



Voices

The National Asian Pacific Center on Aging

AASCSC Cancer Control Program



Since its establishment in August 2000, the Cancer Control Program of the Asian American Senior Citizens Service Center (AASCSC) has devotedly served the Chinese American community in Orange County. Although the program has implemented projects that concentrate on different types of cancer commonly found among Chinese Americans, breast health has always been a major focus of the program. Currently, AASCSC's Cancer Control Program organizes year-round free screening events in collaboration with Nhan Hoa Community Clinic to link low-income, uninsured or underinsured Chinese American women over age 40 to breast cancer screening or re-screening services through the Every Woman Counts and the Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment

(Family PACT) programs. The program also reaches out to Chinese female workers over age 40 at Chinese restaurants in Orange County to provide them with free or low-cost breast cancer screening resources and breast health information. In addition, the program provides breast health education supported by the Chinese American medical doctors to the Chinese American women over age 40 in Orange County to promote breast cancer screening through working together with their high school and college age children as an intergenerational approach as well as through community-based educational workshops. Furthermore, the program provides support services to Chinese American breast cancer patients, survivors, and families in Orange County through facilitating Chinese cancer

support group meetings and activities and offering in-language information and community resources.

The target population for this program is uninsured or underinsured Chinese American women over age 40 residing in Orange County, primarily in Anaheim, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, South Orange County and Irvine. Presently, AASCSC is the only organization in Orange County that dedicates a comprehensive cancer control program specifically to serve the local Chinese American community. The program staff and volunteers possess the language ability and cultural sensitivity to effectively deliver services to the Chinese American population. Over the years, the Cancer Control Pro-

Please see "AASCSC" on page 5

Executive Corner



By Christine Takada,
President and CEO

Dear Friends of NAPCA:

As you may have read in past newsletters, NAPCA has recently completed the first strategic business plan in its 32 year history, with funding from The Atlantic Philanthropies and support from Root Cause consulting group. This plan is a culmination of extensive discussions with key stakeholders including: Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community leaders, partner agencies and potential partner agencies, representatives of national aging organizations, and focused deliberation among NAPCA's Board of Directors and senior staff.

The social problem as defined during this process is that Asian American and Pacific Islander elders suffer from a diminished quality of life because they do not have access to and equity in the services, benefits, and programs that are available to all American senior citizens.

As the only national service and advocacy organization committed to the dignity, well-being, and quality of life of AAPI elders, NAPCA is stepping up to improve our effectiveness in advocating on behalf of low-income AAPI elders by enacting the following strategies:

- Developing stronger collaborations with key community-based and leading national organizations that support the best interests of low-income AAPI elders
- Establishing and implementing a focused research, knowledge, and education agenda to support positive policy outcomes
- Providing bi-partisan advocacy to inform and educate stakeholders of AAPI elders' needs

- Establishing and strengthening the NAPCA brand
- Diversifying funding sources to ensure long-term sustainability

We have since received a second grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies to implement these strategies, which we will do in the coming two years. We thank over 600 AAPI community based organizations for their input in this process, and will rely on your continued feedback as we implement this plan. We look forward to working with many of you in our collective efforts to improve the quality of life for all low-income AAPI elders.

Sincerely,

Christine

Fight the Flu

Flu season is here. Protect yourself with a free flu shot. Seniors are at much greater risk of developing medical problems if they get the flu. Fortunately Medicare Part B beneficiaries can get a flu shot for free from their doctor, pharmacy or clinic. Remember GET A FLU SHOT NOT THE FLU!

Massachusetts Older Worker

September 18-24, 2011 was National Employ Older Workers Week. In celebration of this week, an event was held at the Massachusetts State House on September 22, 2011. The event discussed the current situation of older workers in the job market and recognized those who are working to highlight the contributions of older workers to the workforce.

Ann Hartstein, Secretary of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, and Joanne Goldstein, Secretary of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, hosted the event. Two hundred people attended the celebration that recognized and honored agencies, SCSEP providers, and SCSEP participants. More than 50 SCSEP participants and staff from the Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center (GBCGAC), NAPCA's SCSEP subcontractor in Massachusetts, attended this celebration. The event addressed the contributions of older workers to our soci-



ety with their experience, education, talent, and maturity.

Workers aged 55 and older are the fastest growing segment of the American workforce. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 41% of Americans aged 55 and older will be employed in 2014, making up over 21% of the nation's labor force. Older Americans will play an increasingly important role in maintaining the stabilization of the economy and American leadership in the world marketplace.

Though older workers have many valuable advantages, they face significant challenges when entering the labor market and looking for a job. The

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) assists low-income older adults, aged 55 years and above with limited employment prospects, to obtain training and secure a job. SCSEP participants receive subsidized employment training while providing community service at local non-profit organizations. GBCGAC recognized one of its training providers, South Cove Community Health Center, for its dedication to assisting older AAPI workers.

Older workers are valuable economic contributors, and employers who develop strategies to recruit and employ them will benefit as their presence will only increase in the years to come.

Marcelina Poss Fronda



Each weekday, Marcelina Poss Fronda locks the door to her small but tidy apartment in Seattle's Pike Place Market Senior Housing to make the three block trek to her job at NAPCA Headquarters. Mrs. Fronda, or Nena as she is affectionately known in the office, is a Fiscal Assistant in the Accounting Department. She's

been with NAPCA since 1994 when she was enrolled in the SCSEP training program. She was hired full time shortly after completing her training and began working for the Seattle SCSEP Project office. In 1997, she was hired to work for the Accounting department where she works full time to this day doing a variety of clerical tasks and assisting the accountants.

Mrs. Fronda was born Marcelina Cinco in Samar, Philippines in 1925 and like many families, the Cincos sought economic opportunities in the big city. In the Philippines, there was no bigger city than Manila. The Cincos moved there in 1941 when World

War II engulfed the Philippines, not the most promising beginning for a young family. Nevertheless, they survived the War, and shortly after the War's end, young Marcelina Cinco met a soldier, Godofredo Fronda. They married in 1947 and decided to remain in Manila to raise a family. Shortly after her marriage, Mrs. Fronda began her forty year career with the Bureau of Education, interrupted only by the births of their three children and a return to school to get a degree in Education.

After retiring, Mrs. Fronda heard about a program for Filipino War Vet-

Please see "Nena" on page 4

2011 SCSEP Annual Training



The NAPCA Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) held its annual training from September 28th to September 30th, 2011 in Seattle, WA, with all nine project sites represented by their project directors. Employment and Training Specialist Craig Riggs, from Washington State's WorkSource office in Renton, was invited to speak during the training. Mr. Riggs shared his experiences working with the NAPCA

SCSEP Seattle project site and AAPI older workers. Joyce Welsh, a training consultant for the Department of Labor, was invited to provide updates to NAPCA staff about the SCSEP Program, in addition to information about contemporary issues in SCSEP and job development for participants. Boston Project Director Kun Chang discussed supportive service for participants. As in previous years, project directors shared

their best practices with one another.

The training concluded with the SCSEP awards ceremony. NAPCA's Board of Directors, the Executive Directors for the SCSEP subcontractors, and SCSEP staff were in attendance. All project sites were recognized for having achieved all SCSEP performance goals during Program Year 2010 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011).

Upcoming News

NAPCA staff will present several workshops at the American Society on Aging (ASA) 2012 Aging in America Conference. The ASA conference will be held in Washington, DC from March 28 to April 1.

Christine Takada, President & CEO, will participate with other minority aging organizations on two panels: "Advocacy Issues in Communities of Color" and "ACA: Impact on Multicultural Older Adults and Their Families".

Eun Jeong Lee, SCSEP National Di-

rector, and Kun Chang, NAPCA SCSEP Boston Project Director will present the workshop "Shaping the Diversity of an Aging Workforce: Is Our Society Ready?"

Alula Jimenez Torres, Healthy Aging Program Manager, will co-present two workshops: "Chronic Disease Self-Management Program for Asian American and Pacific Islander Older Adults" and "Increasing Organizational Capacity to Serve and Promote the Well-Being of Diverse Older Adults".

"Nena", continued from page 3

erans sponsored by the United States that allowed Filipinos who served in the U.S. Army during World War II to come to the United States and gain U.S. citizenship. With the kids grown and a new beginning beckoning, the Frondas packed up and moved to the United States. Their youngest child, a daughter, later joined them.

In addition to her work with NAPCA, Mrs. Fronda keeps her mind sharp by solving crossword puzzles and watching TV. She attends church almost every day and loves to cook Filipino desserts for her friends.

SEE Recognition Events in Oregon



NAPCA hosted its biennial recognition and appreciation event for Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) Enrollees working at the EPA's Western Ecology Division (WED) in August 2011. Connie Meyers, NAPCA SEE Program National Director, and Lois Kohashi-Sinclair, NAPCA SEE Region 10 Project Director, presented a certificate of appreciation and a small gift to each Enrollee.

In Corvallis, SEE Monitors had many words of praise for their thirteen Enrollees, who provide critical and timely support for their research projects. Margo Kosoff, the EPA WED SEE Coordinator, also thanked the Mon-

itors for their extra efforts to ensure that the SEE program operates smoothly. Lunch was provided by NAPCA, and enjoyed by all.

Out on the Oregon Coast, at the Pacific Coastal Ecology Branch of WED in Newport, Connie and Lois met with the five Enrollees and their Monitors. Normally a very stable group of Enrollees, exceptional turnover meant that there were three Enrollees who had started within the previous six weeks! All Monitors and Enrollees were recognized for their adaptability and teamwork during these staffing transitions, and a lovely breakfast was shared by everyone.

"AASCSC", contined from front page

gram has been committed to enhancing access to breast cancer screening and re-screening services among low-income, uninsured or underinsured Chinese American women over age 40 in Orange County. More than 1,900 free clinical breast exams and mammograms have been received by low-income, uninsured or underinsured Chinese American women over age 40 through AASCSC's ongoing screening events. In an effort to eliminate linguistic barriers, bilingual staff and volunteers are available at the screening events to assist participants in completing forms and

to act as their language interpreters. Furthermore, AASCSC has begun its effort in 2009 to eliminate transportation barriers by arranging taxi services for women who experience transportation difficulties to participate in the screening events.

To raise awareness of early detection of breast cancer, around 2,100 Chinese Americans in Orange County have received education or information on breast health through AASCSC's educational events and outreach activities as well as volunteers' outreach efforts. Furthermore, around

The Recognition ceremonies are especially important to NAPCA as it is our opportunity to tell our Enrollees how much we appreciate the amazing work that they do for the EPA and their communities. We are so proud of all of their accomplishments and their dedication to the EPA, and to the programs that they support. This is our chance to thank them in one small way for the effort that they give every day. We are very proud of our Enrollees in Corvallis and Newport, and we always look forward to these meetings and the opportunity to say "Thank you" to them!

70 Chinese American breast cancer patients, survivors, and families in Orange County have received services, joined support group meetings, or attended survivors' events provided by AASCSC. The organization has established successful collaborations with Chinese faith-based organizations, Chinese language schools, Chinese-based senior associations, clubs, and community groups, senior centers, health organizations, and local healthcare providers to implement numerous cancer control activities to serve the Chinese American population in Orange County.

Reinvesting in Older Workers (ROW)

Since May 2010, the Seattle SCSEP office has partnered with the Seattle/King County Workforce Development Council (WDC) on the Reinvesting in Older Workers (ROW) project. ROW is a grant funded by the US Department of Labor, and is designed to assist older adults with disabilities, limited English proficiency, low income, or ex-offender status, transition back into employment in the areas of health care, energy efficiency/green jobs, and information technology. Funded training opportunities are available to ROW participants through Seattle area community colleges and One-Stop career center WorkSource sites across King County, with the intent of enhancing participants' job skills for the targeted employment sectors.



The Seattle SCSEP Project has ten participants co-enrolled in both SCSEP and ROW. At the end of August, six of these participants were given the opportunity to attend a two-week basic computer course at the Renton WorkSource office. The course covered technology and social networking, Microsoft Word and Excel, and featured a finance and internet se-

curity capstone. The curriculum was tailored to assist these seniors in effectively utilizing current technology in their job search and improve their employment prospects. The class was a tremendous success - both Renton WorkSource and the Seattle SCSEP office received many compliments from those who participated in the two-week course.

SCSEP Success Story: Ming Fen Guisande

Ming Fen (Christine) Guisande came to the United States in the summer of 1984 with dreams of running a successful business. She first immigrated to San Francisco, California with her family and stayed there for six months before moving to New York. While she was in New York, she worked for a restaurant where she had a chance to gain work experience and learn English. Then she and her family moved to Florida, and Ms. Guisande started her own jewelry business. After her husband became ill, she left Florida and moved to Houston. When she moved to Houston, she could not continue her business because it was very hard for her to start a business in a new city.

Feeling discouraged, Ms. Guisande heard from a friend about the different services that the Chinese Community Center (CCC) in Houston of-



ferred, and she went to check to see if there were classes for people who wanted to learn new skills. She found out about the NAPCA Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) program while she was at CCC. Ms. Guisande expressed interest in working with and helping people because she has a lot of patience. After enrolling in SCSEP, she was placed in the Senior Department at CCC, and though it was different from working in her own business,

she was able to learn office skills like how to answer phones, use the computer and other office equipment, and file paperwork. In addition to her employment training through SCSEP, she was able to take computer and resume building classes offered at CCC. She became very familiar with the services and programs at CCC through her training. After training at CCC for only eight months, CCC hired her for a very high-volume energy assistance program where she has lots of opportunities to assist clients and use her customer service skills. Ms. Guisande said, "It was very different to learn these new skills, but it helped me to get the job I have now so I am grateful that I had an opportunity to be in the SCSEP program." She hopes the skills that she has learned will help her to start a business in Houston in the future.

NAPCA Welcomes New Board Members

Emir C. Abinion, Anna Eriko Crosslin, Yvonne L. Tatsuno, and Bernarda Lo Wong recently joined NAPCA's Board of Directors. "Emir, Anna, Yvonne, and Bernarda will provide strong guidance and expertise from the business and non-profit sectors," said NAPCA Board Chair Patricia Saiki. "By adding them to the board, NAPCA has strengthened its ability to serve Asian American and Pacific Islander seniors as our organization moves forward and continues to grow. We are excited about these additions to the board and we welcome each to the NAPCA family."

Emir C. Abinion

Mr. Abinion is currently President and Owner of Fox Valley Automotive Group, consisting of Volkswagen, Buick, and GMC dealerships in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago, and previous President and Owner of Landmark Ford of Niles, which was ranked 13th largest minority-owned firm in Illinois by Crain's Chicago Business in 2004. Mr. Abinion is a Founder of the American Eagle Bank and past President of the Asian American Alliance of Chicago.



Emir C. Abinion

Anna Crosslin

Ms. Crosslin is President and CEO of the International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis. Born in Tokyo, Japan, she came to the United States at the age of two, with her Japanese mother and U.S. born father who was in the U.S. Air Force. Since 1983, she has resided in the Shaw Neighborhood, near the heart of St. Louis' growing International District.



Anna Crosslin

Bernarda Wong

Ms. Wong is founder and president of the Chinese American Service League (CASL) in Chicago, Illinois. CASL is the largest and most comprehensive social service agency serving Chinese Americans in the Midwest and, under Ms. Wong's leadership, grew from a one-person endeavor in 1978 to an organization with a budget of over \$11 million. She spearheaded the initiative to build a \$6.7 million Senior Housing facility as well as CASL's new facility, the Kam L. Liu Building, a community service center located adjacent to the Senior Housing facility in Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood.



Bernarda Wong

Yvonne Tatsuno

Ms. Tatsuno is currently Assistant Controller and Director of Accounting for Blue Shield of California. Originally from Hawaii, Ms. Tatsuno earned her BA and MBA from the University of Hawaii, and is a member of the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants. Ms. Tatsuno has worked with AMFAC Inc., Deloitte & Touche, and McKesson Corporation before joining the San Francisco office of Blue Shield of California. Ms. Tatsuno volunteers her time to Episcopal Community Services, a non-profit dedicated to providing dignified solutions to San Francisco's homeless population. She currently serves on ECS's Finance Committee and was Vice President and Treasurer of the ECS board through May 2011.



Yvonne Tatsuno

NAPCA Voices is a publication of
the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)
Editor: Angelo Locsin
Questions or Comments?
(206) 624-1221 or angelo@napca.org
Visit us on the web www.napca.org

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging
Melbourne Tower, Suite 914
1511 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Change service requested

NAPCA Board of Directors

- The Hon. Patricia Saiki, Chair (Honolulu, HI)
- David Cohen, Vice-Chair (Los Angeles, CA)
- The Hon. Ruby G. Moy, Secretary (Washington, DC)
- John Q. Duong, Chair Emeritus (Irvine, CA)
- Emir Abinion (Chicago, IL)
- Anna Crosslin (St. Louis, MO)
- David L. Kim (Washington, DC)
- Yvonne Tatsuno (San Francisco, CA)
- Bernarda Wong (Chicago, IL)
- Pablo Wong (San Francisco, CA)
- Jon Yasuda (Chicago, IL)

Christine Takada, President and CEO

Donate to NAPCA through the Combined Federal Campaign: #28582 for federal employees; #26368 for California state employees; #1480406 for Washington state employees.



The NAPCA Board



NAPCA Board members meet with the staff of Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center, Inc



NAPCA Board Chair Patricia Saiki honoring former Board Chair John Q. Duong for his service 6/4/11 in Orange County

The NAPCA Helpline provides Medicare assistance with generous support from the Walmart Foundation



Non-profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit #1283
