



Phoenix

New York Asian Women's Center

Admin: 212-732-0054 Hotline: 1-888-888-7702 Website: www.nyawc.org

Winter/Spring
2007

Fall 2006 Gala Honors Former Board Chair, Kyung Yoon, for Her Years of Service to NYAWC

Reported by Supriya Srinidhi, Volunteer

The New York Asian Women's Center celebrated its 24th anniversary with a fall benefit gala on October 12, 2006, at the Prince George Ballroom in Manhattan. In true gala style, more than 300 guests had a grand time, all in support of ending domestic violence. With many donations, a silent auction, and a raffle, the event raised more than \$120,000.

The evening started with an appearance by anchorwoman Connie Chung as Mistress of Ceremonies. Additionally, other prominent Asian American television journalists were present, such as Juju Chang, Cindy Hsu, and Ti-Hua Chang. As the night went on, entertainment was provided by Woody Pak (composer of the musical version of Ang Lee's *The Wedding Banquet* and *The Grace Lee Project*), and Julie Danao.

This year's event honored Kyung Yoon, who recently stepped down as board chair. Throughout her more than a

decade of service to NYAWC, Kyung has raised awareness and support in the Asian American community in the fight against domestic violence. She has been a tireless advocate for the rights of women and children for them to govern their own lives, free from abuse. Under her leadership, NYAWC has grown in its influence and capacity, more than quadrupling its budget, staffing, and shelter space. One of the highlights of the gala was bestowing on Kyung the Phoenix Award for Service, given to those who have significantly raised awareness about domestic violence and have made an impact on combating violence against women.

Throughout the awards, speeches, and entertainment, the guests visited the silent auction tables and the raffle table in hopes of winning one of many prizes. Thanks to the sponsors and the guests, the gala auction and raffle combined raised over \$120,000 for the New York Asian Women's Center!



Donna Lee-Board Chair, Kyung Yoon-Former Board Chair, and Tuhina De O'Connor-Executive Director at the 2006 Gala

Brooklyn Law Fundraiser

Reported by Joan Ferng, Volunteer

The Asian-American Law Students Association (AALSA) of Brooklyn Law School and the Legal Association for Women (LAW) held a fundraiser in November 2006. The groups donated proceeds from the event at the Brazen Head bar to NYAWC for educational books for OurSpace, NYAWC's vocational and educational center.

Board of Directors

Carrie Bowers
Robert M. Chang
Gladys Chen
Joan R. Cheng
Julie Kim
Donna H. Lee, Esq.
Jessica Lee
Rufina J. Lee
Julian Liao
Brigitte Pak-Noh, Esq.
Aparna Saha
Karen Wang
Jia-Lu Yin

Save the Date!

25th Anniversary Benefit Gala

When:

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Where:

Tribeca Rooftop
2 Desbrosses Street
New York, NY 10013



Join us to celebrate NYAWC's 25 years of empowering women and children to live free of violence.

For more information visit www.nyawc.org or
contact cmulligan@nyawc.org

Please use

GoodSearch.com to search
the Internet.

Every time you do, donation
money goes to NYAWC.

The site is powered by
Yahoo!, so you'll get the
same quality search.

Spotlight on New Board Members

Julian Liao

Reported by Eudie Pak, Volunteer

In December 2006, Julian Liao became one of NYAWC's newest board members. Currently an Executive Director at JPMorgan, Julian will play a major role in the finance and fundraising committees at the center. He is also excited and honored about being the co-chair of the 25th Anniversary Benefit Gala and says he looks forward to the event, which represents such an important milestone for the organization.

For many years, Julian has been an active member of New York's Asian American community. One of his roles is serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors for a nonprofit organization called the Asian Professional Extension, Inc. (APEX), which focuses on helping inner-city Asian American youth in the New York City area.

"The mission of NYAWC is so important and the organization serves a vital role in the Asian American community in New York City. I have been so impressed with the staff and fellow board members that I have had the privilege to interact with thus far" Julian says. "Most importantly, it is evident that everyone is passionate about what they do day-in and day-out to make a difference."

Julian has already been able to visit the shelters and learn about the upcoming programs that the center has devised, which he found to be an eye-opening experience. "The second you step foot in a shelter and see the women and children that the center is helping, your perspective changes immediately."

When he is not working hard or volunteering, Julian enjoys playing golf with his wife, Clara, and spending time with his 3-year old son, Colin.

Aparna Saha

Reported by Shriya Bhargava, Volunteer

After formally joining the New York Asian Women's Center's Board of Directors in December 2006, Aparna is now taking part in the committees focused on fundraising

and program development for the organization, among other initiatives.

She first became involved with the NYAWC in April 2006 after the Robin Hood Foundation introduced her to Executive Director Tuhina O'Connor and two other board members. Initially, she had partnered with Carrie Bowers, a seasoned board member, to develop a marketing initiative to promote the mission of NYAWC. Through this initiative, Aparna learned more about the organization's mission and vision, and became impressed with NYAWC's management. At the same time, she impressed the board members with her knowledge of nonprofit organizations, especially in marketing and strategy. Aparna will be a good addition in helping the center's plans for growth and development.

"It is wonderful to know that an organization is doing such phenomenal work. I have learned so much about domestic violence," Aparna says. "I am also very impressed with the management's dedication and level of contribution to helping the organization grow."

Aparna is currently a manager at Forest Laboratories, where she works in the new products marketing group assessing commercial opportunities for corporate partnerships. She holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.

ALTRA Magazine

Somebody won a date with an MTV-Chi VJ, and the New York Asian Women's Center benefited from it! ALTRA, a new Asian American lifestyle magazine based in New York, donated money to the Center through the silent auction at its prelaunch Halloween party at Vesta nightclub in Manhattan on October 27, 2006. The highest bidder won a night out with a VJ from MTV Chi, and the magazine donated 50 percent of the earnings to NYAWC.



*Christina Mulligan-Development Director,
Kyung Yoon-Former Board Chair, and Miko
Sakata at Friends' Circle Event*

Friends' Circle Event

On December 5, 2006, the Board of the New York Asian Women's Center hosted an evening of cocktails, appetizers and conversation. Board member Joan R. Cheng gave updates on recent NYAWC accomplishments and upcoming initiatives. A client shared her emotional story of domestic abuse and how she felt reborn with the help of the center. The client also showed beautiful jewelry that she made. Many eyes were teary and joyful in the room.

Literacy Software Donation

IBM has chosen NYAWC as a recipient of a new Web-based software that uses voice recognition technology to help children and adults learn how to read. The software will be installed on computers at NYAWC's OurSpace Community Center. With this software, clients will be able to access the Reading Companion Web site, which contains a library of more than 130 e-books that cover a range of reading levels and topics, including job search and employment basics, citizenship examination, and financial literacy. As a student reads an e-book, the software analyzes the user's voice and gives audio feedback on pronunciation and accuracy. It also tracks students' progress.

With this program, volunteers will work with clients to develop a reading curriculum appropriate for them.

Spotlight on Volunteers

NYAWC's Volunteer Corps is more than 150 strong and vital to our mission. Learn more about the individuals whose dedication makes our work possible!

Ellen Chin

Reported by Elizabeth Cho, Volunteer

In Ellen Chin's 18 years of volunteering for the New York Asian Women's Center, she has shared her home with women escaping their violent situations, babysat children, and provided support to women in crisis over the 24-hour hotline.

Ellen draws strength and dedication from her own experience as a survivor of domestic abuse and her faith in God. She says that by helping other women, she also helps herself heal and grow. Fluent in Toishanese, a dialect of Cantonese, Ellen is able to reach out to those for whom English is not a native language.

She remembers one particularly rewarding experience. She had developed a close relationship with a family who was living at the center's first shelter. After they left the shelter, Ellen would see them at the annual picnic and other NYAWC events. With each passing year, the family blossomed and looked happier and stronger. "It's powerful, just knowing that women can carry on and have wonderful lives."

Alyssa Elser

Reported by Mark Lanzana, Volunteer

Alyssa Elser first began to volunteer at OurSpace as an ESL teacher, mostly for beginners from China. Alyssa has had first-hand experience with learning a foreign language when she studied Mandarin. Born in Wisconsin, Alyssa has a Bachelor's in history and Chinese from the University of Wisconsin and a Master's from Harvard's Regional Studies, East Asia Program. She also attended the Mandarin Training Center at National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, Taiwan, for a year. Alyssa currently works for the Taiwanese government.

Alyssa believes it is important for communities to help the disenfranchised help themselves. Her favorite parts of volun-

teering are, "seeing clients gain confidence as their English skills improve, seeing their faces light up as they realize they understand something new, watching a child go from being shy around a stranger to outgoing and eager to communicate in a language he or she is still learning." She looks forward to continuing her volunteer activities.

Art Exhibit Features the Faces of NYAWC

Reported by Jun Lim, Volunteer

A group of NYAWC clients and its employees were selected to be a part of a traveling art installation. LivingPortrait is an audio-visual installation that gives voice to the women in the Asian immigrant community who are working each day to break the cycle of domestic violence. The artists, composer Woody Pak and new media artists Heather Greer and Liubo Borisov, hope to raise awareness about domestic violence with their collaboration.

The installation combines visual and audio elements. The visual portions include photographs and video that are woven into a mosaic of images projected onto a screen. Interviews that have been edited into musical compositions comprise the audio portions. At each location, the traveling exhibit collects new stories and images to add to the existing project, thus giving each installation location an exclusive version of the project and making the installation a "living" sculpture.

The composition reflects the struggles endured by these women, the courage they displayed in leaving their abusive relationships, and the empowerment they ultimately feel in breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

The installation debuted at the NYAWC's Benefit Gala in New York in Oct. 2006.

Holiday Party 2006

Reported by Sahnah Lim, Volunteer

At day's end, everybody at the annual holiday party was garnished in flowers and brandishing smiles. More than 200 clients, staff, and volunteers gathered on a festive December day to celebrate the holidays and achievements of 2006.

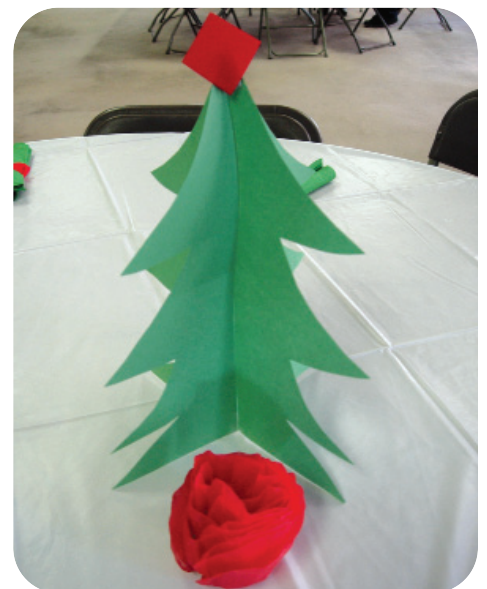
Children and parents lined up to receive gifts, and the brave and talented signed up to entertain the crowd with their songs. Guests took part in activities such as leis and corsage making, tree decorating, bingo, and arts and crafts. And of course, there was food—lots of it. An international array of Indian lentils, Korean noodles, and Chinese and American dishes were spread on tables to fill everybody up.

Guests then gathered around the tree and got their pictures taken with Santa, taking home souvenirs to remember the day of celebration, fun, and sharing.

A heartfelt thanks to all who helped with this wonderful event!

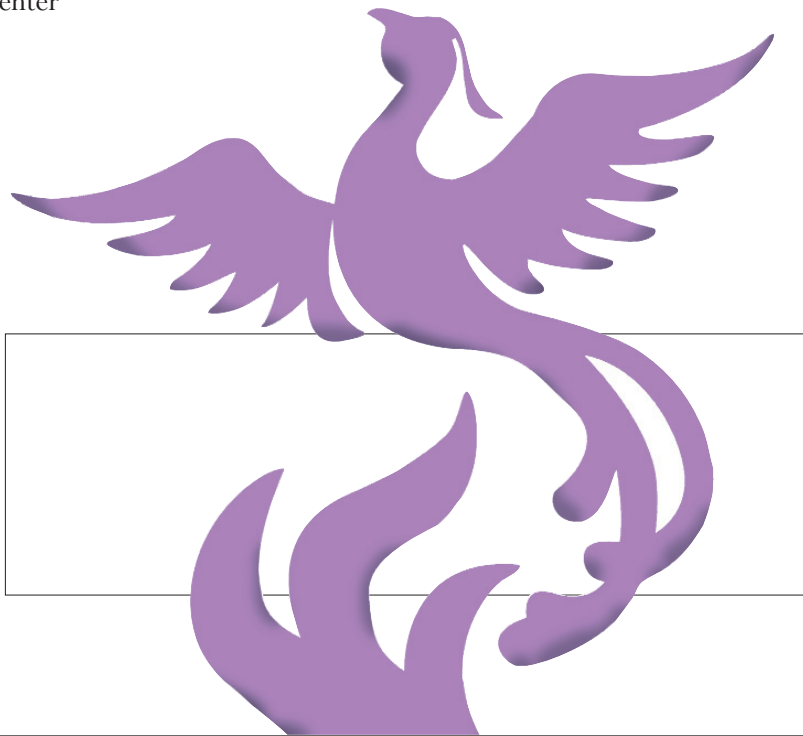
Special Thanks to:

New York Cares
CACF Action Council
Cheryl Wong and Friends



Decoration made by NYAWC staff for the holiday party

New York Asian Women's Center
39 Bowery PMB 375
New York, NY 10002



What is the significance of the Phoenix?

The Phoenix is a mythological bird reborn from fire and ashes. The New York Asian Women's Center chose the phoenix as its logo to symbolize the strength of the women who have experienced abuse at home.

☐ **Yes!** I want to help women and children live a life free of abuse.



Please add me to the **NYAWC** mailing list.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ E-Mail: _____

☐ I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$ _____

☐ I am including my credit card information to make a tax-deductible donation.

Name on card: _____

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express (check one)

Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Donation Amount: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Support the NYAWC!

Volunteer!

Enrich the lives of women and children with our dedicated group of volunteers. For more info visit www.nyawc.org

Donate!

Checks payable to the NYAWC can be mailed to:

NYAWC

39 Bowery, PMB 375

New York, NY 10002

Attn: Development Manager

Or donate online at www.nyawc.org

Join our mailing list:

Fill out the form on the left and mail it to the above address.

Your contributions will help provide emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, and other crucial services to battered women and their children.