

OCA Greater Cleveland members attend OCA National Convention to Celebrate 50 Years of Advocacy

By Wayne Wong



OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the National Convention held in Washington D.C. from July 12-15, 2023.

The convention drew AAPI advocates from over 50 chapters throughout the USA, including 17 attendees from the OCA Greater Cleveland chapter for this important celebration. The four day convention concluded with a wonderful Gala that had about 750 attendees to honor the amazing Asian American advocacy pioneers that alzcame before, and the achievements of leaders today. The Gala was honored by congratulatory remarks from U.S. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala

Harris, the first Asian-American to hold the office.

OCA Greater Cleveland leaders (President Lisa Wong, VP Johnny Wu, Founder Margaret Wong, Anthony Yen, Oscar Lee) were featured in a gala video. Awards were provided to recognize the amazing accomplishments of these advocates: - Tamlyn Tomita - Actress best known for The Joy Luck Club from 30 years ago, Karate Kid II, Cobra Kai, as well as many others films, and as a dedicated AA advocate and supporter for decades.

- Jeremy Lin 林書豪 - NBA superstar who came to prominence during Linsanity, first Asian American to win an NBA Championship, and is an Anti-Asian racism activist.

- Mini Timmaraju - Advisor to the Biden-Harris administration, organizer, and advocate

- Richard Lui - First Asian American man to anchor a National cable news show, MSNBC news anchor

- Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) - OCA Legacy Award

- And Virginia Ng was honored with The Lifetime

Achievement Award posthumously for her decades long AAPI advocacy.

Additionally, during the OCA Chapter of the Year Awards Luncheon earlier that day, the OCA Greater Cleveland chapter was presented with the 3rd Place Award for "Emerging Chapter of the Year." At this special Chapter Awards event, the local chapter founders were recognized including the wonderful Margaret W. Wong for OCAGC.

The convention started on Wednesday with "OCA Day on the Hill" - an amazing opportunity for OCA Greater Cleveland members to join chapters from across the country to advocate for AAPI equity, inclusion, and rights. We split up into teams to visit the offices of 40 Congressmen, including discussions with the aides for Ohio Senator JD Vance, Ohio Representative David Joyce, Virginia Senator Mark Warner, Pennsylvania Senator John Fetterman, Virginia Representative Rob Wittman, Massachusetts Representative Stephen Lynch, and many others. The OCA teams drew attention to bills regarding AANHPI History in US education, Neighbors Not Enemies to repeal the archaic "Alien Enemies" law, and Mental Health stigma in our communities.

The Youth Recognition Luncheon honored 19 National interns getting DC experience, joined

by local chapter interns including OCA Greater Cleveland interns Alex Wong and Suzie Horejs. Past OCA National interns make up 50% of National's current staff and many others go on to serve as local leaders, chapter presidents, and icons of AAPI advocacy!

In addition to these special events, the convention included Town Halls and panel discussions covering many topics relevant to AAPI civic engagement, equity, creative arts, careers in Government, and many others. The convention also has tracks aimed at youth and college-age advocates. The convention had social events throughout including a reception at the Chinese American Museum, Karaoke, and ice cream social. Cleveland OCA members came back from convention energized to continue our programs and develop new ones. Happy 50th Anniversary, OCA!



克利夫蘭中華婦女聯合會夏季戶外聚餐活動成功舉辦

7月16日中午1點克利夫蘭湖邊公園響起了中國音樂。今天是克利夫蘭中華婦女聯合會一年一度夏季戶外聚餐活動的日子，與過往不同的是：一百多人人數最多。有100歲高齡的奶奶參加年齡差最大，百歲奶奶還親自做了精美甜點，吃到的人都喜歡，沒有吃到的只能望梅止渴。有樂隊現場演奏前所未有。

當第二圓舞曲音樂響起，Anna會長帶動著會眾載歌載舞，體現了女性同胞們積極向上的良好心態。特別感謝：百佳超市，飛騰中餐馆的高質量菜品。當然也感謝婦女會各位理事群策群力在Anna會長領導下力行改革創新切實處處為華人社區服務。特別是最容易被遺忘的老年同胞，看到老媽媽們一個個精心打扮，穿戴漂亮，精神爽利的樣子就知道她們多麼重視、多麼渴望和期待這次活動，媽媽們熱情開心有的打著拍子有的隨著音樂翩

翩起舞，從她們的眼神看到了對生活的熱愛對美的追求嚮往，有媽媽甚至逼不及待問會長下次活動是什麼時候？Anna會長毫不猶豫答應每月辦活動豐富生活樂趣，這次活動非常感謝張小倫，劉克成，王龍，黃海，還有張小倫二哥及朋友，特

別的嘉賓特別的樂隊組合，演奏水準非一般，大家意猶未盡，沈醉在音樂裏。
廣場舞的姐姐們在春華和Melisa的帶領下舞出熱情奔放，音樂，美食期待明年再見。（圖文梅文興提供）



Glenville's Got Talent in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens

Cleveland, OH - Glenville is the home to stars such as Bone Thugs-N-Harmony and Steve Harvey. Who might be the next superstar coming out of the neighborhood?

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation has been hosting a series of World on Stage events this summer at the Centennial Peace Plaza on MLK. The events are free and free parking is available.

On Saturday August 5th from 6-8 PM, the Gardens are partnering with Famicos Foundation for a special Community Night in the Gardens which will feature music and other performances with neighborhood artists playing a prominent role on stage.

The highlight will be the Glenville's Got Talent show. Glenville residents have been submitting videos of their talents and the best 5 will perform live on Saturday in front of celebrity judges and the community.

There will also be a performance by Russell Thompson and Free Agent. Russell Thompson and Free Agent is a native Cleveland band known for their musical blend of instrumental jazz, funk, and R&B. The band was formed in 1984 by saxophonist Russell Thompson. Jeff Lorber, Glen Jones, and Miki Howard are a few artists that the band has backed. They've also

opened for artists such as Charlie Wilson, Bobbi Humphrey, Ramsey Lewis, Wayman Tisdale, and Bob Baldwin to mention a few.

Event producer Johnny Wu says, "The Community Night in the Gardens is always one of the best World on Stage events of summer. It gives a chance for the community to take part in the beautiful Cultural Gardens in their own backyard."

This is the third World on Stage event this summer following the successful African heritage and Middle Eastern heritage events. The next event will celebrate Hispanic heritage on August 12. See more on the entire World on Stage series at <https://clevelandculturalgardens.org/gardens/educational-programming/world-on-stage/>

Watch a 27 second video promo of the World on Stage. <https://youtu.be/kEtZ8RJTPcQ>
World on Stage - Community Night details:
Saturday August 5 6-8 PM
Cleveland Cultural Gardens Centennial Peace Plaza
1051 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Free parking on MLK and East Blvds.
Contact (for interviews, questions, etc.)
Johnny Wu, johnny@mdifilm.com
Office: 216.539.4634
Dan Hanson, dan@clevelandpeople.com
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2023 CLIENT SUMMER EVENT

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WELLNESS OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
RESOURCE TABLES & FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PIZZA LUNCHEON

NO CHILDREN PERMITTED!



FREE BIOMETRIC & HEALTH SCREENINGS

RESOURCE TABLES

PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

FREE GIVEAWAYS

FREE LUNCH!

LOCATED AT:

ADAMHS BOARD
2012 West 25th St.,
6th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio
44113