Roger Lau speaks up for all Americans as Sen. Warren’s chief of staff

BY LING-MEI WONG

Sen. Elizabeth Warren has emerged as a national leader, speaking out for women and against corporate greed. Often at the senator’s side is Roger Lau, her state director responsible for community outreach and managing her staff in Boston and Springfield.

“I’m making sure that residents in Massachusetts have a direct connection to the Senator and to Congress,” Lau said.

Lau was born and raised in New York City, the son of Chinese immigrants. They lived in Queens, with Lau helping out at the family store and going to Chinese school on weekends. After earning his bachelor’s degree in political science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Lau worked for then Sen. John Kerry and Gary Locke, the former U.S. ambassador to China from 2011 to 2014.

“I actually worked for Ambassador Locke when he was U.S. Secretary of Commerce where I was his chief of protocol,” Lau said. “I loved working at the Commerce Department to help foster stronger relationships with other nations through promoting American businesses. Secretary Locke’s family is from the same part of China that my family is from, so it was a true honor to visit with him.”

Lau and Locke’s families both come from Toishan, a city in Guangdong province in China.

“When I first started in Massachusetts politics, there were not many Chinese Americans or other Asian Americans involved in the political process,” Lau said. “At the time, it was difficult to find role models whose career paths I could follow. Now, I’m proud that we have had elected officials like Boston City Council president Michelle Wu, Quincy state Representative Tackey Chan, former Fitchburg Mayor Lisa Wong, and newly elected Quincy City Councilor Nina Li-ang representing our community in city halls and at the Statehouse. We still need to get more people in our community engaged, but we’ve built a very strong foundation.”

Lau urged Asian Americans to take action on issues or candidates they care about. “Asian Americans are Americans. The more we exercise our rights as Americans and get engaged in our communities, the more our voices will be a part of the American political discourse,” he said.

Boston’s Chinatown Atlas goes online

BY LING-MEI WONG

The Chinese Historical Society of New England (CHSNE) hosted a reception on May 23 for the Chinatown Atlas going online at the Massachusetts Historical Society. About 50 individuals attended the event.

The Chinatown Atlas was a 15-year effort by Tunney Lee, former MIT professor of architecture and urban planning, to document the origins of the Chinese in Boston and how they built Chinatown. Formerly displayed as traveling panels, the maps, photos, personal stories and oral history renderings are now part of an interactive website.

Lee’s research team included architect Randall Imai, CHSNE member David Chang, MIT students and many others.

The Chinatown Atlas website was unveiled May 23 at the Massachusetts Historical Society. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

The Chinatown Atlas can be viewed at http://chinatownatlas.mit.edu/. A public presentation will take place June 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Tufts Medical Center.

HENRY CHENG

波士頓市議員蔡美家於5月24日在Tip O’ Neill聯邦大樓亞太企業資源洽談會講話。中小企業局的伍少武在左邊聆聽。（圖片由Sara Brown攝。）
Golden Age Center holds gala

The Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center celebrated its annual gala May 25 at the China Pearl, gathering about 350 guests. Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center executive director Ruth Moy (left) and president Peter Chan (right) expressed thanks to Tufts Medical Center CEO Michael Wagner (center right) and director of community health improvement programs Sherry Dong (center left.) (Image courtesy of Mengyi Gong.)

People’s United Bank gives to AACA

People’s United Bank presented a $5,000 check for the Asian American Civic Association’s (AACA) Workforce Development Center on May 24. (From left:) AACA board president Yongmei Chen, People’s United Bank senior vice president Anthony Petrazzuoli, AACA board member Diana Jeong and AACA director of training programs Saraguh Phlah. (Image courtesy of Natalie Ornell.)

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Asian American Civic Association

People’s United Bank presents a $5,000 check for the AACA Workforce Development Center.

Golden Age Center celebrates its annual gala May 25 at the China Pearl in Somerville.

People’s United Bank branch at 495 Hancock Street in North Quincy.

The Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center celebrated its annual gala May 25 at the China Pearl, gathering about 350 guests. Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center executive director Ruth Moy (left) and president Peter Chan (right) expressed thanks to Tufts Medical Center CEO Michael Wagner (center right) and director of community health improvement programs Sherry Dong (center left.) (Image courtesy of Mengyi Gong.)

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People’s United Bank presents a $5,000 check for the AACA Workforce Development Center.

People’s United Bank branch at 495 Hancock Street in North Quincy.

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Fax: (617) 482-2316
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Ling-Mei Wong
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Cardiovascular disease workshop
Saturday, May 28, 10 a.m.
38 Oak Street
Boston, MA 02111
An interactive health workshop on cardiovascular disease will take place at the Metropolitan Community Room. Refreshments and coffee provided.

Flying Ink Workshop
Sunday, May 29, 7:30 p.m.
215 Wellesley Street
Boston, MA 02493
The Chinese Folk Art Workshop will host Flying Ink, a night of traditional Chinese performances and calligraphy. Tickets are $15. For more information, visit www.flyingink.org.

Executive mentoring session
Wednesday, May 31, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02210
A mentoring session with business executives will take place at the Federal Reserve. Get Connected! Boston’s premier inclusive business networking event, will provide an evening of mentoring and coaching. Register at www.getconnected.nsvkuvent.

China towns Committee meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 10:30 a.m.
821 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
The China Towns Committee meeting will take place at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

Free immigration clinic
Wednesday, June 1, 12 to 2 p.m.
1 City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201
The Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement offers free private immigration clinics at the Boston City Hall Room 806. For interpreters other than Spanish, please call at least one week in advance at (617) 635-2980.

Chinese K1 community meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 5 p.m.
885 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
A K1 Chinese sheltered English immersion classroom will be added to the Josiah Quincy Elementary School, with a community discussion to take place at the school auditorium. For information, call (617) 635-8487.

Hashem White Snake reading
Wednesday, June 1, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
38 Ash Street
Boston, MA 02111
A Chinese sheltered English immersion classroom will be added to the Josiah Quincy Elementary School, with a community discussion to take place at the school auditorium. For information, call (617) 635-8487.

Chinatown Resident Association meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 6:30 p.m.
885 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
The Chinatown Resident Association meeting will take place at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School cafeteria.

Children’s book reading
Friday, June 3, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Green Acres
Boston, MA 02111
Ruth Chan, children’s book author and illustrator, will read her latest book at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center.

Unity dinner
Friday, June 3, 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
775 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215
The Mass. Asian American Commission will hold its 10th Unity Dinner at Boston University’s Metcalf Hall at George Sherman Union. Tickets are $100. Register online at http://socy108crk.

Chinese painting class
June 7 to August 23, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
1509 Hancock Street, Suite 209
 Quincy, MA 02169
A basic Chinese painting class will be taught Tuesdays at Quincy Asian Resources. Tuition is $120. Register at (617) 472-2200 or qi@quincyasi-ansources.org.

Dragon Boat Festival
Sunday, June 12, Noon to 5 p.m.
948 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA 02138
The Boston Dragon Boat Festival will feature dragon boat races, cultural performances and food. For more information, visit http://bostondragon-boat.org.

Affordable Rental Opportunity
Congress Street Residences
46 units of Affordable Apartments
Studio, One-, Two-, Three- and Four-Bedroom units now accepting Applications for the Wait List
Deadline for completed applications: Monday, July 11, 2016, 6:00pm – 7:00pm
For Reasonable Accommodations:
At the NSPMI office during normal business hours
Via the mail by calling NSPMI Office at 978-745-4961 TTY 978-219-5100
Application may be obtained on the Web Site at www.northshorehousing.org
For more information, call (617) 542-2200 or 472-2200

Event Calendar

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**Congress Street Residences**

46 units of Affordable Apartments

- Studio, One-, Two-, Three- and Four-Bedroom units now accepting Applications for the Wait List

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**APPICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE WEB SITE AT www.northshorehousing.org OR At the NSPMI office during normal business hours OR Via the mail by Calling NSPMI Office at 978-745-4961 TTY 978-219-5100 OR At the following locations in the evening or on weekends:

- Salem Public Library
  - 370 Essex Street
  - Salem, MA 01970

- Applications for people with project-based subsidies and rents are limited to 30% of Income. These units will be allocated to 30% AMI households per the income limits listed above. There is also a preference for homeless households for 25% of units.

- The remaining 46 units have the following 2016 HUD MTSP Income Limits, typically revised annually.

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**APPICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT NSPMI OFFICE BY**

- For more information, call (617) 635-8487

- Call (617) 328-7860 for information or to make reservations

- Join us at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School, with a community discussion to take place at the school auditorium. For information, call (617) 635-8487.

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Short Waves took place May 25 at Tufts Medical Center. (Image courtesy of Yue Tang.)

BY YUE TANG

The sixth annual Short Waves short film competition took place May 25 at Tufts Medical Center. A total of 12 short films, including four finalists, were screened at the event. “Unspoken” by Amanda Huang won the award.

Huang’s film looked at the mental health crisis among Asian Americans and their identity crisis. “My video aims to bring attention to that through a personal narrator and to emphasize the importance of utilizing your voice,” she said.

Business fair celebrates Asians

BY SARA BROWN

Tackey Chan spoke at the AAPI Business Resource Fair on May 24. (Image courtesy of Sara Brown.)


The fair was organized to help small businesses access SBA programs.

“We want to make what we do more inclusive,” said Seth Goodall, SBA New England regional administrator. “Owning a business is the American dream.”

Nam Pham, assistant secretary of business development for Massachusetts said small business is crucial to the Asian community.

“That’s how we started our communities and families. Since we had to deal with language barriers, we couldn’t do anything else but start a business,” Pham said.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation invites you to attend a public meeting regarding:


TUESDAY, JUNE 7th : 6 PM
at Transportation Building – 10 Park Plaza
2nd Floor – Conference Rooms 1, 2 & 3

MassDOT is hosting our final community meeting to look into a potential redevelopment of MassDOT Parcels 25 & 26, located at 185 Kneeland Street, and the Veolia Energy steam power plant at 165 Kneeland Street.

At this meeting we will present the FINAL Guidelines and Invitation to Bid (ITB).

If you have any questions, please contact:
Jim Kersten
Legislative Liaison, MassDOT
email: James.A.Kersten@state.ma.us

The meeting space is accessible to people with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation (such as American Sign Language Interpreters, assistive listening devices, handouts in alternate formats, etc.) and/or language assistance to fully participate, please contact Jim Kersten at MassDOT at 857-368-9041 or james.a.kersten@state.ma.us before May 25, 2016. Such accommodations will be provided free of charge.

Chinatown meeting roundup: CCC, CNC

BY HONGYI GONG AND LING-MEI WONG

The Clean Up Chinatown Committee met at the Asian American Civic Association (AACA) on May 13.

Cigarette butt receptacles will be purchased by the Chinatown Business Association for every business in the neighborhood. The wall-mounted receptacles will be installed by the Building Energy Efficient Maintenance Skills students from the AACA.

CNC

The Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council held its monthly meeting at 90 Tyler Street on May 16.

Kevin Donahue, director of community affairs from the Boston Transportation Department, gave an update on Boston efforts to create a safer environment for pedestrians and bikers in Chinatown.

Donahue said safety changes will be considered, such as inclusive pedestrian traffic lights at the intersections of Kneeland Street and Kneeland Street. To implement the traffic lights, the Department will conduct a timing study and a traffic count at the intersections of Kneeland Street with Washington Street, Harrison Avenue and Tyler Street.

Keith Zhong will open a takeout restaurant called Tastry Café on 42 Beach Street, serving Hong Kong style food.

AACA educates community on undocumented immigrant rights

BY HONGYI GONG

The Asian American Civic Association (AACA) joins 20 other community organizations in the Boston area to educate immigrants on their rights, particularly undocumented immigrants. AACA received a grant for community outreach from the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA), formerly the Office of New Bostonians.

“That is an opportunity for immigrant communities,” said Chau-ning Lee, AACA executive director. The agency serves more than 3,000 clients a year through its Multi-Service Center, with staff fluent in Mandarin and Cantonese.

President Barack Obama announced executive actions for undocumented immigrants on Nov. 20, 2014. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of the United States for three years without fear of deportation. Eligible individuals can apply for both within 60 days. Led by Texas, 26 states brought a lawsuit against Obama’s executive actions, which have been temporarily halted. DACA applications following the 2012 guidelines are not affected. The Obama administration has appealed. A decision by the Supreme Court is expected by the end of June.

Josiah Quincy School expands pre-K

BY LING-MEI WONG

The Josiah Quincy Elementary School (JQES) will add two K1 classrooms in fall 2016, including a Chinese sheltered English immersion (SEI) classroom. The deadline for registration is June 10.

“We’re extremely excited to be expanding our early childhood education with two additional K1 classrooms,” said JQES interim principal Cynthia Soo Hoo.

The K1 classrooms are open to students who will turn 4 by Sept. 1. One classroom is open to students who will turn 5 by June 10. To find the closest BPS Welcome Center to register please visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/do main/280.

Part-time Bilingual Toddler Assistant Teacher Needed

The mission of BCNC is to ensure that the children, youth, and families we serve have the resources and supports they need to achieve greater economic success and social well-being.

BCNC Acorns is currently seeking for a part-time (20 hours per week) Bilingual Toddler Assistant Teacher. The Assistant Teacher works under the supervision of an EEC teacher who has been fluent in Chinese classrooms. The Assistant Teacher assists classroom teachers in the care of the children and the maintenance of the classroom.

Wage: Competitive salary with education and experience.

Qualifications:
Required: At least 18 years old. English/Cantonese speaking skills. Willing to enroll in a degree program working toward AA degree in Early Childhood Education if candidate does not have an AA degree. Must meet Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) health and background check requirements.
Preferred: Chinese speaking skills (Mandarin and Cantonese). EEC Infant/Toddler Teacher Certification. Experience working with toddlers in a bilingual setting. AA Degree in Early Childhood Education

Email resume and cover letter to jobs@bcnc.net

K1 classroom will be a general education class, while the other will be a Chinese SEI classroom for English language learners, Soo Hoo said. Parents can indicate whether they speak Cantonese, Mandarin or Toisanese at home; students will be supported by a team of staff who are fluent in all three Chinese dialects. The school has offered Chinese SEI classrooms for K2 to fifth grade, but this is the first time Chinese has been available for a K1 at JQES. Harvard/Kent Elementary School in Charlestown offers Chinese SEI for K1 to fifth grade.

Families who already have a K1 school assignment at a Boston Public School (BPS) may register for the new SEI-Chinese option at JQES. They will not lose their seat at another school if their child is not accepted to the SEI-Chinese classroom.

Parents who have questions can email the school at jqes@bostonpublicschools.org or call JQES: 617-427-5600.

The JQES Pre-K program offers Chinese first-language classes in Mandarin and Cantonese. BCNC offers a dual language immersion program for students in kindergarten. Pre-K and English immersion (SEI) classrooms for K1 to fifth grade.

Email resume and cover letter to jobs@bcnc.net
MBTA NOTICE TO BIDDERS

- Electronic proposals for the following project will be received through the internet using Bid Express until the date and time stated below, and will be posted on www.bidx.com forthwith after the bid submission deadline.

- No paper copies of bids will be accepted.

- Bidders must have a valid digital ID issued by the Authority in order to bid on projects.

- Bidders need to apply for a digital ID with Bid Express at least 14 days prior to a scheduled bid opening date.

- Submitted at www.bidx.com until two o’clock (2:00 p.m.) on June 21, 2016.

- Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

Additional information and instructions on how to submit a bid are available at http://www.mbta.com/business_center/bidding_solicitations/current_solicitations/

Extended: May 19, 2016

MBTA Contract No. U90CN01, SYSTEMWIDE TANK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM, CLASS 10 - MECHANICAL, PROJECT VALUE - $3,252,070.00.

New website shows education pathway

BY RICHARD GOLDBERG

Since 2010, the education and training providers in Boston's Chinatown have produced a list of English classes, job training programs and other educational offerings. That information is now available electronically at www.chinatownpathway.wix.com/boston. The purpose of the website is to give member organizations of The Chinatown Coalition (TCC) and the people whom they serve a more complete picture of the variety of education and training programs that are available. The website clearly maps out a pathway of English classes, training programs, college transitions classes, citizenship preparation classes and employment opportunities so that all Chinatown community stakeholders can see the various steps that lead to better jobs with family-sustaining employment and benefits.

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The Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association hosted a Family Night on May 21 at Newton’s F.A. Day Middle School, featuring performances of Chinese music, dance, chorus and folk arts.

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) hosted its second annual Savor the Flavor event on May 21 at the Quincy Center for Innovation. The fundraiser, sponsored by Tufts Medical Center and South Cove Community Health Center, was a celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Proceeds from the event support BCNC Quincy’s family-centered programs for youth, adults and families.

“We believe that every family has the capacity in them to thrive, but they just need access to the right supports. We hope that we could provide those supports,” said Giles Li, executive director of BCNC. “When immigrants and families are able to participate fully in this society, all of us will benefit.”

Host Joy Lim Nakrin of NECN/NBC Boston warmly welcomed guests of all ages to “Savor the Flavor” and encouraged everyone to sample the Asian cuisine from local restaurants. Hungry guests enjoyed sushi from JP Fuji Group and Royal Hot Pot and Sushi Bar, fried spring rolls from Saigon Alley, Hong Kong egg puffs from Vivi Bubble Tea, and various teas from MEM Tea and Tea-Do. Other participating restaurants included Chicken and Rice Guys, Sherry-A-Punjab, and Book Your Staff.

Program event co-chairs Russell Chin and Lori Wirkus delivered the opening remarks and thanked the sponsors for their support and dedication to BCNC. Guests heard testimonies from current participants of the BCNC Quincy programs and learned how their lives were positively impacted by the organization’s efforts.

Bright green and orange PlayCubes livened up the Greenway, being officially unveiled on May 19 next to the Chinatown Gate. The blocks are provided by Playworld, based on designs for cuboctahedrons by play expert Richard Dattner.

“It’s been a real pleasure working with Richard,” said Playworld play advocate Missy Benson, a landscape architect. “This is the first installation in the world.” The PlayCubes are temporarily installed until Columbus Day.
Bay Cove serves community with compassionate counseling

BY SARA BROWN

Bay Cove Human Services has served the community for more than 50 years. Its mission is to improve the quality of the lives of individuals and their families who face the lifelong challenges of developmental disabilities, aging, mental illness and drug and alcohol addiction. The nonprofit agency’s staff accomplish this mission by providing effective and compassionate services and through advocacy and leadership.

“We are one of the state’s largest human services providers... Bay Cove specializes in providing a continuum of drug and alcohol addiction services, including substance abuse prevention, detoxification, short-term residential programming, individual and group counseling, and outpatient treatment for opiate addiction. ‘Our services are available to anyone looking for help,’ said senior vice president of services Nancy Mahan.

Bay Cove also helps those who suffer from mental illness. It offers a wide range of services to help people with varying needs, such as outpatient, day treatment, educational and residential treatment. Bay Cove currently has two residential treatment home for Asian males with mental illness, among its many options, Mahan said. ‘We have staff members who know various languages so people shouldn’t have to worry about not being able to be understood,’ Mahan said.

Mahan believes what makes Bay Cove special is the individual care it provides. ‘We are a big believer in having patients in the driver’s seat. We want them to feel like they are in control of their treatment,’ she said. Bay Cove cares deeply about its patients.

‘We are known for going the extra mile,’ Mahan said. ‘If there is a treatment that someone needs and it isn’t out there, we will create it. People don’t want to be in treatment. They want to have jobs, friends and a family.’

Bay Cove was the first in the area to create a detox center for individuals struggling with addiction and mental illness.

Another population Bay Cove serves is the elderly. Mahan said, ‘If there is a treatment that someone needs and it isn’t out there, we will create it. People don’t want to be in treatment. They want to have jobs, friends and a family.’

Bay Cove cares deeply about its patients. ‘We help make sure they still feel connected to their community,’ Mahan said.

For more information, visit www.baycove.org.

Bilingual myth busters: ‘My child mixes languages when she speaks — is she confused?’

BY SHIRLEY HUANG, SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

It is normal for children to mix languages as they are learning them. This normal phenomenon is called “code switching”. Code switching involves switching between two or more languages in a conversation. Children may switch to another language to replace a word, phrase or sentence. For example, the child may ask, ‘Mommy, when are we going to ‘yum tcha’ with ‘cum-cum’? (Mommy, when are we going to dim sum with grandma?)

Code switching is part of the natural development of learning two languages. It is rare for children to be equally fluent in both languages. Expecting a bilingual child to show equally distributed vocabulary knowledge in each language is not realistic. The child may have grown up hearing a word in one language, but another word in another language. For example, the child may only know the word “rice” in Cantonese because she and her family eat rice for dinner every night. But she only learned the word “piza” in English because she goes to the local pizza place with her friends after school.

Additionally, the child’s environment and the people in it will influence how and when the child switches languages. If the child usually speaks Cantonese to her dad, she may naturally include some English phrases, depending on the topic of conversation. She might say, ‘Babi! Ngho ci doh la! (Daddy! I’m late!) Dance class starts soon and I can’t find my ballet shoes!’

Bay Cove Human Services has served the community for more than 50 years. Its mission is to improve the quality of the lives of individuals and their families who face the lifelong challenges of developmental disabilities, aging, mental illness and drug and alcohol addiction. The nonprofit agency’s staff accomplish this mission by providing effective and compassionate services and through advocacy and leadership.

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Op-ed: Asians add diversity to the Statehouse

BY THE MASS. HOUSE ASIAN AMERICAN CAUCUS

In May, we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islanders’ contributions to our community. Asian Americans are the single most diverse demographic in Massachusetts. They are also the fastest growing demographic with a population of 349,768, according to the United States 2010 Census. This is a 46.9 percent increase from 2000 to 2010 and represents 5.3 percent of the population. In Massachusetts has a long history with Asia. Chinese were on tea ships in Salem during the colonial era and settled in Massachusetts in 1780. In 1841, the first Japanese immigrant to the United States lived in Fairhaven. Today, Lowell and Lynn are home to the second and third largest Cambodian populations in the United States. These are only a small number of examples of the many different Asian nationalities that live in Massachusetts and how they contribute to our history.

Three Asian Americans were elected to the House of Representatives in 2010 for the first time in history. Currently there are five Asian Americans in the House of Representatives, the first Japanese, the first female, the first Cambodian, the first Vietnamese, and the first Chinese. This marks incredible growth and is the beginning of increasing diversity at the Statehouse. We believe in a bright future for Asian Americans in Massachusetts and are dedicated to helping make that happen. Each of us face our own unique struggles and are willing to share our experiences with others to show that they are not alone. We persevere and work hard with hopes of being recognized for who we are and what we do, not the color of our skin. The House Asian American Caucus is bipartisan in representation. It is focused on celebrated our differences in culture and educating others about our unique histories. It is about working hard to achieve success and overcoming barriers so we can help others broaden the diversity of the House of Representatives. The House Asian American Caucus is honored by the opportunity to represent our constituents and we are optimistic about increasing our voices in the future.

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We Value Inclusion Every Day.

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