

ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION OF CHICAGO

The 26th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration
Cultural Threads Woven into the Fabric of a United Future
 Hosted by the Korean American Association of Chicago
 January 24, 2009 ~ Hyatt Regency O'Hare

Please print out and SAVE and forward on a wide basis. Thank you.

TO: Asian Pacific American (APA) Community Leadership; APA Community Media; Major Media; Corporate; Governmental, Political and Student Outreach Distribution Lists (Midwest Regional and National)

FROM: Irene Cualoping, Chair, Media Committee, AACC 2009 Lunar New Year Celebration

FOR: Asian American Coalition of Chicago/2009 Chair Kay Kihwa Rho

**ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION OF CHICAGO 26th ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24th AT HYATT REGENCY O'HARE IN ROSEMONT**

**ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION OF CHICAGO ANNOUNCES CELEBRITY PRESENTERS
TICKET SALES CONTINUE**

(MEDIA / COMMUNITY UPDATE # 1)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT: GENERAL/TICKETS: info@aacchicago.org or**
December 21, 2008 **(e-mail preferred) or (847) 830-6791 or**
 (847) 226-4881; www.aacchicago.org
 MEDIA: info@enericom.net or (312) 635-0888
 www.enericom.net/blog

CHICAGO, IL - - Plans are busily underway for the Asian American Coalition of Chicago's **26th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration, "Cultural Threads Woven into the Fabric of a United Future"** to be held **Saturday, January 24, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont, Illinois (60018)**. This theme celebrates the accomplishments of an amazing year as well as highlights the hope of a united future. Over 1,000 people expected at the black-tie optional gala, which is usually sold-out. Ticket sales opened in October, and early purchase is recommended.

The 2009 Lunar New Year Gala welcomes The Year of the Ox 4707. Reception, open microphone and exhibitions for businesses and community organizations begins at 5:30 p.m. Opening Ceremonies are at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner, entertainment, and awards ceremonies, until approximately 10 p.m. Tickets are available at \$800.00 per table of ten and are available on a first-funded, first-seated basis. Visit **www.aacchicago.org** for more information on ticket sales, sponsorships, last-minute availability to make ad placements (*as of presstime, the extended deadline is December 23, 2008*) and logistics. Details were previously announced in the Coalition's December 7, 2008 press statement, also available on the website.

The Coalition today announced its roster of **Celebrity Presenters**. The names of the **Show Director, Creative Team and A-List team of writers** for the show; as well as the recipients of its **2009 Pan Asian American Ping Tom Memorial Award, Grand Asian and Community Service Awards** are expected to be publicly announced shortly in separate releases.

CELEBRITY PRESENTERS... The Asian American Coalition of Chicago (AACC) is pleased to announce that the following popular TV, stage and radio broadcast personalities are scheduled to appear in person as Celebrity Presenters at the Coalition's 26th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration, on Saturday, January 24, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont:

(MORE)



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ASIAN LUNAR NEW YEAR January 24, 2009 / CELEBRITY PRESENTERS ANNOUNCED

- - ADD ONE

- * **Rehan Aslam**, 10 p.m. News Producer, FOX Chicago TV News;
- * **Ravi Baichwal**, Weekend Anchor/Reporter, ABC 7 News;
- * **Jonathan Choe**, Freelance Reporter, CLTV News and Adjunct Professor, Columbia College School of Journalism;
- * **Cheryl Hamada**, Equity Actress and Pledge Drive Host, WTTW-TV;
- * **Ellee Pai Hong**, Weekend Morning Anchor, NBC 5 Chicago News;
- * **Judy Hsu**, Morning Anchor/Reporter, ABC 7 News;
- * **Jan Jeffcoat**, Morning Anchor/Reporter, FOX Chicago TV News;
- * **Nancy Loo**, Morning and Noon Anchor/Reporter, FOX Chicago TV News;
- * **Joanie Lum**, Reporter, CBS 2 Chicago News;
- * **Mai Martinez**, Weekend Anchor/Reporter, CBS 2 Chicago News;
- * **Julian Nieh**, Evening Personality, WBBM-FM B96 Chicago (*pending final scheduling*);
- * **Mia Park**, Equity Actress and Host, Chic A Go Go! TV Show (Roctober Media, Chicago Access Network Television (CAN-TV)); and Co-Founder, A-Squared Theatre Workshop;
- * **Marc Rita**, Director, Actor and Producer; (Director, "Spice Up Your Life!" SunCasTV); and
- * **Judy Wang**, Weekend Morning Anchor/Reporter, CLTV News (*pending final scheduling*)

In addition, appearing in pre-taped segments will be **Linda Yu**, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Anchor/Reporter, ABC 7 News; and the smooth jazz voice of **Rick O'Dell Nozaki**, Show Host/Middays and Music Director, Clear Channel Radio WNUA FM 95.5.

Linda Yu will again present the introduction for the prestigious **PAN ASIAN AMERICAN PING TOM MEMORIAL AWARD**. The name of this year's honoree will be released shortly.

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 her approximately 24th time participating in this event, and her ninth time presenting the Coalition's prestigious annual **Pan Asian American Ping Tom Memorial Award**, its highest award.

This will be **Joanie Lum's** eleventh time co-hosting the Coalition's Lunar New Year Celebration; the eighth time each for **Nancy Loo** and **Judy Wang**; the sixth time as a participant in various roles* for **Marc Rita**; the fifth time co-hosting for **Judy Hsu**; the fourth time for **Ellee Pai Hong**; the third time each for **Mai Martinez** and **Rick O'Dell Nozaki**; the second time each for **Rehan Aslam**, **Ravi Baichwal**, **Jan Jeffcoat** and **Julian Nieh**; and it will be the debut appearance at this event for **Jonathan Choe**, **Cheryl Hamada** and **Mia Park**.

(***Marc Rita** was a presenter in 2008; director in 2007 (Unity Number); appeared on-stage as an actor in 1991; and as a singer in 1989 and 1988. He directed the 2007 Coalition Unity Number, "Our Silk Road," a dance performance and musical production for the 24th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration; appeared on-stage as the Old Man in the 1991 Eighth Annual Lunar New Year Celebration opening musical drama, "Start with the Children" (Keith Uchima); in the Ensemble in the 1988 Fifth Annual Lunar New Year Celebration Unity Number, "Together, The World Can Count On Us" (Keith Uchima/Irene Cualoping); and in its return performance in 1989 at the Sixth Annual Lunar New Year Celebration. He is also Co-Founder of Chicago's first Asian American theater company (MinaSama-No in 1983.))

(MORE)



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-- ADD TWO

Attorney and community leader **Darryl Tom** has been invited to assist in the **Pan Asian American Ping Tom Memorial Award** presentation, on behalf of **The Tom Family** (*tentative - pending confirmation as of presstime*). 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.

This gala event is made possible through the generosity of major sponsorships. The Coalition is pleased to again welcome **American Family Insurance** as a presenting sponsor of the 2009 Gala.

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. Every year a different Asian community takes turn playing host of the Lunar New Year gala. This year it is the Korean American Community, which has thrice before (in 1985, 1993, and 2001) held the gavel for the community's most important event of the year. The Korean American Association of Chicago is providing the leadership this year. **Kay Kihwa Rho** is 2009 Chair of the Asian American Coalition of Chicago.

The Asian American Coalition of Chicago, which sponsors both the annual Lunar New Year Celebration and the weeklong Asian American Festival at Chicago's Richard J. Daley Plaza, celebrates approximately 16 different cultures. Over the years, the Coalition has included representatives of the Bangladeshi, Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Indonesia, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Nepalese, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Thai and Vietnamese communities.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tickets, sponsor, ad and general inquiries should be directed to **info@aacchicago.org** (e-mail preferred); or call (847) 830-6791 or (847) 226-4881 during business hours.

MEDIA

Media requests for interviews, photos, longform bios and credentials (required ahead of time in order to cover the event from the press platform) should be directed to ENERI Communications at **info@enericom.net** or (312) 635-0888. Media wishing to sit at dinner tables must pre-arrange purchase of the \$80.00 dinner tickets through the assistance of community organizations. Media credentials must be requested no later than **January 18, 2009**. Continual press information will be posted on the website **www.aacchicago.org** and at the web link: **www.enericom.net/aaccpress**.



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FOR: 2009 Asian American Coalition of Chicago Planning Committee

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