

NEW YORK
APRIL 24, 2012

COLLEGE STUDENT OR RECENT GRADUATE NEEDED
PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIP WITH OCA-NY
Preferred Start Date-May 1st-August 15, 2012

OCA-NY seeks a college student or recent graduate to work full-time as a summer intern on its hate crimes prevention art project and its ongoing campaign for justice for Private Danny Chen. OCA-NY is a civil rights organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the political, economic, and cultural rights of Asian Americans in the five boroughs of New York City.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Art Project, now in its 6th year, is a collaboration between OCA-NY and organizations serving minority youth to organize an art competition among high school students in New York City. The college summer intern, supervised by OCA-NY, will work with the student planning committee for the art contest, help organize and prepare the training/workshops for the planning committee, advertise the competition, and plan the opening reception of the art contest.

OCA-NY is the lead advocacy organization seeking justice for Private Danny Chen, a 19 year-old soldier who died in Afghanistan after being subjected to mistreatment by his superiors. OCA-NY is seeking to have the court-martials in the U.S. We will be planning an event to commemorate Danny's 20th birthday in May.

The college student must work well independently and in group dynamics and have strong organizational and leadership skills. Travel between Queens, Brooklyn, and Manhattan and working some nights and weekends will be required. Experience working with youth groups and knowledge of hate crimes in the Asian American community in New York is preferred.

STIPEND: \$2,500 for the period from May 1st (preferred start date) to August 15, 2012

TO APPLY: Send a current resume and an essay, no more than 500 words, as to why you should be selected. Include the names and contact information for two references: one from someone who is knowledgeable about your character and leadership skills and one from a professor that has taught you within the last year.

E-MAIL your application to Esther Min Choi at esther.choi@oca-ny.org

Deadline for applying is: April 15, 2012

For more info: contact oca-ny@oca-ny.org

OCA-NY is a chapter of the OCA, a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization. For more information about OCA-NY, please go to www.oca-ny.org.

A link for some information about MoCA.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=976o62w45zg&feature=player_embedded

NEW JERSEY

Lower East Side on Jersey Shore; In Bradley Beach, Chinese and Italians Find Harmony

By DAVID W. CHEN

Published: September 03, 1998

Family after family, they flocked to this tiny, tranquil Jersey Shore town from Mulberry Street in Little Italy, Italian-Americans hungry for a summer escape from urban congestion.

It started in the 1950's, and Anna Mingione was one of the pioneers, spreading the word to neighbors in the city about the fragrance of the sea, the glow of the sand, the family atmosphere of the area. Then, one day in 1959, as Mrs. Mingione pushed a baby carriage past a row of charming bungalows, she was startled to see another familiar face. It was Sue Moy, her hairdresser from Chinatown.

"We saw her on the porch, and we said, 'Look who's here!' " Mrs. Mingione said, smiling at the memory. "Then when we walked around the corner, we saw more of our Chinatown neighbors. We can't get away from each other."

The Chinese, Mrs. Mingione later discovered, actually beat the Italians to Bradley Beach, having first made it their summer address in the 1940's and 50's. And both groups remain firmly entrenched here, with perhaps 200 people altogether coming each weekend in the summer. The two groups have coexisted at the beach in much the same way they do in the city: keeping to themselves, focusing on family, swelling with immigrant pride.

Of course, many ethnic groups that share urban neighborhoods also tend to gravitate to the same vacation spots. But the fact that two contiguous and occasionally adversarial groups in Manhattan have established second identities in the same small town, 60 miles away, on parallel streets, totally by accident, is a serendipitous phenomenon of another order that even Neil Simon couldn't dream up.

It is almost as if strips of Chinatown and Little Italy had been peeled off lower Manhattan and layered atop this town, turning Mott Street into Newark Avenue and Mulberry Street into Park Place Avenue.

"It is very strange that it happened that way, especially since there was a lot of hostility between the two groups in the generation before the first Bradley Beach generation," said Bruce Edward Hall, who writes about the Bradley Beach experience in his new book, "Tea That Burns: A Family Memoir of Chinatown" (The Free Press).

"But if you think about it, Bradley was homey, not fancy, and family-oriented," Mr. Hall said. "And both groups are territorial, believe in the safety in numbers and are family-oriented. So they are more alike than they might want to admit."

CALIFORNIA

The story behind the redress for the relocation of Japanese-Americans to internment camps.

Grant Ujifusa, January 26, 2012, New York Consulate

I would like to thank Ambassador Hiroki and the Consulate staff for all the work they have done on my behalf. I would also like to thank all of you for coming today. I am honored by the award I have received. But I think six people are equally deserving. They are:

- * Senator Spark Matsunaga
- * Congressman Bob Matsui
- * Cherry Kinoshita, a small business woman from Seattle
- * Denny Yasuhara, a middle school teacher from Spokane
- * Grayce Uyehara, a social worker from Philadelphia
- * Rudy Tokiwa from Sunnyvale, California, and a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the all Japanese American Army unit that won more Congressional Medals of Honor than any other in our history.

Only Grayce is alive today. But let me say, as emphatically as I can, that without these six people, the effort to redress the grievances of 110,000 Japanese Americans forced into internment camps during World War II would have failed.

For my six friends, redress was total e sho ken mei, which in Japanese means full throttle and non-stop.

I'd now like to tell you the story of how President Ronald Reagan, for two years publicly opposed to the Japanese American redress bill, came to sign HR 442 on August 10, 1988. The hero of the story is Kazuo Masuda of Fountain Valley, California. This was a small town where Kaz grew up on a tiny truck farm in then agricultural Orange County.

On August 27, 1944, Kaz was killed in action on the banks of the Arno River in Italy while serving as a member of the 442. Sergeant Masuda was 24 years old, and was to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

When Kaz volunteered for the Army out of the Poston, Arizona, internment camp, his mother and father and his sisters Mary and June were with him. Before he left for Camp Shelby in Mississippi, Kaz said to Mary that if anything happened to him, he wanted to be buried in his hometown cemetery back in Fountain Valley.

After Mary learned that Kaz had been killed, she received permission to leave the internment camp for Fountain Valley, where she went to City Hall to make arrangements for her brother. But the town fathers there said to Mary: "We're sorry, but we don't bury Japs in our cemetery."

Somehow word got back to General Vinegar Joe Stilwell at the Pentagon. In the China-India theatre, Stilwell was the commanding officer of Colonel Frank Merrill of Merrill's Marauders - a group of 2,700 men, including 15 Japanese Americans of the Military Intelligence Service, who could read, write, understand, and speak Japanese. All of the men, all of them volunteers, fought and died and distinguished themselves behind Japanese lines in Burma. For a year, Merrill's Marauders tied down an entire Japanese division. The Marauders suffered an 85% casualty rate.

Vinegar Joe respected, even loved, the Japanese American soldier. So he got on a plane, flew 3000 miles to California, and confronted the town fathers.

The General said, "This soldier is going to be buried here, and we're going to make an example of you SOB's and make a big deal of it. I am going to present Kaz Masuda's mother the Distinguished Service Cross at a ceremony at the Santa Ana Bowl."

The town fathers said, "Oh, we're sorry."

Invited to speak at the ceremony was a movie star, Army Captain Ronald Reagan. But there was a big problem: Kaz's mother refused to accept the medal. What she felt was this: "They push us off our farm and into a scary camp in the desert. Then they take my son, and he comes back in box. And they want to give me a medal? No thank you."

"But General Vinegar Joe Stilwell is coming to present the medal to you," Mary said. "I don't care who he is," Mrs. Masuda said. "No thank you."

Finally, it was arranged for Kaz's sister Mary to accept the medal.

After Stilwell spoke, Ronald Reagan got up and said: The blood that has soaked into the sand is all one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way - an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way Mr. and Mrs. Masuda, just as one member of the family of Americans, speaking to another member, I want to say for what your son Kazuo did - thank you."

Many Japanese Americans knew that Captain Reagan spoke at Kaz's ceremony, but how could we get word into President Reagan to remind him of what he did in 1945 and perhaps nudge him toward changing his mind about our bill? I asked Bill Bennett to help; then Ed Rollins, Reagan's campaign manager; and then Richard Wirthlin, Reagan's pollster.

None of them could do anything. After a meeting in the White House, Wirthlin called me and said that the top aides around Reagan were dead set against. Wirthlin suggested that we hold off for a session of Congress. I said we couldn't. We had been working for more than ten years, and we were running out of gas.

At that time, the summer of 1987, I was book editor in New York, and one of my writers was New Jersey Governor Tom Kean, who is here with us tonight. I turned to him for help. Tom said that the President was coming to New Jersey to campaign for Republican state legislative candidates in October, 1987. The Governor said he would bring up redress with the President as they travelled around the state.

Reagan said to Tom that he thought Japanese Americans were sent to camp for protective custody. Tom said, "No, no, it wasn't that." The next day, Tom called me and said, "Write me a letter speaking to that point and I'll get to it the President using a line of access for Republican governors."

I said, "I can also get a letter from Kaz Masuda's sister, saying please sign HR 442." Tom said, "I'll get her letter into him too." June Masuda Goto wrote:

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Perhaps you recall a very special day for our family, December 9, 1945, when you came to a ceremony honoring my brother Kaz Masuda in Santa Ana, California. The presence of you and General Stilwell greatly affected the community, and led to a better life for our family. [For example,] many times I have been asked to speak at the Kazuo Masuda middle school. I speak to all the history classes, and quote your words to the students. If the legislation comes to you, I hope you will look upon it favorably.

Reagan read June's letter, called Governor Kean, and said, "I remember that day at the ceremony for Kaz Masuda. I think redress is something I want to do."

After the President signed our bill, June Masuda Goto was led up to the podium to meet him. The President leaned down toward her, and asked, "Are you Mary?" June answered, "No, Mary is dead. I'm her sister June."

Long ago, a Buddhist priest served our family while I was growing up. He once said, "Where there is gratitude, there also is civilization."

As we're here together now, I think we can be grateful to Kaz Masuda for his heroism on the battlefield, and grateful to Kaz's mother for her defiance of authority of the most imposing kind, and to Kaz's sister for her acceptance of life as it is, and grateful finally to General Stilwell for going the last mile to honor a fellow soldier. We are the beneficiaries of the civilization that these four Americans helped to create.

Thank you again for coming.

WASHINGTON, DC

If **Marion Barry** thought he could release a statement explaining he's dismayed with only "***some*** of the Asian business owners" (bold, italic and underline in original) and expect the outrage over his [blanket call for Asian businesses to leave Ward 8](#) to disappear — well, he's learning that's not how it works.

For Exhibit A, read **Bob McCartney**'s [Sunday column](#), wherein Barry pays a visit to **Peter Cho**, a Korean American who has run the MLK Market on its namesake avenue for decades.

In another time, perhaps, Barry might have been able to pay a personal visit, lay on the charm and defuse a controversy like this. But not this time. Barry ends up calling Cho a “good Asian” — you know, as opposed to all those bad ones — and telling him that he only regretted failing to use a “better set of words.” Barry did not leave Cho satisfied

Apologizing for giving offense or for using the wrong words is one of the classic hallmarks of the non-apology apology, and some want Barry to do better.

Witness the joint statement issued by no fewer than 37 local and national groups calling on Barry “provide a sincere apology and ensure meaningful engagement with our communities.”

From their statement:

Rather than acknowledging and appreciating the contributions that Asian businesses, alongside other racial and ethnic communities, have made to the city, Councilmember Barry's remarks appear to fan the flames of racial divisions and imply that Asian Americans are not invested in developing a robust economy that benefits all residents.

Our organizations are also extremely concerned that remarks such as these can perpetuate stereotypes of Asians taking jobs away from other Americans, which can fuel racism and animosity towards community members. ...

In light of these concerns, we call upon Councilmember Barry to provide a meaningful apology and officially retract his statement; refrain from engaging in harmful rhetoric regarding Asian and other immigrant communities; and develop meaningful relationships with our communities in the District of Columbia to understand the contributions and challenges of community members.

And here's a list of the groups calling on Barry to make further amends:

Local:

Asian American LEAD (AALEAD)

Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington DC Area

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance — DC Chapter (APALA-DC)

Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC)

Asian Pacific Americans for Progress — DC (APAP-DC)

Dana Tai Soon Burgess Co

DC Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Caucus

KhushDC

Korean American Drycleaners Association

Korean American Grocers Association of Greater Washington DC (KAGRO-DC)

Many Languages One Voice

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum — DC Chapter (NAPAWF-DC)

National Organization of Vietnamese American Leaders of Greater Washington DC (NOVAL-DC)

Network of South Asian Professionals (NetSAP DC)

South Asian American Bar Association — DC (SABA-DC)

Vietnamese-American Community Service Center

Washington Area Liquor Retailers Association (WALRA)

National:

APIAVote

Asian American Action Fund

Asian American Justice Center, Member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice

Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS)

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA)

Asian Pacific Americans for Progress — National (APAP)

Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)

Council of Korean Americans

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)

National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP)

National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD)

National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA)

National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC)

OCA

Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)

Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)

By [Mike DeBonis](#) | 12:37 PM ET, 04/09/2012

MISCELLANEOUS

WRITER TAKES PRIDE IN EARTHY TOISANESE

Chinese 'peasant' dialect redeemed By L.A. Chung - Mercury News - 12/22/2007

In unraveling his family history, writer **William Poy Lee** had no idea he'd wind up making a declaration of respectability for **Toisanese** across the America. Yet there he was on stage, in the hoity-toity Asian Art Museum in San Francisco this month, publicly singing out salty, gritty Toisanese set to music, with his mother Poy Jen in the front row. He turned Toisanese - from household names to cuss words - into a performance. It's enough to make a self-respecting Chinese cringe. *Toisanese is a Chinese dialect, but it is pure peasant-speak, in all of its graphic, roiling, diphthong-laced glory.*

"Everyone said Toisanese was such an ugly language. Everyone," said Lee, who dreamt up the idea of a jazz-like improvisation performance, based on ordinary words of his childhood tongue. Lee reconnected with the dialect while writing his memoir, **"The Eighth Promise,"**

delving into *why America's first Chinese immigrants were such tough people.*

Most of the first Chinese immigrants to the United States hailed from Toisan, one of four districts in the Pearl River Delta outside Guangzhou, known before as Canton. Once, 95 percent of the Chinese in the United States, from former Washington Gov. **Gary Locke** to Sunnyvale Councilman Dean Chu, traced back to Sze Yap, the four-district area where Toisan is located. Many of the people who inhabited San Jose's early Chinatowns and built the Ng Shing Gung Temple in Kelley Park come from Sze Yap. **Up to the 1970s, you could speak Toisanese, also pronounced Hoisanese, to almost any Chinese-American from New York to Mississippi to San Jose and be understood.**

Try to find "Toisan," on the map, however, and you will only find "Taishan," which is the word in Mandarin. Unlike the most well-known big city, major dialects of China, **Toisanese exists only on the tongue.** "There are no Toisanese novels or opera," Lee observes. "Bruce Lee never slipped into Toisanese." It sounds rough, as though you have pebbles in your mouth. "In truth it is a shout," Lee said, one that might "include some finely sprayed spittle."

Mandarin-speaking people cannot understand Cantonese, and frequently claim it hard to listen to. Cantonese-speaking people pronounce Toisanese inferior and hard to listen to. Therein lies the crux of it. As he delved into his book, Lee delved into feelings of **embarrassment about the dialect.** As a kid growing up on the streets of Chinatown, U.S.A., Toisanese or any Chinese got him benched at school. Even in Cantonese school, teachers rapped his knuckles for speaking Toisanese.

Then he began to think about **Toisanese attributes for what they were: a hard-honed language that is inseparable from the land, unpretentious and tough-skinned.** The words come "wrapped up like clods of dirt embedded with stones." As he thought about it, "**Toisanese** can arc over the rice paddies, go through a flock of noisy geese, cut through a stand of bamboo, and go around a hill," he wrote. In short, it was designed for survival. Yet, it had a musicality. The famous Tang Dynasty poetry, when read in Cantonese - or Toisanese dialect - rhyme, unlike in Mandarin.

Lee took a page from jazz to riff Toisanese words off of percussion and wind instruments to enliven his book readings. He collaborated with Layton Doung of Yellow River Drummers, and flutist Haley Wong to come up with an improvisational performance based on a "word score" of four parts: onomatopoeia, household words, salty cuss words and food-related words. Some, like cable car, is an onomatopoeia, invented here, translated as "dang-dang car." "One guy said, 'Hearing you guys doing it publicly with so much fun makes me feel me better about my language,' " Lee said. "It was an 'Oprah' moment - healing in front 130 people!"

WHAT TO DO ABOUT STOLEN CREDIT CARDS

Read this and make a copy for your files in case you need to refer to it someday. Maybe we should all take some of his advice! A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

1. **do not sign** the back of your **credit cards**. Instead, put **'PHOTO ID REQUIRED.'**

2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, **DO NOT** put the complete **account number** on the 'For' line. Instead, just put the last **four numbers**. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.

3. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. **Never** have your **SS#** printed on your checks. (DUH!) You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

4. Place the **contents** of your **wallet** on **photocopy machine**. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel.. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.
I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a Name, address, Social Security number, credit cards..

5. We have been told we should **cancel** our **credit cards** immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.

6.. **File** a **police report** immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps **most important of all**:

7. **Call** the **3 national credit reporting organizations** immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number.. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name.

The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit..

Now, here are the numbers you always need to contact about your wallet, if it has been stolen:

1.) Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

2.) Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

3.) Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

4.) Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

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New York Chinatown circa 1942

This is the link to our Reunion Website. It includes the picture history of all six reunions and various past photos along with a library of all the Newsletters. Put it in your Favorites List. If you can't access it by clicking on it, then copy and paste to the address line.

<http://aditl.com/chinatown/>