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HERITAGE MONTH



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Pan Asian Association
of Greater Philadelphia

CELEBRATING

*Asian
American*

Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Annual Award
Banquet & Fundraiser

May 1, 2024

5:30PM - 9:00PM

China Gourmet

2842 St. Vincent Street

Philadelphia PA 19149



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



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



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Happy Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month!

The Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia
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4. Khmer Language & Arts (Culture)
 w/ Cambodian American Girls Empowering
5. Case Management Social Services
6. Community Health Initiative
7. The Legacy Project
8. Amara Philly: Digital Media Dept.
9. Violence Intervention & Prevention
10. The Southeast Asian Market in FDR Park

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

**The Phillies celebrate
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
and are proud to support the Pan Asian
Association of Greater Philadelphia**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ANUJ GUPTA



Anuj is a proven leader in Philadelphia's government, non-profit and private sector communities with a professional track record of achieving impactful results. Anuj now serves as President and CEO of The Welcoming Center, an organization he helped start with his graduate school research in 2003. Anuj is responsible for leading execution of the organization's strategic plan focused on building pathways to upward economic mobility for Greater Philadelphia's immigrant communities. Prior to this, Anuj served as Chief of Staff to Congressman Dwight Evans (PA-03). In addition to building a team, across two offices, Anuj has led successful legislative strategies towards passage such as the \$1B Reconnecting Communities fund in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act. Prior to this, Anuj served as the General Manager of the historic Reading Terminal Market for five years. During this time, Anuj was selected as a Public Space Fellow by the Knight Foundation for his work in making the Reading Terminal an inviting, accessible space for all Philadelphians. Anuj was an attorney at Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP where he practiced in the firm's real estate/affordable housing group from 2004-2007

Anuj is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School (J.D., 2003), the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government (M.G.A., 2003) and Carnegie Mellon University (B.S., 1996). He currently is a board member of the Reading Terminal Market Corporation, Independence Public Media Foundation, Victor's Homes, Regional Housing Legal Services.



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Joseph Lee

EMCEE



MADELEINE WRIGHT



Madeleine Wright is a bilingual general assignment reporter for CBS News Philadelphia who is fluent in Spanish. She joined the team in January 2022 and was named the Delaware County reporter in July 2023.

While at CBS News Philadelphia, Madeleine has covered major national breaking news stories like the collapse of I-95 in Tacony and the capture of Idaho murder suspect Bryan Kohberger in the Poconos. She also covered the manhunt for convicted Chester County killer Danelo Cavalcante. In 2024, the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters honored her with an award for outstanding feature for her report on a man battling breast cancer.

Madeleine is a 2011 graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications. After graduation, she traveled the country for her career, reporting for TV stations in Indiana, Rhode Island, North Carolina and Florida. She is thrilled to be back home and settle down in the mid-Atlantic.

Born and raised in the melting pot of Queens, New York City, Madeleine has always been fascinated by other cultures and languages. Her father is half Black and half White; her mother is Chinese. In school, she took Spanish, classical Latin, Mandarin and Russian classes. She became fluent in Spanish while living and working in Miami for 5 years.

Madeleine is a member of the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) and the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). In her spare time, she enjoys kayaking with her husband and 3-year-old daughter.



Protect yourself this spring from COVID-19, Flu and RSV!

- ➔ Most insurance plans will cover COVID-19 vaccination.
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Protect yourself with COVID-19, Flu and RSV vaccines!

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. Stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccines!



PAN ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

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IMPACT AWARD

DAVID OH



David served for three terms as a Philadelphia City Councilman At-Large (R) from 2012 to 2023. He was the first Asian American elected to political office in Philadelphia and the only veteran serving on Council during his years of service. David resigned in 2023 and is the first Asian American in Philadelphia's history to run for Mayor in the General Election.

While serving on Council, David was Chair of the Committee on Global Opportunities and the Creative/Innovative Economy. At his own expense, David traveled to other cities and made several trips overseas to meet with business leaders, government officials and innovators about job creation, economic development, trade and investment.

David created and raised private funds to hold several citywide annual events including, PHL LIVE Center Stage, First Responders Appreciation Day in Philadelphia, Youth Non-Profit Symposium and Korean American Day. David also created several advocacy organizations including Philly Neighborhood Small Business Council, Black Film Advisory Committee and the Eurasian American Roundtable. David championed job creation, education reform, the creative arts economy, innovation, veterans, tax reform, governmental compliance with the law and public safety. He initiated legal action against the City of Philadelphia for illegally shutting down Chinese takeout restaurants at 11pm; introduced laws that protected mothers from harassment and termination for pumping breast milk at work; created a veterans employment tax credit; set aside \$64 million to honor the firefighters contract; and fought against what he believed were violations of law by city government. David currently serves on the Philadelphia Tax Reform Commission

DAVID OH is the President and CEO of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia as of Feb 5, 2024.



OUTSTANDING NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR



Northeast Philadelphia Development Corporation (NPDC) is an independent, non-profit organization aimed at helping unite the Asian and American communities in Northeast Philadelphia. We hope to assimilate old and new Asian residents of the region into this community. Our goals include promoting Oriental culture, encouraging participation, and furthering growth within our community

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 provides 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.

**When we give back,
our community leaps forward.**

WSFS Bank sees every chance to support a local nonprofit as an opportunity to grow and enrich our Community. We're honored to support the positive impact made by the **Pan Asian Association of Greater Philadelphia Annual Award Banquet.**



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

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Christine Wong

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Northeast Philadelphia community Dev. Center



Brief History of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

In the late 19th century, U.S. federal law openly targeted Chinese immigrants. 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 Congress 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.



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OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Soojin Cho



Soojin Cho has demonstrated exceptional dedication to supporting the Asian American community in Philadelphia over the course of several years. Notably, her tenure as Secretary General at the Korean American Association of Greater Philadelphia from 2020 to 2023 was marked by numerous impactful contributions. She spearheaded various initiatives, including chairing the Volunteer Service Committee, serving as the Korean

Community COVID-19 Emergency Committee, participating in the 2020 Census Committee, and directing the KAAGP Voter Campaign and Outreach efforts from 2020 to 2023. She also played a pivotal role in supporting the Korean Community Grant Response Committee, aiding Korean American businesses affected by the 2020 riots and looting.

In addition, Soojin's involvement with Korea In Philly in 2022, an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of KAAGP, attracted over 2000 attendees. She facilitated partnerships between KAAGP and numerous organizations, such as Philly Counts, MontCo Counts, PA Voter Registration, the Korean American Chamber of Commerce for Philadelphia (KACC), Montgomery County Immunization Coalition (MCIC), and more than 30 other Korean American organizations.

Furthermore, as President of NAKS-MAC (National Association for Korean Schools, Mid-Atlantic Chapter) since 2022, Soojin has played a pivotal role in coordinating approximately 30 Korean schools across the Tri-state region. Her leadership has fostered a strong sense of pride and identity in Korean heritage among students, with NAKS-MAC advancing its mission through language, cultural, and historical exchanges via friendly competitions and workshops.

Soojin's commitment to the Asian American community extends beyond her formal roles, as she continues to serve as Vice President and member of the Board of Directors for KAAGP, as well as President of NAKS-MAC



PAN ASIAN ASSOCIATION



OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

320 W Oregon Avenue, Suite 4B

Philadelphia, PA 19148

484-394-2860

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



RAZIN KARU

Razin Karu was born and raised in India. He immigrated to the United States in 2013. He attended Bucks County Community College and earned an Associates degree with Honors in History. He served as the Student Government president 2016-17, Commencement

speaker 2017 and won College President's Cup 2017. He transferred to Temple University where he completed a Bachelors degree double majoring in History and Political Science, with double minors in Economics and Global Studies. At Temple University, Razin served as the

Speaker of the Student Parliament 2018-19. He was selected for the Junior Summer Institute program at Princeton University and received numerous scholarships.

After graduating, Razin worked as the Pennsylvania Outreach Coordinator for ICNA Relief USA, a national level nonprofit organization, serving the underserved in the United States. He spearheaded their Back2School program where he coordinated the distribution of around 3000 backpacks filled with essential school supplies each year across Pennsylvania. During COVID, Razin coordinated the USDA's Farmers to families food boxes program to address food insecurity in the Greater Philadelphia area. He recruited volunteers that helped distribute fresh produce and dairy to around 400 families every week during the summer of 2020. This further led to the establishment of a food pantry in Norristown which is serving hundreds of families even today.

Razin also worked part time at State Representative Perry Warren's office from 2019 to 2023 where he undertook legislative outreach and assisted constituents with availing state services such as: Free SEPTA senior passes, Property Tax Rent Rebates and Unemployment compensation during COVID years.



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 | 310.617.8822 | theFECGP.org

Congratulations
Hermie Aczon
Community Service Awardee 2024

Roman Ventura, President

Member Organizations

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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

CATZIE VILAYPHONH



In 2012 Catzie Vilayphonh was awarded the Knight Foundation Challenge Arts Grant for \$25K to start "Laos In The House". The project was an initiative to engage the Lao American community through writing, performance and visual arts to promote storytelling as a healing medium

from the traumas of war. This culminated into the curation of a gallery exhibit and performance showcase featuring work by other Lao American artists for the very first time in Philadelphia in May 2015. A two month-long multi-disciplinary gallery exhibition titled "Laos In The House: Voices From Four Decades Of The Lao Diaspora" debuted the work of 12 visual artists and also featured original drawings by UXO survivors in Laos, courtesy of Legacies of War.

Catzie Vilayphonh is an award-winning writer, spoken word poet and multimedia artist. As a founding member of the group Yellow Rage she was one of the first Asian American women to appear on HBO's Def Poetry Jam. Through her work, she provides an awareness not often heard, drawing from personal narrative. Throughout her artistic career Catzie has been a 2012 Creative Capital finalist, a 4-time Leeway Foundation honoree and was named a Woman Non-Profit Leader by Philadelphia City Council in 2016. She is a co-founding chair of the Lao American Writer Summit, a Commissioner on the Mayor's Commission on Asian American Affairs and was recently appointed as Councilmember to the Pennsylvania Council on The Arts.

A child of refugees, Catzie was born in camp, on the way to America, and thus considers herself part of the ".5 Generation". She resides in South Philly with her child Aditi.



Congratulations
Asian American
Pacific Islander Heritage Month

**Korean Culture
Heritage Association, USA**
President **John Um**
Chiarperson **Sharon Hartz**

Celebrating
**Asian American
 Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

KAAGP was established with a mission to promote well-being and to be a voice for Korean Americans. In addition to providing resources to thrive and grow, KAAGP gathers community, business, and political leaders to strengthen our community.




Korean American Association of Greater Philadelphia
 1001 W. 70th Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19126
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OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



CHRISTINE WONG

Christine Wong is a Center Director of Everest Medical Group. She managing Everest Urgent Care and Silver Care adult day care center in Northeast location. She volunteered to create and assist so many events, promotion flyers, public posters and invitation cards. Christine

participated and supported in many ethnic groups such as Chinese, Korean, Indian, Cambodian, Russian, and Asian at PA area. Since 2020 during the pandemic period, Christine assisted the KAAGP Korean community, she joined the mask campaign to help those seniors in that difficult time. Sewed 500 face masks for Korean elderly. During 2020 to 2024, she participated more than four-year long food distribution in Northeast area. She is dedicated to helping our community in a myriad of ways. Organized and contacted all different sources of companies, to provide their services due to the public events. Work closely with city council-member, State senators, and State representatives' events such as vaccination events, senior's expo, holiday celebration events, Halloween events and so on.

In 2024 March, she assisted the communities applied 15,000 boxes of free COVID-19 testing kits to different organizations and companies. Share and giveaway to residents in different ethnic groups.

Center Director of Everest Medical Group, Outreach Program Director/ Honorary President 2024 / President 2021-2023 of Northeast Philadelphia Development Corporation, Board of Director at Large/ GE. Secretary of Pan Asian Association of Greater Philadelphia.

Christine is a single mom of two teenager. She always encourages her kids to volunteers and help the community. As a leader in Everest urgent care, she always teaches a great lesson to her team. "We are only a human, don't be afraid to make mistakes. You can learn by the lesson. "



Program

Annual Award and Fundraising Banquet

May 1st, 2024

5:30 to 6:30—Registration and networking

Program Begins at 6:30 PM

EMCEE: Madeleine Wright – CBS News Reporter

Opening Ceremony

Cultural Program

Recognizing sponsors

Remarks by Parx Casino—Event Sponsors
Recognizing other sponsors

Welcome Remarks

Narasimha (Nick) Shenoy
Pan Asian Association, Chairman

Keynote

Anuj Gupta President CEO Welcoming Center

Impact Award

David Oh
Former Councilman at large, City of Philadelphia

Outstanding Non Profit Service Award

Northeast Philadelphia Development Corporation

Outstanding Community Service Awards

Hermina Samaniego Aczon
Soojin Cho
Razin Karu
Catzie Vilayphonh
Christine Wong

Scholarship Awards

Harshavi Birla
Mia Bompensa

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

HERMINIA SAMANIEGO ACZON



Herminia Samaniego Aczon has an outstanding track record in service to the Filipino American community in the Greater Philadelphia region. Tita Hermie, as she is fondly called, served as President of the Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia, Inc. for two consecutive terms in the expanse of four years (2010 to 2014).

Hermie has also been the Filipino coordinator of the Temple Asian Health Center which researches diseases impacting Filipinos since 2010, a position she has held for over ten years.

Hermie is now an active coordinator and researcher with the Health Equity Research Assembly (HERA) and the project of Asian Community-led Health Equity Structure Intervention (Asian CHESI) which is connected with the National Institute of Health (NIH). Hermie has also served as the coordinator of the Filipino Apostolate, tending to the flock of faithful Filipinos in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for over the last decade.

Hermie currently resides in Southern New Jersey and is a happy mother and devoted grandmother.





**Pan Asian Association
of Greater Philadelphia**

Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration

ASIAN FEST

Saturday, May 18th.

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

South East Asian Market

FDR Park, 1500 Pattison Ave, Philadelphia

Live Cultural Entertainment

Asian Arts and Crafts



FREE ADMISSION

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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

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

Banquet 2023



Asian Fest 2024 May 18, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 612,567 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been making valuable contributions to every aspect of our Commonwealth for generations, in medicine, law, business, science, government, and sports; and

WHEREAS, folks of Asian and Pacific Island descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with our neighbors and friends, while also setting examples as model citizens and public servants; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have brought with them their spirit of resiliency, commitment to family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed that have added strength to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for dialogue with representatives from all major Asian American and Pacific Islander communities to continue to address the needs and concerns of its citizens ; and

WHEREAS, no matter your race, religion, or background, you have a place in Pennsylvania and the Commonwealth is proud to honor the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our Commonwealth and throughout our nation.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 2024 to be

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

in recognition of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders past and present in our Commonwealth. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to celebrate this important observance.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this first day of May two thousand twenty-four, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-eighth.

Governor Josh Shapiro

