



Summer 2016

APANO 

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN NETWORK OF OREGON

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A Culture of Good

Note from the Executive Director

Early on in my tenure as Executive Director, I remember one of our founding Board members, Mary Li, remark, “we must not let perfect get in the way of good”. As we work together for social justice, we sometimes find ourselves in situations where we struggle and argue over what our goals should be and how to achieve them. This process, however difficult, is important for many reasons. This process helps us clarify our values in practice and deepens our leadership development. The struggle to work collectively is real, and many forces work against us, tempting us to go our own way and seek more conservative or individual solutions. I’m very proud of how APANO’s members, Board and staff are continuously striving to create a culture of good. A culture that is grounded in fighting for concrete change now in the lives of our members, while also working for bigger hearts and minds, policy and systemic change that call for strong people’s movements of which we are a part.

A growing piece of our culture is the transformation of APANO’s leadership over the last six years since we became an independent nonprofit and hired our first dedicated full-time staff. Every day I step back to give gratitude for the fierce and thoughtful colleagues with whom I have the privilege of working. With a vision of movement building, we’ve slowly and steadily developed leadership from our communities, offered meaningful ways to create change, and more explicitly challenged the root causes of oppression. We’ve also had to learn how to better support one another, to dialogue about who we are and where we are going. Against the backdrop of the nonprofit industry, it is easy to feel frustrated that we are far from perfection. Yet time and time again, I am humbled by the vision and creativity of our leaders, especially youth, who are figuring out new ways to communicate and organize in response to the persistent stereotyping, marginalization and exploitation our communities of color, immigrants and refugees face in Oregon.

The snapshots of APANO’s work in this newsletter are but a blush of the deep feelings and forces at work within our organization. We’ve got a fresh new strategic plan, and we are continuing to build on our track record of community organizing and policy advocacy. Additionally, we’re building out a new area of work on self-determining and drawing on our creative capacities to shape the attitudes and beliefs about Asian and Pacific Islanders. I hope you will join me in celebrating our work, building a culture of good, and finding new ways to engage with APANO over the next year.

In solidarity,

Joseph Santos-Lyons
Executive Director



ALLY Youth Win Ethnic Studies Campaign!

by Karn Saetang, Lead Organizer

Despite an increasing population of students of color in Portland Public Schools - approximately 46% of enrolled high school students in 2014 were non-white, still very few Portland Public High Schools offer an Ethnic Studies class. API Leaders for the Liberation of Youth (ALLY) leaders have stated because our histories aren't reflected in our textbooks, it's harder to stay engaged and be successful in school. Because most curriculum is Euro-centric, students of color may never have the opportunity to learn about the contributions of our communities in the U.S.

Last October, ALLY launched their "Missing Pages of our History" Ethnic Studies campaign with the goal of winning Ethnic Studies in all Portland Public High Schools (PPS) within 4 years. As part of their campaign, the youth organized and led a campaign launch event, met with Board of Education members, teachers, students, organizations, school staff, parents, and more. The youth eventually drafted their own resolution to present to the Board, which included implementing at least one ethnic studies class into every PPS high school within 2 years, creating a community-led oversight committee, and a student advisory council to oversee the coordination, roll out, budgeting, and development of the Ethnic Studies program. The resolution was introduced to the PPS Teaching and Learning Committee on April 21st, which was motioned on to the general Board. On May 3rd, after a rally led by ALLY youth, the PPS Board of Education unanimously passed the resolution.

Currently, ALLY leaders are working with Board of Education members and the superintendent to form the oversight committee and student advisory council, which will be responsible for creating a final proposal for the ethnic studies curriculum, teacher training, staffing, timeline, roll out, and budget.



Douglas Square Residents Fight Back

by Khanh Pham, Manager of Programs & Strategy

The Chinese tenants at Douglas Square have lived in this multicultural 36-unit apartment complex for over a decade. Many of the residents here work in the nearby Jade District restaurants and stores, and their children go next door to Harrison Park Elementary School, where 85% of the student body qualifies for free and reduced lunch, and over 20 languages are spoken.



In December of 2015, the Joe Weston Foundation at the Oregon Community Foundation sold the complex for \$2.6 million to a California-based investment group. Two months later, residents received a notice that a new charge for utilities in the building would be tacked on to their bill, increasing the rent 10% for 2-bedroom units.

“We are already struggling to get by, the rent increase will be a big challenge for us,” says Mrs. Ma, whose family has lived at Douglas Square for over 2 years.

With support from APANO, residents came together and decided to fight back against the rent increase. They have retained the services of the non-profit Legal Aid Services of Oregon to negotiate a settlement.

Oregon has an explicit ban on any rent stabilization measures that would protect tenants from exorbitant rent increases, and landlords do not have to provide a justified reason to evict tenants.

Based on the experiences of Douglas Square and other tenants in the Jade/Lents neighborhood, APANO is formulating its housing policy agenda for 2017 which, in coalition with numerous other housing partners, will include winning a just cause eviction policy, rent stabilization, and more funding for affordable housing.

In addition, APANO is continuing to work with Douglas Square tenants and other community partners to ensure that residents can continue to live and work in the thriving Jade community which they have helped build. As Douglas Square resident Mr. Zhen says, “I like it here. My family and friends live in this area, and my children go to school at Harrison Park. We want to stay.”

For more information about APANO’s tenant organizing in the Jade District, please contact Khanh Pham, Manager of Programs & Strategies at khanh@apano.org.

Reflections: First Year of Parent Programs

by Jeanice Chieng, Education Justice Manager

Within their first year, APANO's parent programs have made great strides. Currently, we're working with three language-specific parent groups: Chinese and Vietnamese parents in Southeast Portland, and Marshallese parents in Salem. Highlights from this year include:



Marshallese Parents

The Marshallese parents completed their first series of the Parent Leadership Academy. The leadership academy covered issues such as, How to Support Your Child to Succeed; How to Have Successful Parent/Teacher Conferences; Understanding Power and Oppression; Three Different Types of Oppression; ELL system; and the Model Minority Myth. The parents met every month, beginning in September 2015, and concluded with a graduation in April of 2016. One parent stated at the graduation that the Leadership Academy helped her to, "understand my own voice and power."

Chinese Parents

The Chinese parent group has met throughout 2015-2016 and is currently finishing up their Parent Leadership Academy, with a graduation taking place this August. In March 2016, a group of nine parents attended Portland Public Schools' (PPS) Superintendent's Public Hearing on Boundary Review, supporting one parent leader who testified. Wrapping up the academy, parents took two field trips this year to the Oregon Historical Society's Chinese Inclusion/Exclusion Exhibit and Zenger Farms. The parents have built great relationships with one another, and have even come together to start a tai chi class on the weekends to support members and stay healthy!



Vietnamese Parents

The Vietnamese parents have met periodically throughout this past year over the PPS Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program, a program APANO helped to start with our partner organization VNCO (Vietnamese Community of Oregon). This past spring, in response to the teacher cuts faced by the Vietnamese DLI program, Vietnamese parents, VNCO, and APANO advocated and testified to protect the program at a PPS Board Budget Hear-

ing. The advocacy and testimony was successful in reinstating one of the teacher positions slated for removal.

SEA to SEA: API Oregon College Summit

Presented by Classroom 2 Community



Interested in meeting other API student leaders across Oregon? Join APANO's Classroom to Community and 150 other API students across the state in Portland to network, learn, build, and party together on **September 30th!**

Summit events include:

- Workshops
- Leadership Development
- Networking
- Breakfast & Lunch provided
- Party!



Keynote Speaker



Ruby Ibarra is a rapper and spoken word artist from the Bay Area, CA. She released her first mixtape, *Lost in Translation*, in December 2012, which was hosted by DJ Kay Slay and premiered on Shade 45 Radio. She has been featured on noted web-based publications such as Worldstar Hip Hop, XXL Magazine, and MTV & VH1's blogs. She is currently working on her debut album, slated for release in Fall 2016 under Be-atrock Music. For more of her music and poetry, please visit: www.rubyibarra.com

To register, visit <https://goo.gl/NMjZt6>
For more information, contact Paolo Esteban at paolo@apano.org | 503.820.9211

Rolling Tides 2016: Biennial Statewide Convention



October 1

*Warner Pacific College, McGuire Auditorium
2219 SE 68th Ave, Portland OR*

Save the date and join us in Portland for a day of workshops, inspiring cultural performances, and a unique opportunity to build your knowledge, skills, and relationships! Held every two years, APANO's Statewide Convention is an inspiring day of cultural sharing and creating a vision for equity, equality and empowerment in Oregon. Since 2009, our convention has engaged and united our growing, diverse API communities across the State of Oregon.

Keynote Speakers



Bao Nguyen is the Mayor of the City of Garden Grove. He is also the first Vietnamese American Democratic mayor in the United States and the first directly elected openly gay mayor in Orange County. Prior to his election in 2014, he served, by appointment in 2011, then by election in 2012, as trustee of the Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education, including a term as Vice-President.



Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner is a Marshallese writer. Her writing highlights the traumas of colonialism, racism, forced migration, the legacy of American nuclear testing, and the impending threats of climate change. Bearing witness at the front lines of various activist movements inspires her work and has propelled her poetry onto international stages.



Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha is a queer disabled femme writer, performance artist and educator of Burgher/Tamil Sri Lankan and Irish/Roma ascent. She is the author of the Lambda Award-winning *Love Cake*, *Dirty River*, *Bodymap* and *Consensual Genocide* and co-editor with Ching-In Chen and Jai Dulani of *The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence in Activist Communities*.

For the agenda, workshop information and registration visit apanorollingtides.org

MicCheck!

A summer cultural series by Asian & Pacific Islander artists

Join us on Thursday, August 4th at Canton Grill for the official kickoff of this year's MicCheck! Summer Cultural Event Series. Mic Check! utilizes the arts to illuminate pressing issues faced by APIs. The series amplifies voices of APIs whose stories are often silenced or unheard by engaging in community-relevant topics such as health equity, education, and interracial solidarity. The series brings community members and practicing API artists together, creates a bridge to share ideas, and rewrites dominant representations of APIs.

At the event, Arts & Media Project (AMP) members will introduce each event taking place this summer which begins with ADAPT breakdance competition on Saturday, August 20th and ends on October 21st with the art opening and theatre performance by Sabina Haque and Living Stages, highlighting the history of East Portland and 82nd avenue, with local youth from Harrison Park Elementary at the Jade/APANO Multicultural Space.



Schedule of Events

Aug 4 - AMPed Up! MicCheck! Launch Party

6pm | Canton Grill 2610 SE 82nd Ave | Free

Aug 20 - ADAPT 2016 Dance Competition

Feat. 11 Dance Company & PSU Hip Hop Alliance

12PM | PSU, Smith Memorial Student Union | \$7

Aug 24 - DisOrient Film Screenings

"Pamanhikan" & "It Runs In The Family"

7pm | Academy Theater 7818 SE Stark St | \$5

Sep 16 - Dis/orient/ed Comedy with Jenny Yang

7pm | JAMS 8114 SE Division St | \$15

Sep 21 - Poetry Reading with Neil Aitken

6:30pm | Midland Library 805 SE 122nd Ave | Free

Oct 1 - Self-Care Zine Workshop with Yumi Sakugawa

5pm | APANO Rolling Tides Statewide Convention
Warner Pacific College McGuire Auditorium

Oct 21 - Annexation & Assimilation: Exploring The Archive East 82nd Art Exhibition Opening With Sabina Zeba Haque

6pm | JAMS 8114 SE Division St | Free

For more information visit apano.org/mic-check

Save the Dates

Jade International Night Markets August 20 & 27



Our Families, Our Homes

Jade District is looking forward to the third year of our International Night Markets! Mark your calendars and join us for two evening of performances and food from around the globe on Saturdays, August 20th and 27th, 2016. The markets will be held at the PCC SE Campus, located at 2305 SE 82nd Ave, Portland, and will run from 5 - 10PM.

For sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, contact Jade District Manager, Todd Struble at todd@apano.org or call 971-340-4866. You can also visit jadedistrictnightmarket.com

APANO Summer Engagement Tour



Can't often make APANO's regular programming in Southeast Portland? Join us for a summer engagement tour stop in East Multnomah County, Eugene, Salem or Beaverton!

We will host a two hour engagement session to talk about issues facing your communities, civic engagement priorities, the 2017 legislative session, and opportunities to get involved in the coming year. We hope you can join us!

- **July 26, 6-8PM** - East Multnomah County
East Portland Neighborhood Office
1017 NE 117th Avenue, Portland, OR 97220
- **August 17, 5:30-7:30PM** - Eugene
Eugene Public Library
100 W 10th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401
- **August 25, 6-8PM** - Salem
AFSCME Union Hall
1400 Tandem Ave NE, Salem OR 97301
- **August 31, 6-8PM** - Beaverton
Unite Oregon Office
12625 SW Broadway, Suite 200, Beaverton OR 97005

Please contact Kara Carmosino at kara@apano.org for more information.

Welcome New Staff



Simeon Jacob is an American born Pacific Islander. Both his parents immigrated to the United States, one from the Pingelap Atoll of Federal States of Micronesia and from

De Nang, Vietnam. He was born and has lived in Portland, OR. Prior to joining the APANO staff, Simeon recently finished his Bachelors degree in Urban Studies at Warner Pacific College and completed a year-long of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA at the education non-profit Oregon Campus Compact. Simeon is an avid runner and loves dance, whether it be in the studio learning dance, watching Youtube dance videos, or teaching a new routine to his cousins to perform for the next family gathering.



Lokyee Au is a first generation Chinese American, whose roots go back to Hong Kong. Originally from Los Angeles, she is also a

first-generation college graduate, having recently completed two masters degrees from the University of Oregon: Environmental Studies and Community and Regional Planning. Her work within social justice intersects with her background in environmental justice, policy, and communications. In her spare time, she enjoys drawing, singing, sloth videos, wildflowers, and intersectional feminism.



Justin Sipoloa is a Portland native whose parents were one of the first Samoans to lay roots in the St. John's community. As a child, he attended Portland Public Schools eventually graduating from Jefferson High School. He then traveled to Eureka, Ca to attend The College of the Redwoods to play baseball. When he returned from playing ball, he started a family and has two kids, Jennifer, 17, recent graduate of Roosevelt and will be attending the University of Oregon and JJ, 14, will be attending Roosevelt. Prior to working with APANO, he worked at Safeway for 20 years and eight years ago, he started coaching youth sports as his kids got involved and he started using sports as a tool to mentor the youth in the community.

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Welcome New Board Members



Bennie Moses-Mesubed is currently the Multicultural Center Director at Eastern Oregon University where she works to develop comprehensive programs focused

on diversity awareness, education, and to promote an inclusive educational environment that nurtures cross cultural communication and fosters the exchange of diverse perspectives and ideals. She currently serves as a board member for the Compact of Free Association National Alliance Board and as a Commissioner for the Oregon Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs. Bennie is a native of the Republic of Palau and has lived in La Grande, OR for over 20 years with her husband Clinton and 4 daughters - Cira, Kaiya, Jennah and Keana.



Toni Tabora-Roberts has over twenty years of experience working in the nonprofit and private sectors in a variety of roles including development, program management, communications, outreach, and grantmaking. She has particular expertise and passion for arts, culture, media, education, and social justice work. She recently founded Esper House, a communications/management consultancy and creative services firm. She serves on the board of Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon and is a member of City Club of Portland's Friday Forum Committee and Portland Emerging Arts Leaders' Equity Committee.

of Defense, Stanford University, and over 1,200 other events across North America, Europe, and Asia. He has set a world record by appearing on the TEDx stage 10 times. He is best known as the founder and bassist of The Slants, the world's first and only all-Asian American dance rock band. His approach to activism through the arts has been highlighted in over 2,000 media features across 84 countries, including BBC World News, NPR, TIME Magazine, and CBC Radio.



Simon Tam is an award-winning musician, author, entrepreneur, and social justice activist. Simon has been a performer, presenter, and keynote at TEDx, SXSW, Comic-Con, The Department

of Defense, Stanford University, and over 1,200 other events across North America, Europe, and Asia. He has set a world record by appearing on the TEDx stage 10 times. He is best known as the founder and bassist of The Slants, the world's first and only all-Asian American dance rock band. His approach to activism through the arts has been highlighted in over 2,000 media features across 84 countries, including BBC World News, NPR, TIME Magazine, and CBC Radio.

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