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IN THE MAILBOX

I am writing to express my appreciation for the series you are running on the history of the International District. I pick up your paper whenever I happen to see it, and so far have read your first two installments (Issues 6/18, Vol. 35, No. 12 & 7/16, Vol. 35, No. 14). I greatly enjoyed your quote from Frank Miyamoto, my sociology professor in the 1950's. I also enjoyed the article about Bruce Lee (issue 7/16, Vol. 35, No. 14). It helped me understand why I often see his admirers when I pass his monument at LakeView Cemetary.



Sincerely,
Elizabeth Bagshaw
Seattle, WA

I want to commend you on the recent article on the History of the ID (Issue 6/18, Vol. 35, no. 12). It could have been titled the history of Asians/Asian Americans in the Northwest. Being a Seattle native it is extremely interesting to hear of our history. I do not know any other place that I, or others, would be able to learn about our unique heritage, the trials and tribulations, etc. I am thankful that IE has published this information; I am saving this issue to share with my nieces and nephews to educate them on their heritage. It was also appropriate to have the article about Ruby Chow in the same issue. She was a leader and many have no idea what a force she was in the community. Thanks again for continued excellent journalism,

Christine Suzuki, Principal
Seattle, WA

IE EDITORIAL

BE A LEADER

In a time when reality shows encourage us to betray one another for one's own greater good, it's easy to forget the values of honor and leadership. Leadership isn't easy. In fact, being a good one entitles you to near martyrdom nowadays. But, taking the lead at your work, among your friends and family, or as a personal philosophy is crucial to living a strong and resilient life.

In my role as editor in chief of the IE, I found leadership skills are vital to organizing and inspiring a team towards a common vision. Here, I found great tips to follow and take to heart. I share them with you and hope you'll find something in your life to take charge in and be a leader in your own right.

Diem Ly

IE Editor

1. Be dedicated

Being a leader is a lot of responsibility and hard work, and you have to be up to it. The core of leadership is being proactive rather than reactive. Leadership involves identifying potential problems and solving them before they reach crisis.

2. Know right from wrong

Be cooperative as much as you can but also realize when you need to be assertive. Let people know when they are doing something that is not right.

3. Lead from the front

Put yourself on the front lines with your people, instead of trying to lead by just barking orders. You are the one who makes the decisions and sees that the appropriate actions are carried out. You can't just "talk a good game" to be a leader.

4. Be a good role model

Support the people you are working with and do all you can to show people the strength of your group. Lead by example.

5. Have confidence and be positive

A good leader never lets their team down. The meaning of the word team is Together Everyone Achieves More. Work with everyone you can and have a good attitude.

6. Have a vision

Vision provides direction and embodies your dreams and your passions, a vision statement will also serve as a leadership vision

Tips for Busy Procrastinators

BY HUY X. LE
IE Columnist

These past few months I've been using anti-bacterial soap as shaving cream, and do you know why? Because life is SHORT, that's why!! (And I was too lazy to run to the store). Life's short, and yet people end up falling into banalities and routines and endless cycles of drudgery. Who ever decreed that one can only shave with shaving cream? Our time on this sweet earth is too brief and valuable to do the same thing over and over mindlessly. Tomorrow, when you wake up, look yourself in the mirror and ask what one thing you could do different. It does not have to be a big change. Brush your teeth with circular motions instead of side-to-side! Purposefully forget to comb your hair!! Take a different route to work!!! Wear deodorant under only one arm!!! Anything!!!!!! Live!!!!!! (Sorry, I had too many Otter Pops). As for me, the one thing I will do differently tomorrow is go to Walgreens and buy shaving cream. Dam anti-bacterial burns and itches like hell.

I've come to realize lately, though, that all of us are in a rut, and we never have time for anything. It is hard to enjoy life and to live when we're always juggling dozens of things. The problem really is not the lack of time, but rather our own poor habits in managing the time we have. We need to learn how to manage time better. I sat down and came up with these tips. If you are like me and find that you do not seem to have enough time in the day to do things that you really enjoy, then these tips are for you:

1. When microwaving things for one minute, push 60 instead of 1:00. For a minute and thirty seconds, push 90 instead of 1:30. That will save you approximately three-quarter of a second each time.

2. Shave off all your hair; the average person spends a year of their life maintaining their hair (Country-Western singers, 12 years).

3. Rub shampoo, conditioner, and body wash all into your bath towel. Then, instead of taking a shower, just strip and rub yourself with the towel.

4. When fixing yourself a meal, double your portions. Then eat only half. Put plastic wrap over the leftover and put the whole thing into the fridge, including the eating utensils. When you are hungry, just heat and serve.

5. After buying electronic items, don't leave the store. Take the item straight to the returns counter and get your money back. This will save you from having to try it out and realize it's defective and having to come back to return it.

6. Pre-sign all the checks in your check-book, and put them in various easy-to-access locations so that you never have to waste time trying to find your checks when you really need them.

7. You can save a lot of time by multitasking. Romantic dates can double as romantic tax-filing sessions over candle-light dinner.

8. Sleep in your work clothes. In your car.

9. Demote half your friends to the status of "Distant Aunt." Then you can write them marginally interesting emails of medium length once every other month.

10. Join a cult. This won't save you any time, and, in fact, will sap you of all your time and destroy your soul, but you won't care, because you'll be going to Heaven on a giant comet.

I hope those tips have helped you save a little bit of time that you can use to enjoy life. I have to run. There's a Law and Order marathon on TV!

Food For Thought

Who was General Tso and why are we eating his chicken?

BY LIZA JAVIER
IE Food Columnist



General Tso's chicken, deep-fried morsels of dark meat with vegetables and dried red peppers in a sweet-spicy sauce, is one of the most popular yet mysterious menu items in Chinese restaurants. A fan of the tasty dish, I often ponder: Who is General Tso and why are we eating his chicken?

While there's no definitive source on where the recipe came from, it turns out General Tso actually existed. According to 'The Harpers Encyclopedia of Military Biography' by Trevor DuPuy, General Tso was General Tso T'sung-t'ang, a successful 19th century Chinese general and statesman historically known for suppressing the Muslim rebellion during the Qing Dynasty.

Since military historians make no mention any poultry dish, the general most likely didn't invent the mouth-watering meal usually the chef's special at your neighborhood Chinese restaurant.

Rather, the dish seems to have been the invention of Chinese and Taiwanese immigrants to the U.S. following the Chinese civil war, says New York Times writer Fuchsia Dunlop. The dish was then popularized in Szechuan/Hunan style restaurants in New York City during the 1970s.

Dunlop interviewed one distinguished Chinese cook who immigrated to the U.S. following World War II. He remembers first cooking General Tso's chicken in the 1950's, but with more Hunanese flavors of heavy, sour, hot and salty, and without the sugar.

Perplexed by the origins of what may be the most Americanized Chinese dish, Jennifer 8. Lee, author of 'The Fortune Cookie Chronicles,' traveled to China and visited General Tso's hometown of Xiangyin in rural Hunan province in search of the source of his infamous chicken.

Lee discovered Tso's descendents still living in the town, five generations later, and plenty of hometown pride in his military exploits. But she found no evidence of General Tso's chicken and concluded the famous poultry dish bearing his name isn't really Chinese at all and was, in fact, American as apple pie.

Lee also observed General Tso shares an ironic similarity to an American military man also famous for his chicken: KFC's Colonel Sanders.

"In America, General Tso, like Colonel Sanders, is known for his chicken, not war. In China, he's known for war and not chicken," said Lee.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Korean Women's Group to Buy Hotel in Tacoma



Photo credit: Tacoma Weekly

According to Tacoma Weekly, the Korean Women's Association (KWA), a social services agency, has entered into a purchase and sale agreement to purchase the Olympus Hotel, a building that serves low-income tenants. It has 49 units, with 11 studio apartments, 27 with one-bedroom and the remainder are two-bedroom units. KWA has been looking into purchasing the Olympus since last year. Assuming KWA moves forward with its plans, it expects to spend \$345,000 renovating the exterior and \$325,000 renovating the interior. There is street-level retail space in the building. Paddy Coyne's Irish Pub occupies one space. Pritchard said that lease will provide needed revenue for the agency. In recent years, the

Olympus has been the source of complaints from some downtown merchants in regard to criminal activity in and around it. Tenants would be subjected to drug testing and KWA is willing to offer social services to tenants needing help with personal problems.

Local Funnyman Headlines at Giggles Comedy Club



Using his childhood growing up as the 'only Laos family in Montana,' Lukas Seely, now living in the Seattle area, pokes fun at the stereotypes he's grown up with. But, Seely wants to be known as more than just 'that Asian comedian.' Check out Seely's acclaimed performances for yourself at the Giggles Comedy Club in the UW District on Friday, September 5 and Saturday, Sept. 6. Showtimes are at 8:30 p.m. and 10:15 p.m.

Vietnamese Comedian in Seattle



Dat Phan, the winner of NBC's Last Comic Standing, season one, performed at Seattle's Mainstage Comedy and Music Club from August 20 - Aug 23. Phan's performances sold out and midnight shows had to be added.

Concert Fundraiser for East African Hospital

Village Health Works (VHW), a US-based not-for-profit organization that operates a medical clinic in a rural community in East Africa, held its concert fundraiser August 22 at the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI). The fundraiser included performances by local reggae legend Clinton Fearon, Mark Oi, and Emi Meyer. The event aimed to raise capital for the next major construction project in Kigutu (a 30-bed in-patient ward) and for the initiation of a multi-faceted malnutrition program, including a farm, to support the hospital's nutritional needs.

Seattle's Night Market



Saturday, August 23 marked the last night for the Chinatown/International District Night Market. The event, coordinated by the Chinatown/International District Business Improvement Area (CidBIA), included festivities planned during three consecutive Saturday nights (8/9, 8/16, and 8/23), inviting local restaurants to participate as vendors, and offering a free movie showcase at Hing Hay Park on all three nights. CidBIA hopes to expand the festival next year.

Vietnamese Social Service Agency Celebrates Its 15th Year



Helping Link's annual Dinner on August 21 at South Seattle Community College included lion dances and martial art and musical performances. The social service agency, geared toward the Vietnamese community, assists immigrants by offering ESL, computer, and citizenship courses. Other services include mentoring, and tutoring the youth.

New President and Executive Director



Neil Horikoshi as the new president and executive director for the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF). Horikoshi has

30 years of corporate experience with IBM as well as being an active leader within the Asian American community. He also received the "Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business Award" and Federal Computer Week's "Fed 100 Award" earlier this year. APIASF is the country's largest non-profit organization devoted solely to providing scholarships for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

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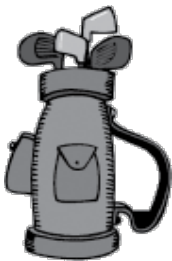
AROUND THE NATION

NYC Nightclub Hires 'White Girls' Only

NewsDay reported on a lawsuit filed by two women fired from a trendy Manhattan nightclub who claim their former employer wanted only "white girls." The lawsuit filed last week in federal court, alleges that they were dismissed from their jobs at 10AK because of their skin color. Waitress Cecilia Shim alleges in the lawsuit that a manager at the club told her that the owner wanted "white girls." Shim is Asian-American. Club attorney Ken Sussman dismissed the charges, saying the former employees were fired for their poor work performance along with four other Caucasian employees.

English-Only Golf

According to Golfweek, the LPGA Tour will require its member golfers to learn and speak English and will suspend their membership if they don't comply. The new requirement was apparently communicated to the tour's growing South Korean membership in a mandatory meeting at the Safeway Classic in Portland, Oregon. Players were told by LPGA commissioner Carolyn Bivens that by the end of 2009, all players who have been on the tour for two years must pass an oral evaluation of their English skills or face a membership suspension. Evaluators will assess players on communication skills, everyday survival phrases and "golfspeak."



Save KoreAm



According to KoreAm, a Korean American magazine, the publication has been going through tough times with advertising revenue way down. Like many print publications of its kind, KoreAm isn't immune to the pressures and declines facing the industry. The publication has become an important voice and resource for the Korean American community and been established for eighteen years. But, the magazine is not going down without a fight. Determined to keep things going, KoreAm is launching a three-month 'Save KoreAm Journal' campaign. They're

hoping supporters will purchase subscriptions or gift subscriptions, or make a contribution to help the magazine.

APIs, Hobby to Biz



Women of color are more likely than Caucasian women to turn a personal interest or hobby into an entrepreneurial venture, according to a recent survey by Make Mine a Million \$ Business. The most frequently cited reason among women of color (28%) is turning a personal interest or hobby into a business. This is especially true among Asian Americans, 39% of whom have turned an avocation into a vocation, as well as multi-ethnic or Native American women, 43% of whom have launched a business related to a personal interest.

Non-US Citizen College Students Speak Out

AsianWeek reported on an API rally to support undocumented students at UCLA. Students describe the plight of being an undocumented college student in the U.S. and struggling to complete their college degrees. These students are ineligible to legally work or obtain a driver's license and are excluded from many other rights afforded to their classmates. They are considered "out-of-status" and disqualified from obtaining federal financial aid. They struggle to stay in school by taking jobs that pay them "under the table," living with family far from campus and commuting long distances on public transportation and withdrawing from school when funds are low.

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APIs' Purchasing Power in NYC



The New York Times profiled young Asian American professionals

who are at the heart of a subtle demographic shift in rapidly gentrifying Long Island City and downtown Brooklyn. Asian Americans account for 15 to 50 percent of the initial sales in some of the new condominiums under construction in those neighborhoods. The numbers are significant because Asians account for only 10 percent of the city's population. At first, the numbers seemed to grow organically, but some developers are now marketing heavily in the local Chinese and Korean media to better ride the trend. The article suggests that the trend may just be a sign that "like their counterparts who grew up in the early-20th-century Italian and Jewish enclaves on the Lower East Side," these young Asian Americans have more buying power than their parents' generation and they are using it to meld into mainstream New York.

Lowering the Drinking Age



College presidents from about 100 of the nation's best-known universities, including Duke, Dartmouth and Ohio State, are calling on lawmakers to consider lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18, saying current laws actually encourage dangerous binge drinking on campus. The Associated Press says the movement called the 'Amethyst Initiative' began quietly recruiting presidents more than a year ago to provoke national debate about the drinking age. But Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) says lowering the drinking age would lead to more fatal car crashes. It accuses the presidents of misrepresenting science and looking for an easy way out of an inconvenient problem. Both sides agree alcohol abuse by college students is a huge problem.

Portraits of Young People in a Changing China

BY XIAO WU, Tatoo Artist
newamericamedia.org
August 27, 2008

The origin of tattoo art in China dates to the Song Dynasty when criminal groups were tattooed to show their status. Like Japan, we have a long history of tattooing, but Japan does a better job of protecting its traditions. Right now, about 300,000 people make tattoos in China, but only about 10 percent of them are real artists. Most are inexperienced workers making cheap tattoos in very dirty conditions, because, although the industry is developing quickly, there are still no standard rules for tattooing in China.

I was born in Xiangtan, Hunan Province, in southeastern China, but my mother came from Xinjiang and my father from Beijing. They came to Hunan because, at that time, Chairman Mao had decided young people should learn to be peasants by working as farmers. Before the Cultural Revolution, my father had been a university student in Beijing and my mother was learning to speak both Russian and Japanese. In Hunan, they worked in the tea fields, met each other, and were married. Years later, my father went to Shandong for work and very seldom came back, so as a kid I didn't see him much—maybe once or twice a year.



Photo credit: New America Media/Rian Dundon.

I became interested in art when I was 5 or 6 years old. My mother didn't want me going outside because she thought it was too dangerous, so I would stay home and draw. My mom was always supportive of me making art and would hire private art teachers for me. Maybe she thought if I could become good at one thing I would have more opportunities. Later in school, when I did poorly in other subjects and on my exams, I realized I should concentrate on making art.

I went to a university in Wuhan, in central-eastern China, where I studied classical art from the 16th and 17th centuries. In class we would look at old paintings and copy them. We would make all these drawings and paintings and give them to the teachers and then never see them again. We never knew what the teacher did with our work. All we got in return was a little red certificate, a little prize that said 'good job.'

It was during this time at university that I started doing tattoos, but it was always a secret I kept from my teachers and classmates. Even now, when I go back to Wuhan and see people from school, I wear long sleeves and cover up my ink. People still cannot accept tattoos. Some people think maybe I'm a bad guy or a gangster but for me tattoos were one way of gaining more independence. Tattoo culture is so different from university life.

After two years at school I lost interest in classical art. At that time my parents were

As the glamour of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing fades, NAM takes a post-Olympic look at the country and the real lives of people there. Photographer Rian Dundon captured images and crafted intimate portraits of the lives of young Chinese men and women in a changing society. Here, Dundon profiles 24-year-old tattoo artist Xiao Wu.

divorcing and the stress affected my mood. I was anxious, and the style of education at university was too strict for me, too conservative. One day I hit my teacher when he disrespected me and I



Photo credit: New America Media/Rian Dundon.

was kicked out of school.

I know now that if I had continued in school my life would be very different. I look at my former classmates who all have jobs as teachers and think they know everything. They're arrogant. I don't know if I am more successful than they are, but I do know I have more freedom and happiness and that with success comes confidence.

Two years ago I came to Changsha, the capital city of Hunan, and opened my own tattoo shop. My customers are from all walks of life. Students, businessmen, gangsters, government officials, and even foreigners come to my shop.

Business is pretty good, but earning money is only one part of it for me. I also have the time and freedom to pursue my own artwork, my own ideas.

Today, Chinese tattoo artists are using a mixture of Western and traditional styles in their work, and in this way, we are trying to develop our own contemporary Chinese style. We still don't have democracy, and human rights are few, but artists are starting to become known.

Now, I'm almost 25 years old. After Spring Festival, I will move back to Wuhan to study French and then, after one year of study, I will move to Paris. Why France? For one thing, French people are respectful, whereas Americans can be very arrogant. In France, I can learn and understand more about art, and I can earn more money through my tattooing than I do in China. France is the center of culture in Europe and there I can find more people that think like me.

To me, the most important thing in life is to experience and understand as much as possible about the world because the more you see the more you can do. I also think we can find ourselves by looking at and comparing the places and people we come across in life.

In a few years China will be the center of culture in Asia, and then I will return to my homeland. My hope is that everything in China can become better and that more people can realize their dreams.



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Lincoln's Soldiers

Little is known about the APIs who fought as soldiers during America's Civil War, but in this special article by Anne Kim, the IE examines the men who battled against all odds to fight for a cause that did not include them.

BY ANNE KIM
IE Contributor

In many ways Edward Day Cohota's story isn't unusual.

The Civil War veteran enlisted in the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry as a teenager, later married, settled in Nebraska, and opened a business, according to researchers.

What is less ordinary about his life is that Cohota came to the U.S. from China, and due to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, he never received U.S. citizenship, even after his U.S. military service.

Cohota's life and the stories of other Civil War veterans of Asian descent recently sparked a U.S. House resolution recognizing these soldiers as well as a documentary film about Chinese soldiers who fought during the American Civil War.

House Resolution 415, sponsored by Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA), recognizes soldiers of Asian and Pacific Islander

descent who served in the Civil War, specifically identifying two soldiers—one of which was Edward Day Cohota.

"We feel that we need to correct history," said Carolyn Chan, of the Chinese American Citizen's Alliance (CACA), which lobbied in support of the resolution. "It's an ignored fact. We needed to have some recognition that we as Asians, and Chinese-Americans particularly, had been helping to protect this nation from as far back as the Civil War."

Montgomery Hom started researching for his documentary film "Men Without a Country: Chinese in the American Civil War" in 2002.

It is really a true missing link in American history, especially Civil War history," Hom said.

Civil War veterans of Asian descent generally found themselves in the U.S.



Edward Cohota.
Photo credit: U.S. Army.



Researchers believe this to be Union soldier Woo Hong Neok, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Photo credit: Dr. Thomas P. Lowry, a retired physician and author of several Civil War books.

school with the Peck family children and formally became Joseph Pierce in 1853, picking up the last name from President Franklin Pierce. After enlisting in the army, Pierce's Union regiment participated in the Battle of Antietam, Md in September 1862 and at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Va. in May 1863. The 14th's regimental history says that during Pickett's Charge on the last day of the Battle for Gettysburg, Pierce appeared "pig-tail and all, the only Chinese in the Army of the Potomac," but as history reflects, he wasn't in fact the only soldier of Chinese descent.

Edward Day Cohota reportedly stowed away on a ship leaving Shanghai named Cohota in 1845. The boy lived with a sea captain's family in Gloucester, Massachusetts until he joined the Union army, Hom said. Cohota fought in the Battles of Drury's Bluff and Cold Harbor and served in the army for 30 years, according to the House resolution.

"He was quite a character in a sense," Hom said in his description of Cohota. "He liked to drink, he liked to gamble. He had a dancing girl tattoo on his forearm," according to Hom.

Cohota first discovered that he wasn't a U.S. citizen after he retired from the military, according to Thomas P. Lowry, who co-authored an article on Chinese who fought in the Civil War for North & South Magazine, a publication of the Civil War Society. Copies of affidavits show that Cohota desired to become a citizen and he approached lawyers in an attempt to do

so, Hom said. It is unclear as to whether Cohota actually filed an application for citizenship, Hom said.

"This guy really wanted it out of principal more than anything else," Lowry said.

The House Resolution 415 was passed on July 30.

Montgomery Hom's documentary film "Men Without a Country: Chinese in the American Civil War" is currently in post-production.

through one of a few channels, according to Hom. Between the 1840s and 1850s, trade between China and the U.S. meant that American ships docked at Chinese port cities like Shanghai and Macau to pick up goods, Hom said. It's there that sea captains most likely saw Chinese orphans and brought them to the U.S. as essentially adopted members of their families or as servants, he said. In other cases, soldiers of Asian descent initially found themselves in the U.S. after working on ships. In other, more severe cases, men might have been brought onto ships under false pretenses, enslaved, transferred to the Caribbean islands, and later made their way to the Southern region of the U.S., Hom said.

"[There are] over 100 names that are pretty verified as veterans and with Chinese or Asian descent," Hom said.

The topic is not widely researched among academic historians. According to Thomas P. Lowry, a retired physician who has written several books on the Civil War, only six or seven people around the world study the topic of Asians who served in the Civil War.

Nearly all of the men Hom identified as Asian Civil War veterans lived in East Coast cities and served in both the Union and Confederate Armies.

Edward Day Cohota, along with Joseph L. Pierce, the other soldier recognized by Rep. Mike Honda in the resolution, are the two most documented Civil War veterans of Asian descent, according to CACA's Chan.

It's unclear how Pierce ended up in the United States. He later listed his birthplace as Canton in Kwangtung Province, China. According to a resource from the U.S. Army, Connecticut ship Captain Amos Peck apparently turned a 10-year-old stowaway he called "Joe" over to his mother. As a boy, "Joe" went to



Joseph Pierce seated in Union uniform. Photo credit: Michael J. McAfee, personal collection.

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Volunteering, Let me Count the Ways

The IE looks at local volunteers who give back in their own way, and receive much more.

BY JENNIFER WANG
IE Contributor

As busy lifestyles are becoming the burgeoning norm, spare time is often precious. Given that volunteering takes commitment, it might be easy to excuse yourself from taking time out of your day to volunteer. Yet by volunteering, you are giving something back to the community while giving something back to yourself.

Mike Lieu, a transportation manager for Coin Star from Seattle, never volunteered prior to college. As a student at the University of Washington, he began participating in the Asian Counseling and Referral Service's (ACRS) Walk for Rice in 2000, an annual event that benefits the organization's food bank, which in turn offers cultural and nutritious food to low-income Asian Pacific Islanders (APIs).

Lieu, who learned of the opportunity through his University of Washington API fraternity, Lambda Phi Epsilon, was initially drawn to the walk as an opportunity to be active outdoors and help APIs.

"Asian Americans are among the poorest in the state," Lieu says. "People often think about the 'wealthy Asian Americans' but most live below the poverty line."

ACRS' website says that five thousand low-income API households rely on the food bank to get enough to eat.

When asked why he continues to volunteer annually for Walk for Rice, Lieu replies that it helps him see how fortunate he is.

"Volunteering is a worthwhile experience because it puts things into perspective. You and me don't need to think about how to put food on the



Mike Lieu at ACRS' Walk For Rice.



table," he says.

Marie Jones, a single mother living in the Central District, has not taken anything for granted. Eleven years ago, Jones suffered a debilitating stroke which forced her to re-learn simple, everyday tasks such as how to comb her hair and tie her shoelaces. But, with the support of her close-knit family consisting of her two sisters and a brother, and her desire to be there for her son, she was determined to live a fulfilling life and help others.

For the past six years, Jones spends her Wednesdays and Fridays distributing food to and recording the visits of 300 clients who stop by the ACRS food bank. The clients are mostly elderly Asian Americans and the homeless.

For Jones, who tutored at her son's school prior to her involvement at ACRS, her experiences at the food bank are rewarding because of the interaction with the diverse clients.

"It brings satisfaction to my life, knowing that clients have smiles on their faces when they see me and knowing that I'm doing something to help them," Jones says.

Jones also notes that one of the perks is picking up new words from multiple languages and learning about different cultures from her clients.

Language and culture are important forces in Justin Khuu's volunteering experience. Born in Vietnam and immigrating to the U.S. during his infancy, English was the language he grew up with. Today, it is tutoring English which bridges his desire to learn more about his Vietnamese culture.

Working in internet marketing, helping with a family business, and also caring for his younger siblings, Khuu finds time to volunteer with Helping Link, a Vietnamese grassroots organization dedicated to providing

cultural services to recent immigrants and refugees. Every Wednesday evening, Khuu commutes from Renton to Seattle to teach citizenship and ESL classes.

What began as a search to learn more about Vietnamese culture evolved into a 2 1/2 year commitment to re-designing the coursework and incorporating computer training and games to help clients learn English and prepare for the U.S. citizenship test. Khuu also meets with students one-on-one to help with mock interviews.

"I see how hard they are trying in life," Khuu says. "Some clients have been here for 3 years [in the US] but prepared for 2 years for the citizenship test."

Khuu notes that sometimes he is very tired from his multiple jobs but once he starts teaching, he immediately feels engaged and connected with the students. To Khuu, this connection is crucial to his volunteering experiences. "Tutoring and mentoring is not a one-time gig," he says. "You can't impact when you see students one or two times. It involves getting deeply involved with students and developing a level of trust."

Having a balanced life is very important to Khuu, and tutoring largely completes that balance. For Mike Lieu, volunteering for the Walk for Rice and other activities such as being involved in the bone marrow registry and running half-marathons to raise awareness for colon cancer research combines his interests of

staying active and helping others. Volunteering at the food bank allows Marie Jones to stay connected and interact with the community. Whatever the reason, each person has taken time out of their busy lives to volunteer, which in turn has undoubtedly benefited the lives of many others.

To learn more about how you can get involved and volunteer at ACRS, contact volunteer@acrs.org or call (206) 695-7637. To inquire about Helping Link, contact helpinglink2003@gmail.com or call (206) 781-4246.

Or for general volunteer opportunities, visit <http://www.volunteermatch.org>.



Justin Khuu. Photo credit: Jennifer Wang.

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TAKING THEIR PIECE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

API ENTREPRENEURS

BY PETER TRAN

IE Staff Writer

For young seeding entrepreneurs, looking for the key to success and moneymaking can be a hair-plucking experience. When the risks are high and the outputs are low, it's tempting to just throw in the towel and call it quits. Closing doors in business could be a loss of a million-dollar opportunity. So what's the big secret?

In this issue the International Examiner has taken on an investigation of some of Seattle's many thriving Asian American entrepreneurs who have gone through trials and tribulations and made it out winners. As was found, success lies in many baskets, not just one. It could be anywhere from men's beautysalons, Nike Dunks and vintage sneakers, a love for information and data, to exotic dancing cowgirls in a western saloon in the Pacific Northwest.

Jason Nguyen is a 32 year-old CEO of 1st Financial Security and storeowner of two men salons, called Tight Cuts. When Nguyen comes to work, he meets with his staff of 13 female hair stylist and secretaries in sexy tight black skirts and white tops. Clients are served with complimentary drinks to sip on while they lounge in the large comfortable black leather chairs. The interior design of the salon resembles a modern bachelor pad with mellow colors, moody lighting and hip hop playing in the background. "Sexy sells," says Nguyen. His salon is designed to cater to the underrepresented male population in the beauty industry. And sexy is not all that Nguyen is good at.

To Nguyen, you have to dream big, start somewhere and keep on going even when the roads get rough. "God created everybody with some skills to use," says Nguyen. "And God didn't create me to just sit there but to accomplish something ... and there's times when nothing goes right except for your faith."

Through his experiences in failure, he found an answer: "Successful people ride the bumps and unsuccessful people fall with the bump."

A Vietnamese refugee, Nguyen grew up in the low-income areas of Federal Way. Nguyen graduated from Seattle University with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. After working in the field for a few years, he decided to quit his stable engineering job to partner up with his old high

school math teacher in a risky 50/50 business endeavor. He and his partner put in \$7,500 each from their pockets to pay for cheap computers and loan out necessary equipment to start their baby corporation. Within a few years of hard work and dedication 1st Financial Security was turning in large profits. Together with his profits in the real estate industry, Nguyen used his capital to invest in two Tight Cuts salons in Kirkland and Everett.

Big success is also sometimes hidden in what seemed at first to be a stream of failures and mistakes. David Tran, owner of Cowgirls Inc., Venom, and Amber night club was a third year undergraduate at the University of Washington when he decided that he wasn't going to need a degree to pursue his dreams. It was at that same time that Tran became an unexpected father of a baby girl, Marlei. Tran took on a full-time job at Child Haven, a youth organization that helps disadvantaged children.

"It absolutely changed my life," said Tran. "It taught me how to become a better dad and how to give back to society."

At the same time, Tran took bartending classes and worked at the China Harbor restaurant. "Some days I would work at Child Haven until 6 pm. Go to China Harbor and sleep on their couch for one hour and then work until 3 a.m.. Go to work at Child Haven at 7 am, hour of sleep, work, and take care of my daughter."

It wasn't until after working as a bartender, Tran discovered his unique gift of networking and promoting. He read a 300-page self-help book, "How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie.

"The title of the book sounds ridiculous but it taught me everything I had to know about dealing with people and becoming successful."

It wasn't long after that Tran and his friend decided to put down some money and organize a big party event. On their first night, they doubled their amount of costs into profits. However, the second, third and fourth were bringing him and his partner into the negatives. His partner decided to go back and get an accounting degree while Tran decided to stick it out and pursue what he saw to have potential. Finally after sticking it out, Tran hit



Entrepreneur David Tran. Photo credit: Peter Tran.



Jason Nguyen of Tight Cuts. Photo credit: Peter Tran.

big success with an event that he coordinated at the Polyesters night club and from that he made 6 digit profits for a solid 3 years.

Looking back, Tran is very grateful that his daughter Marlei came into his life when she did and forced him to pursue his dreams.

"She's the reason why I'm not living with 6 other college guys now." Currently, Tran owns real estate companies, three prominent clubs and has countless investments all around.

Tran dreams of the day when he has enough money to give back to the community.

"I'll always be a businessman thinking of turn and profit, turn and profit," says



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Tran. "But at some point, you have to give back to the community that helped you grow."

Being a philanthropist is Tran's future goal. Currently Tran is a big financial contributor to Child Haven and supporter of many other charity organizations.

Some entrepreneurs just rely on numbers and information to actualize their business dreams. Justin Low is a UW graduate with a Bachelors in Communications New Media but has been working with HellyHansen as business coordinator. The new grand re-opening of the Westfield Southcenter mall July 25th in Tukwila was Low's first, proud, grand-opening of his new clothing store, Outdoor Escapes.

Growing up, Low realized his very opinionated and die-hard skeptical character. "I had a hard time accepting what was being taught in my science and math classes," said Low. "I won't believe it until I try to solve it and find it for myself."

But it wasn't until he met Prof. Lisa Coutu in a Communications 100 course that he found a way to bring his love for data and information into a moneymaking skill.

"She totally revolutionized my thinking," said Low. Instead of looking at dead numbers, Low now takes information and conceives it into profit solutions.

Low worked from a bottom sales

stereotypical timid and shy Asian girl, Wang loved to wear "loud sneakers to express the spunky side of my personality and to also display my devotion to sports and art, two activities I took very seriously when I was younger," says Wang.

But being an Asian American, Wang sometimes encounters problems with tough customers.

"Once we had a customer who couldn't believe that an Asian American woman knew much about sneakers and called us multiple times to make sure I knew what I was selling, directed me how to mail the package, and so forth," said Wang.

Despite these rare occasional setbacks, Wang and her brother are successful in their trade and even sold a vintage sneaker for almost



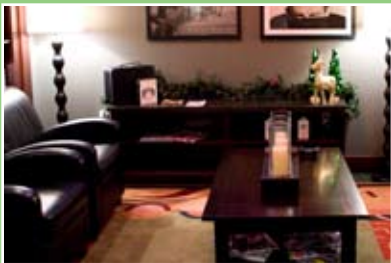
Sneaker aficionados Jennifer Wang and her brother Jason Wang.

\$700 and numerous moderately-priced sneakers from the \$200-300 ranges.

From these four entrepreneurs, men and woman, all echoed each other's belief that whatever people choose to make out of themselves, make sure you're passionate about it and enjoy working.

"Do something you love to do and figure a way to make money from it," said Tran.

Nguyen made an analogy for himself that if you have a plant that's not yours, you're less likely to take care of it and nurture it to grow healthy. "But what if it was a plant that you owned?" Nguyen asked.



Inside Nguyen's Tight Cuts salon in Kirkland, WA. Photo credit: Peter Tran.

associate position at Helly Hansen in Bellevue Square and worked his way up to top management positions. By the mentorship of the part-store owner, Katherine DeStephano, Low learned all the ins and outs for running his own business.

Low has to take many risks in his career. "When you're young, you can afford to take risks and you can learn from your mistakes," said Low, but "it has to be an educated risk based on information."

Low, like Nguyen, believes that you have to keep yourself moving forward and maximize all the time you have.

"When you're stagnant you're declining," said Low. "If life is this short, than why don't you try to maximize every point of your life whether it be business, friends, or hobbies. Increase it every year and at the end, you're going to have an exponential amount of things to show for yourself."

Adding to the mix is an Asian American female entrepreneur who finds her passions in a very male-dominated sneaker industry. Jennifer Wang, a full-time Ph.D. graduate student at UW, decided to take on side endeavors with her brother, Jason Wang to create a hip, online sneaker store, Sneakerology101 (www.sneakerology101.com).

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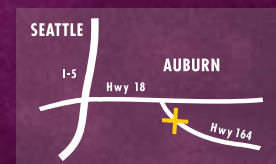
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Re-Vamping Seattle's Fashion Week, Re-Awakening the API Designer



Photo credit: SFW.

BY KIKI YEUNG
IE Contributor

For those who are fashion-conscious and those who can care less if they put on a sweat shirt or a t-shirt, Seattle Fashion Week offers something more than just the clothes and beautiful models.

As a child, growing up in Hong Kong, a world where fashion literally speaks louder than words, I was fashion-obsessed and aspired to be a fashion designer. When I immigrated to Bothell, Washington, fashion was irrelevant compared to the fashion and

brand-name obsession among Hong Kongers.

Over the past ten years, I witnessed Seattle blossom into a stylish, metropolitan city. I witnessed more and more individuals expressing their personal style with boldness and a sense of freedom.

A band of local fashion designers soon emerged in the fashion scene. This is why Seattle Fashion Week is so important for our artistic community. Why purchase pieces from international designers/brands only, when we can pick out one-of-a-kind pieces from our

local artists?

As one of 15 fashion-weeks in the United States, Seattle's Fashion Week is an exciting event that happens once a year, bringing together the community, local and international retailers, local independent designers, models, stylists, music, and creativity all in one place and in one week.

Since 2003, Gabriel Choy, of Gobo Foto and Gobo Productions, who is also from Hong Kong, revived Seattle's Fashion Week under the brand of Seattle International Fashion Week (SIFW). Gabriel alongside Janet Tinsay of J Promotions & Events and Jay Garcia of Urbanaire wanted to create opportunities for local talents to showcase their style and pieces to a diverse audience with the help of great up-and-coming Asian American photographers, such as Vivian Hsu. SFW is truly an event that unites artists for a great cause.

This year's fashion week showcases more local talents in bigger venues with varied themed fashion shows. Last year, SFW featured Astui Tokyo, a local retailer that carries the latest, cutting edge designs from Tokyo, Japan, with a finale show of over 1,000 attendees at EMP's Sky Church. This year, Urbanaire, a new label featuring UNISEX tees, hoodies and sweaters will be featured in this year's finale showcase. Urbanaire unites diversity and culture, while the pieces can be used all year-round, for almost any occasion. For more info, visit urbanaire.com.

Last week, SFW kicked off with a fashion show event hosted by Project Runway's Santino Rice. This year's fashion week will be from October 15-18. For more details visit: www.seattlefashionweek.net

For Seattlelites who view fashion as pretentious and superficial, with size 0-2 16-year old girls in eccentric, skimpy outfits, Janet of J Promotions simply states, "Fashion is not just wearing great designer clothes but instead it is an expression of one's uniqueness and individuality, therefore everybody is fashionable in their own self expression, so why not share this with the world."

Jay, CEO of Urbanaire feels, "You don't have to be fashion conscious to participate in SFW. Just show up, be yourself and have a good time!" So why not participate in Seattle Fashion Week this year to see for yourself. If you enjoy any form of art, you can enjoy fashion.

When asked about his plans for SFW in the next five years, Gabriel, Janet, and his production team have big goals. They plan on taking SFW to another level, bringing other designers from different Fashion Weeks in the country to feature at SFW. SFW will become one of the major events in Seattle that the city supports and sponsors. With the support from locals, their passion to help aspiring designers, artists, and models in the fashion industry reach their dreams and be recognized in their field is not far-fetched.

Look out, Seattle! Whether you like it or not, fashion is not a fad it is here to stay. It is not about obsession, it is about balance. Let's join in on the creative process. The grunge look has evolved. Seattle is not all about the "I don't care how I look" or corporate, business types. It is onto a new beginning. A more polished, urban, colorful, diversified journey, regardless if it is sunny or pouring rain outside.



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IE ARTS



Gay and Muslim in "Jihad For Love"

The film explores the complex and controversial relationship between homosexuality and Islam.

BY SHIWANI SRIVASTAVA
IE Contributor

After 9/11, the word "jihad" entered America's vocabulary as a synonym for "holy war." But in Arabic, "jihad" simply means to strive or struggle, and in Islam, it is a call to Muslims to choose the right path in the face of adversity. This takes on even deeper meaning in Parvez Sharma's documentary "A Jihad for Love," which tells six stories of gay Muslims around the world, struggling to reconcile their sexuality with their commitment to Islam. The film—showing at Seattle's Landmark Varsity theatre from September 5-11—is undoubtedly a labor of love for Parvez Sharma, a gay Muslim filmmaker and journalist from India. He has been traveling extensively and leading dialogues on the film since it first started making waves at festivals in 2007. Next on his list is Seattle, where he'll guide a community discussion following a screening on Saturday, September 27 at 4:30 p.m. as part of the 5th International South Asian Film Festival (ISAFF).

Festival Director Farah Nousheen feels the conversation between Sharma and the Seattle South Asian and Muslim communities will be both groundbreaking and educational: "This is a chance to dialogue with him [Sharma] and local queer Muslims, to see people who are personally affected by the film, and personally invested in it, talk about

their experiences and have a very open discussion."

Promoting open dialogue is one of the missions of the movie, which opens with the story of Muhsin Hendricks. Hendricks is an openly gay man and a divorced father of three living in Johannesburg, South Africa. He is invited to give a talk on Islam and homosexuality at the Islamic Social Welfare Council, the very same council that ex-communicated him for being openly gay.

The conversation that follows is surprisingly candid, with participants asking honest and insightful questions about sex, family, and religion – it seems they want Islam to grapple with the realities of contemporary life, but they're just not sure if it can.

But like all the people profiled in the movie, Hendricks never questions his faith. "I wish there was a verse in the Quran that said, 'please do not discriminate against homosexuality,'" he says, but of course, there isn't. So, armed with an encyclopedic knowledge of the Quran and unflinching conviction, Hendricks offers up his own incisive readings of the holy text, based in what he believes Allah intended: "We were always taught about the fear of God, we were never taught about the love."

The right to love, regardless of one's country, religion, or sexuality, is a common theme that ties the six stories together. Every narrative details not only a struggle to find love on a personal level, but a love



Gay Muslim refugees meet in Director Parvez Sharma's "A Jihad For Love." Courtesy First Run Features.

of one's God and country as well.

There's the story of Mazen, a young Egyptian who is arrested and sent to jail, where he is sexually abused, all on suspicion of being gay. He flees to Paris. "Enough is enough," he says, but he still longs to return to Egypt for the Eid celebrations he loved as a kid. He doesn't articulate it, but he knows he can never go back. It's a sharp contrast to the story of Maha and Maryam, a lesbian couple pursuing a long distance relationship between Cairo and Paris (the Quran only directly condemns the gay male sexual act).

Then there are the four gay Iranian refugees, who share an apartment in Turkey while awaiting asylum in Canada. Their stories vary slightly: one was sentenced to 100 lashes of the whip for his sexual "crimes," while another feared for his life when his gay wedding, captured on tape, unintentionally circulated over the Internet (he and his partner are living separately due to safety concerns). But their reality is the same—asylum is their only hope.

We also meet couples who have it hard, but don't have to fear for their lives. There's Ferda and Kiymet, a lesbian couple from Turkey, happily living together in a secular state that has no laws against homosexuality. Their main struggle seems to be defending their faith to their atheist friends in Turkey. And in India, also a secular state, we are introduced to two gay men who struggle to reconcile their sexuality with their Islamic faith, but still find support in a local community that sees sexuality as fluid and complex.

As the film takes us through these different narratives, it becomes clear that the movie isn't just about love through the lens of homosexuality and Islam. It is also highly political, examining the role that the state plays in defining laws on both religion and sexuality. Sharma makes a very clear statement when he contrasts the treatment of homosexuality in Muslim states, versus secular states. But there's room to push the envelope even farther.

For example, what happens to the refugees who find their way to France or Canada? Do they still face persecution for being gay? And how do they cope with an international climate that's so skeptical of Muslim immigrants, it sparked race riots in Paris and the Patriot Act in the U.S.? Certainly, their jihad continues long after they're granted asylum.

Beyond that, what about gay Muslims living in countries like England, Australia and North America? With gay marriage becoming a heated political issue in the U.S. and Islam becoming a faith that's increasingly under fire, it seems there's a lot of room to explore the 'other side.' Maybe the West provides asylum from homophobic states, but it certainly doesn't provide a utopia either.

That being said, "A Jihad for Love" is a revolutionary film. While there have been fictional movies like "A Touch of Pink" that touch on homosexuality and Islam, this is the first film to delve deep into the issue. But most significantly, the documentary displays a love for the tenets of Islam; and the people, no matter how many difficulties they face as a result of their sexuality, never even question giving up on their religion. With that major boundary crossed, now it's up to future filmmakers to explore the question, "What next?"

Tickets and information about the screening at the Landmark Varsity theatre are available at www.tickets.landmarktheatres.com. For more information on "A Jihad for Love," visit www.ajihadforlove.com. For more information on the Parvez Sharma talk at the upcoming ISAFF, visit <http://isaff.tasveer.org/2008/>.



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IE ARTS

An ARTS EVENTS CALENDAR by Alan Lau



HIGHLIGHTS

“Artist: Best in World Music” is an evening of short sets by various national performers. Free. Bay Area storyteller/performance artist Brenda Wong Aoki performs “A Kabuki Tale” with Maze Daiko, shakuhachi master Christopher Yohmei, drummer KK Aoki Izu and husband, Mark Izu.

Date: Sept. 4
Time: 8:20 p.m. & 11:20 p.m.
Place: Sheraton Hotel's Metropolitan Ballroom in downtown Seattle at 1400 6th Ave.
Contact: www.brendawongaoki.com

After 36 years, the Nine Lives Band will have a reunion concert to benefit the Nisei Veterans Hall. This Seattle soul-funk band will play favorites from the early 70's including WAR, Chicago, Santana, Tower of Power, Cold Blood and Buddy Miles. Founding members are Arthur Kano, Leonard Berman and Ken Kubota. During their heyday between 1970 – 72, they played at many Seattle high schools and colleges. Jazz pianist Deems will join the set. This is the closest we'll get to an end of summer block party so bring your dancing shoes. With a no-host bar for 21 + over.
Date: Sept. 13
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Nisei Veterans Hall at 1212 S. King St.
Contact: (206) 715-6313 or log on to 9-Lives@SeattleNVC.org

SIS-In-Residence At Richard Hugo House presents “The Space In-Between,” the continuing adventures of four Asian American singles in Seattle. This popular series returns with the latest episode of #16 written by Kathy Hsieh and directed by Shawn J. West. Highlights include the following. There will be a Special Discount Preview on Sept. 18 at 8 p.m. for the final dress rehearsal performance for only \$5. The reception gala and opening night party on Sept. 19 at 9:30 p.m. is free for ticket holders. There will also be a “Mix & Mingle Night” on Sept. 26 between the 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. shows. Features a lively panel discussion on race and dating. Reservations strongly encouraged. A special added attraction will be readings of “Ixnay” by Paul Kikuchi as directed by Gregory Magyar. Set for Sept. 21, 28 & Oct. 12, Sundays at 4 p.m. See what happens when Raymond Kobayashi does at the Reincarnation Station when he finds out he's being sent back again as an Asian American in his next life.

Date: Sept. 19 – Oct. 18 on Fridays and Saturdays
Time: 8 & 10:30 p.m.
Place: Richard Hugo House at 1634 – 11th Ave. on Capitol Hill
Contact: (206) 323-9443 or tickets@sis-productions.org

Seattle Center House presents “Live Aloha Hawaiian Culture Festival,” the first ever to be held there. Free with Hula dancing, exhibits, films, workshops and food. It is estimated that here are close to 50,000 Hawaiians living in Washington state.

Date: Sept. 7
Time: 11a.m. – 7 p.m.
Place: Seattle Center House at 305 Harrison
Contact: www.seattlecenter.com

The Seattle Art Dealers Association (SADA) presents a group show entitled “Century 21: Dealer's Choice,” an exhibition of Washington-based artists whose work is felt to be particularly notable as we move forward into the 21st Century. Juried by gallery dealers of SADA who were asked to choose artists from other galleries other than their own or unaffiliated artists. Choices were made from three categories – emerging, mid-career and senior. The work of Lead Pencil Studio (Annie Han & Dan Mihalyo), Zhi Lin, Saya Moriyasu, Joseph Park, Akio Takamori and Patti Warashina is included.

Date: Sept. 12 – Nov. 21
Time: Open on Thurs. & Fri. from 10 a.m. – 2

p.m. only.
Place: Wright Exhibition Space at 407 Dexter Ave. N.
Contact: (206) 264-8200 or seattleartdealers.com

PERFORMING ARTS

Popular singer/songwriter Vienna Teng makes a welcome Seattle return.

Date: Sept. 4
Time: Check local listings
Place: The Triple Door at 216 Union St.
Contact: (206) 838-4333

11th Annual Japanese Cultural Arts Festival (Aki Matsuri) features performing arts, demonstrations, kids activities, booths, food and more. Free.

Time/Date: Sept 6 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. & Sept. 7 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Place: Bellevue Community College at 3000 Landerholm Circle S.E.
Contact: www.enma.org

Cambodian Cultural Celebration will be a unique presentation of traditional and contemporary Cambodian music and arts.
Date: Sept. 7
Time: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Place: Millersylvania State Park at 12245 Tilley Road S. off I-5. Maytown, Exit 95.

First call “smooth jazz” saxophonist Jeff Kashiwa and his band come to town.
Date: Sept. 9 & 10
Time: Check local listings
Place: Dimitriou's Jazz Alley at 2033 – 6th Ave.
Contact: (206) 441-9729

The Tractor & Seattle Sound Magazine present Goh Nakamura with others.
Date: Sept. 11
Time: Check local listings
Place: The Tractor Tavern at 5213 Ballard Ave. N.W.
Contact: (206) 789-3599

Hawaiian slack key guitar reigns supreme as George Kuo, Martin Pahinui and Aaron Mahi perform.
Date: Sept. 9
Time: check local listings
Place: Triple Door at 216 Union St.
Contact: (206) 838-4333 or thetripledoor.net

Miho and Diego Duo perform at Seattle Fiestas Patrias, a weekend celebration of Hispanic culture and the arts at Seattle Center. Miho Takekawa is the 2008 Artist Trust Grant Recipient for Performing Arts. She plays marimba and piano and is the Percussion Lecturer at Pacific Lutheran University.
Date: Sept. 13 & 14
Time: TBA
Place: Seattle Center House at 305 Harrison
Contact: http://www.mihodiego.com or www.seattlecenter.com

David Hsieh's ReAct Theatre reprises their hit staging of Jason Robert Browne's musical, “The Last Five Years.”
Date: Sept. 18 – Oct. 5.
Time: Check local listings
Place: Ethnic Cultural Theatre in the “U” District
Contact: (206) 364-3283 or www.reacttheatre.org

The acclaimed South Asian classical music group, The Mishra Brothers appear in concert with Sanatan Goswami on Harmonium and Subhen Chatterjee on Tabla. Presented by Ragamala.
Date: Sept. 19
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: UW Kane Hall 120
Contact: http://ragamala.org

Promising local jazz pianist Victor Noreiga Trio + 2 has a release party for “Fenceless,” his brand new cd.
Date: Sept. 19
Time: 8:30 p.m.
Place: Tula's at 2214 Second Ave.
Contact: (206) 443-4221 or www.tulas.com

P & I presents 9th Sister City Day with Chie Kobashi, Kobe's 2008 Vocal Queen.
Date: Sept. 15
Time: TBA
Place: Dimitriou's Jazz Alley at 2033 – 6th Ave.
Contact: (206) 441-9729 or jazzalley.com

Maunaula, the 2008 Na Hoku Hanohano Group

of the Year will appear with special guests, Holunape in concert.

Date: Sept. 13
Time: 8 p.m.
Place: Pantages Theatre in Tacoma
Contact: 1 (800) 291-7593 or in Seattle at (206) 633-5233.

WRITTEN ARTS

Seattle poet Shin Yu Pai reads with Oliver de la Paz from Western.

Date: Sept. 11
Time: 8 p.m.
Place: Seattle Art Museum downtown
Contact: http://web.me.com/shinyu32/SYP/index.htm

Humorist Sandra Tsing Loh reads from her new book entitled “Mother on Fire: A True Motherf%#\$@ Story About Parenting! (Crown) depicts her search for a school for her kindergarten and how she becomes a community activist along the way.

Date: Sept. 8
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Elliott Bay Book Company at 101 South Main
Contact: (206) 624-6600 or www.elliottbay-book.com

FILM & VIDEO

“A Jihad For Love” (see related story this issue) is a powerful documentary film that looks at the lives of gay Muslims in today's world.

Date: Sept. 5 – 11
Time: Check local listings
Place: Varsity Theatre at 4239 University Way N.E.
Contact: (206) 781-5755

Masaki Kobayashi's epic anti-war masterpiece “The Human Condition” with a powerful performance by Tatsuya Nakadai plays Sept. 5 – 25 in three parts.
Date: Sept. 5 – 25
Time: No Greater Love plays daily at 7 p.m. & weekends at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Road to Eternity plays Sept. 12 – 18 daily at 7 p.m. & Sat. at 2 & 7 p.m. and Sun. at 7 p.m. A soldier's Prayer plays Mon. & Tues. at 7 p.m., Sat. at 2 & 7 p.m., Sun. at 1 p.m. and Wed. – Thurs. at 7:30 p.m.

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Place: SIFF Cinema at 321 Mercer St., McCaw Hall
Contact: (206) 633-7151 or www.siff.net

“Calavera Highway” is a documentary film by filmmakers Renee Tajima-Pena (“Who Killed Vincent Chin?”) and Evangeline Griego that looks at a family, identity and a search for answers.

Date: Sept. 16 but check local listings
Time: Debuts on most PBS stations as part of the P.O.V. series at 10 p.m.
Place: PBS Network television
Contact: www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom

IE READER'S GROUP!



Hey fellow book-lovers!

Our first Book Club meeting in June was fun and enlightening, as well as a great chance to meet new folks!

Thank you to those who attended. For those who want to be a part of the next Reader's Group, here's the scoop: Our next book is “America is in the Heart,” by Carlos Bulosan. We'll meet Tuesday, Sept. 9th at 5:30 p.m. at the Panama Hotel Café and Teahouse, located at 607 S. Main St., in Seattle's Chinatown/ID. Refreshment and fresh-baked cookies will be served. To save your place on the couch, RSVP with IE Editor Diem Ly at editor@iexaminer.org. See you there!

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IE ARTS

Rainier Valley Haiku: One Poem, Many Voices

BY SUSAN KUNIMATSU
IE Contributor

When Sound Transit's Link light rail line begins service next spring, residents and businesses in south Seattle's Rainier Valley will celebrate the end of five years of construction and disruption and the start of improved transit service and increased customer traffic for businesses along the line. Sound Transit has taken a great deal of care in designing the rail line to complement the neighborhoods it passes through. Thirteen major works of public art will decorate the four stations. Art would seem like a welcome addition to the community, but it has not come without controversy.

In June, one of the first major pieces of public art, "Rainier Valley Haiku" was installed at the northeast corner of Martin Luther King Way South and South Myrtle Street. The 20-foot tall steel and fiberglass sculpture was created by Roger Shimomura, a Seattle native and internationally-recognized artist. Designed in the colorful pop art/comic book style for which he is known, it is a stack of everyday objects blown up to monumental scale, a meditation on the Asian American immigrant experience. Haiku poems by four poets representing the major ethnic groups of the Rainier Valley are engraved on the sculpture's base.

All of the artists commissioned for the Link line were asked to address the theme of "Cultural Conversations" in their work. Norie Sato was the lead artist in planning the public art program for the light rail line, a ten-year process.

"Because it's a very diverse community, we wanted artwork that dealt with ideas about culture and conversations among cultures," Sato explains. "We were looking at culture in a lot of different ways ... Our intention was that each artist would address a different aspect from his or her own point of view."

Sound Transit assembled a large pool of artists qualified to work on projects throughout the transit system. For each light rail station, a panel of Link staff, artists, and neighborhood representatives narrowed down the list to two or three artists whose work could best address the "Cultural Conversations" theme. These artists proposed works based on information provided by Sound Transit about the Rainier Valley's demographics and history and the station's anticipated users. The panel then selected the artworks to be built.

Roger Shimomura has spent his career making art that challenges the prejudices and stereotypes experienced by Asian Americans. He was somewhat surprised that his proposal for the Othello Station was chosen since his initial presentations to

Sound Transit and the community met with resistance. In particular, his use of a banana, a derisive symbol for assimilated Asians who are yellow on the surface but white inside, drew angry comments. David Chen, owner of King Plaza, across the street from the work, reportedly took issue with the banana and found the shoe atop the rice bowl insulting to Asians as well. Even the mortarboard was faulted as a symbol of the 'model minority' stereotype.

Shimomura acceded to the criticism by changing the banana to an ice cream bar, an allusion to the danger the 'melting pot' poses to immigrants. On the other symbols, he stood his ground. In the rice bowl he sees the integrity of Asian culture, even when oppressed by the majority (the wingtip shoe). The mortarboard at the top of the pile is the triumph of education over prejudice.

"My conscience wouldn't let me go any further," Shimomura states. "You can't do art by committee."

The installation of "Rainier Valley Haiku" in June reopened the conversation. Chen remained unappeased according to his comments to the Beacon Hill News. Some people were uncomfortable or puzzled; others liked the piece once they saw it in place. That give-and-take is what defines public art, according to Norie Sato.

"When you're working with public money, there's responsibility. So in order to take that responsibility seriously, these art programs are much more open to having the public involved in the process," she explains. "For me, the work would have been stronger with the banana. But as a symbol and a cliché, it was offensive." With the ice cream bar, "The meaning is still there, it's just a little more subtle. I think that makes the work more interesting because you don't get that knee-jerk response. You think about it a little bit more."

The public has another opportunity to take part in the making of Rainier Valley Haiku. The wall that frames the sculpture on two sides includes twenty blank spaces where haiku written by members of the public will be permanently displayed. The first eight haiku were chosen from works by students at Aki Kurose Middle School, where ArtsCorps taught poetry workshops last spring. ArtsCorps' haiku curriculum will be available at other schools, but anyone of any age can submit an original haiku to Sound Transit through February 2009. A panel will select the poems to be added to the artwork. Information is available at www.soundtransit.org, look for the Start Public Art Program.



Artist Roger Shimomura stands in front of his sculpture along Sound Transit's new Link light rail in Seattle.

SNAPSHOTS OF THE ID

Photos by Peter Tran



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IE CALENDER



Thursday, 9/4

The Japanese Garden presents a calligraphy demonstration with Shodo Harada Roshi. Harada Roshi, an esteemed Zen Master who has served as the Abbot of Sogenji, a Rinsai Zen monastery in Okayama, Japan. Calligraphy has a long and rich history in Japan both as an art form and as a teaching device well suited to Zen, with its emphasis on immediate and spontaneous expression. During the demonstration, Harada Roshi will paint a number of scrolls, talk about their content, and take questions from the audience. Free and open to the public. The scrolls will be available for sale. 4 to 7 p.m. at the garden, located at 1075 Lake Washington Blvd. E., in Seattle. For more information on Shodo Harada Roshi, please visit <http://onedropzendo.org/teacher.htm>.

The Inter*Im Community Development Association will hold its annual Gala and Auction at 5:30 p.m. at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center located at Pier 66, 2211 Alaskan Way, Seattle. Inter*Im's projects and advocacy initiatives benefit low-income seniors, working families, and small business owners in the Asian Pacific Islander community. For information, contact Hyeok Kim at hkim@interimicda.org.

Friday, 9/5

The Greater Seattle Chinese Chamber of Commerce presents its VIP Leadership Luncheon with Karen Narasaki, President and Executive Director of the Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C. \$15 for members, \$20 for guests. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Jeem Asian Restaurant, 14850 Northeast 24th Street, Redmond, WA 98052. RSVP at: luncheon@seattlechinesechamber.org.

Saturday, 9/6

The Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association (ENMA) presents its 11th annual Japanese Fall Festival at the Bellevue Community College (BCC) Main Campus on Sept. 6 and 7, 2008. The programs include martial arts demonstrations, on-stage performing arts, puppet shows based on Japanese Folk Tales, tea ceremony demonstrations in the teahouse, more than 60 exhibit booths, and Japanese food booths. Admission & parking are free. Fees apply to some workshops. Saturday, Sept. 6: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sunday, September 7: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at BCC, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue, WA. For information, contact info@enma.org or call (425) 861-7865 or visit www.enma.org.

Sunday, 9/7

The Cambodian Cultural Celebration will be held at Millersylvania State Park in Olympia. The celebration runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Millersylvania State Park Environmental Learning Center, 12245 Tilley Road South. The festival will feature a unique selection of traditional and contemporary Cambodian music, traditional dances, the martial arts of Muay Thai, kick boxing and Taekwondo, Cambodian crafts and artifacts, a fashion show and a taste of Cambodian food. The event also will include a documentary exhibit about the Killing Fields.

Wednesday, 9/10

The King County Office of Civil Rights will be conducting outreach workshops throughout King County during the month of September 2008. It will provide free forums in three King County library locations from 4 – 6 p.m. Sept. 10 at the Fairwood Library; Sept. 12 at the White Center Library; and Sept. 24 at the Skyway Library. For more information, please visit the KCOCR Web site at: www.kingcounty.gov/civilrights or call (206) 296 - 7595

Saturday, 9/13

The Asian Counseling Referral Service's (ACRS) Faces of Community, Masks of Tradition event celebrates 35 years of service to the Asian Pacific American community. Enjoy an exciting and sophisticated evening of amazing live, silent and dessert auction offerings, fabulous food and fine wines at one of Seattle's premier fundraisers.

Friday, 10/3

The Vietnamese newspaper, Nguoi Viet Tay Bac, celebrates its 24th Anniversary at 6:30 p.m. at the Tea Palace, 2828 Sunset Ln NE, Renton, WA. The event includes a full dinner and live music performance w/ a top Asia Entertainment singer, Anh Bang. \$50. Special honorees include Attorney General Rob McKenna. Contact: Anna for more information at (425) 830-0602.

Tuesday, 10/28

The Vietnamese American Bar Association of Washington's (VABAW) celebrates its Fourth annual Banquet at the Triple Door, 216 Union Street, Seattle, WA 98101. For more information, please visit www.vabaw.com. Please RSVP before September 30, 2008!

Announcements:

The Asian Counseling Referral Service (ACRS) is currently looking for volunteers to conduct mock interviews to help students prepare for their naturalization exams. Mock interviews are conducted in English. Most of the clients are Vietnamese and Chinese and appreciate any opportunity to practice English. ACRS needs volunteers who are available to conduct the mock interviews in the evenings.

CourtAppointedSpecialAdvocates(CASA): Train to become a volunteer advocate for abused and neglected children in court. Help make the legal system work toward a safe, permanent home for these children. Must be 21, have excellent references and attend 28 hours of training. Contact CASA for more information and training dates at (206) 296 – 1120 or at casa.group@kingcounty.gov.

IE CLASSIFIEDS

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THE IE IS SEEKING:

An energetic **ADVERTISING MANAGER**. The Ad Mgr solicits ads, maintains the client database, strengthens relationships of current clients, strategizes and implements marketing plans, and oversees distribution of the newspaper, and other projects. Required: Knowledge of the Asian American community, a great attitude, attention to detail, able to meet deadlines. Preferred: Sales or business background. This is a full-time position.

A **P/T DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR** Coordinator to manage grants, assist or manage fundraising events, and set and meet goals to expand the capacity of the International Examiner.

For all employment/volunteer opportunities, please contact IE Editor Diem Ly at editor@iexaminer.org or call her at (206) 624-3925 x3.

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or email: recruit@soundtransit.org

Note: Resumes from this process may be referred to similar open positions without additional advertising. *To view job description and download employment application visit us at www.soundtransit.org, or call (800) 201-4900.

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Arts & Culture



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The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) supports community-based and social service groups. To learn more:
CommunityAffairs@seattleartmuseum.org.



719 S King St, Seattle, WA 98104
ph: 206-623-5124 fx: 206-652-4963
tols@wingluke.org www.wingluke.org
A Smithsonian Institution affiliate, the

Wing Luke Asian Museum engages the public in exploring issues related to the culture, art and history of Asian Pacific Americans. Award-winning exhibitions and public programs are offered, as well as docent-led tours for schools and groups.

Business



Chinatown/International District Business Improvement Area
409 Maynard Ave S, Suite P1,
Seattle, WA 98104
ph: 206-382-1197 www.cidbia.org

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Education



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ph: 206-621-7880
info@deniselouie.org www.deniselouie.org
Multicultural preschool and Head Start services for children ages 3-5 with locations in the ID, Beacon Hill and Rainier Beach.

Housing & Neighborhood Planning



HomeSight
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ph: 206-723-4355 fx: 206-760-4210
www.homesightwa.org

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Inter*im Community Development Association
310 Maynard Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104
ph: 206-624-1802 fx: 206-624-5859
info@interimcda.org www.interimcda.org

Affordable housing, economic development, neighborhood planning and advocacy for the APA community.



International District Housing Alliance
606 Maynard Ave S #104/105, Seattle, WA 98104
ph: 206-623-5132 fx: 206-623-3479

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Seattle Chinatown/International District Preservation and Development Authority
ph: 206-624-8929 fx: 206-467-6376
info@scidpda.org

Housing, property management and community development.

Leadership Development



Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLIF)
PO Box 14461, Seattle, WA 98104
ph: 206-625-3850
aclifnw@aolnorthwest.org www.aclifnorthwest.org
Community leadership development, networking and mentoring.

Political & Civil Rights

Commission of Asian Pacific American Affairs
210 11th Ave SW, Rm 301, General Administration Building,
Olympia, WA 98504-0925
ph: 360-725-5666 or 360-725-5667 fx: 360-586-9501
capaa@capaa.wa.gov www.capaa.wa.gov
Statewide liaison between government and APA communities. Monitors and informs public about legislative issues.



OCA - Greater Seattle
606 Maynard Ave. South - Suite 104
P.O. Box 3013, Seattle, WA 98114
ph: (206) 682-0665 www.ocaseattle.org
OCA is dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of APIAs, and aims to embrace the hopes and aspirations of APIAs, locally in the Greater Seattle area.

Professional Associationa



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pr@naaapseattle.org www.naaapseattle.org
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Senior Services



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ph: 206-652-2330 fx: 206-652-2344
contact@kinon.org www.kinon.org
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ph: 206-721-3630 fx: 206-721-3626
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Legacy House
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info@legacyhouse.org
www.scidpda.org/programs/legacyhouse.aspx
Description of organization/services offered:
Assisted Living, Adult Day Services, Ethnic-specific meal programs for low-income seniors.



National Asian Pacific Center on Aging
Senior Community Service Employment Program
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www.napca.org
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Social & Health Services



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events@acrs.org www.acrs.org
ACRS offers multilingual, behavioral health and social services to Asian Pacific Americans and other low-income people in King County.



APICAT
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ph: 206-223-9578 fx: 206-623-3479 website www.apicat.org
Address tobacco control and other health justice issues in the Asian American/Pacific Islander communities.



Asian & Pacific Islander Women & Family Safety Center
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ph: 206-467-9976 www.apiwfc.org

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East King County Family Center 425-213-1963
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Refugee Women's Alliance
4008 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S,
Seattle, WA 98108
ph: 206-721-0243 fx: 206-721-0282
www.rewa.org

A multi-ethnic, multilingual, community-based org. that provides the following programs to refugee and immigrant women & families in Puget Sound. Domestic violence, childcare, after school, vocational, ESL, employment & citizenship, senior meals, developmental disabilities.



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• CLOTHING FOR YOUNG MEN • SPORTSWEAR AND AMERICAN DESIGNER COLLECTIONS FOR HIM

FINAL COST

29.99 (WAS 39.99)

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• CLOTHING FOR YOUNG MEN • DRESS SHIRTS AND AMERICAN DESIGNER COLLECTIONS FOR HIM

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