



Asian American Coalition of Chicago

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P.O. Box 166018 Chicago, Illinois 60616-6018 T 312.326.5320 F 312.896.5677

ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION OF CHICAGO "ROARS WITH THE BOAR"

HOSTS 24th ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD AT HYATT REGENCY O'HARE

ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION OF CHICAGO ANNOUNCES CELEBRITY PRESENTERS; RECIPIENTS OF 2007 PAN ASIAN, GRAND ASIAN, COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: (312) 326-5320
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CHICAGO, IL - - Plans are busily underway for the Asian American Coalition of Chicago's 24th **Annual Lunar New Year Celebration, "Roar With the Boar 2007/4705" on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 West Bryn Mawr Avenue in Rosemont.** Cocktails, open mic and exhibit displays begin at 5:30 p.m.; opening ceremonies are at 6:30 p.m., with dinner show including entertainment and an awards ceremony following, until approximately 9:45 p.m. Over 1,100 people are expected. Tickets are available at \$700.00 per table of ten and are available on a first-funded, first-seated basis. Visit **www.aacchicago.org** for more information on tickets, sponsorships and ad purchases.

Every year a different Asian community takes turn playing host of the Lunar New Year gala. This year it is the **Chinese American Community**, which has thrice before (1984, 1991 and 1999) held the gavel for the Asian Pacific American community's most important event of the year. *"We are honored to host the Annual Lunar New Year Celebration once again,"* said Leonard M. Louie, 2007 Chair of the Asian American Coalition of Chicago. *"Our goal is to further coalesce the Asian Pacific American community towards becoming a more vocal group, as we continue to grow in political empowerment."*

The Coalition today announced its roster of celebrity presenters, recipients of its 2007 Pan Asian, Grand Asian and Community Service Awards. *(Info below.)*

Proudly taking the helm as The 2007 Host Committee's five sponsoring organizations are: **the Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, Chinese American Civic Council of Chicago, Chinese American Service League, Inc., Chinese Mutual Aid Association, and the Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc., Greater Chicago Chapter.**

THE PLACE TO BE!!! An event held on this grand of a scale only once a year, **Lunar New Year is traditionally the single largest organized annual event in Chicago's Asian American community.** Numerous dignitaries traditionally attend the festivities, including the Asian consular corps, elected and appointed governmental officials, political candidates, top business and corporate leaders, decision-makers at Chicago's major media press outlets, and everyone who considers himself or herself a mover and shaker in and around, or for, the Asian Pacific American national movement.

(MORE)

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ASIAN LUNAR NEW YEAR / MARCH 3rd -- ADD ONE

CELEBRITY PRESENTERS... The Asian American Coalition of Chicago (AACC) is pleased to announce that the following popular celebrity broadcast personalities are scheduled to appear on-stage as celebrity presenters at the Coalition's 24th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration, on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 West Bryn Mawr Avenue in Rosemont (*list in formation*):

- * **Ravi Baichwal**, Weekend Anchor/Reporter, ABC 7 News;
- * **Judy Hsu**, Morning Anchor/Reporter, ABC 7 News;
- * **Nancy Loo**, Morning and Noon Anchor/Reporter, FOX Chicago TV News;
- * **Joanie Lum**, Reporter, CBS 2 Chicago News;
- * **Mai Martinez**, Reporter, CBS 2 Chicago News;
- * **Julian Nieh**, WBBM-FM Evening Personality, "Julian on the Radio", B96 Chicago's Hits & Hip-Hop;
- * **Rick O'Dell**, Music Director, Show Host, Middays/The Smooth Jazz Sunday Brunch, WNUA 95.5 FM, Clear Channel Chicago Radio;
- * **Anupy Singla**, Reporter, CLTV News;
- * **Judy Wang**, Weekend Morning Anchor/Reporter, CLTV News; and
- * **Linda Yu**, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Anchor/Reporter, ABC 7 News

Linda Yu arrived in Chicago in 1979, making her the first Asian American on-air journalist in the City. In 1984, she appeared at the First Asian American Coalition of Chicago Lunar New Year Celebration at The White Eagle, as honorary chairperson. She has played a role in nearly every Coalition annual production since then. This will be approximately her 22nd time appearing at this event, and her seventh time presenting the Coalition's prestigious annual Pan Asian American Ping Tom Memorial Award, its highest award.

This will be **Joanie Lum's** ninth time co-hosting the Coalition's Lunar New Year Celebration; the sixth time each for **Nancy Loo**, **Anupy Singla** and **Judy Wang**; the fifth time for **Judy Hsu**; the third time for **Rick O'Dell**; and the first time each for **Ravi Baichwal**, **Mai Martinez** and **Julian Nieh**.

The Coalition also announces that **Linda Yu** will host the presentation of the prestigious **PAN ASIAN AMERICAN PING TOM MEMORIAL AWARD** at ceremonies that evening, to engineer and community leader **Mohinderjit Singh Saini**, the 2007 recipient. **Mohinderjit Singh Saini** is Lead Office Engineer for Chicago's O'Hare Modernization Program. He is also Co-Founder, Past President and Managing Director of the Punjabi Cultural Society of Chicago, among numerous other community leadership positions that he holds. Saini has served on the Program Committee of the Asian American Coalition of Chicago from 1987-present, serving as Program Committee Chair in 1995 and 2003.

Attorney and community leader **Darryl Tom** will assist in the award presentation, on behalf of **The Tom Family**. The Coalition renamed its Pan Asian Award in 1996 after the late legendary Chicago civic leader Ping Tom. Ping Tom was also one of the original founders of the Asian American Coalition.

The Coalition is also pleased to announce that government official **The Hon. George Van Dusen, Mayor of the Village of Skokie** (since 1999), has been named the 2007 recipient of the Coalition's

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- - ADD TWO

GRAND ASIAN AWARD. This award is periodically presented to someone of non-Asian descent, who has made significant contributions to the Asian Pacific American community. The Village of Skokie is a community of approximately over 60,000 residents, made up of over 70 different groups of people from around the world. In Illinois, Skokie is a municipality with one of the highest percentages of Asians (21.3%).

Mayor Van Dusen has appointed 24 Asian Americans to various Village boards and commissions, thus encouraging the community to be active in Village governance. (*More information available upon request.*) He first attended the Coalition's Lunar New Year Celebration as a guest of the Filipino American Community in 2002, when it served as Host Community. Since that time, he has attended the Celebration almost every year (2004, 2005 and 2006). The 2007 Celebration will be **Mayor Van Dusen's** fifth time in attendance at Asian Lunar New Year.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS NAMED

The Coalition also announced today that the following nine people have been named the 2007 Community Service Award Recipients:

- * **Duc Huang**, Co-Founder, Chinese Mutual Aid Association of Chicago, **Chinese American Community Awardee**;
- * **Francis L. Mon**, Retired electrical engineer; volunteer for various civic, cultural, political and community endeavors; Commissioner, Traffic Safety Commission, Village of Skokie; Co-Executive Producer, "Asian Chronicle USA" TV Program on Public Access Cable TV, **Filipino American Community Awardee**;
- * **Onkar Singh Sangha**, Supervisor, Customer Service, United States Post Office, Oak Park, Illinois; Member, Board of Governors, Punjabi Cultural Society of Chicago, **Indian American Community Awardee**;
- * **Astrid S. Haryati**, Assistant to City of Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley for Green Initiatives; Member, Board of Directors, Indonesian American Community of Illinois, **Indonesian American Community Awardee**;
- * **Tsune Nakagawa**, Retired, Former Office Manager, The Hon. Charles Percy, United States Senator (R-IL); longtime former board member, Japanese American Citizens League, **Japanese American Community Awardee**;
- * **Dr. Young K. Kang**, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Justice Animal Hospital, Justice, Illinois; Chairman, Board of Directors, Korean American Association of Chicago, **Korean American Community Awardee**;
- * **Nadia M. Akhtar**, Chief Operating Officer, RNA Corporation, Blue Island, Illinois; Active in the community with *Bolingbrook Islamic Center, Association Pakistani Americans Bolingbrook and Pak-American Medical Center in Chicago*, **Pakistani American Community Awardee**;

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* **Manoch Bhudvanbhen**, President, Amarin Overseas Trading & Shipping; Member, Board of Directors, Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute; Administrative Advisor, Thai American Association of Illinois; **Thai American Community Awardee**; and

* **No Van Vo**, Co-Founder, Vo's Graphics and Printing; Editor, "Chicago Viet Bao" (Chicago Viet Times – bi-weekly newsmagazine); Philanthropist who has helped raise thousands of dollars for the Tsunami victims in Asia, Katrina victims, and the disadvantaged who urgently need eye surgeries in Vietnam; **Vietnamese American Community Awardee**.

YOUTH WHO EXCELS AWARDEES NAMED

The Coalition also announced today that the following students have been named the 2007 Youth Who Excels honorees:

* **Jennifer Chui**, College Freshman, DePaul University, Chicago, **Chinese American Community Youth Awardee**;

* **Kristina A. Mascarenas**, Senior, Northside College Preparatory High School, Chicago, **Filipino American Community Youth Awardee**;

* **Kevindeep Singh Atwal**, College Freshman, Northwestern University, Evanston, **Indian American Community Youth Awardee**;

* **Putria Aulia Kusumo**, College Freshman, Joliet Junior College, Joliet, **Indonesian American Community Youth Awardee**;

* **Patrick G. Lee**, Senior, Barrington High School, Barrington, **Korean American Community Youth Awardee**;

* **Saba Rashid**, College Freshman, Benedictine University, Lisle, **Pakistani American Community Youth Awardee**;

* **Bing Moraras**, Senior, New Trier Township High School, Winnetka, **Thai American Community Youth Awardee**; and

* **Anhdao Vu**, Freshman, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, **Vietnamese American Community Youth Awardee**.

SPONSORS

This year's program is generously underwritten by corporate sponsors Harris Bank and DeVry University (*list in formation*).

(MORE)

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-- ADD FOUR

TICKETS

For ticket reservations, please contact tickets@aacchicago.org by e-mail (preferred method), or call (312) 326-5320. Advance purchase is required. Tickets are \$700.00 per table of ten. Tickets are being distributed through community outlets as well as directly from the Coalition. They are first funded, first seated.

CHECKS

All checks should be made payable to: **Asian American Coalition of Chicago 2007.**

OFFICIAL ARTIST

As previously announced, well-known Chicago on-site artist **Grace Lai** has been named the official artist for "**Roar with the Boar 2007/4705.**" A beautiful painting especially created for this year's event graces the Coalition's creative materials. Lai previously served as the cover artist for the Coalition's 1992 and 1999 Celebrations ("Year of the Monkey" and "Year of the Rabbit").

AACC... WHO WE ARE

According to the latest Census, the Asian Pacific American population in Illinois numbers approximately 428,213, or 3.4% of the statewide population. Approximately 71,469 Asian Pacific Americans reside in DuPage County, comprising 7.9% of DuPage County's population, with the bulk of the other 262,731 residents of Cook County, comprising 4.8% of Cook County's population. The 2000 Census shows that Asian Pacific Americans reside in Chicago in communities including West Rogers Park, Albany Park, Uptown, Armour Square and Bridgeport, and in suburban Cook County in communities including Schaumburg, Hoffman Estates and Skokie.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sponsor, ad and general inquiries should be directed to info@aacchicago.org (e-mail preferred) or c/o the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce office at (312) 326-5320 during business hours.

MEDIA

Media requests for interviews, photos, longform bios and credentials should be directed to ENERI Communications at info@enericom.net or (312) 635-0888. Media wishing to cover from the press platform must be credentialed. Media wishing to sit at dinner tables must pre-arrange purchase of dinner tickets through the assistance of community organizations.

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FOR: 2007 Asian American Coalition of Chicago Planning Committee

The AACC 2007 Host Committee

Leonard M. Louie, Chair
C.W. Chan, Co-Chair, Programming
Irene Cualoping, Co-Chair and Director of Communications
Barton Moy, Co-Chair
Susan Ng-Harroun, Co-Chair, Outreach
Woon-Wah Siu, Co-Chair, Fundraising
Esther Wong, Co-Chair, Program Book
Denise Lam, Treasurer
David Wu, Secretary
Jean Ng, Ticket Committee Chair

MEDIA CONTACT

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