIA Welcomes Fall Intern Jason Chen



Jason Chen was born and raised in Shijiazhuang, China, not far from Beijing. He moved to the United States in 2000, finished elementary school and attended middle school and high school in Maryland. He recently graduated from the University of Maryland at College Park, with a bachelor's degree in communications. Through his education and previous internships, he has considerable experience in the areas of social media, public relations, outreach, communications, and crisis management. Jason is also a native speaker of Mandarin Chinese and has an amorous interest in Chinese culture and history.

At OAPIA, Jason hopes to gain valuable work experience within local government and better understand and serve the AAPI community. His long-term aspiration is to become a writer or teacher.

Jason Chen

Spotlight: Asian American Democracy Project

The Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) co-sponsored the Asian American Democracy Project with the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) and monitored elections on November 6, 2012. The Asian American Democracy Project involved poll monitoring and conducting multilingual voter surveys for Asian American voters.

In past elections, Asian American voters have been subject to excessive identification requirements, hostile poll workers making racist comments, harassment from campaign staff, and other tactics aimed at disenfranchisement. APALRC monitored polls to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act, which not only protects voters from such actions, but also provides for Asian-language ballots, voting materials, and interpreters.

AALDEF conducted the Asian American Democracy Project nationally. APALRC focused efforts on Asian communities in the D.C. metro area, namely Chinatown, Columbia Heights, Silver Spring, Rockville, Arlington, Falls Church, Centreville, and Annandale.

For more information about APALRC, please visit [here](#). For more information about the Asian American Democracy Project, please visit [here](#).

DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

The DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs usually convenes monthly meetings to discuss current issues affecting the DC AAPI community.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, November 29, 2012 @ 6:30 pm at the OAPIA office located at 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 721N, Washington, DC 20001.

All commission meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions about the commission or its meetings, please contact oapia@dc.gov.

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