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## **JAAA Newsletter \* November 2006**

### **HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**

**December 3, 2006 at 100 Laura Street (Jacksonville Bank Building - 6th Floor)** - We invite you to join us on Sunday, December 3, 2006 at the Jacksonville Bank Building in Downtown Jacksonville (100 Laura Street) as we celebrate the holiday season and recognize your friendship and support of JAAA. There are plenty of parking spaces in Downtown Jacksonville on weekends. You may park on the streets or in nearby garages. The Jacksonville Bank building is at the corner of Laura and Forsyth Streets.

Let's celebrate the Holiday Season early with a taste of Asian food, music and dance, and valuable door and raffle prizes. Proceeds from raffle tickets will fund a scholarship program. (Details about the scholarship program will be announced soon.)

If you have not yet responded, please send a message to [info@jaxaaa.org](mailto:info@jaxaaa.org) or call Doreen Flippin at 318-0825. Come and kick-off the holidays with new and old friends!

### **HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE**

JAAA will continue collecting canned good and other nonperishable food until December 18, 2006. This Holiday Food Drive benefits the City Rescue Mission, a Jacksonville organization that provides shelter, dinner and counseling services to homeless and less fortunate citizens in our community.

The following locations below have drop-offs for nonperishable food you would like to donate.

#### **Carousel Flowers**

1205 University Blvd. N.

Contact: Ann Nguyen

Tel: (904) 744-9858

#### **Chance to Dance (Dance Studio)**

1301 Monument Road

Contact: Vida Vongsay

Tel: (904) 725-0500

#### **Fred Astaire Dance Studio**

8724 Lone Star Rd.

Contact: Vida Vongsay

Tel: (904) 725-0500

#### **Mike Cell Oriental Mart & Bakery**

10730 Atlantic Blvd

Corner of Atlantic Blvd. & St. Johns Bluff Rd.

Tel: (904) 997-1345

#### **Osaka Japanese Buffet**

11701 San Jose Blvd.

Contact: Linda Zhang

Tel: (904) 886-7778

#### **Sushi Rock Cafe**

1950-1 San Marco Blvd.

Contact: Jay Lee, Owner

Tel: (904) 399-3305

#### **The Party Shop**

9312 Arlington Expressway

Contact: Amal Soni

Tel: (904) 721-0111

## **FIRST THANKSGIVING FOR NEW IMMIGRANTS IN JACKSONVILLE**

JAAA member Sally Baitan and her family hosted Thanksgiving Luncheon in Orange Park for seventeen new immigrants who arrived from the Philippines a month ago. JAAA Director Tess Galino is helping the "modern day pilgrims" get settled in their new home. Doreen Flippin and other JAAA members and friends (Archie Paez, Grace Parmelee, and Roy Vicente) transported four families from the San Marco area to Orange Park for the luncheon.

"My family and I wanted to share this important holiday with new immigrants. It's difficult to start a new life in a foreign land and we wanted to welcome them to our community and let them know that we care," commented Sally Baitan.



It was the first Thanksgiving Day for the immigrants. "My daughter started school at Hendricks Elementary just in time to learn about Native Americans, pilgrims, and the history and significance of Thanksgiving Day," commented Donna, who immigrated to Jacksonville with her husband and two children. Donna added, "We are thankful to be living in the United States, especially in Jacksonville."

## **JAAA MEMBERS HELPED START E-MAIL EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN CHINESE AND LOCAL STUDENTS**

With the help of JAAA Director Gloria Chu and JAAA member Dean Fusto of Episcopal High School, local students will be

corresponding with students in China via electronic mail.

Gloria Chu was asked to help find a Jacksonville school for a pen pal/ePal program with Shaoxing No. 1 Junior Middle School in Shaoxing, China. Gloria Chu contacted Dean Fusto, a JAAA member and Assistant Head and Academic Dean of the Middle School at Episcopal, regarding this opportunity for American and Chinese students to interact and learn more about each other's culture via mail.

Located in Zhejiang province, Shaoxing Middle School has 42 classes, 2,600 students and 140 faculty members. Shaoxing students start English classes in primary school. Therefore, by junior middle school, they are able to make simple conversations in English.

Episcopal High School in Jacksonville provides college-preparatory education for students in grades six through twelve.

"The Shaoxing School wants to help improve the students' English language skills through pen pal/e-pal program," commented Gloria Chu. Through email exchange between students of two schools, "we hope to also promote understanding between American and Chinese students and to build better relationships among the children," Ms. Chu added.

Dean Fusto is also co-founder of the Global Leaf School, a 6-8 charter school focusing on global awareness, intercultural understanding, service-learning, environmental stewardship, and information literacy.

## **"MEET THE PRESS"**

In an effort to introduce JAAA's mission and objectives and to find ways to better serve the community, JAAA Directors Jay Lee, Anjna Chauhan, Doreen Flippin and Tess Galino met with the Florida Times-Union Editor and his editorial staff on Friday, November 17, 2006.

Attending from the Times-Union (TU) were: Patrick Yack, Editor; Wayne Ezell, Reader Advocate; Phil Fretz, Editorial Writer; Karen Brune Mathis, Columnist; Paul Mattson, Assistant Business Editor; Tonyaa Weathersbee, Columnist; Mark Woods, Columnist; and Marilyn Young, Metro Editor.

Doreen introduced JAAA, its mission and goals, and reviewed past and future activities.

Citing statistics about the fast growth of Asian Americans living Jacksonville, Doreen emphasized that with growth comes opportunities as well as challenges. TU can help meet those challenges by helping JAAA educate the public about the Asian American population in our community.



Anjna spoke about ways that TU can partner with JAAA including utilizing JAAA as point of contact for local, national or international events and news concerning Asian Americans. She cited several examples where JAAA could be a beneficial source of information for the newspaper.

Tess addressed matters concerning press releases. Knowing "the right person" to send information is key in getting JAAA's news published in a timely manner. Several names were given for contacts. After the meeting, JAAA Directors were introduced to the Metro Editorial Assistant, who handles all events and the TU calendar.



Jay fielded questions from TU staff and provided helpful background information on

countries comprising Asia, religion, etc. A variety of issues ranging from problems faced by Asian Americans in Jacksonville to immigration were also raised.

It was a productive meeting. JAAA looks forward to working with TU in strengthening the Asian American community.

## JAAA ADVISORY BOARD

To help promote the mission of the Jacksonville Asian American Alliance, we are pleased to announce the creation of the JAAA Advisory Board. Three outstanding citizens of Jacksonville have agreed to serve on the Board: Stephen H. Davis, Kanoo Soni, and Tri Vu. As Advisory Board members, they provide informal counsel to directors and officers of the organization and bring expertise and objectivity to the process. Following is information on each member:

**Stephen H. Davis** received his Juris Doctor degree in law in 1968, from the Cumberland School of Law of Samford University and has been specializing in immigration law for over 30 years in Jacksonville and Orlando. Mr. Davis is a nationally recognized expert in immigration law. He is the co-author of *Immigration Law and Practice in Florida*, published by the Florida Bar and has written numerous articles about immigration law. He has also been a lecturer/panelist for The Florida Bar, Lorman Education Services and the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

**Kanoo Soni** is a medical doctor and one of the founding members of Into The Light Foundation, a non-profit organization that offers free cataract operations to those who cannot afford it.

**Tri Vu** was born and raised in Saigon, Vietnam. He immigrated to the US in May of 1975. A graduate of the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Architecture degree, Tri is a registered Architect licensed in Florida and Georgia and owns the architectural firm, TTV Architects, Inc. As an architect and a concerned citizen, Tri looks for ways to help the community become a better place to live and work by incorporating diversity in what he does.

An active member of Jacksonville, Tri successfully spearheaded the effort to light up the bridges of Jacksonville and is working now on the new "Downtown Connections" plan for Jacksonville.

"We appreciate the commitment of our Advisory Board members as they work to promote the interests of Asian Americans in Jacksonville. We are fortunate to have citizens who are willing to give of themselves," commented Jay Lee.

This Newsletter is published by the  
Jacksonville Asian American Alliance  
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### **LET US HEAR FROM YOU**

We value your comments and insights. If you have comments or would like additional information on any of the above, please send a message to [info@jaxaaa.org](mailto:info@jaxaaa.org).

Thank you for your friendship and support.

Directors and Officers  
Jacksonville Asian American Alliance