



# Monthly Visions



## International Women's Day 2008

By: Ankita Mohanty, UROP Student of The Shanti Project

On Saturday, March 8, The Shanti Project hosted an International Women's Day celebration with Asian Indian Women's Association (AIWA) and Michigan Asian Indian Family Services (MAIFS) at the Novi Civic Center. All three organizations are committed to working on issues which impact women, such as domestic violence. These organizations came together to create an event to recognize the accomplishments of women in the past, and the power women have to create change today.

### International Women's Day 2008

#### OECAAT (Outreach & Engagement Community Action Team)

"A Cup of Tea in the Afternoon", is a small gathering in the Korean community that promotes dialogue on domestic violence and related issues by using different types of media.

The gathering is held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at the University of Michigan Northwood Community Center.

For more information, please contact 734.615.2106 or [eunjl@umich.edu](mailto:eunjl@umich.edu).

International Women's Day (IWD), first celebrated in 1909, is marked on [March 8](#) every year and is a day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women. The Shanti Project joined forces with other community organizations to give the 220 men and women in attendance a space to celebrate our achievements, but also dialogue about the injustices we still face today.

One often hears about the great accomplishments of women such as Harriet Tubman or Indira Ghandi, but you may ask yourself, "What can I do?" The short answer is, a lot. As part of the event, The Shanti Project showed a music video called *Babul* which explores the reality of domestic violence behind the façade of modern society through the eyes of a young girl. After the video, I could see the women were touched, and inspired. The Shanti Project team members guided discussions at each of the tables, and were witness to personal stories, opinions, and ways to prevent domestic violence in our communities.

I believe the change we so often speak about, and hope to create, was sparked in those twenty minutes of honest discussion. International Women's Day, then, became not only a tribute to famous women I never truly knew, but to the women I sat with on that very day.

For more information about IWD, please visit <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

**New Visions** is a community-university partnership whose mission is to inspire and support sustainable community action for ending violence against women in Asian communities of Southeast Michigan. Affiliated with the University of Michigan School of Social Work, we work with local Asian communities and domestic violence-related agencies to achieve one vision: "Asian women are safe, and Asian communities are free of violence."

### Youth Arts & Activism Community Action Team (YAACAT) Performance

YAACAT is performing their "Days of Our High School Lives" sketch about dating violence at a workshop at the API High School Conference. Those who missed last years performance, this is a chance to watch their powerful performance. Below are the details of the performance:

#### Asian Pacific Islander American High School Conference

**Date : March 22nd Saturday**

**Location : Angel Hall at University of Michigan**

**Time : 10:30-11:30 (Workshop is 1 hour long)**

We also welcome any high school students aged 16-19 interested in joining our team. For more information, please contact [nv-ytcat@umich.edu](mailto:nv-ytcat@umich.edu)



Arts & Activism CAT @ Member Recognition Dinner 2007

### Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April) Events in Ann Arbor

#### Rock Out Against Rape

Performance is by local bands: profits go to SafeHouse Center's Teen Voice.

March 29th 2008  
7pm-11pm, The Neutral Zone

#### Let Awareness Ring: The Ringing of the Bells

SafeHouse Center will be ringing the bells at Kerrytown every two and a half minutes to represent that every two and a half minutes someone in America is sexually assaulted.

April 5th 2008  
11am-11:30am  
Kerrytown Farmer's Market

#### Take Back The Night

An international rally and march organized in local communities to unify women, men, and children in an awareness of violence against women, children, and families.

April 10th 2008 7pm  
DIAG @ U of M

#### New Visions: Alliance to End Violence in Asian/Asian American Communities

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## Moving On

By: Jack Li\*, Arts & Activism Community Action Team Coordinator

I can't believe it! After two years with New Visions, I'm leaving to study for my Board exams for medical school. Where did all the time go? I can remember my very first performance with the Arts and Activism Community Action Team: I played Brad, an abusive boyfriend, in the dating violence sketch entitled *A Night Out*. Little did I know at the time, that I would become very involved with New Visions - attending meetings, learning about domestic violence, and most importantly, making some great friends. The commitment by members (who are all volunteers) in this organization truly astounds me, and inspires me to continue to open dialogue about sensitive subjects as I progress in my career. Although our theater-based workshops were never attended by great masses of people, I know that we made our audiences at least pause to think about this issue and how it impacts everyone.

\* Jack Li is a second year medical student at the University of Michigan. He has been a member of New Visions' Arts & Activism Community Action Team since 2006 and has served as the Coordinator since 2007.

### Arts & Activism Community Action Team (AACAT)

AACAT is looking for people interested in domestic violence and taking actions with theater as a tool? Don't need to have experience to join us! For more information, please email, [pandyang@umich.edu](mailto:pandyang@umich.edu).



### Spotlight on Tina Sang

Ms. Tina Sang is a dual degree Social Work and Public Health Master's student who recently moved to Michigan from the San Francisco Bay area. She joined New Visions in October 2007, during her first semester at the University of Michigan. She is currently a member of the Arts & Activism Community Action Team (AACAT). She has performed in, *A Night Out* (a sketch about dating violence), and *A Step Up* (a new sketch about domestic violence in a marriage). Ms. Sang has also been involved not only in performing, but also in trainings and scriptwriting, as well as facilitation of the Youth Theater Program.

Ms. Sang said, "it is an invigorating experience to find other young people who are passionate about preventing violence and breaking the silence about such a taboo subject. Being a member of New Visions has taught me scriptwriting and acting skills as well as the power of art when it is used for social activism."

When Ms. Sang is not volunteering with New Visions, she is busy at Food Gatherers, Washtenaw County's food bank, where she serves as a social work student intern. She is also busy reviving an Asian Pacific Islander (API) social work student group, which is now called, Ohana. Ohana means *family* in Hawaiian and *flower* in Japanese. Through this group, Ms. Sang hopes to provide incoming API social work students with a welcoming environment and raise visibility of those students within the School of Social Work.

**Monthly Visions** is a collaborative project between New Visions and authors. The views of the authors may or may not reflect the views of New Visions. We encourage submissions (poetry, artwork, articles, short stories, prose in English or your native language) to further the mission and philosophy of New Visions. Submitters will work with New Visions staff to ensure content is consistent with its philosophy and mission. For more information about the newsletter, please e-mail us at [monthlyvision@umich.edu](mailto:monthlyvision@umich.edu).

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