WGBH Shows Documentary, Discusses Identity, in Celebration of Heritage Month

By Alissa Greenberg
Sampan Correspondent

On his seminal 1973 album “Grain of Sand,” Chris Iijima sings, “We are the children of the Chinese wailer/Born and raised in the laundry room /We are the offspring of the Japanese gardener /Who leave their stamp on America.” The album was the first of its kind, a call to action and an invitation to community and identity for Asian Americans at a time when no such label existed.

Almost 40 years later, a crowd of 150 people gathered at WGBH studios in Brighton to watch “A Song For Ourselves.” This documentary, by Tadashi Nakamura, was first broadcast on WGBH’s signature radio program The World that included arts and cultural events moderated by Lisa Mullins of the Public Radio International. Following the documentary, the audience enjoyed a panel discussion at WGBH’s Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. (Photo by Alissa Greenberg)

The film depicts his path through moderate success amyloidosis, was “an individual who changed the face of Asian Pacific America,” as Boston College professor MinHyoung Song pointed out. “He went back and forth between his roles as a musician and as an organizer, as a labor organizer and as a tax organizer, as a music organizer and as an art organizer, as a community organizer and as an inter-race cooperation person,” Song said. As a call to action and an invitation to community, “We are the children of the Chinese waiter/Born and raised in the laundry room /We are the offspring of the Japanese gardener /Who leave their stamp on America.”

Iijima, who died in 2005 of the rare disease era, “a story not told,” while Liu, who was a contemporary of Iijima’s in the activist movements of the 1970s, called Iijima “a troubadour for our generation.” Everyone on this panel is tied to a program that came from the [Asian-American] movement [Iijima] helped strengthen, he said. In the course of the conversation, Li also expressed his admiration for Iijima’s ability to switch among many roles without losing sight of his goals for his community. “It’s almost like he was playing checkers,” Li commented. He went back and forth between pieces of identity—he used art to educate, education to organize, organization to unite.”

Boston School Celebrates Achievement of Nationally Recognized Teacher

By Cody Yiu
Josiah Quincy Elementary School (JQES) in Chinatown hosted a celebration and reception to honor one of its 5th grade teachers, Wai Chin Ng. (Third from the right) at his surprise celebration. (Courtesy of JQES)

Josiah Quincy Elementary School (JQES) in Chinatown honored five of its 5th grade teachers, Wai Chin Ng, is one of 85 national recipients to receive a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching. After his visit to Washington D.C., Ng was welcomed back to JQES on Monday morning with a surprise celebration in his honor. Attendees included Superintendent Dr. Carol R. Johnson, School Committee Chair Rev. Gregory G. Groover, Amgen Representative.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
**Announcements & Event Listings**

**CLARIFICATIONS**

In the article “Chinatown: Stepping into the Future” – The caption of the photo should be: "Selina Chow, Board President of BCNC, welcome attendees to the BCNC Funders’ Luncheon."

**CHINATOWN**

Chinese Progressive Association Chinatown Bike-a-Thon

WHEN: Saturday, June 18, 2011 - 9AM-2PM

WHERE: Meet at Boston Common and bike along the Charles River

We invite you to join us for the Chinese Progressive Association’s 5th annual Chinatown Bike-a-thon Saturday, June 18, 2011! Proceeds from the Chinatown Bike-a-thon will benefit the Chinese Youth Initiative (C.Y.I.), a youth leadership development program of CPA. Find out more information at www.cpboston.org/bikeathon

CSHSE /Boston Harborhside Home of J.S. Waterman & Sons-Waring-Langone Scholarship Competition


Two Scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors of Chinese ancestry entering a New England college in the fall of 2011. Each Scholarship is $500 per year. If the recipient maintains full-time enrollment for up to a total of four award years ($2000 maximum).

**Criteria for Eligibility**

(A) Chinese ancestry.
(B) Resident of a city or town in Eastern Massachusetts.
(C) Acceptance to a college or university in New England.

**Selection Criteria**

Selection will be made by the CHSNE/J.S. Waterman & Sons-Waring-Langone Scholarship Committee.

Selection will be based on the excellence of a 500-word essay, which addresses the applicant’s awareness of his/her cultural heritage and participation in community activities. The essay should also discuss the applicant’s thoughts on how he/she will meet the objectives underlying the CHSNE/ J.S. Waterman & Sons-Waring-Langone Scholarship. Finalists will be invited for an interview by the Scholarship Committee.

Each recipient will be required to: (A) submit a 500-word annual report regarding his/her progress in meeting the objectives of the scholarship and a transcript; and (B) participate in CHSNE activities, including the annual dinner in the fall.

**Application Procedures**

Completed application should be mailed to:

CHSNE
2 Boylston Street, Suite G-3
Boston, MA 02116

ATTN: Scholarship Committee


For more information, please email info@chsgo.org or leave a message at 617-338-4339.

**FUNDRAISERS**

AAC 2011 Gala

Asian American Civic Association invites you to the Annual Gala 2011 to celebrate forty-four years of service to the immigrant communities in Massachusetts on Thursday, June 9, from 6:00 pm-10:00 pm at The Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Mayor Thomas M. Menino will serve as the Honorary Chair this year. Madge Meyers, Executive Vice President of State Street Corporation and Cynthia J. Wachs, Vice President of the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, will serve as Gala Co-Chairs.

This year’s Community Service Award recipient will be Chef Ming Tsai. The evening will feature a cocktail reception with hors d’oeuvres, an elegant dinner, exciting performance, and dazzling raffles. For sponsor-ship opportunities or tickets, please contact Chealyn Tam, chealyn@aacusa.org or 617-426-9492 x212.

First Annual All Girls Allowed Dinner

Celebrating 1 year of bringing life, value and dignity to girls and mothers in China.

Date: Friday, June 17, 2011

Time: 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Location: Millennium Bostonian Hotel, 26 North Street Boston, MA 02109

All Girls Allowed was launched on June 1, 2010 to restore life, value and dignity to girls and mothers in China. This year, the One-Child Policy has been enforced through brutal forced abortion and was exasperated by China’s own preference, causing a gendercide of millions of girls. The complexity, size and depth of the issue are intimidating, but through compassion-ate strategies and a commitment to justice and mercy, the redemption of the value of girls and women is possible.

For more information, please visit http://www.allgirlsallowed.org/dinner2011

FILMS

Open call for film submissions

The Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF) empowers Asian Americans through film by showcasing Asian American experiences and serving as a resource to filmmakers and the Greater Boston community.

BAAFF is seeking narratives, dramas, comedies, shorts, documentaries, anima-tions, music videos and experimental films.

The 2011 Boston Asian American Film Festival will be held from November 10-13, 2011.

Deadline – Monday, August 1, 2011 @ 5:00pm

Submission guidelines:

To be eligible for festival consideration, short (<59 minutes) and feature (>59 minutes) films must have an Asian American theme or issue. Year of completion must be after 2008.

Please include the following in your submission package:

- DVD (Region 1) screener*, labeled with film title, total running time, and contact information
- Completed submission form (downloadable file found below)
- Entry fee ($15 for shorts, $25 for feature films, free for ABAW members), made payable to AAW. Becomes an AAW member.
- If available: media kit or sample pro-motional material
- Please do not send your master/origi-nal as it will not be returned

Mail submissions and form to:

Asian American Resource Workshop
Att: Boston Asian American Film Festi-val
888 Washington St. Suite 102
Boston, MA 02111-1446

Email info@aaaw.org if you would like to notify us of your submission.

Visit us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/aaaw and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/AAAW Film.

CAMPUS

Tiananman Square Protest Vigil

In commemoration of the June 4 Demo-cracy Movement, a candle light vigil will be held on 4 June 2011 (Saturday) at 7:30 pm in the Harvard Yenching Library Auditori-um (2 Divinity Avenue, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138). All are welcome.

For inquiries, please contact the orga-nizer of the vigil, the Association of Over-seas Hong Kong Chinese for Democracy and Human Rights, at +1(617)966-2575 or Che888@aol.com.
Chinatown

Plans for Cutting-Edge Cultural Center Discussed at TCC

By Kane Carpenter
Sampan Correspondent

Despite plans for a proposed branch library in Chinatown being scrapped, a new strategy to create a new, cutting-edge cultural center was discussed at the recent Chinatown Coalition (TCC) meeting, May 12, at 9:30pm.

Stephanie Fan of the Chinese Historical Society put the deterioration of the plans (for the branch library) down to the recession, and the fact that technology is rapidly changing.

“The government wanted to shut down four neighborhood branch libraries and [the only reason] they didn’t close them was due to the surprising number of protesters,” said Fan.

Nonetheless, new plans were discussed for a “center that will give this community access and resources, and showcase the history of this community,” said Fan.

The new center has been tentatively named the Chinatown Information and Resources Center (CIRC), and the goal is to “provide a facility that brings the Chinatown community into the digital age,” Fan said.

Another announcement at the meeting came from Hong Lok House Director Ruth Moy, who reported on a $1.5 million increase in construction costs for renovations to the Golden Age Center.

The increase in construction costs was caused by a delay in funding and rising material costs, according to Moy, putting the overall cost of the project at $32 million, from an original $22 million.

Despite the setback, Moy insisted that the ground-breaking for the construction would be in June, pending availability of Boston Mayor Menino.

The next meeting will be held on Thurs. June 9.

UMass hold Asian American Digital Storytelling Event to Showcase Student Filmmaking Talents

By Kane Carpenter
Sampan Correspondent

Students from the University of Massachusetts Boston showcased their filmmaking and storytelling talents in an exhibition at the Boston Apple Store on Monday, May 16.

An audience that swelled from 40 to nearly 80 members sat and stood to watch several student films from the UMass undergraduate course, titled Asian American Media Literacy, all produced on the Apple software program, iMovie.

The next meeting will be held on Thurs. June 9.

Laura J. Sen Honored at MAAC Dinner

By Kane Carpenter
Sampan Correspondent

The fifth annual Asian-American Unity Dinner, which rewarded Laura J. Sen with the 2011 Massachusetts Asian American Leadership Award, was held at Hei La Moon Restaurant in Chinatown on May 12.

More than 300 prominent members of the Asian American community attended the dinner, which began at 6pm and featured an extravagant menu and live entertainment.

A surprise appearance by Massachusetts Treasurer and Receiver-General Steve Grossman opened the speeches for the evening, during which Grossman praised Sen’s “leadership and community-building efforts.”

Entertainment for the evening was provided by “The Genki Spark: Taiko Projects with Attitude! – the first and only Asian women’s taiko-based performance troupe in the country - and the ‘Angkor Dance Troupe’.

Laura J. Sen is President and Chief Executive Officer of BJ’s Wholesale Club, Inc. and serves as a member of its Board of Directors.

Sen joined BJ’s in 1989 as Assistant Vice President, Manager of Logistics, and after numerous other roles, was appointed President and CEO in February 2009.

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MAP for Health Celebrates 15th Anniversary with Iron Chef-style Cook Off

Anh Dao Kolbe accepts her MAP for Health 2011 Community Award. (By Kane Carpenter)

By Kane Carpenter
Sampan Correspondent

Massachusetts Asian and Pacific Islanders (MAP) for Health celebrated their 15th Anniversary by holding a cooking competition in the style of the Food Network show "Iron Chef" as well as an award ceremony at the Calderwood Pavilion on Friday, May 20.

The event happened at a nice timing, following the National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, which occurred the day before, May 19. MAP for Health's event, which hosted close to 80 people, began at 6 pm with an energetic performance by The Genki Spark, dubbed the first and only Asian women's talk show performance group in the country.

Anh Dao Kolbe and Karen S. Young were honored with MAP for Health 2011 Community Awards recognizing their work with the Asian, South Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth communities.

During an emotional acceptance speech, Kolbe – a gay and lesbian activist and photographer – equated her experience working with MAP for Health as "coming home." Though Young's speech followed the same appreciative sentiment as Kolbe's, Young incorporated a more cheerful vibe, allowing her "sisters" of the Genki Spark to stand alongside her and cheer as she progressed through the acceptance of her award.

Following the presentation of awards, the cooking competition took place. Two groups of MAP Peer Leaders – youth members of the MAP for Health community – battled each other by cooking one dish each, testing culinary skills and teamwork. The two groups were called Team FoodieJudie and Team Delicious, and prepared "Fried Wok 'n' Rolls" and "Money Bags" respectively.

Team FoodieJudie consisted of Narong Sokhom, Kelli Tan, Starrry Dou, Chris Em, and were guided by Judy Kh. Team Delicious consisted of Evy Duong, Mei Mei Saems, Stephen Top, Thong Nguyen, and were guided by Laurence Louie.

"MAP for Health is a Massachusetts, non-profit, Asian, South Asian and Pacific Islander community-based organization that works for fairness, equality and inclusion for these communities in health care planning, disease prevention, primary care access, and service delivery," according to the organization's press release.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Childhood obesity

What causes childhood obesity?
Childhood obesity is the result of eating too many calories and not getting enough physical activity.

Why focus on food and physical activity environments?
There are a variety of environmental factors that determine whether or not the healthy choice is the easy choice for children and their parents. American society has become characterized by environments that promote increased consumption of less healthy food and physical inactivity. It can be difficult for children to make healthy food choices and get enough physical activity when they are exposed to environments in their home, child care center, school, or community that are influenced by:

• Sugar drinks and less healthy foods on school campuses. About 55 million school-aged children are enrolled in schools across the United States, and many eat and drink meals and snacks there. Yet, more than half of U.S. middle and high schools still offer sugar drinks and less healthy foods for purchase.2 Students have access to sugar drinks and less healthy foods at school throughout the day from vending machines and school canteens and at fundraising events, school parties, and sporting events.

• Advertising of less healthy foods. Nearly half of U.S. middle and high schools allow advertising of less healthy foods, which impacts students' ability to make healthy food choices. In addition, foods high in total calories, sugars, salt, and fat, and low in nutrients are highly advertised and marketed through media targeted to children and adolescents, while advertising for healthier foods is almost nonexistent in comparison.

• Variation in licensure regulations among child care centers. More than 12 million children regularly spend time in child care arrangements outside the home. However, not all states use licensing regulations to ensure that child care facilities encourage more healthful eating and physical activity.

• Lack of daily, quality physical activity in all schools. Most adolescents fall short of the 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans recommendation of at least 60 minutes of aerobic physical activity each day, as only 18% of students in grades 9–12 met this recommendation in 2007. Daily, quality physical education in school can help students meet the Guidelines. However, in 2009 only 33% attended daily physical education classes.

• No safe and appealing place, in many communities, to play or be active. Many communities are built in ways that make it difficult or unsafe to be physically active. For some families, getting to parks and recreation centers may be difficult, and public transportation may not be available. For many children, safe physical inactivity environments?

Why focus on food and physical activity environments?
Where will my retirement income come from?

By Michael C. Tow
Sampan Contributor

30 to 40 years for a company you retired and were given a gold watch and a pension. Pension plans are defined benefit plans that pay a specific amount based on years of service and salary in the last years before retirement. Pensions have been staple for generations in this country. However, this is drastically changing. In 1985 there were 14,000 Pension Plan Excellence. Today there are less than 30,000 defined contribution plans. Even those with pensions, are not necessarily safe as many companies are increasing contributions over the plan. Defined Contribution plans like the 401(k) plan in some cases going bankrupt and stopping the pensions all together. The percentage of underfunded plans increased from 15% in 1992 to 52% in 2002. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation which insures private pension plans said total corporate pension underfunding exceeds $450 billion.

Personal Savings

Even those with savings by maximizing their 401(k) or other defined contribution plans with their employer will have work to do. 401(k)’s have individual contribution limits of $16,500 per year. So even if you are able to maximize these amounts it may very well be not enough for retirement. As you can see the importance of having enough in the third leg of the stool “personal savings” is more crucial than ever.

In a future article we will discuss how to make your fixed retirement income work for you. If you have a question or topic that you would like me to discuss in a future article please email me at mtow@new-bostonfinancial.com.

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER
Michael Tow can be reached at 617-734-4400 or www.new-bostonfinancial.com.

How to Prevent Heat Stroke

By Emily Damiano
Sampan Contributor

Excessive heat events are prolonged periods when temperatures reach 10 degrees Fahrenheit or more above the average high temperature for a region. Excessive heat events are believed to have a disproportionate public health impact in cities. One reason is that ads and buildings absorb the sun’s energy and contribute to the formation of “heat islands.” While rural areas cool off at night, cities retain this absorbed heat. As a result, urban residents get less nighttime relief. Older adults, as well as young children, are at high risk from excessive heat events. For the growing number of aging Americans, the body’s cooling mechanisms may even become impaired. Living alone or being confined to a bed and unable to care for one’s self further increases risk.

Existing health conditions such as chronic illness, mental impairment, and obesity can also heighten an individual’s vulnerability towards heat stroke. People taking certain medications are likewise susceptible.

In addition, people who live on the top floors of buildings without air-conditioning are more likely to be exposed to excessive heat. Participating in strenuous outdoor activities and consuming alcohol during unusually hot weather can exacerbate heat-related health effects.

How Does Excessive Heat Affect the Body?

The body normally cools itself by increasing blood flow to the skin and perspiring. Heat-related illness and mortality occur when the body’s temperature control system becomes overloaded. When this happens, perspiring may not be enough. High levels of humidity can make it even harder for the body to cool itself.

How are excessive heat and heat Stroke Related?

Heat stroke is the most serious health effect of excessive heat events. It is the failure of the body to cool itself, causing the core body temperature rises rapidly. As a result, heat stroke can cause severe and permanent damage to vital organs. Victims can be identified by skin that appears hot, dry and red in color. Other warning signs are confusion, hallucinations, and aggression. If not treated immediately, heat stroke can result in permanent disability or death.

What cost-effective steps can communities take to cool the air?

Two steps that communities can take include using construction material that reflect the sun’s rays, and planting trees and vegetation to provide shade and natural cooling. Both strategies reduce the urban heat island effect – urban temperatures 2-10 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than surrounding rural areas – and may limit the frequency, duration, and magnitude of excessive heat events.

Heat reduction strategies such as using reflective “cool roofs” and light-colored pavements, and planting shade trees are numerous benefits. These measures:

• Lower ambient temperatures
• Slow heat-driven reaction that forms ozone air pollution
• Decrease energy consumption
• Improve comfort and livability

CHILDHOOD OBESITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

routes for walking or biking to school or play may not exist. Half of the children in the United States do not have a park, community center, and sidewalk in their neighborhood. Only 27 states have policies directing community-scale design.

• Limited access to healthy affordable foods. Some people have less access to stores and supermarket that sell healthy, affordable food such as fruits and vegetables, especially in rural, minority, and low-income neighborhoods. Supermarket access is associated with a reduced risk for obesity. Choosing healthy foods is difficult for parents who live in areas with an over abundance of food retailers that tend to sell less healthy food, such as convenience stores and fast food restaurants.

• Greater availability of high-energy-dense foods and sugar drinks. High-energy-dense foods are ones that have a lot of calories in each bite. A recent study among children showed that a high-energy-dense diet is associated with a higher risk for excess body fat during childhood. Sugar drinks are the largest source of added sugar and an important contributor of calories in the diets of children in the United States. High consumption of sugar drinks, which have few, if any, nutrients, has been associated with obesity. On a typical day, 80% of youth drink sugar over drinks.

• Increasing portion sizes. Portion sizes of less healthy foods and beverages have increased over time in restaurants, grocery stores, and vending machines.

Research shows that children eat more without realizing if they are served larger portions. This can mean they are consuming a lot of extra calories, especially when eating high-calorie foods.

• Lack of breastfeeding support. Breastfeeding protects against childhood overweight and obesity. However, in the United States, while 75% of mothers start breastfeeding, only 13% of babies are exclusively breastfed at the end of 6 months. The success rate among mothers who want to breastfeed can be improved by high levels of support from their families, friends, communities, clinicians, health care leaders, employers, and policymakers.

• Television and media. Children 8—18 years of age spend an average of 7.5 hours a day using entertainment media, including TV, computers, video games, cell phones, and movies. Of those 7.5 hours, about 4.5 hours is dedicated to viewing TV. Eighty-three percent of children from 6 months to less than 6 years of age view TV or videos about 1 hour and 57 minutes a day. TV viewing is a contributing factor to childhood obesity because it may take away from the time children spend in physical activities while increasing energy intake through snacking and eating meals in front of the TV, and, influence children to make unhealthy food choices through exposure to food advertisements.

Article funded through the Asian Health Initiative of Tufts Medical Center

BOSTON SCHOOL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

search Operations Sr. Manager Chris Barr and IQS students, staff and parents. Honored guests were Ng, his wife, Nancy Ng, their two children, and both Mr. and Mrs. Ng’s parents. The school-wide celebration was the only not the surprise that Ng received. After the speaking program, Ng was recogized as one of 35 recipients of the Apgen Award for Sci- entific Excellence, which recognizes individuals in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico who have made extraor- dinary contributions to science education. The award in- cluded a $5,000 check to Ng, and a $5,000 grant to IQS to aid in funding and growing the school’s science programs. The celebration began at 9:45am in the school’s gym- nasium, located at 1185 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111. A reception followed in the school’s library.
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- 3 Apartments are for preference for BRA-Certified Artists
- Section 8 Voucher Holders Welcome
- Selection by Lottery-Use and Occupancy Restrictions Apply
- 4 Apartment have preference for households requiring accessible units
- 8 Apartments not included above have preference for householdless household
(Aplicants must complete BHA applications and be processed by the BHA, 52 Chauncy St. Boston)

Income Restrictions Apply

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Minimum Income per Household

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Rental Applications must be picked up and submitted in person or via US Mail to the Property

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In By

A B O U T S T A T E  R E S O U R C E M A N A G E M E N T

Neighborhood

Belmont

407 Belmont Street, 6 Oakley Road
Belmont 02478

Three Units of New Construction - $188,500

Information Session: Wednesday, June 1, 2011, 7:30pm
Waverly Oaks Community Center
637 Trapelo Road, Belmont, 7:30pm
visitor parking on Olmsted Dr via Waverly Woods

Applications accepted:
Through June 24, 1:00pm

Housing Lottery: July 12, 2011

Application and Information:
Housing@Sudbury.MA.US
270 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776
978-639-3388

Income and Asset Limits, Use and Resale Restrictions Apply

A housing workshop will be held at:
Bridle Path Apartments
164 Bittersweet Lane
Randolph, MA 02368

First workshop will be held on
May 11th, 2011
6:00pm-7:00pm
If you miss the first workshop a second workshop will be held on
June 7th, 2011
6:00pm-7:00pm

Income restrictions for Pond Street Apartment Homes
(subject to change):

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<td>4 People</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
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Application for Housing will be available on the day of the workshops.

Deadline: In order to be eligible for the lottery, all applications must be submitted with required documentation by 3:00pm on June 15, 2011.
Continued from page WGBH

She said. “I always learn matter what the topic is,” WGBH events as I can, no come to as many of these despite her unfamiliar nature of her job, came ally thoughtful in their discussion,” she said.

Members were educators. They were re cultural rifts during the initial years of the American experience and community, es enjoyed the nuanced treatment of the Asian viral was to have a message that was really message, you have to go viral on Facebook was no technology then. Now to spread a grass roots nature of Iijima’s work. “There is a dia expert, was especially interested in the compelling points. Tim Wong, a social me

One woman, who wished not to be iden- tified due to the sensitive nature of her job, came despite her unfamiliarity with the topic. “I try to come to as many of these WGBH events as I can, no matter what the topic is,” she said. “I always learn something, even if I think at first that I won’t like it,” she said. “Really, that’s what WGBH is about.”

Help Wanted

Joslin Diabetes Center

Asian American Diabetes Initiative (AADI)

Seeking Outreach and Asian Clinic Coordinator.

Immediate opening. Must speak Cantonese fluently. Strong English writing skills and college degree required.

Please apply online at www.joslin.org

Joslin is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D/V

Housing Certification Specialist

Tenants’ Development Corp., a South End tenant housing organization, seeks candidates for the position of Housing Certification Specialist. Candidates must have HUD Section 8 and/or LIHTC certification experience; person must demonstrate strong resident relations and interpersonal skills, excellent math and computer skills. Must have COS or similar certification, LIHTC certification desirable, minimum 2 years housing experience required. TDC offers competitive salary and benefits package.

Email resumes to ahuggins@tenantsdevelopment.com.

No phone calls please.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Job Opening: Connected Living

We are looking for a bilingual candidate that is fluent in Chinese and English that is energetic, a self starter and a “multi-tasker” that has a passion for working with seniors and people with disabilities. Our program brings technology, programming and social connections to public housing senior residents. Currently, we are seeking an Ambassador to:

Lead computer and Internet classes each week

Lead interactive weekly Connected Living Group Discussions and present various topics which encourage and demonstrate the use of the internet and provides an entertaining environment that stimulates socialization and reminiscing

Manage class schedules and stats collection; including surveys, profiles and learning plans

Facilitate “marketing” to the community

Applicants must possess a value system that is oriented to helping others learn new skills to promote independence and self-sufficiency. Candidate must have good computer skills (intermediate to advance). Other important attributes include cultural sensitivity and the ability to communicate effectively in one-to-one sessions, small and large groups.

Send Resume and cover Letter to: cmnjeobsp@connectedliving.com.

Connected Living, Inc. is a Quincy, MA based social impact company. This is a part time position (20 hours/week) but will consider full time.

Hiring

Immediate Opening(s) Case Managers, bilingual Chinese

Central Boston Elder Services - is seeking to employ case managers with bilingual fluency in English plus Chinese, including Cantonese, Mandarin or Taiwanese.

Responsibilities: Conduct comprehensive needs assessment for elders to determine eligibility for services. Conduct initial and periodic re-assessments of elders’ physical, social, emotional and environmental status within required time frame.

Qualifications: B.A. or A.S. degree in Social Work, Human Services, Nursing or related field or equivalent in work experience. Experience in human services field. Previous experience with case management preferred. Computer skills required.

To Apply: Please send resume, cover letter and salary requirements to: hr@centralboston.org

CBES, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. www.centralboston.org

classified / housing

Keystone Apartments

On Wednesday, June 1, 2011, we are closing the waitlist at Keystone Apartments, 151 Hallett St., Dorchester, MA due to the extensive size and timeframe to wait for an available and 2 brm unit. After this date, waiting list applications will only be accepted for studio apartments.

Colonial Village Apartments

Housing for Elderly 1-2 Bedroom units


Paid by MA Housing Finance Agency Units Available on open occupancy basis

www.QCC.edu

Quinsigamond Community College

Quinsigamond Community College is recruiting for the following full time positions:

Human Services Faculty (Sept 2011)

Faculty member will teach at our West Boylston Street and Southbridge campuses

Staff Associate of the Adult Community Learning Center

These positions are full time with a competitive salary and excellent comprehensive benefit package. All interested applicants are encouraged to visit our website www.QCC.edu for complete job descriptions, requirements, salary and application procedures. Applicants must apply online for these positions by June 3, 2011 for consideration.

www.QCC.edu

Move In New Circles… Just Off the Square

Join a new circle of friends and colleagues at Mount Auburn Hospital and find all the career challenges, opportunities and recognition you’re looking for. Located in Cambridge, just a short walk from Harvard Square, we are a Harvard-affiliated regional teaching hospital offering the challenges of tertiary care in a supportive, friendly environment.

Beyond the encouragement and room you need to grow, we also offer a competitive compensation program and benefits designed to help you succeed.

To learn more about our current career opportunities, please visit our website, or forward your resume to: Mount Auburn Hospital, Human Resources, 350 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, Fax: 617-499-7618. An Equal Opportunity Employer.
Daisy was already gone. But my anger had been building up, a reason. She said that maybe Daisy and I would have a better relationship because we couldn’t touch, that our friendship was over because of our predicament. And when I began to really like Dami, I believed her. I just refused to depend on him, care for him and maybe… love him, I knew my mother was right. But that was before Daisy was bitten. There was no explanation to why I had to lose my little sister; none at all. My Daisy was the spitting image of me, like our dad said all the time. Anyone with eyes could see we were sisters, there was no doubt.

She’d talk to me about Dami, sharing all kinds of funny experiences that she and Dami had shared. She loved Dami like a brother and though I never told her how I felt about him, she could tell how much I loved him too. Daisy would cry at night, and she’d never say a word until the time was right. She was so mature for seven years old, far more than I was at her age; that dumb accident proved that fact for sure. No; Daisy never told me she knew, but she smiled at me whenever I talked about him, when she said something sweet to me or when I twisted my hair around her face. He was worried, I knew that. About me or when I twisted my hair around him or when he said something sweet to me whenever I talked about him or when I twisted my hair around his face or when I said something sweet to me or when I twisted my hair around her face. She had the type of knowing smile that she inherited from our mother. She was so special in so many ways… the world felt so empty when she was gone.

I was sitting on the front porch steps, staring at the sunset at Damion’s at my side. The moonlight did to his features. His eyes staring into blank colors and shapes everywhere. The sight looked like a piece of artwork, like someone took a brush and just painted the sky with bright shades of red, pink, purple, and yellow. But it looked sad too, like the painter was mournful in his strokes. I wiped a tear from my face and tried not to start sobbing hysterically. I glanced at Damion, who seemed to be in a whole other world. His eyes stared into blank space and his hair fell stubbornly about his face. I looked away, wanting so badly to crawl into his arms. I wanted to cry my heart out and let him hold me and rock me. It made the whole ordeal worse not to have him to comfort me. The only person I wanted physical consolation from couldn’t give it to me, even if he wanted to. I could feel him looking at me now, his eyes on my partially hidden, tear streaked face. He was worried, he knew that Daisy mostly but I knew it was about me too. I’d never be the same person after this. There was no way I could ever drift off into sleep. Life without Daisy kept running through my head, and it was not a pretty picture. I’d cry every day, ignore my friends and family, fall back on my school work, and never know happiness again. Even Damion would eventually grow out of loving me and growing.

But the largest part of my sorrow was for Daisy herself. She had such big dreams; she was going to be a traveler. She wanted to see all the different parts read about in books and experience everything that was impossible in our little village. “I don’t need a husband either,” she had told me then, “I’ve probably just slow me down.” I had laughed and told her she’d probably change her mind. But now, she’d never get that chance. I closed my eyes as tears rose up.

Damion was in the room adjacent to mine. It had always been his room, for as a child, he’d come over almost weekly to stay. His overnight visits were much less frequent now, but it was still pretty much his room. He had told me he was going to stay over earlier that day and had probably went to get his things while I isolated myself in my room. Thinking about him, I suddenly heard his door open and his foot steps lightly crossed the hall between us.

As he walked over, I noticed what the moon did to his features. His hair still shone and his eyes still sparkled like the stars in the sky. He looked paler, but right now, who didn’t? He came to me and lay on my bed, folding my feet, and smiled sadly at me. “You’re not sleeping,” he stated simply. I shook my head at him. “It’s impossible,” he said, “I stayed up until dawn. It was a while. My legs were now crossed under me, giving Damion room to stretch his arms. His own legs dangled from the side of the bed while my arms were tightly wound around me. I found it sad how we had gotten so used to not touching them. I automatically just drifted away from each other. And it wasn’t because the wall hurt us physically; we just didn’t want to face the truth. But we knew so little about this curse…

how did we know if it wore off or not? “Dami, give me your hand,” I told him. I watched around the perplexity form on his face.

“Di, what do you mean?” Just hold it up.” And when he did, I reached moving my palm toward his. He dropped his hand immediately.

“Di, it won’t work,” he said looking away. “How do you know? It might—” "It’s never worked before. Before what makes you think it will happen now?” he was starting to get annoyed. Damion’s voice gave away everything.

“Dami, please,” I begged. But why it mattered so much, I couldn’t say. “Let’s just try. Please?” He thought for a long time, staring out the window, but finally he lifted his hand. I moved my palm toward it, anticipation building up inside me. I took a deep breath as our palms moved three and a half inches apart and kept going, praying that it would work this time. But when our hands were within three inches of each other, the wall stopped us yet again. Incredible. Sadness crept over me, making me feel cold and alone inside. I curled up into a tight ball and buried my face in my arms. The onslaught of tears was impossible to stop. My body shook with sobs I now never knew existed. It wasn’t fair first. I was torn from my best friend and now, my sister’s life was being snatched away. My entire life was falling apart and I couldn’t do anything to stop it. I sobbed harder, unable to control my anguish.

“Di, please stop crying, please!” I heard Damion say. “You nearly ripped me apart today. It kills me when you cry like that and I can’t do anything—

My sobs ceased. I looked up at him, sur- prised that he felt that way too. But I suppose I was more surprised that he actually said it. By the size of his eyes and that moment, I could tell he was surprised too. I wiped my eyes and began to apologize but he cut me off.

“No, no…I unders—

“No, no…understood your pain Di, I feel it too. It’s just that—"

“I know, Dami.” I looked away, debating with myself whether or not I should say the next sentence that was on my tongue. “…I want to be comforted by you,” I whispered, “I wish this thing never happened to us…I miss you, Dam.” And it was true, because in a sense, he was so far away. I lowered my eyes from his and if I hadn’t been so flushed from crying, he might have noticed my blush. I began twisting my hair between my fingers, a telltale habit.

“I miss you too, Di,” Dami said. I heard the smile in his voice and turned to see it. “You have no idea.” I cocked my head. Now what did he mean by that? I’m sure my eyes asked the question but he quickly changed the subject. “Diamond, I have something to tell you.”

“What is it?” I asked him.

“We’re going to save Daisy,” he whispered. “There may be a way.”

TO BE CONTINUED...
By Jackson Hau
Sampan Contributor

The modern American Soldier has changed and evolved; as has war from the early days of our fledgling nation to our current days as a global superpower. However, the attribute of each man and woman who has donned the burden of a United States Military uniform has remained steadfast. Each Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine, past and present, will attest to his or her unyielding love and patriotic duty for our country. This is not to say that every conflict our country has engaged in was justifiable. No, instead, it is that each uniformed member of the armed forces has served with a common purpose to defend and protect those that are unable to do so themselves. Our reasons for serving have never been for fame or glory; our reasons for serving have always been simple and uncomplicated.

Today, the total manpower of the United States Armed Forces amounts to about 2,264,511 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, in both the Active Duty and the Reserve component. Of that number, Asian Pacific Americans only represent 4%, numbering approximately 90,580. That may seem like a small component. Of that number, Asian Pacific Americans represent 4% of military service members, in both the Active Duty and the Reserve component. 2,264,511 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, in both the Active Duty and the Reserve component amounts to about 90,580. That may seem like a small component. As we know, the military is not a well-known profession and at first refusal any Asian Pacific American is asked, “So what are you doing now that you are out of college? Where are you working? Are you planning to attend graduate school?” Before this year (I'm in my first year of Law School), I have always answered with, “I serve in the United States Army.” The response I normally receive is, “Oh…” followed by a moment of silence. The next question is either, “So what do you plan to do after that?” or “How could I be a part of this?”

Today, the total manpower of the United States Armed Forces amounts to about 2,264,511 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, in both the Active Duty and the Reserve component. Of that number, Asian Pacific Americans only represent 4%, numbering approximately 90,580. That may seem like a small component. However, during family gatherings, every post-college Asian Pacific American is asked, “So what are you doing now that you are out of college? Where are you working? Are you planning to attend graduate school?” Before this year (I’m in my first year of Law School), I have always answered with, “I serve in the United States Army.” The response I normally receive is, “Oh…” followed by a moment of silence. The next question is either, “So what do you plan to do after that?” or “How could I be a part of this?”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

By Joanne Wong
Sampan Contributor

A curious thing happens when you are away from home. Stripped of your normal routine and amenities, you begin to see things in a different light. For me, it was the combination of crab rangoons, lady fingers, and fried chicken wings: the Holy Grail of American Chinese food. Never in my wildest dreams would I have craved for any of these grease-laced dishes back in America, but as I’m sitting under a mosquito net in my hut in a small village in the middle of Africa, all I can think about is their deep-fried goodness and how much I want to take a drumstick out of the “thank you” labeled take-out box and bite into its crunchy skin. Three months ago, I bid farewell to family and friends in Boston and relocated to Mali, West Africa to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer. Three months did by no means make me an expert on Africa, but for those of you who are curious, I would like to share some initial thoughts and insights on living in Africa as an Asian American. First off, Malians are more well-versed in the art of Jackie Chan. What a precarious situation. Do I admit that I was clueless about the art form, or do I lead them on to thinking that my ninja moves are so deadly that they would in turn lead to lucrative returns in future employment. Indeed, this was the case for all the Asian Americans that I have spoken to that serve. However, after basic training with the majority opinion, I had always pictured that face based on what I see in the movies. As an Asian American who is currently serving in the United States Army, this bothers me, as it should to everyone. My primary objective for enlisting in the Army was similar to many other Asian Americans who answered the call to serve. It was an opportunity to fulfill a duty and obligation that I owed to my country for the vast opportunities made available to my parents and me. As an American, it is easy to take for granted our Constitutional freedoms and liberties, which are not universally available around the world. I grew up (as many other Asian American children do) with a belief that I was to excel in academics, attend a top tier university, become a high paying professional and repeat this cycle with my children. Was this not the ultimate pursuit of the American Dream? What I have learned is that there are many ways to fulfill the American Dream. We are the only ones that can restrict our own futures. I hope future generations of Asian Americans will be able to understand that we ourselves are our only limiting factor. Most families, no matter what ethnic group belong to, will at first refuse any mention or excuse the need to join the military. Even more so, Asian families object to military involvement. Perhaps this is due to an ingrained traditional and cultural emphasis on higher education that would in turn lead to lucrative returns in future employment. However, during family gatherings, every post-college Asian Pacific American is asked, “So what are you doing now that you are out of college? Where are you working? Are you planning to attend graduate school?” Before this year (I’m in my first year of Law School), I have always answered with, “I serve in the United States Army.” The response I normally receive is, “Oh…” followed by a moment of silence. The next question is either, “So what do you plan to do after that?” or “How could I be a part of this?”

To my surprise, however, my honesty was met with skepticism. It certainly doesn’t help that my neighbors cannot differentiate me from the 7-year-old martial arts actress in the Thai film Ong Bak. As they continue to prod me for lessons, I cannot help but think that I’m in a win-win situation. My presence has spurred mixed reactions from Malians. There are the children who cry out in fear at the sight of me because they have never seen a non-African person before; those who only see people in black and white: Farafin (African) and Tokahouf (French, but generally refers to all foreigners) and nothing in between; the kids who (for the first time) look at their parents and say “this is an African American” just to be doubly sure that they got my nationality right; and those who are convinced that I cannot come from America because I look 100% Chinese. Generally speaking, the last group is correct. I am 100% Chinese, but I have been raised in America. I feel just as American as I am Chinese. I cannot blame the Malians for their confusion, though. Almost seven billion people live in this world, and 1.3 billion of whom are Chinese. The Chinese presence here in Mali is undeniable. With recent Chinese interest and investment in Africa came restaurant owners,
By Mai Du
Sampan Contributor

Many people were surprised that a relativel y young and petite female, with an advanced degree in Education and an established career, instead had chosen to open a kung fu and tai chi school to teach Wah Lum Kung Fu and Tai Chi in America. In fact, they were further intrigued when they learned that her Sifu, although a non-Asian man, is one who has committed much of his life to teaching Chinese martial art.

When I was very young, my parents were originally opposed to the idea of a girl learning any kind of martial art. But my innate love for kung fu was too strong for me to succumb to the belief that only boys should learn something like kung fu or Aikido. It was not long after my family came to the United States as Chinese refugees from Vietnam, that I started my Wah Lum Kung Fu journey at the age of 12 under the instruction of Sifu Bob Rosien in Boston Chinatown. The journey continues to be enjoyable and rich as each year goes by. Throughout the many years of learning, practicing, and helping to teach my kung fu siblings, I never had the thought of changing my own students and I was quite content with these experiences. However, in 2000, friends of the Rosien family invited me to discuss the idea of a child who could teach kung fu privately to their children, but when they asked me, I declined.

A year later, the couple inquired again and I again recommended that they could go to my Sifu’s school, but the family admitted they didn’t want to drive to Chinatown. Then, in 2003, the couple asked once more. This time, I was open to the idea of taking on my own kung fu students, but I was also 8-months pregnant with my son and asked them to check in again after I had my child. A few months later, I accepted my own students and there in the driveway of my house was the birthplace of the Wah Lum Kung Fu and Tai Chi Academy.

If anyone has ever tried to establish a traditional kung fu school in a semi-urban U.S. city before, then he or she may experience the common challenge of not finding an affordable property but one with large open space and high ceilings that can actually allow for the practice of long weapons. But that was only the beginning of the challenges and adventures of starting my kung fu school and ‘infusing’ by now, I am sure I could name as many great masters and grandmasters can relate to how they started their schools and what obstacles and successes they have had. I can only be thankful to these inspiring examples. Particularly, I have my SiGung, Chan Pui and my Sifu’s Bob Rosien for their inspiration and follow their honorable footsteps. However, it is my personal experience of being a female martial artist who has made the teaching of kung fu and tai chi her life’s passion that I would like to take the opportunity to share.

In martial art history there have been countless ‘sacred’ories, like the stories of Fu Mu Lan, Fong Sai Yuk’s mother—Mui Chui Fa, the O Mei Monks, and Yang Gar Nui Cheung (Tang Family Women Warriors). Yet in today’s modern martial art world, female martial artists have few traditional female masters and grandmasters with whom we may make connections. Fortunately, the trend in the U.S. for increased female martial art participation is growing. We can now claim the successes of many more female martial artists, such, Chinese National Champion Grandmaster Chen Diao Yuen, Grandmaster Chen Al Ping, Eagle Claw Grandmaster Lily Lau, Tai Chi Grandmaster Bow Sim Mak, and Wah Lum Sifu Mini Chen. As well as the great change in the Wah Lum Pai female certified instructors, like myself. In the Wah Lum Kung Fu System, grandmaster Chan Pui and other older Sifus like Bob Rosien continue to follow the female martial artists and certified instructors. I believe the following factors have helped

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END OF ARTICLE
you do that to your parents? at which point, they would look to my parents for some form of agreement or approval of the question just posed to me. my parents, like many other military families who have served in the army is no longer something that can be questioned and justified. it is part of my life. my parents would say, "serve your freedom and your own. i serve for reasons of duty and honor to my country. i serve with the belief that if i do not so and others like myself do not then our nation's hopes and dreams and all that we hold dear will be threatened."

while our intentions may seem to most as a demonstration of obligation, the military is so idealistic. as a minority in the u.s. military, i have always been the sub- ject of racial jokes, slurs and remarks. this may be difficult to understand for most, but a strong minority. it is built so that American Chinese heritage, representing a minor- ity of America's population, but a strong minority. i must admit that there are days that i feel more Asian, when i'm bagging for tomatoes in a busy interaction of the market, and part of my service is to engage Malians in a spirit of America's population, not Chinese. instead, they are making a fool of themselves by saying that American China is a melting pot of all different types of people, including those who are not only Asian but also American. the american community survey estimates a popula- tion of 13 million Asian Americans, representing a minor- ity of America's population, not Chinese. instead, they are making a fool of themselves by saying that American China is a melting pot of all different types of people, including those who are not only Asian but also American. the american community survey estimates a popula- tion of 13 million Asian Americans, representing a minor- ity of America's population, not Chinese. instead, they are making a fool of themselves by saying that American China is a melting pot of all different types of people, including those who are not only Asian but also American. the american community survey estimates a popula- tion of 13 million Asian Americans, representing a minor- ity of America's population, not Chinese. instead, they are making a fool of themselves by saying that American China is a melting pot of all different types of people, including those who are not only Asian but also American. the american community survey estimates a popula- tion of 13 million Asian Americans, representing a minor- ity of America's population, not Chinese. instead, they are making a fool of themselves by saying that American China is a melting pot of all different types of people, including those who are not only Asian but also American. the american community survey estimates a popula-
By Christopher Albrizio  
Sampan Contributor

I was born in Pohang, South Korea, a mid-size city on the southeastern coast, about an hour and a half by bus from Busan, Korea's second largest city. When I was four years old, my younger brother and I were adopted by an American family from central Massachusetts. We arrived in the US a few days after Christmas in 1987.

Besides my biological brother who I was adopted with, I also have a younger sister who was also adopted from Korea but from a different Korean family, as well as a younger brother and younger sister who are both biological to my adoptive parents. I grew up in predominantly white suburbs in central Massachusetts and Cape Cod. Most of my family is white and 99% of my friends growing up were white. I was often teased about the way I looked and for being Asian. I would be called names and be accused of eating cats and dogs. I was confused and struggled with being Asian on the outside but white on the inside. I had no connection to my Korean roots. I had no sense of an Asian identity.

When I got to be in my late teens and early twenties, that was when I really began to explore my Korean roots and adoption story, and started to build a sense of Asian identity I was comfortable with. I studied Asian American studies in college, made Asian American friends, took Korean language classes, and became actively involved with the international Korean adoptee community. One of the things that really surprised me was learning how many Korean adoptees there are around the world. In fact, it is estimated that there are more Korean adoptees around the world than from any other country (estimates range from 150,000-200,000). It was very interesting for me to learn that there are thousands of Korean adoptees from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, France, and other places around Europe and the world.

A couple years ago, I decided to search for my birth family in Korea. I had always wanted to find them again but had been too nervous. In the fall of 2009, I was informed by my adoption agency that they had found my family. In December of that year, I received my first letter from my oldest uncle and aunt (my father's oldest brother). We exchanged a few letters over the course of the next few months. I learned that I had three uncles, all my father's brothers, and several first and second cousins. My birth father had passed away before my brother and I were adopted, and there was no contact from our birth mother. This was disappointing, but I was very happy to at least be in contact with my relatives.

In August 2010, my brother and I traveled to Korea for the first time since our adoption. It had been almost 23 years since we left. While there, we attended a week-long international Korean adoptee conference in Seoul, spent four days in Busan with friends, and met our relatives for the first time since leaving Korea. We met almost all of our biological father's side of the family: all three uncles and aunts, several first and second cousins, and a few relatives that I don't even remember how we were related. We also had the opportunity to visit our home city of Pohang and see the area where we used to live. Unfortunately, there was still no contact from our mother, so we didn't have the opportunity to see her while we were there.

The trip to Korea was both great and a little frustrating. Although this was my birthplace and home for the first four years of my life, I was like a foreigner in a country which I knew little about. The basic Korean language I knew from previous classes didn't get me very far, and I always had to relearn the language I knew from previous classes. I didn't get me very far, and I always had to relearn the language I knew from previous classes. However, I really enjoyed the trip, especially traveling with friends, eating all the great Korean food, experiencing the culture, and, of course, meeting my birth family again.

A few weeks after returning to the US, my brother and I received some surprising news. My family and adoption agency in Korea had found our birth mother. We also learned that she was re-married and we had a half sister and half brother. She sent us a couple photos and we have since exchanged emails. I hope to go back to Korea soon to meet her in person.

Today, in addition to my day job as Green Programs Director at the Asian American Civic Association (AACA), I serve as Treasurer for Boston Korean Adoptees, Inc. (BKA). BKA is an all-volunteer-run, all adoptee-run organization that provides social events and programs/services for adult Korean adoptees, as well as educational services to the general population about international and Korean adoption. Some of the things we've been involved with include an adoption film festival last fall, leading workshops at adoption conferences, collaborating with other adoptee groups, and offering regular events for our members such as social dinners and book club. BKA continues to grow and hopefully we will be able to expand our programs and services. My involvement in BKA and the Korean adoptee community in general has been a great experience, especially meeting all the diverse Korean adoptees from around the country and the world.

May is Asian American Heritage Month. Many Asian American adoptees feel a strong connection to the larger Asian American community. This would include the many American adoptees from Korea, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, India, and other Asian countries. To me, being Asian American means to be both Asian and American. It is not about one or the other, or some artificial litmus test to see if you're "Asian" enough or "American" enough. Rather, it's about how each of us uniquely blends the two parts to make ourselves. My personal story is one example of the wide variety of experiences that encompass what it means to be an Asian American. Every story is unique and different. Today, I am proud to stand up and say that I am an Asian American.