

PARX CASINO® CELEBRATES  
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH



parx  
casino®

parx  
casino®

STREET ROAD EXIT OFF I-95 OR PA TURNPIKE  
PARXCASINO.COM

GAMBLING PROBLEM? CALL 1.800.GAMBLER



Pan Asian Association  
of Greater Philadelphia



*Celebrating*  
ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

## ***Annual Award Banquet***

*May 1, 2023*

*5:30-9:00pm*

*Ocean City Restaurant*

*Chinatown, Philadelphia*





## Powering **partnerships.**

At PECO, we recognize that great leaders grow where diversity is celebrated and people are empowered. That's why we contribute more than \$7 million each year to community programs that foster the environment, arts & culture, economic development, and education.

PECO is proud to support the Pan Asian Association of Greater Philadelphia Annual Awards Banquet in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are our foundations for innovation and drive our business forward.

---

Comcast NBCUniversal is proud to support  
the Pan Asian American Association of Greater Philadelphia  
and their Annual Awards Banquet.





ASIAN AMERICAN  
WOMEN'S COALITION

## 2023 Scholarship Banquet

May 5, 2023  
5:30 - 8:30 PM  
Ocean City Restaurant  
234 N 9th St Philadelphia

REGISTER AT  
AAWCSCHOLARSHIPBANQUET.  
EVENTBRITE.COM



### Asian American Women's Coalition

*Continuing Our Legacy...*

Join us on May 5th to celebrate our 2023 scholars.  
Register at [aawcscholarshipbanquet.eventbrite.com](http://aawcscholarshipbanquet.eventbrite.com).

To learn more about the Asian American Women's  
Coalition, go to [www.aawcphilly.org](http://www.aawcphilly.org) or visit us on  
Facebook. Contact us at [aawcphilly@gmail.com](mailto:aawcphilly@gmail.com).

# We're right around the corner. And always in yours.

For nearly 200 years, WSFS Bank has stood for one thing: Service. We're committed to doing what's right and helping the communities where we live, work and play. That's why we're honored to support the **Pan Asian Association of Greater Philadelphia Annual Awards Banquet**.



**WSFS**bank  
*We Stand For Service®*

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the Asian Heritage Celebration and award banquet. This event is celebrated annually during the Asian Heritage Month in May. This month is an opportunity for us to celebrate our rich culture, family values and unity.


We gather here today to celebrate our diversified heritage as a unified Asian community and recognize those who have spent 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 an opportunity to be Americans.

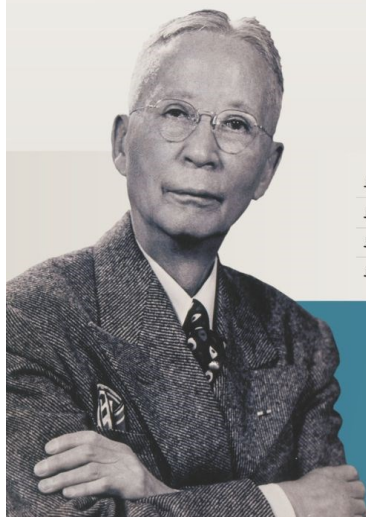
We immigrated to this country looking for better life and economic opportunities. We have come a long way since 1960's where we had to deal with glass ceiling, social and economic discrimination and social harassment. Although such issues are diminished, we now face economic realities of refugees who 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 our population to 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 economic and social impediment

**Narasimha B. Shenoy**

 We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1975 with a commitment of serving the community in the spirit of Dr. Philip Jaisohn.



Jaisohn Medical Center	215-224-2000	Jaisohn Health Insurance	215-224-6246
Jaisohn Home Health Care	215-866-0103	Jaisohn Social Services	215-224-9528
Jaisohn Home Care	215-224-2137	Jaisohn Advocacy & Leadership	215-549-5400
Jaisohn Mental Health	267-648-7458	Jaisohn Memorial House	610-891-6698

- **Philadelphia Office**  
6705 Old York Rd. Philadelphia, PA 19126 / T. 215-224-2000
- **Lansdale Office**  
51 Medical Campus Dr., Lansdale, PA 19446 / T. 215-997-2101
- **Jaisohn Wellness Center**  
1290 Allentown Road, Lansdale, PA 19446 / T. 267-638-9500
- **The Jaisohn Memorial House**  
100 E Lincoln St., Media, PA 19063 / T. 610-627-9768



**Vaccine  
Clinic**

We have hosted 100 COVID-19 vaccine clinics since 2021 for Asian American, Latino and African American communities with language, cultural, technology barriers and religious sensitivities.

Protect yourself and your family. Stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccines!

Please contact us to schedule your vaccination.

[vaccine@jaisohn.org](mailto:vaccine@jaisohn.org) 215-866-0101

## IMPACT AWARDEE –KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### Denise Nakano



Denise Nakano is a Philadelphia journalist, with decades of experience as a television and radio broadcaster. She currently is the Midday Anchor at KYW News Radio.

Denise has been recognized with a national Edward R. Murrow Award for best documentary and 8 national and regional Emmy Awards for breaking news, investigative reporting and for her coverage of the local heroin epidemic. She has also been honored by the City of Philadelphia with a proclamation recognizing her reporting on the heroin crisis in Philadelphia. Nakano is an active member of and previous national board representative of the Asian American Journalists Association.

Nakano worked in radio prior to her 24 years in television news, getting her start in college at the NPR station located on the campus of her alma mater, the University of the Pacific. She also served as the morning drive anchor for an AM news-talk station in Stockton, California. She first entered television news as a desk assistant and writer in Sacramento while still in college. She's also worked as an anchor and reporter in Chico, CA; Syracuse NY and Seattle, WA.

When she is not on the air, Nakano enjoys many creative outlets, including charcoal drawing, stained glass and baking. She is always up for an adventure — she's dived in tropical waters as a certified scuba diver and has finished the Seattle Marathon.

Nakano, her husband and their four children spend their time between Philadelphia and the Jersey Shore.







## FILIPINO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA, INC.

The Federation of Filipino-American Associations in the Delaware Valley

2135 Walnut St, Apt 1002, Philadelphia, PA 19103

[FECGP.President@gmail.com](mailto:FECGP.President@gmail.com) | 310.617.8822

### OFFICERS 2021-2023

ROMAN VENTURA  
President

MAYETTE CALLEJA-BAGLIERI, RN  
1st Vice President

GENEBERT POLIGRATES  
2nd Vice President

LANCE CASTELO  
3rd Vice President

CYNTHIA ARAGONCILLO  
Corporate Secretary

CYDE ARCANO  
Recording Secretary

JANET O'HARA  
Corresponding Secretary

SALUD CORPUZ, RN  
Treasurer

MARICOR ROSALES  
Assistant Treasurer

JAIRAM IMPERIAL  
Auditor

SHERRY PANES  
Assistant Auditor

RUBEN DAVID, PE  
RANDY DUQUE  
Liaison Officer, PA

GWEN DE VERA  
SENEN FONTANILLA  
Liaison Officer, NJ

CESAR MANGUBA  
SENEN FONTANILLA  
Business Managers

GRACE ARNAIZ, RN  
DIANA BONDAD  
NINFA CALIGUIRAN, RN  
Public Relations Officers

PROF. ERNESTO ARCILLA  
Parliamentarian

FREDDY PANES  
Editor-in-Chief & Historian

## Congratulations Pan Asian Association of Greater Philadelphia

### on a successful Annual Asian American Heritage Banquet

with

## Community Service Awardee Dr. Aida Rivera

## Outstanding Non-Profit Awardee Asian American Women's Coalition

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.*

## OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

### Aida Rivera MD



Obtained her Medical Degree in the Philippines specializing in Pediatrics, Dr. Aida Rivera pursued her training in Psychiatry and with a subspecialty in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and at the Hahnemann University Hospital, respectively. Her Professional background in the areas of Music and Arts Therapy transcends to her Community Service Initiatives. She

Co-Founded the Philippine Folk Arts Society, Inc. in 2000 and in 2007 started the PFASI "Rondalla" (an ethnic Filipino String Ensemble of 14-stringed instruments), and the annual Parole (Filipino Christmas lantern) making workshop every December.

She is committed and is deeply involved in serving the Community both locally and nationally. . Over the years she has assumed leadership roles in various groups. She is currently involved with the following organizations:, Co-Founder and President, Philippine Folk Arts Society, Inc (PFASI), President, Philippine Medical Society of Greater Philadelphia, Inc (PMSGP), Executive Board and current Treasurer, Philadelphia Police Asian, American Advisory Committee (PPAAAC), President, Luna Association of the Northeast (LANE)

Board of Trustees and Immediate Past National Treasurer, National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), Past Regional Chairman, NaFFAA Region 1, Past State Chair, NaFFAA Pennsylvania, Board of Governors and Auditor, Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPA), Board Member, Philippine Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia, Board Member, Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia

During the COVID pandemic, Dr. Aida Rivera led the PMSGP to collaborate with the Association of Philippine Physicians in America in conducting a series of virtual educational forums during the COVID pandemic.

The PMSGP is also currently working on a Disaggregation survey on Filipino Health issues. We applaud Dr. Aida Rivera's work and thank her for the continued commitment to service for our community.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

**EVENT SPONSOR**



**AAPI Supporter**



**FRIEND**

**Asian American Women Coalition,**

**Asian Bank**

**Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia**

**EY (Earnest & Young),**

**Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia**

**Giant**

**Philip Jaisohn Memorial Foundation**

**WSFS Bank**

**TABLE SPONSORS**

Asian American Chamber of Commers of GP

Council of Indian Organizations of GP

Korean American Association of GP

**Brief History of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**

In the late 19th century, U.S. federal law openly targeted Chinese immi-



grants. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 prohibited the immigration of Chinese laborers to the U.S. for 10 years, and was renewed by the Geary Act, which additionally required immigrants from China to carry permits at all times or face possible deportation. (It was not until more than 60 years later, in 1943, that Con-

gress repealed the exclusion — and even then the law allowed only 105 Chinese people to enter the country each year.) The month of May was selected for two reasons: First, to commemorate the arrival of the first known Japanese immigrant to the U.S. on May 7, 1843; secondly, to honor the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 — the building of which up to 20,000 Chinese workers participated in.

. In 1978, Horton and former California Rep. Norman Mineta introduced a bill that called for the week beginning on May 4 — which would include the dates of the two key events — to be designated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. After the joint resolution was passed by Congress, President Jimmy Carter signed it into law and thus the commemorative occasion began as a week.

In 1990, the commemorative week expanded to a commemorative month after a new bill was passed by Congress and signed into law by President George H.W. Bush. Even then, the proclamation did not include an annual designation, and the president had to reauthorize May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month annually in the coming years. It was not until 1992 when Horton, along with multiple co-sponsors, introduced the legislation that would permanently designate May as the commemorative month — a legislation that became law after receiving unanimous support in Congress.



## PAN ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

### Board of Directors

Chair: Narasimha B. Shenoy

Vice Chair: Roman Ventura

Secretary: Christine Wong

Treasurer: George Mathews, CPA

### **Paresh Birla**

Chairman, Council of Indian Organization in Greater Philadelphia

### **Rob Buscher**

Chapter President: Japanese American Citizens League Philadelphia

### **Sarun chan**

Executive Director: Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia

### **James Kim**

President: Korean American Association of Greater Philadelphia

### **Roman Ventura**

President: Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia

### Board Members at Large:

**Doug Chen, Nida Imperial, Sharon Hartz, George Mathew, Drake Nakaishi, Chris Rivera, Narasimha B. Shenoy, Christine Wong**

### Advisory Board

**Sue Cheng, Glenn Hing, Rommel Rivera, Meilinda Tjokrohadinata, Carol Wong**



## OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

### **Keith Xiao**



Mr. Keith Xiao is the founder and chairman, of Northeast Philadelphia Development Corporation (NPDC). Northeast Philadelphia Development Corporation (NPDC) is an independent, non-profit organization aimed at helping unite the Asian and American communities in Northeast Philadelphia.

To assimilate old and new Asian residents of the region into this community. Their goals include promoting Oriental culture, encouraging participation, and furthering growth within our community. Since 2020 pandemic started, NPDC donated PPE items to the front line, hospitals and police stations. Hosted and partnership with local councilmen office and local clinic, provide free COVID-19 registration and free vaccination. Moreover, they hosted more than 3 years food distribution. NPDC continually provide community services such as monthly diaper giveaway, senior septa pass, city card, free file tax return, free translation service in NPDC office. Hosting different cultural event such as Lunar Chinese New Year, Cleaning Park and cleaning neighborhood, community meeting, parent's day, health seminars, back to school party, voter registration, Mid-summer night market, Mid- Autumn Festival, Senior expo, free flu shoot, Halloween costume contest, Senior expo, Thanksgiving senior luncheon...etc. On December 14 2022, NPDC CSPS Community Safety Patrol Services established, assisting and patrol the community safety with local police officers. If any Chinese residents who have language barrier, they can call our CSPS direct line for help. Mr. Xiao is working so hard to the community. Trying to develop any services which are benefits to the community. Therefore, I think Mr. Xiao should be a good fit for the Pan Asian award in this year.



[WWW.NPDC.ORG](http://WWW.NPDC.ORG)

## PAN ASIAN ASSOCIATION



OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

320 W Oregon Avenue, Suite 4B

Philadelphia, PA 19148

484-394-2860

[www.PanAsianPhila.org](http://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

### Solomon Kim



Solomon Kim has been a supporter of the Asian American Community in Philadelphia for many years. He served as the Senior Vice President of the Korean American Association of Greater Philadelphia from 2019 to 2022. During this time he helped KAAGP partner with the Korean American Chamber of Commerce in assisting Korean American businesses after the rioting and looting in 2020. Through his efforts they were able to secure grants through the Merchant Fund.

Solomon served as the chair for Korea In Philly, an event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of KAAGP. This was a landmark event that highlighted the Korean American community through a Traditional Korean fashion show, Taekwondo demonstrations, dance performances, a 5k Run and Korean food vendors. Over 2000 people attended the event. KAAGP partnered with various organizations including the Montgomery Community College, the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Asian American Chamber of Commerce and over 40 Korean American Associations.

Solomon continues to support the Asian American community as a member of the board of directors for KAAGP, the Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia, the Montgomery County Workforce Advisory Board, the leadership team of NAAAP and other positions.





## 2022 Banquet and Asian Fest



At GIANT, we embrace diversity and support an equitable and inclusive environment.

It's how we bring our best to  
the communities we serve.

Proud to support PAN Asian Association of  
Greater Philadelphia in celebrating Asian American  
& Pacific Islander Heritage Month

**GIANT**  
GiantFoodStores.com

## OUTSTANDING NON PROFIT AWARD



For almost 36 years, the Asian American Women's Coalition (AAWC) has been a multi-cultural group dedicated to the concerns of all Asian American Women and the promotion of advancement of Asian American Women through leadership and mutual support.

In 1995, AAWC established the Cecilia Moy Yep Scholarship Fund to assist financially disadvantaged Asian American female students from all cultural backgrounds to advance themselves in their chosen field of endeavor. In 1996, AAWC celebrated their tenth anniversary and awarded their first scholarship. Multiple scholarships are awarded each year in varying amounts and were awarded even through the COVID-19 pandemic. At the most recent Annual Banquet, over \$56,000 in scholarships were awarded to 24 Asian American female high school graduating students of Philadelphia, Delaware, Montgomery, Chester, and Bucks counties for their college/university studies starting in the fall. AAWC has provided a total of 324 Scholarships to Asian female high students.

Throughout its history, the AAWC has spearheaded numerous activities for the Asian American community in the Greater Philadelphia region that increase public awareness of the diversity of Asian cultures and enhance the quality of life for Asian Americans.

[www.aawcphilly.org](http://www.aawcphilly.org).

THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA  
CONGRATULATES

**DENISE**  
*NAKANO*

AS THE  
PAN ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA'S  
IMPACT AWARD HONOREE



## **FUNDING** **Small Businesses** Since 1999



### Master of Ceremony—Elaine Ficarra



*Elaine Ficarra is a 22-year-old senior at the Drexel University Pennoni Honors College who is pursuing a major in Biological Sciences and minors in Theatre and Communications. Currently, Elaine is a Medical Scribe Ambassador at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Emergency Department.*

Elaine Ficarra is an aspiring singer and entertainer as well. Elaine has performed the National Anthem for the Philadelphia Phillies three times and even released a few singles on Spotify, Apple Music, and more music platforms.

In partnership with the Filipino-American Association of Philadelphia, Inc. (FAAPI) and Philippine Folk Arts Society Inc (PFASI), Elaine is an ambassador for Filipina women and the Fil-Am youth community as Miss Maria Clara 2023. This role is focused on community service, celebrating Filipino culture, and empowering women to better represent today's Filipina women.

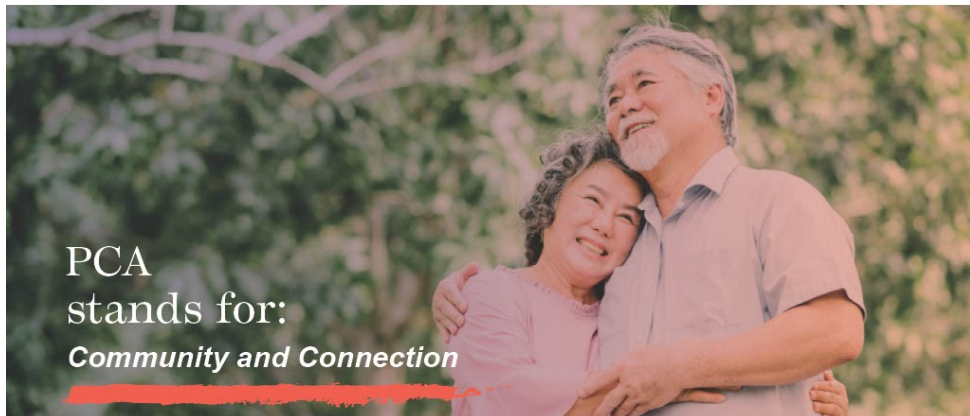
As the 100th Anniversary Miss Philadelphia, Elaine served as a representative of the diversity of the city and an ambassador for the people in 2021.

Elaine is still serving her community as a member of the Aavidum Advisory Board and as a Spokesperson for Prevent Suicide PA, Hope for Hallie, and Chester County Suicide Prevention Task Force. She also often performs, leads the youth, and emcees for numerous Tri-state area Filipino-American Non-Profit Organizations.

Elaine looks up to her mom who has overcome prejudice, inspires herself and others, and provides much aid to the Filipino-American community.







For 50 years, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) has supported older Philadelphians and people with disabilities through vital programs and services to keep them thriving and contributing members of our city's neighborhoods. Through our senior centers, Helpline, transportation, health and wellness programs, and job training, PCA assists the aging community to connect to what they need the most to remain independent.

To learn more about us, call PCA's Helpline at 215-765-9040 or go to [pcaCares.org](http://pcaCares.org)



## Outstanding Community Service Award

### Chanta Ung



Officer Chanta Ung and his family entered the United States as Cambodian refugees in 1981 resettled in Philadelphia when he was an infant. Officer Ung joined the Philadelphia Police Department in 2006 and has since served for 16 years. He saw it was a great opportunity to serve the city he loves and help raise him.

Prior to transferring to the 3rd District in 2014, Officer Ung was in the 14th district where he served Germantown. Officer Ung transferred to the 3rd District in South Philadelphia where he felt his background as a Cambodian-American and former refugee

would best support the high population of Asian, immigrant and refugee communities. His goal was to help cultivate trust within the communities.

At the end of 2020, at the request of South Philadelphia community leaders, Officer Ung was designated to be the South 7th Street Commercial Corridor beat officer to support community policing. The increase of Anti-Asian Hate during the height of COVID-19 garnered this request and with Officer Ung's experience, his presence has helped improve the community's sense of safety and community policing through building relationships with the high number of Southeast Asian and Latino immigrant and refugee residents and business owners. It is important to Officer Ung to cultivate trust with community members.

Officer Chanta Ung loves his family which includes two loving daughters. He loves everything about the city of Philadelphia and wearing the Uniform. In his free time, he enjoys having BBQ beef sticks and papaya salad at the Southeast Asian Market in FDR Park.







Congratulations to  
KYW Newsradio  
midday anchor  
Denise Nakano on  
being honored by the  
Pan Asian  
Association of  
Greater Philadelphia!

We're proud of the  
work you do every  
day in bringing the  
news to the people  
of Philadelphia!



**Denise Nakano**  
Midday Anchor, KYW Newsradio



## *Program*

*5:30 to 6:15—Registration and networking*

*Program Begins at 6:15 PM*

**EMCEE: Elaine Ficarra**

### **Opening Ceremony**

Cultural Program

### **Recognizing sponsors**

Remarks by Parx Casino—Event Sponsors  
Recognizing other sponsors

### **Welcome Remarks**

Narasimha (Nick) Shenoy  
Pan Asian Association, Chairman

### **Remarks by Special Guest**

Sean Desai—Eagle Defensive Coordinator

### **IMPACT AWARD/KEY NOTE**

#### **Denise Nakano**

Midday Anchor—KYW News Radio

### **Outstanding Non Profit Service Award**

Asian American Women's Coalition

### **Outstanding Community Service Awards**

- \* Solomon Kim
- \* Aida Rivera MD
- \* Chanta Ung
- \* Keith Xiao

***Enjoy 10 Course Chinese Cuisine***