



Council of Asian Pacific Americans
CAPA in Michigan

CAPA in Michigan P.O. Box 407, Northville, MI 48167

Diversity is our Strength

SOE Special Edition | Full stories available online at www.capa-mi.org

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Splendor of the East

A celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

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May 15, 2015
Friday 7:30pm

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center
15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, MI 48126

Ethnic attire is welcome!



Splendor of the East

“Where Dreams Begin”

An Exotic Voyage where the East meets the West capturing diversity through fashion, wedding ceremonies, cultural courtship, traditions and cross-cultural influences and much more. . .

Message from Council of Asian Pacific Americans President

This extraordinary collaboration from countries like China, India, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Polynesia, Taiwan and other non-Asian Pacific countries will entice your senses as you journey into the world of Love. You can experience the transformation of the different cultural arrangements on stage through music and dance. *Where Dreams Begin* is a grandeur of cultural depictions based on traditional and contemporary composition of artistry.

The Asian Pacific American community in Michigan is growing in numbers and in strength, and continues to contribute to the state's economy, diversity, and vitality. Your support for initiatives and events, such as Splendor of the East, is greatly appreciated.

We hope you will join us at the **Splendor of the East 2015**.

Aneesa I. Rashid, CAPA President

Message from Splendor of the East 2015 Production Chair

After the third-sequel, I had to come to realization that this year theme will be extra-special from years past. As the outgoing cultural advisor, the production manager and art director for the past

five years I had to acclimatize to new leadership and new board by engaging their creativity for a theme. Finally after careful discussions, everyone agreed to the script - "Where Dreams Begin". One of the complexities in creating a production is being captive to everyone's wishes and desire. Asian Pacific culture like many cultures is a relationship between traditional and the western world. I presented to my new colleagues something old, something new and right away Aneesa Rashid, CAPA President, suggested how about a bridal fashion show and wedding customs and ceremonies! And so it was decided that the theme was fitting into her idea. There are many styles of music and dance, fashion and celebrations that encompass the ethnic groups from China, India, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Polynesia and Taiwan. So it became the focal point of my artistry to expand on the synopsis where we can showcase love, courtship, the heart-break and arranged marriage.

As the art director, I brain stormed with my core choreographers and wrote the draft synopsis of the show before casting in November. To date we continue to work together as a team with the lead choreographer, Sun Mi Choi from the Korean Community Center and Radhika Acharya of Nupur Dance Company who offered her studio for SOE rehearsals to help CAPA with the budget. I truly admire the passion they have to make this show a success. Thanks to all the choreographers and performers for all their hard work and to Aneesa and fellow board members for believing in me.

Toni Martinez, SOE Production Manager



Splendor of the East Focuses on love, courtship and wedding rites

The 2015 version of Splendor of the East (SOE) will be different from past presentations as it will showcase a colorful culture of courtship and love, heart breaks and marriages.

A flagship project of the Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA), this year's will be staged in the evening of May 15 at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn.

Toni Martinez, who is the show's production manager, script writer and art director, said the 2015 SOE, which has the theme, "Where Dreams Begin," is unique in that it will present a glittering bridal fashion show and elaborate wedding ceremonies.

Martinez said it was the idea of CAPA President Aneesa Rashid to present through SOE 2015 the Eastern culture of wedding rites which are noted for their colorful costumes and beautiful brides.

Martinez said, "There are many styles of music and dance, fashion and celebrations" that characterize the cultures of ethnic groups from China, India, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Polynesia and Taiwan, and "so it became the focal point of my artistry to expand the synopsis so that which we can showcase love, courtship, heart breaks and marriage arrangements."

"As the art director," Martinez said, "I brainstormed with my core choreographers and wrote the draft synopsis of the show before the casting in November."

She said the lead choreographers are Sun Mi Choi of the Korean Community Center and Radhika Acharya of Nupur Dance Company who offered her studio as the venue for SOE rehearsals.

Martinez reported that new additions to the production are two local tango talents who share the same goal, which is to produce the best show. "We also cast two young Romanian opera singers from the Detroit Opera House," she said. The show will present more singing numbers than those of past years.

On the Filipino presentation, Martinez said, it is a collaborative effort between the PACCM Hula group led by Flor Penner and the GrandRapids Filipino Dancers under the direction of Minnie Morrey. "We have recruited models from the community and a couple of soloist performers to perform contemporary routine choreographed by Annabelle Cudilla and Renee Cruce of the Hoku Le'a Dance Ensemble," she added.

Scholars Award winners will receive Scholars Award at SOE VIP Reception

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The Education Committee under the auspices of Interim Chair Sarvesh Seshadri with the assistance of members Arcie Gemino and Billie Belen concluded the selection of the 2015 scholarship applicants at the Bloomfield Township Library on April 7, 2015. The applicants represented a diverse group of students from different high schools. They were required to submit their bio sketches, scholastic achievements, community service and respond to specific topics through narrative essays. They were interviewed and made to undertake an interactive project requiring their skills in planning and execution and show of their leadership capabilities.

The committee created a rubric that helped rate and determine the winners. Significant factors in the selection process besides academic achievements included requiring the applicants to choose an in-state college or university and rendering community service through CAPA's two major events, the SOE and the Leadership Summit

The three lucky students to be awarded are Vincent Thieu from Troy High School, Anchita Sanam from Novi High School and Nina Cedro from the International Academy in Bloomfield Hills. They will receive their awards at the VIP reception of the SOE at the Ford Theater for the Performing Arts in Dearborn, Michigan on May 15, 2015.

CAPA congratulates these fine young students and wishes them success in their future educational pursuits.



Taiwan Meets America: An Asian American Fusion Wedding in Taipei *By Connie Loh*



I attended my cousin Kyle's wedding this spring at the Grand Hotel in Taipei, Taiwan. Not only was it the most entertaining wedding that I've ever attended, it was the epitome of Asian-American cultures blending together to create the perfect fusion wedding.

There were many traditional Chinese and Taiwanese elements to the celebration, including the red color motif found in the wedding décor and the guests' attire. Red is the primary color used in Chinese celebrations, from Chinese New Years to birthdays and weddings. The couple also participated in the Taiwanese "ke-jia" tea ceremony where the bride and groom show their respect to both sets of parents during a ritualized tea exchange. My Aunt Karen was asked to introduce and officiate the tea ceremony in Taiwanese. As the bride and groom approached my cousin's parents, they bowed in reverence and exchanged tea. The character "Xi 囍" in Chinese hung fortuitously above the bride and groom as they posed for the camera. In Chinese, the character "Xi 囍" means marital bliss or "double happiness 囍." If you look closely at the character, it is the character "happy" twice. Chinese language and culture is very symbolic and the written word certainly demonstrates our auspicious respect for symbolism.

An unconventional wedding parade initiated the day's festivities. Renee and Kyle, accompanied by their wedding party, paraded up the street to the entrance of the hotel. Renee's sister led the way, holding a fortune chicken, thought to usher in marital bliss. According to Chinese custom, the fortune chicken is symbolic of "settling down" and passing blessings on from the parents to their children. Max, our cousin, set off a string of firecrackers in order to ward off bad spirits and invite prosperity and blessings to the couple.

A hospitality table was set up in the front lobby to greet guests as well as accept everyone's "hong-bao" gift. In Chinese culture, it is custom to give "hong-bao" or red envelopes filled with cash to the couple instead of buying gifts off of a wedding registry. Usually close family members of the bride manage the table and keep a log of each guest's donation. As a gift of appreciation, guests don't leave empty handed. They go home with a traditional Taiwanese wedding favor called a "xi-bing" which is a wedding pastry filled with red bean paste and other sweets.

To show reverence to the employers of both bride and groom, Kyle and Renee's bosses were invited to serve in a key role in the wedding. Kyle's boss served as the wedding officiant whereas Renee's boss was invited to give a speech during the reception.

In American fashion, the reception was a boisterous, exciting and crazy night of fun and dance. The night started off with an unexpected, but elegant, professionally choreographed "first dance." Kyle and Renee swayed, pranced and flowed in unison to Ed Sheeran's hit song, "Thinking Out Loud." They also brought the "selfie" revolution to Taiwan when they broke out in a surprising flash-mob selfie dance (selfie sticks included!).

It wouldn't be American without the traditional garter toss and the highlight of my night, the bouquet toss! And yes, yours truly caught the bouquet!

As many American couples do, Kyle and Renee provided a huge 10 by 12 foot print of their trip to Guam for guests to sign and leave inspiring messages.

What message did I leave for the happy couple?

"Kyle and Renee, it's about time!"



Activities and Events

Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA)

>> Community



CAPA supports Health and Wellness Fair

Saturday, May 30, 2015

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The Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) is one of the partners of the Philippine American Cultural Center (PACCM) in the annual Health and Wellness Fair which will be held at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 30, 2015 at PACCM at 17356 Northland Park Court, Southfield.

The fair is a free clinic benefitting mostly uninsured people who are 18 years old and older. All Asians may avail themselves of the free service.

CAPA President Aneesa Rashid said CAPA's participation as a partner in the fair is in pursuance of its commitment to extend assistance to less fortunate Asians in Michigan.

The registration will start at 8 a.m., and patients will be attended to on first-come-first-served basis.

PACCM President Becky Tungol said the Health and Wellness Fair 2015 is an outreach project sponsored jointly by PACCM and the Philippine Medical Association of Michigan (PMAM). Aside from CAPA, the other partners are the National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Young (NANAY, Inc.), the Philippine Nurses Association of Michigan (PNAM) and the Filipino Cancer Network of American.

Health screening and test procedures will be conducted on patients. These will be for Cholesterol (12-hour fasting required), diabetes, dipstick urinalysis, blood pressure, EKG, glaucoma, skin cancer, massage therapy, chiropractic, HgbA1c and carotid Doppler.

Also, there will be a lecture on self-breast examination.



Activities and Events

>> Community



CAPA Statewide Asian Pacific Leadership Summit October, 2015

In collaboration with other member organizations, Council of Asian Pacific Americans will host the 13th Leadership Summit in October. CAPA's Annual Leadership Summit focuses on building bridges and fostering growth within the Asian Pacific American Community and other organizations to bring about a positive social and economic change.

This is an excellent opportunity for Asian leaders from across Michigan to come face to face, network, build awareness and exchange ideas.

We encourage the participation of all community organizations. Please visit www.capa-mi.org for more event details in the coming months. Email aneesa@capa-mi.org if you wish to be a partner organization or sponsor to this event.



**CAPA
2015
Leadership
Summit
Is
Coming ...**

Please stay tuned for more information!



Activities and Events

Asian Pacific Americans (APA)

>> Community



APACC Annual Dinner Gala Saturday, May 16, 2015

[Read Online](#)

APACC 14th Annual Dinner Celebration – “Diversity, Inclusion and Excellence: Inspiration for the Future”. Join over 600 guests for an evening of celebration and entertainment at our Annual Dinner Gala!

Keynote speaker: Mr. Bill Imada

Saturday, May 16, 2015
5:15PM – Midnight
MGM Grand Detroit



UPAAM Professional Lecture Series Saturday, May 16, 2015

[Read Online](#)

UPAAM Professional Lecture Series Presents: UPDATES ON ANTIBIOTICS By MILAGROS REYES, MD Professor, Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Saturday, May 16, 2015
2:00 – 4:00PM
Philippine American Community Center of Michigan (PACCM)



CAPA in Michigan P.O. Box 407, Northville, MI 48167

Council of Asian Pacific Americans

CAPA in Michigan

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