



Calendar of Events

<http://capa-mi.org/main.php?p=calendar1105>

Articles Inside: (Updates)

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Message from Vice President & Cultural Chairman – Bob Riparip:

Splendor of the East.....More Than Just a Cultural Show
Last May 6, 2011, CAPA presented its signature cultural event, the Splendor of the East (SOE) at the Dearborn's Ford Center for the Performing Arts. And again, this annual cultural extravaganza proved itself as another successful endeavor for the Asians and Pacific Islanders of Michigan. Yet, it is not just a multi-cultural show, not just another cultural production. The SOE is a genuine reflection of the spirit and values of a group of people representing various communities and embracing a common mission and vision. Look at these qualities that resulted from this labor of love and unity:

- Cooperation/collaboration. Different ethnic backgrounds still found time to mend differences and shared ideas and thoughts with fellow performers towards meeting the SOE theme.
- Teamwork. More than 170 performers representing a dozen Asian and non-Asian countries...performing as one unit at the highest possible standard of excellence.
- Dedication/Commitment. Young and adult performers invested their energies/time in months of rehearsals and practices.....all volunteered time.

SOE is not just a showcase of many performing talents and an exhibit of myriads of cultural numbers. It reaches far beyond these obvious and typical reasoning. SOE offers the participants and the spectators the chance to share, recognize, appreciate and enjoy the diverse cultural heritage of Asian Pacific Americans. It is a testament to the uniqueness of the Asian Pacific Americans whose diligence and perseverance lead them well to achieving success in every areas of American life. It is a voice of a very diverse community who continue to enrich this country in countless ways. And yes, in so many ways, **SOE is not just another cultural show.....**

SAVE THE DATE(S)

JUNE 18 – SOE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON
FUJI BUFFET @ 1PM
JULY 16 – TASTE OF ASIA (PACCM)

Charmaine Clamor, Queen of Jazzpino Debuts in Michigan
May 25-28; 6PM & 8:30PM
Dirty Dog Jazz Café, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe, 48236
TICKETS: \$15-\$30

<http://www.dirtydogjazz.com> 313/882-5299
MORE INFO: www.CharmaineClamor.com
Weekend sets are selling out. Wednesday and Thursday are half-price!

Splendor of the East – After the Show

Message(s) from CAPA Board, Members, Guests, Performers & Choreographers

*Congratulations Ms. President, Vice President, Toni,
And All those who helped putting up the Most Phenomenal Show!!!
People had tears at the end of the Show- Great Job*

Michelle, Bob & Toni Great job! You did again.

SOE's success was made possible through everybody's help. Words can't measure the pride we all share in this success, it was a group effort. Thanks for all your help and congratulations Bob and Toni for a job well done under your cultural and production committees.

Thank you for allowing our group to be part of a successful show.

We hope to perform again next year. It was worth the hardwork and thank you for being patient with us.

It was an honor to be a part of SOE!

This was a memorable night – we really enjoyed the show.

**CAPA Scholarship Award:
Group photo of the Recipients**



CAPA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT - BIOS

Tanvi Gangal has attended International Academy in Bloomfield Hills, MI and will study Neuroscience at University of Michigan in Fall 2011. She has volunteered at Beaumont Hospital, vice-president of *buildOn* which aims to raise money to build schools in developing nations, as well as youth president of *NewDetroit* which aims to depolarize the racial barriers in Detroit. She looks forward to working with the CAPA scholars to planning shows and reaching out to APA youth populations.

Hello! My name is **Madhu Sanam**. I am a senior at Novi High School. I plan on attending Wayne State University in the Fall of 2011 and hope to go pursue medicine. I am an Indian classical dancer and will be receiving my diploma in *Bhartanatyam* in August. Being part of a community and helping out that community is an essential part of who I am. For instance, I co-created a charity that raises money, clothes, and toys to send to an orphanage in South India for the deaf and dumb. I also plan on being an active and vital volunteer of CAPA Youth by increasing cultural awareness and acceptance. **Madhumeeta Sanam**

My name is **Ben Yoon** and I attended the International Academy Okma Campus in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. I will be attending the University of Michigan next year and want to use that year to figure out what I really want to do. Right now, I am leaning towards the sciences, but I cannot be sure until I learn more. My community service was tutoring adopted Korean children the Korean language and culture. I hope that I can spread the word about CAPA through those who I have tutored and help in activities when possible.

Jialiang (Jay) Zhang is currently a senior at Troy High School. He is going to attend University of Michigan in September, majoring in engineering. He has done a lot of community services as a volunteer at Troy Public Library and a member of National Honor Society. He also volunteered at Chinese Community Center for this year's Cultural Show. He is planning to help CAPA by getting more involved in planning cultural activities.

SOE 2012 Connections – What is next?

Staying In-Touch

**Read the CAPA Enews for Updates
2012 Theme Release Soon!

Watch for the Release of the 2011 SOE Video

Shared 2011 SOE Photos

Follow the Link

http://www.flickr.com/photos/jawa_photo/collections/72157626670497226/



Michigan's women center is in need of volunteers

The Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame is in need of volunteers who "would like to contribute their time and talents to assist in celebrating Michigan women, sharing women's history and supporting our operation."

The center, which opened on June 10, 1987, has made Michigan the first state with a museum solely dedicated to the history of women. Its Michigan Women's Hall of Fame now has more than 250 inductees.

The center says there are many ways people can volunteer to help. These are:

☐☐ **Docents:** Open and share the museum with visitors on the weekends.

☐☐ **Clerical:** Assemble visitor materials, prepare mailings, and organizing.

☐☐ **Collection Assistants:** Inventory, document, move, and store collection items.

☐☐ **Special Events:** Assist with set-up, staff registration type tables, and help with break-down of events and/or count money and chips at charity poker events.

☐☐ **Internships:** A limited number of unpaid internships are available for high school and college students. The student is responsible for arranging to receive credit.

The volunteers are asked to provide four hours of service each month. Docents and collection assistants are given additional training and more time commitment.

For more information or to receive an application, interested individuals are asked to contact Emily Fijol, assistant director, at

efijol@michiganwomen.org or call 517-484-1880, extension 202.

2011 International Women's Celebration Gala set on June 17

The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit (IIMD) will hold the 2011 International Women's Celebration Gala in the Byblos Banquet Center at 7258 Chase, Dearborn on June 17, 2011 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Nada Dalgamouni, IIMD's ethnic enrichment director, said the purpose of the event is to honor women in "the international community who have achieved success and celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our community." The tax-deductible tickets cost \$30 per person or \$250 for one table.

Proceeds from the event will benefit IIMD, Children Helping Children and "your favorite nonprofit organization."

For more information, interested individuals or parties are asked to call Nada Dalgamouni (313) 871-8600, ext. 226 or email her at nada@iimd.org.

Groundbreaking Asian American Community Needs

APIA Vote gets \$25,000 for conduct of first community-needs assessment

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSM) has awarded \$25,000 to the Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote-Michigan (APIA Vote-Michigan) for the conduct of the first Asian-American community-needs assessment in Michigan.

The project, which will begin in June 2011, will identify the sociopolitical needs of Asian Americans in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties -- three areas where many Asian Americans reside.

CFSM is a permanent community endowment established with gifts from thousands of individuals and organizations committed to a progressive future of Southeast Michigan.

APIA Vote-Michigan is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that serves the Asian Pacific Islander American community through civic participation, advocacy and education.

"The latest Census data show that the Asian-American population in Michigan has experienced significant increase in the past decade," said Stephanie Chang, president of APIA Vote-Michigan.

"This is a perfect opportunity to learn more about our community members and what their highest priority needs are," Chang also said.

APIA Vote-Michigan will partner with Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies "to design and facilitate focus groups and administer surveys of Asian-American residents."

The survey will look into several areas, including employment, education, citizenship/immigration and community connectivity/civic participation.

The information gathered from the surveys will form the basis for the development of a policy guide, which would allow public officials and stakeholders to gain insight into the needs of Asian-Americans.



“Our growing numbers signify that this is a critical moment to strengthen our collective voice so that policymakers must pay attention to us,” said Anika Fassia, chairperson of the public policy committee of APIA Vote-Michigan.

National forum held on ‘From Symbols of Hate to Portraits of Understanding’

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) conducted a national forum on the topic, “From Symbols of Hate to Portraits of Understanding,” last April 30 in the UAW/General Motors building at 200 Walker St., Detroit.

The forum brought together members of the Muslim, African American, Native American, Latino, Jewish, and gay communities who addressed, identified the problems and prescribed some solutions to these serious matters.

The national discussion began with a special presentation by Dr. David Pilgrim of Ferris State University who talked on “Them: Images of Separation” sponsored by the Jim Crow Museum of Racists Memorabilia.

Other participants were Rev. Dr. John Mendez; Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, NC; Congressman Keith Ellison of Minnesota, member of the House Financial Services Committee; David Victor, chairman, American Israel Public Affairs Committee; Ms. Nickole Fox, health education director for the American Indian Health and Family Services Organization, representing the Native American Community; Curtis Lipscomb, Executive Director of

KICK, representing the gay community; US Attorney Barbara McQuade of the Eastern District, speaking for the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Justice Department; Imam Dawud Walid, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations; and Paul Perez, regional coordinator of the Justice for Our Neighbors Organization, representing the Latino community.

It was explained that the current discourse regarding the dignity and respect of diverse cultures, various ethnic groups and personal sexual orientation give rise to an important need for continuous discussion related to these matters.

NAACP said that since the election of President Barack Obama to the presidency of the United States, there has been a remarkable increase in hate talk on radio and television, stereotyping of all kinds, intolerance for different points of view and a growing threat towards physical and verbal abuse.

The recent hearings held by Congressman Peter King of New York (reminiscent of the McCarthy Era hearings) as it relates to the Muslim community are such an indication.

NAACP says it is important that we do not fall victim to stereotypes and finger pointing at any one community when acts of intolerance and resentment have occurred in every community.

It also says, “The generational stereotyping and abuse of African Americans sometimes symbolized by the burning of a cross, the use of the confederate flag and the hanging of a noose make this discussion even more important.

“The lack of tolerance for immigrants seeking to come to this nation for a better life and the promise of the land of the free and the home of the brave, the continuous stereotyping of members of the Jewish community

in photos and sometimes by the use of a Nazi swastika and the historic lack of respect for Native Americans rooted in the stories of the wild, wild west do not make for the best unity among reasonable people.

We are not unmindful, regardless of your point of view, of the unfair and unwarranted attacks upon members of the Gay community due to their sexual preference. The escalation of bullying by young people across our nation is a reflection of the times in which we live. All of these situations have placed at our doorstep a moment for transformation and rededication to the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., ‘do not judge each other by the color of our skin but by the content of our character.’”

President Obama, immigrant rights, civil rights, business, law-enforcement, faith-based leaders discuss immigration reform

WASHINGTON– Karen K. Narasaki, president of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) which is a member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, joined Cabinet members and other immigrant rights, civil rights, business, labor, law enforcement and faith-based leaders at a recent meeting with President Obama to discuss a strategy to achieve comprehensive immigration reform.

After attending the important meeting, Narasaki issued the following statement:

“I commend President Obama for his efforts to bring together Americans who represent all the different stakeholders in the debate who understand the need for comprehensive immigration to restart a serious and thoughtful dialogue



about passing a comprehensive immigration reform package this year.”

Civil Rights Commission to hold meeting in Lansing

DETROIT -- The Michigan Civil Rights Commission (MCRC) will hold a meeting on civil rights issues on May 27 starting at 2 p.m. in the MDCR Lansing office, 8th floor, at 110 W. Michigan Avenue in Lansing. Individuals or groups who wish to address the commission on civil rights issues will have an opportunity to speak during the public-comment period of the meeting.

Those who want to attend the meeting and need accommodation to do so are asked to contact Jacki Miller at 313-456-4694 or at millerj31@Michigan.gov by May 20.

2011 Asian Pacific American Heritage Day Celebration to be Held at the Capitol

Detroit—On Wednesday, May 18, from 2 to 5 pm, the Ninth Annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month will be celebrated in the Capitol Rotunda, Lansing. Along with the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, co-sponsors include State Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

“Celebrating a Global Michigan” is this year’s theme. Daphne Kwok, Chairperson of President Obama’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will provide the keynote address. The contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the development and progress of Michigan will also be celebrated from 3-4 pm, and a number of performers will take the stage. Governor Rick

Snyder will also be speaking at this event.

A reception will follow from 4-5 pm in Rooms 402-403 of the Capitol. The public is welcome to attend this program.

For more information about the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, please visit www.michigan.gov/mdcr, Commissions.



Splendor May 6

CAPA’s ‘Splendor of the East 2011’ is an artistic sight-and-sound show Imaginative choreography, colorful costumes, mysterious sounds

It was simply called “An Evening of Dance and Music in Celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.” But the 2011 edition of the “Splendor of the East” (SOE) staged last May 6 at the Ford Community Performing Arts Center in Dearborn was more than a simple show of dance and music. In fact, it was a grand cultural festival that would be remembered for a long time.

The Filipino Star News saw Splendor 2011 as an artistic sight-and-sound show that had a bewitching element. It had a profound impact on the audio and visual senses, and this was brought about by the imaginative choreography, the colorful costumes and the mysterious sounds produced by drums, gongs, flutes and strange-



looking musical instruments. And the performers' smiling, typically congenial Asian faces made the splended feeling all the more wondrous.

A signature project of the Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA), the show "depicts the amazing efforts of Asian Americans to bring us all to a common bond and portrays our idiosyncrasies to lead us all to a celebration of our differences," CAPA President Arcie Gemino said in her address that officially began "The Festival – A Carnival of World Traditions."

After Mi Dong sang the US National Anthem, the show opened with a presentation portraying the biblical origin of man and the world.

This was followed by a performance by the Michigan Chinese Folk Dancing Group. In a bouncy beat, the group danced the "Daughters of the Mountain" that featured the simple, beautiful and hard-working women who live in the Yimeng Mountain in Northern China.

The Philippine American Community Center of Michigan (PACCM) and the Grand Rapids-based Pacific Island Dancers presented the Polynesian dance that wowed the audience with the fluid swinging of the dancers' bodies and hips, reminiscent of the beach waves in summer. Choreographed by Flor Penner and Minnie Morey, the dance portrayed the festivals of the Hawaiian and Polynesian people.

The Korean Culture Dance Team amazed the full-capacity crowd with the music of the "Janggu," an instrument played using the "yeolchae." The performers displayed their dexterity in beating the instruments with their hands or sticks to produce "deep and full, soft and tender menacing sounds."

The Filipinos' Tagumpay Dance Ensemble presented the "Pista sa Nayon," a rural festival to celebrate bountiful harvest. The number, choreographed by Aimee Calasara, showcased the grace and beauty of the rural Filipina lasses. The dancers displayed their balancing skills as they kept stable the oil lamps placed on their heads and backs of their hands.

The Napu Academy of Dance lifted the spectators' spirit with the Dandiya-Raas, a folk dance that originated from the western region of India. The dancers dressed in colorful costumes and wielding sticks weaved joyously as they formed intricate patterns to the beat of fast-paced, traditional music.

The Chinese Ann Hua Dance Group staged the "Splendor of the Great Land" which featured the various cultures of China's 56 nations. These included the traditional festivities of the Hans, Mongolians, Huis, Miaos, Tibetans, Uy Gurs and Yis. The dancers portrayed the exhilaration felt by Miao girls during a fruitful harvest.

The Middle Eastern Karmic Roots Tribal depicted a gathering of nomadic tribes of the desert. The three lady performers showed samples of belly dancing and also displayed balancing skills by placing swords on their heads as they danced in the desert with colorful tents in the background.

The Filipinos' Pacific Island Dancers under the direction of Minnie Morey presented the festive tradition of the people of Ifugao, a province in the Luzon mountains. The performers wearing hand-woven, red-black outfits did a festival dance that is usually presented by the affluent villagers "to attain the second level of the wealthy class."

The Chinese Dance Troupe returned to the stage to present "A Festival in China's Northwest" that marks the celebration of the Tibetan New Year, a much awaited event that usually takes place in February or March. On New Year Day, men and women dress in colorful attires, go out in the streets and greet each other with "Tashi Delek," which is loosely translated to mean "blessings and good luck."

Suddenly, the audience felt they were transported to Ireland as the Irish Step Dancers presented the "Cry of the Celts," which marks the festivals of the Celts held through the ages. The number, performed by young and not-so-



Council of Asian Pacific Americans

CAPA in Michigan

Diversity is our Strength

young dancers, was characterized by shifting formations and speeds. Although the presentation deviated from the “Splendor of the East” theme, it nevertheless enriched the show with a glimpse into the Irish culture.

The Michigan Chinese Women Association staged a performance that is noted for its big number of dancers who did circular and line formations. The group presented the “Mountain Harvest Dance,” a Taiwanese aboriginal dance that portrays the livelihood and character of one of the aboriginal tribes.

For a while, some members of the audience thought they were watching some kind of the “Splendor of the Eastern Detroit” as the Michelle’s Academy of Dance and Performing Arts Center showcased the best of Motown music and dances. The liberally choreographed number captured the Detroiters’ ebullient spirit as the dancers in black attires executed long jumps, fast steps and summersaults.

The Japanese Raion Taiku performed the Yume-Mizuki that featured the wonderful sounds of the Taiko drums. It was a show centered on the beating of small and big drums by 14 drummers. The simultaneous actions of the performers’ hands as they beat the drums were a beautiful sight to behold. Although devoid of footsteps, the number was amazing in its simplicity.

The finale was a carnival scene made memorable by the singing by the Filipinos’ Isang Binhi Choir of Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the US.” It was a fitting reminder to the members of the audience that although they came from various places in the East, they are now Americans. And when the increasingly popular Isang Binhi choir crooned the line, “I am proud to be an American, at least I know I am free,” many in the audience could not help shedding tears as they felt the American spirit surging in them.

Yes, it was a night to be long remembered. (Tony Antonio)

For more information please visit the website: www.capa-mi.org
Public Relations/Media Contact, Angela Wang at angela@capa-mi.org.

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