

October 6, 2011

Fall Quarter Newsletter, Number 1

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Congratulations:

Tom Chung & Jeff Gao for their appointment to the Governor's Asian Advisory Council

Important ACA Dates

- Nov. 16 ACA Board Meeting

ACA Focus Areas

- Awareness
- Collaboration
- Advocacy
- Development

ACA Board

Arlene de Silva
Pratima Bekal
Jennifer Nagrath
Mala Patel
Chandra Prasad
Anoop Brar
Angie Tee Pang
Jenny Lin
Phetmany Brower
Mae Fang
Kirti Rege

Happy Autumn ACA Members!

Here are some Autumn fun facts:

- The most intense of fall color occurs in areas such as New England, with almost pure stands of a few types of trees, such as maples and birches, that all turn color at the same time during the short fall season.
- Leaves have just as much yellow pigment (xanthophylls) in July when they are green as they do in October when they are yellow. In July the darker green pigment (chlorophyll) masks the yellow color.
- The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1,140 pounds.
- The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake.



2011 Needs Assessment:



An active member in the Asian Community, Dr. Tom Chung, PhD, is a recognized advocate for driving awareness about health within the Greater Cincinnati Community and the State of Ohio. Raised in Hong Kong, Dr. Chung recognized his passion for helping his fellow Asians in his collegiate years. He noticed the world going through an economic transition and disparities between the richer and the poor were growing with the poor having little to no voice. Dr. Chung has dedicated his life to better understanding and educating people about the misnomer of the Asian Community and the larger enclaves that make up the broader community. "Policy makers and Community Advocates alike focus solely on the lower demographic of new immigrants disproportionately to the immigrants that currently reside here... There are two polar images of Asians within the community: The poor and uneducated who are doing manual labor and the affluent well educated individuals." The needs assessment shines light on these two different groups as well as the growing differences between the new immigrants and the next generation of naturalized Asians. The diseases previously not common in Asia are growing within our residential communities and there is little to document it. The needs assessment is the first book to identify the needs within a cross cultural sample. "The best way to advocate is through scientific study." Dr. Chung stated as the perception of a homogenous community is flawed, and by beginning to peel back the different layers of the onion, we are able to educate and drive awareness amongst the communities.

Book for purchase on ACA website: *Click on the 'Book icon'*

Related Links

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Founder's Corner: Dorothy O'Brien



Why did you want to start ACA?

To bring the "voices" of Asians /Pacific Islanders to the forefront. With an overriding neutral organization that could bring together the various Asian Communities in the Greater Cincinnati area, the interests and needs of Asian/Pacific Islander populations could be defined, vocalized, quantified, understood and creative solutions to issues could be found.

What was the need you wanted to address within Greater Cincinnati area?

Anu Mitra (one of the four founders) had done some qualitative research which underscores existing issues of health, domestic violence and economic inequality for Asian populations. One of the glaring findings was that social service, medical and governmental agencies already existed to help solve each issue that was found but that existing agencies had no experience or understanding of how to service Asian/Pacific Islander populations. ACA was formed to be the bridge between existing program/service agencies helping them to best serve Asian/Pacific Islander populations. Dr. Beth Roessler (another of the four founders) helped to interface with local agencies and to clearly define how to develop viable approaches to issues.

One of the first events that ACA offered was cultural training for social service, medical, police, legal and other governmental agencies. This training helped to bring forward some of the complexities associated with working with Asian/Pacific Islander populations. In some cases, this was the first exposure to Asian approaches that agencies had experienced. In addition, this led to the development of the organization currently known as the Alliance for Immigrant Women (AIW). At the time ACA was associated with the YWCA and saw the need to help develop this approach and helped in the initial work in this area.

What did you hope to bring to both Asian Communities and Greater Cincinnati?

As awareness grew among Asian populations in the Greater Cincinnati area, ACA offered a method for these populations to voice their opinions. The Asian Forum was developed and continues today to provide a means for Asians throughout the area to come together to discuss various issues within the Communities. As each Forum closes, ACA uses these discussions to help focus its work so as to service the needs of the local area. ACA also address specific issues by finding the resources within the community which best solve problems and help them to service Asian/Pacific Islanders.

For the Greater Cincinnati area, ACA has meant a greater understanding of Asian and Pacific Islander issues and concerns. It has brought a richer understanding of the diversity in the area.

What is your ideal vision for the organization?

ACA remains as a lean and flexible organization which takes the lead in improving the lives of the Asian Populations in the Greater Cincinnati area using existing resources.

ACA needs to continue to bring together the various Asian/Pacific Islander communities when issues warrant work across communities and to solve issues by finding ways that enable existing social, governmental, medical, legal and other agencies to fully service the Asian/Pacific Islander populations in the area.

Census 2010 Information

- Over the past 10 yrs, the Asian population has grown by an incredible 38%
- In Warren County, Asians are the largest minority making up 4%
- Asian's now represent 2% of Ohio's total population.

Upcoming Events: In the Asian Community

1. *Columbus International Festival November 5th & 6th*
2. *PGITI – Bully Proofing Youth Program November 8th*
3. *Cultural Competency Seminars at Islamic Center November 17th & 18th*
4. *GCCC Free Concert November 21st 2011*

For more information, please visit our Community Calendar.

Thanks for reading!

Please forward your big news and pictures to JP Mamuric (Execdirector@acacinci.org) for all future newsletters.