



Monthly Visions

“Lighting the Past, Present, and Future”: Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Adopted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_Pacific_American_Heritage_Month
and <http://asian-nation.org/printer/heritage.html>

In 1978, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution to annually celebrate the first week of May as Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Week. The month of May has been chosen to commemorate the events that occurred during this time: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in the U.S. on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad (by many Chinese laborers) on May 10, 1869. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush proclaimed the entire month of May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated throughout the country with community festivals, government-sponsored activities/events, and educational activities for students.

This year’s theme is “Lighting the Past, Present, and Future.” APA Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the rich culture and history of Asian Pacific Americans; it is a time to observe and appreciate the accomplishments and sacrifices of Asian Pacific Americans throughout history and the present; it is a time to reflect upon our own history and sense of identity, as an individual, family, and community; and it is a time to think about the issues that affect the Asian Pacific American community and how to move forward in the future.

Here’s what YOU can do:

- Ask your school or community libraries and books to use the APA Heritage Month to feature books on/by Asian Americans
- Talk to your family to learn about your own history and culture
- Let your friends/co-workers know about the APA Heritage Month and share facts and history about Asian Pacific Americans
- Read and/or watch a book/movie about or by Asian Pacific Americans
- Attend and participate in APA Heritage Month events/activities

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.”

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration at the Capitol

Hosted by Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood and Members of the MI Legislature

DATE: May 27, 2008

TIME: 10am – 2:30pm

LOCATION: State Capitol, Lansing

Program will include a variety of cultural performances, Asian and Pacific Island cuisine, and a keynote address by Lieutenant Governor John Cherry.

For more information, please contact Erin Hughes at (517) 373-0852 or ehughes@house.mi.gov

Member Spotlight: Milliza Malabanan, Youth Arts & Activism Community Action Team

My work with New Visions will definitely be an experience I look back on in the future. With New Visions, I learned about the taboo topic of domestic/dating violence and about empowerment by participating in the Youth Theater Program in the Fall of 2007 and Youth Arts & Activism Community Action Team (YAA CAT) at the present. The valuable lessons that I learned will not only help me if I encounter a difficult situation, but also help me in helping a close friend in the future. Also, the information that I learned is valuable in helping me in all levels of relationships in my life. As part of my work with New Visions, we developed a short sketch called, "Days of High School Lives," which depicts a dating violence situation in a high school setting, and presented it to a small audience in December 2007 and March 2008. Although we were only able to reach out to a small audience, I have full faith that the YAA CAT and its work will expand over time and, eventually, the topic of domestic/dating violence will no longer be so taboo.

Apart from New Visions, I am involved in several other activities. I am a Youth Leader for the Youth Dialogues on Race and Ethnicity, a program of the University of Michigan and Skillman Foundation that works to increase dialogue amongst youth living in Detroit (one of the most segregated metropolitan region in the United States). I also served as Secretary and am currently serving as Co-President of the Asian Pacific American Club, which explores the Asian-American identity by hosting workshops about social issues and culture. Also, the club hosts a show every other year, where many traditional Asian dances are presented. Another activity that I was involved in was as a Mentee in the Yuri Kochiyama Leadership Program. These three activities have inspired me to use my experiences and knowledge to mentor other students at my school.

In the Fall of 2008, I will be attending Oakland University as a Freshman and plan to major in Political Science/Pre-Law. My decision to pursue Political Science/Pre-Law was in part due to my participation with New Visions. I hope to take all the experiences I have learned from New Visions and my other activities and apply them to my life as a future lawyer and, above all else, as a person.



30 Years of Vision and Victories

By Eun Joo Lee, New Visions project coordinator

On April 17, 2008, the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV) celebrated its '30 Years of Vision and Victories.' The MCADSV is a statewide membership organization whose members include a network of over 70 domestic and sexual violence programs and over 200 allied organizations and individuals. The MCADSV has provided "leadership as the statewide voice for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and the programs that serve them since 1978."

'30 Years of Vision and Victories' was a night that not only celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the MCADSV but also honored the participants of the film, *The Oral History of the Movement to End Domestic and Sexual Violence in Michigan* project (the *Oral History* project). The event also premiered the film. The *Oral History* project, made possible by the University of Michigan Center for the Education of Women and School of Social Work, features 15 individuals, whose efforts have laid the foundation for the domestic and sexual violence movement in Michigan.

The domestic and sexual violence movement in Michigan did not happen over night. The movement involved many dedicated and passionate individuals who, through their perseverance and sacrifices, turned their visions into victories. Many participants made personal sacrifices for the movement—whether it be opening their homes for survivors who had no where to go for safety or leaving a secure, stable job to start a domestic violence program with funding available only for a few months, knowing that her three children need to be fed. Some individuals were drawn to the movement due to personal experiences of violence, some made life-altering choices, and some saw it as their calling, their responsibility. They experienced financial difficulties and faced challenges in working with their communities and different systems. However, they persisted and have won.

It was a very humbling experience to watch and listen to these remarkable women share their stories of perseverance and achievements. At the same time, it certainly was a moment of enlightenment and empowerment to those who witnessed the inspiration they gave with their *Vision and Victories*.

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

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30 Years of

VISION &
VICTORIES



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.

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