



## Asian American Coalition of Chicago

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**LOGISTICS MEMO 1/16/08 (r6) Please print out and SAVE/FORWARD on a wide basis. Thank you.**

**I. PARKING, BLACK-TIE OPTIONAL, VEGETARIAN SUBSTITUTIONS  
II. KEYNOTE SPEAKERS III. PAN ASIAN, GRAND ASIAN AWARDEES IV. VIPS  
V. CELEBRITY PRESENTERS VI. COMMUNITY SERVICE/YOUTHS WHO EXCEL AWARDEES  
VII. SPONSORS VIII. TICKETS IX. MEDIA AND VIP ANNOUNCEMENT REQUESTS**

NOTE: Please note event has been moved up to accommodate the early Illinois Presidential Primary Election!

TO: Asian Pacific American (APA) Community Leadership; APA Community Media; Major Media; Corporate; Governmental, Political and Student Outreach Distribution Lists Midwest Regional)  
FROM: Irene Cualoping, Chair, Media Committee, AACC 2008 Lunar New Year Celebration  
FOR: Asian American Coalition of Chicago/Chair Pamela Leeming

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### IMPORTANT HOUSEKEEPING NOTES FOR ATTENDEES

**NEW Venue, NEW 8000-Space Parking Lot This Year!** Indoor SkyBridge, Logistics, Floor Plans, Maps and Virtual Tour at [http://rosemont.com/meeting/meet\\_desc.shtml#](http://rosemont.com/meeting/meet_desc.shtml#)

**PARKING:** Elevated enclosed pedestrian walkway connects the Convention Center, two public garages and three hotels (Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Sofitel Chicago O'Hare and Doubletree Hotel O'Hare-Rosemont); parking validation tickets will be available on-site

**ATTIRE:** *Black-Tie Optional* with **everyone on stage** requested to be in *black-tie*, long evening gowns, or native costumes.

**MENU:** Chicken or Vegetarian Substitution – please place your substitution orders no later than Friday, January 18, 2008 for headcount to [info@aacchicago.org](mailto:info@aacchicago.org)

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**ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION OF CHICAGO ANNOUNCES KEYNOTE SPEAKERS  
ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ANNE M. BURKE AND RHODES SCHOLAR ISRA J. BHATTY**

**JAMES YUMIN LAW NAMED 2008 PAN ASIAN AMERICAN PING TOM MEMORIAL AWARDEE**

**CHIEF JUDGE TIMOTHY C. EVANS NAMED GRAND ASIAN AWARDEE  
25th ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH AT DONALD E. STEPHENS CONVENTION CENTER IN ROSEMONT**

**LT. GOVERNOR PAT QUINN, ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE JESSE WHITE, U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN JAN SCHAKOWSKY, FORMER ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER JUDY BAAR TOPINKA, COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY RICHARD DEVINE, COOK COUNTY PUBLIC GUARDIAN ROBERT HARRIS EXPECTED AND NUMEROUS DIGNITARIES AND CANDIDATES IN ATTENDANCE**

**POLITICAL FORUM/OPEN MICROPHONE TO INCLUDE RECORD NUMBER OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE**

**TICKET SALES EXCEED 850**

(MORE)

25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ASIAN LUNAR NEW YEAR / JANUARY 26, 2008  
- - ADD ONE

*(N.B. MEDIA: FULL HOUSE OF 1,100 EXPECTED, EARLY SET AND BATTERY PACKS ADVISED)*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**      **CONTACT: GENERAL/TICKETS:** [info@aacchicago.org](mailto:info@aacchicago.org) or  
January 16, 2008 (REV. 4)      (708) 597-7777 x. 103  
                                         **MEDIA: ENERI Communications at** [info@enericom.net](mailto:info@enericom.net)  
                                         or (312) 635-0888 / [www.enericom.net/blog](http://www.enericom.net/blog)  
                                         Docs at [www.enericom.net/privateaacc/press](http://www.enericom.net/privateaacc/press)

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CHICAGO, IL - - Final plans are underway for next weekend's Asian American Coalition of Chicago's **25th Anniversary Annual Lunar New Year Celebration, "Dawn of New Asia 2008"** celebrating Year of the Rat 4706 on Saturday, January 26, 2008 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois. Ticket sales have exceeded 900, with over 1,100 people expected at the black-tie optional gala.

Reception, open microphone/political forum and exhibits begin at **5 p.m.**; opening ceremonies are from **6:30 p.m. – approximately 7:45 p.m.** and will feature speeches, the presentation of the **Pan Asian and Grand Asian Awards**; followed by dinner, cultural showcases by the Dilshad Group (Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indian dances), the Punjabi Cultural Society, the KAPWA Dance Group of Loyola University Chicago, and the Korean American Community; with the Awards Ceremonies honoring Community Service and Youth Who Excels recipients scheduled to last until approximately 10:15 p.m.

Tickets are available at **\$700.00 per table of ten** and are available on a first-funded, first-seated basis. Visit [www.aacchicago.org](http://www.aacchicago.org) and [www.enericom.net/blog](http://www.enericom.net/blog) for general information. The event is being held at a new venue this year, with parking available across the street in an 8000-space lot with an indoor pedestrian SkyBridge connecting directly to the event ballroom site. (See [http://rosemont.com/meeting/meet\\_desc.shtml#](http://rosemont.com/meeting/meet_desc.shtml#) for parking information, logistics, floor plans, maps and virtual tour.)

Every year a different Asian community takes turn playing host of the Lunar New Year gala. This year it is the Pakistani American Community, which has twice before (1992 and 2000) held the gavel for the Asian Pacific American community's most important event of the year.

**The Coalition today announced its Keynote Speakers and recipients of its 2008 Pan Asian, Grand Asian and Community Service Awards.** *"We congratulate all of our outstanding awardees," said Pamela Leeming, 2008 Chair of the Asian American Coalition of Chicago. "The Pakistani American community welcomes everyone to share in this special evening of celebration."*

**The Hon. Anne M. Burke**, Illinois Supreme Chief Justice, First District, has been named the **2008 Keynote Speaker**. Throughout her long career in public service as a children's advocate and legal professional, Justice Burke has endeavored to provide a voice to society's most fragile citizens. She was appointed to the Supreme Court in July 2006. Prior to that, Justice Burke was appointed to the Appellate Court in 1995 and was elected the following year to the Appellate bench where she served until July 2006. Her judicial career began earlier, in 1987, with an appointment to the Illinois Court of Claims by Governor Jim Thompson. As the first woman to serve in that court, she was later reappointed by Illinois Governor Jim Edgar.

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**Isra J. Bhatti**, 2008 Rhodes Scholar at age 23, of Glenview, Illinois, has been named **Keynote Speaker, Next Generation**. Bhatti was the only Illinoisan selected this year for the prestigious scholarship, which provides two or three years of study, all expenses paid, at Oxford University in England. She was one of

(MORE)

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**25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ASIAN LUNAR NEW YEAR / JANUARY 26, 2008**  
**- - ADD TWO**

32 students from across the US who was selected from a list of 764 applicants. After working as a research assistant at the Yale Law School, Isra Bhatti is now working on her law degree at Yale. She graduated from the University of Chicago in 2006 with a dual degree in Economics and Near Eastern Languages and Civilization. Bhatti has won many prizes for leadership and scholarship while at the University of Chicago. Bhatti is an 2005 alumna of the Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs Junior Summer Institute (JSI).

While in Chicago, Isra worked on several projects in the inner-city community. She spent three years assisting Chicago Public School teachers with classroom technology integration, and founded a tutoring program on Chicago's southwest side. During college she also began working with the Inner-City Muslim Action Network on several criminal justice reform initiatives, one of which culminated in the passage of the SMART (Substance Abuse Management Addressing Recidivism through Treatment) Act. She also began working with the Center for Constitutional Rights as an English-Urdu translator for Guantánamo Bay detainees (working remotely by phone), and led a Chicago coalition on criminal justice.

Bhatti was valedictorian of her high school class at Glenbrook High School (2002) in Northbrook, Illinois. In her spare time, she enjoys playing football and reading and writing poetry. She also sings rap and hip-hop songs.

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TV broadcaster **Linda Yu** will again host the presentation of the prestigious **PAN ASIAN AMERICAN PING TOM MEMORIAL AWARD** at ceremonies that evening to **James Yumin Law**, the 2008 recipient. He is Vice President of Planning and External Affairs, Chicago Children's Museum, and served as longtime Executive Director of the City of Chicago Mayor's Office of Special Events.

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.

**James Yumin Law, (Jim)** joined Chicago Children's Museum (CCM) as Vice President of Planning and External Affairs in April 2007. An architect by profession, he devoted 17 years to public service. In this latest career role at CCM, Law's return to the private sector brings him back to his roots in architecture. At CCM, Law manages and oversees the museum's relocation project, focused on building an exciting new museum in Chicago and centrally located for all children and families.

Prior to joining CCM, Law was appointed in March 1998 by City of Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley to serve as Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Special Events (MOSE). MOSE produces and markets Chicago's numerous festivals, community receptions, neighborhood events, parades, farmers markets and holiday events throughout the entire city. An impact study reported that the projects undertaken and coordinated by MOSE had a direct and indirect impact on Chicago's economy of more than 250 million dollars in revenue. For nine years Law oversaw Chicago's 12 major festivals, including nationally recognized festivals such as the Chicago Blues Festival, Chicago Jazz Festival and the Chicago Air and Water Show.

While at MOSE, Law worked on Asian American initiatives such as the early Asian American Parade; and the annual Asian American Festival at Daley Plaza (which grew from two to five days long). This Festival features live cultural performances from many Asian nations, showcased in an authentic setting of assorted food and craft vendors. MOSE helped to jumpstart the early years of the Festival, providing funding, resources and staffing. Prior to his appointment to MOSE, Law served as Director of the Chicago Office of Tourism, a division of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. He joined the staff of the Department of Cultural Affairs in 1990 as Director of Planning and became Assistant Commissioner in 1993 and Deputy Commissioner in 1996.

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Prior to his work with the City of Chicago, Law practiced architecture in Illinois, New York and Connecticut for 12 years. Holding a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cornell University. Law designed and executed several cultural, institutional and commercial projects around the Chicago area. In the 1980's, together with his partners at Lubotsky Metter Worthington & Law, he master planned and designed several structures for Ravinia, including Bennett-Gordon Hall, in the John D. Harza Building, a 450-seat, acoustically attenuated recital hall, home to the Steans Institute for Young Artists program, where each summer, dozens of the brightest young musicians come to Ravinia to study with world-renowned faculty and coaches. Law also designed Ravinia's then new gift shop, located on the back of the historic Martin Theatre, for which he received a design excellence award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

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The Coalition is also pleased to announce that ***The Hon. Timothy C. Evans***, Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, has been named the 2008 recipient of the Coalition's **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.

***Timothy C. Evans*** serves as the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, the largest of the 22 judicial circuits in Illinois and also one of the largest unified court systems in the world. More than 1.2 million cases are filed annually in the Circuit Court of Cook County, which serves Cook County's 5.1 million residents. Throughout his tenure as Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans has been widely recognized for his tireless efforts to foster diversity and awareness to make the court more accessible and reflective of the community as a whole.

The Asian Pacific American community in particular has made considerable gains in the number of judges on the bench of the Circuit Court of Cook County under his leadership. Since his election as Chief Judge in September 2001, Chief Judge Evans has presided over an unprecedented 133 percent increase in the number of the number of Asian Pacific American judges, from 3 in 2001 to 7 in 2008. Six associate judges were appointed by the circuit judges and one was elected by the voters of Cook County. This includes the first Filipino American judge and the first Indian American judge in the State of Illinois.

Chief Judge Evans also has consistently encouraged and supported the Asian Pacific American legal community by speaking and appearing at key events sponsored by the numerous Asian bar associations, including the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area, the Chinese American Bar Association, the Filipino American Bar Association, the Indian American Bar association, the Korean American Bar Association, the Pakistani American Bar Association and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans has attended the Asian American Coalition of Chicago's Annual Lunar New Year Celebration consistently throughout its 25-year history, both as an alderman and judge.

***(Full bios of keynote speakers, awardees and celebrity presenters available upon request or downloadable at this website link: [www.enericom.net/privateaacc/press](http://www.enericom.net/privateaacc/press) ).***

**CELEBRITY PRESENTERS...** The Coalition previously announced the following will appear on-stage as Celebrity Presenters at its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Lunar New Year Celebration:

- \* ***Rehan Aslam***, 10 p.m. News Producer, FOX Chicago TV News;
- \* ***Ravi Baichwal***, Weekend Anchor/Reporter, ABC 7 News (*pending final scheduling*);
- \* ***Ellee Pai Hong***, Weekend Morning Anchor, NBC 5 Chicago News;
- \* ***Eric S. Horng***, Correspondent, ABC News (*pending final scheduling/breaking network news*);
- \* ***Jan Jeffcoat***, Morning Anchor/Reporter, FOX Chicago TV News;
- \* ***Nancy Loo***, Morning Anchor/Reporter, FOX Chicago TV News;

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- \* **Joanie Lum**, Reporter, CBS 2 Chicago News;
- \* **Mai Martinez**, Weekend Anchor/Reporter, CBS 2 Chicago News;
- \* **Marc Rita**, Actor/Director/Producer and Co-Founder of Chicago's first Asian American theater company (MinaSama-No in 1983);
- \* **Judy Wang**, Weekend Morning Anchor/Reporter, CLTV News; and
- \* **Linda Yu**, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Anchor/Reporter, ABC 7 News

**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. According to the latest Census, the Asian Pacific American population in Illinois numbers approximately 428,213, or 3.4% of the statewide population. 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.

Top dignitaries currently scheduled to attend include Illinois **Lt. Governor Pat Quinn; Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White; U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL 9<sup>th</sup>); Former Illinois State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka, Illinois State Senator Dan Kotowski (D-33rd); Cook County State's Attorney Richard Devine, and Cook County Public Guardian Robert Harris**, among many others. Over 500 candidates have been invited to appear at the Open Microphone/Political Forum preceding the event during cocktail hour (5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.)

*Music selections for the show will be made with the assistance of composer **Keith Uchima** and his A&R Recording House. Uchima was co-author of "Together, The World Can Count On Us," adopted as the Asian American Coalition of Chicago's Unity Song, and performed live at the 1988 Fifth and 1989 Sixth Annual Lunar New Year Celebrations.*

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS NAMED**

The Coalition also announced today that the following twelve people have been named the 2008 Community Service Award Recipients:

1. (Mr.) \* **Mahabubul Kabir**, Entrepreneur; President, JK Group LTD (Naperville, Illinois) and (*Title TBI*), Imexco USA, Inc. (Naperville, Illinois); Philanthropist, Bangladesh Independence Day and the Bangladeshi Directory, **Bangladeshi American Community Awardee**;
2. (Ms.) \* **Ruth Kung**, Retired Human Resource Specialist, Zenith Corporation (Glenview, Illinois); Volunteer, Chinese American Museum of Chicago; Volunteer Crafts Teacher, Chinese American Service League Senior Housing Center, **Chinese American Community Awardee**;
3. (Mr.) \* **Ernie J. Lapid, CPA**; Supervisor, State of Illinois Healthcare and Family Services, Pharmacy and Special Project Audit Units; Region Chairman – District 1-A, Lions Club International; Past President and Zone Chair, Chicago Philippine Lions Club; Volunteer Director, "Asian Chronicle USA" TV Program (Comcast Public Access), **Filipino American Community Awardee**;
4. (Mr.) \* **Laxman Alreja**, President and Chief Executive Officer, AAA Galvanizing Industries, Inc. (Joliet, Illinois); Member, Hindu Temple (Lemont, Illinois) and Aryasamaj (Chicago, Illinois), **Indian American Community Awardee**;

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5. (Ms.) \* **Kus Folkers**, Customer Service Representative, USA Docufinish (Plainfield, Illinois); Past President and Trustee, International Ramayana Institute of North America; Public Relations Director, Member, Board of Directors, and Singer, Indonesian Performing Arts Chicago, **Indonesian American Community Awardee**;

6. (Ms.) \* **Jean Mishima**, Retired Educator; President, Chicago Japanese American Historical Society; Member, Field Museum Cultural Connections Program; Past Chair and Member, Japanese American Community Day of Remembrance Program, **Japanese American Community Awardee**;

7. (Male) \* **Dr. Isaac I. Suh**, Adult and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Attending at Swedish Covenant Hospital; Founding Pastor for New World Leadership Foundation; Advocate for Parenting Leadership and Student Leadership Ministries, **Korean American Community Awardee**;

8. (Male) \* **Dr. Kim K. Tee**, Foot and Ankle Surgeon, Thorek Memorial Hospital; Founder and Past President, Malaysian Club of Chicago; President, Chinese American Museum of Chicago, **Malaysian American Community Awardee**;

9. (Mr.) \* **Sharda J. Thapa**, Business Consultant, Strategic and Financial Planning; Founding Member and Past President, Secretary and Treasurer, Association of Nepalese in Midwest America, **Nepalese American Community Awardee**;

10. (Ms.)\* **Sharmeen Yunus**, Clinical Pharmacist in Pediatric ICU and Assistant Director of Operations for Pediatric Pharmacy, University of Chicago Children's Hospital; Chair, 2007 Asian American Coalition of Chicago Asian American Festival, **Pakistani American Community Awardee**;

11. (Mr.) \* **Poxie Xumsai**, Data Processing Professional; Delivery Engagement Manager, IBM Global Services; Immediate Past President, Thai American Association of Illinois, **Thai American Community Awardee**;

12. (Mr.) \* **Hai Giap**, Retired; Former Vietnamese Military and Civilian Officer (Captain); Volunteer, Nghia Singh International, Inc., **Vietnamese American Community Awardee**.

### YOUTH WHO EXCELS AWARDEES NAMED

The Coalition also announced today that the following ten students have been named the 2008 Youth Who Excels honorees:

1. (Ms.) \* **Syeda Shammun Kader**, College Sophomore, Loyola University Chicago (Chicago, Illinois), **Bangladeshi American Community Youth Awardee**;

2. (Ms.) \* **Angela Weng**, High School Junior, Whitney Young High School (Chicago, Illinois), **Chinese American Community Youth Awardee**;

3. (Mr.) \* **Jonathan Martin Chua**, College Freshman, The University of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois), **Filipino American Community Youth Awardee**;

4. (Ms.) \* **Harleen Kaur Saini**, High School Senior, Palatine High School (Palatine, Illinois), **Indian American Community Youth Awardee**;

5. (Mr.) \* **Ari Wijanarko Adipratomo**, College Sophomore, Harvey S. Truman College (Chicago, Illinois), **Indonesian American Community Youth Awardee**;

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6. (Ms.) \* **Laura Yamasaki**, High School Senior, Walter Payton High School (Chicago, Illinois), **Japanese American Community Youth Awardee**;
7. (Ms.) \* **Grace J. Kim**, High School Junior, Glenbrook North High School (Northbrook, Illinois), **Korean American Community Youth Awardee**;
8. (Ms.) \* **Aruj S. Chaudhry**, College Junior, The University of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois), **Pakistani American Community Youth Awardee**;
9. (Ms.) \* **Tanya Pardungkiattisak**, College Freshman, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, **Thai American Community Youth Awardee**; and
10. (Mr.) \* **Thuy Ai**, College Sophomore, Roosevelt University (Chicago, Illinois), **Vietnamese American Community Youth Awardee**.

**SPONSORS**

**American Family Insurance** is the Presenting Sponsor of the 2008 Lunar New Year Celebration. This year's program is also generously underwritten by corporate sponsors CNA, American Airlines, Nationwide Inc. and Northern Trust (*among others*).

**TICKETS**

To check last-minute ticket availability, please contact [tickets@aacchicago.org](mailto:tickets@aacchicago.org) by e-mail (preferred method), or call **(708) 597-7777 x. 103**. 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**.

**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.

**MEDIA**

ENERI Communications has again been named the agency of record for this year's Lunar New Year Celebration, and has received the assignment to coordinate media relations, TV station/media company participation, and the appearances of all Celebrity Presenters and the Pan Asian American Ping Tom Memorial Awardee. ENERI will produce the Pan Asian presentation, is also serving as Lead Script Writer, and is working with the Chair on final oversight review of all script material for the three-and-a-half- hour-long show.

Media requests for interviews, photos, longform bios and credentials, and VIP attendance announcement requests should be directed to **ENERI Communications at [info@enericom.net](mailto:info@enericom.net) or (312) 635-0888**.

(MORE)

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Media wishing to cover from the press platform must be credentialed and requests are due by **Monday, January 21, 2008 C.O.B.** Media wishing to sit at dinner tables must pre-arrange purchase of dinner tickets through the assistance of community organizations.

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**2008 ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION OF CHICAGO**  
**25th ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**

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web site: [www.aacchicago.org](http://www.aacchicago.org)

*FOR: 2008 Asian American Coalition of Chicago Planning Committee*

**THE AACC 2008 HOST COMMITTEE**

*Pamela Leeming, Chair*  
*Nadia Akhtar, Co-Chair, Finance*  
*Fahad Sami, Co-Chair, Sponsorship Booklet*

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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