



Choreographer Lenora Lee and NYAWC Executive Director, Larry Lee.

PHOTOGRAPH BY YI AN QUACH

## Art and Advocacy at the Asia Society

NYAWC supporter and choreographer Lenora Lee lent a visual and physical presence to the stories of human trafficking survivors through dance. In early May, 100 guests and NYAWC staff attended a reception at the Asia Society to look at human trafficking through an artistic lens and support the agency's anti-trafficking initiative, Project Free. The two-part evening, titled *The Escape and Rescued Memories: New York Stories* featured the works of Lenora Lee.

The performances of that evening shone a spotlight on trafficked Chinese migrant women in the United States in the 1900s, one of whom was Bessie M. Lee, NYAWC's Executive Director Larry Lee's grandmother. She spent two years as an indentured servant for a wealthy Chinese family after migrating to New York City, and was Lenora Lee's inspiration for *Rescued Memories: New York Stories*.

## 2014 NYAWC 32ND BENEFIT GALA & AWARDS

### Help Celebrate Our Anniversary

NYAWC invites you to our 32nd Annual Benefit Gala and Phoenix Awards! Save the date of October 23, 2014 and join us at Tribeca 360 to celebrate the courageous survivors we serve and to honor the achievements of our staff, volunteers, and supporters.

We need your support to continue empowering survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault, and their children. Tickets are \$375. To purchase tickets, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1mrqcPW>.

For more information on becoming a sponsor, please contact Jamie Gerrish at [jamie@asticproductions.com](mailto:jamie@asticproductions.com) or (212) 581-1440.

## NYAWC Launches New Sexual Assault Program for Children

Child sexual abuse is a taboo topic in Asian communities, and those who experience it rarely ever discuss it. NYAWC is taking steps to help bring this difficult topic to the surface in a sensitive and safe way, so that children who may be suffering in silence receive the help they need. Thanks to federal funding from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, NYAWC was able to launch RAY (Resiliency Among Youth), a new counseling program for child survivors of sexual assault in March. NYAWC is one of 8 awardees nationwide and the only Asian focused provider on the East Coast to receive this grant.

NYAWC's Children's Program has focused on domestic violence, but counselors started seeing an overlap in sexual abuse and domestic violence. RAY fills in the gap in services specifically for Asian child sexual assault survivors, as well as provide outreach and community education regarding this issue. Children and their parents receive one-on-one, family, and/or group counseling from counselors who use a trauma-informed, creative arts therapy approach to help children and their families heal. RAY program coordinator, Asuna Osako says, "Children are really resilient and we want to foster that resilience."



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF NYAWC

Members of the NYU Chapter of the Phi Delta Psi fraternity with NYAWC Volunteer Coordinator, Vineeta Kapahi; Supervisory Counselor-Advocate and One Again Co-coordinator, Aditi Bhattacharya; and former social work intern, Winnie Lee.

## April 2014: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

NYAWC kicked off Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April with a workshop with the NYU Chapter of the Phi Delta Psi fraternity to discuss gender roles and sexual violence. Although some students imagined the workshop to be a "male bashing session," it was instead an honest and engaging conversation on how important it is for both Asian men and women to keep each other accountable in a world where violence against women is so easily accepted.

Throughout the month, NYAWC supporters and staff members were educated on the different aspects of sexual violence through emails and social media. Posts ranged from stories of creativity and anguish to stand-up humor designed to inspire change, informative videos, and spoken word that moved people to action. Staff members wrote and shared words of support to each other and to the clients they served.

## Save the Date! TCS Marathon 2014

The TCS New York City Marathon is on November 2, 2014. Support Team Phoenix runners who run on behalf of the women and children we serve!

Please send donations payable to NYAWC to our mailing address located on the back page of this newsletter or donate online at <https://www.crowdrise.com/teamphoenix2014nycmarathon>.

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# NYAWC's DACA Project

Through the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) Project, NYAWC has assisted clients in unexpected ways. In one case, NYAWC screened a client who confided that she had a history of sexual assault. "I was only the second person she had ever told," said Gillian Kosinski, NYAWC's DACA Coordinator. "We set her up with counseling. For me, personally, that was a big moment. I was excited that she could get not just deferred action, but also the social services she needed, but didn't realize she could get."

DACA provides temporary immigration relief to undocumented immigrants who entered the United States as children if they meet certain requirements. With funding from the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, NYAWC is able to offer free legal consultations and screenings to potential applicants, as well as pay the \$465 application fee if they are eligible. Qualified applicants get work authorization, which enables them to get a social security card, and in some states, a driver's license. They also receive a two-year period of lowest priority for deportation.

Screening for DACA eligibility also allows the Legal Team to find out whether potential applicants were victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, or sexual assault. If yes, NYAWC can assist them in obtaining more permanent forms of immigration relief such as U-Visas, T-Visas, or green cards, as well as internally refer them to the many programs the agency has to offer free of charge.

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## NYAWC Partners with Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church to Bring a New Look to Peace House

On Saturday, May 3rd, a team of volunteers from the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (FAPC) dedicated their day to planting a vibrant garden and spending time with residents of Peace House, one of NYAWC's shelters.

Along with creating a more welcoming and lively outdoor space for Peace House residents to enjoy, the project fostered relationship building among all participants. Albert Chan, Residential Manager of Shelter Operations at Peace House, says, "It was wonderful to foster a sense of community among residents."

"I enjoyed seeing everybody working so well together. Everyone seemed very engaged and it was an incredibly positive experience for the volunteers," says Sally Harwood, the FAPC serves site leader for this project and an FAPC Mission Partner Task Force member.

In addition to participating in the church's annual day of service, NYAWC is grateful to collaborate with FAPC. Chan states "We are so happy that they brought a new look to our facilities for the residents to enjoy. They are welcome to come back again."

"We are very much looking forward to continuing our partnership," says Harwood.





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**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 women who have overcome domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual violence, and other forms of abuse.

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☐ **Yes!** I want to help women and children live a life free of abuse.  
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Join our dedicated group of volunteers to enrich the lives of women and children.

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