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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 Mayor



VINCENT C. GRAY  
MAYOR

June 4, 2014

Dear Community Members:

I was delighted to see so many District of Columbia residents and visitors of all backgrounds at my Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration at the Lincoln Theatre last week. The event marked the end of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and I hope many residents took advantage of the cultural, educational, and entertaining events hosted by the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs during the observance.

As the end of May marked the unofficial start of summer, I was pleased to kick off the outdoor pools season and open neighborhood pools across the District of Columbia for Memorial Day weekend. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has opened all 18 of its outdoor pools, four children's pools, and 19 spray parks on weekends until June 23rd when the facilities will start their normal summer schedule.

This year, I am proud to announce that nine new spray parks have been added to the District's inventory, with two more slated for construction. I invite everyone to come out and enjoy the many aquatics facilities the District has to offer. I also would like to remind our residents and visitors that it is important to follow pool rules to ensure the safety of everyone.

My administration will continue to provide a variety of safe and enjoyable recreational events and activities for residents and visitors of all ages. I urge everyone to take advantage of all of DPR's outdoor aquatic features, as well as the playgrounds, parks, centers, programs, and activities throughout the summer and year-round. You can learn all about DPR facilities at [www.dpr.dc.gov](http://www.dpr.dc.gov).

I am committed to ensuring that the District of Columbia is a safe and fun place for all. Have a happy summer!

Sincerely,  
  
Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

**Mayor Vincent C. Gray and OAPIA Celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**



*Mayor Gray and OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo present the proclamation designating May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the District.*



*The recipients of the 2014 Mayor's Community Service Award, the volunteers of the Chinatown Service Center's English language and citizenship tutoring program, make remarks in front of Mayor Gray, OAPIA Director Koo, Mistress of Ceremonies Annie Yu, Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs Chair Ada Loo, and the audience.*



*SamulNori, a Korean percussion ensemble, perform in front of the audience at the Lincoln Theatre.*

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Mayor Vincent C. Gray and the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) celebrated the achievements and contributions of unsung heroes serving the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community before an audience of more than 1,000 individuals at the Lincoln Theatre on May 30, 2014. OAPIA hosted the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration in partnership with the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA).

"We come together to recount the ways Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have shaped our city," said Mayor Gray. "From the young to the elderly, from small businesses to firms, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed to the District's economy and helped make the District a richer, diverse, and more welcoming city for everyone."

Mayor Gray presented an award to volunteers from the Chinatown Service Center's English language and citizenship tutoring program, who dedicated their time to providing English language instruction to the District's limited English proficient (LEP) and non-English proficient (NEP) AAPI residents. There was also an award recognizing community leader and activist Deepa Iyer for her pioneering spirit and contributions to language access in the District.

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

## **OAPIA Attends Many Languages One Voice's Film Screening and Workshop on Affordable Housing for DC's Immigrant Communities**



*OAPIA interns Chergai Gao Rittenberg and Gongkai Liu assist community members at the film screening and workshop.*



*OAPIA Director Koo talks about housing issues affecting the community in the District as a*

*language interpreter provides Chinese language interpretation.*

On Tuesday, June 3, 2014, OAPIA attended a film screening and workshop on affordable housing for DC's immigrant communities presented by Many Languages One Voice (MLOV). OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo spoke about OAPIA's work with assisting the District's limited English proficient (LEP) and non-English proficient (NEP) population regarding housing inquiries.

## OAPIA News

### OAPIA Welcomes Summer Interns



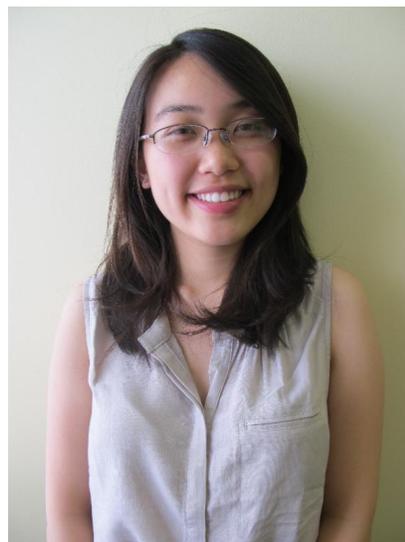
**Gongkai "Kevin" Liu**

Gongkai "Kevin" Liu was born and raised in Dandong, Liaoning, China, and lived and studied in Canada for one year before coming to the United States for college. He is currently studying at the George Washington University (GWU), majoring in statics and finance. Kevin is currently involved with GWU's multicultural program, where he is exposed to individuals from different countries and works with them to develop a deeper understanding of various cultures.

In the past, Kevin has served as a program organizer at a local nursing home, where he organized entertaining shows for the seniors and helped them to better communicate with their nurses. As an OAPIA intern, Kevin is ready to devote himself to assisting the AAPI community and to gain experience working within District government.

Tina Tran is from Brooklyn, New York and is currently study economics and political science at New York University (NYU). At NYU, she is one of the chairs of the New York City Asian American Student Conference (NYCAASC), a student run intercollegiate organization dedicated to addressing issues pertinent to Asian Pacific Americans on local, national, and global scales. Tina has worked with a variety of AAPI non-profit organizations over the years such as the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), the Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS (APICHA), the Chinese-American Planning Council, and Chinatown Youth Initiatives, among others.

Tina is dedicated to building community, providing services to the underprivileged, and creating a program of leadership amongst youth. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, hiking, and trying new foods. She is currently placed at OAPIA as an OCA summer intern.



**Tina Tran**

## Spotlight: Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund (AEF)



Asian Pacific American  
Bar Association  
Educational Fund

The Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund (AEF) is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation established by the Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA) of the Greater Washington, DC Area in 1993 to engage exclusively in charitable and educational activities.

AEF was created primarily to grant fellowships to law students and to engage in other educational activities related to the legal profession and the Asian Pacific American community. The main purpose of the fellowships is to allow law students to accept summer internship positions with public interest or government organization that benefits either the Asian Pacific American community or the metropolitan Washington, DC community-at-large. Since its inception, AEF is pleased to have expanded its annual activities to include a Mentoring Program that pairs APA law students with experienced attorneys and a Mock Interview Program to help law students prepare for the Fall recruiting season. AEF has also served as the fiscal sponsor for the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) and a consortium of APA legal scholars who compiled a book on the law of internment and redress.

For more information on [AEF](#), please visit [here](#).

June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year during the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan, New York. Today, this celebration has become a worldwide event which attracts millions of participants each year. The month allows lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals to celebrate by broadcasting the message of equality, sexual diversity, and gender variance to the world.

For more information on LGBT Pride Month, or related resources in the District, please visit:

- [DC Mayor's Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender \(GLBT\) Affairs](#)
- [The Metropolitan Police Department \(MPD\)'s Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit \(GLLU\)](#)
- [The DC Center for the LGBT Community](#)
- [National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance \(NQAPIA\)](#)
- [Asian and Pacific Islander Queers United for Action \(AQUA\)](#)
- [Asian Pacific Islander Queer Sisters \(APIQS\)](#)
- [KhushDC](#)

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