



NEW JERSEY

Embracing the Hopes & Aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans

ACTION

July 2022 Vol.3 No.3

OCA-New Jersey APA Heritage Celebration

May 22nd OCA-NJ kicked off their APA Heritage Celebration on May 22, 2022, at The Flaming Grill and Supreme Buffet with an entertaining and thought-provoking presentation by Cathy Bao Bean, author of “The Chopsticks-Fork Principle”. She told stories about how she learned to make the “foreign” more familiar and the ordinary and extraordinary into each other. Cathy’s presentation was followed by the presentation of the 2022 OCA-NJ scholarships that awarded \$14,300 in scholarship money this year.

This year’s recipients included the Willie Lau Memorial Scholarship to Sarah Chin, the Edwin and Aurora Len Memorial Scholarship to Angelina Cheung, The Spirit of Corky Lee Scholarship (that debuted in 2021) to Peijin Han, the Ferdinand Gajewski Memorial Scholarship to Richard Zhu, the Linda Lee Memorial Scholarship to Owen Shen, the Robert E. Wone Memorial Scholarship to Sophia Yeh, and the first ever, inaugural **Virginia L. Ng Founder’s Scholarship** in honor of the inimitable Virginia L. Ng who founded the OCA-NJ Scholarship program 21 years ago was awarded to Brian Chen. The event concluded with a delicious meal, friendly conversation, and a wonderful time had by all. It was a fantastic way to celebrate APA Heritage Month.



Henry Lee, Brian Chen and Laura Lee presenting the inaugural Virginia L. Ng Founder’s Scholarship

President’s Message

Dear OCA-NJ Chapter members,

We are well into the Summer of 2022 and I hope everyone is making the best of it.



Sadly, on May 18th, 2022 we lost Virginia Lou Ng, a great community leader, advocate, organizer, and friend. For OCA-NJ, she was our cheerleader, successful fundraiser and with the donation from her family, she started many of the programs that are active today. From the APA Essay Scholarship to one of her pet projects, annually sending chapter members a “Lunar New Year – First Day of Issue stamped envelope”. She has been known to do the work of many people. I can safely say she left some big shoes to fill, and the chapter will need all the help to continue her legacy.

I encourage our members to volunteer with one or more of our programs, and invite your friends and family to support OCA-NJ. Join in on the upcoming events.

There is still time to register for the 2022 OCA National Convention from August 4th to the 6th in Las Vegas, Nevada.

I hope to see you at the 4 Chapter Picnic on Sunday, October 2nd at Van Saun Park. I welcome any suggestions for activities.

Unity in numbers is essential for OCA-NJ and the APA community. Make a difference and direct your friends and family to www.oca-nj.org and sign up to be a member so our voices are heard.

Thank you for your support of OCA-NJ,
Henry Lee, Chapter President 2021-2022

Virginia Lou Ng

August 11, 1951 ~ May 18, 2022

Born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Virginia and her family moved to New York City in the 1960s seeking better access to higher education. Always creatively inclined, she attended the High School of Art and Design as well as the School of Visual Arts. She met her husband John in 1974 and they were married in New York City's Transfiguration Church. Their first son, Jonas was born a year later, so they moved to Bloomfield, NJ to allow for their growing family. Maxwell was born two years after that.

After owning her own small card and gift shop, Virginia answered a call to service in 1986 and went to work for the Girl Scouts of Essex (NJ) as a Field Manager. Following a relocation, she took a new position with the Girl Scouts of Bergen County (NJ); there, she made strong friendships, embraced the nonprofit world of youth leadership and empowerment, and discovered her talent for fundraising.

Her work with the Girl Scouts introduced her to her great passion — advocacy work, and she was nominated to serve as Commissioner for the Bergen County Human Rights Commission. Through this work, she also became a passionate advocate on behalf of Asian Americans. She would go on to twice serve as President of the Organization of Chinese Americans New Jersey Chapter (OCA-NJ). With OCA-NJ, she created several programs to assist AAPI youth: an internship program in the New Jersey State Legislature; a scholarship fund to assist with the increasing costs of college expenses; and a career fair to help seed Asian American leadership. Through all of this, she also created the fundraising support to sustain these programs, inaugurating various black-tie fundraisers and pushing to increase chapter membership. She organized and chaired the OCA National Convention that was hosted by OCA-NJ in Jersey City in 2016. Her interactions at the state level were noticed at the federal level, and she would go on to serve OCA as the National VP of Finance and the National VP of Chapter Development.

Her service to others extended beyond her advocacy work and continued with personal endeavors as well. She was the leader of five different Girl Scout troop, of which 18 girls would go on to earn their Gold Award, the highest youth award in Girl Scouting. She herself would be awarded the Thanks Badge, the highest honor for an adult volunteer. A hobby that started during the time she owned her card shop, she would often prepare wedding stationery for friends and family with decorative calligraphy. As the proud parent of a trans son,



she began to advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, speaking to other parents struggling with their children coming out. The entire Ng family would receive the National Queer Asian Pacific-Islander Alliance (NQUAPIA) Community Catalyst Award in part because of this work. After retiring from the Girl Scouts, Virginia would continue to tap her skills and talents to fundraise for the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center so underserved Asian Americans communities would have access to high quality, affordable healthcare. She also volunteered with AARP and was awarded the Andrus Award for Community Service.

Virginia devoted herself to family, a group that she defined without limitation. She was beloved and will be dearly missed. If you would like to honor her and the connections you made because of her, our family encourages you to donate to the OCA scholarship fund named in her honor — [the OCA-NJ Virginia L. Ng Founder's Scholarship](#). **OCA**

“ That night, he was brutally beaten with a baseball bat at a time of intense anti-Asian hate. ”

Vincent Chin 40th Remembrance & Rededication

June 16th - 19th Vincent Chin was a 27 year old Chinese American attending a night out on the town for his bachelor party in Detroit on June 19, 1982 to celebrate his upcoming wedding. That night, he was brutally beaten by two white men, with a baseball bat at a time of intense anti-Asian hate.

Forty years after his murder and the miscarriage of justice that followed, amid a climate of anti-Asian hate similar to today's, a four-day commemoration was held in Detroit and virtually, June 16-19, 2022. The website - www.vincentchin.org shares with us more about Vincent Chin and his legacy.

OCA-NJ had a screening in 2017 of the Academy Award nominated documentary, “Who Killed Vincent Chin?”. Christine Choy, one of the directors of “Who Killed Vincent Chin?” presented at the screening. [Click here for Ms. Choy's presentation](#). **OCA**





The Nai-Ni Chen Dance Troupe gather for a group picture

Nai-Ni Chen, Artist Extraordinaire of Traditional and Contemporary Dance

by Andy Chiang, Executive Manager, Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company

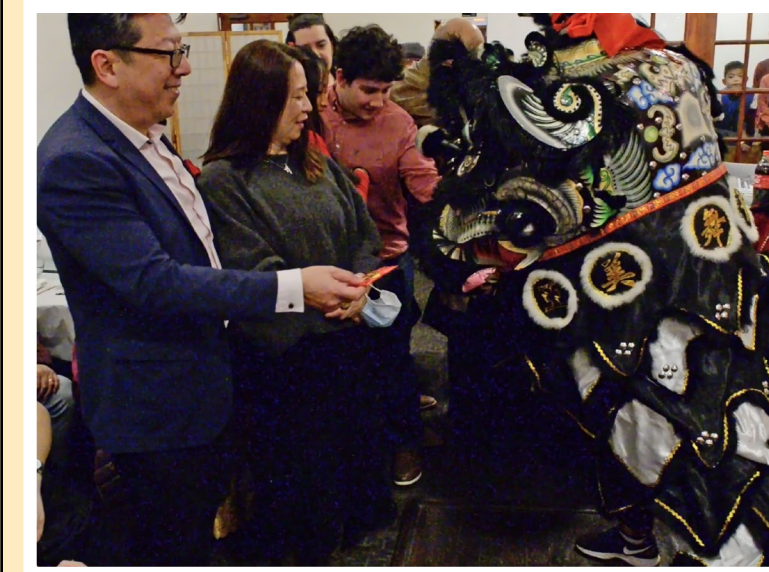
Nai-Ni Chen (1959-2021) a long time supporter of OCA-NJ Chapter, was the founder, choreographer and artistic director of the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company. She was an artist recognized by the community not only as a tradition bearer but also an extraordinary artist dedicated to bridge the traditional and contemporary artistic worlds and empowering future generations. In NYC, she studied with Doris Rudko, Bertram Ross, Ellen Tittler and Mary Anthony. In her 36 years career, she has received numerous national and international awards, including the prestigious Choreography Fellowship from The National Endowment for the Arts. She has created more than 90 original works, toured in 47 states and around the world represented by Joanne Rile and Red Shell Artist Management. Along with creating dances for her own company, she choreographed for New Jersey Ballet,

Dancing Wheels Company, and BalletMet in Ohio. The Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, managed by Andy Chiang, continues to present Nai-Ni's work and advancing her vision towards an equitable and diverse world of dance — www.nainichen.org

This past May at the NJ Performing Arts Center in Newark, a celebratory special performance was held of her incredible legacy of dancer, choreographer, culture ambassador, and educator. In addition, a vibrant dance concert with guest artist the Ahn Trio to standing ovation was performed commemorating the Year of the Water Tiger. Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company has been a beloved presence at NJPAC since it first opened its doors in 1997. Next year, the Celebration of the Year of the Rabbit has been scheduled for January 21 and 22, 2023.

OCA

2022 Lunar New Year Dinner Celebration





Look Us Up Online!


Want to catch up on OCA-NJ Chapter's latest news, activities, programs and events, or simply learn more about our Chapter and the OCA organization?

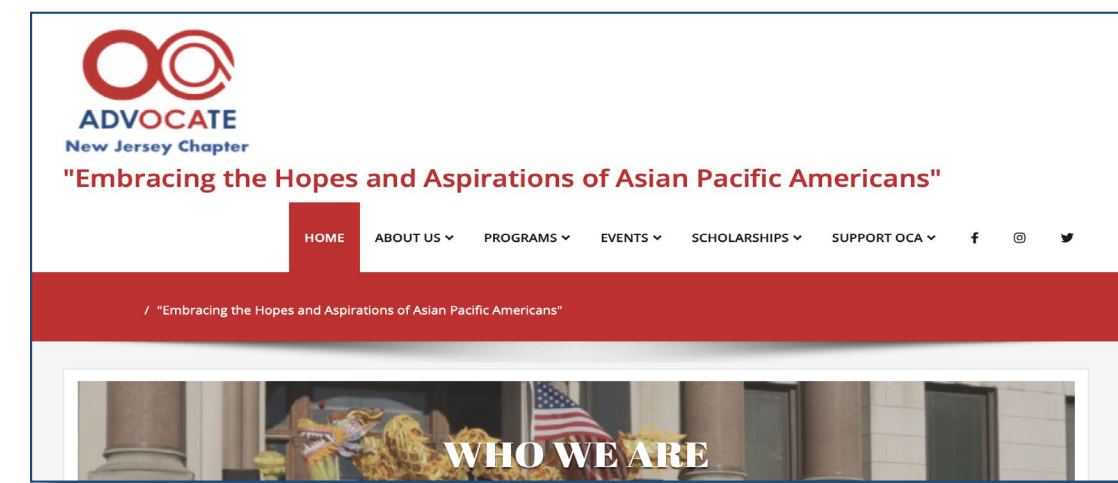
Add our website - www.oca-nj.org - to your favorites on your phone, computer, tablet!

Follow our social media accounts:

 Instagram - oca.advocate.nj

 Facebook - OCA-New Jersey

 Twitter - @ocanjchapter



If you're a member, you'll continue to receive our email updates. Not receiving our email updates? Send an email to cbraccino.ocanj@gmail.com and you'll be added to our email list. If you're not a member, we encourage you learn more about our chapter through all the above and hopefully join and support OCA-NJ!

Our National organization does much work in advocacy, policy and programming, as well as resources for the AAPI community. Check out OCA National's website, www.oconational.org. Read about OCA's policy and advocacy goals, its 2020 Annual Report, "A Year of Resilience", and events like the upcoming OCA National Convention in Las Vegas and theme "Building Our Community's Heroes". **OCA**

Health Related Social Needs Among Chinese American

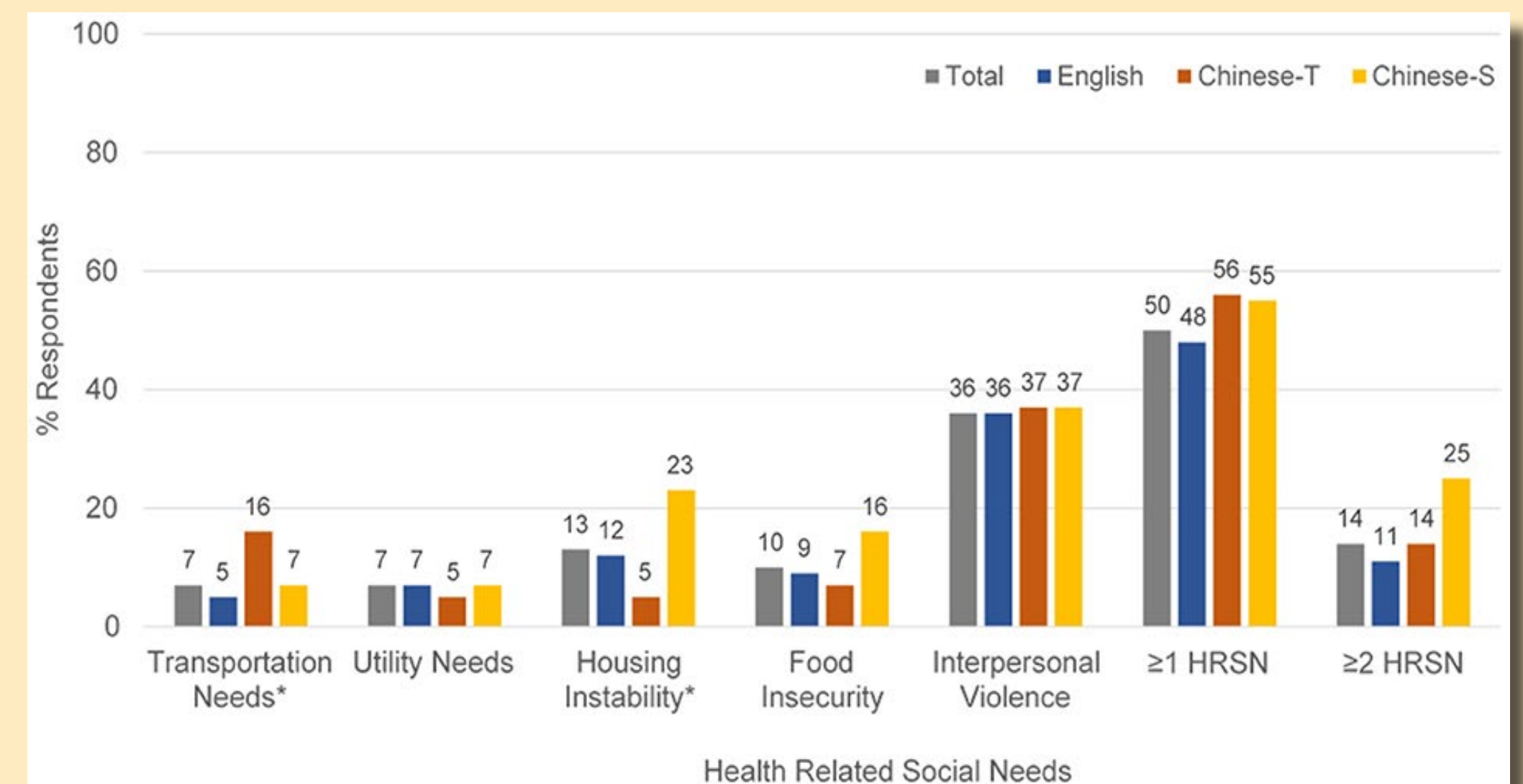
Excerpts from original research article - *Frontiers in Public Health* | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.674035>

"The recognition that social determinants of health and structural barriers drive inequities in health and health care has long been a central tenet in public health. However, there is recent focus to address social determinants of health within health care settings as a way to reduce higher rates of chronic disease and poorer outcomes among vulnerable patients. **Health related social needs (HRSN)**, including transportation, food insecurity, housing stability and interpersonal violence which are more downstream factors that impact health care, also result directly in both poorer outcomes and weaker health system performance. Thus, efforts to systematically collect information on HRSN in clinical settings and develop solutions to address HRSN are on the rise. Few clinic-based HRSN studies to date, however, have focused on measuring HRSN in languages other than English or Spanish or in diverse immigrant populations, including Asian Americans (AA), where cultural factors and immigration experiences can pose additional barriers to accessing care and routine preventive services."

Theresa Chan, registered nurse and OCA-NJ Chapter Board Member, shared this research article that focused on the specific needs of Asian Americans (AA) and examined the prevalence of HRSN during a period spanning the COVID-19 pandemic to inform strategies to improve cancer screening and primary care among AA patients. We hope that sharing this article raises awareness of the HRSN in our AA communities and think about how we each can help our Asian American family and friends in need.

"The research results showed that among 236 participants, most were Asian (74%), non-US born (79%), and privately insured (57%). One-third responded in Chinese (37%). Half reported having ≥ 1 HRSN. Interpersonal violence was high across all participants. Transportation needs were highest among Chinese-Traditional language survey participants, while food insecurity and housing instability were higher among Chinese-Simplified language survey participants. Lower-income patients had higher odds of having ≥ 2 HRSN. Older age and public insurance/uninsured were significantly associated with low neighborhood perceptions. These study findings inform the need to augment HRSN identification to adequately address social needs that impact health outcomes and life course experiences for Asian patients. As HRSN measuring efforts continue, and COVID-19's impact on the health of minority communities emerge, it will be critical to develop community-specific referral pathways to connect AA to resources for HRSN and continue to address more upstream social determinants of health for those who are disproportionately impacted." **OCA**

Health related social needs by survey language among all study participants
 [Total, English, Chinese (Traditional), Chinese (Simplified)]



K-12 Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Curriculum Project

by Christine Braccino, OCA-NJ Chapter Secretary

OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates is leading a push for our nation's schools to teach Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history.

OCA's Policy Platform on education "is that our public and private education systems must see equitable access as well as AAPI representation in curriculum. It is believed that education is the great equalizer and the primary support for American social and economic mobility. To fulfill this promise however, education must be equal and fairly represented across all communities.

OCA is committed to the fair representation of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific

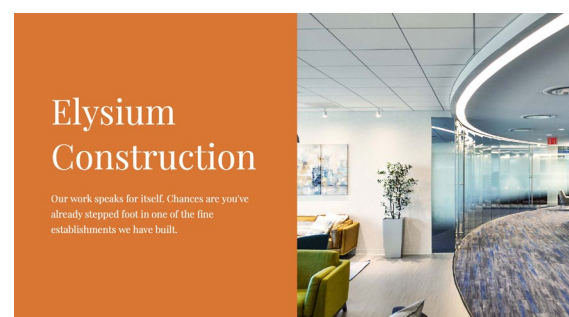
Islanders (AANHPI) in K-12 curriculum to ensure that it reflects the diversity of the American experience and accurately portray AANHPI history. Not only does AANHPI history help to create a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of American history, but it also helps fight anti-Asian racism and xenophobia."

The K-12 AANHPI Curriculum Task Force advocates for the inclusion of AANHPI curriculum in our nation's classrooms. This Task Force will create a national database of AANHPI curriculum that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive in its treatment of AANHPI history. **Follow #k12aanhpi_project on Instagram for more information and updates!**

In January 2022, New Jersey's Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation that will ensure that the contributions, history, and heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) are included in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Social Studies for students in kindergarten through Grade 12. The legislation will create an AAPI curriculum requirement for schools and will establish the Commission for Asian American Heritage within the Department of Education. New Jersey was the second state after Illinois to require this curriculum, and more states are starting pushes to require AANHPI curricula. The New Jersey requirement is expected to take effect with the 2022-2023 school year.

OCA

Sponsored by the following:



Volunteer Opportunities

OCA-NJ Chapter hosts and/or sponsors many events each year. These events are possible due to the continuing support and hard work of our board, members and friends. We need more volunteers to help us, and if you would like to volunteer, please contact us at ocanj.events@gmail.com. Skills such as organization, planning, communication, networking, graphic design and most important, teamwork, are valuable to OCA-NJ achieving its mission and goals. You don't need to be an OCA-NJ Chapter member to volunteer. Thank you for your interest and support!

Current roles seeking volunteers -

1. Project manage the compilation of the chapter's Annual Holiday Ball Dinner Journal including receipt of journal page orders and content, organization of content into journal, and coordinate for the publishing of the journal.
2. Support OCA-NJ's ACTION e-newsletter team with compilation and formatting of articles and photos into e-newsletter. Articles and photos are submitted to the team. See sample of e-newsletter at <https://www.oca-nj.org/>
3. Develop event flyers and marketing materials.

OCA



Mission Statement

OCA-New Jersey Chapter is a state chapter of OCA, a section 501(c)(3) national organization dedicated to advancing the social, political and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States. Our goals are: (1) To advocate for social justice, equal opportunity and fair treatment. (2) To promote civic participation, education and leadership. (3) To advance coalitions and community building. (4) To foster cultural heritage. Founded in 1973 as the Organization of Chinese Americans, OCA maintains its headquarters in Washington, D.C. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

OCA's PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- Promoting active participation of Asian Pacific Americans in both civic and national matters;
- Securing the social justice, equal opportunity and equal treatment of Asian Pacific Americans;
- Eliminating prejudices, stereotypes and ignorance of Asian Pacific Americans, and;
- Promoting the cultural heritage of Chinese and Asian Pacific Americans

<https://oca-nj.org>
<https://www.oceanational.org>