



Monthly Visions

New Visions Calendar of Upcoming Events:

- **January 10, 2007, 6:30-9:30pm: Domestic Violence 101 Training.** Learn about the definition of domestic violence, how it plays out in Asian communities, barriers to seeking help, and other relevant facts. To sign up, contact pand-yan@umich.edu.
- **January 20, 2007, 2-2:50pm, Location TBA.** AA CAT workshop on "Theater as a Tool for Social Change" at the United Asian American Medical Student Association (UAAMSA) Health Fair
- **January 27, 2007, 10am-5pm, University of Michigan, Duderstadt Center. Training with Dr. Sujata Warriar for all members.** You will discuss and learn about challenges and strategies in dialoging about culture, oppression, and violence against women. Space is limited. RSVP to eunj@umich.edu by Jan. 22nd.

New Visions is a grassroots organization 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 are a partnership of local Asian communities and domestic violence-related agencies dedicated to one vision: "Asian women are safe, and Asian communities are free of violence."

It's a New Year!

In 2007, New Visions celebrates its 5th year in working to end violence against women in Asian/Asian American communities in Southeast Michigan. With your support and commitment, New Visions has expanded its outreach and engagement efforts to various Asian communities, Asian community organizations, and domestic violence programs. We have created exciting ways for our members to get involved, such as our monthly newsletter entitled, *Monthly Visions*, and Forum Theater workshops. As you know, New Visions is a member-driven organization – your hardwork and support make our organization continue to grow and be successful.

We are very excited to start this year with a Domestic Violence 101 Training (Jan. 10th), which offers a foundation in understanding what domestic violence is, how it manifests, and how socio-cultural factors contribute to the issue. We also have a member-wide training on Jan. 27th with Dr. Sujata Warriar, who is the Director of the NYC Program of the NY State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. This training will consist of discussions and exercises on challenges and strategies in dialoging about culture, oppression, and violence against women.

In the summer of 2007, we plan to host our first ever youth camp. This camp is designed for youth ages 16 to 19, who will learn about dating and domestic violence and how to use the arts, such as the theater, to raise awareness about these sensitive issues. Finally, we will continue to reach out and engage the wider Asian communities through the use of film, discussion, and workshops about topics related to domestic violence.

You too can make a difference! Please join our efforts in ending domestic violence in our communities. For more information on how to participate or if you would like to share your ideas, please contact Eun Joo Lee, Project Coordinator, at 734.615.2106 or eunj@umich.edu.

Reflection on Member Recognition Dinner

By Anonymous

On December 16th, 2006, New Visions organized a dinner to recognize and appreciate members' hard work and support throughout the year. I went with some degree of excitement, anticipating to see familiar faces and hoping to see many new faces. Surely, I would meet with many new faces that reminded me of my age and my generation. "I am probably older than their mothers," I thought.

What a privilege it was to be in the same room with these energetic and vibrant young people, sharing the same one vision, "ASIAN WOMEN ARE SAFE AND ASIAN COMMUNITIES ARE FREE OF VIOLENCE." I feel fortunate to work with "very young people," knowing that I will be inspired by them and learn from them.

Over the last four years since I began working with New Visions, I've been inspired by many dedicated and committed people who work to end violence against women, pursue social justice, and safeguard individuals' rights to be treated humanely with dignity. I have seen the changes in New Visions' organizational structure to increase impact and meet the needs of Asian communities. I feel proud of having been involved in the New Visions' challenges and achievements.

I am looking forward to the year 2007, anticipating new experiences and learning. I am also excited about continuing to work, as part of Organizational Accountability CAT, toward strengthening local domestic violence programs' capacity to help Asian families. When New Visions takes on new projects it is always a series of challenges and hardwork. However, that is what makes the work rewarding.



CAT Updates:

New Visions is always looking for individuals or organizations to work together in ending violence against women in Asian communities in Southeast Michigan.

If you would like to learn more about our organization, our activities, and how to get involved, please contact Eun Joo Lee

(eunj@umich.edu,
734.615.2106) or Neel
Pandya
(pandyan@umich.edu,
734.615.2123).



Forum Theater Workshop
at Member Recognition Dinner



Member Recognition Dinner

Thinking about Member Recognition Dinner

By Mi Dong, Organizational Accountability CAT member

I have been involved with New Visions for the past 2 years. I always enjoyed my interaction with members and our community coordinators and try to do whatever I can to support New Visions' mission. I think that the year 2006 has been very productive year for New Visions and salute to all the members who contributed to our accomplishment and success.

When I received an invitation from New Visions to attend a member recognition dinner, I started to think about what I did to deserve this honor to attend the event. However, after considering the effort of the coordinators for the event and thinking that I could celebrate our accomplishment with other team members, I decided to attend the event together with my husband who is new to New Visions.

At the dinner, AA CAT members performed their skit entitled, "A Night Out," and encouraged the audience members to participate in Forum Theater.* The skit depicted a dating violence situation among college students. I thought that the use of Forum Theater to address domestic violence issues was very powerful. I actually experienced the power through my husband who was new to Forum Theater. He said, "I could not believe that smart and well educated young Asian students could have such behavior." The skit really hit the main points they wanted to address, and audience members understood the message. What a great accomplishment!

I really enjoyed great spicy Indian food, good company, a great skit, fun games, and nice conversations. I am looking forward to working with members in 2007 for our new projects and endeavors.

*In Forum Theater, actors perform short sketches based on a sensitive issue and invite audience members to step into a scene, and assume a character. The goal of Forum Theater is to invent new ways of confronting problems.



Member Spotlight! Eileen Wang

Eileen Wang is a second-year medical student at the University of Michigan, and has been an AACAT member over one year. During her first year, she played a pivotal role by acting in various sketches, representing New Visions at a national conference for Asian students, and assisting in developing a sketch about domestic violence for medical school students.



Ms. Wang is not only an active member of New Visions, but also works as the National Domestic Violence Coordinator for the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). In her role, Ms. Wang has coordinated medical students' national participation in *Health Cares about Domestic Violence Day*, a national day of activism and awareness created by the Family Violence Prevention Fund. Currently, she is conducting a survey on domestic violence curriculums at medical schools around the country and medical students' comfort level in working with survivors of domestic violence. In addition, Ms. Wang serves as a resource for students in health care professions who are interested in gender violence issues by referring them to relevant resources, connecting them with local contacts, and helping them to organize awareness events at their school.

When asked how Ms. Wang incorporates her work with AMSA into New Visions she says, "The AMSA work provides me with a perspective on what is going on nationally and this further fuels my commitment to the AACAT as I truly think theater is one of the most effective, innovative, and inspiring approaches to promoting awareness."

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

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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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