

# Asian American Heritage Committee

September 14, 2004

[www.pittsburgh.feb.gov](http://www.pittsburgh.feb.gov)

Members present: Dave Seery, Dr. Shiono, Mrs. Shiono, Mari-Lou Wong-Chong, Judi Stemmler, Shenaz Choudhury, Virginia Garizas, Richard Wang, Donna

Heinz: Nancy Cain McCombe

Next meeting:

## October 13, 2004

### Room 118 Federal Building 11:30 AM



**PLEASE NOTE** - if possible can each Association please provide a person or people to attend each meeting so they can relay information to the groups about what is going on. This way nothing is lost in the way of trying to meet our goals for our planned events. We realize that this may be a problem for some groups, but please try to send someone.

## **FAPAC**

Dave discussed FAPAC, The Federal Asian Pacific American Council that was founded in 1985. It is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the civilian and military Asian Pacific American (APA) employees in the Federal and District of Columbia governments. It is the oldest and most active organization of Asian Pacific Americans in the Government.

FAPAC is organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The primary purpose of FAPAC is to serve as an interagency association within the Federal and District of Columbia Governments, providing a focus for over thirty ethnically distinct groups originating from Asian and Pacific regions as recognized by the United States Bureau of the Census.

Dave and FAPAC representative Darshan Gupta, P.E. (NASA) Chapter Committee Chair have been discussing the possibility of our FEB committee being "The Pittsburgh Chapter" within FAPAC. Dave has participated in several FAPAC monthly meetings conducted via conference calls. Darshan mentioned that for our October meeting he would provide a FAPAC representative to attend our meeting and discuss FAPAC membership, its benefits, rules, obligations, etc. Prior to our next meeting, Dave suggests that each member read about FAPAC on their WEB site at <http://www.fapac.org/f1/>. Once on their WEB site you will be able to find more about them and view their by-laws and constitution under the "About FAPAC" tab. Please read about FAPAC to have a better understanding about them at the October meeting

## **ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS**

Sales are going good at this point. We still have about 140 books to sell and our time limit is by the middle of October. All unsold books and money must be turned into the Entertainment Company by November 1<sup>st</sup> so we figure that the middle of October would be a good target date. If you know of anyone who would like to purchase a book the price is \$20 and you can call Dave at 412-395-4558.

## **LUNCHEON**

The luncheon is all set for May 6, 2005 at the Sheraton Station Square – Reflections Room. This is the same place as last year. We are going to try and keep the price at \$20. More to come at a later date.

The student awards package was also discussed and right now we have a small change to the student evaluation checklist. Some schools do not offer AP classes and our sheet reflects the AP classes by awarding points for a QPA of 4.0 or higher. This is not fair to those students who are not offered those classes. So we have adjusted our scale to give 5 points to any student who has a cumulative QPA of 3.81 or higher. There were a few other points that were brought into the discussion last year but we couldn't really remember what they were. If anyone knows what they were, please bring them to our attention at the next meeting so we can move to get the changes made before we put the application package on the website in December.

Another point made was that some of the associations are small and their members have moved to a county that is not recognized by the awards committee. But because these members have a loyalty to Pittsburgh they travel back to the "burg" to attend meetings, etc but their children are not eligible for the student awards. So it was suggested that the mailing list not be expanded past the 5 counties (Allegheny, Washington, Westmoreland, Butler, Beaver) that we already mail to, but that each Association would consider students from the counties that border the 5 original. See attached map. We would like to have the Committee agreement on this before putting it into effect.

Student essay topic? One suggestion was "What does success mean to me" We could use a few more suggestions. Topic does not necessarily need to be about being Asian American.

**SPEAKER** - looks like the **Thai Association** should start looking for a speaker but as a back up the Bangladesh Association was put on alert to have someone just in case

### **HEINZ**

The date is May 7, 2005. The new building will be fully operational but our activities will remain in the Great Hall due to the fact that the main entrance is located right there and we would get better exposure. Put on your thinking caps and maybe we can come up with some new and different ideas and or connections this year. The idea of spreading out the performances rather than clustering them together was brought to the table and will be discussed at the upcoming meeting. Also, our age old problem – how do we get people to stay and watch the performances rather than leaving right after they are done? Any and all ideas are more than welcome. Also, think about the marketplace – should it stay – should we shelve it ?????

Nancy also handed out a laundry list of ideas and/or thoughts that we should be considering so we can get a jump on things so the word can get out earlier this year. See attached.

### **CHRISTMAS MEETING/SOCIAL**

The one thing you can always count on is the Christmas Meeting being at a restaurant. This year it was suggested that the meeting being held at the SESAME INN – STATION SQUARE because over the years they have been kind enough to hold a number of cooking demonstrations at our Heinz event. Plus there is the added convenience of the trolley, bus and parking. This way we can show our appreciation by having our meeting at the restaurant and ordering their delicious food. The date is **DECEMBER 14, 2004** at **2:00 PM** Spouses and significant others are welcome to join us. There will be a very brief meeting (10-20 min) prior to the social.

Richard will you please contact the restaurant (412-281-8282) and set up some kind of menu/meals for us. Also find out if some people can order off the menu also. Thanks.....

### **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

- Sept 18 - Chinese Dragon Boat Races 11 AM – 7 PM FREE  
South Side Riverfront Park (weather permitting)
- Sept 30 - Chinese Snow White Art Performing Group  
7:30 PM – Bellefield Hall across from Heinz Chapel at Pitt  
\$10.00 for ticket info contact Karen Yee 412-833-2339
- Oct 3 - Chinese Room Scholarship Dinner  
Station Square – Reflections Room  
\$45.00 for ticket info contact Karen Yee
- Nov 10 - AWI & Kaufmann's  
Downtown Store  
All proceeds will benefit the Asian American Committee  
\$10.00 for ticket info contact Karen Yee
- Dec 5 - Christmas – Nationality Rooms – Cathedral of Learning  
Due to construction not all rooms will be available for viewing  
Noon – 4 PM

## Asian American Heritage Day Festival

May 7, 2004 - from 10-4

Nancy Cain McCombe.412-454-6411 [ncmccombe@hswp.org](mailto:ncmccombe@hswp.org)

Please be working on contacts you may have to make this year's festival the I best. ever! Besides the wonderful performances, done by the student groups, each committee member needs to be contacting additional' individuals and groups that e, would be able to contribute to the festival.

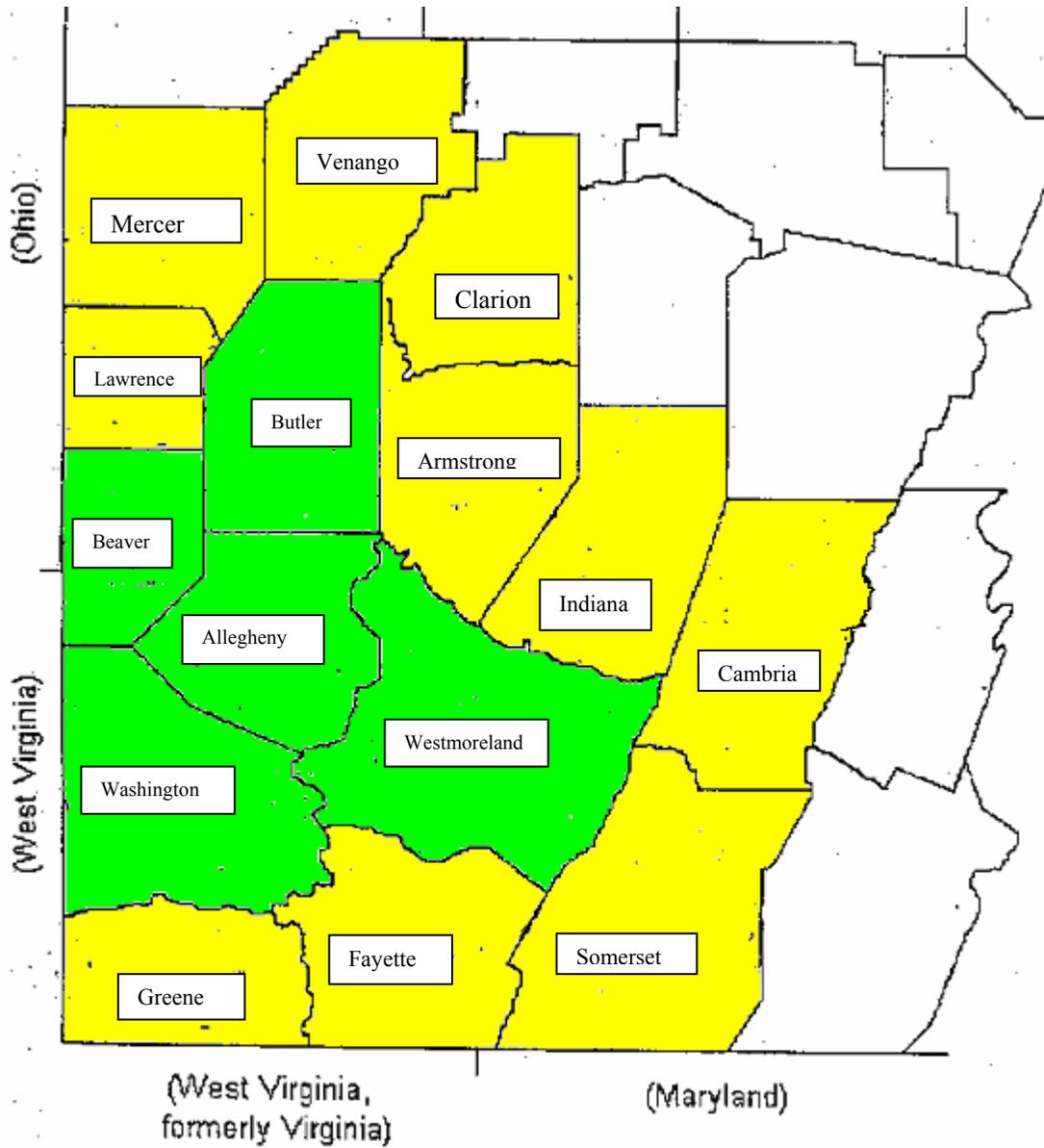
Here is a checklist to use while brainstorming;

- Costumes
- Customs
- Travel
- Cooking
- Celebrity
- Lecture opportunity
- Guest artist
- Music
- Author/ illustrator
- Horticulture
- Other

I think it is important to have representation from each and every region represented on the committee.

From last year's festival please think about the Marketplace and whether should he continued, re-organized or omitted from this year's festival.

As always. please contact me at 412-454-6411 or [ncmccombe@hswp.org](mailto:ncmccombe@hswp.org) with any questions, ideas or comments you may have.



The green colored counties are the five counties we currently accept applications from students.  
 The yellow counties are those counties that the Committee is considering accepting applications from students.