



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

**Council of Asian Pacific Americans**  
CAPA in Michigan

*Diversity is our Strength*

**NOVDEC 2015**

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Full stories available online at [www.capa-mi.org](http://www.capa-mi.org)

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# Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2016

Thank you for making this year so special.

From the CAPA Board



## **CAPA 2015 Statewide Leadership Summit Inspires and Improves Leaders**

*This year's summit theme was "Enhancing Your Personal Effectiveness – The Power of You as an APA in Michigan".*

CAPA's 13th annual Leadership Summit welcomed professionals from myriad fields and positions to the General Motors Technical Center in Warren October 10.

The goal of the summit was to strengthen leadership abilities and share the vision of leadership with the next generation of Asian Pacific Americans. Linda Akutagawa of California-based Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. (LEAP) led an interactive session on effective communication styles that embodied those aims.

"Very good presentation," commented one attendee on the event survey. "Participants are encouraged to get involved."

Linda's presentation was informative as well. Many participants came away with a better understanding of their communication characteristics and how they can adapt to those who communicate in a different way. The strategies Linda shared are applicable to many platforms, so individuals can use them to be more effective in the workplace as well as in community service.

During a lunch networking session, participants had the opportunity to hone their conversation skills and

learn about one another. Andrew Humphrey, a meteorologist for WDIV Channel 4 in Detroit, was one of the networking ambassadors who helped facilitate conversations among business and community leaders, members of CAPA and other APA organizations, and young adults.

One participant cited "bringing people from different backgrounds under the same roof" as one of the best aspects of the event.

Throughout the conference, speakers encouraged participants to take the initiative to accomplish their goals. David Han, a strategic marketing consultant, entrepreneur and executive coach, was among those who addressed the group. He and his wife, Sarah, are regular marathoners and ran the Detroit International Half Marathon with LOVE RUNS to fight human trafficking in Detroit and other cities. Through his story, which was the closing keynote of the Leadership Summit, David reminded attendees that each person has the ability to influence others and improve society.

CAPA board members and partners hope to provide summit participants with programming that informs, inspires, and on the broadest level, incites change in the APA community. Thanks to all who attended this year's summit. We are excited to prepare a program for the conference next year and already have many ideas!



**Linda Akutagawa**

Linda Akutagawa is the President and CEO of Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics Inc., where she is responsible for fundraising, business development and oversight of program design,



development and delivery.

Linda is certified to facilitate LEAP's Leadership Development Program as well as to deliver several of LEAP's foundational courses, including the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership, Understanding your Cultural Values, and Effective Work & Communication Styles. She previously served as vice president of resource and business development for Los Angeles-based LEAP, developing and implementing fundraising, marketing and sales strategies for its programs and services.

A beneficiary of LEAP's leadership training, Linda first began as a volunteer for the nonprofit. Now in her 20<sup>th</sup> year there, she speaks and presents globally on topics such as leadership, Asian cultural values and influences, employee resource groups, diversity, networking and branding to a range of audiences such as corporations, student groups and community and professional organizations.

Linda serves on the Board Directors of the Asian Women Leadership Network and Japanese American Community Services of Southern California Inc. (JACS), a provider of grants with a focus on community service, leadership development, culture arts, and health and human services.



### David Han

David Han is a strategic marketing consultant, entrepreneur, and executive coach, Building on his early corporate career in strategy consulting and marketing, David has worked on a variety of business opportunities

through his firm, Turtlerock Group, since 2001. He has designed and executed strategic growth initiatives for major corporations and new ventures.

David's corporate management experience includes VP of Strategy at Flowserve, Global director of Marketing at Visteon, Global Product Director at Whirlpool, and Senior VP of Marketing at Knoll International. Earlier, David was a consultant and manager in Price Waterhouse's Strategy Consulting

Practice. In the area of new ventures and business initiatives, David recently facilitated the establishment of a U.S. manufacturing operation for an international battery materials company. Earlier, Han led market development and launch efforts for two environmental technology ventures addressing emissions control.

Most recently, David has added another area to his work – executive coaching with a focus on engaged leadership. This is a natural outgrowth of his personal desire to become a better leader, and to help others realize their potential in work and life. David has coached with the automotive industry in Korea and in the Metro Detroit area. David is a graduate of the University of Michigan with an MBA and BA in Economics. He is based in Metropolitan Detroit, and together with his wife, Sarah, are regular marathoners in recent years running for charity causes.

### “The Power of You as an APA in Michigan”

#### Objectives

- Continue to build leadership capacity in the Asian Pacific American community
- Inspire the Asian Pacific American young adults to lead and to give back to the community
- Offer a unique networking opportunity to the Asian Pacific American leaders with business leaders, community leaders, members, and young adults

#### Participants

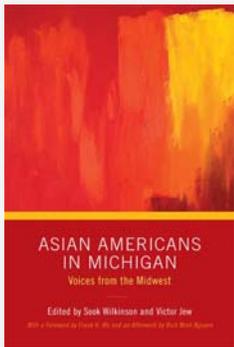
- Organization and business leaders in the Asian Pacific American community and the community at large
- Leaders in state and local governments
- Young adults aspiring to be leaders





## New collection captures Asian American history and experience

*A State History Award in the category of University and Commercial Press Books was presented to Sook Wilkinson and Victor Jew for "Asian Americans in Michigan: Voices from the Midwest," published by Wayne State University Press.*



*Asian American in Michigan: Voices from the Midwest* is a new collection of personal narratives that illustrate the historical and demographic origins of Michigan's Asian American communities.

Former CAPA president Sook Wilkinson and Victor Jew co-edited stories from it forty-

one contributors that explore Asian Americans' experiences and highlight community culture and heritage.

Accounts in the collection come from a range of perspectives, including first-generation immigrants, individuals born in the United States, and third- and fourth-generation Americans of Asian heritage.

The contributors trace their ancestries to East Asia (China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan), South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan), and Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Hmong). Though each writer draws from his or her background, the stories in *Asian Americans in Michigan* also illustrate values and experiences of the Asian American and American communities at large.

The collection, published by Wayne State University Press, is available for purchase here: <http://www.wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/asian-americans-michigan>



## CAPA Capuchin Kitchen Volunteer Work by CAPA Members

*This is our first year that some dear board members and friends will work together to help those in our community facing hunger and homelessness.*

It was Saturday, October 31 at 7:30 a.m. Sarwat and I left our homes and drove to Capuchin Soup Kitchen on Conner Avenue in Detroit to help serve breakfast to the hungry. We volunteered at the soup kitchen as part of CAPA'S community service initiative.

The Capuchin Kitchen started this way:

### Capuchin Kitchen

"We are a religious community of friars inspired by St Francis of Assisi. As Franciscans, we live and work with those who are in need of help ... the poor, the disenfranchised, the needy. We serve God through the work we do...in the communities we serve.

Francis of Assisi created a community of equality whose mission was to proclaim that the Good News is available to all people, especially those shunned by society. Nearly 800 years later, the Capuchins continue to build on this Franciscan tradition through prayer, contemplation, preaching, and caring for the needy. Today we preach, teach, cook,



# Council of Asian Pacific Americans

## CAPA in Michigan

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and counsel. We minister in hospitals, schools, soup kitchens, parishes, and in the mission fields. We are pastors, artists, missionaries, farmers, mechanics, and writers.

All people are meant to enjoy the gifts of God's creation. This is the foundation of Capuchin-Franciscan life. The friars of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph serve in a variety of ministries including social service, schools, chaplaincy, retreat houses and parishes in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Montana, Arizona, California, Nicaragua, and Panama. We have served in Detroit for over 125 years.



The Capuchin Province of St. Joseph began its Detroit ministry on Mt. Elliott Street in 1883 and developed a

religious mission to live and work among the poor. The friars were offshoots of the Capuchin Order in Switzerland, spiritual advisers and confessors who found a home in the area of Detroit once known as Russell's Grove. It was common to see the friars traveling via horse and buggy. They would reach out to parishioners as far away as Roseville — a trip that was then a whole day's journey.



Within a few years, the Capuchins built the stately St. Bonaventure Monastery on Mt. Elliott - purposely

locating in a neighborhood where street people were known to congregate. Soon word spread that the Capuchins would help those in need, providing spiritual counseling as well as a sandwich. In 1924, Solanus Casey, a simple man — a simple priest -

arrived at the monastery and forever expanded its focus.



The Soup Kitchen got its official start during the Great Depression of 1929, a period of devastating

national poverty that caused the poor of this Detroit community to knock on the monastery's back door asking for bread. "They are hungry; get them some soup and sandwiches," Fr. Solanus was known to say to the friars. In time, the lines grew to more than 2,000 people waiting for their single meal of the day. The friars knew they had to do more.

In response to the time's overwhelming social needs, the friars turned to the men and women of the Secular Franciscans and joined together with them to collect food from farms, make soup, bake bread and serve meals in the hall next to the monastery. From these beginnings grew the Capuchin Soup Kitchen of today." — Capuchin Soup Kitchen

*Capuchin Soup Kitchen Day*

A CAPA Community Service program to benefit Capuchin Soup Kitchen

Capuchin Soup Kitchen  
Feeding Bodies, Nourishing Spirits, Strengthening Communities

Saturday, October 31, 2015



## CAPA Scholars



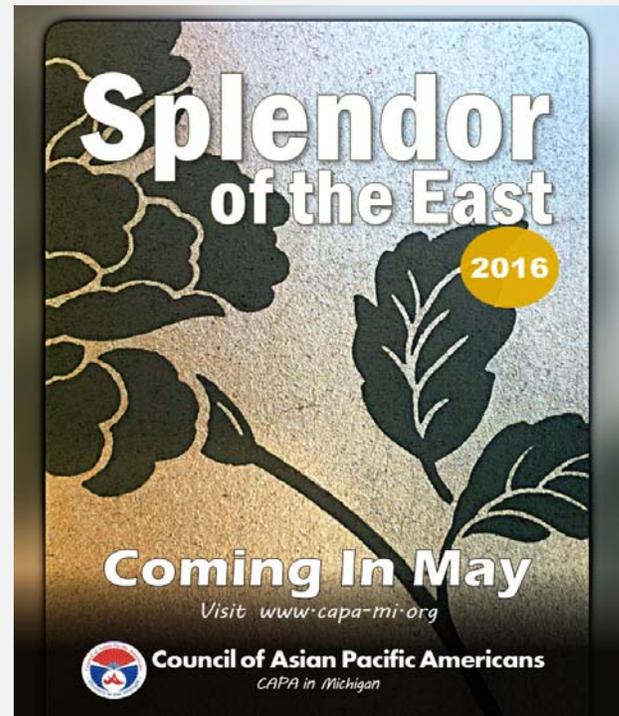
### **CAPA 2016 Scholars Award Application Deadline January 31<sup>st</sup>**

[Read Online](#)

The Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) has established the prestigious Scholars Award to encourage the educational advancement of APA youth in Michigan and to foster youth involvement and leadership in the APA community. The application is now open for the 2016 Scholars Award. The deadline is January 31, 2016.

The Scholars Award is intended for full-time high school seniors who will attend an institution of higher education in the State of Michigan and who will continue to reside in Michigan. Eligible candidates must have Asian Pacific American (APA) heritage and should be willing to serve on CAPA's Youth Committee to give back to the APA community. One of the eligible candidate's parents should also be a member of CAPA. The winner(s) will receive a \$1,000 Scholars Award at CAPA's [Splendor of the East](#) reception. The recipient(s) will be chosen by CAPA's Education Committee, which will base its selection upon the applicants' potential to provide outstanding APA leadership and/or community service in Michigan.

To apply for the 2016 Scholars Award, eligible candidates must complete an application form. [Click here to download 2016 Scholars Award application form](#). Completed applications must be submitted by email to [scholarsaward@capa-mi.org](mailto:scholarsaward@capa-mi.org). For more information about the 2016 Scholars Award, please email the CAPA Education Committee at [scholarsaward@capa-mi.org](mailto:scholarsaward@capa-mi.org), or visit [www.capa-mi.org](http://www.capa-mi.org).



### **CAPA Hosts Splendor of the East on May 14, 2016**

[Read Online](#)

The Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) will host its popular annual signature event, Splendor of the East on May 14, 2016. The event will showcase the extraordinary talents from several different Asian Pacific American communities. The Splendor of the East has been an exotic collaboration of music and dance where the East meets the West capturing diversity through traditional and contemporary composition of artistry. Please save the date for this exciting event on May 14, 2016.

CAPA ([www.capa-mi.org](http://www.capa-mi.org)) brings Asian Pacific Americans together with the community at large through culture, education and community services. CAPA's signature events including the Splendor of the East continue to showcase the growing strength of the APA communities and their increasing contributions to Michigan's economy, diversity and vitality. For more information, please visit [www.capa-mi.org](http://www.capa-mi.org).



## **CAPA Members and Community Leaders Celebrate Holiday Season**

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) held its annual Christmas party for CAPA families and friends at Tokyo Buffet Lounge on December 15.

Merry Christmas

聖誕節快樂

圣诞节快乐

Maligayang Pasko

मेरी क्रिसमस

Selamat Hari Natal

メリークリスマス

메리 크리스마스

Merry ວັນຄຣິດສະມາດ

Merry Krismas

С Рождеством

สุขสันต์วันคริสต์มาส

Giáng sinh vui vẻ

*We wish all CAPA members a festive season full of peace and relaxation. It's a time to gather with family and friends to celebrate the message of Christmas. We look forward to a safe and happy New Year.*

Thank you for making 2015 a great year for CAPA!



## **WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS**



**Merinda Valley**  
Director

Merinda is a reporter for The Arab American News, a bilingual newspaper based in Dearborn. She is a recent graduate of Michigan State University where she studied journalism, Arabic and international development. Her reporting and editing experience includes positions at MLive, The State News and the Red Cedar Log, Michigan State University's award-winning yearbook. Merinda is a co-author of "100 Questions and Answers about Americans" and is currently writing a book about intercultural communication for the MSU Bias Busters series.



# Leadership Summit XIII





# Leadership Summit XII





## MAPAAC and MDCR Host Anti-Bullying Forum in Madison Heights

The Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (MAPAAC) and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) presented How to Deal with Bullying and Build Self-Esteem: Forum and Student/Parent Roundtable Discussion on Saturday, November 7 from 9 a.m. to noon. It was held at the Chinese Community Center, 32585 Concord Drive, Madison Heights.

More than 60 individuals attended the forum, including community leaders and parents of elementary, middle and high school students. Participants gained knowledge about empowering themselves and their children to combat bullying. Attendees also participated in a roundtable discussion about bullying with the speakers.

Speakers include Ron Aramaki, Psychologist and Counselor; Melissa Kiesewetter, MDCR Bullying Specialist; Dr. Gail Parker, Psychologist, and Mary Cooper, Principal of Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary in Ann Arbor.

State Representative Martin Howrylak, who is also a member of the Asian Pacific American Legislative Caucus, stopped by to speak with the attendees. The event was free and open to the public.

The Forum was supported by the following organizations: American Chinese Association (ACA), American Citizens for Justice (ACJ), APIAVote-Michigan, Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA), Philippine American Community Center of MI (PACCM), and Troy Diversity & Inclusion Council.

MAPAAC was established to advance the full and equal participation of Asian and Pacific Americans in the building of a greater Michigan. The Commission, made up of 21 individuals appointed by the Governor, advises the Governor and state legislature on policy matters and serves Michigan's Asian and Pacific American population by promoting their development and welfare and recognizing their achievements. Each member of the Commission has a specific interest or expertise in Asian or Pacific American concerns. To learn more about MAPAAC, visit [www.facebook.com/miapaac](http://www.facebook.com/miapaac).





Activities and Events

## Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA)

### >> Signature Event



### CAPA Splendor of the East 2016

Saturday, May 14, 2016

[Read Online](#)

The Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) will host its popular annual signature event, the Splendor of the East on May 14, 2016. The event will showcase the extraordinary talents from several different Asian Pacific American communities. The “Splendor of the East” has been an exotic collaboration of music and dance where the East meets the West capturing diversity through traditional and contemporary composition of artistry.

Please save the date for this exciting event on May 14, 2016.



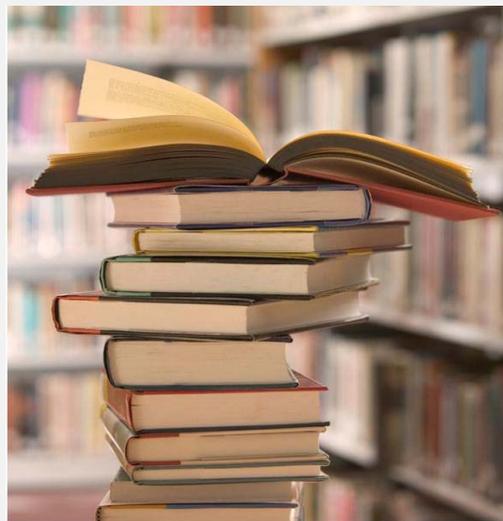
Please stay tuned for more information!



Activities and Events

## Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA)

### >> Community Services



### CAPA 2016 Scholars Award Application Deadline Sunday, January 31, 2016

[Read Online](#)

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## Scholars Award 2016



Apply now for CAPA Scholars Award!



Activities and Events

Asian Pacific Americans (APA)

>> Community



**AAPILEPRC Summer Internship Program (MSU)**  
Sunday, December 20, 2015

[Read Online](#)

Asian-America and Pacific Islander Limited English Proficient Resource Center (AAPILEPRC) will be hosting a Summer Internship Program for college undergraduates and graduate students during the summer of 2016. They are primarily interested in students who are proficient in speaking, reading, and writing in English and Asian languages, especially Burmese, Lao, Vietnamese or Bhutanese. For more information click on the following link: <http://goo.gl/forms/ZneExjiK9J>. The internship application deadline is December 20, 2015.



**Vietnamese Volunteers Needed for Research Project**

[Read Online](#)

First generation Vietnamese volunteers are needed for a research project which is conducted under supervision of Dr. Nicola Curtin and approved by Clark University. If you are interested in participating, please click on one of these links:

In English: [https://clarku.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_aXaxmB44Wg69SfP](https://clarku.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aXaxmB44Wg69SfP)

In Vietnamese: [https://clarku.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_8wX1TvI0bV7IOsl](https://clarku.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8wX1TvI0bV7IOsl)

For detailed information about the survey, please contact Julia Tran at [jutran@clarku.edu](mailto:jutran@clarku.edu) or by calling (617-380-8714). You can also contact Dr. Nicola Curtin at [NCurtin@clarku.edu](mailto:NCurtin@clarku.edu) or by calling (508-793-7261).



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*Diversity is our strength*

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