



Phoenix

New York Asian Women's Center

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Spring 2010

THE MEI HUA SOCIETY RAISES \$12,000 FOR NYAWC AT ITS NEW YEAR'S BANQUET

On February 17, 2010, the Mei Hua Society ushered in the year of the Tiger with its annual Chinese New Year dinner gala. NYAWC was the proud beneficiary of the event for the second year in a row. The gala—featuring a ten-course traditional Chinese banquet—was organized at the Golden Unicorn Restaurant, and was attended by 130 people. Through the backing of the generous guests, the Mei Hua Society raised \$12,000 for NYAWC. On behalf of NYAWC, Executive Director Larry Lee thanked the attendees and the Mei Hua Society. He said that the “Mei Hua Society’s concern for and assistance to domestic violence survivors and their children is very heartening. The dinner helped NYAWC raise friends, awareness and much needed funding. We are very appreciative.” Funds generated this year will be used to renovate community offices in Queens and Brooklyn that will offer counseling, advocacy and other related services to domestic violence survivors. At a time when a tough economy has severely impacted funding, the Mei Hua Society’s support will help NYAWC continue to provide comprehensive services to battered women and their children.



NYAWC Executive Director Larry Lee and Board Chair Jessica Lee with Mei Hua Society Benefit Committee Co-Chairs Gloria Chin Besthoff, Marilyn Chou, and Jannette Lau, on left, and Marie Lee, on right, at the Mei Hua Society gala.

HITTING HOME TRAINS CHILD WELFARE CASE WORKERS

For the last 28 years, NYAWC has continuously strived to improve its services to New York’s growing Asian population. As a part of this effort, it has partnered with many service providers by establishing programs such as Hitting Home. Through Hitting Home, NYAWC collaborates with child welfare agencies that serve Asian-American families. NYAWC offered a three-part training series on February 5, 2010, which was attended by 14 caseworkers from the Chinese-American Planning Council and ChinatownYMCA. The Hitting Home project was designed to sensitize child welfare caseworkers to the dynamics of domestic violence in the Asian community and is generously supported by the Child Welfare Fund and the Asian American Federation.

The first training session covered current domestic violence demographics and the unique cultural aspects that make Asian domestic violence cases different from those of non-Asians. The second session helped child welfare professionals understand the ways in which Asian children may react differently to violence at home. The third training was used to discuss high-risk factors for domestic violence, such as substance abuse and other addictive behaviors. The training was a success with the participants, who said that the information on the relationship between Asian cultures and family violence will definitely help them to improve services to members of New York City’s Asian community.

DRAWING & TRUTH: GUEST SPEAKERS INFLUENCE NYAWC'S TEENS

DAT (Drawing & Truth) is going strong in its second year with an exciting series of events for NYAWC teens. The DAT program enables adolescents affected by domestic violence to explore themselves through digital art and therapeutic activities. On December 5, 2009, DAT held its first Writing Workshop, with guest instructors Corinne Manabat, a passionate spoken-word artist and documentary filmmaker, and Davina Wan, an inspiring poet, youth gang specialist, and former NYAWC volunteer. Combining unique perspectives and love for expression, they used storytelling, image-association, and poetry building to encourage exploration.

Responses to these exercises were thought-provoking and surprising. Shown a stark image of a homeless man sleeping in the street, a quiet student wrote furiously in her notebook; the class clown pondered deeply on the circumstances that led this man to become homeless. These responses were recognized as small but considerable steps towards recovery and growth.

Corinne returned to the program on February 27, 2010 to speak as a documentary filmmaker for Career Day. Joining her were Diana Lui, who shared thoughts on being an architect; Gerald Kong, on music production & the industry; Kevin Chan, on his journey from dancing in college to investment managing; and Mitchel Wu, on Asian American Studies and Project Collegebound. Students chatted excitedly about possible careers long after the event concluded.

Events like these help expose DAT students to positive role models and strengthen the foundation of their futures. NYAWC thanks the guest speakers and instructors for taking such an enthusiastic part in their lives.

VOLUNTEER COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

NYAWC recently established a Volunteer Council comprised of volunteers and representatives from Asian American affinity groups. The Council will support the organization's mission and work by strengthening and expanding NYAWC's volunteer base, and by making volunteering a more rewarding and fun experience for volunteers.

The Volunteer Council will operate under a Steering Committee, led by Sonia Chawla Jhavar and Kirthana Sunder. Those interested in joining the Volunteer Council can e-mail NYAWC's Volunteer Coordinator at xzhen@nyawc.org.

NEW BOARD MEMBER NARGES M. KAKALIA



NYAWC is delighted to announce the arrival of its newest board member, Narges M. Kakalia. Ms. Kakalia joined NYAWC's Board of Directors in February 2010. She is a Litigation Associate at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo, PC. Ms. Kakalia comes to NYAWC with 10 years of experience assisting survivors of domestic violence. As part of her pro bono work, she represented abused women to obtain orders of protection and immigration benefits. Prior to her current position, Ms. Kakalia was Program Assistant & Legal Intern at Sanctuary For Families, Center For Battered Women's Legal Services.

"I am excited to be a part of such a terrific organization with deep roots in our communities," said Ms. Kakalia. "I am looking forward to working with the larger NYAWC community to strengthen the organization."

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RIKI BLUM JOINS NYAWC AS DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

NYAWC is pleased to announce Frederica (Riki) Blum as its new Director of Finance. Ms. Blum, who joined NYAWC on April 6th 2010, is a certified public accountant with over 20 years of widely varied experience.

“I am very excited to join NYAWC,” said Ms. Blum. “It is an honor to assist the agency in its efforts to support and empower Asian survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.” In the past 13 years, Blum has worked exclusively in small and mid-sized nonprofit organizations, with her previous place of employment being Women in Need, Inc.

Executive Director Larry Lee stated, “Evolving from a consultant-managed fiscal department will enable NYAWC to strengthen our fiscal oversight, build our over-all operation and better plan our future. Riki joins us at an opportune time. Even though NYAWC is growing—the need for assistance is growing even faster. In these tough times more survivors of abuse and their children need help and the help they need is greater. We have to maximize our services and be more efficient and effective.”



From the bottom of my heart, thank you all for caring about my family. With your help and support, I successfully graduated from college and I'm on my way to achieve my goal. Meanwhile, I enjoy a peaceful life with my children.

—NYAWC Client

NYAWC RECEIVES OVER \$5,000 FROM THREE FUNDRAISERS



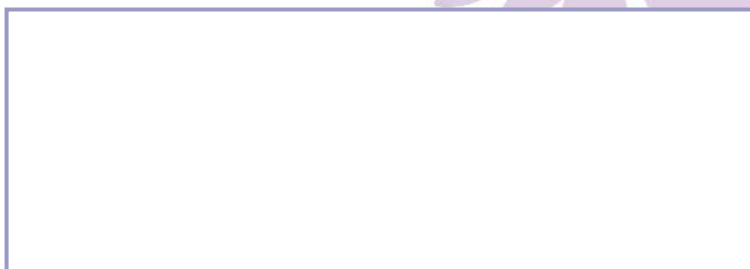
Contestants at the APALSA eating contest

In an effort to end violence against women and girls in February, the V-Day Campaign's annual benefit events supported NYAWC's work. As a part of the V-Day Campaign, Hunter College's V-Day Team put on performances of The Vagina Monologues and CABARET: "If my Vagina Could Talk...", which raised over \$1,860 for NYAWC. The agency was also selected by the Fourth Universalist Society as the recipient of its fundraiser. Proceeds from the Society's performance of The Vagina Monologues totaled around \$2,000 for NYAWC.

In March, Brooklyn Law School's Asian Pacific American Law Students (APALSA) contributed \$1,400 from their fundraiser. Bon Chon of John Street donated chicken wings for the well-attended eating contest. First, second, and third place winners received Tuition Certificates donated by bar exam prep company BarBri. Additionally, 2 VIP Box Seat tickets to see the Knicks were sold as a raffle.

NYAWC thanks all of the supporters of the three fundraisers.

Return Service Requested



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 overcome domestic violence.

☐ **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: _____

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Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

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Volunteer!

Join our dedicated group of volunteers to enrich the lives of women and children.

For more info visit
www.nyawc.org

Donate!

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 can be mailed to:

NYAWC
39 Bowery, PMB 375
New York, NY 10002

**Attn: Development
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Or donate online at
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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 abused women
 and their children.*