



C O U N C I L O F A S I A N P A C I F I C A M E R I C A N S

Press Release

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**Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) and Partners
Receive 2013 “Talk Story” Literacy Program Grant Award**

The Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) and collaborative partners, Oakland University (OU) and the Ferndale Public Library (FPL) (Oakland County, Michigan), have been awarded a 2013 grant from the “Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture” Literacy Program, a joint project of the American Indian Library Association (AILA) and the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), affiliates of the American Library Association. (See the program website at <http://www.talkstorytogether.org/> for more details.)

The grant award of \$500 and partner contributions from CAPA, OU, and FPL will fund a two-part, multi-generational program entitled, “Talk Story in Asian Cultures: Sharing Experiences and Culture through the Spoken Word.” The two-part program will take place in spring/summer 2013 with details to be announced soon. The first part of the program will provide a storytelling performance by a professional storyteller who will focus on traditional Asian folk tales as a way to demonstrate the power and beauty of storytelling in the transmission of culture and history from generation to generation. The storyteller will use visual art, magic, and other expressions to enhance the performance. The program will then build off of that experience by inviting audience members to participate in an interactive workshop where the storyteller will teach APA and other community members how to use stories as powerful means of communication. A portion of the grant will be used to purchase storytelling resources for the FPL’s collection.

“We are deeply honored to receive this competitive award from APALA and AILA,” said Robert Riparip, president of CAPA. “APAs are confirmed to be one of the fastest growing minority groups in Michigan, but because we continue to be ethnic/racial minorities in the region, we can sometimes lack opportunities to celebrate and share our heritage,” said Riparip. Dr. Adriene Lim, chair of the CAPA Education Committee agreed, stating: “This program will provide a valuable experience for those in the community who may not have opportunities to learn about the power of APA storytelling.”

CAPA is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that works to unify all Asian Pacific American communities throughout the State of Michigan. With a guiding motto of “diversity is our strength,” its mission is to unite Asian Pacific Americans and the community at large through culture, education, and community service.

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