The very first task I had been faced with as CAPA’s Community Service chair, was organizing the fundraiser to help with the victims of the 2011’ Japan’s tsunami disaster. It was amazing to discover how fast and generously people from different communities responded to the call by organizing their own individual community relief efforts. CAPA spearheaded the campaign by inviting organizations to conduct their own fundraising projects. But the best collaboration they exhibited was to work with CAPA in its plan to seek the assistance of the various community leaders to come together for a night of cultural exchange in a private reception hosted by CAPA Advisory board member Sharaona Shapiro. The group raised about $12,000 from all the community leaders who attended the event which was graced by the presence of Japan’s Consul General Kuninori Matsuda.

Additionally, CAPA has volunteered to assist with Health and Wellness Expos held in some communities. Free flu shots were also administered to seniors at the Philippine American Community Center. Some CAPA members have attended evening seminars conducted by HAAP to help raise the awareness of Asian Americans on issues relating to health.

I invite organizations to share what’s going in their respective communities in terms of community service so they can have the opportunity to disseminate the information through our website, www.capa-mi.org or for inclusion on the monthly publication of the CAPA e-News.
CAPA is now accepting applications for scholarships

The Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) is now accepting applications for its scholarship program for high school students who are Asian-Pacific Americans (APA). Aneesa I. Rashid, chairperson of CAPA’s education committee, said that the deadline for submission of applications is October 28th.

Rashid requested CAPA officers and directors to “inform your school districts and communities regarding this excellent opportunity for high school students of APA heritage.”

Students eligible for the scholarships are full-time high school seniors who will attend an institution in the State of Michigan and stay in Michigan. The eligible candidates for the scholarships must have APA heritage and should be willing to serve on CAPA’s youth committee.

The eligible students are required to submit their applications on or before the deadline. The students who will pass the screening process will also attend an interview for the final selection. The interview is set on November 9, 2011. The decision of CAPA’s award committee on will be granted the scholarships will be final.

Homeland security department begins reviewing 300,000 deportation cases

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced last August 18 that the department is going to begin reviewing all 300,000 pending deportation/removal cases in federal immigration courts to determine which individuals meet specific criteria for removal and to focus on the agency’s “highest priorities.”

DHS announced that it would put guidelines in place across immigration agencies to ensure that its enforcement priorities are focused on removing persons who are most dangerous to the country. DHS also announced that persons who were not high-priority targets for removal would have the opportunity to request prosecutorial discretion on a case-by-case basis.

Low-priority cases include persons who are not criminals and have been in the country since childhood, have strong community ties, are veterans or relatives of persons in the armed services, are caregivers, have serious health issues, are victims of crime or otherwise have a strong basis for remaining in the United States.

DHS said this announcement does not create any new immigration law. Also, the DHS’ announcement should not be viewed as the Obama Administration’s amnesty program.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) has also issued a warning for the public to be aware of people possibly trying to take advantage of the announcement to defraud immigrants by promising to apply for work permits or green cards.

AILA warns: Do NOT believe anyone who tells you they can sign you up for a work permit (Employment Authorization Document or EAD) or get you legal status based on Secretary Napolitano’s August 18, 2011 announcement! Anyone who says that is not to be trusted! There is NO safe way to turn yourself in to immigration and there is NO guarantee that your case will be considered “low priority.” ANY person who comes into contact with immigration authorities may be arrested, detained or even removed.

Only a QUALIFIED IMMIGRATION LAWYER can evaluate your case and tell your about your rights.

Do NOT seek legal advice from a notario or immigration consultant.

PACCM marks 10th year on Sept. 18

The Philippine American Community Center of Michigan (PACCM) will celebrate its 10th anniversary on September 18, 2011 with a cultural program to be held in its building at 17356 Northland Park Court, Southfield.

PACCM Chairperson Ernestina Mac said the cultural presentation will feature the popular Hula Dance Troupe and pupils of the Paaralang Pilipino (Filipino school).

Mac said the program, which will start at 1 p.m., will mark one decade of operations by PACCM, which serves as the hub of the Filipino-American community in Michigan.

The PACCM’s flagship programs, Mac said, include the Paaralang Pilipino, Health and Wellness Fair and Consular Services on Wheels, which benefit members of the community.

She also said that PACCM has become a regular venue for parties and other gatherings of various Filipino-American groups, noting that these events have strengthened the unity of the some 26,000 Filipinos in Michigan.

Its building was inaugurated in September, 2001. It was the culmination of a long quest for a Filipino community center in Michigan. As early as the 1930s, the Filipinos in the Great Lakes state numbering 787 (according to the census conducted on that year) already began the quest for a place
where they could congregate and hold important events.

The increase of the Filipino population in Michigan in the 1960s and 1970s led to the formation of several Filipino groups. In 1981, these groups formed the Filipino American Community Council (FILAMCCO), which since then has served as the umbrella organization.

It was FILAMCCO that worked hard to raise funds for the purchase and construction of the PACCM building.

**Multicultural Council of America would like to set-up a local chapter in your area**

Please let us know if you, or someone you know, would like to help us set up the local chapter, to help the local community. There is NO cost to you.

The Multicultural Council is dedicated to promoting world cultures, education and health care. We welcome your ideas & suggestions as to how we can improve this magazine or our services in your community.

Contact Rhina

**MULTICULTURAL CENTER**
1787 West Big Beaver Road
Troy, Michigan 48084, USA
Tel. 248-614-5200
www.multiculturalcouncil.org

info@multiculturalcouncil.org

TO SUBSCRIBE TO FREE e-MAGAZINE
Please send an email to
info@multiculturalcouncil.org

**GINA - Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act – What Employers Need To Know**

*By Mel Muskovitz, Dykema Gossett PLLC*

In November 2009, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), which prohibits genetic discrimination, went into effect. GINA applies to all employers with 15 or more employees.

Under GINA, it is illegal for health insurers and employers to discriminate based on an individual’s “genetic information”. In November 2010, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) adopted regulations for GINA. Employers need to know and/or consider in order to protect themselves against a charge of discrimination.

What the law provides. The employment-related provisions of GINA provide that an employer may not discriminate against employees or applicants because of genetic information with respect to hiring, firing, compensation, and terms of employment. Employers also cannot limit, segregate, or classify workers because of genetic information in any way that would deprive them of employment opportunities.

Article submitted by Mel Muskovitz, a member of the Employment and Labor Section in the Ann Arbor office of Dykema Gossett PLLC. More details and other articles written by Mr. Muskovitz can be viewed at www.dykema.com. Mr. Muskovitz can be reached at (734) 214-7633 or via e-mail at mmuskovitz@dykema.com.

**Video Challenge: “What’s Your Story?” White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**

There is nothing more powerful than the stories of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Our stories define who we are, and they reflect our impact on the community around us. At the White House Initiative on AAPIs, we seek to amplify these voices nationally. We are pleased to announce the first ever White House Initiative Video Challenge, called “What’s Your Story?”

We’re calling on you to produce a video, up to three minutes long, telling us who you are and how you have impacted those around you. In your video, answer the questions: How have your unique experiences shaped who you are today? And in what ways are you making a difference in your community? Everyone is welcomed to participate.

We will review the submissions and post a select number of entries on the White House website. In addition, we’ll invite a group of exceptional AAPI leaders to share their stories in person at the White House this fall as special guests in a White House Initiative on AAPIs event.

To learn more about the challenge, watch our call-out video: http://www.youtube.com/WhiteHouseAAPI.

To submit your video and learn more about the challenge, go to www.whitehouse.gov/whatsyourstory.

The deadline for video submissions is midnight on November 1, 2011.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing your stories.

Sincerely,
The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

For questions, email us at WhiteHouseAAPI@ed.gov

**Global Detroit: Leadership Program Openings and Partial Tuition Scholarships**

At its core, the Global Detroit Initiative is committed to
internationalizing southeast Michigan. There are many paths to this goal, but nothing is more important to our region than cultivating a place where immigrant and ethnic communities feel embraced by, and connected to, the leadership institutions and leaders of the region.

Regional Leadership Programs
Across the southeast region, hundreds of emerging leaders benefit from leadership programs each year. Programs in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Macomb County and Oakland County attract talented and aspiring people and then provide courses geared toward developing leadership skills and advancing knowledge of regional issues.

The Connection
Perhaps the most powerful impact leadership programs produce are the rich relationships formed amongst leaders who share a common enthusiasm for excellence. This network alone is critical to fostering personal growth and enhancing the value and exposure of each participant’s organizations.

The Opportunity
Leadership Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti, Leadership Detroit, Leadership Oakland, and Leadership Macomb provide valuable experiences and powerful programs that help emerging and existing leaders in southeast Michigan develop leadership skills and knowledge of regional issues. They also are critical networks where our region’s leaders create connections across industries and sectors and form bonds that last a lifetime. Each of these four leadership programs possesses a long list of distinguished graduates creating powerful change throughout southeast Michigan.

Graduates of each program report increasing leadership skills, enhancing knowledge of regional issues, diverse networking opportunities, developing a new commitment to their community, refreshment of values and personal mission, and credit their program with assisting them in becoming a knowledgeable, committed leader to our region.

2011 Openings & Partial Tuition Scholarships:
The opportunity to participate and to access partial tuition scholarships still exists for a few of the 2011 programs:

Leadership Oakland: The Oakland-based program currently has three openings for foreign born participants and has partial tuition scholarship funds available. The program begins September 18th, so if interested, please inquire soon. Please contact Chris Scharrer at 248.952.6880 X 2 or 810.422.8186, or via email cscharrer@leadershipoakland.com. Website: http://www.leadershipoakland.com/

Leadership Macomb: The Macomb-based program application deadline is August 30, 2011. Shadowing opportunities and/or scholarship assistance is available. To inquire, please contact Karen Smith at ksmith@leadershipmacomb.org or 586-790-5255. Website: http://www.leadershipmacomb.org/

Leadership Detroit: The Detroit-based program is currently full, please visit the website for information regarding 2012 programming. Informational sessions begin January 2012. To inquire, please contact Dan Piepszowski at dpiepszos@detroitchamber.com or 313-596-0315. Website: http://www.detroitchamber.com/policy/Legislation-and-Analysis/533-about-leadership-detroit

Leadership Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti: The Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti based program is currently full, please visit the website for information regarding 2012 programming.

Website: http://www.a2ychamber.org/Foundation/Leadership-A2Y.aspx

The opportunity to participate in this year's leadership programs is waning, so act fast!

For any other questions, please contact me at: sloan.herrick@gmail.com.

I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity!

Sloan Herrick
Global Detroit cell: 803-226-1870

Sho Nakahama, Executive Director of Japan Business Society of Detroit (JBSD) Invites you!

Sunday, October 2nd, 2011, Japan Business Society of Detroit (JBSD) is presenting the “Japan Festival 2011” at the Novi High School (24062 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48375) co-sponsoring with JSD Women’s Club and cooperation by the Japan-America Society of Greater Detroit and Windsor, Consulate General of Japan in Detroit, and Shiga Prefecture Japan.

The event will take place from 1pm to 4pm, and will host a variety of events introducing the traditional Japanese culture.

This is a family event for all ages. Please experience the rituals of the Japanese tea ceremony, or have fun at various activities featuring the Japanese culture, and when you are hungry, enjoy the Japanese food favorites!

With all the fun, admission to the event is free! (food and some attractions require fees)

For further information, please contact me at 248-355-4899 (fax: 248-355-5799) or e-mail jbsdmich@jbsd.org.
2012 SPLENDOR OF THE EAST presents
“TRIBUTE TO MOTHER EARTH”
(Part I of the Sequel)

A compilation of the different cultural appreciation to our environment. Performances will showcase different genre depicting the symbolic meaning of the cultural animals, fire, water, rain, flowers, plants, & many more. The show will also highlight the creation of heavens and earth in 7 days with a surprise ending that will transition to the Part II of the sequel in 2013 Theme – Crossroads.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God made two great lights one to rule the day (sun) and a lesser light to rule the night (moon & stars). He gathered the waters under the heaven unto one place and dry land appeared (earth). He fills the earth with vegetation and land creatures. After the entire world was prepared, He created Man and woman last. Then, God rests on the seventh day – the final day of creation.

Do not forget CASTING CALL October & November!
Stay connected – subscribe to Enews

Please visit the website: www.capa-mi.org for more information
Public Relations/Media Contact, Angela Wang at angela@capa-mi.org
Join CAPA sponsorship
Phil Chan (Fund-Raising Chairman) Email: phil@capa-mi.org

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan*Chrysan Industries, Inc.*Comcast*DMC - Huron Valley Sinai Hospital*
Michigan School of Professional Psychology*Oakland University*State Farm Insurance
Friends of CAPA: Ernestina Mac, M.D., Jessica Fitzgerald, Lake Shore Engineering, Logic Solutions
Please send us articles and/or events you would like to share.
Send email to: troy@capa-mi.org