



**Calendar of Events**

<http://www.capa-mi.org/e-newsletter/>

**Articles Inside: (Updates)**

- ★ PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
- ★ SOE : THEME
- ★ THE LUNAR NEW YEAR
- ★ CONGRATULATIONS ...
- ★ INTERVIEW WITH LINDA BEEMAN

**SAVE THE DATE(S)**

MAY 15 – SOE: WHERE DREAMS BEGIN  
FORD PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE  
FLYER ATTACHED  
Tickets: [capa-mi.org](http://capa-mi.org)

- ★ APACC SYMPOSIUM
- ★ LANTERN FESTIVAL
- ★ HEALTHY RECIPE CONTEST
- ★ ASIAN AMERICAN HEALTH EXPO

**Welcome to our New BOD!**  
See their Bio’s on the website

- Billie Go Belen - Secretary
- Ayesha Ghazi – Education
- Rachna Kumar – Cultural Affairs
- Christine-Marie Dixon - Youth
- Lavinia Mateo – Community Affairs
- Pankaj Mahajan – Fund -raising

**Message from the President – Aneesa I. Rashid:**

I am deeply honored to serve as the President of CAPA for the years 2015 to 2016. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our board members, advisory board, corporate sponsors, affiliate organizations, volunteers, membership and all those who are interested in supporting CAPA. It is your dedicated service and support that has made CAPA the successful organization that it is today. CAPA’s mission is to unite Asian Pacific Americans and the community at large through culture, education and community service. It does this through its signature events like the Splendor of the East (SOE) which celebrates the Asian Pacific Heritage month in May, Education Workshops, building Youth Leadership through the Scholars Award, the Leadership Summit, Health Fairs, Taste Fest and much more. As we move ahead, I look forward to your continued help and support in strengthening CAPA’s programs and relationships and increasing its outreach in the community.

The year has started off with our Scholars Award selection process for 2015, and getting the production for the May celebration of the Asian Pacific Heritage month extravaganza off ground. We have a very interesting theme this year, so don’t miss it!

Many of our members celebrated the Lunar New Year this month and I wish all our readers a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. We look forward to seeing you all at our events. If you are interested in volunteering on the CAPA board or at any of our events, please contact me.

Thank you.

**Splendor of the East:** This year’s event theme is:

**“Where Dreams Begin”**

**May 15, 2015, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

*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. . .*

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 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.**



## **Lunar New Year**

Sook Wilkinson

What do you have in common with Mark Zuckerberg?

If you celebrated New Year's Day on February 19, 2015, you have something in common with him and me. His Lunar New Year message in Mandarin went viral, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXFUN Cm2kx8>. When I was growing up in Korea, we had two New Year's Days. The first was on January 1st based on the Gregorian calendar (most widely used internationally for civil purposes). The other was Lunar New Year's Day (LNY) called *Sol-Nal*, which didn't seem to have a fixed date. As a child, I couldn't understand why the biggest holiday in Korea didn't always fall on the same day like the one on January 1st. In fact, my birthday was also observed according to the lunar calendar, and so the date seemed to float around, and I never knew when my birthday was going to be - which was very frustrating to a child. Eventually I learned that the day of LNY like my birthday was based on the lunisolar calendar system.

What does this have to do with Mark Zuckerberg? He used the term Lunar New Year instead of the more common usage Chinese New Year. LNY is celebrated by many peoples, especially in East Asia, and carries a distinct set of traditions in each culture. As a child, I cherished all the *Sol-Nal* traditions — like getting dressed in my best Korean *Hanbok* outfit, eating *Ttok-guk* (rice cake soup) for breakfast, bowing to the elders and receiving “lucky money” as a present, playing a group game called *Yoot*, but best of all, getting several days off of school.

Mark Zuckerberg was a smart man to use the term, Lunar New Year, to make it inclusive of all diverse ethnic groups who observe that celebration.

## **Celebrating Lunar New Year at the White House**

WHIAAPI hosted the first-ever Lunar New Year celebration at the White House on February 19, 2015. Members of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community from across the country joined together to ring in the first day of the Lunar New Year with keynotes from Administration officials, a discussion with diverse AAPI leaders, and three lively cultural performances. President Obama also sent his greetings by video message. [Read more.](#)

## **Congratulations!**

### **Mumtaz Haque....**

### **Snyder makes appointment to Civil Rights Commission**

*Thursday, Dec. 18, 2014*

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the appointment of Mumtaz Haque, of Troy, to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

The eight-member board investigates alleged discrimination against any person. No more than four members can be from the same political party. “Mumtaz brings diverse experiences to the commission. I am confident she will be a valuable asset,” said Snyder.

Haque is an academic engagement administrator for Detroit Public Schools at Mark Twain Elementary and Vernor Elementary. She is also

owner, producer, and host of the Manoranjan Radio Show. She served on the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, is past president and member of the Council on Asian Pacific Affairs in Michigan, and served on the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific Affairs. She earned an educational specialist certification and a master's degree from Wayne State University. Haque represents Independents and replaces Linda Gobler.

Haque will serve a four-year term expiring Dec. 31, 2018. Her appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

[http://www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,4668,7-277-57577\\_57657\\_59871-343793--00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,4668,7-277-57577_57657_59871-343793--00.html)

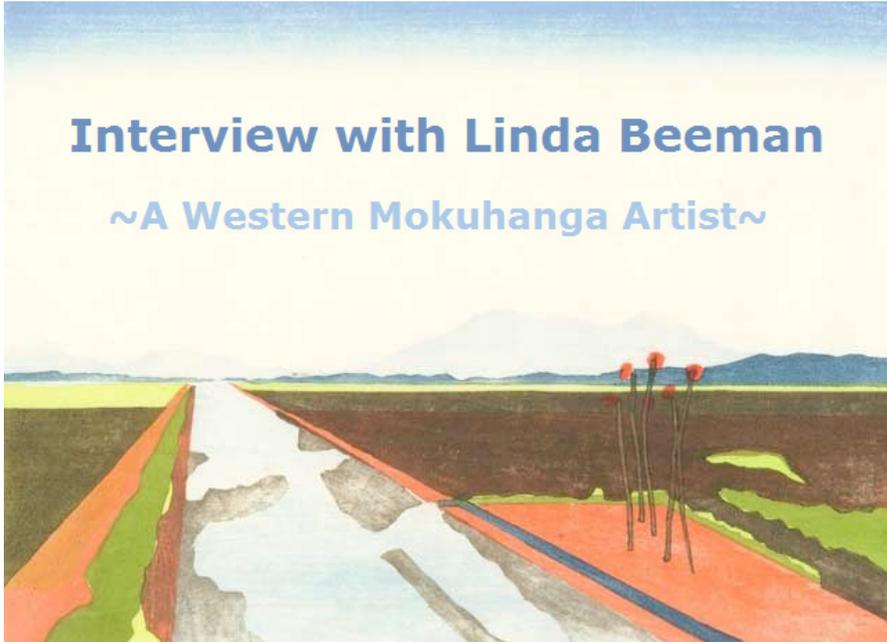
### **Stephanie Chang .....**

Stephanie is the first Asian-American woman to be elected to the Michigan Senate. She is now the State Representative in Michigan House District 6 (Detroit, River Rouge, Ecorse).

Stephanie was born and raised in Michigan to immigrant parents from Taiwan who worked in the auto industry. After graduating from the University of Michigan, she moved to Detroit and over the next decade she worked with a host of community organizations and progressive causes, taking on issues like affirmative action, voting rights, and immigrants' rights. She was co-founder and immediate past president of APIA Vote-Michigan (Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote), which promotes voter education, civic participation and advocacy in the Asian-American community.

## Interview with Linda Beeman

### ~A Western Mokuhanga Artist~



Linda Beeman, "A Kaki Grows in Shiga"

From the Japan Center for Michigan University

Recently, JCMU introduced a short program focused on *mokuhanga*, a style of woodblock printmaking unique to Japan. Many of our students are unsure of what *mokuhanga* is, so we reached out to Linda Beeman, a successful Western *mokuhanga* artist, to provide us with more information. Linda teaches this style of art at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Interlochen, Michigan, and is the current vice president of the Michigan-Shiga Sister State Board. She has exhibited her art in both the US and Japan, including the recent "Art from the Lakes" artist exchange held between many Michigan and Shiga artists. In fact, many of Linda's artworks are on display in JCMU's East Lansing office!

#### **"First, could you please introduce yourself?"**

My name is Linda Beeman. I am a *mokuhanga* artist. *Moku* means wood, and *hanga* translates to print, or Japanese woodblock prints. *Mokuhanga* differs from

Western woodblock printmaking in the use of four things: water color pigment instead of oil-based inks, the *kentoregistration* system, printing by hand with a *baren* (a handheld burnisher) instead of a press, and the use of *washi*, or handmade Japanese paper.

#### **"How did you first become interested in *mokuhanga*?"**

I started out as a Western style woodblock printmaking, but I didn't like the inks or the toxicity used for cleanup. I also couldn't get transparent gradations that I was looking for. Therefore, I started researching non-toxic water-based printmaking and found *mokuhanga*. Outside of Japan this technique is not widely known, so finding an instructor was a challenge that took me three years.

#### **"So who finally ended up teaching you *mokuhanga*, and how have you continued studying it?"**

I found Mary Brodbeck, a former JCMU visiting scholar and fellow *mokuhanga* artist, in Kalamazoo and took a five day workshop from her. Since then, I have been learning on my own and through my travels to Japan. I attended the first and second International Mokuhanga Conference in 2011 and 2014. I was also Artist in Residence at Mokuhanga Innovation Laboratory at Fujikawaguchiko.

#### **"Were the Japanese people surprised that you were a *mokuhanga* artist?"**

While I was there, people inquired who I was and what I did. When I said *mokuhanga*, they were surprised because I was a Westerner, but also because I was a woman doing the entire process myself.

#### **"So was it unusual for women to be *mokuhanga* artists?"**

Because *mokuhanga* is so physically



taxing, it traditionally was very unusual for women to do *mokuhanga*.

**“Did the Japanese artists think positively of you being a female *mokuhanga* artist?”**

Yeah, it was almost like they respected me more because I took on the challenge!

**“So what does the *mokuhanga* artistic process entail, anyways?”**

The process of *mokuhanga* begins with a line drawing - almost like a cartoon or coloring book. Then, you make a color drawing from that and break down those colors into individual woodblocks. My prints usually take 6-10 woodblocks to create, but it wasn't unheard of with *ukiyo-e* prints by artists such as Hokusai or Hiroshige to take up to 100 woodblocks. The next step is to carve all those blocks. Then, the process of painting and printing begins. Each block is hand-painted and hand-printed with a *baren*. If there is an edition of 100 prints, each block in turn is hand-painted 100 times. If there are 6 blocks, that would be 600 times you paint and press by hand at a minimum.

**APA Events:**

**Lantern Festival**

Association of Chinese Americans (ACA) is inviting you to celebrate Chinese New Year and Lantern Festival:

Experience the fun at the Chinese New Year and Lantern Festival! Yuanxiao (Sweet Rice Dumpling) Making Demo, Arts & Crafts, Couplet Writing, Red Envelope Distribution, Folk Dance, Chinese Painting and Calligraphy, Music, Peking Opera, Face Painting, Authentic Chinese New Year Food Sales, Games and much more...  
11:30AM, Saturday, 2/28/2015 Chinese Community Center 32585 Concord Drive Madison Heights, MI 48071  
[Tel:248-585-9343/313-831-1790](tel:248-585-9343/313-831-1790)

Sometimes, I might even have to reprint blocks 4, 5, 6, or more times.

**“How did you first begin exhibiting your art in Japan?”**

In 2011, I approached the Michigan-Shiga Sister State Board with the idea of an artist exchange. Using art as an economic initiative was something new, and I felt viable. During my stay in Japan that year, I met artists who thought this was an excellent idea and "Art from the Lakes" was born. In 2013, 6 artists from Shiga traveled to and exhibited in Lansing. In 2014, 4 Michigan artists exhibited in Otsu, Shiga.

**“How were you treated as a Western artist in Japan?”**

It was like being surrounded by paparazzi! At the opening reception in Otsu, we were treated like VIPs. Governor Mikazuki came to the opening and gave a speech, and we were sponsored by the Otsu Chuo Rotary. We were honored, respected, and treated with great care.

**“What advice would you give to students interested in *mokuhanga*?”**

I felt as if *mokuhanga* chose me, so if you want to give *mokuhanga* a try, do it! You will know right away if it also chooses you. If you are interested in taking *mokuhanga* lessons, feel free to come to the classes I teach at Interlochen Center for the Arts in Interlochen, Michigan.

If you are interested in seeing more of Linda's work and/or learning more about *mokuhanga*, her website is [www.lindajbeeman.com](http://www.lindajbeeman.com). If you want to ask her more questions about how to go about learning the art style, she can be reached at the following e-mail address: [lindajbeeman1@gmail.com](mailto:lindajbeeman1@gmail.com).

**“Splendors of Shiga” Exhibit**

Throughout 2015, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids will display 60 Japanese works of art created from the 10th century through present day in their exhibit, "[Splendors of Shiga](#)". The exhibit will represent each of the four seasons during its duration, with winter represented from January 30th to March 22nd. We encourage everyone to check it out and learn more about the culture of Shiga!



## APACC Symposium @ PNC Bank

Thursday, March 12, 2015

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

PNC Bank, Troy, MI

Formerly known as "APACC AM/PM" events, the Symposium provides opportunities for businesses to build relationships and generate new contacts for business expansion and/or diversification.

### Registration:

APACC Corporate & Enterprise Members - Complimentary Admission

APACC Entrepreneur, Non-Profit & Individual Members - \$10

### Healthy Asian Recipe Contest

Asian Center – Southfield MI presents:

Health Asian Recipe Contest -

1st Place – \$500

2nd Place – \$300

3rd Place – \$200

May 2, 2015 from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital



### Asian American Health Expo

Asian Center – Southfield, MI and Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital presents:

Asian American Health Expo

Date: Saturday May 2, 2015

Time: 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM

Location: Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital (HFWBH)  
Address: 6777 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI

### Youth Programs Volunteer Opportunities

**Global Trade Missions**  
Global Trade Missions seeks Ambassadors Volunteers to assist high school students learning about entrepreneurship and innovation in Oakland (Oakland Community College, Auburn Hills, MI) and Washtenaw (Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI)

[Click here for more details – Global Trade Missions](#)

**Please send us articles and/or events you would like to share before the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

**Send email to:** [christine@capa-mi.org](mailto:christine@capa-mi.org)

Please visit the website: [www.capa-mi.org](http://www.capa-mi.org) for more information