

AAARI Honors Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez and Distinguished CUNY Alumni Couple at 14th Annual Gala



L to R: Joyce Moy (AAARI), Professors Joe Rosenberg & Victor Goode (CUNY School of Law), Deborah Chan (Gala Honoree), Nelson Louis (Gala Honoree), President Gail O. Mellow (LaGuardia CC), President Felix V. Matos Rodriguez (Queens College) & Associate Dean Qing Hu (Baruch College)

12/10/15 – Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez, who has represented districts with large Asian populations in Brooklyn, Queens, the Lower East Side of Manhattan, and elsewhere for over two decades in Congress, was honored with the Leadership Award at AAARI's 14th Annual Gala.

AAARI executive director Joyce Moy praised Congresswoman Velázquez for her leadership as a champion for communities that are underrepresented and often without a voice. Community liaison Jianhang Xiao accepted the award on the Congresswoman's behalf and praised AAARI for its many accomplishments. He said that with the city's Asian American population at 15% and growing, the work of the Institute will only become more important in the coming years.

AAARI also honored two special CUNY distinguished Asian American alumni with its first-ever joint award. "This is a quintessential power couple," said Moy as she introduced Nelson Louis and his wife, Deborah Chan.

Deborah Chan is an attorney at the Law Office of Deborah Chan, P.C., founded in 1995. Chan received her undergraduate degree from LaGuardia Community College and Baruch College, and graduated from the CUNY Law School in 1990. She was counsel to the Office of Legal Affairs at the Human Resources Administration of the City of New York,

prior to opening her private practice. She is a former chair of the Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation and serves on the board of directors of several organizations.

Nelson Louis graduated with a B.A. degree in Education from Queens College in 1977. He is the Executive Officer of The Ong Family Foundation. Prior to that, he was President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Bergen County and held an executive director position at two branches of the YMCA of Greater New York, in a career that spanned 37 years. He was a founding member of the YMCA of USA Asian Leadership Network and has twice received the YMCA National AYP Award for Excellence. He also helped in the efforts to rebuild Chinatown after 9/11 as a member of the National Advisory Committee of the Rebuilding Chinatown Initiative.

The presidents of LaGuardia Community College and Queens College were effusive in their praise for the couple prior to presenting their awards. President Gail O. Mellow (LaGuardia CC) said that Chan and her husband were not just a power couple, but a sweetheart couple because they were so loving and giving to the community. "Debbie is a person who gives back to her community," said Mellow, as she encouraged students at the gala to follow her lead.

President Félix V. Matos Rodríguez (Queens College) said that the Queens College motto is, “We learn so that we might serve,” and that the work that Nelson has done exemplifies that slogan and spirit to the ultimate degree. “Nelson is someone that, whenever there is work to be done, whenever non-profit and community groups need support, he has always been present,” he said. “He has always been a driving force and he does it with humility; he does it with respect and he does it serving the community.”

Three students were presented with awards for the K.Y. & Noelle Chynn CUNY Ethics and Morality Essay Contest: Radya Shaid of Lehman College won best essay (\$1,000); Brooke Williams of CUNY

Graduate School was first runner-up (\$300); and Maria Virginia Villadiego-Punto of Queensborough Community College was the second runner-up (\$200). Baruch College student Lauren Chai received the 2015 CUNY Thomas Tam Scholarship (\$1,000).

The event held at Jing Fong Restaurant in New York’s Chinatown drew a crowd of over 400 people and was emceed by Ernabel Demillo, a veteran television journalist and educator, who is also the host and producer of CUNY-TV’s “Asian American Life.”

Video: www.aaari.info/2015banquet.htm

AAARI Leads Discussion on Future Economics of Aging for Immigrants in Queens



L to R: Joyce Moy (AAARI), Susan Moritz (Met Council); Jean Callahan (Hunter College - Brookdale Center for the Aging); and Christian González-Rivera (The Center for an Urban Future)

10/21/15 – Hundreds gathered to examine and address the most pressing issues facing the rapidly growing immigrant senior population in Queens with the purpose of building a coalition to meet future needs, at the forum, “Immigrant Aging in Queens: Realities, Challenges and Opportunities,” held at the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel in Flushing.

AAARI’s executive director Joyce Moy conducted a workshop on the economics of aging, and several CUNY representatives participated in the event hosted by the Queens Coalition for Immigrant Aging in cooperation with the Queens Forum (The Center for Community Leadership at the Jewish Community Relations Council of NY (JCRC-NY) and LaGuardia Community College).

Over two dozen speakers and panelists drew attention to the anticipated needs of the aging immigrant

population aged 65 and over who are now about 46% of New York City’s total senior population and whose numbers are expected to increase by 50% or more over the next ten years.

Keynote speaker, Joseph Salvo, chief demographer at the New York City Department of City Planning, presented data, which he said would be helpful to those present in their funding requests for the anticipated needs of Queens’ aging elderly population. Queens is the fifth largest city in the nation with increasing migration. Information on immigrant youth is well documented, but less common is information on the approximately 316,000 immigrants aged 65 and over. He said that contrary to fears that many seniors will be forced to move out of the city, it would be a very small percentage and most will be aging in place.

As of the latest figures, in 2014, 58% (185,000) of immigrant seniors over 65 are foreign born with 68 males per 100 females; 86% of their households are living with family. Based on current population figures, a rise of 40.7% in population for Queens overall is predicted for 2010-2040 with a 30% rise in seniors age 65 and over. Salvo presented areas of highest overall growth to help organizations anticipate where the needs will be greatest.

With current projections, there are growing language, education, housing, health, transportation and disability needs that will need to be met in a short time. Discussions also included information about how service providers get contracts; how to optimize physical, health, and services for seniors; addressing elder abuse; fighting poverty and food insecurity; the need for more culturally competent, bi-lingual professionals; the need for additional and ongoing data; alternatives to senior centers; a benefits checklist for medical benefits and programs; helping undocumented immigrants and niche communities; and coalition building to address immigrant aging.

Other notable speakers and panelists included immediate past comptroller John Liu, JCRC-NY Rabbi Bob Kaplan, NYC council member Paul Vallone, commissioner of immigrant affairs Nisha Agarwal, commissioner of the NYC Department for the Aging Donna Corrado, Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York president Kwang S. Kim, and Council of Peoples Organization executive director Mohammad Razvi.

Queens Coalition for Immigrant Aging director Rabbi Bob Kaplan concluded by summarizing the main issues raised and added that financial preparation must take place now to meet the needs of aging immigrant seniors. "Where are the resources coming from?" he asked. "It needs to be put on the elected officials' agenda."

"The elderly population will double in the next ten years," Kaplan said. "It would be tragic to fail that generation."

Related AAARI Links

www.aaari.info/14-11-19mapping.htm

www.aaari.info/2014communities.htm

www.aaari.info/notes/APACount.pdf



Congresswoman Grace Meng (Center) with Public Advocate Letitia James, Queens College President Félix V. Matos Rodriguez, and AAARI Executive Director Joyce Moy, to her left.

AAARI Joins Roundtable Discussion with Congresswoman Grace Meng

11/13/15 – AAARI executive director Joyce Moy joined with Congresswoman Grace Meng and special guest New York City Public Advocate Letitia James in an intimate roundtable discussion with community leaders on issues facing Queens' immigrant, minority, and women-owned enterprise (MWBE) businesses. Moy praised current efforts to provide more inclusive services, but said that more culturally appropriate assistance to MWBE businesses was also needed. The meeting was held in association with and on the campus of Queens College.

CUNY Alumni and Community Leaders Represent CUNY and AAARI at Chinese-American Planning Council's 50th Anniversary Gala



L to R: Lawrence S. Lin, Sr. (Project Manager - CIO/ PMO, North Shore LIJ Health Systems); Joanne and Ken Iwama (Chief of Staff to College of Staten Island President); Dean Sunil Gupta (Center for Continuing Education and Workforce Development, BMCC); Joyce Moy (Executive Director, AAARI); Ron Woo (Board Chair, AAARI; Brooklyn College alumnus & Senior Advisor, CUNY) and Lily Din Woo (Queens College alumna & Director of Chan Fellows Program, Teachers College, Columbia University); Doris Ling-Cohan (Brooklyn College alumna and New York State Supreme Court Justice, Appellate Term, First Department); and Sandra Ung (Hunter College alumna & Special Assistant to Congresswoman Grace Meng)

11/19/15 – AAARI executive director Joyce Moy and AAARI board chair Ron Woo, along with many notable CUNY alumni and community leaders raised a glass to toast the Chinese-American Planning Council's 50th anniversary held at the Capitale on the Lower East Side in Manhattan. Founding member of CPC, Virginia Kee, a CUNY alumna (Hunter College), received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the celebration gala.

AAARI Co-Sponsors White House Anti-Bullying Listening Session



10/15/15 – In an effort to raise awareness, report and prevent bullying in the AAPI community, AAARI joined with the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families to co-sponsor an AAPI Bullying Prevention Task Force listening session by the White House at AAARI's office. Youth shared their experiences with bullying or harassment in order to help advocates and government officials find ways to prevent bullying of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Bullying of AAPI students presents unique circumstances complicated by linguistic, cultural, and religious issues. A wide gap continues to exist between utilization of government remedies by the community and the incidence of bullying and harassment that affects AAPI students.



Betty Lee Sung's Memoirs at 90 and her Ninth Book

11/6/15 - Many people in the Asian American community are aware of the numerous professional achievements of AAARI co-founder and former board chair, Professor Emerita Betty Lee Sung, but now they can get to know her personally through her memoir, *Defiant Second Daughter: My First Ninety Years*. Sung, at 90, manages to get around and stay active with the help of friends and family. During a book talk at AAARI, Sung still commanded an audience eager to hear her share secrets to success in the outspoken manner that is her trademark.

Video: www.aaari.info/15-11-06Sung.htm



Chinese American Political Activism during the Cold War and McCarthy Era

11/13/15 - Charlotte Brooks, chair of the Asian American Studies Program at Baruch College/CUNY, discussed the intense scrutiny that Chinese Americans faced, under suspicion as Communist sympathizers, from the U.S. government during the time of McCarthy and the Cold War in her second book, *Between Mao and McCarthy: Chinese American Politics in the Cold War* (2015). At the same time, Chinese Americans on both coasts struggled to gain political power and defend their civil rights. Brooks studied both communities and found that Chinese Americans on the West Coast were successful through multiracial coalitions, encouraging voting and moderate activism, whereas their counterparts on the East Coast failed due to deep divisions and factionalism.

Video: www.aaari.info/15-11-13Brooks.htm



Dadah: A Meditation on Opium

12/11/15 - Malaysian American writer Chin Woon Ping, gave a special reading of and discussion on "Dadah: A Meditation on Opium," featured in *CUNY FORUM Volume 3:1*. A visiting professor of English at Dartmouth College, Dr. Chin's writing evokes the times and life of the overseas Chinese who grew up in Malacca, Malaysia, once a British port for the opium trade. In prose, poetry and linked imaginary historical diary, Dr. Chin recounts her own family history riddled with deaths from opium, and heroin - its derivative. Later moving to Vermont, Dr. Chin sees "that opium has followed me here too, with addiction and crime reaching alarming portions."

Video: www.aaari.info/15-12-11Chin.htm
CUNY FORUM: www.aaari.info/cunyforum

Ellis Island Special Featured on CUNY TV's Asian American Life

9/29/15 - Host Ernabel Demillo traced the path of the Filipinos who passed through Ellis Island in the early 1900s and correspondent Kyung Yoon talked about the "Peopling of America" exhibit that opened in May 2015 in an Ellis Island special on CUNY TV's Asian American Life, a monthly series featuring the Asian American community in the tri-state area. DeMillo spoke with Kevin Nadal, author of *Images of America: Filipinos in New York City* about the little known stories of Filipino immigration on the East Coast. Viewers learned how to trace their family history and roots from 1892 to 1957 through records and arrival manifests available at

the interactive museum and online.

View this episode and others: www.cuny.tv/show/asianamericanlife

Related AAARI Videos

Chinese Immigration and Poetry at Angel Island and Ellis Island

www.aaari.info/15-03-06Yung.htm

Filipinos in New York City

www.aaari.info/15-11-20Nadal.htm

Asian American Leaders Address Barriers



L to R: Richard Lui (MSNBC), Betty Lo (Nielsen), Tricia Han (About.com), Ruby Sharma (Ernst & Young), Eileen Lee (Venture for America), Jeannie Diefenderfer (Accenture and Verizon), and Emily Shelton (Morgan Stanley)

9/29/15 - The Asian American Federation hosted a discussion on "Asian American Leaders Navigating through the Barriers." The moderator, MSNBC anchor Richard Lui, led a lively conversation with six panelists who were leaders in finance, business, media, communications, research, marketing and more. Panelists shared tips and advice on how to self-monitor success by using helpful charts and techniques. "Replace goals with passions" and "overcome doing what you fear by allowing yourself to feel the fear, then doing it anyway," were some of the many tips shared by panelists with over 100 attendees. Details: <http://is.gd/Q2byjW>

Related AAARI Video

www.aaari.info/15-04-15mapping.htm

www.aaari.info/15-03-27Hartlep.htm

CUNY Professor Kevin Nadal's Continual Work to Educate About Asian American Stereotypes and Microaggressions

10/27/15 - Kevin Nadal (John Jay College/CUNY and CUNY Graduate Center) was a featured panelist at the Asian American Federation's discussion on "Asian Stereotypes: Understanding How Microaggressions Impact Youth & Professionals." He, Almeet Kaur (The Junior Sikh Coalition), David Zhou (The Microaggressions Project), and Gloria S. Chan (Coach Diversity Institute) shared their unique perspectives on the subtle forms of discrimination that

occur at school, work and in other situations that detrimentally affect the personal and professional well-being of Asian Americans. The event attended by over 150 people, was moderated by NPR's Hansi Lo Wang. View the video online: <http://is.gd/s2oo25>

Related AAARI Video

www.aaari.info/13-11-08Nadal.htm

AARP Survey Finds Reason to Worry for Many Retiring Asian Americans



L to R: Daphne Kwok (AARP), Sandy Poon-Wing (Morgan Stanley), Howard Shih (AAF), and Beth Finkel (AARP)

10/8/15 - AARP raised concerns about issues affecting Asian Americans approaching retirement at a special luncheon attended by Asian American community leaders, including representation from AAARI. In a telephone survey of 353 respondents aged 35-69, they found that as many as two-thirds are worried about not saving enough to retire. In addition to the stresses of family caregiving, many are saddled by student loan debt; high housing, health and education costs; and employment obstacles.

AARP's survey reveals that as many as half of the respondents felt that due to lack of savings or a retirement plan, they may have to move out of New York City as a result. AARP is proposing a potential state-facilitated retirement fund to help workers who do not have access to a 401k or other retirement plans.

The report, "High Anxiety: New York City Asian American Gen X and Boomers Struggle with Stress, Savings and Security," can be accessed online at <http://is.gd/t7GXrd>

Bridge for Tomorrow – the Kakehashi Project at LaGuardia Community College

11/19 - 11/20/15 - LaGuardia Community College hosted students and faculty members from Saga and Tokushima Universities, two regional national universities in Japan, as part of an exchange program between Japan and the United States. Students learned about the social and cultural aspects of modern day Japan, and shared their own American perspective with the Japanese students in interactive presentations and workshops. The project was started a few years ago by the Japanese government to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

Approximately 55 students from CUNY campuses went to Japan in 2013, and since then, the students from Japan have been visiting CUNY colleges.



Photo courtesy of CUNY-Kakehashi Facebook Page

Details: <http://is.gd/oRsjnR>

**Asian American / Asian Research Institute
City University of New York
25 West 43rd Street, Room 1000
New York, NY 10036**

**“Building the bridge between CUNY,
and the Asian American / Asian community.”**

Upcoming Events

3/4/16

Making a Global Immigrant Neighborhood:
Brooklyn’s Sunset Park
Tarry Hum (Queens College/CUNY)

3/11/16

Navigating Model Minority Stereotypes: Asian
Indian Students in South Asian Diaspora
Rupam Saran (Medgar Evers College/CUNY)

3/18/16

We Too Sing America: South Asian, Arab, Muslim,
and Sikh Immigrants Shape Our Multiracial Future
Deepa Iyer

4/1/16

Saving Face: The Emotional Costs of the
Asian Immigrant Myth
Angie Y. Chung (CUNY Graduate Center)

5/6/16

Asian American Leadership at CUNY
and Higher Education
CUNY Graduate Center

5/13/16

AAARI Annual Conference
Resurgent Realities: East Coast
Asian American Studies
CUNY Graduate Center



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