Congestion, construction, organization:  
Little Saigon endures growing pains

BY KEN MOCHIZUKI  
Examiner Staff

You drive through the International District or its neighbor to the east, Little Saigon. You come to a stop-light. After it turns green, the car or delivery truck in front of you stops and starts loading or unloading, right in the middle of the street. You and cars behind begin honking as traffic backs up. The truck driver defiantly shakes his head.

You mutter under your breath, in a knee-jerk reaction: “@#$%^&* F.O.B.s (Fresh Off the Boat)”

“It is what we are,” said Tam Nguyen, owner of the Saigon Bistro in Little Saigon. “We are not very well organized; it’s part of our culture, and we do prefer some change. In downtown, they behave well. But, when they come here, they behave like it’s old country. We need education in the community, but we also need help from the government. The cops don’t care. A push is needed by both sides.”

Andy Chiem, 36, owner of Evergreen Chiropractic Clinic in Little Saigon, said traffic and parking rules need to be enforced and culprits “punished a couple of times.”

Give a citation to one person — send a message,” he said. “Old habits are hard to die.”

Quang Nguyen, executive director of the Vietnamese American Economic Development Association (VAEDA), said that issue has been a part of American history. “Wherever immigrants first come, whether it be New York, Philadelphia or Baltimore — look at the old photographs — it is chaotic, lived day by day, no matter if they are Vietnamese or otherwise,” he said.

However, he does agree with the restaurant owner that, in the I.D./Little Saigon, “laws aren’t enforced, or not the same as other parts of the city.”

“Not all businesses do this,” he said. “Some of these groceries are giving a bad name to all the other businesses.”

However, Quang Nguyen, 36, said Little Saigon cannot be changed drastically as to lose its “character.”

“We’re not trying to be Bellevue or Belltown,” he said.

Designated as Little Saigon by the City of Seattle in 1999, the community is bordered by the Interstate-5 freeway to the west, Yesler Terrace on the north, Boren Avenue South on the northeast, Rainier Avenue South on the east and South Dearborn Street to the south. Over 100 Vietnamese-owned small businesses — convenience stores, travel and insurance agencies, jewelry shops, hair salons, gift shops, 

continued on page 7

EDUCATION

CCA teaches the ABCs of career education

BY KEN MOCHIZUKI  
Examiner Staff

Alan Sugiyama remembered what someone said about him as he recalled growing up in Seattle’s Central Area: “He was low income, but he wasn’t welfare.”

He also remembered some African American friends: “They would give you the shirt off their back — if they had a job.”

When he saw his poor friends back then, he thought, “Maybe I would be in a position one day to help them.”

The Center for Career Alternatives (CCA), a non-profit, community-based agency specializing in education, employment and training for at-risk youth and adults, recently celebrated its 26th year. What began as a two-person operation in 1979 now operates with a staff of 45, a $2.6 million operating budget and has offices in Seattle, Everett, White Center and Kent. Sugiyama, CCA’s executive director, didn’t think the organization he founded would last this long.

“All the original materials were for 10 years, based on the short term,” said Sugiyama, 56. “I thought I would do this for 10 years and then do something else.”

CCA specializes in career education for at-risk youth and adults. Photo by Ken Mochizuki.

Today, he talks with pride about adults his agency had helped who “came in with no education” and ended up with jobs earning higher salaries than his case managers.

“I enjoyed it so much — to help people in a distinct way — I couldn’t see leaving,” Sugiyama said.

The Center for Career Alternatives is one of this year’s recipients of International Examiner’s “Community Voice Award.”

A leader of the early Asian American movement during the late ‘60s and early ‘70s, Sugiyama saw how the African American civil rights movement established health care and economic assistance for its own. He noticed how a lot of social service agencies were “ethnic specific.”

continued on page 10

Ruthann Kurose:  
Covering the community’s back

BY GARY IWAMOTO  
Special to the Examiner

Ruthann Kurose has devoted her life toward doing the right thing. She has earned a reputation of deep respect among her peers and of having a non-non-sense approach to community activism.

Dolores Sibonga, a former Seattle City Councilmember and a mentor to Kurose, said, “Ruthann is a dedicated peace activist, a spirited community advocate and a brilliant political strategist.”

Cindy Domingo a longtime friend, called her “one of those behind-the-scenes activists who practices progressive politics, but can move into various circles to navigate legislative strategy and government bureaucracy and push for social change.”

Ruthann’s mother Aki Kurose, a celebrated teacher and peace activist, was a high school student when interned at Minidoka. Floyd Schmoe of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) arranged to have Aki sponsored out of camp to attend Friends University, a Quaker-affiliated college. After the war, Aki returned to Seattle and assisted Floyd in running the local AFSC office. She also accompanied Floyd to Hiroshima to rebuild houses devastated by the atomic bomb. To honor Floyd, Aki named her oldest daughter “Ruthann” after Floyd’s (first) wife “Ruthanna.”

Aki was not a traditional Nisei mother. She actively supported open housing, school desegregation and the peace movement. Once Aki brought “Hiroshima maidens” — women who came to Seattle for treatment of burns received from the 1945 atomic blast — to stay at the house. These women, scarred and disfigured, left an indelible impact on young Ruthann about the horrors of war.

Ruthann’s father was Junelow “Junks,” a card-carrying union member and Boeing machinist who never crossed a picket line. “Dad,” she said, “was also quite an athlete. A 6-foot-tall Nisei, he was a big guy. He played football for the Jackson Street Black and Tan Club and

continued on page 9
STARTS TODAY
SUIT & DRESS SALE

EARN $10
Opportunity Dollars for almost every $50 Macy's Card purchase through Sunday

25% OFF
Entire stock dresses™ except social occasion and better dresses.
Reg. $50-$150, sale $37.50-$112.50.

40% OFF
Entire stock Misses and Petite suits.**
Reg. $240-$520, sale $144-$312.

RELIGIOUS PRICES REFLECT OFFERING PRICES IN EFFECT DURING THE 90 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THIS SALE EVENT. BUT NOT NECESSARILY DURING THE PAST 30 DAYS. SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. SOME ORIGINAL PRICES MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT DURING THE PAST 90 DAYS. INTERMEDIATE MARKDOWNS MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN. **Men's Opportunity Dollars issued April 1-7, 2006. Restrictions apply; see store for details. **Dresses are available at Downtown/Santa Monica, Redmond, Renton, Kirkland, Bridgeman, Roosevelt, Northgate, West Seattle, Redmond, and North Creek. Other locations may vary. Selection varies by store. The Great Suit and Dress Sale ends April 7, 2006.
While there's still time …

The Fading Veterans: Let’s listen to them

BY SLUGGO RIGOR

The mortality rate of the generation that has been billed as the “Greatest Generation” has now reached a critical stage. Reports from the Philippines and from cities across the United States where there are pockets of Filipino World War II veterans indicate that these old soldiers are fading away at an alarming rate of 20 per month.

From what was then a conservative count of 14,000 Filipino veterans who arrived on the mainland United States in 1990, the count is down to 6,900. Before President George H. Bush signed into law the Immigration Act of 1990 that triggered a mini-exodus of these old soldiers to the United States, there was a total count of 55,000 still-living war veterans residing in various parts of the Philippines.

Filipino military historians estimate that there were 230,000 Filipino soldiers who fought alongside the GI Joes against the Japanese in the last World War.

Among the Filipino veterans who had elected American citizenship and came to the United States in 1990, more than half have passed away and others have returned to the homeland. Many had hoped to be part of a concerted campaign to lobby for the Equity Bill, an initiative in the U.S. Congress that would erase the painful provisions of the Rescission Act of 1946. That single act signed into law by President Harry Truman took away service benefits promised Filipinos when they were enlisted to fight the enemy.

Frustrated and angry, these aging soldiers, now veterans came to Olympia recently to thank Gov. Gregoire and Sen. Margarita Prentice for their support. Photo from Sluggo Rigor.

U.S. citizens, accepted what they consider “dole out” civilian money through Social Security rang- ing from $220 to $300 a month. After securing the meager amount, many returned home to live out their final days.

At the International Drop-In Center (IDIC) where most of these old soldiers congregate, they recount heartrending tales.

Greg Garcia, in his early 80s, fought in the infamous battle of Bessang Pass where the feared Tiger of Malaya, General Tomoyuki Yamashita, had surrendered to Filipino bolo men led by young ROTC-trained officers. Garcia lives with his wife Rosing in a tiny apartment in Seattle's International District. Like other veterans who had elected American citizenship 15 years ago, Garcia patiently waits for his children to join them in the United States.

“I have filed petitions 14 years ago, but it is a slow, agonizing process … and we are growing old,” Garcia recounts. He adds that he often checks on his children via overseas calls.

“My wife and I realize how hard life has become economically for our children in the Philippines. Through helplessness and tears, we can only pray.”

It is a typical, fragmental-family story of Filipino war veterans who arrived here in 1990. At an average of 75 years of age when they came - continued on page 6

Best defense of civil rights

Dear Editor:

I greatly appreciate Sian Wu for raising an important discussion with her letter “The Power of Hate and Cartoons” to your March 15 edition.

Sian Wu starts with reference to the Danish illustrations regarding the Prophet Mohammed and the world wide responses to those, and then she describes some popular Japanese manga books that perpetrate demeaning images of other nationalities like the Korean and Chinese people.

At one point, she describes seeing a man casually leafing through one of these books at the Seattle Kinokuniya bookstore. As she states it, “It triggered something.”

This “something” is important to consider. She asks herself, “Is it wrong to assume the years of injustice and hate surrounding the horrific events of our past?” At this point, I believe, she is at a crossroads: suppress the falsehood or teach the truth.

I applaud Sian Wu for her response. “But, with free speech comes a responsibility to use it when you see something offensively antithetical to your beliefs.”

The purveyors of racial and ethnic stereotypes would like nothing better than to use the victims of their poison to suppress and censor their work. It would make the purveyors look like victims, but, more importantly, it would give their powerful sponsors (in government and in ruling circles) the chance to suppress all free speech, especially that of the victims.

I have always felt that the best defense of our civil rights is to use them, not suppress them. American people of all colors and nationalities have sacrificed too much hardship and tears to give up our political rights whether for “assuaging” a grievance or cultivating a “unity” for a so-called war on terror.

I look forward to articles, movie and book reviews (including manga literature) in the International Examiner that will educate people with the truth about our histories and struggles to make a better world.

Juan A. Martinez

Seattle

Confusing immigrants, illegals

Dear Editor:

The article by Benjamin Bostick (March 15 issue) confuses “immigrants” with illegal aliens. There is no reason why voters would object to re-registration other than it takes some effort to do so. It will strengthen our election process, stop dead people from voting and insure that those registered are entitled to vote.

His assumption that “people of color and immigrants who are newly citizens” would be disproportionately impacted is insulting. Is Mr. Bostick saying that these people are not intelligent enough to register? This requirement would affect all immigrants equally, regardless of color, as well as native-born citizens.

As for his initiative which would “restrict access to public services for immigrants and refugees who cannot provide paperwork proving their legal status in the United States,” what he is talking about is illegal aliens. Say it! Easy word to use “illegal aliens.” These are people who have broken our laws, overstayed visas, engaged in sham marriages and purposely avoided immigra-

tion in order to stay in his country, usually just to work here. They should not be using our schools, hospitals, welfare or any other public services except on an emergency basis, at which time they should be taken care of and then turned over to immigration authorities. They are illegal aliens! They definitely should not be given resident tuition rates at our state universities!

As for officials who offer services, I think there is already a law against harboring a fugitive and a similar law under our immigration laws. The same goes for those who employ illegal workers.

It is time to get tough on illegal aliens, deport them, enforce our immigration laws and seal our borders to those who would laugh at our laws and take advantage of our country and our legal citizens, legal immigrants and native born alike.

In addition, the large numbers of illegal aliens makes life more difficult for our legal immigrant population, casting immediate doubt on their status. This should never happen, but will continue as long as we do not enforce our immigration laws.

I am a native born citizen married to a legal immigrant.

William N. Turnbull

Kent
Bainbridge Island Memorial: “Let it not happen again”

Story and photos by KEN MOCHIZUKI
Examiner Staff

Over 130 residents from Bainbridge Island and Seattle crammed into the Island’s Taylor Avenue on March 30 to mark the start of construction of the “Nidoto Nai Yoni” (“Let it not happen again”) Memorial commemorating the expulsion of Japanese Americans from the Island during World War II.

Clarence Moriwaki, chair of the Bainbridge Island World War II Nikkei Internment and Exclusion Memorial Committee, served as master of ceremonies for the “blessing and dedication ceremony” of the Memorial to be built at the site of the old Eagledale Ferry Dock where, 64 years ago on the same day, 227 of the Island’s Japanese American residents were accompanied down Taylor Avenue by armed U.S. Army soldiers and led aboard the ferry Kehloken – the beginning of their journey to the Manzanar internment camp in California.

Moriwaki said the new memorial should “be up there with Plymouth Rock or Kitty Hawk” – among sites commemorating a “first,” since Bainbridge Island’s Japanese Americans were the first of what was to become 120,000 to be forcibly removed from the U.S. West Coast during World War II. The Islanders were also the first to occupy the Manzanar camp.

The $5.5 million Memorial will consist of a pavilion, gates and a 272-foot stone and wood “story wall” along Taylor Avenue, with the number of feet symbolizing the 272 forced from their home. There will also be a 150-foot “departure pier” at the site of the former Eagledale Ferry Dock, the number of feet representing the 150 internees who returned to the Island.

An interpretive center and meeting rooms will be built into adjacent Pritchard Park. The Memorial Committee purchased five acres of the 35-acre park for $1 million from the City of Bainbridge Island.

Construction for the Memorial began on April 2. About $2.5 million has been raised for the Memorial so far, said Dr. Frank Kitamoto, president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community. Grants from Washington State Community, Trade and Economic Development totaled $2 million, with the rest acquired through private cash and donations.

In 2002, a four-foot-tall granite marker was dedicated at the site where the Memorial will be constructed. A plaque on the marker reads in part: “May the spirit of this memorial inspire each of us to safeguard constitutional rights. Nidoto Nai Yoni – Let it not happen again.”

The National Park Service has completed a comprehensive study that may recommend that the site become a satellite unit of the Minidoka Internment National Monument. Rep. Jay Inslee, sponsor of the bill which initiated the study, stated in a March 30 letter to Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton: “If the study reports favorably on the former Eagledale Ferry Dock site and recommends it as a satellite unit to the national parks system, I immediately will file legislation in the House to designate it as such.”

The pavilion, gates, story wall and departure pier could be completed by the end of next year. Final designs of the interpretive center are being developed.
News Briefs

Presidential Commission on AAPIs to hold forum in Bellevue

BELLEVUE – A White House Commission will hold a fact-gathering forum at the Bellevue City Hall on April 6 to discuss how Bellevue and other Puget Sound cities are responding to growing Asian American and Pacific Islander populations in their communities.

The President’s Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders will meet with community leaders in human services to discuss a wide-range of topics, including how local governments and groups can work to expand economic and other opportunities for the two groups. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. in conference room 1E-120.

“We are extremely pleased to be hosting this important meeting,” said Bellevue Mayor Grant Degginger. “One of the great things about Bellevue and the Eastside in general is the growing cultural diversity we are witnessing. The fact this meeting is being held in Bellevue is a recognition of this accomplishment, and it provides an opportunity to focus attention on this part of our community.”

ACRS Food Bank wins award

Asian Counseling and Referral Service’s Food Bank won Food Lifeline’s first-ever Agency Excellence Award for Community Resource Development for its annual Walk for Rice. As the winner, the ACRS Food Bank received a $5,000 grant to go toward feeding more hungry people in Western Washington. Its award-winning best practices will also be published on Food Lifeline’s Web site.

The awards were presented at Food Lifeline’s annual agency conference, held on March 27. The awards are a way to highlight how the more than 250 member agencies Food Lifeline serves excel in creating ways to meet the needs of hungry people throughout Western Washington.

Mark Takisaki wins contractor of the year

Mark Takisaki, Founder of M.J. Takisaki, Incorporated of Seattle, has been named the SBA Region X (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington) Prime Contractor of the Year for 2006. Takisaki receives the award at the SBA Small Business Week Celebration 2006 in Washington, D.C., on April 12.

The annual award honors an American small business that has provided the government procurement with outstanding goods and services. To win, a company must demonstrate excellent management and cost performance and exceptional results.

Chew named UW Distinguished Alumnus

The University of Washington Department of Communication has named Ron Chew, executive director of the Wing Luke Asian Museum, as its Distinguished Alumnus, 2006. The Department is honoring Chew in recognition of his many contributions to the community, and particularly for his work as editor of the International Examiner and as head of the Wing Luke Asian Museum.

Chew has a long history of community involvement, and many awards recognizing his work. He has served on the National Council on Humanities, as a board member of the Seattle Public Library Foundation and on the Advisory Board of the Museum Loan Network. He has received the Governor’s Heritage Award from the Washington State Arts Commission, the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Asian American Studies, the Western Museums Association’s Director’s Chair Award, and the Ford Foundation’s Leadership for a Changing World Award.

Born in Seattle, Chew began to advance the cause of Asian Americans and Seattle’s International District while still in college when he began to write for the International Examiner. Because of Chew’s leadership, the paper became “a diverse mixture of political, human interest, and cultural stories.” Chew was a founding member of both the Seattle chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association and the Northwest Minority Publishers Association.

Chew became director of the Wing Luke Asian Museum in 1991. Since then, the museum has been lauded both locally and nationally for involving community members in its exhibits and programming. Under Chew, the museum is in the middle of an ambitious fund-raising campaign to restore the historic East Kong Yick building in the International District to serve as the museum’s new home.

Bob Santos is flanked by King County Councilmembers Larry Gossett and Dow Constantine, children Nancy and John, wife Sharon and County Executive Ron Sims. The Council recognized Santos’ five decades of service to the people of the region by declaring April 22 “Bob Santos Day” in King County.
Looking ahead, remembering the past

BY ELAINE KO
Inter*Im Executive Director

It is with great pleasure that I write our first Inter*Im Corner column after a hiatus of many years. I am the new executive director of Inter*Im, the agency I first worked for 31 years ago. I have come “full circle” and am ready for the challenge. I have had a great friend and mentor to follow: our Uncle Bob. But as I think about the many, many great things ahead, I am also drawn to reflect on my time in the ID 30 years ago.

Those days the Inter*Im offices were in the “old bank offices” where Le Hama Apartments and Joe Kitamura who lives in the Grovenor Apartments and Joe Kitamura who lives in the New Central Hotel. Mrs. Louie who lives in the Grovenor Apartments and Joe Kitamura who lives in the New Central Hotel. Mrs. Louie was one of the resident leaders during the efforts to save the Milwaukee Hotel from being closed back in 1977.

We worked hard, demonstrated, fought, held press conferences, organized, planned, held endless meetings, developed programs, and still had a lot of fun.

It’s great that most of the young (or shall I say young-er) people of those days have stayed involved in the community or have come back to work or volunteer on boards. There are too many names to mention everyone but I can picture many in my mind — Sue Taoka; Frank Sugura, Eddie Chow, resident activists Al Masigat, Felipe Vides, Leo Lorenzo, and the many Chinese residents who never hesitated to pick up a picket sign. There are two residents who are still with us today — Mrs. Louie who lives in the Grovenor Apartments and Joe Kitamura who lives in the New Central Hotel. Mrs. Louie was one of the resident leaders during the efforts to save the Milwaukee Hotel from being closed back in 1977.

We worked hard, demonstrated, fought, held press conferences, organized, planned, held endless meetings, developed programs, and still had a lot of fun.

Inter*Im’s mission is to promote the revitalization of the ID and broader API communities.

email: info@interimicda.org, www.interimicda.org, or call (206) 624-1802.
apparel stores, restaurants, groceries and specialty markets – are concentrated within a few city blocks. Heavy vehicle and pedestrian traffic have characterized the neighborhood. Other than a crowded, mostly-immigrant community trying to survive and organize itself, there is also advancing development coming its way from downtown Seattle, threatening to change the neighborhood forever.

Tam Nguyen, 61, a former pharmacist in South Vietnam and once incarcerated in a communist labor camp, has been in the Seattle area since 1982, joining brothers who worked the Space Needle bar since the mid-’70s. In an extended family of 15 that was able to pool together $25,000, the Nguyen family operated a downtown eatery and a Little Saigon grocery store before Nguyen established the Little Bit of Saigon restaurant during the mid-’80s. Operating Saigon Bistro for the past 11 years, he said he works seven days a week, 12 to 13 hours a day.

Now, he said, his restaurant is dealing with the “squeeze from the outside – traffic and parking are so bad.” In addition, there is competition from more restaurants, a changing clientele from mostly Vietnamese preferring “quantity over quality” to more non-Vietnamese customers, and an aging customer base that now eats out less, he said.

Buu Lam, 35, owner of Lam’s Seafood Market on King Street between 12th and Rainier, agreed that traffic in Little Saigon is “horrible,” but that traffic carrying carloads of Vietnamese small business owners took collective action to protect their businesses from the effects of the Sound Transit Light Rail project. Becoming VAEDA in 2002, the goal of the association is to assist Vietnamese-owned businesses in the Seattle area, and that the spirit of entrepreneurialism be “harnessed and developed,” reads a statement on VAEDA’s Web site (www.vaeda.org).

In addition to assisting businesses with information, technical assistance and contacts, VAEDA also hopes to organize Vietnamese businesses to the point where they have a forum to voice their concerns,” Quang Nguyen said. A recent concern of Little Saigon businesses is the open drug dealing and prostitution around 12th and Jackson. Quang Nguyen remembered when he called the police — who responded one to two hours later. The businesses want change, he said, however it is difficult to organize entrepreneurs when they work 10-12 hours a day, seven days a week, leaving them little time to effect change through processes such as petitioning.

Funding for VAEDA has also been a problem, Nguyen said. “City money is hard to come by and businesses donate little, so we’re still struggling. No money, no organization, no work done.”

And the Little Saigon community needs to be wary of increasing commercial development coming its way, he said. “The pressure is so great it re-develop this area.”

With the new Goodwill Center to be built on Dearborn – 600,000 square feet of mixed-use space including “big box retail” such as Target and Home Depot stores – “that’s added pressure, making it okay for other projects to be built here,” Nguyen said. “It will have a direct effect, such as more traffic.” Lam also has concerns about the Center, especially about how increased traffic to get on and off nearby Interstate 5 will affect his market.

“I don’t want us to become another Belltown, with all these luxury condos,” Nguyen said. “That’s exactly what we don’t want. It will definitely drive out a lot of businesses.” Rent for Little Saigon small businesses could increase 50 to 100 percent, he added. With city development strategists already planning for more residential development in Little Saigon, “there has to be a transition mechanism for affected businesses,” he said.

Nguyen has seen what development has done for businesses along Martin Luther King, Jr. Way that are affected by the construction of light rail. With 125 Vietnamese-owned businesses existing along a four-mile stretch, they have taken a “huge hit as a community,” he said. “They have lost 40, 50 percent in revenue, when the entrance to their business is blocked by a bulldozer, or there’s dust all over.”

Meanwhile, Nguyen, VAEDA executive director since 2003, is “trying to find a balance between being executive director, and being the only staff,” he said.

Quang Nguyen, chiropractor Chiem said, “He’s one man, one horse. How can he pull this wagon?”
South Asian culture to explode at local talent show

BY AVANI NADKARNI
UW News Lab

Inside a wood-floored practice room surrounded by mirrors in the University of Washington’s Intramural Activities Building, seven pairs of arms, legs and especially hips move in perfect synchrony with the East Indian music that blares from a boom box at the front of the room. After two hours of intense practice, the young women in the room call it a day, but more young women wait outside for the coveted practice room.

In another building halfway across campus, seven students sit around a table with equally intense looks of concentration. Each of them holds a sheet with cost and budget information. They discuss funding and sponsors.

These two groups are rehearsing and planning for Desi Dhamaka, an annual South Asian talent and culture show put on by six South Asian organizations at UW. The April show is an extravaganza of South Asian songs, dances and skits performed by UW students and their friends.

Desi Dhamaka, a phrase loosely translated as “an explosion of South Asians,” began in 2003, is organized by three groups and originally attracted about 200 people, mostly performers’ friends and families. The following year, the show sold out the 700-seat venue, and 300 people were turned down at the door. In 2005, the show’s third year, Desi Dhamaka sold out the 1,200-seat Meany Hall on UW campus.

Matthew Gnaneswaran, a UW senior who has been on the organizing committee as well as a performer every year since Desi Dhamaka’s inception, said that starting last year, the committee expanded its advertising campaign beyond the UW community. The greater Seattle area is now home to about 20,000 Asian-Indian households. Washington State has the 14th highest Indian population in the nation. And it shows with the sold-out audiences at Desi Dhamaka.

Unlike other shows focusing on a particular culture, Desi Dhamaka attracts a diverse audience.

“The colors, the rhythms … and the energy of the dancers,” raves Mytam Nguyen, who is not South Asian but has attended Desi Dhamaka two years in a row. “It allows [me] to travel to another world!”

“The acts that are performed are so dynamic in their cultural, visual and artistic appeal,” said UW senior Kamal Sandhu, who like Gnaneswaran has either helped organize or has been a performer every year. “It helps reach such a large and diverse audience.”

“Since [the first show] it has grown to include nearly every South Asian student group at UW and has had to change venues due to the increase in popularity,” said Gnaneswaran. “The quality of performances and the response from the community just improves every year, and now it is the biggest South Asian cultural show in the Northwest!”

Desi Dhamaka 2006 takes place at Meany Hall on the University of Washington campus on April 15 at 7 p.m. For ticket and other information, visit http://students.washington.edu/dhamaka.

Avani Nadkarni is a student in the University of Washington Department of Communication News Laboratory.
was a skilled martial artist, placing first in the West Coast Judo Championship.”

Junks and Aki weren’t afraid to speak out against injustice. Sharon Maeda, a longtime family friend, observed, “Ruthann has her father’s dogged sense of fair play. She minces no words in articulating issues of fairness and social justice when she sees it. And she has her mother’s commitment to peace.”

Ruthann grew up in the Central Area, the second oldest of six siblings (Hugo, the oldest, then Ruthann, Guy, Rollie, Paul and Marie). The Kurose kids were introduced to “social justice” at an early age. They attended the Freedom School at the Mt. Zion church site, where they learned about civil rights, Black history, ending racial discrimination and improving human relations. Aki and others (such as Walt Hundley) involved in the Freedom School organized a boycott to desegregate Seattle’s public schools. The Kurose kids were among the few Asian students who participated in the two-day boycott.

In 1970, Ruthann attended the University of Washington, majoring in political science and participating in anti-war activities, such as the 1970 march on the freeway after Cambodia was invaded. In the 1970s, Asian American activism took hold. Ruthann met other Asian American activists in political science classes such as Silme Domingo, Eddie Daba, Marti Argel and Shino Cabildo, who were just as politically conscious as she.

Ruthann remembered, “We analyzed ‘The Red Book,’ studied Chairman Mao and Che Guevara, believing they would study no words in articulating issues of fairness and social justice when she sees it. And she has her mother’s commitment to peace.”

When Mike Lowry ran for Congress against Cunningham, Ruthann, because of her past association with protecting Indian fishing rights, got involved in his campaign. Lowry was elected. He hired Ruthann. According to Lowry, “Ruthann was an important member of my district office in Seattle. She did a great job, responsible for many issue areas, particularly civil rights and civil liberties.” Later, Lowry assigned Ruthann to his D.C. office as a legislative assistant to work on legislation around international trade, East Asia relations, immigration and refugee policy, civil rights and redress for Japanese American interned during World War II.

Ruthann’s work was instrumental in laying the groundwork for redress, working with Lowry and the Congressional Legislative Office to craft the first redress bill — direct payments of $15,000 plus $15 a day to each Japanese American affected by the internment. Mike recalled, “Ruthann took the lead for developing our redress legislation. She worked tirelessly and effectively with the staffs of other members of Congress on the long road to final passage of redress. Ruthann’s name immediately comes up, very positively, every time I talk to [former member of Congress] Norm Mineta and other leaders involved in the passage of redress. Ruthann coordinated efforts of citizens nationwide to lobby their members of Congress.”

For her part, Ruthann said, “Lowry’s leadership and the tireless commitment of Japanese American Citizens League redress leader Cherry Kinoshita and the Seattle [redress] committee should be given credit.

They were responsible for building the foundation for achieving redress.” She also singled out Kathleen Halley and Phil Tajitsu-Nash as other unsung players who assisted in lobbying members of Congress and did extensive research in support of redress.

Leaving Lowry’s office in 1984, she worked for Seattle and Tacoma city governments, specializing in international trade and economic development. She married Nathan Rothman who did business in Asia. Their marriage produced two children, Mika and Morí. Ruthann is proud of her children’s interest in community activism. Morí, still in his teens, is on the IACL Board, served on the Martin Luther King March Committee and volunteered with “Uncle Bob” [Santos] at Inter*Im with the Bruce Lee Exhibit and the Annual Pig Roast.

Last year, Mika served as a team leader for “Rock the Vote,” registering new voters at various community locations. Both Mika and Morí served as legislative pages for Washington State Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos.

In 1993, Ruthann was appointed to the Bellevue Community College (BCC) Board and relished the appointment “Community colleges provide the most affordable and accessible educational opportunities to immigrants and refugees, single moms and those from low-income backgrounds,” she said.
Parents and kids soak up languages at Sponge

BY LAUREN GARDNER
UW News Lab

Welcoming her young students into class, Wexin Huang-Gillis greets each one with hello, or “Ni Hao” in Mandarin. Although many Sponge students are still mastering the English language, they come here to learn a second or even third language at their impressionable ages.

Offering Japanese, Mandarin, French and Spanish language classes, Sponge, a new children’s language center in Seattle, introduces children from zero to five-years-old to the languages and cultures of other societies.

During her pregnancy, Sponge founder Jackie Mighdoll was inspired by articles she read. “Languages have always been really important to me,” she said, “and then I read how important it was in development — it was just unbelievable how many benefits there are to exposure to other languages.”

A study by the University of Washington was also published during Mighdoll’s pregnancy and confirmed her beliefs. The study shows that even minimal amounts of language could have a fairly large impact. The study also concluded that using DVDs did not produce the same results — personal interaction is essential.

After careful research of other children’s language centers; Mighdoll opened a 10-week pilot program in November 2005. Eighty-five families participated; the feedback was encouraging. “The response was fantastic,” said Mighdoll. “We discovered people really wanted language. There was an appreciation for children learning alongside their parents.”

The school now serves around 125 students and has five different teachers. “All of our classes are designed to be really fun. The first 45 minutes is fully immersed in the language. We start with a movement/dance time, snacks and then have story time,” Mighdoll said.

Parents and children learn foreign languages in Sponge class. Photo by Yoshi Nishimura.

---

Sugiyama on quality education

BY KEN MOCHIZUKI
Examiner Staff

Since working as a counselor at Franklin High School, Alan Sugiyama estimated that he has served on over 200 different boards and committees dealing with education and employment.

During the late ‘80s, Sugiyama, now executive director of Center for Career Alternatives, led the Asian Pacific Directors Coalition, a consortium of Asian Pacific American social service directors, in a protest against the Seattle School District for “insensitiveness toward Asian American students,” he said. At issue was the lack of APA staff, school principals, hiring and promotions within the district, and the need for bilingual and special programs for its APA students.

Instead of approaching different directors within the district, Sugiyama recalled that the most efficient approach was to go to the top — the Directors Coalition, in a highly publicized protest, declared “no confidence” in their-Seattle Public Schools Superintendent William Kendrick.

As a result, the Directors Coalition did get what they had asked for, with APAs being promoted to top positions within the district, more APAs becoming school principals, and the bilingual education supervisor’s “position upgraded,” Sugiyama said.

Through his activism in education, Sugiyama saw the importance of sitting on the Seattle School Board. One vote among a seven-member board could make the difference in the hiring or firing of a superintendent. Sugiyama was elected to and served on the board from 1989-1997, serving as the board president in 1993.

During his tenure as president, Sugiyama ordered studies on the effectiveness of mandatory bussing, in which the district tried to balance the racial composition of its schools by forcing students to attend schools outside of their neighborhoods. Forced desegregation was not working, the studies concluded.

“Just because you’re sitting next to a white kid did not make a student smarter,” Sugiyama said. Mandatory bussing ended while Sugiyama was board president, as the district converted to voluntary bussing based on a student’s choice.

Today, a major issue facing Seattle’s schools is that the “academic rigor of each program is not consistent,” Sugiyama said.

“I could get an ‘A’ at one school, and take the same course at another school and get a ‘D’,” he said, “This is not acceptable. They all have to be quality schools.”

To accomplish that, teachers must undergo more “strategic training” to learn how to manage a classroom. Teachers waste too much time having to correct students’ behavior, he said.

Also, even in a society with two working parents and parents working till late at night, parents’ support of teachers and parent/teacher conferences need to be mandatory, he said, at least with such meetings held at the beginning of the school year, at the conclusion of each semester, and at the end of the school year. “Parents can’t say to teachers ‘it’s your job,’” Sugiyama said. “It has to be put on both. It’s a joint venture.”

---

Sugiyama on quality education

I didn’t want ‘ethnic specific,’” he said. “I wanted multilingual, specifically focusing on education, employment and training.”

After working as a counselor at Franklin High School, he worked for social service agencies that were “ethnic specific” or “weren’t that good.” At one in which he worked as a case manager, he recalled 18 hours a week of mandatory meetings. When he set up his own shop, he knew he was going to cut needless bureaucracy out.

“They were trying to talk me out of doing it,” Sugiyama said, especially since other agencies were losing funding.

In 1979, a time of “high unemployment among youth,” he remembered, he established CCA after receiving a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. With a two-person staff — himself and Mark Okazaki, now executive director of Neighborhood House, a social agency sponsoring programs in public housing authorities within King County — they began CCA’s first career counseling program for minorities. The program tried to steer its participants into “unusual fields,” Sugiyama said, such as careers in construction, avionics, being a park ranger or an airplane mechanic — which earned twice the salary of an auto mechanic.

CCA served over 3,000 in its first two years. By 1981, it found a quarter of its clients jobs, 65 percent the following year and 73 percent in 1983.

Now with 24 different programs, CCA still serves around 1,500 per year. During its 26 years, CCA provided no-cost education, employment, basic skills training and career development to over 21,000 low-income residents of King and Snohomish Counties. Among the programs offered during 2004-2005 within the two counties included:

• “Middle School Re-Entry”: with support from the Seattle Public Schools, CCA provided a course for expelled or suspended middle school students. Stressing “attendance, attitude and academics, every single day, all day for 10 to 20 weeks” Sugiyama said, 27 students completed the program to re-enter Seattle Public Schools.

• “Comprehensive Learning Center for Out-Of-School Youth”: also with support from the Seattle Public Schools, CCA assisted 127 high school dropouts with credit retrieval and GED preparation.

• “Citizenship/ESL Program”: in collaboration with the City of Seattle New Citizens Initiative, CCA provided English-as-a-Second-Language and citizenship classes for 62 immigrants to assist them in passing the naturalization interview and history test.

• “King County Jobs Initiative”: in partnership with that program, 37 low-income job seekers living in the Seattle’s White Center neighborhood were placed into full-time jobs.

• “WorkSource”: along with WorkSource Everett, CCA provided job placement assistance, training and case management for 67 low-income adults and dislocated workers.

• “Drop-In Services”: offering job placement services for youth, CCA assisted about 2,000 in Snohomish County.

With CCA being dependent on funding from other sources, Sugiyama said, “Over the years, grants have gotten smaller, so we have to get more smaller grants.”

Current major funding sources include human service agencies within the City of Seattle and Everett, King and Snohomish County government agencies, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle School District, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services and the state’s Employment Security Department, and United Way of King and Snohomish Counties.

Upon receiving the Community Voice Award, Sugiyama said it “recognizes the work we do here.”

“And that’s just to serve people the best we can, and as many as we can.”

---

Sugiyama on quality education

continued from page 1

Sugiyama
Learning languages is fun at Sponge.

Sharon Yamada-Heidner said she started bringing her daughter Mia Aiqian to the Mandarin pilot program last year. “They’re wonderful. The teacher is great — my daughter loves her. The class is full immersion and they do a lot of different things, but it’s well structured.”

Yamada-Heidner said she brings her daughter to classes for several reasons. “Children at this age just absorb languages. Also, for me personally, my daughter is from China and it has just been something easy to keep up with. Mandarin also just makes so much sense to learn. It’s emerging as they’re becoming a superpower of the world. It’ll be important to know in the future.

“I’m learning along with Mia. It’s slow. Mandarin is a pretty tough language but slowly but surely we’re learning,” Yamada-Heidner said.

The cost for 19 weeks of weekly classes is $495, or $945 for classes meeting twice a week. Five percent discounts are given for paying upfront; 10 percent discounts are given to siblings.

Mighdoll said the naming the school came easily for her. “It’s the time in the children’s lives when their minds are like sponges. The name just stands for all that they have to absorb.”


LAUREN GARDNER is a student in the University of Washington Department of Communication News Laboratory.
Two exhibits showcase the art of Asian textiles

BY SUSAN KUNIMATSU
Examiner Contributor

Bellevue Arts Museum: "Rozome Masters of Japan" and "Wrapped in Color: Kimonos by Tim Harding" feature masterful textile art from Japan and America.

Rozome, a traditional Japanese dyeing technique, uses hot liquid wax followed by colored dyes to fabric, a process that requires skill and patience. It is a discipline that takes years to master, and its history is extensive, with practitioners established in the 9th century. Rozome was rediscovered in the 20th century and has since been revived.

Midori Abe's "Transformation Over Time XI," created in 2002, is a striking example ofrozome. Abe employs a variety of dyes and techniques to create a design of positive and negative areas of color, which are fiber reactive; they bind with the fabric rather than lay on the surface like paint, so the artist cannot remove color. The disperse dyeing techniques used in rozome involve many steps, each carried out by a different person. Studios employ many specialized artisans to teach their techniques to apprentices. Because rozome was lost for so long, there was no tradition for teaching it. Twenty-first century practitioners established themselves at universities, and most of the artists in this exhibit hold teaching positions. A rozome piece can be executed by a single artist working alone. The brush techniques have much in common with painting, and most rozome is done on screens rather than garments. Rozome has attracted artists with a strong sense of individualism and an interest in pushing their discipline in non-traditional directions. The influence of contemporary European and American art is visible in many of the works in this exhibit.

Kageo Miura has worked in rozome for six decades. At 90 years of age, she is one of the most established and innovative artists in the medium. His moody still lifes of vegetables combine elements of abstract expressionism, surrealism, and color field painting. In addition to wax and dye, she uses acrylic paint and fragments of fabric collage. A casual viewer could easily confuse this traditional dyer's art with modern painting.

Mitsuo Takaya was a very young child during World War II and anti-war themes still inform his work. The two screens in this exhibit are surrealistic landscapes full of symbolism. Large expanses of black contrast with grays or a single intense color. While most of the works in the show are wall-hung, Fukumoto Shigeki's series of three folding screens is intended to be seen as three-dimensional objects rather than decorated surfaces. Of all the artists, the artist represented, his work is the most abstract and technique-intensive. After dying a fabric, he cuts it into thousands of strips, 3/16 inch (4 mm) wide and glues them, one by one, to the face of the screen. The backs of the screens are whole cloth, so the viewer can see the dye pattern before and after cutting. Shigeki describes his process: "I dye the cloth in various ways, then back it with 'wash' paper and prepare it by finely cutting it. [Next comes] the serendipitously intricate but monotonous task of attaching these cloth pieces to the surface, choosing each according to the mood of the moment -- now I hope it to draw the front and the back into a mutually resonant whole."

"There is concern that rozome is a dying art," says Bellevue Arts Museum Director Michael Monroe, apologizing for the pun. In spite of rozome's 26th century revival, all of the artists represented in this exhibit are 40 and several are in their 80s and 90s. In a world preoccupied by technology and instant image-making, few young artists are willing to invest the years necessary to master this traditional art form.

Textile researcher and artist Betsy Stirling Benjamin organized "Rozome Masters of Japan" for the World Batik Conference in Boston in 2005. It was shown at the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C. before coming to the Bellevue Arts Museum, its only West Coast venue. The exhibit is a good fit with BAM's mission to present craft in a fine arts context. It also emphasizes the museum's position on the Pacific Rim, a connection Monroe intends to develop through future exhibits.

"Wrapped in Color: Kimonos by Tim Harding," a small companion exhibit, was developed at BAM. The artists' use of textile media and Asian garment forms provides a tangential connection to the "Rozome Masters" show.

Harding's "free reverse appliqué" technique uses sheer and opaque silks, stitched together in layers to construct a kimono. The outer layers are slashed to reveal the jewel-like colors of the inner layers; the cut edges of the fabric create a luscious texture. Color provides the theme for each work; a kimono titled "Koi" features splashes of yellow orange on a sea-blue ground.

Ris is a tapestry artist whose densely decorated jackets are based on a traditional Chinese coat. Ris' work is pictorial, a tour de force of drawing and detail, but there is a real tongue-in-cheek quality to his imagery. "Hearts of Gold, Male" a gold lame jacket, is lined with tapestry accurately depicting the internal organs of the human body.

"Rozome Masters of Japan" and "Wrapped in Color" are on view at the Bellevue Arts Museum through June 18. The museum is located at 510 Bellevue Way N.E. in downtown Bellevue. Hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Fridays until 9 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Admission is $7, seniors $5, children under six free. More information online at www.bellevuearts.org or by phone, (425) 519-0770.
Sikh exhibit at Wing Luke fights prejudice through education

BY JUDITH VAN PRAAG
Examiner Arts Writer

On Saturday, April 8 at 2 p.m., you’re invited to a vibrant, musical event. “Images Through the Ages” at the Theatre Off Jackson. Bring the family to listen to the “tabla,” “dhol,” the vibrant beats of the “dhol,” and watch or become part of the “Bhangra” (folk dance) performance.

If you haven’t seen the exhibit “Sikh Community: Over 100 Years in the Pacific Northwest” at the adjacent Wing Luke Asian Museum (WLAM) yet, make sure you catch the show before it closes on April 16.

There’s no better way to fight prejudice than through education, by giving people a chance to share in each other’s culture and tradition.

The exhibit at WLAM, co-coordinated with the Sikh Coalition, is geared toward acquainting the public with everything Sikh, the role Sikhs play in American life, and their long-standing roots in the Pacific Northwest.

The gaze of a life-size cardboard figure of a turbaned Sikh in red serge coat, breeches and boots of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), a.k.a “The Mounties,” greets visitors at the entrance — a wonder of Sikhs, the role Sikhs play in American life, but also exemplary of the tradition. Acquainting the public with everything Sikhism. In one instance, the interviewer asked an unsuspecting tourist if he knew any Sikh people. After a moment, the man said yes, he did. The following question was: “What do you know about the religion?” Upon which the tourist mumbled, “Oh, I thought you meant a sick person.”

Another man, asked about his knowledge of Sikhs, said that, after Sept. 11, he knew one thing for sure: Sikhs were not Muslims.

On March 29, the museum was abuzz with visitors. WLAM intern Tripat Singh was showing his cousins from Kansas around. They admired a photo sequence by Richard Nicol Patka: “Sarraj Singh’s Turban Tying 101 in 33 images.”

“No now it takes me 10 minutes,” Tripat said in answer to my question about how long it takes to tie a turban. “When I started doing it in eighth grade, my arms got so tired from keeping them up, it took me I don’t know how long.”

Seeing the maps, artifacts, personal documents and photographs (provided by people from the Sikh community), the musical instruments, the model and rendering of the Harmindar Sahib (a.k.a. Golden Temple of Amritsar) on display against the colorful flats made him smile with pride. He had no idea what the result of working on the separate elements would be like.

Explanations of basic beliefs and clothing are illustrated by actual objects. A timeline, placed on the flats above documentation material, provides a guideline through history, starting in Punjab, 1450, and leading to present day America.

The first Sikh immigrants arrived in the region in the late 1800s. They found work in lumber mills and railroad construction. In the 1910s, many returned to India to help free the country from British rule. After World War II, immigration quotas allowed more Sikhs to enter the United States.

Immigrants arriving since the 1960s have been professionals, businesspeople and entrepreneurs. An area dedicated to “Achievement,” “Leadership” and “Inspiration” shows some of the Sikhs who’ve made the news. Among them are the bearded Sikh “light-featherweight” boxer Pardeep Singh Nagra and marathon runner Fauja Singh, who at age 93 ran the 2004 London Marathon in 5 hours 40 minutes.

For the little ones, there are Sikh cartoons to watch, Sikh storybooks to look at or pictures to color.

A video screen allows for a look in the “Gurudwara” (community kitchen) of the Renton “Gurdwara” house of worship), where members of the congregation welcome people from all walks of life to share their food — an important element of Sikh tradition and religion.

If you’re not ready to make the trip to Renton, make sure you don’t miss the opportunity to discover the ways of the Sikhs at WLAM.

Images Through the Ages,” a music and dance event at the Theatre Off Jackson, Saturday, April 8 at 2 p.m. at 407 Seventh Ave. S.

“Sikh Community: Over 100 Years in the Pacific Northwest,” until April 16 at The Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 Seventh Ave. S., Seattle, Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays and Holidays. Admission: $4 adults, $3 students/seniors, $2 children 5 - 12, $3.50 tour fee per person. First Thursday of the month is free. For information call: (206) 623-3124 or visit www.wingluke.org.
Q: Why was it important to publish “Asian American Poetry: The Next Generation?”
A: The anthology came out of my frustrations in locating Asian American poetry to read. I had read Garrett Hongo’s anthology, “The Open Boat,” in addition to several other Asian American literature anthologies, but I didn’t feel as if there was a place where I could read the poems of my generation all in one place. Thus I wanted to do the work for other readers and put together this anthology.

I think in searching for Asian American poets to read, I was increasingly interested in how many didn’t have visibly “Asian” last names and who didn’t write about typically “Asian” subject matter — meaning there were no identifiable Asian American markers. I had a hypothesis that we were writing about different subjects in different ways and that we, as a population, were also changing demographically. I wanted to contribute to displaying the diversity of Asian Americans in general and Asian American poets, specifically. I thought the timing was right and decided to take on the project.

Q: So, do the writers in the anthology represent a shift in Asian American writing?
A: I think the new Asian American poets are “new” and “innovative” in many ways, but I think one might be surprised at how much this new generation of poets also borrows from or are influenced by the past, both culturally and by prior Asian American poets. There’s a sense of history and culture in many of the poems in the anthology, but the new generation of AA poets often recasts the past in different ways. The writing in the anthology is really a combination of the new and the old.

Q: Since there is such diversity within the Asian American community, is there an Asian American voice?
A: I think you ask a fundamental question of parsing or segmenting poetry into cultural categories or any categories for that matter. I know many people who would disagree entirely with segmenting poetry or literature into such categories, arguing that there is no such thing as “Asian American poetry.” This is a very complicated question to answer, but I can only give you my opinion which is that the cultural identity of a poet is essential to that person’s being — whether it shows up in the poetry-writing itself, is another story. The universe is entirely too large and my view of an anthology that segments along the lines of ethnicity, gender, sexual preference, etc. is just another way of slicing the bigger pie of poetry. It doesn’t mean that the poets included are writing “Asian American poetry” per se or that they even
Q: How did you go about finding the authors to include?

A: I only knew personally a handful of poets in the anthology, but the remainder were ones that I either solicited or found at the library or on Amazon. I also queried 50 editors, professors, colleagues, other poets, etc. and asked for recommendations and the list kept growing. At the end of the day, I considered over 120 poets. I think not knowing a lot of Asian American poets personally made me be even more “objective,” if one can be objective when putting together an anthology. I should also note that the anthology was meant to be inclusive of various aesthetics. Of course every poet, particularly literary editors, and I picked about 60 of these “Asian American poets” in the anthology are considered some of the most talented “poets” in America writing today. They just happen to be Asian American. Suji Kwock Kim comes to mind, as do many of the other poets included in the anthology.

Q: Older anthologies like “Aiiieeeee!” are still considered central books in Asian American literature. Is there a point when we let go of those anthologies and look for newer expressions of Asian American poetry?

A: I absolutely agree with you that there are older anthologies that are essential to mapping out the history of Asian American literature and poetry specifically and we definitely shouldn’t discard such anthologies. I think that it’s useful to look at historical anthologies to note the differences AND the similarities between those and more contemporary work. Each poet in the anthology looks back at the past in a different way. Some poets like Brian Komei Dempster clearly write about Japanese American history and internment camps from a contemporary perspective, while others such as Rick Barot do not visibly write about Asian American history at all. The diversity along a spectrum is what I was interested in showcasing.

Q: Your first book of poetry, “Circle,” recently won the Crab Orchard Review Award and was published by Southern Illinois University Press. How do you view yourself as part of the next generation of Asian American writers?

A: I guess I “fit in” to the next generation inasmuch that I’m under 40 and am an Asian American poet. I’m more of a lyrical poet and I like narrative thumbnail sketches as well. I particularly like writing about historical events and injustices. I can’t say for sure if someone else edited the anthology they would have included me, however!

Book Review:
“Asian American Poetry: The Next Generation”

Review by Tarisa Matsumoto

In very broad terms, Victoria Chang considers the next generation of Asian American poets to be those poets under 40 who are Asian American. According to those parameters, as a reader of poetry, I am in that next generation. So I can argue that this next generation of Asian American poets, when looking for a good dose of Asian American writing, turned to the anthologies I turned to: “Aiiieeeee!,” “The Big Aiiieeeee!,” “Making Waves” and “Breaking Silence.” These are still standards when studying Asian American poetry. I always wonder if the editors of those anthologies thought their books would be considered the voice of Asian Americans. In fact, in my more innocent days, I assumed the only Asian American writings that existed were in those anthologies. It was only until some very provocative teachers showed me otherwise did I realize that Asian Americans had been writing on a good many topics for a very long time. Chang’s new anthology, “Asian American Poetry: The Next Generation,” does the same thing that those teachers taught me, which is that there’s a whole wealth of Asian American writing out there that needs to be recognized and read.

Fortunately for us, Chang has done the legwork of finding the next generation of writers. Some are familiar: Oliver de la Paz, Suji Kwok Kim, Timothy Liu, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Lee Ann Roripaugh, Adrienne Su. For me, some are new, like Rick Barot’s clean lines and the imagistic lyrics of Brian Komei Dempster (“my mother sews/a quilt of tomatoes”). I have become enamored with the narrative passages of Srikanth Reddy and the moving margins of Mông-Lan’s poems, which look like their own works of art. To read Chang’s anthology is to take a tour of what much of Asian American poetry is today. And she has given us the poets we can go and read more of.

The writers in Chang’s anthology are many things: poets, students, teachers, doctors; they live outside the United States, on the West Coast, on the East Coast; they are immigrants; they are multiracial. I wonder how people will look back on this generation in a few decades. Will this anthology be up there with “Aiiieeeee!” and “Making Waves”? Of course we’ll have to wait and see, but in the meantime, read Chang’s latest anthology for a glimpse at the spectacular breadth of what Asian American poetry is today.
The Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival is a Seattle tradition, this year celebrating their 30th anniversary. The fest will focus on Japanese contemporary art and is set for the Seattle Center, April 21–23. Early leads-in to the festival include the following art events: “Japanese Design Today 100” is a survey of that genre from the 1950s to 1990s and will be on view at Seattle Center Pavilion Room B, 305 Harrison St. from April 8–23. For information, call (206) 682-9107. Catherine Person Gallery in Pioneer Square pays tribute to the festival with a group show of Japanese sculpture, April 8–29, featuring Seattle artists Norio Sato, Etsuko Ichikawa and Nori Morimoto from Vermont. A reception honoring the artists takes place April 8 from 6–8 p.m. A reception to honor the Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival takes place on April 19 from 6–8 p.m. – 319 Third Ave. S., (206) 763-5565. In addition, the artists in this show will give slide talks about their work at the festival at Seattle Center as well. Nori Morimoto appears April 21 at 1 p.m. Norio Sato appears April 22 at 2 p.m. Etsuko Ichikawa speaks on April 23 at 2 p.m.

Maya Lin, celebrated architect/sculptor who broke onto the national scene with her seemingly simple yet profoundly moving memorial to Vietnam war veterans in Washington, D.C., has a show of new sculptures, drawings and large-scale installations entitled “Maya Lin: Systematic Landscapes,” April 22–Sept. 3 at UW’s Henry Art Gallery. Opening reception is April 21 from 9–11 p.m. with a member’s preview at 7:30 p.m. www.henryart.org. (206) 543-2280. 15th Ave. N.E. & N.E. 41st.

Japanese architects have been gaining prominence on the international scene. Closer to home, recent designs for the Museum of Modern Art and the New Museum in New York, as well as the Kimbell Art Museum in Ft. Worth, Texas were all done by Japanese architects. To get a better idea of the latest in Japanese architecture, check out the UW Department of Architecture Spring 2006 Lecture Series entitled “Craft and Construction in Contemporary Japan.” All lectures are at the Henry Art Gallery Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. April 6 will have Waro Kishi from Kyoto presenting “Recent Works.” May 4 will have Tetsuaki Architecture from Tokyo speaking on “Roofless Architecture.” May 11 will have Atelier Bow Wow from Tokyo speaking on “Transduction.” The series ends May 28 with Hitoshi Abe of Sendai speaking on “Architecture of a Boundary Surface.”

Jake Shimabukuro, ukulele virtuoso from Hawaii, performs on April 7 at 8 p.m. Though possessing incredible technique, what sets him apart is his range of interests that go beyond island music to include jazz, blues and classical influences. Benaroya Hall at 200 University St. downtown. Presented by Na Mele O Hawaii! Tickets at Benaroya Hall Box Office or call (206) 292-ARTS.

Ragamala presents a “jugalbandhi” (flute and sitar) performance by S. Shashank on flute with Ustad Shalad Parvez on sitar. April 7 at 7 p.m. Eastshore Unitarian Church at 17200 S.E. 52nd St. in Bellevue. E-mail ragamala@comcast.net.

The Filipino Drill Team is just one of dozens of acts set to perform in the Moisurite Festival, a wide-ranging variety and comedy show which runs through April 9 at Hales Palladium at 4301 Leary Way N.W. For tickets, log on to www.brownmuptickets.com or call (800) 838-3060.

The UW International Chamber Music Series concludes this season with the Daedalus String Quartet with guest pianist Byron Schenkman. The young quartet has Min-Young Kim on violin, Kyu-Young Kim on violin, Jessica Thompson on viola and Raman Ramakrishnan on cello. April 18 at 8 p.m. Meany Theatre. (206) 543-4800. www.uwworldseries.org.

Nonsequitur and Taoist Studies Institute present the international duo of Chinese “gazhang” virtuoso Mei Han and Canadian composer/multi-instrumentalists Randy Raine-Reusch in a concert of contemporary music for traditional Asian instruments. April 22 at 8 p.m. at Taoist Studies Institute, 225 N. 7th St. (206) 784-5632 or info@taoiststudiesinstitute.org.

Jake Shimabukuro, ukulele virtuoso from Hawaii, performs on April 7 at 8 p.m. Though possessing incredible technique, what sets him apart is his range of interests that go beyond island music to include jazz, blues and classical influences. Benaroya Hall at 200 University St. downtown. Presented by Na Mele O Hawaii! Tickets at Benaroya Hall Box Office or call (206) 292-ARTS.

The Filipino Drill Team is just one of dozens of acts set to perform in the Moisurite Festival, a wide-ranging variety and comedy show which runs through April 9 at Hales Palladium at 4301 Leary Way N.W. For tickets, log on to www.brownmuptickets.com or call (800) 838-3060.

The UW International Chamber Music Series concludes this season with the Daedalus String Quartet with guest pianist Byron Schenkman. The young quartet has Min-Young Kim on violin, Kyu-Young Kim on violin, Jessica Thompson on viola and Raman Ramakrishnan on cello. April 18 at 8 p.m. Meany Theatre. (206) 543-4800. www.uwworldseries.org.

Nonsequitur and Taoist Studies Institute present the international duo of Chinese “gazhang” virtuoso Mei Han and Canadian composer/multi-instrumentalists Randy Raine-Reusch in a concert of contemporary music for traditional Asian instruments. April 22 at 8 p.m. at Taoist Studies Institute, 225 N. 7th St. (206) 784-5632 or info@taoiststudiesinstitute.org.

Written Arts

Karen Cheng, author of “Designing Type” (Yale University Press) gives a talk on April 13 at 6 p.m.
Thursday, April 6
- "A Breath of Fresh Air, Stories of Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer API Domestic Violence Survivors Book" Release Party. Host: Queer Network Project, API Women & Family Safety Center & the International Examiner. Location: Chinatown/ID Community Center (719 - Eighth Avenue South, Seattle, WA) 5 to 7 p.m. Phone: API Safety Center: (206) 467-9976. Bring friends and family to attend! Folks interested in donating, tabling or volunteering for this event, please contact Joanne at 206.467.9976 or joanne@apialliance.org!
- The Nihonmachi Terrace Grand Opening & Tours takes place at 10:30 a.m. 651 S. Main Street (corner of Maynard Ave. S.) There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony, tours and refreshments. For more information, contact (206) 624-1802 or info@interimicda.org.
- Seattle University’s Japanese American Remembrance Garden will be dedicated in a ceremony from 4:30 – 6 p.m. in front of Hunthausen Hall on the campus. Sponsored by the Alumni Relations Office, for more information contact (206) 296-6127 or AlumniRSVP@seattleu.edu.

Thursday, April 13
- Asian Pacific American young women want to spread the word: 1 out of 3 girls and 1 out of 4 boys will be sexually assaulted by age 18. APA young women, involved with Asian Counseling and Referral Service’s Teen Peer Advocate Program, want other teens to know this in order to prevent sexual assault from happening to their friends, classmates and themselves. They have organized SHAPE Up (Sexual Harassment Awareness for People Everywhere), 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the ID/Chinatown Community Center, 719 8th Ave. S. This free event will feature various workshops on healthy relationships, safety and self-defense, identifying sexual assault and harassment. Lunch will be provided, along with goodie bags for all those who attend. Raffle prizes will also be given. Please register with Maria Tungel, ACRS Youth Counselor, at (206) 695-774 x2441 or mariat@acrs.org.

Friday, April 14
- The Family Support Center of South Snohomish County will host the 5th annual Multicultural Family Fair at the Lynnwood Convention Center. This free, non-commercial event will be held from 12 to 5 p.m. and is expected to draw more than 3,500 attendees. More information about The Family Support Center of South Snohomish County is available at the organization’s website at: www.familysupportcenter.net.

Saturday, April 22
- The Family Support Center of South Snohomish County will host the 5th annual Multicultural Family Fair at the Lynnwood Convention Center. This free, non-commercial event will be held from 12 to 5 p.m. and is expected to draw more than 3,500 attendees. More information about The Family Support Center of South Snohomish County is available at the organization’s website at: www.familysupportcenter.net.
NW Asian American Theatre
409 Seventh Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104
ph: 206-340-1445 fc: 206-682-4348

Wing Luke Asian Museum
407 7th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104
ph: 206-623-3524 fc: 206-623-4559
folks@wingluke.org, www.wingluke.org
The only pan-Asian Pacific American museum in the country, the Wing Luke Asian Museum is nationally recognized for its award-winning exhibitions and community-based model of education and program development. WLAM an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is dedicated to engaging the APIA communities and the public in exploring issues related to the culture, art and history of Asian Pacific America. Offers guided tours for schools and adult groups, and provides excellent programs for families and all ages.

Social & Health Services

Asian Counseling & Referral Service
720 8th Ave S Suite 200 Seattle, WA 98104
Aging & Adult Health Services: Children, Youth & Family; Consultation & Education; Domestic Violence Education and Interventions-Batterers Treatment; International District Legal Clinic; Naturalization Services; Problem Gambling Program; Substance Abuse Treatment & Recovery; Vocational & Employment Services.

Center For Career Alternatives
901 Rainer Ave So, Seattle, WA 98144
Need a Job? First Training, GED, and job placement service.

Chinese Information and Service Center
409 Maynard Ave S Suite 203 Seattle, WA 98104
ph: 206-624-3563 www.ciscw.org
Helps Asian immigrants achieve success in their new community by providing information, referral, advocacy, social, and support services. Our bilingual & bicultural staff offer after school programs, English as a Second Language, citizenship classes, employment training, computer classes, elderly care services and additionally family support services. Please contact us.

International Drop-In Center
7301 Beacon Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108
ph: 206-587-5735 fc: 206-742-0282 email: idic_seattle@yahoo.com
We are open form 9 till 5 Monday to Friday and do referrals, counseling, fitness and recreation, social arts & cultural activities for elderly member and walk-ins.

Helping Link
Provides home care, home health, Alzheimer’s and caregiver support, community education and chronic care management. Coordinate medical supply delivery. Install Personal Emergency Response system. Serves the Chinese/Asian community in King County.

International Community Health Services
International District Medical & Dental Clinic
720 8th Ave S Suite 100 Seattle, WA 98104
ph: 206-788-3700

Holly Park Medical & Dental Clinic
3815 S. Othello St Seattle, WA 98118 ph: 206-788-3500
www.ichs.com
We are a nonprofit health care center offering affordable medical, dental, pharmacy, acupuncture and health education services primarily to Seattle and King County’s Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Kim On Community Health Care
815 S. Weller St Suite 212 Seattle, WA 98104
rtong@kinon.org; www.kinon.org
Provides home care, home health, Alzheimer’s and caregiver support, community education and chronic care management. Coordinate medical supply delivery. Install Personal Emergency Response system. Serves the Chinese/Asian community in King County.

Merchants Parking/Transit
ph: 206-624-3426 fc: 206-682-4335
Merchants Parking provides convenient & affordable community parking. Transia provides transportation para-transit van services, shuttle services and field trips & in out of Chinatown/International District & South King County.

Refugee Women’s Alliance
4008 Martin Luther King Jr. Seattle, WA 98108
A multi-ethnic, multicultural, community-based organization that provides the following programs to refugee and immigrant women and families in the Puget Sound area: Development Disabilities, Domestic Violence, Early Childhood Education, Youth Family Support, Mental Health, Parent Education and Education and Vocational Training.

Washington Asian Pacific Islander Families Against Substance Abuse
405 S. Maynard Ave Suite 200 Seattle, WA 98104
ph: 206-223-9578
Alcohol, tobacco & drug prevention; early intervention & outpatient treatment for APIA youth and their families.
OFFICE MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER
Responsibilities: fiscal operations (account payable, receivable, deposits, reconciliation, payroll) and office management (supplies, equipment, troubleshoot office equipment, maintain personnel records). Qualifications: BA degree in business, familiarity with non-profit accounting, working knowledge of QuickBooks and MS Excel. Full-Time. Salary: starting at $28,000/annually, includes medical and dental benefits. Open until filled. Send resume to: AHIWFC. Attention: Office Manager/Bookkeeper. P.O. Box 14047, Seattle, WA 98114; FAX 206-467-1072; Email: apiwfsc@apialliance.org.

SEAMSTRESS’ NEEDED
Work From Home
Small, friendly Redmond manufacturing company is seeking seamstresses’ with experience in fine designer fabrics. You must have previous experience in working with silks & velvets including sewing and pressing. This is a work from home, piecework position, so you must have your own sewing machine. We are an accessories company, so this is not full garment sewing, but it must be extremely professional looking and of high quality.

Karin’s Garden has been in business since 1989. Hours of operation are M-F 8-5pm. We work with feminine, color products. www.karinsgarden.com

Please Email your interest to joanna@karinsgarden.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice
Request for Proposals
Small Business Seasonal Concession Opportunities
Proposal Due Date – Tuesday, April 18, 2006 by 4:30 PM
From
The City of Seattle Department of Parks & Recreation

The City of Seattle acting through its Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking proposals from experienced roving/mobile truck and food concession operators for seasonal food concession sales at various Seattle parks and ball fields.

Proposal Packages will be available beginning at 1:15 PM, March 17, 2006. Interested parties may either pick up a Proposal Package or request that a Package be mailed to them by contacting the Department at the address shown below. You can also print the Proposal Package from the web at: http://www.seattle.gov/parks/enterprise/rfp.htm after March 17, 2006. Proposals must be submitted on forms provided by the Department. Small businesses and Women and/or Minority Businesses are encouraged to submit a Proposal Package.

Please contact me if you are interested in exploring this opportunity and would like to receive the Proposal Package.

Rita Hollomon, Concessions Coordinator
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
Enterprise Division
Magnuson Park & Business Resources
6310 NE 74th Street #109E
Seattle, WA 98115
Phone (206) 684-8008
Fax (206) 615-0857
Email: rita.hollomon@seattle.gov

METHAMPHETAMINE USE?
The Addictions Treatment Center at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System is currently seeking participants for a study examining the effects of a medication that is hoped to improve participants’ thinking processes after they stop using methamphetamine and may reduce methamphetamine use. The medication is given by injection. All participants will receive active medication.

We are seeking veterans and non-veteran male and female volunteers between 18 and 65 years of age who currently are using methamphetamines and would like to stop. The study lasts for 14 weeks and includes a psychiatric interview, physical examination, individual counseling, and frequent symptom monitoring. You will be compensated for your time and travel.

For more information, please call the study staff at (206) 764-2607. Please leave your name and number if no one is available. We will return your phone call as soon as possible.

Michael Serizawa Brown
Ph.D., J.D. Attorney at Law.
General practice.
206-367-2754

Notice
Request for Proposals
Small Business Seasonal Concession Opportunities
Proposal Due Date – April 25, 2006
From
The City of Seattle Department of Parks & Recreation

The City of Seattle acting through its Department of Parks and Recreation, in an ongoing effort to revitalize our downtown parks, is looking for local vendors or concessionaires to participate in a new and exciting opportunity in 2006.

This opportunity stems from the larger vision of the City of Seattle and Seattle Parks and Recreation to activate downtown parks through physical improvements and active programming. Vendors and concessionaires can join efforts with Parks to provide attractions and services in these parks, and can gain exposure and prestige in downtown venues.

Proposal Packages for vendors and concessions will be available beginning at 1:15 PM, March 25, 2006. Interested parties may download a Proposal Package at www.seattle.gov/parks/enterprise/rfp.htm and print it out at the addresses shown below. To have the package mailed to you or to pick it up, please contact the Department at the address below.

Please contact us if you are interested in exploring this opportunity.

Vendors & Concessions please contact:
Barry Firth, Concessions Coordinator
Seattle Parks & Recreation
South Lake Union Naval Reserve Building, Room 124
860 Terry Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109-4330
Phone: (206) 684-8002 and email: barry.firth@Seattle.gov