



40th
ANNIVERSARY

Washington State Commission on
Asian Pacific American Affairs

1974 - 2014



THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the Lives of Asian Pacific Americans



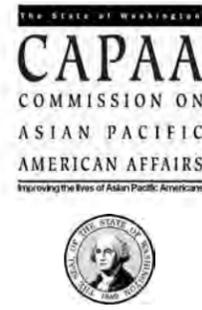

Appointments to state's Asian committee announced

OLYMPIA — (AP) — The reappointment of four members and appointments of 20 new members to the Commission on Asian-American Affairs was announced today by Gov. Dixy Lee Ray.

Reappointed were Tuyen Ngoc Pham, Bellevue; Ms. Paula Frial, Seattle; Paul H. Shin, Edmonds, and Ray Corpuz, Tacoma.

New members are Mrs. Lea Jane Armstrong, Kent; Constantine Baruso, Seattle; Ms. Jeni Kay Fung, Mercer Island; Yoshio Kosai, Tacoma; Robert B. Krisologo, Seattle; Antonio Leatuavao Mailo, Seattle; John Y. Sato, Bellevue; Paul Shigemi Isaki, Redmond; Phoune Keomahavong, Seattle; Raymond T. Lew, Mercer Island.

Ms. Jo-Elaine Akemi Matsumoto, Seattle; Rev. John L. F. Slee, Seattle; Joe Tokunaga, Moses Lake; Hiro Nishimura, Mercer Island; Tony Borromeo, Seattle; Taki Kubota, Seattle; James M. Mar, Seattle; Russell Nakatsu, Bellevue; Cal Underhill, Kirkland, and H. T. Wong, Cheney.



- OPENING ENTERTAINMENT** 6:30 PM **Filipino Youth Activities Drill Team**
Seattle Kokon Taiko
- WELCOME** **Michael Itti**
Executive Director, CAPAA
- MASTER OF CEREMONIES** **Lori Matsukawa**
KING 5 News, Anchor
- FOUR DECADES OF CAPAA PANEL DISCUSSION** **Mitch Matsudaira**
Director, Governor's Asian American Advisory Council, 1972 – 1974
Director, Commission on Asian American Affairs, 1974 – 1978
- Vivian Luna**
Director, Commission on Asian American Affairs, 1982 – 1984
- Sulja Warnick**
Commissioner, 1985- 1997
- Lua Pritchard**
Commissioner, 2001- 2011
- Jagdish Sharma**
Commissioner, 2007 – 2013
- CAPAA'S PRIORITIES** **Sofia Aragon**, Commissioner, Chair
- REMARKS** **Governor Jay Inslee**
- VOICES OF THE NEXT GENERATION** **Southeast Asian American Access in Education Coalition**
Our Future Matters
- CLOSING** **Tautua**

Tacoma woman gets Asian-American post

OLYMPIA — (UPI) — The appointment of Elizabeth B. Dunbar of Tacoma as executive director of the state Commission on Asian-American Affairs was announced yesterday by Gov. Dixy Lee Ray.

Ms. Dunbar, whose appointment becomes effective October 27, replaced Diane Yen-Mei Wong, who resigned. The appointment, which may be terminated by the governor, pays \$24,900 a year.

Ms. Dunbar now is executive director of the Asian American Alliance of Tacoma.

MONEY
FOR LOOSE NEWSPAPER
1533 - 120th N.E. Bellevue
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Dear Friends,

We are honored to serve our communities and state as the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs celebrates its 40th year.

The Commission's 40th anniversary is an important milestone. It is a time to examine our rich history from the trailblazers who founded the agency in 1974—the first of its kind in the nation—to the community leaders who have served and responded to the changing issues over four decades.

From bilingual education to immigrant assistance to institutional change, the challenges and opportunities addressed by the Commission have improved the quality of life for Asian and Pacific Islanders throughout Washington State.

The 40th is an opportunity to honor our legacy and inspire a new generation as we take on the challenges that still remain in education, health and human services, and economic opportunity.

We are grateful to all of the Commissioners and staff who have served throughout the decades of the Commission—your contributions to our communities is immeasurable.

SOFIA ARAGON Chair King County	DEBADUTTA DASH King County	GERARDINE CABUSAO Yakima County
TYATI TUFONO First Vice Chair Snohomish County	TASHI KHAMSHITSANG King County	LYNETTE FINAU King County
LISA DICKINSON Second Vice Chair Spokane County	QUANG NGUYEN King County	LORI WADA Pierce County
FRIEDA TAKAMURA King County	DARREN PEN Pierce County	MICHAEL ITTI Executive Director
	JEANNIE LEE Thurston County	AMY VAN Executive Assistant



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 2014

I am pleased to join in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA).

Throughout our Nation's history, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) have helped forge the country we have today. With grit and determination, AAPI men and women have pursued their own versions of the American dream and made significant contributions as leaders in all sectors of our economy, every aspect of our culture, and throughout our government.

Formally established by the Washington State Legislature in 1974, CAPAA has long fought to give voice to the AAPI community in Washington State and shed light on pressing challenges. Through research, education, and outreach, CAPAA strives to make vital resources equally accessible to AAPI families and ensure government reflects the people it represents. Your continued efforts remind us that the diversity of our people remains one of America's greatest strengths.

As you mark this milestone, I hope you take pride in all you have achieved over four decades of service to Washington State's AAPI community. I wish you all the best as you continue this important work in the years to come.



JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

A Message from the Governor

May 15, 2014

I am pleased to congratulate the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA) on its four decades of public service. Since its creation, CAPAA has been committed to ensuring the participation of Asian Pacific Americans in the fields of government, economic development, education, and health and human services.

Growing Washington's economy, strengthening our schools, and bringing a culture of performance and efficiency to state government in part relies on the duties carried out by dedicated members of the community. For 40 years, leaders from Washington's APA communities have served in the roles of CAPAA staff and commissioners. Together, they have worked tirelessly to bring the concerns of the 47 distinct Asian Pacific communities to the awareness of the Governor's office, policymakers and state agencies alike. Similarly, the work of CAPAA has educated the APA community about laws, programs, and policies that affect its well-being.

I would like to thank CAPAA for its commitment and partnership in working to improve the lives of Washington's Asian Pacific American communities.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor



GREETINGS FROM MITCH MATSUDAIRA

We all know from personal and community experience that institutional change on behalf of Asian and Pacific Americans is and always has been difficult. Forty years ago, a truly historic event happened in the United States. In 1974, the Legislature of the State of Washington became the first ever to establish a state agency solely dedicated to identify and serve the diverse needs of Asian and Pacific Americans.

This 40th Anniversary Celebration is a good time for us to ponder the rich history of the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, reflect upon the progress it has made, identify issues yet to be resolved and map distances that still need to be traveled. The efforts of past and present Commissioners and staff, volunteers and supporters towards institutional changes have been a key to making a difference for Asian and Pacific Americans.

Thank you for coming ... Go CAPAA!!!

MARTIN "MITCH" MATSUDAIRA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1972-74)

Governor's Asian American Advisory Council
Office of the Governor: Daniel J Evans

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1974-78)

Washington State Commission on Asian American Affairs*
Office of the Governor: Daniel J Evans
Office of the Governor: Dixie Lee Ray

* Name changed to current version in 1995

2014 COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

KING COUNTY

BOARD CHAIR, SOFIA ARAGON

In 1975, Commissioner Aragon immigrated to Seattle, Washington from Manila, Philippines when she was three years old. She spent most of her childhood growing up in south Seattle. She earned a B.A. in Economics from the University of Washington and a B.S. in Nursing from Seattle University. After practicing both acute care and primary care nursing in the Seattle area, she went on to law school, earning a Juris Doctor from Loyola University-Chicago School of Law, aiming for a career in health policy.



Today, she is the Senior Governmental Affairs Advisor for the WA State Nurses Association, advocating on behalf of the state's largest health profession on policy issues such as health reform, health professions regulation, workplace safety, workforce development, public health, eliminating health disparities, and protecting safety net services. She also currently serves as adjunct faculty for the Seattle University College of Nursing and a Legislative Externship site supervisor for the Seattle University Law School. Prior to joining WSNA in November of 2008, she was the Legislative and Policy Manager for the Community and Family Health Division at the Washington State Department of Health in Olympia.

DEBADUTTA DASH

Commissioner Dash is a native of India and worked with the Departments of Commerce, Agriculture and Co-operatives for the Government of India. He is the founder and Co-Chair of the Washington State India Trade Relations Action Committee (WASITRAC), a non-profit advocacy group working to strengthen bilateral trade relationship between India and Washington State, and one of the founders of the South Asian Music and Performing Arts Resource Center and Shri Sai Cultural and Community Center of Washington. He is the former President and current board member of the Asian Counseling and Referral Service, a member of the Equity and Pluralism Advisory Board for the Bellevue College and the former President of the India Association of Western Washington. He is an alumnus of the United Way Project Lead Program and the Asian Community Leadership Foundation program in 2005. He has been honored by the Northwest Asian Weekly Foundation and Seattle Congressman Jim McDermott for his community service.



Commissioner Dash currently works for the Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide as the Sales Manager and Service Culture Trainer at the Westin Hotel in Bellevue. He lives in Seattle with his wife Dr. Itu Mohapatra, a Clinical Specialist in Human Genetics at the University of Washington Medical Center and his daughter, Ina Dash, a senior at the University of Washington.



LYNETTE FINAU

Commissioner Finau was born in the Island Kingdom of Tonga in the South Pacific. She received a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies on Culture, Literature & the Arts from University of Washington and a M.A. in Education from Antioch University Seattle. She is currently a doctoral student at Antioch University's PhD in Leadership and Change Program. Her dissertation is an empirical research on the persistent discrepancy in the racial and ethnic composition of the student body and the teaching force. She is a certified (6-12) English Language Arts, History and Reading Interventions teacher and is one of very few Pacific Islander teachers in WA.

Commissioner Finau has been involved with the Board of Directors for Alliance for Community Empowering (ACE); Finding Your Voice (FYV) Instructor with the Office of the Education Ombudsman, Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Grant Staff at South Seattle Community College, Seattle Public Schools Equity and Race Advisory Committee (ERAC), Co-Chair of Inclusion and Justice Committee: PhDL&C Program, Developing Women's Leadership Around the Globe and Tongan Advocacy Group (TAG). She is married to husband Paul and they have three children: Jarett, Jade and Paul.



TASHI KHAMSHITSANG

Commissioner Khamshitsang lives in Shoreline, Washington. He is married with three children: two daughters and one son. Prior to his immigration to the United States, he worked with the Tibetan government in exile, including the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Nepal, for 25 years. Currently, he works for Puget Sound Energy in the Maps, Records and Technology Department.

As the former president of the Tibetan Association of Washington, he produced and coordinated the annual Tibet Fest at the Seattle Center. He has served as one of the Chairperson to the 2008 Dalai Lama Long Life Celebration Committee, one of the largest gatherings of Tibetan Americans and Canadians in North America. He also served as Coordinator for the Coordinating Committee of the North American Tibetan Associations from 2005-2007. He is currently one of the two elected members of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile in India from North America, representing over 17,000 strong communities of Tibetan origins living in North America.

QUANG NGUYEN

Commissioner Nguyen resides in Seattle, Washington. He is a Senior Economic Development Specialist for the Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation Development Authority. He is tasked with developing and implementing economic development strategies to revitalize and grow the Chinatown-International District. With close to 15 years of community leadership and economic development experience, Nguyen most recently served as the founder and executive director for the Washington Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce (now Greater Seattle Vietnamese Chamber) and a co-founder and board member of Friends of Little Saigon. Seattle Magazine recognized his work advocating for the preservation of the Little Saigon community as one of the top "2009 Influential Acts."

Commissioner Nguyen also served as a member of the Seattle Symphony's Celebrate Asia! Organizing Committee, a member of the Yesler Terrace Citizen Review Committee, and the executive director for the Vietnamese American Economic Development Association. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Linguistics from the University of Washington. He served honorably for 4 years as an active duty U.S. Marine.

FRIEDA TAKAMURA

Commissioner Takamura is a long time educator living in Renton, Washington. She retired from the position of Human/Civil Rights Coordinator at the Washington Education Association. Prior to working with the WEA, Frieda was a teacher in the public schools and in various leadership positions.

Commissioner Takamura is Japanese American and is active in the Asian/Pacific Islander community in her roles as facilitator of the Asian/Pacific Islander American Think Tank; the Asian community representative and co-chair of the Governor's Education Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee; volunteer at the Wing Luke Asian Museum; volunteer with the Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration Day at the Seattle Center; and member of the Asian/Pacific Islander Directors Coalition. She works closely with education and youth groups in the Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander communities. She also has experience as a cultural competency trainer and as a facilitator with diverse communities. She currently serves as the CAPAA Education Chair.



SNOHOMISH COUNTY



FIRST VICE CHAIR, TY TUFONO

Commissioner Tufono resides in Lynnwood, Washington and has been an active member in her community since 1991, having raised her three sons in the Edmonds School District. She has served in various leadership positions in the fields of special education, youth sports, labor, and cultural awareness. Commissioner Tufono works as a flight attendant and served as the president of the Association of Flight Attendants- CWA Local 27016.

Commissioner Tufono is the founder of the International Samoa Help Mission Alliance, which works in partnership with similar organizations in the countries of Samoa, New Zealand, Australia, China and the Philippines. She is also a member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, National Organization of Women, Women in Aviation, and the Washington State Labor Coalition.

SPOKANE COUNTY



SECOND VICE CHAIR, LISA DICKINSON

Commissioner Dickinson resides in Spokane, Washington. Super Lawyers named her a “Washington Rising Star” in 2006, 2010-2013. In 2005, she was selected by the Washington State Bar Association as a fellow for the WSBA Leadership Institute. She is the owner of Dickinson Law Firm, PLLC, where she currently works as an attorney. Prior to this, Dickinson served as a law clerk in the Western District of Washington U.S. Attorney’s Office, Office of the Washington State Attorney General, and as an attorney for other law offices. She also works part-time as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of Washington, and as a tribal court judge in various jurisdictions.

Commissioner Dickinson is active in her community and has served as a legal advisor to the Japanese American Citizens League – Spokane Chapter. She has served as a board President on the Northwest Justice Project Board, Spokane Washington Women Lawyers, Spokane County Young Lawyers, and has served on community boards such as Rotary Club 21, and the Martin Luther King Family Outreach Center. She is currently President-Elect of the Asian Bar Association of Washington. In 2010, she was named a representative to the American Bar Association’s House of Delegates and is still serving as a Delegate. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Washington.

PIERCE COUNTY

DARREN PEN

Commissioner Pen resides in Tacoma, Washington. He is the South End Tacoma Community Mobilization Specialist for the Safe Streets Campaign. He has served as the President of the Khmer Community of Tacoma and is the founder of the International Communities Organization of Cambodia. He’s been awarded the following: City of Destiny Awards from the City of Tacoma, the Local Hero Award from Bank of America, the City of Tacoma’s Human Rights, Human Services’ Achievement Award and the 20 People in the New Century to Watch. He has served on various boards including: the Mercy Housing Northwest, the Khmer Development Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the Food Bank of Pierce County, the Khmer Community of Tacoma, the Central Neighborhood Councils and Citizens Recognition Committee for City of Tacoma, United Nations Association of Cambodia, Seattle and Habitat for Humanity in Pierce County.

Commissioner Pen received a Theology Certificate from the North American Evangelism Division Institute, and received a Laws of the Public Policing Process Certificate from The Leadership Institute, Arlington, VA. He is alum of the American Leadership Forum Class XII and a graduate from the Nang Chan Medical School and University of Phnom Penh: Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. He has three children: Krischel, Michael and Samuel.

LORI WADA

Commissioner Wada immigrated to Washington from Seoul, South Korea when she was 18 years old. She has been a state government employee for over 25 years and has been an active and ardent supporter of grass root organizations. Through the 20 plus years as a career state employee, she was able to actively support and participate in affordable housing and healthcare equity initiatives.

Commissioner Wada was selected as a representative for the 23 member US delegation to Russia during the World Women’s conference, 1991 and in Beijing, China, 1993. She also served on various boards of higher education, low income housing, and community-based social service agencies. Commissioner Wada brings a diverse background and experience to the CAPAA board with broader focus on social, health and gender equity issues for the underserved population. Commissioner Wada holds a BA degree from St. Martin’s University.



THURSTON COUNTY



JEANNIE LEE

Commissioner Lee was born in Seoul, Korea. She was the Executive Director of the Korean American Grocers Association which assists Korean-American retailers in adapting to American culture, life style, and business. The Association functions as a catalyst to further the mutually beneficial relationship between Korean American retailers and their vendors /suppliers. She is a member of the Sharing Love Foundation, the Tacoma Korean American Association, and an organizer of the Hanwoori Festival. Previously, she was in the military and served as a Sergeant Major. Her assignments have taken her to Korea, Germany, and China.

Commissioner Lee is a graduate from Dong Myung Girls High School in Seoul. She earned a Master of Business Administration from Webster University and a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Maryland University.

Commissioner Lee's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award), the ARCOM (4th award), the AAM (5th award), the Good Conduct Medal (6th award), the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Force Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon with the numeral 4, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon (#4), and the Liberation Defense Campaigns Ribbon.

YAKIMA COUNTY



GERARDINE CABUSAO

A native of the Philippines, Commissioner Cabusao has resided in Selah, Washington since 1996. She works as a registered dietitian at Yakima Valley School, Department of Social and Health Services. She is also a consulting dietitian for the Senior Nutrition Program in Yakima County. She was actively involved with the Yakima Valley Dietetic Association. She served as the association's president in 2003, president-elect in 2002 and treasurer from 2000-2002.

Commissioner Cabusao is a board member of the Filipino American Community of Yakima Valley (FACYV) and is a key player in the successful operation of the organization's fundraising activities. She is passionate in promoting the Philippine's rich historical and cultural heritage. She is an adviser of FACYV'S Batang Wapato Youth Dance Group which performs Philippine folkdance exhibitions during various events around Yakima Valley throughout the year. She serves as Vice Chair of the Mabuhay Foundation Community Scholarship that provides scholarships to deserving Filipino, Filipino American high school students. Commissioner Cabusao received her Bachelor of Science in Foods and Nutrition from the Philippine Women's University, Manila, Philippines and her Dietetic Internship from Central Washington University.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MICHAEL ITTI

Itti is a second generation Thai-Chinese American born and raised in Washington. Itti was the program coordinator for the Asian and Pacific Islander American Voices in Education Initiative at the Win/Win Network. He engaged students, families and community members across Washington State in education policymaking to support the success of Asian Pacific American students.



Itti has experience working as a staff member in the Washington State Legislature and as an education advocate for the League of Education Voters. Itti serves as a council member for the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority and is a former board member for the Greater Seattle Chinese Chamber of Commerce. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the George Washington University.

AMY VAN, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Van is a 1.5 generation Vietnamese American born in Vietnam and raised in Seattle, Washington. She attended the University of Washington where she received her bachelor's degree from the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies with a focus on development. She has experience researching education policy and its ground effects, internationally in India and China, and currently devotes that energy and curiosity towards a more local agenda.



Van is an advocate for grassroots efforts committed to community development, education reform and civic engagement. She has completed participatory research and assisted in developing the community action plan proposal with the Vietnamese Friendship Association of southeast King County. Van is also a contributing writer to the Seattle Chinese Times, having helped spearhead the Behind the Scenes column, which celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit of local business owners.

Director Diane Wong (l.) and Commissioners Paul Isaki, Jeni Fung, H.T. Wong, Raymond Lew, Akemi Matsumoto, and Ray Corpuz served together on the Commission starting in 1978.

Commissioners H.T. Wong and Jeni Fung

Director Diane Wong and Commissioner Ray Corpuz



40 years with CAPAA: API activists blaze trail to the capitol

By Amy Van and Jintana Lityouvang
IE Guest Columnists

It was the era of sit-ins, picket-signs, and chants. Across the United States, African Americans were calling for the end of racial segregation and discrimination. By the early 1970s, a young group of Asian Pacific Americans (APA) joined the civil rights movement and began to define the Asian activist experience in Washington state and make their voices heard from city hall to the state capitol.

Maxine Chan was 16 years old when a friend informed her about the Asian Advisory Council that the Governor's office was creating and encouraged her to apply. She submitted a hand-written resume with her brief academic credentials (a middle school graduate at the time), and was surprised to receive a phone call from the Governor's office in the middle of class a few months later.

Governor Daniel J. Evans was the 16th governor of Washington State in 1972. It was that year when a handful of individuals from the Asian community approached his staff with the concern that the growing issues of discrimination and inequality remained unaddressed for Asian Americans.

At that time, Rey Pascua had just graduated from Western Washington University. As a Yakima native, he was moved by the Farmworkers' Movement in California. As an undergrad, he led the first Asian Student Union on the campus. After being active in Yakima County's Filipino community, he received an invitation from the Governor's office to officially join the council.

What brought Chan and Pascua together on the council has also brought Robert (Uncle Bob) Santos to the table as well. At the peak of the civil rights movement of the late '60s, Santos was picketing with African American laborers who were seeking inclusion in the workforce. He noticed the increasing violence within Seattle schools and the city's Kingdome development plan threatening the Chinatown/International District landscape. He and a group of APA activists began to strategize a plan to fight for civil and social justice rights.

"How do we deal with these kinds of [issues]? We should be going to the source that could do something, like government, like local government," Santos said.

Governor Evan's administration was responsive, and by request, the Asian Advisory Council was created to provide information and recommendations to the Governor's office on issues pertaining to the Asian American community. Council members were chosen based on their expressed knowledge of Asian American issues and their own experiences.

"These were people who were right at the cutting edge of things that were happening to the Asian American community throughout Washington state," said Pascua.

Chan had submitted a writing sample with her application in which she wrote about her favorite comic series, *The Green Lantern*. The series featured seemingly socially conscious content and led her to admire writer Denny O'Neil. However, when Chan came across one episode featuring a villain who was depicted as "Asian," adorned in yellow face with slanty eyes, she was enraged.

"How could something so socially conscious feature something so racist?" she asked.

In their own minor and major ways, these individuals were beginning to tackle issues of overt and subtle racism towards a group of people overlooked before: Asian Americans.

The model minority stereotype had rendered the Asian American community apathetic in the eyes of the majority culture. Yet, with the growing influx of refugees and immigrants settling in from war torn countries, the introduction of Affirmative Action, and the blatant glass ceilings, the community could not afford to appear to be apathetic much longer.

When the Governor had constituted the Council, 17 other individuals joined Chan, Santos, and Pascua, including Rick Ancheta, Cheryl Chow, Fred Cordova, Lois Fleming, Frank Fujii, Philip Hayasaka, Don Kazama, Dr. Hae Soung Kim, Richard Lee, Barry Matsumoto, Dr. Joe Okimoto, Fred Pagaduan, Urbano Quijance, Mayumi Tsutakawa, Dr. James Watanabe, Rev. Robert Yamashita, Dr. Isabella Yen, and Ben Woo.

There were mixed reactions towards the Council's creation: some feared the Council would wedge further tension between communities, while others looked forward to the Council remedying these social issues.

After the first two years spent on formalizing the structure, the Council took action on many issues including urging a resolution to disapprove of any King County participation in organizations that racially discriminate against people of color; recommending to have a consistent classification of "Asian Americans" in place of the current classifications of "Orientals" and "Others" on minority employment reports; eliminating Washington State Patrol's height requirement of six feet tall as a qualification to be a State Trooper as it discriminated against minority groups and women; campaigning to discourage the use of Merriam dictionaries after publishers refused to remove the word "Jap," after being asked.

As an advisory body under the auspices of the governor, members of the council recognized that their influence could be effective within state government and their community.

"These were really important times for involvement of minority people when we've never been involved before in society," said Pascua.

After concerns that the legislature would defund the Council in the next budget, members of the board drafted a bill to make the Council statutory. In 1974, the bill was adopted, and the formalized Council was renamed as the Washington State Asian American Affairs Commission.

"We were trying to show that we have issues in our communities that impact our communities," Pascua said. "Washington State had really been the forefront of the Asian American movement." ■

This series of op-eds are written to celebrate, reminisce, and highlight the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs 40th Anniversary. The anniversary celebration will take place on May 15, 2014. Please visit <http://www.capaa.wa.gov/about/40.shtml> for longer articles and for more information.



2014 CAPAA INTERNS

BRIANNE RAMOS is a Chamorro-Filipino American born in Guam and raised in Olympia, Washington. She currently attends the University of Washington and will receive her bachelor's in Medical Anthropology and Global Health with a minor in Diversity. She currently serves as the President of the Micronesian Islands Club at the University of Washington and works as a student ambassador for the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity. Her interests are in equal access to healthcare and education for the Asian Pacific Islander community, and works with programs like the Pacific Islander Opportunity Network for Educational Equality and Representation and the Pacific Islander Partnership in Education to help students access higher education as well as increasing the retention rate of APIs in college.

JINTANA LITYOUVONG is the daughter of Laotian American refugees and has lived across the west coast. With past involvements in the International Examiner, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, and the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center in Washington D.C, Lityouvang has a passion for working with the API community, for the API community. She is currently a senior at the University of Washington majoring in Culture, Literature and the Arts and has dreams of either writing the great Asian American novel or becoming a political speechwriter.

KRYSELLE MANZANO is a 2nd generation Ilocano/a-Filipino/a American born and raised in Southwest Seattle. She graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in American Ethnic Studies with a concentration in Asian American Studies. Manzano is a community organizer devoted to spreading awareness and engaging the public with concerns that may affect the community. She has experience in planning, organizing and coordinating various events within the greater Seattle, University of Washington, and around western Washington. She is currently taking active leadership roles in Pista Sa Nasyon, API Chaya in planning their annual Vigil, as well as interning for the Dorothy and Fred Documentary detailing a pioneering Filipino/a American couple and their contributions to the community.



Top photo: Commissioner Frieda Takamura and Frank Irigon celebrate with former Commissioner Rey Pascua (center), who received the Life Achievement Award at the annual Northwest Asian Weekly (NWA) Foundation's Top Contributors to the Asian Community banquet on Dec 6, 2013. Photo by George Liu/ NWA

Middle photo: Former Commissioner Jagdish Sharma received the Spirit of Liberty Award from Congressman Jim McDermott during the Naturalization Ceremony at Seattle Center on July 4, 2013.

Commissioner Debadutta Dash (center) and Executive Director Kendee Yamaguchi (far right) meet with Department of Commerce Director Rogers Weed (center left) in 2011 to advocate on policies and programs for the AAPI community.



LORI MATSUKAWA

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Lori Matsukawa currently co-anchors KING 5 News weeknights at 10 on KONG TV 6/16 and KING 5 News at 11 on KING 5. Matsukawa was hired at KING 5 in 1983 as a reporter and co-anchor for "Top Story," which takes a daily look at a major local story. She anchored KING 5 Morning News from 1988 to 1990, KING 5 Weekend News from 1990 to 1998 and KING 5 News at 11 from 1998 to 1999. From 1984 to 1990 she also co-hosted "Celebrate the Differences," a weekly KING 5 minority affairs program.

Lori reported from Tokyo on the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. She reported from the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, BC and the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Other major stories include Governor Gary Locke's first mission to China in 1997 and a series of reports on Washington apples and businesses in Japan in 1995 and 1991. She filed live reports for NBC affiliates during the 50th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Lori's personal favorite was when she pulled 9-Gs in an F-16 in 1999.

Matsukawa's professional awards include ARBY Awards in 1987, 1989, 1992, 1996 and 2000, given by the Academy of Religious Broadcasting; a Society of Professional Journalists award for Economic Reporting in 1989 and the "American Scene Award," from the local chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in 1986. In 2005, Lori was given the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Asian American Journalists Association for mentoring aspiring journalists and she was inducted into the University of Washington Communication Department's Alumni Hall of Fame. Then in April 2012 received another honor; UNITY: Journalists of Color



Director named for Asian panel

Diane Yen-Mei Wong
Appointed to state post

Times Olympia bureau

OLYMPIA — A Seattle attorney, Diane Yen-Mei Wong, began work here today as the new executive director of the state's Commission on Asian-American Affairs.

Ms. Wong was named to the position by Gov. Dixy Lee Ray at a news conference yesterday.

The position had been vacant nine months, since the resignation of Martin Matsudaira. His resignation is widely viewed in the Asian community as part of Governor Ray's purge of former Gov. Dan Evans' appointees.

Ms. Wong's salary is between \$20,000 and \$24,000 a year, she said, adding, "The amount is in dispute."

Ms. Wong graduated from Boston University Law School in 1976. She graduated from the University of Washington in 1972 and from Seattle's Garfield High School in 1968.

Between 1976 and March of this year she was a staff attorney for Evergreen Legal Services in Seattle. This summer she taught in the Women's Studies Department at the U.W.

She has been a legal consultant to various Asian organizations and serves on the Seattle Mayor's Task Force on Asian and Police Relations.



Commissioner Rey Pascua presents the Filipino Heritage Month Resolution to Superintendent Randy Dorn in 2010.

cited Lori Matsukawa as a "pioneering Asian American broadcast journalist" in its first list of the top journalists of color in the country for the past century. In 2014, Lori was inducted into the Silver Circle for lifetime achievement by the Northwest Chapter of NATAS, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Lori served several years as President of the Board of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington. She also served on the Association Board of the YMCA of Greater Seattle. In 1999, she organized the Student Broadcast Project for UNITY, a multi-cultural journalism convention held in Seattle. She was chosen as an Asian-American Living Pioneer by the Northwest Asian Weekly Foundation in 1996. In 1993, she was given the Community Volunteer Award from the Asian Counseling and Referral Service, where she served as a board member and board president. She is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA). Matsukawa is a founding member of AAJA's Seattle Chapter and served as Chapter president and co-chaired its National Convention in Seattle in 1991.

In 1974, Matsukawa was crowned Miss Teenage America, offering her a chance to travel outside her native Hawaii. The opportunity sparked her interest in journalism and Matsukawa went on to graduate Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University with a B.A. in communication/journalism in 1978. She received an M.A. in communication from the University of Washington in 1996. Her previous work experience includes reporting, producing and/or anchoring at The Honolulu Advertiser, KRCR TV in Redding, CA., KPTV in Portland, OR, and KOMO TV in Seattle, WA.

Matsukawa and her husband live in Bellevue. They have a grown son.

ABOUT OUR PANEL

MITCH MATSUDAIRA

Director, Governor's Asian American Advisory Council, 1972 – 1974

Director, Commission on Asian American Affairs, 1974 – 1978

Matsudaira was born in 1937 in Seattle's International District. His family was interned during WWII in the Minidoka Idaho WRA, while his two oldest brothers were serving in the 442nd RCT and the MIS. Matsudaira served in the US Air Force from 1955-1960. He graduated with a BA in Economics from the University of Washington in 1965 and earned an MPA from Seattle University in 1977. He worked for The Boeing Airplane Company as a Statistician in an Industrial Engineering group. He resigned from management in 1972 to accept a gubernatorial appointment as Executive Director of the Governor's Asian American Advisory Council (forerunner of the current statute agency). Matsudaira owned and operated a downtown Seattle retail business for eleven years. He returned to The Boeing Airplane Company in 1990 as a Business and Finance Planning Analyst and retired in 2003.

VIVIAN LUNA

Director, Commission on Asian American Affairs, 1982 – 1984

Vivian B. Luna, raised in Seattle's Central Area, received her undergraduate degree from Seattle University and her law degree from the University of Washington. She served as a Director with CAPAA and as a Cabinet member under former Mayor Norman Rice in Seattle. She has an extensive career in public service, having served as a Legal Services attorney in Seattle and in Northern California, as well as a Senior Attorney for the California Departments of Health Care Services, Industrial Relations and Social Services. She has been an Administrative Law Judge with the California Department of Social Services for almost a decade.

SULJA WARNICK

Commissioner, 1985- 1997

Warnick served as a CAPAA Co-Chair in 1994 along with Robert Fukai of Spokane. She is a founding member of Korean Women's Association, serving for forty years as Board Member. Warnick is a Certificated Teacher and taught middle school in Tacoma Public Schools for 30 years. Now retired, Warnick serves on the boards for Foundation for Tacoma Students and for the Multicare Foundation in Tacoma.



On March 12, 2010, Gov. Chris Gregoire signed Senate Bill 6467 authorizing honorary degrees for students who were ordered into internment camps. To the right of Gov. Gregoire is Sen. Paull Shin and CAPAA Executive Director Kendee Yamaguchi.

FAALUAINA PRITCHARD

Commissioner, 2001- 2011

Pritchard has served as the Executive Director of Asia Pacific Cultural Center since 2010. She was previously the Executive Director of Korean Women's Association for 15 years and served as a Commissioner of CAPAA for 10 years. Pritchard is currently the Chair of the Board of Trustees for Clover Park Technical College and a Board member of Tacoma Urban League. She was formerly on the boards of the DSHS Refugees Advisory Council for 8 years and the National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development. She is a Member of the Finance & Fund Development Committee for International Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa and the Chair of the Pierce County Asian Pacific Island Coalition (APIC).

JAGDISH SHARMA

Commissioner, 2007 – 2013

Jagdish Sharma is the founder/chairman of the Indo-American Friendship Forum. He is the director at-large of the Ethnic Heritage Council in Seattle; Vice President and founding member of the Nargis Dutt Cancer Foundation; and Advisory Committee Coordinator for the India Association of Western Washington. He continues to voluntarily and passionately engage in voicing the needs and rights of Asian Americans in the State of Washington. Sharma is also a member of the Indian American Task Force, a group consisting of Indian American leaders who recently voiced their concerns to Congress about the recent Mumbai terrorist attacks and terrorism in Pakistan.



On February 3rd, 2014, Asian Pacific Islander Coalition leaders from Spokane, Yakima, King, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston counties met with Gov. Inslee's Chief of Staff Joby Shimomura to talk about education, health and human services, and economic opportunity issues.



Commissioner Jeannie Lee launches the radio program with Radio Hankook in 2010.



On April 17, 1995, Governor Mike Lowry signed a bill to change the Commission's name to The State of Washington Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs to include Pacific Islanders. To the left of Gov. Lowry is Commissioner Veronica Leasiolagi-Barber, CAPAA Executive Director David Della, Kelly Wicker, and former CAPAA Program Assistant Brian Lock. Commissioner Salvador Villanueva is third from the right.

ENTERTAINMENT

FILIPINO YOUTH ACTIVITIES DRILL TEAM

Established in 1959, the Filipino Youth Activities Drill Team is comprised of Mandayan Marchers, Princessa Drill Team, and the Cumbanchero Percussioners. Currently, there are a total of 65 kids, with ages ranging from 5 to 19. Performances include various movements and formations filled with precision and timing by the Princessa girls Drill Team. The music is heavily inspired by Latin/Muslim/Modern beats on which the Cumbanchero Percussioners play on a level unheard of. The pole sequence is derived from the Singkhl, a traditional Muslim dance found in the Philippines. One will find an Eskrima Martial Art sequence, performed by Princessa Eskrimadoras who display a unique combination of grace and fierceness.

The FYA Drill Team also features a small performing team of about 18 kids, called "Ang Tiffany". This team is trained to adapt to any performance environment at a high level. Performances include weddings, conferences, small shows, and professional level productions.

The FYA Drill Team can occasionally be found in parades and festivals all over Washington state!

"Once a Mandayan, always a Mandayan. Once a Princessa, always a Princessa. Once a Cumbanchero, always a Cumbanchero. Once a member, always a part of the FYA family" - Fred Cordova, co founder, FYA Drill Team

SEATTLE KOKON TAIKO

Seattle Kokon Taiko, formed in 1980, views taiko as a dynamic synthesis of rhythm, movement and spirit born in Japan and nurtured in America. It is a uniquely Japanese American art form- Japanese in origin, American in expression-connecting generations and promoting understanding among people of all nationalities.

TAUTUA

Tautua which means "SERVICE", in the Samoan language is an intensive mentoring and leadership development program. Tautua is a culturally relevant program that works with Pacific Islander youth to set achievable goals, and to develop leaders within communities and families. The Tautua youth program interrupts negligent and violent behavior in young people by providing a platform for students to dissect, understand and embrace their Polynesian heritage. We do this by exposing youth to traditional Polynesian dance, arts and by teaching youth the traditional ways of the Polynesian Culture. This happens through the mentorship of our "Traditional Elders", community youth advocates and leaders. Tautua exists to provide youth with academic support and positive mentoring to ensure a path of success for their future. The definition of Tautua (service) teaches our youth how to give back but more importantly, how to serve others. This allows youth to view life from a much broader perspective, ultimately building healthy communities and productive citizens of society. Tautua intensively works with youth between the ages of 11-24. Our program works with youth once a week between the high crime hours of 4:00pm – 8:00 pm at the Asia Pacific Cultural Center.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs would like to thank all of the community members, Commissioners, staff, and public officials throughout the past four decades who have improved the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans. The celebration of the Commission's 40th anniversary is made possible by the support of the following sponsors, partners, contributors, and volunteers.

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 Former Commissioner Diane Narasaki
 Former Director Vivian Luna
 Former Director David Della
 Health Care Authority
 International Drop-in Center
 Joyce Yee
 Korean Women's Association
 Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises
 Peter Antolin
 REACTCS
 Sean Taeschner
 Seattle Chinese Culture and Arts Association
 Society of Chinese American Aerospace Engineers
 Seattle Mabuhay Foundation
 Tamaki Law
 Thai Curry Simple
 Washington State Nurses Association
 Washington State Patrol

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Branden Leung, program booklet designer
 Dean Wong, cover photos (top right, second on left)
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 Eugene Tagawa, photographer
 Filipino Youth Activities Drill Team
 Lori Matsukawa, Master of Ceremonies
 Our Future Matters
 Radio Hankook
 Seattle Kokon Taiko
 Southeast Asian American Access in Education Coalition
 Tautua
 Anniversary Committee
 Co-chairs: Former Director Ellen Abellera & Commissioner Frieda Takamura
 Host Committee: Mitch Matsudaira, Uncle Bob Santos, Maxine Chan, Ruth Woo, Rey Pascua, Diane Narasaki, Lua Pritchard, Joan Yoshitomi
 Current Commissioners: Sofia Aragon, Debadutta Dash, Ty Tufono, Tashi Khamshitsang, Lisa Dickinson, Quang Nguyen, Jeannie lee, Darren Pen, Didi Cabusao, Lynette Finau, Lori Wada
 Planning staff and volunteers:
 Amy Van, Brianne Ramos, Hector Pang, Jintana Lityouvong, Justin Chan, Kryselle Manzano, Michael Itti



STATE OF WASHINGTON
 OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
 OLYMPIA

DANIEL J. EVANS
 GOVERNOR

EO 72-03

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Today's concerned Asian Americans are seeking greater participation through representation in our government, society, and economy. It is appropriate that the unique concerns and problems of the Asian American communities in this state be carefully examined in order that policy recommendations with respect to these communities may be formulated. To assist in the examination of such issues, it is important that the ideas, talents, and recommendations of persons from these communities be obtained.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DANIEL J. EVANS, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby constitute the State Asian American Advisory Council, to be composed of twenty (20) members, to be appointed by the Governor. The Council is directed to examine and define issues pertaining to the rights and needs of Asian Americans in contemporary America, and to make recommendations to the Governor and state agencies with respect to desirable changes in program and law. Staff assistance will be provided to the Council through the Office of the Governor, or such state agency as may be hereafter designated. Departments of state government are requested to provide appropriate and reasonable assistance to the Council, and local government officials and private citizens are requested to lend the Council their fullest measure of cooperation, as needed to accomplish its goals.

Members of the Asian American Advisory Council shall serve without compensation, but shall receive \$25.00 per diem for each day or major portion thereof plus reimbursement of actual travel expenses incurred at the rate of 10¢ per mile.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the State of Washington to be affixed at Olympia, this 11th day of April, Nineteen hundred and seventy-two.

[Signature]
 Governor of Washington

BY THE GOVERNOR:

[Signature]
 Secretary of State

OUR HISTORY

ABOUT THE COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

The Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs is a statewide government agency created by a Governor's Executive Order and mandated by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas.

The Commission consists of twelve members, appointed by the governor, serving voluntary terms. Appointments are for three years and members reflect a diversity of occupations, ethnicities, and geographic regions. CAPAA holds five public meetings a year.

The management, administrative, and advisement work takes place in Olympia by the Executive Director and staff. The Executive Director is appointed and serves the Governor directly. Except for interns, the remaining staff are full-time employees of the state.

HISTORY

Due to pervasive discrimination and barriers in accessing government services, a group of local Asian Pacific American community members met with the Governor in 1971 to examine a broad range of issues facing the Asian Pacific American population in the areas of employment, education, social services, community development, immigration, and civil rights.

In January 1972, Governor Evans created The Governor's Asian Advisory Council by executive order. On February 26, 1974, the 43rd Washington State Legislature formally created The State of Washington Commission on Asian American Affairs as a state agency. On April 17, 1995, Governor Mike Lowry signed a bill to change the Commission's name to The State of Washington Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs to include Pacific Islanders.

The Commission was formed by the Legislature over concern with the plight of those Asian Pacific Americans who, for economic, linguistic, or cultural reasons, find themselves disadvantaged or isolated from American society and the benefits of equal opportunity. The Legislature deemed it necessary to create the commission to carry out the following purposes:

- Improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas.
- Help all Asian Pacific Americans achieve full equality and inclusion in American society.
- Aid Asian Pacific Americans in obtaining governmental services in order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of all the residents of this state.

PURPOSE

In order to meet its mission, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs serves several functions and roles. Among them are:

Research and analysis: To examine and define APA issues and to make recommendations to the governor, legislators, and state agencies with respect to desirable changes in program and law.

Advisory: To advise the Governor, state and local public officials on the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans, and programs focusing on the special problems and needs of APAs.

Education: To educate APAs about laws, programs, and policies that affect its well-being.

Conduit and consultant: To make government more accessible by serving as a conduit and consultant between APA communities and state agencies.

Resource: To serve as a resource through research and educational materials, technical assistance, agency referrals, casework, community forums, for example.

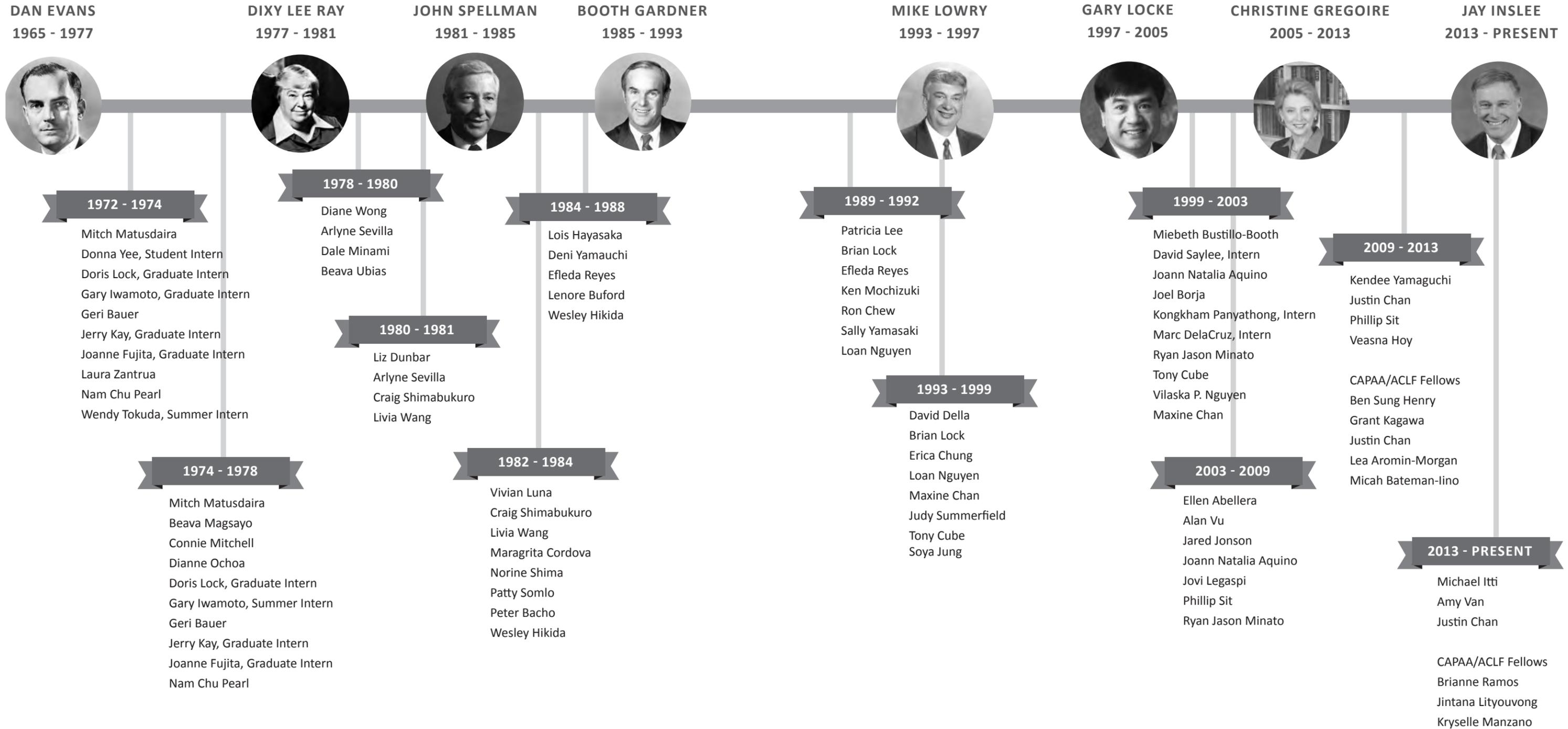
PRIORITY AREAS

Education: Access to quality, affordable, safe and culturally inclusive education.

Health and Human Services: Access to quality, affordable and culturally appropriate health and social services.

Economic Development: Equitable participation in economic, community, and work-force development.

DIRECTORS AND STAFF



40 YEARS OF COMMISSIONERS

1972

Barry Matsumoto
Ben Woo
Bob Santos
Bob Yamashita
Cheryl Chow
Don Kazama
Dr. Joe Okimoto
Frank Fujii
Frank Hattori
Fred Cordova
Fred Pagaduan
Hae Soung Kim
Isabella Yen
James Watanabe
Lois Fleming
Maxine Chan
Mayumi Tsutakawa
Phil Hayasaka
Richard Lee
Rick Ancheta
Urbano Quijance

1973

Joan Kis
Paul Patu
Rey Pascua

1974

Ben Woo
Bob Santos
Bob Yamashita
Cheryl Chow
Don Kazama
Dr. Joe Okimoto
Frank Fujii
Frank Hattori
Hae Soung Kim
Isabella Yen
James Watanabe
Joan Kis-Sparks
Lois Fleming

Mako Nakagawa
Maxine Chan
Nam Hi Knowles
Paul Patu
Phil Hayasaka
Ray Corpuz, Jr.
Rey Pascua
Richard Lee
Rick Ancheta
Vincente Barrios

1975

Andre Loh
Barry Mar
Doris Lock
Eugene Matsusaka
Gil Hirabayashi
Michael Castellano
Paull Shin

1976

Andy Pabo Pascua
Duc Hong Duong
Greg Tsang
Mary Jean Buza
Paula Frial
Richard Doi
Daniel Teruko Ogata
Tuyen Ngoc Pham

1977

Amy Wong

1978

Akemi Matsumoto
Atonio Mailo
Calvin Underhill
H.T. Wong
James M. Mar
Jeni Kay Fung
Joe Tokunaga
John L. F. Slee
John Y. Sato

Lea Jane Armstrong
Paul Isaki
Paula Frial
Paull Shin
Phoune Keomahavong
Ray E. Jr. Corpuz
Raymond T. Lew
Robert Krisologo
Russel Nakatsu
Takeshi Kubota
Tony Baruso Constantine
Tony P. Jr. Borromeo
Tuyen Pham
Yoshio Kosai

1979

Daniel Teruko
Sam Nakagawa
Wendy Hamai

1981

Akemi Matsumoto
Dave Garabato
Gary Ikeda
H.T. Wong
Jack Slee
Jan Yoshiwara
Joe Tokunaga
Pao Vue
Paul Isaki
Paull Shin
Pio DeCano
Ray E. Jr. Corpuz
Sun Pang
Tuyen Pham
Wendy Hamai

1982

Chi Duong Nguyen
Rita T. Cates

1983

Blaine L. Tamaki
Deni Yamauchi
Douglas W. Luna
Vang Xiong
Victor J. Toy

1984

Cynthia K. Rekdal
Gita Hatcher
Puni Hokea

1985

Harold J. Riach
Jan L. Yoshiwara
Mira Sinco
Sulja Warnick

1986

Blaine L. Tamaki
Jennie Lee L. Fong
Vang Xiong

1987

Cynthia K. Rekdal
Gus V. Salgado
Puni Hokea

1988

Ha T. Dao
Hema Raman
Mira Sinco
Patrick Baldoz
Sulja Warnick

1989

Gregory H. Pak
Peter P. Prisayane
Robert D. Fukai
Stanley Tsang
Van P. Dinh-Kuno

1990

Julia C. Wan
Veronica Leasiolagi-Barber

1991

Amitkumar Shah
Antonio P. Cube
Hieam Oung
Patrick Baldoz
Sulja Warnick
Tomoko Matsuno

1992

Van P. Dinh-Kuno
Robert D. Fukai
Alan Lai
Gregory H. Pak
Amitkumar Shah
Engsu Sieu
Gregory S. Chan

1993

Gregory S. Chan
Veronica Leasiolagi-Barber

1994

Amitkumar Shah
Antonio P. Cube
Hea Wha Ma
Salvador Villanueva
Stella D. Vasquez
Sulja Warnick
Tomoko Matsuno

1995

In Guk Kim
Kim Larson

1996

Anthony Lee
Diane Narasaki
Pamela T. Praeger
Van Sar

1997

Diane Narasaki
Ellen M. Abellera
Habib M. Habib
Hea Wha Ma
Natacha Sesko
Stella D. Vasquez
Steve Bader

1998

In Guk Kim
Kim Larson
Natacha Sesko
Pamela T. Praeger

2000

Alma Q. Kern
Anthony Lee
Diane Narasaki
Habib M. Habib
Yvonne Kinoshita Ward

2001

Elliott Lawrence Kim
Faaluaina Pritchard
Natacha Sesko
Randolph F. Bolong
Sam Tonn
Yvonne Kinoshita Ward

2002

Anthony Lee
Faaluaina Pritchard

2003

Alma Q. Kern
Elliott Lawrence Kim
Habib M. Habib
Leyen L. Vu
Randolph F. Bolong

2004

Charlie Chang
Douglas Heyamoto
Leyen L. Vu
Tanya Tran
Thi Huynh
Yvonne Kinoshita Ward

2005

Anthony Lee
Faaluaina Pritchard
Ron Chow

2006

Elliott Lawrence Kim
Felicito Abille, Jr.
Frances Youn
Habib M. Habib
Ron Chow
Thi Huynh

2007

Bee Cha
Douglas Heyamoto
Jagdish Sharma
Reynaldo Orfrecio Pascua
Tanya Tran

2008

Frieda Takamura

2009

Albert Shen
Debadutta Dash
Faaluaina Pritchard
Inkyung Jeannie Lee
Sofia Aragon

2010

Jagdish Sharma
Rey Pascua
Tashi Khamshitsang
Tyati Tufono

2011

Frieda Takamura
Lisa Dickinson
Pearl Leung
Quang Nguyen

2012

Debadutta Dash
Darren Pen
Inkyung Jeannie Lee
Sofia Aragon

2013

Gerardine Cabusao
Lynette Finau
Tashi Khamshitsang
Tyati Tufono

2014

Lori Wada

Governor's Asian American Advisory Council (1972 - 1974)

Washington State Commission on Asian American Affairs (1974 - 1995)

Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (1995 - Present)

IE OPINION

40 Years With CAPAA: First API state commission gets to work

By Amy Van and Jintana Lityoung
IE Guest Columnists

There was an "Asian Pacific American mentality" that Pio DeCano had grown up with, and it shows in his junior high school picture. "If you just look at my junior high school picture, there were [Japanese American] kids that had grown up in the concentration camps. There were Chinese Americans," he said. "We all had different ethnic groups. There was the same kind of discrimination in the 40s, the 50s, and 60s the earlier generations have suffered through so there was a kind of common bond between us."

Martin (Mitch) Matsudaira similarly speaks of this common bond of his own upbringing. The close proximity of Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino families gave way to interaction and camaraderie. So, when the civil rights movement began, these neighbors took on the fight together as Asian Americans.

This led to DeCano, who worked in Olympia for the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, to chair an ad-hoc committee to negotiate with Governor Dan Evans on the topic of organizing a council for Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) in the state of Washington.

DeCano worked with individuals like Matsudaira on the governor's Asian Advisory Council. When the Council was formalized into a commission, Matsudaira became the first Director of the Commission on Asian American Affairs. Matsudaira had taken a leave of absence from Boeing to wade the tides of politics. "It was a novelty," Matsudaira said of the Commission. "There was nothing like it out there."

Matsudaira is both a strategist and a risk taker. After leaving the Air Force, he received a degree in economics and went to work for Boeing. At the corporate level, he helped implement and carry out diversity seminars, providing what is now considered cultural competency training, for Boeing's department managers. Through his work, he realized prevalent ambivalence towards the Asian American history and experience. The Commission was that opportunity to change that.

Through the Commission, Asian Americans were finally present at the decision-making level, and Matsudaira made sure to be on the floor of the chambers when testimonies and lobbying was needed.

As the Commission's work became more influential in Olympia, other states began



CAPAA Director Diane Wong (far left) with commissioners and API community leaders. • Courtesy Photo

reaching out to Matsudaira, seeking his assistance in starting up similar avenues. He provided his assistance when possible; however it became clear that the success in Washington was due to the bonds the Asian community had formed growing up together as neighbors.

Diane Wong was a practicing lawyer in the International District/Chinatown when she applied to succeed Matsudaira as director of the Commission. She, too, had grown up in the Seattle area, surrounded by the growing Asian American civil rights movement.

"I really didn't like confrontation," Wong said of her legal practice. "When there was this opening at the Commission, I said, well that sounds like it could be more of a way to develop solutions that can involve a win-win situation."

As the Asian American community grew with each year in terms of number and diversity, the issues emerging from these changes saw their way into the Commission as well.

One of the issues that the Commission tackled was bilingual education. Wong recalled that the issue wasn't necessarily an opposition for bilingual education; rather, it was a lack of understanding about what bilingual education was and the needs of immigrants. "Immigrants didn't want to not speak English ... they wanted

to be able to maintain cultural roots as well as to learn English," Wong said.

Wong's strategy was to bring together naysayers and supporters alike at the legislative and community level for dialogue. The Commission worked around the questions of how to come up with a solution that maintained the depth and the joys of being different and yet being American. It was a way to introduce legislators to different cultures, and similarly, immigrants to the American way of developing laws.

When DeCano was on the State Board for Community College Education, he worked with different districts to provide bilingual classes and services for English as a Second Language students in schools.

"They just didn't realize how difficult it was for a non-English speaker to go into, for example, a chemistry class and try to absorb information without knowing the language. They had no feel for that kind of emerging process and what it does with a kid when they're confronted with a language they don't know and be expected to take exams and participate in class," DeCano said.

The Commission responded when the Vietnam War ended, leading to the arrival of Southeast Asian refugees resettling in the United States. In 1975, Governor Evans sponsored 500 Vietnamese

refugees. Families were placed in the military base of Camp Murray for temporary housing. Matsudaira helped with the refugee transition process, including arranging delivery of familiar food staples from Uwajimaya to the camp base.

Waves of immigrants and refugees continued to settle in Washington, and by the mid 1980s, Liz Dunbar was appointed as director of the Commission. She had been working at the Asian American Alliance in Tacoma and had goals to better connect with APA communities around the state and support Southeast Asian refugees.

"It was a massive influx and they overwhelmed the service system at the time. There was not enough capacity to respond to all the needs," Dunbar said. She worked with the Department of Social and Health Services to increase services for and address the needs of refugees.

Amidst the activities of first generation immigrants, second and third generation Japanese Americans were embarking on an effort of their own: redress of Executive Order 9066, which President Franklin Roosevelt signed on February 19, 1942 authorizing the deportation of Japanese Americans to internment camps.

Matsudaira was part of the leadership that steered the momentum of rescission. Matsudaira had spent three years of his adolescence in an internment camp, along with his entire family. For him, it was a personal matter as much as it was an attempt to repair the pains of his community.

The Japanese American Citizens League's large membership in Washington helped create a generous turnout of the community at the local hearing held at Seattle Central Community College auditorium. "The community really came out in force to tell their stories and share very painful episodes that in many cases had never been shared before," said Dunbar, who attended the hearing. The hearings helped to generate responses from all levels of government to apologize, and provide long overdue recognition and reparations to a group of people wrongfully convicted.

At its core, the Commission has long relied on the passion of individuals to carry out the needs of a diverse and complex community despite differences in leadership and focuses throughout time. ■

This series of op-eds are written to celebrate, reminisce, and highlight the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs 40th Anniversary. The anniversary celebration will take place on May 15, 2014. Please visit <http://www.capaa.wa.gov/about/40.shtml> for longer articles and for more information.

Council hears Asian-American views

By PATRICIA FOOTE
There is a major difference in attitude between white feminists and Asian feminists, and their goals won't always overlap, the newly reconstituted State Women's Council heard at its first meeting yesterday.

The State Commission on Asian-American Affairs' task force on Asian-American women gave a presentation at the afternoon session of the meeting, held at the Sheraton Renton Inn.

The morning session was taken up with a discussion between new and former members of the council about its achievements and plans. The council was reconstituted last month under executive order by Gov. Dan Evans.

The task force told the council that Asian-American women face the double bind of racism and sexism. Their energies thus must be spent first on trying to survive, then on the equal-rights amendment, the abortion issue and other causes championed by the white women's movement.

WHITE WOMEN, because of their cultural values, place emphasis on individual rights and self-fulfillment, said Cathy Gosho.

"Asian women tend to be far more group oriented, out of necessity as well as because of cultural traditions," she said. "They place preservation of the family and the community, fulfillment of family and community, higher than individual need fulfillment."

"The Asian woman is not desirous of separating herself from her life from that of her community — including its men."

"To the Asian woman, concern with self-fulfillment and male domination is a luxury, a privilege they cannot yet afford ... they must give their attention to the combined issues of racism and sexism since they are so inextricably intertwined in their experience," Ms. Gosho said.

There are issues, such as child care, working conditions and equal wages, where white and Asian feminists can work out cooperative strategies, according to Rita Fujiki.

a member of the council as well as one of those making the presentation.

Yet even then, Asian women will be more concerned with employment of Asian men than with that of white women, she added.

EMPLOYMENT statistics show that minority men and women are under-represented at all levels of the work force, the task force pointed out. Minority women are more likely than white to be in low-skilled and low-paying jobs, and are more vulnerable to changes in the economy.

Maxine Chan, Mayumi Tsutakawa and Mary Buza gave historical perspectives on Chinese, Japanese and Filipino people in this country.

They spoke of restrictions against male immigrants bringing their wives and families to this country and the lingering effects of that separation, of exploitation of workers as cheap labor, and the resulting racist belief that Asian males are inferior to white males.

That stereotype has even been absorbed into the Asian communities themselves, according to Ms. Fujiki. Fifty percent of Japanese-American women in the Seattle area marry outside their ethnic community, she said.

The task force made some recommendations to the council concerning its relationship to the state's 80,000 Asian-Americans.

That the council increase its outreach to minority women through speaking engagements, newsletters and other methods.

That a standing task force of members of the Women's Council and the Commission on Asian-American Affairs be formed.

That the council address specific issues concerning Asian women, such as the problems of Asian sauna employees, who face language difficulties as well as what the task force said were inequities in sauna legislation.

That the council attempt to make itself more aware of and sensitive to minority groups in general.

The Women's Council plans to meet again on May 22.



Members of the newly reconstituted State Women's Council who attended yesterday's meeting included, from left to right, front row, Rita Fujiki, Marianne Craft Norton, Pearl Warren, Rita Duran, Carolyn Patton and Claire Hess; middle row, Margaret McKeown, State Representative Eleanor Lee, Mary Burgess, Joan Brown and Janet Allison; back row, Debbie Clausen, Marilyn Irwin, State Representative Lorraine Wojahn and Ann Dewey. Mark Brown, another council member, is not pictured.—Staff photo by Johnny Closs.

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BRIAN LOCK: I was at the "then" Commission on Asian American Affairs from 1990-1994 between the last term of Governor Booth Gardner's and beginning of Mike Lowry's administration. It was an interesting time with a huge push by all the Ethnic Commissions to increase workforce diversity in all levels of management in state government, as well as tackling some of the largest issues at that time such as refugee assistance, hate crimes, affirmative action, health care access, minority contracting, and gang violence. My favorite experiences back then were seeing how many of our efforts and community support have led to real change in getting APIs in highest levels of management in state government and seeing how our coordination with the Asian Pacific State Employees to develop many young employees.

VIVIAN LUNA: It has been an amazing journey and I have been blessed with a career in public interest law that has encompassed a lot of what is dear to my heart: equal access issues to health care, public benefits, immigration, especially with what has occurred with Welfare Reform, Health Reform, and the whole change in the climate of this country. I see the exciting time spent with the Commission as a springboard and foundational base in honing in on those issues of equity and access.



Ellen Abellera served as CAPAA director from 2003 until 2009 and was appointed by Governors Locke and Gregoire.

40 Years with CAPAA: Commissioners respond to unique challenges

By Amy Van and Jintana Lityouong
IE Guest Columnists

Since 1974, more than 100 community volunteers have made a pledge to serve as a commissioner for the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA).

That pledge is to work toward one mission—to improve the lives of Asian Pacific Americans. Individuals ranging from school teachers to doctors, business owners to retired professionals, have all served on the Commission. These individuals bring to the table an understanding of the unique needs of their communities and a desire to apply their knowledge and experiences to give APAs a voice in government.

Commissioner Cynthia Rekdal served in the 1980s and reflected on her growth in her role as a community leader. “You can’t change things if you stay in the same circle,” Rekdal said.

While many APAs focused on influencing and diversifying political leadership, Rekdal was hard at work introducing diversity into another institution: education.

In 1984, the same year she was appointed as a CAPAA commissioner, Rekdal was leading the Renton school district as the Director of Multicultural Education for their Learning Assistant Program.

With a passion for education, Rekdal helped lead CAPAA’s education and affirmative action committees during her term.

“Multicultural education was almost nonexistent [in the ‘70s and into the ‘80s],” Rekdal said. “It became very strong that there was something wrong with a system that was teaching about white America and leaving everyone else [out]. We were really pushing at that time to look at the curriculum in a deeper and broader sense of the word.”

Rekdal and many others responded to the need for multicultural education at a critical juncture for Washington’s APA population, which has increased from 110,000 in 1980 to 675,000 in 2010 and is one of the fastest growing in the country.

Van Dinh Kuno emphasizes the importance of inclusion when speaking



Commissioner Vang Xiong (third row center) and Cynthia Rekdal (first row center) at a community meeting. • Courtesy Photo (undated)

of her own experience as a CAPAA commissioner beginning in the late 1980s. After settling in Minnesota as a refugee from Vietnam, Kuno earned her degree in biochemistry and worked in research before moving to Seattle.

“During the time I was searching for work, I saw a lot of Southeast Asians newly arrived in Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom areas, without [access] to any services.” With no formal experience in social work, aside from assisting her own family, she nonetheless took on the role to help struggling community members.

That was when she befriended Maxine Chan, one of CAPAA’s original commissioners, who assisted Kuno in her efforts and later encouraged her to apply as a commissioner. Kuno then became a member on CAPAA’s outreach committee, where her mission was to bring awareness to community members about the resources that existed.

Her outreach efforts allowed her to hear the concerns of members from various ethnic communities. In one instance, Kuno heard the concerns of community members regarding the lack of mental health services directed towards the APA community. This prompted her to work with the area’s mental health provider to

set aside funding to specifically focus on APA mental health issues. “Even though you’re Asian, you think you know the Asian culture, and we have a lot of things similar, but we have a lot of things different from each other, and that opportunity to do outreach was rewarding,” Kuno said.

Like Kuno, it was Vang Xiong’s unique experience as a first generation Hmong refugee that allowed him to witness these social challenges first hand, and subsequently become involved in shaping the quality of life for his community.

When he arrived in Hawai’i as a teenager from Laos, Xiong went from top of his class in Laos to having no familiarity of the English language, the American culture, and the societal systems in the states. These challenges made him see the difficulties that other Hmong dealt with to greater extent.

“We did not have positive media coverage,” Xiong said of the Hmong community. “A lot of the media coverage made Hmong people look primitive. The ‘mountain people’ misperception led to the discrimination of Hmong people from entry into places like the workforce.”

Realizing this, Xiong became involved as a community leader to bridge communication between APAs and the mainstream to dispute the negative misrepresentation of Hmong people. Along with other community members, one of Xiong’s first endeavors was to equip Hmong refugees with the skills to read and write in not only the Hmong language, but in English as well. By utilizing Hmong youth as volunteers, a self-sustaining model was created in which community members were able

to become educated and adjust more easily to life in the United States.

Xiong continued his advocacy for the Hmong community in Spokane and first became a commissioner in 1983. While he was a commissioner, he spoke up about federal cuts to social programs that supported newly arrived immigrants and refugees. Xiong also provided assistance to the National Office of Refugee and Immigrants to strategize the relocation of Hmong refugees that was overwhelming California and Wisconsin at the time.

There’s an urgency that reverberates in each individuals’ voices when speaking on the future of the APA community. “You can’t do it alone,” Rekdal said of her most valuable lesson in her years of community service. It is the same reason why Kuno and Xiong stress the need to cultivate future leaders of our community.

Whether multigenerational or newly arrived, CAPAA’s commissioners serve under the same vision of giving voice for APAs in government and society. With more than 47 distinct APA ethnic groups, commissioners strive to respond to the unique challenges and transformations that each community has endured throughout generations. This led to Kuno, Xiong, and others becoming part of the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, which formed in the 1990s to counter anti-immigrant policies. ■

This series of op-eds are written to celebrate, reminisce, and highlight the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs 40th Anniversary. The anniversary celebration will take place on May 15, 2014. Please visit <http://www.capaa.wa.gov/about/40.shtml> for longer articles and for more information.

UNCLE BOB SANTOS: Elected officials and Leaders in the dominant community started to understand what the Asian issues were; they started to understand more about our community. We had discrimination in employment, education, housing and the Commission was in the forefront of working with public officials to generate programs to address those issues.

MITCH MATSUDAIRA: When I started down there (in Olympia), there were hardly any Asians working there at all, by the time I left, there were more [Asians], and that was great, that was great satisfaction to see more Asian representatives in more state agencies.

VANG XIONG: CAPAA has an important role because CAPAA has a virtue from the state. When CAPAA organizes and bring the important players together, it can really set the tone and vision for what the community can be.

CYNTHIA REKDAL: A lot of community members feel as if ‘we’re just little people, we don’t have a voice, we are not political, we just have to work and we don’t have time for this other thing.’ But to know that there is this commission with a political underpinning, that could bring their voice, that is very important. I’m glad to see today that the Commission is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

VAN DINH KUNO: The hope I have for CAPAA is that it continues to grow, that it continues to embrace other communities; more importantly I hope it trains young people to take on the leadership. We need to have the younger generation there at the table involved in the key decision making.

ALAN LAI: Immigrant communities contribute to what America is. To fulfill the American dream is to learn the basics, especially young people, and they can do that by joining forces with the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition and CAPAA. We need to stay strong as a community and use our voices because the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

TONY LEE: We have a long, long history of working together, of the Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese-American and Pacific Islander communities working together; and CAPAA has played a big role in that. It’s an organization that has brought all communities together and we should be proud to have that.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

Please share your concerns, your solutions, and your voices. Send a letter to the editor to editor@iexaminer.org with the subject line “Letter to the Editor.”

IE OPINION

40 years with CAPAA: APIs flex political muscle for change

By Amy Van and Jintana Lityouvang
IE Guest Columnists

David Della was a teenager when he began working summers in Alaska at a fishing cannery. The canneries were a livelihood for many Filipino American families at the time, as well as other Asian American families. For Della, it was not only a summer job, but became the place where Della developed his passion for social justice.

Della noticed blatant practices of discrimination at the canneries. "There was segregation in the bunks as well as the cafeteria," he said of the unfair treatment. "We had separate food, they [white workers] had superior food, and there were no opportunities to move up. There were a few of us that wanted to work on the fishing side because of the higher pay, but we were stuck in the wet, low-waged segregated jobs."

These issues eventually made their way into a class action lawsuit known as the 1972 Wards Cove lawsuit. Although the long battle for Della and the 2,000 cannery workers came to a disappointing end, the pursuit for equal treatment eventually propelled Della into public service.

Brazen acts of discrimination were similarly observed within the justice system of which Alan Lai served. Lai got his degree in social work and worked within the Seattle Police Department (SPD) as a crime victim's advocate. He worked closely with the immigrant population and noticed a trend of community distrust toward SPD. In an effort to curb the distrust, he helped to establish remedial procedures that introduced cultural competencies into the department's practices.

By the early '90s, Della was Executive Director of the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA). As director, Della had three goals in mind: to focus on emerging communities, including South Asians and Southeast Asians; to mobilize the community; and to diversify the scope of the Commission to include economic development.



A scene from APA Legislative Day 2011. • Courtesy Photo

It was then that the Commission also sought a name change to include "Pacific."

"We felt that the original title, 'Commission on Asian American Affairs,' did not fully represent the actual communities we represent," Lai said, who was appointed as a Commissioner in 1992.

According to Della, the vehicle of change involves the ability of communities to mobilize themselves. He strategically began recruiting individuals to serve on the board of commissioners who had similar big-picture goals for the community, but who also had deep ties at the grassroots level.

Lua Pritchard was serving as Executive Director at the Korean Women's Association in Pierce County when she joined the Commission in 2001. As a Samoan American, she realized that her leadership position was unique and necessary.

"There weren't that many Pacific Islanders around at the time," Pritchard said. However, the population was growing and the range of issues continued to widen.

Tony Lee recalls one of the pressing issues emerged from the federal government's welfare reform efforts in the mid '90s.

"The community was quite concerned," Lee said. "There were a couple of reported suicides of immigrants [in other states] who faced the loss of the SSI [supplemental security income] benefits."

With so much at stake, CAPAA and APIC partnered to coordinate the first APA Legislative Day in 1996. More than 3,000 APAs from across the state descended onto Olympia to speak to elected officials about their concerns. The APA community showed it could flex its political muscle, and the result was bipartisan agreement to support vulnerable and low-income families.

"We cried," Pritchard said of witnessing the community united in front of the Legislative Building. "You couldn't help but have tears in your eyes, to see all those people, especially the elders, being a part of making a difference, changing policy on their behalf."

In addition to welfare reform, the impact of APA Legislative Day allowed other matters to be addressed. Matters such as expanding interpreter services, labor issues, and challenges for small businesses, gaining APA representation on the Governor's Council on Health Disparities, and passing a bill outlawing human trafficking were emphasized.

Nearly two decades have passed since the first APA Legislative Day and the tradition continues strong.

"You don't get change overnight, but you can get change through persistence," Della said of one of his greatest lessons learned throughout his experiences.

While building relationships with key policy makers is important, relationships with community members are important as well, according to Pritchard.

"Community members are not blind, they can see leaders with heart," Pritchard said. "The more they see you in action, the more they believe in you. When you call on them, they come and they know that [change] will happen." ■

This series of op-eds are written to celebrate, reminisce, and highlight the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs 40th Anniversary. The anniversary celebration will take place on May 15, 2014. Please visit <http://www.capaa.wa.gov/about/40.shtml> for longer articles and for more information.

With a background in public welfare and experience in lobbying, Lee teamed up with Diane Narasaki, both Commissioners appointed in 1996, to hold meetings to educate the community about the changes in the Welfare Reform Act, which made legal immigrants ineligible for many federal benefits. After several meetings in King County, the duo was able to expand to having meetings with large turnouts in Pierce County with the help of Pritchard.

It was from these meetings that the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) was formed. From there, eight different APIC Chapters were established to promote equitable access to culturally competent and linguistically accessible services for APA immigrants, refugees, and citizens in Washington State.

Former and current CAPAA commissioners took the lead in their respective counties: individuals like Van Dinh Kuno began rallying the community in Snohomish; Pritchard in Pierce; Lai, Lee and Narasaki in King; and Vang Xiong in Spokane.

One of the first goals of APIC was to plan a statewide APA legislative day.

"We wanted to tell [decision-makers] that they had to step up and provide state-funded benefits for these immigrants who were going to lose their federally-funded benefits," Lee said. Without the state providing a safety net, many low-income children and seniors and disabled adults would go hungry or homeless.

“

LUA PRITCHARD: We constantly have to be there at the table, if we are not there, we are not discussed. That's the biggest challenge. We have to make sure all the time that we are represented, and to make sure that our representatives will do it well and not just for themselves. Through CAPAA, I was able to go around the state and get a feel of the different types of API communities throughout the state and meet legislatures. CAPAA was a great avenue for us in the community speaking to the government. We look at CAPAA as our voice and our eyes in the government. When I was with CAPAA, people looked at me that way and I was proud of knowing that I was part of the group advising the Governor and his cabinet.

DIANE WONG: There's something about Washington state that allows the existence of something that is so unusual. A lot of it is because of the activism in Seattle and the sort of metropolitan areas that allow the community to come together and work despite the small numbers, that we know we have to work together. In the Pacific Northwest, especially in the Seattle and Tacoma area, you'll see that happening. CAPAA allows the community to express its issues and concerns through this legislatively mandated group. And those issues go directly to the governor and can be voiced through state legislator. This is something very, very important. And it doesn't happen anywhere else.

ARLYNE SEVILLA: While working with CAPAA it was a privilege to work with Diane Wong and Liz Dunbar. It was a learning experience and very rewarding to work with community leaders in Washington State who were passionate and committed to improving the lives of their respective communities.

JAGDISH SHARMA: I was very much honored to represent CAPAA in the 2013 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebrations at Washington, DC Official Congressional Ceremony was hosted by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and U.S. House Democratic Leadership at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. The theme was "A Path Forward on Comprehensive Immigration Reform". Featuring remarks by Congressional Leadership, CAPAC Members. Keynote Speaker was Jose Antonio Vargas of Define American, an undocumented immigrant from Philippines.

U.S. Department of Interior hosted first-ever White House Forum on AAPI Heritage to discuss on how National Park Service can better tell the story of the AAPI experience in America. Wing Luke Museum became an affiliated area of National Park Service; It is only the Asian Pacific American Community based museum in America telling everyday stories of our nation through a lens of Asian Pacific Americans.

”

“**DAVID DELLA:** For the future of CAPAA, I hope it continues to mobilize the community, and to bring that face to the State. You don't get change overnight, but you can get change if you're persistence and you know how the system works inside and you leverage those relationships. Things don't move as fast but they can if you build relationships with people in key positions. While it's important to have human services, you can create avoidance of human service costs if you can take care of the economic development side of things, and I hope CAPAA takes on that issue of inequality.”



DALE MINAMI: CAPAA was instrumental in the establishment of the Asian Pacific American Studies program at Washington State University in 1978. Our legal team, including Rod Kawakami, Gary Iwamoto and Timothy McKinney Jr., sued WSU to create such a program and the political support we received by CAPAA, particularly Diane Wong, then Director, was crucial to our eventual settlement. Congrats on 40 Years!!

DIANE NARASAKI: CAPAA and its staff were extremely helpful to statewide organizing efforts beneficial to Asian Pacific Americans during my term of service. Welfare reform legislation passed at the national level, ending access to public benefits, such as food stamps, for many of our community members due to their immigration status. CAPAA acted as a bridge between the Governor, legislators and the community on the impact of federal policy and legislation on our community, as well as policy and legislation being proposed at the state level resulting from changes at the federal level on our community. The information and analysis CAPAA shared with the community helped our community to respond creatively and effectively to the opportunities and threats entailed. CAPAA supported the statewide development of the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition in this period, and has played an important role in facilitating meetings between the Governor and legislative leadership with our community on our annual Asian Pacific American Legislative Days ever since then.

LYNETTE S. FINAU: Serving as commissioner is an honorable responsibility of reflective and distributed leadership. With the enormous support and resources available from our communities, I am learning to strategically lead, identify and create pathways that will have the greatest influence on the education of our APA students.

DOUG HEYAMOTO: It's with pride and admiration that I congratulate CAPAA in 40 years of service in helping to empower the lives of the Asian Pacific American communities in the State of Washington. Many thanks go to CAPAA and the staff for your hard work and dedication and I look forward to the future in embracing new challenges and seizing opportunities to advance social equity and inclusive participation for all.

RON CHEW: In the pre-Internet era, when the API population was much smaller and more isolated, CAPAA was a pioneer in organizing and developing a state-wide community-- and advocating for cultural sensitivity, bilingual services, social justice and equity. Today, in an even more diverse time, CAPAA still has a leadership role in ensuring that public policy-makers remain aware and responsive. Happy birthday CAPAA!



III. PROPOSAL TO THE GOVERNOR

Having detailed the reality of conditions affecting Asian Americans, and demonstrated the need for official attention from state government, the Seattle based Asian group* recommended that the establishment of a Washington State Asian Advisory Council be requested of the Governor. It was their position that such an agency was needed to give official recognition to statewide problems and provide access to appropriate channels for resolution. As an advisory body, the Council would have no real power, but if designated as being directly under the auspices of the Governor's Office, it would have the necessary prestige and influence to be effective within State Government and within the Asian communities. In addition, such a Council would enhance information sharing, unity, cooperation and support among various Asian American groups throughout the States.

While no definite commitment was made at this time, the Governor appeared receptive to the recommendation. He indicated he would give serious consideration to its feasibility and asked that the group begin to develop a concrete proposal for its formation.

A steering committee was formed to begin the task of determining Council objectives and criteria for individual appointments to the Council. After much discussion and deliberation, it was agreed that the goal of the Council would be to advise the Governor, Legislature and State Department Heads to effect the dissolution of acts and policies which result in the subordination and exclusion of Asians in the State of Washington. It was further agreed that Asian perspectives need to be presented to State Government in order to develop awareness of Asian problems and needs and an awareness of any

*Referred to on page 9, Item II of this report.

Excerpt from Commission on Asian American Affairs: How it all began by Lois Hayasaka (1976)

Vacancies on rights commissions unfilled

by LEE MORIWAKI

Gov. Dixy Lee Ray, during her first 11 months in office, has left unfilled numerous vacancies on the Washington State Commission on Asian-American Affairs and the Commission on Mexican-American Affairs.

The vacancies have left both agencies in limbo and prompted a delegation for the Mexican-American commission to appeal this week to Paul Bender, the governor's chief of staff, for help.

Bender said he hoped Governor Ray could make the appointments by the end of the year.

He called the appointments "high-priority actions" with the governor's office. "We're aware of the concern and are trying to respond," Bender said yesterday.

THE ASIAN-AMERICAN and Mexican-American commissions, along with the state Women's Council, were established to assist racial minorities and women in Washington.

The human-rights organizations, however, have been in the throes of uncertainty in recent times.

Governor Ray still is pondering whether to continue the Women's Council in view of the heavy vote against Referendum 40, which would have established a women's commission by statute.

And the governor has yet to fill three vacancies on the existing 18-member Women's Council, according to the council's acting executive director, Marianne Craft Norton.

Over in the Asian-American Commission's office in Olympia, Mich Matsudaira, the executive director, is planning to leave his \$23,900-a-year post on December 31.

Matsudaira's successor is to be named by Governor Ray, with recommendations coming from the Asian-American Commission.

But the 24-member commission technically has 24 vacancies, said Matsudaira, who plans to open a men's clothing store in the International District here.

Matsudaira said 20 positions on the Asian-American panel were opened up when Governor Ray made her sweeping request to the Senate in January that it return to her more than 120 appointments to state boards and commissions made by former Gov. Dan Evans.

The terms of the remaining four commissioners expired in June, Matsudaira said.

However, members of the commission have continued to serve in an "interim" capacity, he said.

"We're going on the assumption that until we receive further notice from her (Governor Ray) we can act as a commission," said Doris Lock of Seattle. Ms. Lock is serving as chairwoman of the Asian-American commission.

"But everything's been kind of kept in limbo right now," she said.

MS. LOCK SAID the names of 24 possible appointees have been submitted to the governor, but that Governor Ray is seeking more names to give her a wider selection.

David C. Garcia, whose term on the Mexican-American commission ended in July, said he knows of no full commission meeting that has taken place since Governor Ray took office.

"At this time I'm sure that the commission doesn't have enough members for a quorum," said Garcia, an instrument-maker for the University of Washington's physics department.

He said some commissioners have been holding "advisory meetings" this year.

Neither Garcia nor Bender could say offhand how many vacancies there are now on the Mexican-American commission.

But immediately after Governor Ray withdrew Evans' appointments, only four of the 11 members on the Mexican-American Affairs Commission remained.

Other commission spokesmen could not be reached for comment yesterday.

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