

Global Thinking / Local Voices



NEW YORK AND BEYOND

“Immigrants run global cities. When we think of globalization, we think primarily about these large companies. But who cleans the buildings, who services the professionals, who deals with all the IT—all the wires and electronics behind the scenes? These are actually run by immigrant populations. National boundaries are comprised of cities directly interacting with each other. Tokyo with New York, New York with London. So cities are the primary advocates for immigrant rights in the country. This gives us enormous leverage to make change.

— Dr. John Chin, Urban Affairs & Planning, Hunter College/CUNY

Asian American Health Panel (2010)

URL: www.aaari.info/10-05-21Health.htm



Asian American / Asian Research Institute
City University of New York
www.aaari.info

ASIAN & PACIFIC AMERICANS IN NEW YORK CITY

MAJOR ASIAN GROUPS

- Chinese
- Korean
- Japanese
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Filipino
- Vietnamese

Chinatown The city's Largest concentration of Chinese Still lives here, but it is declining as property values rise.

Western Queens This area has one of the most diverse Asian populations.

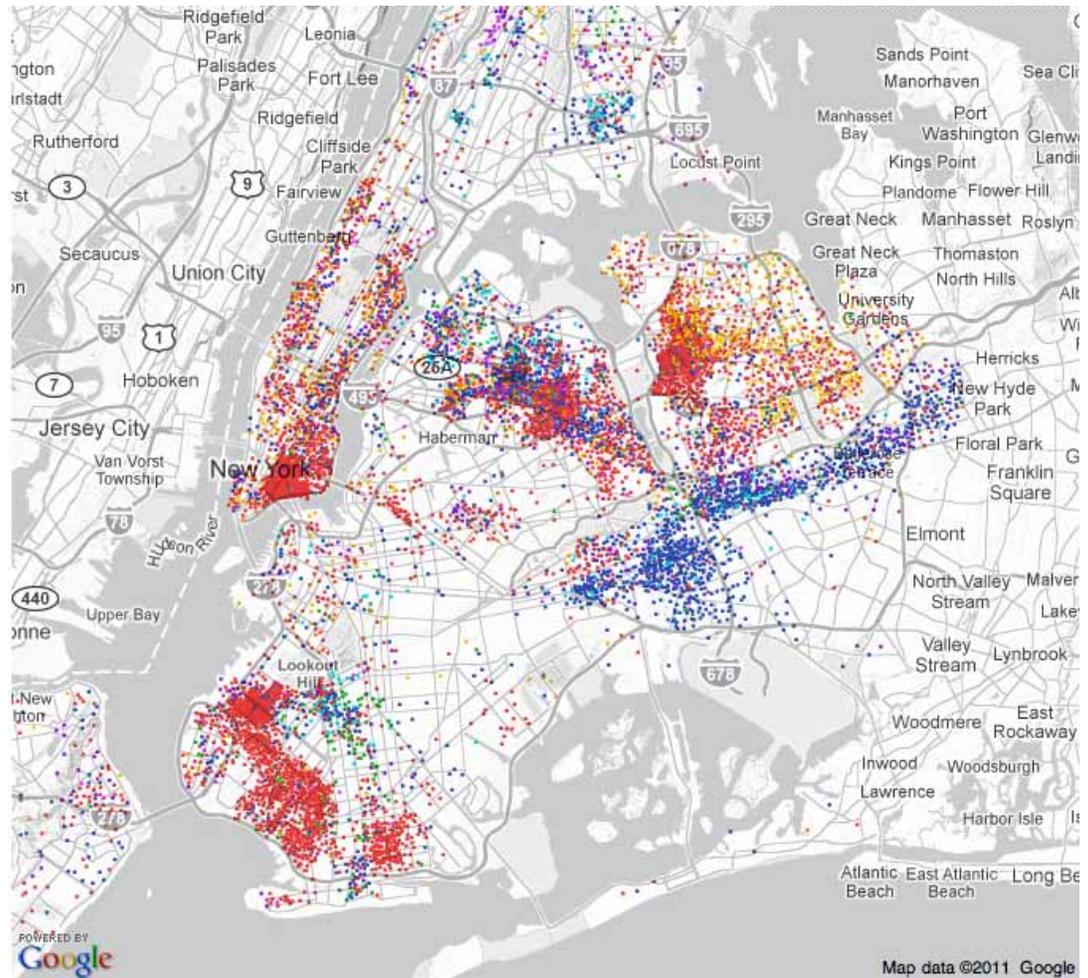
Eastern Queens Some of the greatest concentrations of Indians in the city.

Flushing Chinese dominate, but there are also many Koreans

Brooklyn An established Chinese community in Sunset Park has spread south and east to Bensonhurst.

Source: US Census Bureau & socialexplorer.com

Duplicated from Ford Fessenden and Matthew Bloch



QUICK STATS

With a city population of 8,175,133 according to the 2010 U.S. Census, New York is the most populous city in the United States, more than twice the size of the second-largest city, Los Angeles.

Since the 2000 U.S. Census, Asian residents rose by almost two percentage points, to nearly 13 percent in 2010.

In Queens, the South and Southeast Asian population grew nearly 31 percent from 2000 to 2010: the largest increase of any other immigrant group in Queens.

Queens has 2.2 million people and Asians now account for 23 percent of the overall population while whites and Hispanics each make up 28 percent. Experts believe most Asians are coming from China and India, but other groups are increasing their numbers as well.

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MESSAGE FROM AAARI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI) was founded nearly a decade ago. Since that time, the Asian populations in the United States and within the City University of New York (CUNY) have grown dramatically and are increasingly more diverse. Asian nations such as China and India are recognized as world powers, not merely emerging nations. Technology connects us and helps our communities stay connected to and provide opportunities to share their heritage as never before.

At the same time, cultures are changing at the speed of light as new ideas are transported from one part of the world and disseminated to hundreds and thousands in an instant.

AAARI's mission of educating; inspiring dialogue and learning about the history, cultures, literatures and concerns of Asian Americans and Asia; and providing forums for community and international voices is more relevant than ever. As AAARI goes forward, it is imperative that we provide platforms for Asian American and Asian perspectives to shape and inform the narrative of our communities and that our research informs and guides public policy that impacts Asian American communities and our relationships with Asia.

AAARI will continue to act as a bridge between CUNY and the Asian American and Asian community, and beyond.

— Joyce Moy, Executive Director, AAARI

AAARI is a university-wide scholarly research and resource center that focuses on issues and policies that affect Asians and Asian Americans. It focuses on Asian Americans, East Asians, South Asians, and Trade and Technology studies.

Mission

- Community of scholars who focus on Asia and the Asian American experience through balanced scholarship, community-impact studies, and policy research.
- Cultural and intellectual forum for New York's diverse ethnic subgroups of Asian origin.
- Center to promote, educate, and disseminate the study of Asian and Asian American issues in a timely manner.



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CONSTRUCTIVE PLURALISM AT CUNY

CUNY students represent some 196 countries of birth, and collectively speak more than 170 native languages. Almost half our students are from outside the mainland, and half are not native speakers.

— Dr. Otis Hill, Former Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, CUNY
Education: Challenges & Perspectives (2003)
 URL: www.aari.info/2003conference.htm



Students mobilize for Asian Studies at City College, 1974
 Photo: Mary Uyematsu Kao, UCLA

Total Enrollment by Undergraduate and Graduate Level, Race/Ethnicity and College Fall 2010

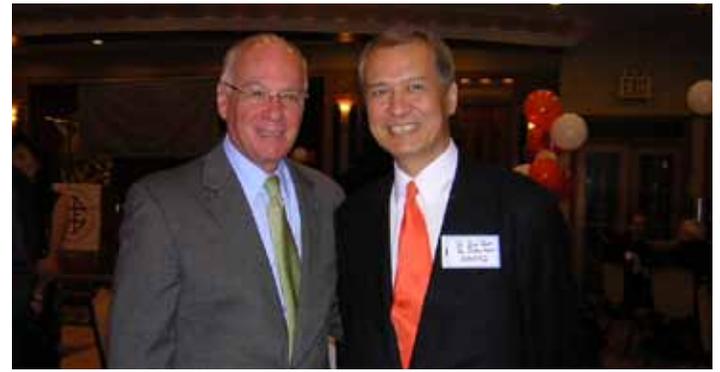
Undergraduate										
	American Indian/Native		Asian/Pacific Islander		Black		Hispanic		White	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Baruch	0.1	18	39.6	5,201	11	1,447	16.1	2,117	33.1	4,337
Brooklyn City	0.1	14	17.3	2,215	27.8	3,558	12.6	1,607	42.3	5,410
Hunter	0.2	23	22.8	2,792	23.2	2,843	34.6	4,237	19.3	2,368
John Jay	0.3	42	25.7	4,024	12.5	1,959	19.7	3,086	41.9	6,573
Lehman	0.3	37	9.9	1,310	22.9	3,040	41.2	5,473	25.7	3,418
Medgar Evers	0.1	5	6.1	597	30.6	3,011	52.5	5,167	10.8	1,061
NYCCT	0.2	13	1.9	130	90.8	6,285	5.8	399	1.3	93
Queens	0.3	50	17.7	2,722	39.1	6,013	27.5	4,227	15.3	2,354
Staten Island	0.2	31	27.3	4,426	8.6	1,400	18.1	2,931	45.7	7,407
York	0.2	23	11.5	1,481	10.9	1,398	14.5	1,858	62.9	8,069
Professional Studies	0.5	41	19.4	1,512	51.3	3,993	20.3	1,584	8.4	654
Professional Studies	---	0	7.4	84	31.5	358	21.6	245	39.5	449
Total Senior Colleges	0.2	297	19.3	26,494	25.7	35,305	24	32,931	30.7	42,193
BMCC	0.2	54	14.4	3,252	32.9	7,407	38.3	8,640	14.1	3,181
Bronx	0.2	26	2.7	291	33.3	3,574	60.8	6,528	3	321
Hostos	0.4	27	4.5	291	29.9	1,940	60.8	3,954	4.4	287
Kingsborough	0.3	47	13.5	2,509	33.8	6,284	16	2,974	36.5	6,792
LaGuardia	0.4	64	23.1	4,067	19.1	3,350	41.1	7,223	16.3	2,865
Queensborough	0.6	90	23.8	3,638	25.3	3,871	26.4	4,044	24	3,673
Total Community Colleges	0.3	308	15.4	14,048	29	26,426	36.6	33,363	18.8	17,119
TOTAL UNIVERSITY	0.3	605	17.7	40,542	27	61,731	29	66,294	26	59,312

Graduate, First Professional										
	American Indian/Native		Asian/Pacific Islander		Black		Hispanic		White	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Baruch	0.2	8	26.6	1,049	11.8	465	8.8	348	52.6	2,073
Brooklyn City	0.1	3	10	409	23.7	974	8.9	365	57.4	2,357
Hunter	0.1	4	14.1	446	19.9	627	24.3	765	41.6	1,311
John Jay	0.6	38	9.8	656	13.1	878	13.6	916	63	4,235
Lehman	0.3	5	6	115	24.2	466	21.6	416	48	926
Lehman	---	1	6.2	140	23.1	525	32	728	38.7	880
Queens	---	1	14.3	675	8.6	406	12.2	574	64.8	3,055
Staten Island	---	0	7.9	84	5.2	55	7.2	77	79.7	849
York	---	0	8.1	3	48.6	18	13.5	5	29.7	11
Graduate School	0.1	5	14.2	659	6.5	302	8.5	396	70.7	3,280
Journalism School	---	0	11.8	20	13	22	11.8	20	63.3	107
Professional Studies	---	0	9.3	60	36.4	234	14	90	40.3	259
Law School	0.2	1	11.3	50	9.5	42	12.7	56	66.2	292
Total Senior Colleges	0.2	66	12.9	4,366	14.8	5,014	14.1	4,756	58	19,635
TOTAL UNIVERSITY	0.2	66	12.9	4,366	14.8	5,014	14.1	4,756	58	19,635

Source: CUNY Office of Institutional Research



Dr. Betty Lee Sung



Dr. Matthew Goldstein (Chancellor, CUNY) and Dr. Thomas Tam

FROM MOUNTAIN OF GOLD TO CUNY: A PIONEER SCHOLAR'S PERSPECTIVE

“Most people don’t want to acknowledge their age, but according to Chinese values, the older you are, the more respect you’re supposed to command. So let me see if I’m going to command that respect, now that everybody knows how old I am. Thomas Tam said that I’ve been working for the interests and welfare of Chinese Americans since 1970. In fact, it was as early as 1948 when I first started to write about the Chinese Americans for the *Voice of America* that I discovered the paucity of information about Chinese Americans. The erroneous image that was created in the literature wasn’t very much, but they were hair raising and derogatory. That was when I decided that my mission in life was to correct that image, speak up for the status and the rights of Chinese Americans, and work for their welfare. That’s what I’ve been doing for 56 years.

When I wrote the book *Mountain of Gold*, which came out at the height of the ethnic consciousness movement, it aroused a whole group of Chinese Americans and Asian Americans. They had thought that discrimination only happened to the blacks in the United States. When they found out what had happened in their history, they were very incensed. It was at that time that they demanded Asian American studies in the colleges, and City College asked me to teach the courses on Asian Americans. These were the first of their kind, east of California, that were offered on the Chinese in the United States. Later, that was broadened to Asian Americans. From there, we became a department, and I taught there until my retirement in 1992.

We have to develop a new generation of people who will continue the work that I have started. That is why we collectively fought so hard to get the City University of New York to establish the Asian American / Asian Research Institute.”

— Dr. Betty Lee Sung, Co-Founder, AAARI
Chinatown in the 21st Century (2004)
URL: www.aaari.info/chinatown.htm

CUNY'S ASIAN AMERICAN / ASIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

On November 19, 2001, the unflagging persistence of the Asian American Higher Education Council (AAHEC) finally paid off: The City University of New York Board of Trustees voted to establish the Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI). Dr. Thomas Tam, scholar, artist, community activist, and a founder of the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, was at the helm of the founding of AAARI. Dr. Tam was the first Asian American Trustee of CUNY from 1989 to 1996. Under the leadership of Dr. Tam, a new office, student aides, a weekly lecture series, and a citywide conference with the dual theme of Asian American leadership and the impact of September 11 on Asian American communities were established within four short months.

With Dr. Betty Lee Sung, AAARI co-founder and Professor Emerita of The City College of New York/CUNY, AAARI’s research agenda was expanded to include East Asia, South Asia, and Trade and Technology studies at the urging of Professors Ngee-Pong Chang and Ravi Kulkarni.

EDITOR’S NOTE

This edition of the *CUNY Bulletin of Asian American / Asian Studies* features a decade of the voices of scholars and artists, activists and community professionals in New York. Many have spoken, given research presentations, or participated in AAARI’s symposiums, workshops, and activities during the past ten years.

This edition features:

- An Asian Pacific American interactive timeline
URL: www.aaari.info/aatimeline
- Focus on Asian Americans, East Asians, South Asians, and Trade and Technology
- Topics on women, health, and educational and cultural literacy
- Media archive resources
- Demographic and U.S. Census materials on New York City
- Photojournalism by the renowned Corky Lee

— Russell C. Leong
CUNY Thomas Tam Visiting Professor
(Spring 2011 & 2012)



ORIGINS

“I have to give Prof. Betty Lee Sung credit for getting me started in community organizing and politics. Before I took her class, “Chinese in America,” at City College, I was just a regular Chinatown girl who had other hopes and aspirations. When I learned about the history of Chinese in America, it just changed my life. I realized that we have roots here. Chinese have been in this country for over a 100 years and more; we faced discrimination, and our ancestors made sacrifices. And this made me think that I had to make a commitment to bring about equality and justice. That started my long journey. In 2010, I became the first Asian American woman on the City Council, and the first Asian American to represent Chinatown... The district I represent also includes Wall Street, the Financial District, and other communities in District 1, Lower Manhattan.”

— Hon. Margaret S. Chin, Member, New York City Council
Pipeline Politics: Civic Engagement Toward Social Change (2011)
 URL: www.aaari.info/2011civic.htm

ASIAN AMERICANS

ASIAN AMERICANS: WHAT’S IN A NAME?

“Asian Americans,” says Sewell Chan (Deputy Op-Ed Editor, *The New York Times*), “have always had a mixture of comfort and discomfort with the very term ‘Asian American’ and all of its permutations—Asian Pacific Islander, API, and AAPI. These were terms that came out of the 1960s as useful ways of counting people of Asian and Pacific ancestry at a time when they were really ignored by the government.”

Today, according to Elizabeth OuYang (President, Organization of Chinese Americans — New York Chapter), “Politically, and individually, we benefit from the category of Asian Americans. We benefit individually in the collective category when it comes to issues of voting, redistricting, and advocating for bilingual rights and information.”

“U.S. Immigration policy has historically been designed in a way to keep our numbers low. If they don’t think your numbers count, you are going to get disregarded. Collectively, if we march in making

strides against breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, or for the March of Dimes, and they see a contingency of Asian Americans who are involved and who care about those issues, it sends a signal.”

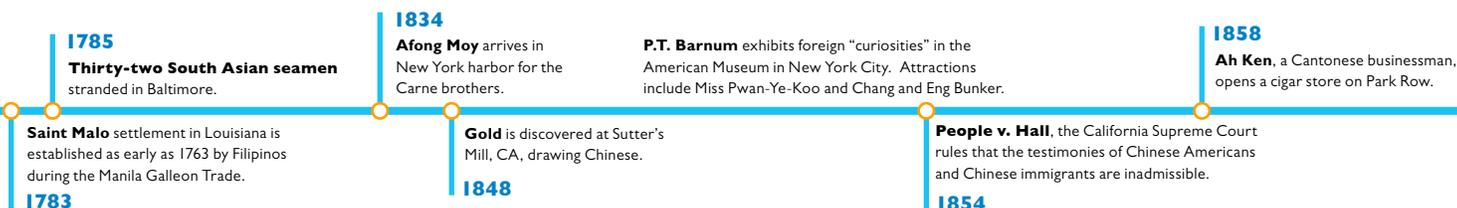
Individuals such as Chung-Wah Hong, Executive Director of the New York Immigration Coalition, an umbrella organization of 200+ groups throughout New York State, advocate for resources that benefit Asian American communities such as English literacy programs.

Moreover, adds Chung-Wah Hong: “We have a broader base of people supporting immigration reform. We have religious communities, labor unions, and the business community, who are organized and at the table. That’s a big factor, that this is not seen just as an immigrant rights issue, but as a multisector reform. It’s part of a pro reform agenda with all the other systemic changes in the health system, the immigration system, and so on.”

Redefining Asian America in the 21st Century: Mapping Boundaries & Building Bridges (2009)
 URL: www.aaari.info/2009america.htm

Asian and Pacific American Timeline Compiled by Trevor Lee

Interactive Timeline URL: www.aaari.info/aatimeline



DISPELLING THE MYTHS

In her findings from the first multicity, multiethnic, and multilingual survey of Asians in the United States (MAPS) conducted after the November 2000 elections, Dr. Pei-Te Lien (Political Science, University of Utah) debunks the images of Asian Americans as nonparticipants in the American political process. Prevailing misconceptions about Asian American political behavior, reinforced by media and politicians, aim to disenfranchise Asian Americans from having their rightful voice and place in the political system. At least five major myths, all which can be dispelled by the samples of extensive research, rich scholarship, and timely data excerpted in this AAARI publication:

- Asians all belong to a monolithic yellow race
- Asians are unassimilable, non-English speaking foreigners
- Asians are apathetic and uninformed about the U.S. political system
- Asians are unwilling voters more interested in Asian homeland politics
- Asians are conservative and politically fragmented, without common identity

Leadership: Healing & Rebuilding New York after 9/11 (2002)
URL: www.aaari.info/2002leadershipconference.htm



Photo: Corky Lee

FROM TIANANMEN TO THE CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT

“When I began law school in 1988, the Asian American community was very much underrepresented in both the legal and the political community. That simple idea of the importance of speaking out was bought home during my first internship in law school.

In the summer of 1989, I interned with the Asian American Legal Defense Fund. That summer, students spoke out in Tiananmen Square and suffered extreme consequences. That summer, Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act that gave rise to compensation for the internment endured by Japanese Americans during World War II. That summer, the Supreme Court introduced shifting burdens of proof in Title VII cases, making it harder for plaintiffs to prevail in discrimination cases. That summer, I worked on the Voting Rights project. I hit the streets and tried to find eligible voters to register. Sometimes we were at the Flushing station. Sometimes we were at Columbus Park in Chinatown. Many unregistered citizens, young and old, were suspicious of me and of the process. More than once I heard frustration with the political process. More than once I heard the skepticism that one vote would count.

That summer, I realized that while the part that each one of us plays when we vote seems small, our collective voices could make a difference, and that it was our choice whether we would take that opportunity.”

— Irene Chang, Vice President for Legal Affairs
Lower Manhattan Development Corporation
Healing & Rebuilding New York after 9/11 (2002)
URL: www.aaari.info/2002leadershipconference.htm

POLITICAL MUSCLE “It is shocking, that in 2001, no Asian American had been elected to legislative office in New York. I am proud to be the first, but I wish that I was the ninth or tenth. One of the reasons that I was able to win in 2001 is that I was able to look at the experience of other people in our Asian American community who had run for offices before. I was fortunate and had a leg up because of these experiences. We must assert our political muscle. We are at a point where we can do so.”

— Hon. John C. Liu, Comptroller, New York City
Former Member, New York City Council
Leadership: Healing & Rebuilding New York after 9/11 (2002)
URL: www.aaari.info/2002leadershipconference.htm

LOYALTY AFTER 9/11 “There is a very large distinction between cultural loyalty and political loyalty. Often times, in the case of Asians and Chinese, it gets meshed together. If you happen to be reading a Chinese magazine on a subway, it doesn’t mean that you’re about to become a subversive. We saw that being taken to the extreme, in the case of our Arab-American friends, when some of them were arrested or detained because they had Arabic magazines. So, we must all speak up.”

— Henry S. Tang, Governor, Committee of 100
Chinatown in the 21st Century (2004)
URL: www.aaari.info/chinatown.htm



Photo: Corky Lee

1865

Transcontinental Railroad
hires its first Chinese workers.

Birth of Jose Rizal, Philippines
1861

1882

The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association
(CCBA), established in 1882 in San Francisco, is founded in New York as a governing body for Chinese Americans in New York City.

He Thien (original name Thien Hee or Phraya Sarasinawamiphakh), the first student from Thailand, graduates from Columbia Medical School.

1871

1882 Chinese Exclusion Act is passed and renewed every decade until 1941.

United States v. Wong Kim Ark: Born in the United States to Chinese parents, Wong Kim Ark’s American citizenship is confirmed by the Supreme Court.

1898



Helen Zia & Vishakha N. Desai

ACROSS THE HUDSON: AN AMERICAN JOURNEY

“Frankly, ever since the great unleashing of evil calling and evil naming in the world, I have to tell you that I’ve concluded that I must be evil too. I’ve been making a mental list. I’ve been against the war in Iraq from the very beginning, and as you know, very evil. I’m for women’s rights, and call myself a feminist with a capital F. I’m proud to do that. I’m pro choice, and well, there’s evil, evil, evil. I happen to believe that there is no justice without peace, and no peace without justice. And hearing from you, I know there’s more than a few of you who share these values, and of course that puts you in the evil column too.

I’m Chinese American, not Korean, so I’m not in that Axis of Evil. But of course, we know here that to most non-Asians, I look Korean, so I may as well be. My last name Zia, by the way actually is a Chinese name, but of course Zia is a very common Pakistani name. It’s also the name of a major Native American tribe, and so there’s evil, evil. Now here’s the last straw. I am a lesbian. I am a queer woman of color....

Now I say all these things just to point out that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have the full range of diversity and viewpoints that every community has. We are not a simple check off category. We do have multiple identities and multiple contexts. What I’d like to do is talk a little about that, and my journey through this American landscape. Actually, one of the most evil things about me I have to say is that I was born and raised across the river in New Jersey.

“There were the names I got to know real well when I was a kid. ‘Chink, Jap, Nip, Zero, Dot Head, Flat Face, Flat Nose, Slant Eye, Slope, Gook, V.C., Flip, Hindu, Slit, Dragon Lady, Mama-san’ —all that and more.”

— Helen Zia, Writer

For me as an Asian American girl growing up in New Jersey, the daughter of immigrants from China, I never really saw myself in the world around me.

Back then when I was growing up across the Hudson River, there were about 500,000 Asian Americans who were counted in the federal census. Just to give you some context, that’s not enough to populate a medium-sized American city. By point of comparison, today, Staten Island has about 500,000 people, and so that was the sum total of all Asian Americans in this country not that long ago. And so this year, Asian American Pacific Islanders have crossed the threshold of 15 million. What an enormous growth and evolution that has been in a relatively short period of time.

But growing up at that time when there were relatively few Asian Americans, I really had to listen to the people who would come up to me and say that gibberish talk. You know that ‘ching chong’ stuff that they pretend is some kind of Asian language, and it still happens even now and then. There were the names I got to know real well when I was kid, ‘Chink, Jap, Nip, Zero, Dot Head, Flat Face, Flat Nose, Slant Eye, Slop, Gook, VC, Flip, Lindu, Slit, Dragon Lady, *Mama-san*,’ all that and more.

To me there is no Women’s Movement, capital W, capital M. There really are Women’s Movements, plural, in every community we can find here and around the world. Whether they call themselves feminist or womanist, it doesn’t matter. The label doesn’t matter. It’s really what we do coming together.”

— Helen Zia, Writer

Asian American Women: Celebrating Successes and Meeting Challenges (2008)

URL: www.aaari.info/2008women.htm

**Asian and Pacific American Timeline
Exclusion & Manifest Destiny**

1898

Spanish American War. Spain ceded the Philippines and other territories to the United States.

The United States annexes Hawaii.

The United States annexes the Philippines. Guam, American (Eastern) Samoa, and Puerto Rico. Resistance movements occur in all of these territories.

1899

1901

Writer **Yone Noguchi** and journalist **Léonie Gilmour** collaborate on *The American Diary of a Japanese Girl* (1902).

Manhattan’s **Chinatown** grows in the early 1900s.

1900



Photo: Corky Lee

HOW DEMOCRACY WORKS “At the time I was teaching at N.Y.U. Law School, and I had some students visiting from China sitting with me to show them how democracy worked. This was pre-Tiananmen Square. Also with us was my husband. As you can tell by my third name, Brandt, that he’s not Asian. As I was explaining the governmental functions to the visitors from China, my husband told me later that a person sitting to his right had said to him: You shouldn’t be talking to those Orientals, you can’t trust them! This was 1986, and it turned out that this person was a retired judge here in New York. So when I heard that, I knew I had to do something about it. I was encouraged by other people in politics to consider becoming a judge, and so I put my name in the panel. I really didn’t think too much of it. There was a process to decide if you were qualified to become a judge or not. Lo and behold, I found out that I was deemed qualified to become one!”

— Hon. Dorothy Chin Brandt, Judge,
New York City Criminal Court, Queens County

SPEAKING OUT FOR ASIANS WITH AIDS

“I work in the field of AIDS, an area that doesn’t have a lot of people very anxious to participate. However, it’s an area that funders and those in the city, state, and federal government want to help. But the Asian voice is usually quiet, while the squeaky wheel gets more money. The fastest-growing cases of AIDS in New York City are among Asians. We can no longer afford silence which is costing the lives of our people.”

— Suki Terada Ports, Executive Director,
Family Health Project

WOMEN & CYCLING “Most women live through cycles over the course of their lives. Sometimes you can devote time to your career, and there are times where you might have to devote more time to your family. If you’re not married or you’re single, then most of your time is devoted to spending it on yourself, your career, or maybe your partner.”

— Dr. Margaret M. Chin,
Sociology, Hunter College/CUNY

Asian American Women: Celebrating Successes and Meeting Challenges (2008)
URL: www.aaari.info/2008women.htm

1903–1905

The **Pensionados program** begins (1903–1910) as an effort to modernize and democratize the Philippines.

1909

The **New York Chinese School** opens in the CCBA building.

1919

The first **Korean Liberty Congress** in Philadelphia draws attention to the Japanese occupation of Korea.

U.S. troops participate in the **Moro Massacre** of an estimated 2,000 unarmed Muslims on the isle of Jolo in Southern Philippines.

1906

Angel Island (1910–1940) approximately 250,000 Chinese and 50,000 Japanese immigrants are detained at the immigration station in San Francisco Bay.

1910

Women’s rights activists **Margaret Sanger** and **Kato Shidzue** meet in New York City.

1920

“Today, scientific literacy is a *sina qua nom* for an educated citizenry. Unless one has an educated citizenry, one will not be able to compete in the world economy.”

— Dr. Matthew Goldstein, Chancellor, CUNY

SCIENTIFIC LITERACY “Today, scientific literacy is a *sina qua nom* for an educated citizenry. Unless one has an educated citizenry, one will not be able to compete in the world economy.

Several years ago, when data was starting to be collected about the number of scientific positions that are being created in the United States, those of us who are in universities started to pay attention to this. In 1996, the United States was number three in the world in producing engineers and scientists: at all levels, baccalaureate, masters, and PhD. In 2005, the United States is number seventeen in the world market, all in nine years.

- Other countries are waking up to the notion that a real investment needs to be made in higher education, especially in the areas of science and technology. We’re seeing this in India, China, Taiwan, Korea, Australia, Great Britain, and Germany.
- The United States is pulling away the support of public higher education, when other countries are moving ahead. The United States is being perceived by some people around the world as being unfriendly to immigrants.
- The United States has made it difficult for people to study in the United States. All of these factors are having an effect on our university laboratories: not getting enough graduate students, and at the same time, not getting enough students interested in these subjects.
- For a knowledge-based economy, we’re just not getting the kind of educated workforce to do the work. That, I think, is a real driver of why so many companies are now looking to invest elsewhere because they’re getting better educated people overseas.”

— Dr. Matthew Goldstein, Chancellor, CUNY
Global Entrepreneurship: Economic Development for Asia and the U.S. (2005)
 URL: www.aaari.info/economic.htm



CUNY students with Hon. John Liu, AAARI 2006 Gala

GENETIC LITERACY “Does anyone know what genetic literacy is? Genetic literacy is the ability to obtain, process, use, and understand genetic information to manage and make health-related decisions. It has becoming increasingly important due to advances in genetics, genomics, and related genetic applications. For pregnant women, prenatal testing has become an important tool for identifying genetic disorders, such as thalassemia, and birth defects like Down syndrome. There’s been a movement in terms of informing pregnant women and their partners about the benefits of genetic testing and counseling. Ethnically and racially diverse communities tend to be left out of this information boom.

So why genetics among Asians? There is a strong need for Asians to make use of genetic services. For example, 51% of thalassemia patients in North America are Asian. Thalassemia is a severe inherited blood disorder that results in a type of anemia. It can be diagnosed through genetic testing, but not enough people make use of genetic testing to determine if they are carriers. Also, not enough Asian women get access to regular or early prenatal care and tests. There are a lot of reasons for that, including a lack of health insurance. Another is a lack of health literacy, the inability to navigate the U.S. healthcare system.”

— Deborah Hong, Health Education Program Coordinator,
 Charles B. Wang Community Health Center
Asian American Women: Celebrating Successes and Meeting Challenges (2008)
 URL: www.aaari.info/2008women.htm

Asian and Pacific American Timeline War & Imprisonment

1922

In **Ozawa v. U.S.**, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that naturalization is limited to “white persons and aliens of African nativity.”

The **Cable Act** revokes the American citizenship of any woman marrying an alien ineligible for citizenship.

1925

Columbia graduate **Margaret Mead** publishes her book, *Coming of Age in Samoa*, based upon her visit to Samoa between 1925–1926.

1933

An ordinance targeting **Chinese laundry establishments** is passed by the New York City Council, targeting 3,500 Chinese laundromats in New York.

The **U.S. vs. Bhagat Singh Thind** decision officially bars South Asians and other immigrants of Asian descent from applying for citizenship.

1924

The **Chinese Hand Laundry Alliance** was founded in New York City in response to discriminatory regulations imposed on the hand laundry industry.

Carlos Bulosan leaves the Philippines at age 17 to sail for America on July 22, 1930. He later publishes his highly acclaimed semi-autobiography *America Is in the Heart* in 1946.

1930

“In seeking answers the hardest script will do.”

— Prof. Meena Alexander, Hunter College/CUNY
Illiterate Heart (2002)

CULTURAL LITERACY

“Writing is one of the only ways I know where you can imagine what it is like to be another type of person. It’s become a very important conduit for non-Asian Americans to learn about the Asian American experience. Literature is crucial to our identity.”

— Ken Chen, Executive Director,
Asian American Writers’ Workshop

“How do we take back the definition of what it means to be Asian American in the 21st century?”

— Jennifer Hayashida, Director,
Asian American Studies Program, Hunter College/CUNY

“Today, the winds of change are from the East. And that cultural wind is shaping this capital of the West—New York.”

— Robert Lee, Executive Director,
Asian American Arts Centre

Redefining Asian America in the 21st Century: Mapping Boundaries & Building Bridges (2009)
URL: www.aaari.info/2009america.htm



INTO EAST RIVER(S) Curated by Russell C. Leong (CUNY Thomas Tam Visiting Professor, Hunter College/CUNY) and Yibing Huang (Modern Chinese Literature, Connecticut College), *Into East River(s): Chinese / American Artists and Asian American Poets*, provided a forum for dialogue between Chinese and Asian American artists, both visual and literary, to discuss their commonalities in terms of struggles for recognition, acceptance, and existence. More than 100 guests attended the discussion on the works of Chinese artist Zhang Dali, and Chinese American photographer Corky Lee in dialogue with Prof. Peter Kwong (urban studies, Hunter College/CUNY). A poetry session recognized those who came to the United States for a better life.

Into East River(s) (2011)
URL: www.aaari.info/11-06-02Rivers.htm



LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM DIFFERENTLY

“My name is Vaimoana Litia Makakaufaki Niumeitolu, but you can call me Moana or Mo if you want to. I was born in Naku’alofa, which is part of the Polynesian Islands in the Pacific Ocean. We are proud to say that’s where time begins, because that’s where the International Date Line goes through. It’s south of Samoa and right next to Fiji where my mom’s family comes from. From there, three months after I was born, I was raised in Hawaii and parts of Utah, because my family became Mormon. When I was sixteen, I no longer wanted to be Mormon, so I left and came to New York City at age eighteen with just \$1.76 in my pocket. I thought, ‘Hey, this is what immigrants do, right?’ We follow our dreams and want to live that American dream. I’ve washed dishes, baby-sat, mopped floors; have done so much just so I could be here, to live my dream.”

— Vaimoana Niumeitolu, Artist & Activist
Asian American Women: Celebrating Successes and Meeting Challenges (2008)
URL: www.aaari.info/2008women.htm



CARRY-ON BAGGAGE “This piece is *Carry-On Baggage*, and it’s actually two larger pieces that look like the same size. It’s made of galvanized wire, so what I did was sew wire from one suitcase into the other, and suspended it above. I was thinking about the idea of first- and second-generation immigrants. The idea of family, and this tension. Is this suitcase supporting the other, or is it supported back?”

— Chanika Svetvilas, Artist
Asian American Women: Celebrating Successes and Meeting Challenges (2008)
URL: www.aaari.info/2008women.htm

1934

A section of the **Tydings-McDuffie Act** gives Commonwealth status to the Philippines, but declares all Philippine-born Filipinos aliens, and restricts their immigration to fifty Filipinos a year. Philippines independence is scheduled for 1946.

Younghill Kang, author and New York University professor, attempts to gain citizenship through legislation.

1939

1941

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs **Military Order No. 81** “constituting a command designated as the United States Armed Forces of the Far East.”

Executive Order 9066 is signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, forcing more than 110,000 Japanese American citizens (Nisei) and immigrant parents (Issei) into internment camps during World War II. Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, Mitsuye Endo, and Minoru Yasui file petitions against the U.S. government.

1942

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Starting off at the national level, the Asian population is projected by the U.S. Census to quadruple in the coming decades from 800,000 in 2000, to more than 3 million in 2030. In New York State, the Asian population is projected to triple by the year 2035 from 100,000 to 400,000. Three-quarters of the Asian population resides in the New York City area. In the metro area, there are more than 100,000 seniors of Asian descent; and within the five boroughs, 63,000, as of the 2000 Census. Between 1900 and 2000, the Asian senior population grew by 91 percent, a figure that was higher than the various fast growth rates of the Asian general population at 71 percent. Senior issues for Asians include English proficiency and educational attainment, social isolation and integration, and citizenship and caregiving.

— Edwin Mendez-Santiago, Former Commissioner,
New York City Department for the Aging
Well-Being of Asian American Senior Citizens (2006)
URL: www.aari.info/2006senior.htm



Photo: Corky Lee

How can we reverse this process and have the native born learn healthier behaviors that immigrants bring with them? One of the best things that happened in New York City during the past twenty years is that Korean markets, Chinese restaurants, and Indian restaurants, have really improved the health in New York City.”

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

“Asian aging research development has to be multidisciplinary. Under the leadership of Nick Freudenberg, Distinguished Professor of Urban Public Health at Hunter College, we are developing a trans-disciplinary curriculum in urban public health. We at Brookdale, are growing from that base to develop a model of healthy urban aging that really doesn’t exist yet in the literature. Work is starting to be done by people at Harvard, looking at neighborhood effects on health. This is where the field is going and obviously needs stronger partnerships with community-based organizations and social workers. We bring into the mix a lot of different skills, such as epidemiology, economics, in addition to gerontology and the other social sciences that perform gerontology.”

THE HEALTHY MIGRANT HYPOTHESIS

“What we’re finding out here very quickly in New York City in areas such as Jackson Heights, almost seventy-five percent are foreign-born and have the lowest hospitalization rate. Foreign-born actually had the same rates as U.S.-born. The fact is, we’re saving about half a million among foreign born elderly every year in terms of lower hospital costs than U.S. born. Now, is that a good or a bad thing? Does that reflect a healthy migrant hypothesis, which is that you’ve got to be very healthy to leave your home country? Is it a lack of access? That’s where we are in our research, whether their needs aren’t known and understood, or if it’s lack of access, which I suspect. Immigrants are not costing more than the native-born population in hospital costs.

DOCTOR SHORTAGES “We’re going to face a huge doctor shortage. We have only 9,000 currently certified in geriatric medicine right now, and we need 20,000. That need is only going to continue to grow.

So, what’s the importance of the Ivory Tower, as we call it? Theory is important. It helps provide a framework from which you can then build these analyses that can be politically effective. But you need to ask different research questions and generate new ideas. I’m a health economist, so I have a bias toward health economics, cost-effectiveness analysis. The example of tobacco control, which I’ve been involved with for the Chinese community in Flushing and Sunset Park, is an example where behavioral science and economists have come together, along with political activists, and created a totally new atmosphere in this country about tobacco. We need to do the same thing in many other areas including areas affecting aging and risk factors.

We should incorporate a variety of methods. I do quantitative work, but I partner with qualitative researchers. Ethnography is extremely important, and in some ways, probably the most important, as we need to understand the cultural context better.”

— Dr. Marianne C. Fahs, Urban Public Health,
School of Health Science – Hunter College/CUNY
Well-Being of Asian American Senior Citizens (2006)
URL: www.aari.info/2006senior.htm

**Asian and Pacific American Timeline
Sovereignty & Self-Determination**

1943

Hirabayashi v. U.S.: The U.S. Supreme Court rules that one group of citizens may be singled out and expelled from their homes and imprisoned for several years without trial, based solely on their ancestry.

1947

The New York Knicks drafts **Wataru Misaka** after his notable defense against Kentucky in the championship game.

1949

The People’s Republic of China is established.

The War Brides Act was enacted to allow spouses and adopted children of U.S. military personnel to enter the United States. This act, however, did not allow Chinese American veterans to bring brides into the United States, until its amendment in 1947.

The United States gains control over **Micronesia** (western Pacific) from 1947 to 1986 as the trustee of the United Nations.

The Guam Organic Act establishes Guam as an unincorporated territory of the United States.

1945

1950

“In the meantime, we’re not going to have a vaccine. So we’re years away, and we need to think of other strategies. As scientists we can think of perhaps using drugs or antibodies in a passive way... but I have not a great deal of confidence in some of those approaches working. It comes back to educating the masses in sending risk reduction messages in the meantime. But we should not wait for a vaccine to appear on the horizon anytime soon.”

— Dr. David Ho, Director/CEO, Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS AND HIV/AIDS RESEARCH TODAY

The year 2008 marked the 25th anniversary of the discovery of HIV. On May 19, 2008, as part of National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Dr. David Ho of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, provided an update on HIV vaccine development for a conference at NYU Lagone Medical Center. The conference was organized by several health and advocacy organizations including the Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Family Health Project, and NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health. The following is a summary of Dr. Ho’s presentation:

DIFFICULTIES IN DEVELOPING AN HIV VACCINE

During the course of HIV infection, the virus is seldom controlled by the immune system. Ninety-nine percent of individuals succumb to this viral infection if left untreated. Over the last ten years, research has found that even though you may mount an immune response to one strain of the virus, through sex or other means, you may become superinfected by a second strain due to your body’s immune system only being used to the first strain.

- Vaccines for HIV created a decade ago through traditional methods such as inactivated whole virus vaccines and subunit envelope vaccines have failed.
- Live attenuated virus vaccines, although protective in monkey models, face seemingly insurmountable regulatory challenges.
- HIV has a rapid mutation rate.
- HIV is extremely resistant to the antibodies in our immune system due to the inability for them to latch onto the virus.

NEW APPROACHES TO VACCINE RESEARCH

- Plasmid DNA vector
- Poxvirus vector
- Adenovirus vector
- Prime-boost combinations of the above

From 2005 to 2007, Merck & Co. with partial funding from the National Institutes of Health began testing their experimental adenoviral HIV vaccine, HVTN 502, on 1,500 high-risk individuals, ages 18 to 45, including gay men and women who exchange sex for money or drugs. The STEP study later added an additional 1,500 volunteers. In September 2007, the study was stopped prematurely by the data safety monitoring board who deemed the study futile due to the results showing no evidence of protection against HIV infection.

Some implications of the failed STEP study include going back to basic research to focus on strategies to induce HIV neutralizing antibodies, but this could take another ten to fifteen years from basic research to the second phase of trials. Until a vaccine is created, which will not be in the near future, Dr. Ho encourages education as the prime preventative measure against HIV.

— Antony Wong , Program Coordinator, AAARI

Conference on Asians, Pacific Islanders and HIV/AIDS (2008)
URL: www.aaari.info/08-05-19HIV.htm

Fact: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2009, the number of Asians diagnosed with HIV infection has increased by 28% (366 people to 470), while infection among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders has decreased by 26% (46 people to 34), since 2006.

Note: The number of Asian and Pacific Islanders diagnosed or seeking help for HIV/AIDS may be underreported due to social and cultural factors prevalent in Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

1952

The staff of *The China Daily News* goes on trial for violating the Trading with Enemy Act. Growing Red Scare sentiment would lead to the investigation of the newspaper’s nearly 6,500 subscribers.

McCarran-Walter Immigration and Naturalization Act. Asian immigrants gain rights to become citizens.

1956

The first Asian American Congressman, **Dalip Singh Saund** is elected from California’s Imperial Valley. Saund forges a measure through Congress that allows Indians to become U.S. citizens. California repeals alien land ownership laws.

Brown v. Board of Education ends racial segregation in schools.

1954

Bandung Conference in Indonesia begins Asian-African discussions concerning Soviet and Western colonialism, Sino-American tensions, and the failure to consider opinions of Eastern hemispheric nations in international policies.

1955

EAST ASIANS

FROM METAPHOR TO MOTT STREET: BEFORE AND AFTER 9/11

“Chinatown has often been used as a metaphor. Even without the film made famous by Roman Polanski, Chinatown has long attracted the fascination and imagination of the American public. Since 1882, when the Chinese were singled out as the only nationality in the history of America to be excluded from immigrating to the United States, the lives of these isolated sojourners have tickled fertile minds. From the silver screens of Hollywood, Chinatown was variously viewed as exotic, alluring, mysterious, or at times, sinister or even dangerous.

After 1965, with the passage of the Hart-Celler Act, the Chinese were able to migrate to this country on equal terms as the Europeans, and substantially increase their numbers. For most immigrants, whether it is Lower Manhattan; Sunset Park, Brooklyn; or Flushing, Queens; Chinatown offers them a shelter and a beachhead to begin their new lives.

The tragic event of 9/11, with the World Trade Center only ten blocks away from Mott Street, shook Chinatown to the ground. In face of this disaster, AAARI responded with its first national conference in 2002, inviting scholars, professionals, and community leaders to examine the impact of 9/11 on the Asian American community, and to ponder appropriate solutions.”

— Dr. Thomas Tam, Co-Founder & Former Executive Director, AAARI
Chinatown in the 21st Century (2004)
URL: www.aaari.info/chinatown.htm

CHINATOWN TODAY A decade after the 9/11 attacks, Chinatown’s 130-year role as a center for industries, housing, and tourism has changed. “9/11 permanently changed Chinatown by essentially damaging the garment industry and the community,” said May Chen, a former area garment union leader.

- The 2010 U.S. Census found an 8.7% drop in Chinatown’s population since 2000. In Tribeca and SoHo, the population jumped 45%, partly due to a spike in new residential units in those neighborhoods, spurred by post-September 11 tax breaks.
- New census figures show Chinatown has become less Asian and more white, with a 15.2% drop in the Asian population and a 42% increase in the white population since 2000.
- There are fewer than 50 garment shops left in Chinatown, down from a high of 246, according to Wellington Chen, who heads the Chinatown Partnership, a business coalition formed after 9/11.

9/11 was also a wake-up call for Chinatown to speak up politically: Margaret Chin was elected as the first Chinese American woman to the City Council, due to the participation of more Chinatown residents who joined neighborhood boards.

Leadership: Healing & Rebuilding New York after 9/11 (2002)
URL: www.aaari.info/2002leadershipconference.htm

Chinatown’s Garment Biz Shrivels, Tourist Traffic Dwindles in Lasting Blow of 9/11
New York Daily News (September 5, 2011)

Photo: Corky Lee

Asian and Pacific American Timeline Civil Rights & Political Mobilization

1960

Yuri Kochiyama moves to Harlem and becomes involved in the Organization of Afro-American Unity where she meets Malcolm X.

1962

The **Lieutenant Benjamin Ralph Kimlau Memorial** is erected in Chatham Square to commemorate the Chinese Americans who died during World War II.

Daniel K. Inouye is elected U.S. Senator and Spark Matsunaga is elected Representative, both from Hawaii.

Louis Chu publishes ***Eat a Bowl of Tea***, a landmark novel about New York’s Chinatown set in the 1940s. This book has since been adapted into a 1989 film directed by Wayne Wang.

1961

Chinese American **David S.C. Chu** joins the Army Reserve in the 1960s when there are only a few Asian Americans in the armed forces.

Patsy Takemoto Mink elected to Congress from Hawaii and becomes the first Asian American woman in Congress.

1964

INFRASTRUCTURE “September 11 was a triggering point, but a lot of the problems that face Chinatown today are infrastructural defects that have long existed.

Zoning governs the use of land. Zoning simply means residential, commercial, mixed use, open space and other variations. Chinatown is mostly light manufacturing and low-density residential. Low density means you can only build a certain amount of Floor to Area Ratio (FAR), the number of floors you can build. Most of Chinatown is locked into 3.4 times to 6 times the land area, the FAR. If you look at New York City in general, midtown, they’re 12 times, they’re 20 times. Why is it that Chinatown, with proximity to City Hall and civic building, is locked historically into 3.5 times of residential?

We have the ability to build up to generate much needed housing. We can achieve the dual result of solving the housing problem and anchoring the residents who will become electoral capital, who will have a critical mass when they vote. This long-range planning is necessary as far as housing is concerned. Housing and employment are related. When you have more housing, you bring in another tax base. You bring in people that will spend more and frequent your commercial space.”

— Alex Chu, Chair & CEO, East Bank N.A.
Leadership: Healing & Rebuilding New York after 9/11 (2002)
 URL: www.aaari.info/2002leadershipconference.htm

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE: FLUSHING

“When Michael Chang won the French Open Championship in 1989, he was asked by a reporter, ‘When did you come to the states?’ Most American people do not think that American faces can be yellow. I tell my friends, that before 1960, TV was black and white. Now TV is colored, and everybody knows that color is better than black and white. So we are lucky, especially in New York.”

— Fred Fu, President, Flushing Development Center
 Former President, Flushing Chinese Business Association
Chinatown in the 21st Century (2004)
 URL: www.aaari.info/chinatown.htm

In 1980, when Fred Fu first came to Flushing, Queens, there were only three Chinese restaurants. One was on Main Street, one was on Roosevelt Avenue, and one was on Northern Boulevard. Now, according to Fu, there are at least 80 restaurants and 30 banks, due to the investment of Chinese businessmen in Flushing during the 1980s. The population density is now almost the same as Wall Street. For example, in 1982, 30 Chinese store owners created the Flushing Chinese Business Association. Now they have 300. Within 22 years, it increased ten times.

A key part was the election of John Liu to City Councilman of Flushing, Queens, in 2001, 2003, and 2005, who today is the comptroller of New York City. He is the direct channel between the Asian community and the city’s highest levels of government. Flushing, New York, has come of age.

PAN-ASIAN IDENTITIES: ALLIANCES OR BOUNDARIES?

“But what about pan-Asian ethnicity and political coalition?” asks sociologist Pyong Gap Min, Director of the Korean American Institute at Queens College/CUNY. Min makes a distinction between political identity and private identity.

“We are in the same boat. The census puts Asians together. Many white and black Americans cannot differentiate Asian groups. When we become targets of anti-Asian violence, we have to unite, but we should pay attention to personal relations. I have argued that we should make a distinction between political identity and private identity. In terms of political identity, all Asians should get together and form a coalition.”

However Min does not see much interaction between East Asians and South Asians in their private lives. Pakistani, Indians, and Bangladeshi share a lot of cultural traditions. East Asians share Confucianism and physical similarities. Indians and Koreans may not date due to their cultural differences, their differences of education, and their physical distinctions. Such panethnic boundaries limit political coalitions.

— Dr. Pyong-Gap Min, Sociology, Queens College/CUNY
Chinatown in the 21st Century (2004)
 URL: www.aaari.info/chinatown.htm



Photo: Zhu-Hui Wu

1965

1965 Immigration Act is signed by Lyndon B. Johnson, stating that “it is still one of the most important acts of this Congress and of this administration [as it] corrects a cruel and enduring wrong in the conduct of the American nation.”

UCLA Asian American Studies Center is established.

A wave of **Cantonese-speaking immigrants** from Hong Kong enters New York’s Chinatown following the 1965 Immigration Act.

With the **Tonkin Gulf Resolution**, Congress authorizes President Lyndon Johnson to take military action against North Vietnam.

Students at **San Francisco State University** go on strike to demand the establishment of an ethnic studies program.

1968

I Wor Kuen, named after the Boxers and influenced by the Black Panther Party and the Young Lords Party, begins showing PRC movies and publishing articles in support of the People’s Republic of China.

1969



SOUTH ASIANS

South Asian Population		
	New York City	United States
Total	296,992	3,441,675
Asian Indian	192,209	2,843,391
Bangladeshi	53,174	128,792
Bhutanese	345	15,290
Nepalese	5,681	51,907
Pakistani	41,887	363,699
Sri Lankan	3,696	38,596

Source: Asian American Federation & South Asians Americans Leading Together (2011)

SOUTH ASIANS IN AMERICA

South Asians have historically been an integral, highly diversified, and significant part of the Asian communities of the United States, and of the New York area. Traditionally, South Asians may include people from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh. In addition, Indian communities from the global diaspora may also include South Asians from the Caribbean, Africa, and other countries.

South Asians today make up more than two million people, predominately from India. More than one million people reside in three states: New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

1900s to 1950s: The Ghadar Movement began in 1913 in San Francisco and the India League in the 1940s to raise support for India's independence. In the 1950s, some Indian students attended various universities and went back to India. Basically, during the 1950s and 1960s, community leadership was based upon university students.

1960s to 1990s: The first major community group that evolved, or formed, in New York City in the late 1960s was the Association of Indians in America. In the 1976, AIA lobbied for Indian Americans and listed the group as a separate category in the 1990 U.S. Census. The group was also responsible for having Asian Indians listed under the minority category of Asian and Pacific Islander.

1980s: Professional groups began getting together, including the American Association of Physicians of India, Indian Americans Forum for a Political Education, and the Asian Indian Hotel/Motel Association.

1990s and Beyond: South Asian communities promote themselves more in the political arena, starting with the parent teacher associations, school boards, local community boards, and city and state national elections.

— Dr. Thomas Abraham, Former Chair, Global Organization of People of Indian Origin

Post 9/11: “The real challenge is to challenge those who not only challenge South Asians, but the very spirit of America. Let us resolve that we, as Americans, are equally committed to individual liberty as well as national security.

Terrorism has no religion. Therefore, to equate any religion with terrorism is wrong. At the same time, members of the South Asian communities must not develop a sense of isolation and humiliation. They are as American as anyone else.”

— Dr. Parmatma Saran, Sociology, Baruch College/CUNY

Points of Connection: South Asians and the Diaspora (2006)
URL: www.aari.info/2006saconference.htm

Asian and Pacific American Timeline Community & The Constitution

1970

Basement Workshop is created by Asian American students, artists, and community activists.

The **Charles B. Wang Community Health Center** (formerly known as Chinatown Health Clinic) formed by Dr. Thomas Tam opens its doors to provide quality health care for low-income, uninsured or underinsured Asian Americans.

South Asians begin to move out to Queens suburbs—Jackson Heights, Forest Hills, Elmhurst, and Flushing between 1970–1990.

Frank Chin's **Chickencoop Chinaman** premieres at the American Place Theater in New York City.

1972

Confucius Plaza, completed in 1975, becomes the first publicly funded housing cooperative for Chinese Americans.

1975



“ARE YOU INDIAN...OR ARE YOU AN AMERICAN?”

“First, if I were a tree, my roots would be Indian, my branches would be American. But, I would be a fruit-bearing tree, and the fruit I would have could go anywhere, anytime, because it would be truly an Asian American fruit. And, the only way and only place that it’s possible, is in America. It’s our American-ness that brings all of us of Asian origin together.

Second of course is women. When we think about women I think of my mother, because it was her, a freedom fighter, an independent woman, who didn’t get married until she was 31; which in India was practically unheard of. When I got married at a very young age, she said to me, ‘Remember marriage is not a period at the end of a sentence. It is a comma. There is a life before, and life after. Who you are before you get married is as important as who you will become after you get married. Don’t forget that there is in fact an independent identity that you have.’”

— Vishakha N. Desai, Director, President & CEO, Asia Society
Asian American Women: Celebrating Successes and Meeting Challenges (2008)
 URL: www.aari.info/2008women.htm

INDO-CARIBBEANS IN NEW YORK

Indo-Caribbean is not a term we use in the Caribbean. In the Caribbean, we are Indians. We were initially brought to the Caribbean after emancipation as indentured laborers with the promise of being returned. But that never happened for most of the Indians who came. This happened in the 1830s, 40s, and 50s. Here, Indo-Caribbean communities are basically twice immigrants. What has happened during the past twenty years is that we have, more than any other group, been packed into Southern Queens.

— Darrel Sukhdeo, Freelance Writer, Agenda 21/SAJA
Points of Connection: South Asians and the Diaspora (2006)
 URL: www.aari.info/2006saconference.htm

A SOUTH ASIAN VIEW ON HUMAN RIGHTS

South Asians of the Indian subcontinent and Americans of the United States represent multi-ethnic peoples who make up the world’s two largest democracies. The pluralistic experience of South Asia and South Asians, thus, can offer unique insights into human rights issues today for the world.

Mallika Dutt asks: “What kind of vision do we forge for the future? What kind of world do we want to live in?” Dutt describes a human rights value system that operates at three different levels:

- **Freedom from Want and Human Dignity:** Food, shelter, clothing, civil and political rights, the right to be free from torture, and environmental rights.
- **State and Nonstate Politics:** The use of human rights to advance national political interests through the state sector. For example, the United States uses human rights to advance its own geopolitical agenda. Nonstate means community mobilizing through civic engagement, lobbying through legislation, and grassroots organizing.
- **Rule of Law:** Includes international law, domestic law, and customary law. In South Asia, for instance, human rights legal issues might include the caste system, gender bias discrimination, female feticide, religious and secular conflicts around land, capitalism, liberalism, and globalization—linked with religious and ethnic conflicts in Northern India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

— Mallika Dutt, Executive Director, Breakthrough
Points of Connection: South Asians and the Diaspora (2006)
 URL: www.aari.info/2006saconference.htm



Dr. Kiran Bedi, AAARI 2009 Gala

1980

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) is created by President Jimmy Carter to review Executive Order 9066 and to recommend appropriate remedies.

Fujianese immigrants from mainland China, come to New York City.

Flushing, Queens, once predominantly an Italian and Greek neighborhood, is hit by an economic downturn in the late 1970s, and new waves of Taiwanese, Southeast Asian, and Chinese immigrants move into this neighborhood.

Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month established.

1977



TRADE & TECHNOLOGY

ONE THOUSAND IDEAS: GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP BETWEEN ASIA AND THE UNITED STATES

“A study on global entrepreneurship initiated by Babson College and the London Business School surveyed about thirty-four nations on an ongoing basis for quite a few years. Within the thirty-four nations, with a total working population of some 566 million, about seventy-three million were entrepreneurs. In fact, the Babson Study confirmed that in poor countries, fifty percent of the people are entrepreneurs because they are farmers. They are very entrepreneurial in every sense of the word.

The total amount of start-up capital across these thirty-four nations constituted about 3.5 percent of the GDP. That’s the amount of capital that goes into start-up businesses across thirty-four nations. Only 0.1 percent of the GDP comes from venture capitalists.

Why do people go into business as opposed to looking for a job? There are many reasons; a lot of them are institutional. First of all, the formal labor market makes it difficult for you to find a job, not just because economic times are bad, but because getting a job in an organized labor market usually requires formal education that is not accessible to the vast majority of the population, especially in low-income countries.

Then there are the sophisticated entrepreneurs, the ones we have in Silicon Valley, where there are investment bankers and other risk capitalists; that’s very different. That’s based on R&D and very sophisticated education. One of the graduates of my university, with an architect degree, could not find a job in Hong Kong as an architect. So, he quit being an architect the day he graduated and joined two of his friends in Nanjing, China, where they set up a shop, hired 15 computer programmers from China, much cheaper than in Hong Kong, and wrote software games that could be downloaded from the Internet onto mobile phones. They figured that they could come up with one idea a day, and with the three of them, they probably have 1,000 ideas. If three of them worked, they would have earned more than what they needed to upkeep the whole business.

The value of traditional modes of networking, and of credit raising are actually very often underrated in modern studies; there are a lot of ways by which we screen worthwhile investment opportunities or start-up businesses that are not known to modern bankers, but are known to the traditional credit screeners in that market.”

— Richard Wong, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost, Hong Kong University
Global Entrepreneurship: Economic Development for Asia and the U.S. (2005)
 URL: www.aari.info/economic.htm

Asian and Pacific American Timeline Diversity & Reparations

1985

The **1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act** imposes civil and criminal penalties on employers who knowingly hire undocumented aliens.

Ellison Onizuka, the first Asian American astronaut, lifts off on the Space Shuttle Discovery.

1988

The **Civil Liberties Act of 1988** is signed by President Ronald Reagan, requiring a payment of \$20,000 to each of the estimated 60,000 survivors of the Japanese internment during World War II.

Secondary migration of Hmong within the United States. (1982-1984)

1982

Twenty thousand Chinese garment workers, most of whom are women, gather in Chinatown to pressure employers to sign a union contract.

Plyer v. Do: The U.S. Supreme Court reviews a Texas statute that withholds funds for the education of children who are not “legally admitted” into the United States.

Vincent Chin, a 27-year-old Chinese American in Detroit, is beaten to death by two unemployed auto workers.

CHINA NEEDS THE WORLD, AND THE WORLD NEEDS

CHINA Cheng Siwei is known as the “Father of venture capitalism in China.” The following is excerpted from his presentation at the AAARI 2005 annual conference. Mr. Cheng will also be a keynote at “The First U.S.-China Innovation and Cooperation Conference” on October 31, 2011 (See Below).

“In my opinion, there are four characteristics of economic globalization in the new century, based on knowledge, selected by information technology, with finance as the core, with multinational companies as carriers. Certainly, economic globalization is a double-edged sword. Today, I want to discuss two issues about China and the world.

China needs the world and the world needs China. From our past experience, opening up and reform are the two wheels pushing the rapid growth of China’s economy. Opening up is a must for China. China needs to get integrated into the pipe of economic globalization in the world. At the same time, the world also needs China. Why? Because China is a fairly large economic entity.

China must understand the world and the world also must understand China. You know, we are just making the transition from traditional central planning to the market system. Learning about the features of a market economy, especially its history of development, including its practices, organizational modalities, and management tools, are very important to us.

In my opinion, the Chinese understand the United States much better than the Americans understand China.

FOUR POINTS THE WORLD NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT CHINA

1. From an economic perspective, China is the world’s biggest developing country with 1.3 billion people. It has big aggregate economic strength, which, if concentrated, can accomplish difficult tasks. Although China is a developing country, we can send people into outer space. We are the third country that did it. On the other hand, our GDP per capita is very low, only 1,269 U.S. dollars. China has 1.3 billion people. Any number divided by 1.3 billion is very small. So we still have a long way to go.
2. China is a country with great development potential. When I attended the Doha Forum, people asked me: why is China growing so fast and attracts attention from the world? My answer is the following: with political stability and national unity, China is now a much safer place. If you go to China, you don’t need to leave your fingerprint in the embassy, and

you don’t need to remove your shoes through the security check. Now, all Chinese people are concentrated in building up a well-off society in our own way. This is our main goal.

China also has a huge market potential. Last December, I visited Atlanta, the headquarters of Coca-Cola. I said to them, any number multiplied by 1.3 billion is a huge market. If one Chinese person drinks a bottle of Coca-Cola per year, it will be a 1.3 billion Coca-Cola market. With the income of Chinese people increasing, the market potential will increase even more.

3. China enjoys steady economic progress. Over the past twenty years, we enjoyed a 9 percent annual growth rate, and the income of our people keeps increasing. That is very important because it means the demand is always higher than the supply.
4. China has the comparative advantages in its labor force in terms of cost and quality. In Dallas, one journalist, I don’t want to mention his nationality, complained to me, “You Chinese took all the investments from our country.” I said, “Dear gentleman, you’re quite right, but I just want to give you a number. In the United States, the hourly wage is sixteen dollars; in Mexico, it is four dollars, and in China, it is fifty cents. If you are a capitalist, where will you invest?”

China is in transition to a socialist market economy. What is a socialist market economy? On the one hand, it is to raise efficiency by a market economy. On the other hand, it is to ensure social equity by a Socialist system. China should follow the right path and not be subjected to the standard of sophisticated market systems in developed countries.

Now I’ve come to my conclusion. China needs the world, and the world needs China.”

— Cheng Siwei, Former Vice Chairman,
National People’s Congress of China

Global Entrepreneurship: Economic Development for Asia and the U.S. (2005)
URL: www.aaari.info/economic.htm

2011 US-CHINA INNOVATION AND COOPERATION SUMMIT

This conference will bring together leaders across industrial, scientific, and financial sectors as well as senior government officials from the U.S. and China to have an open discussion to promote innovation in both countries and explore mutually beneficial channels of cooperation.

URL: www.casbi.org/cn/uicc/homepage.htm

1989

Tiananmen demonstrations result in tense Sino-American relations and U.S. trade sanctions.

Congress passes the **Filipino Veterans Fairness Act**, granting U.S. citizenship and limited veteran benefits to certain Filipino veterans who fight for the United States during World War II.

1990

The **boycott of Korean-owned businesses** in Brooklyn and Manhattan gains national media attention as violent attacks are reported.

1992

As a result of riots in **Los Angeles** due to outrage over the Rodney King verdict, more than 2,500 Korean businesses are looted and burned.

A joint **Apology Resolution** is passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton, apologizing for the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

1993

Golden Venture, an immigrant smuggling ship, runs aground near New York City. Fujianese passengers pay \$30,000 to enter the United States.

AAARI Online Media Archive

“If you can’t come to AAARI, AAARI can come to you!”

Derived from the motto created by Dr. Thomas Tam, the Asian American / Asian Research Institute has amassed an impressively vast media archive of more than 500+ lectures, conferences, workshops and other events since 2002. Starting September 2002, AAARI began its current continued practice of videotaping all of its events in order to preserve and to make them available online as streaming video for those who are unable to attend. Going a step beyond simply providing post-event videos, in January 2003, AAARI began live webcasting our events, further stripping away the boundaries that hinder participation. In May 2006, to accommodate the growing number of individuals who absorbed their information through sound rather than video, AAARI began to create audio podcasts of its events in conjunction with our streaming educational videos.

In the short span of ten years, AAARI has offered our audience and global online community a wide-range of topics including Buddhism, mental health, poetry and literature, Chinese cinema, Asian American history, Chinese cuisine, Caribbean Asians, natural disasters, Japanese language, women’s health, Arab identity, economic empowerment, civic engagement, Chinatown, and the 2010 U.S. Census. As AAARI continues to document future topics of interest to the Asian American / Asian community, those who visit our website can be rest assured that the topics of the past will continue to endure and be readily accessible for their viewing pleasure.

- Antony Wong, Program Coordinator, AAARI



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www.aaari.info/2011civic.htm
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www.aaari.info/2009america.htm
4. **Asian American Women: Celebrating Successes, Meeting Challenges**
www.aaari.info/2008women.htm
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7. **Well-Being of Asian American Senior Citizens**
www.aaari.info/2006senior.htm
8. **Points of Connection: South Asians and the Diaspora**
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9. **Global Entrepreneurship: Economic Development for Asia and the United States**
www.aaari.info/economic.htm
10. **Korean Americans**
www.aaari.info/korean.htm
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www.aaari.info/saconference.htm
12. **Asian American / Asian Students: Aspects of Social Interaction**
www.aaari.info/studentconference.htm
13. **Asian American Student Colloquium**
www.aaari.info/Colloquium1.htm
14. **Education: Challenges & Perspectives**
www.aaari.info/2003conference.htm

YOUTH & IDENTITY

1. **Unheard Voices of 9/11 Hearing**
www.aaari.info/11-08-20Unheard.htm
2. **How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America**
www.aaari.info/09-09-18Bayoumi.htm
3. **Dubious Gastronomy**
www.aaari.info/10-09-28Faculty.htm
4. **Foreigners in Us—Why Love to Hate?**
www.aaari.info/10-03-01Faculty.htm
5. **Recording Voices: Stories of APA Youth as Language Brokers in NYC**
www.aaari.info/09-06-16CACF.htm
6. **Is Yellow Black or White: Revisited**
www.aaari.info/02-10-18Okhiro.htm

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www.aaari.info/11-09-09Tribute.htm
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3. **Wings of Defeat**
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www.aaari.info/08-10-03Lee.htm
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RELIGION

1. **Feminist Text, Patriarchal Context: Feminine Principle in Sikh Vision**
www.aaari.info/10-04-23Singh.htm
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4. **Introduction to Nagarjuna’s Middle View of Buddhism**
www.aaari.info/03-06-06Tam.htm

Asian and Pacific American Timeline Post 9/11 & Growth

1998

A strike of **12,200 yellow-cab drivers** occurs, led by South Asians, to protest Mayor Rudolph Giuliani’s new taxi fine and summons policies.

The United Kingdom transfers sovereignty of **Hong Kong** to the People’s Republic of China, ending 156 years of British colonial rule.

1997

2000

New York City’s Bangladeshi population quadruples and its **Pakistani population** increases by 154% from 1990–2000.

Taiwan-born U.S. citizen **Wen Ho Lee**, who worked at the Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratories, is arrested and imprisoned on false allegations of giving U.S. nuclear secrets to China; the original charges are later dropped and the judge in the case apologizes to Lee.

1999

2001

New York Chinatown becomes part of the “frozen zone” after the September/11 attacks on the World Trade Center. Businesses suffer and many close down while others struggle to recover.

Enslaved Thai garment workers and the passage of Assembly Bill 633 opens door for retailer and manufacturer liability.

John C. Liu becomes first Asian to be elected to New York City Council.

TOP 50 VIDEOS

HEALTH

1. **Lupus Awareness Seminar**
www.aaari.info/11-05-03Lupus.htm
2. **Asian American Women's Health Symposium: Rising to the Challenges of Being a Woman**
www.aaari.info/10-06-17Health.htm
3. **Asian American Health Panel**
www.aaari.info/10-05-21Health.htm
4. **Elderly Asian Women Suicide Prevention Workshop**
www.aaari.info/09-11-20Elderly.htm
5. **Filipino American Psychology: A Handbook of Theory, Research, and Clinical Practice**
www.aaari.info/09-10-02Nadal.htm
6. **Conference on Asian Pacific Islanders and HIV/AIDS**
www.aaari.info/08-05-19HIV.htm



ASIA

1. **After bin Laden: U.S.-Pakistan Relations**
www.aaari.info/11-06-29Pakistan.htm
2. **China's Unnatural Disaster: The Tears of Sichuan Province**
www.aaari.info/09-05-15Kwong.htm
3. **Understanding Afghanistan**
www.aaari.info/09-04-09Afghanistan.htm
4. **The Man Who Loved China: An Evening with Simon Winchester**
www.aaari.info/08-10-07Winchester.htm
5. **CUNY Response to Tsunami Disaster Speakers Bureau**
www.aaari.info/bureaus.htm

CHINESE & CHINATOWN

1. **Chinatown in the 21st Century**
www.aaari.info/chinatown.htm
2. **American Chinatown: A People's History of Five Neighborhoods**
www.aaari.info/10-03-19Tsu.htm
3. **The Fortune Cookie Chronicles**
www.aaari.info/08-10-10Lee.htm
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5. **Transnational Chinese Villagers: New York's Fuzhounese Immigrants Build a Global Community**
www.aaari.info/04-10-29Guest.htm

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1. **Into East River(s): Chinese / American Artists and Asian American Poets**
www.aaari.info/11-06-02Rivers.htm
2. **Ha Jin: The Writer as Migrant**
www.aaari.info/11-04-01Cheung.htm
3. **Visual Dialogues: Public Art and Social Transformation**
www.aaari.info/11-03-11Yamasaki.htm
5. **Globalization and Japanese Creativity: Adaptation of Japanese Language to Rap**
www.aaari.info/06-02-03Manabe.htm
6. **Evolution of Chinese Cinema**
www.aaari.info/chinafilm.htm



Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI) is established by the City University of New York.

2004

Jimmy Meng becomes first Asian elected to New York State Assembly.

LMDC provides funding to create Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation

2006

Ellen Young becomes first Asian woman elected to New York State Assembly.

Banyan Tree Project holds the first National A&PI HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, officially recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

2005

Anh Cao wins special election in New Orleans, Louisiana, to become first Vietnamese American to serve in U.S. Congress.

2008

AAARI RESOURCES

Your role in America's story has not always been given its due. And many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have known tremendous unfairness and injustice during our history.

— Barack Obama, President, United States



ASIAN AMERICAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER POLICY RESEARCH CONSORTIUM (AAPIPRC)

Under the Executive Order signed by President Barack Obama on October 14, 2009, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders was created to improve the quality of life and opportunities for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by expanding access to and participation in federal programs where they remain underserved.

Following a conference convened by the White House Initiative, four research institutes, including AAARI, met on March 25, 2011, in New York City, to establish a national research consortium. AAPIPRC will make resources available about Asian Americans in the public discourse; create a usable pipeline of information, funds, and personnel; and promote applied community-based research that links scholarship to public policy. Through this consortium, joint projects related to health care, housing equity, and education will be developed to assist federal and state agencies in making informed decisions concerning the AAPI community with the recognition and support of the White House.

URL: www.aapiprc.com

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2010 U.S. CENSUS UPDATE ON ASIAN AMERICANS IN NEW YORK AND THE UNITED STATES

Data is extrapolated from Social Explorer and the U.S. Census.

1. Asian Population growth from 2000-2010 in all states
2. NYC Asian American population in each borough, plus growth rate
3. Asian Concentrations in NYC with neighborhood highlights
4. Asians in NYC School districts

URL: www.aaari.info/notes/2010CensusUpdate.pdf

Asian and Pacific American Timeline Shaping the Future

2009

As part of HR 1, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, **Filipino veterans** finally gain recognition for their U.S. military service and receive one-time payments of \$15,000.

President Barack Obama names **Gary Locke** as Secretary of Commerce (now Ambassador to China), **Eric Shinseki** as Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, and **Stephen Chu** as Secretary of Energy.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismisses case against **Lt. Ehren Watada**, the first commissioned officer to refuse orders to deploy to Iraq.

Judy Chu becomes first Chinese American woman elected to U.S. Congress.

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Compiled by Russell C. Leong and Trevor Lee



Corky Lee is known as the "undisputed unofficial Asian American Photographer Laureate." The ubiquitous Corky has covered the day-to-day lives of Asian Pacific Americans as well as historical moments in American history for the past forty years.

Margaret S. Chin becomes first Asian woman elected to New York City Council.

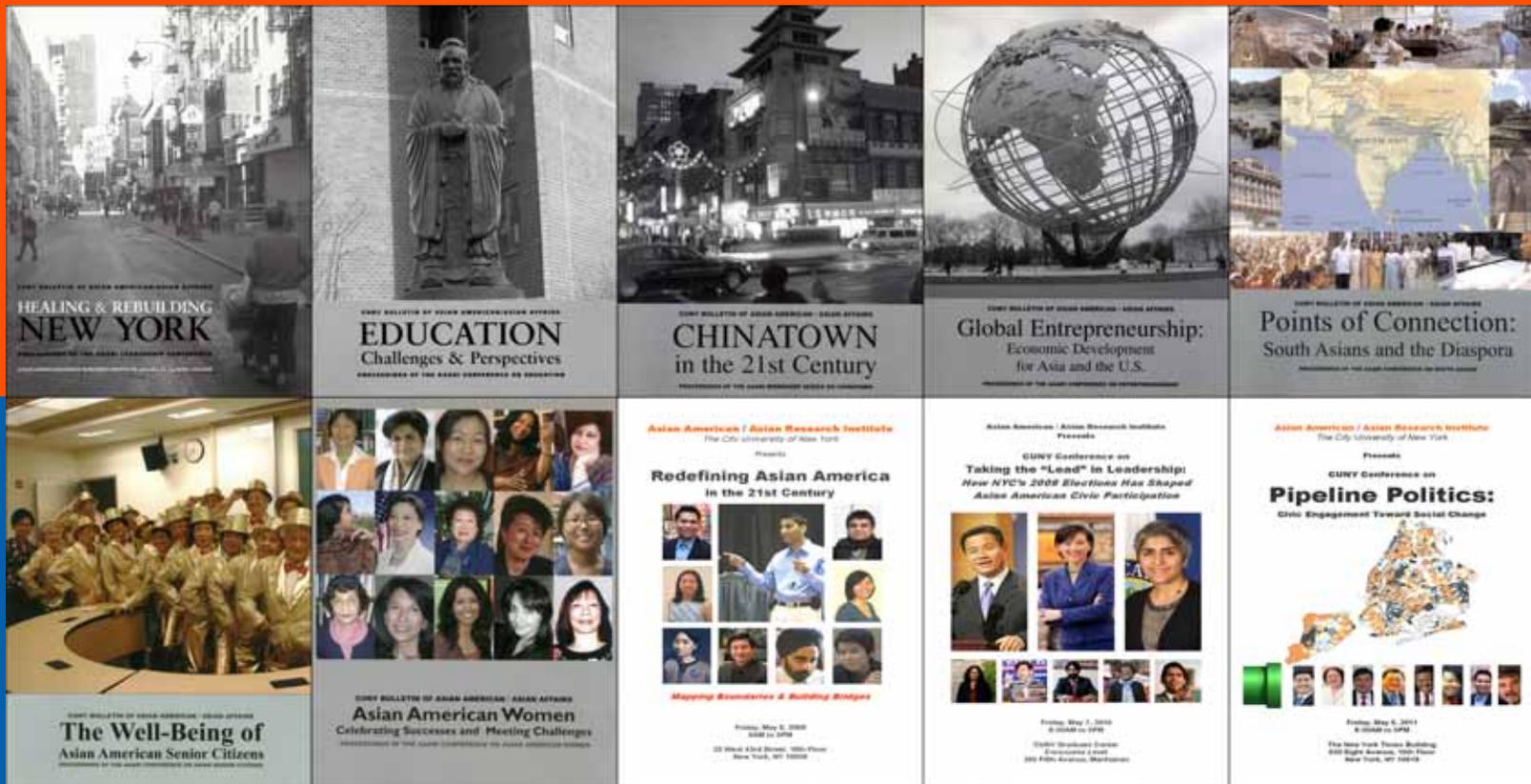
John C. Liu becomes first Asian elected as New York City Comptroller.

Rep. Judy Chu introduces bill to **U.S. Congress** to express regret for past Chinese exclusionary laws.

Fang Wang becomes first Asian elected as National Commander of **American Legion**.

U.S. Senate approves resolution apologizing for past discriminatory laws against Chinese immigrants.

Nisei World War II Veterans awarded Congressional Gold Medal.



CUNY Bulletin of Asian American / Asian Studies

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