

CYNTHIA'S CYNTHESIS



Cynthia Lau

Do you ever feel like what you are doing is not enough? Something is missing, but you are not sure what it is. I am certain that a majority of us have moments of insecurity and inadequacy that would make our Mother's cringe that her special child does not believe that we have within ourselves the power to change and make a difference in our world. We do have the ability to make the world better, oftentimes, it starts with the vision of one but it takes the collective energy of many to make the vision a reality. In this issue, we review several events staged by community volunteers, I am in awe of the commitment of its members who spend countless hours to ensure the success of the event(s). Self-help gurus offer the sage advice that we can enhance ourselves when we give to others. Volunteering your time is not only

good for the community by making the world a better place, but it could actually make a significant impact on your life.

Quotes abound with regard to the importance of service; we should be the change we want to see in the world (M.Ghandi) and those who have found how to serve are often the happiest (A. Schweitzer). Sometimes, it takes a bit of pop culture to bring it home as to why we should be actively engaged in the betterment of our community. One pop icon extolled us that "I'm starting with the man in the mirror, I'm asking him to change his ways, and no message could have been clearer, if you wanna make the world a better place, take a look a yourself and make a change".

It really does just start with the man in the mirror; a visionary with a mission and a mission backed by actions. API leaders throughout the community envision greater political and economic empowerment of the API community through enhanced engagement. To that end, organizations such as APAPA, CAPA, CAPITAL and OCA have been instrumental in creating programs to help the youth in our community achieve their goals and dreams through scholarships and

internships. As we move forward in our pursuit of the American Dreams, we cannot forget the contributions as well as the tribulations of those who came before us. At a recent hearing chaired by Senator Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, the community had an opportunity to learn about the Sacramento railyard project from historic as well as economic perspective. Writer Steve Yee has been active with the Yee Fow Museum project; we are thankful for his contributions in educating us about early Asian-American history. Many people give of their time and resources to empower us as a community; APANR salute you for your dedication, countless hours and boundless energy for making our community a better place. We are energized by your passion. There is no better way to feel empowered and than to be in service of others. ☺

Change only takes place through action. Not through prayer or meditation, but through action.
—Dalai Lama

COMMUNITY

California Legislative Panel Focuses on Sacramento's Chinese-Americans History

The Asian Pacific Islanders Affairs Senate Select Committee conducted an informational hearing (June 28, 2007) at the State Capitol to bring awareness and discuss the history of the Chinese-Americans in the Sacramento area. Chinese immigrants, one of the earliest populations coming from Asia to locate in California, have been instrumental in the development of cities such as San Francisco and Sacramento. From the levees to the railyards, Chinese immigrants have significantly contributed to major developments in California.

Beginning in the 1850's, Chinese immigrants settled on the river banks along "I" Street from Second to Sixth streets, the newcomers called Sacramento Yee Fow or second city. This area along the river banks, was also known as China Slough because of the concentration of Chinese encamped along its shore that became the center Sacramento's Chinese community.

With the largest urban real estate development in the nation occurring on the very site of Sacramento's first Chinatown, Yee Fow, there is a growing call to action and community effort to

memorialize the early pioneers of China Slough.

The hearing provided a historic opportunity to educate the public about the rich history of Sacramento's Chinese pioneers and to provide a forum to discuss the need for a Chinese museum in Sacramento's railyards."

In the words of Kevin Starr, professor of history, University of Southern California and California State Librarian Emeritus, "Chinese immigrants to the Far West, so long overlooked, now stand front and center in the saga of the struggle for civil rights in these United States." ☺