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Our community rises when leaders step up

Your vision and commitment to lead the way is an inspiration to all. We salute the time and talent you bring to making our community a better place to live, work, and prosper.

Let's join together in honoring all of the Pan Asian Association of Greater Philadelphia's 2022 Awardees...

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ASIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE
OUTSTANDING ASIAN-OWNED BUSINESSES AND
LEADERS OF THE COMMUNITY



ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 2022 5–9 PM LIVE! CASINO & HOTEL PHILADELPHIA

& Keynote speech by an inspiring business leader ☆ network with hundreds of businesses

→ great food, entertainment & fashion show

For sponsorship opportunities, contact AACCGP@ASIANCHAMBERPHILA.ORG

For more information, visit ASIANCHAMBERPHILA.ORG



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Asian Heritage and award banquet. This event is celebrated annually during the Asian Heritage Month in May. Due to the Pandemic, we have celebrated it virtually for the last two years. It is refreshing to meet our community leaders in person. .

We gather here today to celebrate our diversified heritage as an unified Asian community and recognize those who have spend time and energy to serve our community. We celebrate our Asian heritage without any social, religious and territorial issues which Asian countries, our mother lands, constantly face. Thank you, America, for such an opportunity to be Americans.

We immigrated to this country looking for better life and economic opportunities. We have come a long way since 1960 where we had to deal with glass ceiling, social and economic discrimination and social harassment. Although such issues are diminished, we now face economic realities of refugees who came here to escape religious or political persecution. Asian hate is on the rise and hence it is important to have an organization such as this not only to bring our issues and concerns in the forefront of main stream but to help them integrate with the main stream while maintaining our heritage.

It is also important to communicate our contribution to the growth of this nation to achieve social harmony. Immigrants create jobs and make substantial contribution to local economy and social values. We should be proud of such accomplishment.

As we recover from pandemic, we must work together and support each other to overcome past two years of economic and social impediment

Enjoy and celebrate Asian American Heritage Month From May 1 to May 31.

Narasimha B. Shenoy

Stradley Ronon
is proud to support the
Pan Asian Association
of Greater Philadelphia
and congratulates
Asian American Heritage Month
Impact Award Honoree



Nydia H. Han
Co Anchor – Action News 6abc

For more than 95 years, Stradley Ronon has helped private and public companies — from small businesses to Fortune 500 corporations — achieve their goals. While we're proud of our many client achievements, we're just as dedicated to the communities in which we work and live. Through our financial contributions and volunteer efforts, we're pleased to support hundreds of nonprofit and charitable organizations.

www.stradley.com/diversity

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OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

PARESH BIRLA



Mr. Paresh Birla spearheaded Council of Indian organizations of Greater Philadelphia (CIO) for various COVID-19 relief efforts in Tri State area. Under his leadership, CIO distributed over 70,000 masks (N-95,N-65 & Disposable) in Chester County, Bucks County & Montgomery County hospitals, & physician offices.

Mr. Birla personally helped many Indian students who were stranded due to Covid Travel ban and required help in Philadelphia.

Under Mr. Paresh Birla leadership, CIO was able to have 1st Indian Flag hosting in City Hall Philadelphia. He organized International Yoga Day in Philadelphia

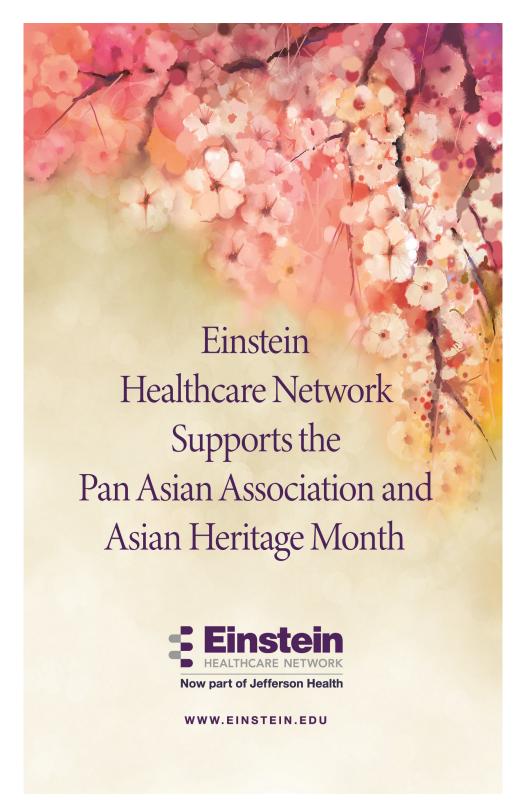
Mr. Birla was instrumental in helping Indian Community to help deal with Immigration Issues and organized OCI/VISA Camp in association with Indian Consulate of New York which helped more than 450 people affected by immigration issues during COVID affected period.

Mr. Paresh Birla was also successful in achieving platinum level GuideStar ranking for CIO for transparency in Y2021

Apart from above, there are many individual incidents where Mr. Paresh Birla stepped up, raised out of box and personally helped many Indian peoples who needed support outside their home country. His selfless efforts need to be surely recognized to motivate others to step up and get engaged in community service.

He served in the Governors Asian American Advisory Commission as a commissioner.

www.indiacouncil.org



IMPACT AWARDEE -KEYNOTE SPEAKER

NYDIA HAN



Nydia Han is an Emmy award winning television journalist. She is currently a news anchor and consumer investigative reporter for WPVI-TV in Philadelphia.

Nydia is committed to using her platform to uplift, empower, and give voice to traditionally underrepresented, marginalized groups. She is a TEDx and SXSW speaker, and creator of #ThisIsAmerica, a provocative three-part documentary series about race, racism, and the diverse

American experience. Nydia has also appeared on ABC News Live and 20/20 to discuss discrimination, bias, and hate against Asian Americans.

Her work has been recognized by a number of groups. #ThisIsAmerica received the 2019 national Asian American Journalists award for Best TV/Online (AAPI) and was chosen for a special viewing at the Women's Film Festival. Nydia is the recipient of the Pearl S. Buck International Woman of Influence award, Inspire Award from the National Association of Asian American Professionals, and Global Voice Award from the World Woman Summit. She was also named "Outstanding Ally" of Diversity and Inclusion by the Philadelphia Inquirer.

She graduated from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and her career has taken her to television stations in Idaho, Oklahoma City, and Texas.

Nydia is on the community advisory board for the Asian American Women's Coalition. She is also passionate about raising awareness and desperately needed funds for lung cancer research in memory of her mother.

Nydia enjoys good food, wine, and most of all a good laugh. And she is trying really, really hard to teach her two young children to speak Korean.







OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Rob Buscher



Rob Buscher is a film and media specialist, educator, arts administrator, and published author who has worked in non-profit arts organizations for over a decade. As a person of biracial Japanese American heritage who is deeply involved in his community, Rob also has an expertise in cultural sensitivity training, community organizing, and advocacy issues related to the Asian American & Pacific Islander (AA & PI) community.

Rob's expertise is Japanese and AA & PI Diasporic Cinema although he has worked as a professional film programmer, critic, and lecturer across a variety of fields. Some of his career highlights include growing Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival into an internationally recognized leader in the film festival circuit, developing the Japanese Cinema and Asian American Studies curriculum at Arcadia University, and co-founding Zipangu Fest, the United Kingdom's first Japanese film festival. Rob currently lectures at University of Pennsylvania, and is a contributing writer at Pacific Citizen and Gidra Magazine.

Rob serves as Board Chair at Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival, having previously served as Festival Director in 2014–2019. He also serves as President of the Philadelphia Chapter of civil rights group Japanese American Citizens League and chairs the Editorial Board of *Pacific Citizen*, the organization's national newspaper.

japanphilly.org · paaff.org

PAN ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Chair: Narasimha B. Shenoy

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The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania

congratulates

our friend and IMPACT Award Honoree



Nydia H. Han
Sunday Morning Anchor and
Consumer Investigative Reporter
6abc Action News

and

the Pan Asian Association of Greater Philadelphia

in celebration of Asian American Heritage Month.



PAN ASIAN ASSOCIATION



OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

1401 Walnut St, 9th Fl Philadelphia, PA 19102 (215) 642-2333

www.PanAsianPhila.org

Non Profit Serving Asian Community

Welcome to Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebrations. Pan Asian Association of Greater Philadelphia pleased to host Annual Award Banquet to kickoff Asian Heritage month.

APA Heritage Month was first established in 1977 when Representatives Frank Horton and Norman Mineta and Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced resolutions asking the President to declare the first ten days of May (the month when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the U.S. in 1843) as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. In 1978 President Carter made it an annual event and in 1990, President George H.W. Bush proclaimed the entire month of May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Pan Asian Association is a non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian organization formed in 1983 primarily for cultural and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) and 509 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, specifically, its aims and objectives are:

- a. To provide a common platform to the various Asian member organizations in the Greater Philadelphia area for pursuing their common goals and sharing their concerns:
- b. To promote, coordinate and support joint efforts in the social, cultural, educational and charitable activities of the member organizations;
- c. To provide civic and political education to the people of Asian origin and encourage greater participation by them in public affairs and to enhance their contribution to the society at large;
- d. To foster friendship and understanding between people of Asian origin and others.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



AMBROSE LIU

Olney Culture Lab of Culture Trust Greater Philadelphia

Olney Culture Lab is founded by and led by Ambrose Liu, who is an Asian-American of Chinese descent, the rest of the staff are African-American. It reflects his lived experience of having had many mentors during his formative years who were African-Americans. our operational model of activating community and civic spaces; thereby, keeping our overhead low, allowed us to flourish.

Our "north star" vision of standing for cultural pluralism was enhanced by emerging movement around racial equity in all sectors. We boast a diverse array of partners from government to faith-based groups to educational institutions to civic organizations and other non-profits. We prefer not to work in isolation, but rather in communion with others as we strengthen the network of neighborhood assets.

Olney Culture Lab is agnostic when it comes to art / cultural forms or disciplines. We champion traditional folk and contemporary expressions from music, dance/movement, photography to food and fabric arts. We showcase art created by practitioners, both young and mature. We amplify people's stories.

Olney Culture Lab has been connecting with and conducting events and activities in open spaces and the natural environment in our community even prior to the pandemic. With limits to large gatherings and indoor events until recently and climate change being front of mind, our work has dovetailed with the increasing awareness and consciousness around the need to take care of our local green spaces and environments and centering our work around BI-POC perspectives.

www.olneyculturelab.org

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



ROOTED IN OUR COMMUNITY

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Gwen DeVera

Gundelina Funtanilla DeVera is a retired Registered Professional Nurse in the state of New Jersey. Gwen, as she is fondly called, is a dedicated community leader and presence in the Filipino-American Community of Greater Philadelphia and Camden County.

Her tireless efforts are dedicated to the equality and welfare of all and include her involvement in advocating for seniors' welfare and her supportive campaign for the successful approval and signing of the World War II Veterans' Equity Bill. Her service also extends

World War II Veterans' Equity Bill. Her service also extends internationally with her providing food, canned goods, clothing, and money to the less fortunate school-aged children and seniors in her hometown in the Philippines.

Gwen currently serves as the Commissioner of the Camden County
Commission on Human Relations and as a Board Member on the
Camden County Board of Social Services. She is also Chair of the
International Day and Vice Chair of the Voorhees Cultural Diversity
Scholarship for Eastern High School in Voorhees. She serves the
Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia as its New Jersey
State Liaison Director. Gwen has received numerous honors for her
unselfish and relentless community service, including Camden
County's 2019 Cultural Champion Award, PAFCOM's 2016 Grand
Marshall, NAACP South Jersey's Phenomenal Woman, Camden County
East NAACP's Visionary Leadership of the Year, and FAAPI's Centennial
Community Service of the Year, just to name a few.

Gwen currently resides in Vorhees, New Jersey and is a happy mother of three grown children and devoted grandmother of six.



OUTSTANDING NON PROFIT AWARD



The Association of Philippine Physicians in America

(APPA) is a 501-c-3, tax-exempt and non-profit organization whose mission is the promotion of educational, charitable, and scientific endeavors for its members and for the community. The organization has been conducting educational webinars (19 episodes so far) since the start of the COVID19 pandemic. These webinars, Filipino American Health Forum on COVID19, aim to build community during the pandemic and feature Filipino American health experts speaking on topics related to COVID19. Topics covered include Epidemiology of COVID19, Infection Control and Prevention, Mental Health, Cardiovascular and Neurological Complications of COVID19. Significant topics specifically related to the Asian American community include Vaccines, Vaccine Hesitancy, Equitable Allocation of Vaccines, Frontliners, Combating Asian Hate, Xenophobia and Racism Amidst COVID19. These educational webinars can be viewed and reviewed at: https://www.theappa.org/filamhealthforum. The organization actively participates in initiatives addressing Asian Hate and Xenophobia and Racism related to COVID 19. Early in the pandemic, the organization distributed face masks, face shields, and sanitizers to the community.

www.theappa.org











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Christie lleto

Christie lleto joined the 6abc Action News team in the fall of 2015.

She is an AP and Emmy Award winning journalist.

Before arriving in the City of Brotherly Love, Christie was a reporter for WJZ-TV in Baltimore, Maryland. There, she was one of the first journalists to extensively cover the arrest of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old who died from spinal injuries while in police custody. She was on the ground moments before riots broke out following his funeral. For 12-hours of live breaking news coverage, she gave Marylanders and the nation an up-close look at the unrest fueled by his death. Christie's coverage continued with citywide protests for police reform, the sweeping changes to police brass, and the undercurrent of violence that gripped the city in the months that followed.

Prior to Baltimore. Christie worked at WAFF in Huntsville. AL and KOAT-TV in Albuquerque, NM, where she appeared on CNN for breaking weather coverage to show the nation how New Mexicans were struggling with the barrage of inclement weather that shut down a major interstate from the Texas state line to Arizona.

A native of the Washington, DC metro area, Christie is happy to be back on the East Coast, closer to family and friends. Christie is a graduate of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, and a member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

In her spare time, you can find Christie at a ballet barre class, traveling or attempting to master her father's recipes... hoping to show her family back in Manila, Philippines that she can make the perfect pancit.

2020 AWARDEES

Virtual event













FILIPINO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA, IN

The Federation of Filipino-American Associations in the Delaware Valley 2135 Walnut St, Apt 1002, Philadelphia, PA 19103
FECGP.President@gmail.com | 310.617.8822 | fecgp.net

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PROF. ERNESTO ARCILLA Parliamentarian

FREDDY PANES
Editor-in-Chief & Historian

Congratulations Pan Asian Association of Greater Philadelphia

on a successful

Annual Asian Heritage Banquet

Community Service Awardee Gwen DeVera

Roman Ventura FECGP President



Member Organizations

CAUSA, FAABCI, FAAMCI, FAAPI, FACAA, FANHS-PA, FASSJ, ICAGP, KFAAI, KSOP, KoR TSC, MPDC, PCSNJ, PFASI, PMSGP, PNADVI, PNAPA, PNAPANJ, PNASNJP, SAGANA, UPMASA, USTMAATS, VFW1063

FECGP is a 501(c)3 corporation serving the Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the Greater Philadelphia Region, specifically in the counties of Salem, Camden, Gloucester, Burlington, and Mercer in Southern New Jersey; Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, and Bucks in Southeastern Pennsylvania; New Castle in Northern Delaware; and Cecil in Northeastern Maryland.

PAST AWARDEES:

1985 Dr. S.B. Woo

1986 Helen Zia Esq, George Nakashima

1987 Ellison S. Ronizuka, Jack Kunio Ozaws

1988 Fong Lo, Gracey Kaneda Uyechara

1989 Chief Inspector Tony Wong, Ms. Lisa Yasui, Bharat Bhargava, Do Schick Joe

1990 David Henry Oh, Dr. Ted Gustilo

1991 Harry Chin

1992 Pete Supelana

1993 Skip Voluntad, Ernest Jones

1994 Siraj Sharma

1995 Maribell "Mitzie" Mackenzie

1996 Judge Ida Chen

1997 Hyuong Wonge Pak, Ignation C. Wong

1998 Julie Wong

1999 Kamla Sen Bose, Adam K. Kim. PECO Energy, WYBE-TV

2000 Father Thomas, Father Joseph Huynh, Cong Dinh.

Taxji Bee Lo, Manju Sheth, Ed McLaughlin

2001 Narasimha B. Shenoy, Dennis Bianchi, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging

2002 David Cohen, H.S. Aswathanarayana

2003 Hon. Jeff Coleman

2004 David Oh Esq, Dr. Akkaraju Sarma

2005 Hon Lynn Abraham (District Attorney), Mary Faustino

2006 Hon Tom Corbett (Attorney General)

2007 Jim Choe (Coca-Cola), Vincent Emmanuel

2018 Asian Mosaic Fund, Senn A. Fontanilla, Doug Chen, Hor Chou, Byeong Gi Jang, Gayle Isa, Quang Hong Mac.

2019 Ramesh Desai, Nida Imperial, Chong Kim, Harry Leong, Eddy Sacksith, PASSI.

2020 Ruben De Guzman David, Mingchu Peral Huyuh, Dacil Keo, Simon Kim, Kuku Mehta



Outstanding Community Service Award Kenneth Naroen Chhin



Kenneth Naroen Chhin, is a Cambodian American, refugee and Native of the City of Philadelphia. He served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as one of Governor Commissioners on Asian Pacific American Affairs and also served on Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. In addition, He served as board member of the Philadelphia Mayor's Police Community Oversight Board (PCOB). He

served as Chair for Philadelphia Northwest Neighborhood Advisory Committee. Naroen is the former Co-Director of 1Love Movement, which was Part of Philadelphia Family Unity Network (PFUN) that created and made a campaign to pass the Philadelphia Sanctuary City Policy. He's also a former member of the Southeast Asian Freedom Network (SEAFN). Former Temple University SEIU Union Shop Steward for Janitors.

Read Less Naroen is a frequent speaker on the intersections of the prison and deportation systems and has testified and advocated towards many levels of government, from the City Council of Philadelphia, U.S Congress, and to the United Nations Human Rights Council. Naroen conducts training and presentations on these issues for various community groups, including the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition, Temple University Asian Student Association, and the Boat People SOS youth leadership program, and has been a guest lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania in its Asian Studies program. Naroen was part of NBC Documentary "Deported" which shine light on the injustice of the broken criminal justice and immigration system and made #right2return Campaign and Global movement. He is Co-Founder of Start -Up Mekong Essentials & Mekong Metaverse. He meets people at "Eye Level" and is committed to social justice and social change through community empowerment. investment, content creations, grassroots community building, social entrepreneurship & government partnerships.





Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration

ASIAN FEST

Saturday, May 14

2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

CENTERCITY COURTYARD AT THE CITY HALL

14[™] and Broad St

Live Cultural Entertainment

Asian Arts and Crafts

Asian Food Vendors

FREE ADMISSION

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

EVENT SPONSOR: \$2500 : Display banner on stage, speaking opportunity on stage, full front inside page AD on program book.

APA Supporter: \$ 1000 : Mention during the event, Full page color AD in program

book. Space for booth

Vendors: \$300: Limited space for food, art and crafts booth available

Contact: Info@panasianphlia.org 484-394-2860 www.panasianphila.org

Program

Begins at 6:00 PM

EMCEE: Christie Ileto: Reporter ABC

Opening Ceremony

Cultural Program

Welcome Remarks and Sponsor Recognition

Narasimha (Nick) Shenoy Pan Asian Association, Chairman

IMPACT AWARD/KEY NOTE Nydia Han

Emmy Award-winning journalist News anchor and consumer investigative reporter for WPVI-TV in Philadelphia

Presenting Sponsor Recognition- Remarks

Ron Davis—Parx Casino

Outstanding Non Profit Service Award

The Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPA)

Outstanding Community Service Awards

- Pares Birla
- * Rob Buscher
- * Kenneth Naroen Chhin
- * Gwen DeVera
- * Ambrose Liu

Enjoy 10 Course Chinese Cuisine