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
Commissioner
King County

GERARDINE CABUSAO
Commissioner
Yakima County

TYATI TUFONO
First Vice Chair
Snohomish County

LYNETTE FINAU
Commissioner
King County

QUANG NGUYEN
Commissioner
King County

LORI WADA
Commissioner
Pierce County

LISA DICKINSON
Second Vice Chair
Snohomish County

MICHAEL ITTI
Executive Director

FRIEDA TAKAMURA
Commissioner
King County

JEANNIE LEE
Commissioner
Thurston County

AMY VAN
Executive Assistant

SOFIA ARAGON
Commissioner, Chair
King County

DEBADUTTA DASH
Commissioner
King County

GERARDINE CABUSAO
Commissioner
Yakima County

TYATI TUFONO
First Vice Chair
Snohomish County

LYNETTE FINAU
Commissioner
King County

QUANG NGUYEN
Commissioner
King County

LORI WADA
Commissioner
Pierce County

LISA DICKINSON
Second Vice Chair
Snohomish County

MICHAEL ITTI
Executive Director

FRIEDA TAKAMURA
Commissioner
King County

JEANNIE LEE
Commissioner
Thurston County

AMY VAN
Executive Assistant

SOFIA ARAGON
Commissioner, Chair
King County

DEBADUTTA DASH
Commissioner
King County

GERARDINE CABUSAO
Commissioner
Yakima County

TYATI TUFONO
First Vice Chair
Snohomish County

LYNETTE FINAU
Commissioner
King County

QUANG NGUYEN
Commissioner
King County

LORI WADA
Commissioner
Pierce County

LISA DICKINSON
Second Vice Chair
Snohomish County

MICHAEL ITTI
Executive Director

FRIEDA TAKAMURA
Commissioner
King County

JEANNIE LEE
Commissioner
Thurston County

AMY VAN
Executive Assistant

SOFIA ARAGON
Commissioner, Chair
King County

DEBADUTTA DASH
Commissioner
King County

GERARDINE CABUSAO
Commissioner
Yakima County

TYATI TUFONO
First Vice Chair
Snohomish County

LYNETTE FINAU
Commissioner
King County

QUANG NGUYEN
Commissioner
King County

LORI WADA
Commissioner
Pierce County

LISA DICKINSON
Second Vice Chair
Snohomish County

MICHAEL ITTI
Executive Director

FRIEDA TAKAMURA
Commissioner
King County

JEANNIE LEE
Commissioner
Thurston County

AMY VAN
Executive Assistant

SOFIA ARAGON
Commissioner, Chair
King County

DEBADUTTA DASH
Commissioner
King County

GERARDINE CABUSAO
Commissioner
Yakima County

TYATI TUFONO
First Vice Chair
Snohomish County

LYNETTE FINAU
Commissioner
King County

QUANG NGUYEN
Commissioner
King County

LORI WADA
Commissioner
Pierce County

LISA DICKINSON
Second Vice Chair
Snohomish County

MICHAEL ITTI
Executive Director

FRIEDA TAKAMURA
Commissioner
King County

JEANNIE LEE
Commissioner
Thurston County

AMY VAN
Executive Assistant
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
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

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 Police Process Certificate from The Leadership Institute, Arlington, VA. He is a member 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.

YAKIMÁ 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.
It was the arts of syrup, pick-ups, and arts. Across the United States, African Americans were calling for the end of racial persecution and discrimination. By the early 1970s, a young group of Asian Pacific American (APA) activists and the civil rights movement began to see the Asian activism experience in Washington state and seek that voice heard from city hall to the state capitol.

Monica Chan was a 25-year-old student of 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 LIYOVONG 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., Liyovong 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.

KRYSSEL MANZANO is a 2nd generation Ilocano/Filipino 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 engagement with the public communities that may affect the community. She has experience in planning, organizing and coordinating various events within the Seattle, University of Washington, and around western Washington. She is currently taking active leadership roles in Pista Sa Nayon, 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.

By Anu Yen and Jilaini Lyovong
25 Years Connectivity

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 LIYOVONG 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., Liyovong 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.

KRYSSEL MANZANO is a 2nd generation Ilocano/Filipino 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 engagement with the public communities that may affect the community. She has experience in planning, organizing and coordinating various events within the Seattle, University of Washington, and around western Washington. She is currently taking active leadership roles in Pista Sa Nayon, 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.

IE Guest Columnist
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 (NWWA) Foundation’s Top Contributors to the Asian Community banquet on Dec. 6, 2013. Photo by George Liu / NWWA

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 API community.

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

By Anu Yen and Jilaini Lyovong
25 Years Connectivity

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 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.

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 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.
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 prospective, 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.

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.

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.

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

GOLD SPONSOR
Port of Seattle

SILVER SPONSORS
Muckleshoot Tribe
CAPAA Commissioners

BRONZE SPONSOR
Tulalip Tribes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the following contributors to the 40th anniversary effort:

Branden Leung, program booklet designer
Dean Wong, cover photos (top right, second on left)
Melissa Ponder, cover photo (top left)
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

MEDIA PARTNERS: International Examiner, Northwest Asian Weekly, Seattle Pinoy TV

Thank you to the following financial contributors and advertisers:

A&A Adult Family Home Care
Asian Bar Association of Washington
Asian Pacific Directors Coalition
Chinese American Citizens Alliance
Chinese American Forum
Chinese Institute of Engineers
Department of Enterprise Services
Department of Financial Institutions
Department of Revenue
Dolores Sibonga
Filipino American Chamber
Filipino American Community of the Yakima Valley
Former Commissioner Jagdish Sharma
Former Commissioner Diane Narasaki
Former Director Vivian Luna
Former Director David Delia
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

Thank you to the following contributors:

Annie Poon, cover photos (middle left)
Chien Le, cover photo (middle right)
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

Send in the Year!

Today, 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 day for each day or major portion thereof plus reimbursement of actual travel expenses incurred at the rate of 10c 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.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Washington State Patrol
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 workforce development.
40 YEARS OF COMMISSIONERS

1972
Barry Matsumoto
Ben Woo
Bob Santos
Bob Yamashita
Cheryl Chow
Don Kazama
Dr. Joe Okimoto
Frank Fuji
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
Urbanio Quijance
Mako Nakagawa
Maxine Chan
Nam Hi Knowles
Paul Patu
Phil Hayasaka
Ray Corpuz, Jr.
Rey Pascua
Richard Lee
Rick Ancheta
Vincente Barrios

1973
Joan Kis
Paul Patu
Rey Pascua

1974
Ben Woo
Bob Santos
Bob Yamashita
Cheryl Chow
Don Kazama
Dr. Joe Okimoto
Frank Fuji
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 Castillano
Paul Shih

1976
Andy Pabao Pascua
Duc Hong Duong
Greg Tsang
Mary Juza
Paula Frail
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. Siee
John Y. Sato
Lea Jane Armstrong
Paul Isaki
Paula Frail
Paul Shih
Phoune Komahavong
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 Sleel
Jan Yoshiwara
Joe Tokunaga
Pao Vue
Paul Isaki
Paul Shih
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
Paul Isaki
Paul Shih
Pio DeCano
Ray E. Jr. Corpuz
Sun Pang
Tuyen Pham
Wendy Hamai

1989
Gregory H. Pak
Peter P. Prisayane
Robert D. Fukai
Stanley Tsang
Van P. Dinh-Kuno

1990
Julia C. Wan
Veronica Leasiolagi-Barber

1991
Amikumar Shah
Antonio P. Cube
Hieam Oung
Patrick Baldoz
Sulja Warnick
Tomoiku Matsuno

1992
Van P. Dinh-Kuno
Robert D. Fukai
Alan Lai
Gregory H. Pak
Amikumar Shah
Enseu Sieu
Gregory S. Chan

1993
Gregory S. Chan
Veronica Leasiolagi-Barber

1994
Amikumar Shah
Antonio P. Cube
Hea Wha Ma
Salador Villanueva
Stella D. Vasquez
Sulja Warnick
Tomoiku Matsuno

1995
In Guk Kim

1996
Anthony Lee
Diane Naraeners
Pamela T. Praeger
Van Sar

1997
Diane Narasaki
Ellen M. Abellera
Habib M. Habib
Hea Wha Ma
Natacha Sesko
Stella D. Vasquez
Steve Bader

2004
Charlie Chang
Douglas Heyamoto
Leyen L. Vu
Tanya Tran
Thi Huynh
Yvonne Kinoshita Ward

2005
Anthony Lee
Faaluiana Pritchard
Ron Chow

2006
Elliott Lawrence Kim
Felicto 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
Faaluiana 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

2015
Veronica Leasiolagi-Barber

2016
Sulja Warnick
Mira Sinco

2017
Jan L. Yoshiwara
Harold J. Riach

2018
Puni Hokea

2019
Yvonne Kinoshita Ward

2020
Victor J. Toy
Vang Xiong
Douglas W. Luna

2021
Deni Yamauchi
Douglas Heyamoto

2022
Yvonne Kinoshita Ward

2023
Veronica Leasiolagi-Barber

2024
Gregory H. Pak

2025
Faaluiana Pritchard

2026
In Guk Kim

2027
Habib M. Habib

2028
Ron Chow

2029
Thi Huynh

2030
Yvonne Kinoshita Ward

Governor’s Asian American Advisory Council (1972 - 1974)
40 Years With CAPAA: First API state commission gets to work

By Amy Van and Jannae Lustyang

There was an “Asian Pacific American momentum” that the DeCrescendo had grown up with, and she shared it with her junior high school picture. “If you just look at my junior high school photo, there were Japanese American kids that had grown up in the concentration camps. There were Chinese American kids, and we all had different ethnic groups. There was some kind of discussion on the floor. The 50s, and the 60s had 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.

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.

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

Council hears Asian-American views

BI CENTENNIAL SPEAK!!

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.
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. That’s very important for me 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.

40 Years with CAPAA: Commissioners respond to unique challenges

By Amy Van and Jutima Lityewong

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).

Their 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 housing 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 APIs a voice in government.

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

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

In 1980, the year she was appointed as a CAPAA commissioner, Rekdal was leading the Boston Heart Health Campaign, a one-to-one education and assistance program for Boston undergraduates. With a position for education, Rekdal helped lead CAPAA’s education and affirmative action committees during her term.

“Multicultural education was almost nonexistent for the ‘80s and into the ‘90s,” 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 really pushed that at that time to look at the curriculum in a deeper and broader sense of the word.”

Rekdal and many other responded to the need for multicultural education at a critical juncture for Washington’s APA population, which has increased from 100,000 in 1980 to 672,000 in 2010 and is on track to be the fastest growing ethnic group in the country.

Van Dinh Kuno emphasized the importance of inclusion when speaking of his own experience as a CAPAA commissioner beginning in the late 1980s. After settling in Minnesota as a refugee from Vietnam, Kuno earned his 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 Southside, Rainier, and Westside areas, with access to any services,” Kuno said. “With no formal experience in social work, aside from assisting her own family, she nonetheless took on the role to help struggling community members.”

When he arrived in Sacramento 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.

“When we arrived in Hawaii 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. He then went to high school in the United States. However, he had no idea what the American culture was like.”

“I did not have any media coverage,” Xiong said of the Hmong community. “A lot of the media coverage made Hmong people look primitive. The ‘minority’ people’s misconception led to the discrimination of Hmong people from entry into places like the workplace.”

Realizing this, Xiong became involved as a community leader to bridge communication between APIs and the mainstream to dispel 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 both the Hmong language, but in English as well. By utilizing Hmong youth 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 later became a commissioner in 2013. While he was a commissioner, he spoke up for federal and state programs that supported newly arrived immigrants and refugees. Xiong also provided assistance to the National Office of Refugees and Former Refugees in the Republic of the Hmong refugees that was overwhelming California and Wisconsin at the time.

There’s a group that never returns individual voices when speaking on the future of the APA community. “You don’t do it alone,” Rekdal said of her most valuable lesson in her years of community service. It is the same lesson from Van and Xiong stress the need to cultivate future leaders of our community.

Whether multigenerational or newly arrived, CAPAA commissioners serve under the same vision of giving voice for APIs in government and society. With more than 47 distinct APA ethnic groups, commissioners serve to respond to unique challenges and transformations that each community has experienced throughout generations.

This led to Van, Xiong, and others forming part of the Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition, which formed in the 1990s to address anti-immigrant policies.

This series of stories are written in collaboration, support, and highlight the work of the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs 40th Anniversary. The number-
 anniversary celebration will take place on May 13, 2014. Please visit http://www.capaa.
.gov/for/3415.html for more information.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

Send a letter to the editor to editor@examiner.org with the subject line “Letter to the Editor.”

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

With a background in public welfare and experience in lobbying, Lee started from scratch. Lee joined CAPAA in 1996, to help mobilize and to push for legislation that would address the needs of APIs. CAPAA was a great avenue for us. We look at CAPAA as our voice and our eyes in the government. When I was with CAPAA, people looked at me and I was proud of knowing that I was part of the group advising the Governor and his cabinet.

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. I was especially proud of representing CAPAA in a House of Representatives ceremony. 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 APIA Heritage to discuss on how National Park Service can better tell the story of the APIA 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.
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

*Referral 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 unfiled

by LEE MORIWAKI


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 Matsuda, the organization's executive director, is planning to leave his $23,000-a-year post on December 31.

Matsuda'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 Matsuda, who plans to open a men's clothing store in the International District here.

Matsuda said 20 positions on the 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, Matsuda 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 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.
Congratulations!!

to the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs!

For 40 years you have served Washington’s Asian Pacific American residents, working to ensure access to participation in our State’s government, businesses, education, and other areas with tremendous success!

DFI supports CAPAA’s efforts by providing FREE financial education resources, including Foreclosure Fairness Act brochures (in 11 languages) to help homeowners connect with FREE counseling in an effort to find an alternative to foreclosure.
DFI licenses & regulates state financial institutions, educates WA residents on financial issues, and protects consumers from financial fraud.

The Washington Department of Financial Institutions
P.O. Box 41200, Olympia, WA 98504-1200
1.877.RING.DFI • www.dfi.wa.gov
www.dfi.wa.gov/financial-education • www.homeownership.wa.gov
License • Regulate • Educate • Protect

Congratulations

CAPAA

on your

40th Anniversary

The Filipino American Community of Yakima Valley
Sixty-Two Years of Preserving the Past to Enrich our Future 1952-2014

Forty years of improving the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans

Congratulations

Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

We celebrate with you
Commissioner Didi Cabusao & Family
Mannie, Mike & Aki, Alex, Chris
Looking for a change? Apply with the

Washington State Department of Enterprise Services

at www.Careers.wa.gov

Enterprise Services provides products and services to state government and political sub-divisions. Our diverse lines of business include: mail, vehicle fleets, printing, surplus disposal and acquisition, technology applications and support, risk management, contracts and procurement, custodial, engineering and architectural services, and property management.

Come see why we are an employer of choice for Washington State government.

For more information, visit des.wa.gov.

Are you a Washington business owner?
Do you want to do business with state government?

Then register in

Washington's Electronic Business Solution


Chinese American Citizens Alliance, a national civil rights organization founded in San Francisco in 1895 with the newest chapter in Seattle, congratulates CAPAA for serving our community for the past 40 years.

Chinese Institute of Engineers - Seattle
A 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization promoting STEM and servicing our communities for over 50 years

Please Join us for our annual:
- APA Youth Scholarship Award
- APA Youth Math Contest & Science Fun
- Science & Engineering Seminars
- Annual Convention
- Other Community Activities

Web: www.cie-sea.org Mail: ciemall@cie-sea.org

Society of Chinese American Aerospace Engineers

Congratulate CAPAA's 40th Anniversary!
Together, we will achieve more in bringing Asian Pacific Americans a brighter future.
The Washington State Patrol (WSP) is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applicants are considered for positions without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other basis. WSP is looking to fill 80 positions for its next cadet class. Learn more about a career as a WSP Trooper, find upcoming testing dates, or talk with a recruiter, by just clicking on “Be a Trooper” on our homepage at wsp.wa.gov. Applications are submitted online through our website at NEOGOV. Be one of the best and apply today.
No health insurance? Find out if you’re eligible for free coverage.

Apply anytime, year-round, using the online Healthplanfinder—www.wahealthplanfinder.org

Need more information? Go to www.hca.wa.gov/medicaid

or call (toll free) 1-855-WA-FINDER (1-855-923-4633)

Congratulations CAPAA!

The Port of Seattle congratulates the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs for its 40 years of promoting the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in our state.

For over 100 years, the Port of Seattle has been a trade and economic gateway to Asia, bringing prosperity to both regions. Our Century Agenda aims to add 100,000 jobs to our state in the next 25 years, and we look forward to working with CAPAA to insure that the economic benefit is shared with all communities.

Here’s to another 40 years of your success!