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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 hope everyone has been having an enjoyable [Asian American and Pacific Islander \(AAPI\) Heritage Month](#) thus far.

Earlier this month, the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) hosted Stories Across the Dining Table, a panel discussion on food as an expression of AAPI identity and culture, organized a community health fair, and sponsored a film screening and forum on stress. In addition, OAPIA created a food blog to showcase AAPI youth recipes and food history profiles in accordance with OAPIA's theme of "Asian American History Revisited through an Exploration of Food" for AAPI Heritage Month this year.



OAPIA will be hosting a film screening of [English Vinglish](#), a film that explores the issue of language access within the United States later tonight at Landmark's E Street Cinema.

Lastly, please join OAPIA at [Mayor Gray's 2013 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Evening Celebration](#) on May 30, 2013 at 7pm at the Lincoln Theatre. This will be a night to remember as the Mayor will recognize unsung heroes within the AAPI community with a presentation of the Mayor's Community Service Awards, and as we showcase moving AAPI performances from Kollaboration DC.

Sincerely,

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

OAPIA Events

Mayor Vincent C. Gray's Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Evening Celebration

MAYOR VINCENT C. GRAY'S
2013
& ASIAN AMERICAN
PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION
Enriched by Diversity, United as One City



The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs and the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities invite you to join Mayor Vincent C. Gray in celebrating AAPI Heritage Month. Mayor Gray will be giving out *The Mayor's Community Service Award* to unsung heroes of the AAPI community (interpretation will be available upon request). The evening will feature performances by Kollaboration DC.

SNRG
Hip Hop Duo

DTMG (Dave Tauler Music Group)
Band

Chip Han
(Beatboxer) Winner of Kollaboration DC 2010

Lumi Bustamante
(Acoustic Singer) Winner of Kollaboration DC 2011

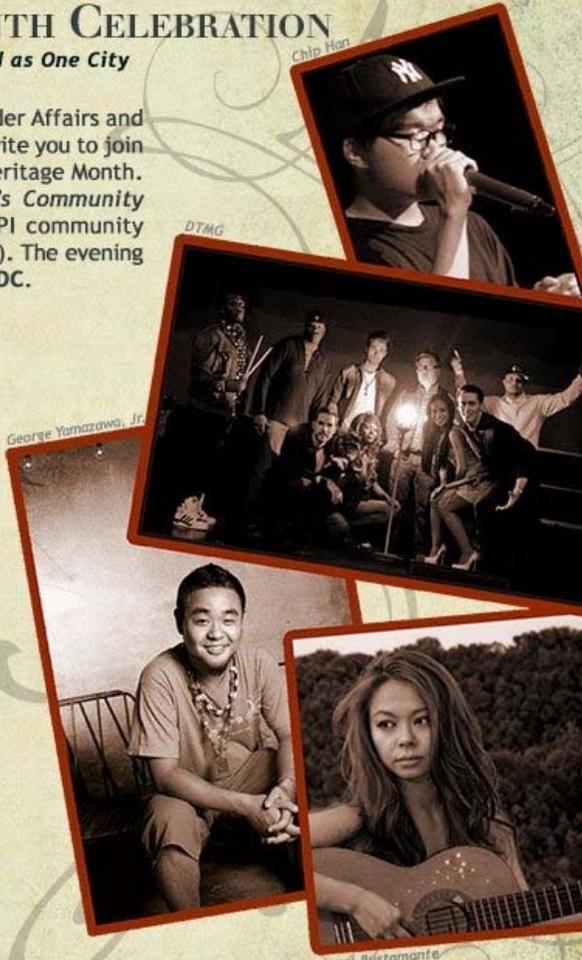
George Yamazawa, Jr.
(Spoken Word) Winner of Kollaboration DC 2012

Jonathan C. Chen
(Violinist) Finalist for Kollaboration DC 2012

Thursday | May 30 | 7 PM
 Doors open at 6 PM **FREE**
 Historic Lincoln Theatre
 1215 U Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009
 Metro: U Street/African-American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo (Green Line)

RSVP at 2013aapihm.eventbrite.com

For more information
 Tel: (202) 727-3120
 Email: oapia@dc.gov
<http://www.apia.dc.gov>



APIA **KOLLABORATION DC** **DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES** **ONE CITY**

 Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request. Please provide 7 days advance notice, by calling (202) 727-3120.

[Mayor Vincent C. Gray's Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Evening Celebration](#)

In partnership with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA) and Kollaboration DC

When: Thursday, May 30, 2013 at 7pm (Doors Open at 6pm)

Where: Lincoln Theatre, 1215 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Cost: Free

Join Mayor Gray for an evening of DC's best performances presented by Kollaboration DC, the Mayor's Community Service Awards, networking opportunities, and more!

RSVPs are required at: <http://2013aapihm.eventbrite.com>.

The evening will feature performances by Kollaboration DC alum and friends - a winners showcase!

The Performers:

- SNRG (Hip Hop Duo) - Some Never Really Get
- DTMG (Band) - Dave Tauler Music Group
- Chip Han (Beatboxer) - Winner of Kollaboration DC 2010
- Lumi Bustamante (Singer) Winner of Kollaboration DC 2011
- G. Yamazawa, Jr. (Spoken Word) - Winner of Kollaboration DC 2012
- Jonathan C. Chen (Violinist) - Honorable Mention Finalist for Kollaboration DC 2012

OAPIA Participates in DC Politics Radio Broadcast



OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo with Director Eugene D. Kinlow of DC Vote.

OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo participated in *DC Politics with Eugene*, a DC politics radio broadcast with Director Eugene D. Kinlow of DC Vote. Director Koo spoke about the origins of

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, the mission of OAPIA, and discussed OAPIA activities and events being held in celebration of AAPI Heritage Month. DC Politics airs live each Thursday on WPFW (89.3) from 11am to Noon.

OAPIA and the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) Outreach to the AAPI Community about Sustainability



OAPIA and DDOE talk to seniors about sustainability and energy saving practices.

On Thursday, May 9, 2013, the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) and the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) gave a presentation about sustainability and energy saving practices to over 60 AAPI senior residents at the Emmaus Services for the Aging of Washington, DC Asian Service Center. Language interpretation was provided in Mandarin and Cantonese Chinese.

OAPIA Raises Awareness on Stress within the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community



(Washington, DC) - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA), in partnership with the American Psychological Association's Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA), raised awareness about the chronic condition of stress amongst the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community on Thursday, May 9, 2013. Additional partners included the Montgomery County Asian American Health Initiative and the National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA).

Jacqueline Jordan, Associate State Director of AARP-DC, Soohyun "Julie" Koo, Director of OAPIA, and Dr. Tiffany Townsend, Senior Director of OEMA, all offered welcoming remarks and greetings to attendees of a film screening and forum held at the AARP Headquarters at the Brickfield Center in the District of Columbia. Over 40 professionals, community members, and government officials were in attendance.

A screening of the documentary film *Can* highlighted the issue of treating mental illness within AAPI families, and focused on the family of Can Truong. Following the film screening, a forum of panelists addressed the film and engaged in an open discussion on the issues of stress and broader mental health. The forum focused on the sources of stress, cultural and racial factors associated with those stressors as it impacts AAPI families, and the resources available to cope with the burden of stress.

Can Truong, Director of the National Asian American Pacific Islanders Empowerment Network, a mental health advocacy organization, and the subject of the film *Can*, made a guest appearance to field questions from the audience.

For the entire press release, please visit [here](#).

OAPIA Helps Increase Awareness of Health Issues within the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community



(Washington, DC) - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) provided preventative healthcare services for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and raised awareness of health issues on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library.

OAPIA hosted this health fair to provide a wide range of health and human services to residents who face barriers such as: lack of insurance, culture, and language. Over 150 District of Columbia residents attended the health fair to receive free health screenings on diabetes, blood pressure, cholesterol, memory, vision health, dental health, oral cancer, kidney function, lung function, lung cancer, HIV, and Hepatitis B, and C. Participants also received medication consultation from pharmacists, and professionals were available to answer questions concerning Medicaid and other benefits, or to assist with applying for benefits. Over 19 health organizations and partners participated in the event. Language interpretation was provided in Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

Additionally, OAPIA helped to raise awareness of Hepatitis B and C in recognition of National Hepatitis Awareness Day. Hepatitis B is one of the leading health issues and disparities affecting the AAPI community nationwide. OAPIA distributed outreach materials to the AAPI community to raise public awareness and increase understanding of HIV amongst AAPIs.

For the entire press release, please visit [here](#).

Spotlight: The Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, DC (HBI-DC)



The mission of the Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, DC (HBI-DC) is to mobilize communities to prevent liver disease caused by hepatitis B among Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, African newcomers, and other high-risk groups in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Through collaborative partnerships, HBI-DC provides culturally and linguistically appropriate hepatitis B outreach, education, screening, vaccination, linkages to care, and patient navigation services for impacted communities.

HBI-DC envisions a world free of liver disease caused by hepatitis B, as HBI-DC:

- Educates at-risk Asian American, Pacific Islander, and African newcomer communities in the DC metropolitan area.
- Empowers impacted communities by partnering with civic, nonprofit, governmental and faith-based organizations.
- Eradicates Hepatitis B by providing screening, vaccinations, and referrals to treatment.

For information about HBI-DC or Hepatitis B, please visit [here](#).

May is National Hepatitis Awareness Month



Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver caused by toxins, certain drugs, heavy alcohol use, bacterial or viral infections. The most common types of hepatitis in the US are the Hepatitis A virus, Hepatitis B virus (HBV), and Hepatitis C virus (HCV). Because HBV and HCV can go undetected for months while becoming life-threatening in the most acute cases, May 19th has been designated the National Hepatitis Testing Day in the US in order to increase provider and public awareness and the need for testing.

A study done in 2001-2006 has shown that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are especially vulnerable to HBV. Approximately 8.9% of the participants of the study were chronically infected with HBV, in which one-half to two-thirds (65.4%) of the chronically infected adults were unaware of their condition. Of those who were not chronically infected, 44.8% lacked protective antibodies against HBV and were likely susceptible to future infection. Those born in East Asia, Southeast Asia, or the Pacific Islands were 19.4 times more likely to be chronically infected than those born

in the United States. Self-reporting of prior vaccination was unreliable to assess protection against HBV. Given the high prevalence of unrecognized chronic HBV, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are encouraged to routine screenings.

For more information or resources concerning hepatitis, please visit:

- [The Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, DC \(HBI-DC\)](#)
- [The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum](#)
- [The Department of Health](#)
- [The Department of Human Services](#)
- [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

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