

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

**Diverse Leadership + Expanding Opportunity:
An Imperative for America**

**Thursday, May 1, 2014
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Keystone Building Atrium**

Keynote Remarks by

**Nick B. Shenoy, founder and current President/CEO of the
Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia**

Special Remarks by
Governor Tom Corbett

Performances by
**Asian Indian Americans of Central PA
The Chinese Cultural & Arts Institute**



pennsylvania

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

**ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH
May 2014**

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is home to more than 300,000 citizens who trace their roots to Asia and the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, the Asian Pacific American community represents a vital dimension of our Commonwealth's diverse ethnic and social community. The Asian Pacific American community's many contributions throughout the history of our Commonwealth have enriched our society through its diverse languages, cultures and religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, through Asian Pacific Americans' love of family, community and hard work, they have helped to uphold the founding principles of our Commonwealth for generations. Asian Pacific American entrepreneurs help to strengthen our economy and our communities through their hard work and ingenuity, and they inspire a new generation of American innovation through their example; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania, through representatives from all of the major Asian Pacific American communities, continues to address the needs and concerns of its citizens and remains committed to a proactive stance that seeks solutions to problems such as prejudice, discrimination and violence.

THEREFORE, In recognition of the many contributions and achievements of our Commonwealth's Asian Pacific Americans, I, Tom Corbett, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 2014 as ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH in Pennsylvania.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this third day of April in the Year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

Tom Corbett
TOM CORBETT
Governor

Program

The Star Spangled Banner	Lily Chang
Welcome & Acknowledgements	Tiffany Hwang, Executive Director Governor’s Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs
Introduction of Governor Corbett	Tiffany Hwang
Greetings & Proclamation	Governor Tom Corbett
Performance	Asian Indian Americans of Central PA (AIACPA)
Performance	Chinese Cultural and Arts Institute
Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Tiffany Hwang
Keynote Address	Nick B. Shenoy, P.E.
Special Thanks	Tiffany Hwang
Refreshments	Keystone Atrium Lobby

AAPI Heritage Month was first established as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week during the first week of May in 1978 when Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution. This date was chosen because of two important anniversaries which occurred during this time: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in American on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (by many Chinese laborers) on May 10, 1869.

In 1990, Congress voted to expand it from a week to a month long celebration. In May of 1992, the month of May was permanently designated as “Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month” to recognize and honor the rich history and innumerable contributions that Asian American and Pacific Islanders have made – and continue to make to our country. It is now officially proclaimed as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

About the Keynote Speaker



Narasimha "Nick" B. Shenoy, P.E. is the President and CEO of Kedar Corporation, an engineering and construction company. He holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in Electrical Engineering, and an MBA. He is a Registered Professional Engineer with past professional experience as a chief engineer and project manager at companies such as General Electric and Bechtel.

Mr. Shenoy has worked with many national and local community organizations for the past 25 years as a board member and has received recognition and awards for community service from the United Way, the National Federation of

Indian Associations, the National Asian American Voters Coalition, and the Pan Asian Association of Greater Philadelphia.

As the Chairman of the Pan Asian Association of Greater Philadelphia and the President of the Council of Indian Organization in Greater Philadelphia, he brought mainstream visibility to the Asian American Community. He organized the first "Festival of India" program in the Penn Landing facility of the City of Philadelphia, where the community at large enjoys the display of Indian culture and heritage. He worked with United Communities to help establish the Pan Asian Center in Philadelphia, organized the first Asian American Parade in the City of Philadelphia to provide mainstream visibility to Asian Americans, and he organized the first Gandhi Jayanthi program to promote non-violence.

Mr. Shenoy has worked with the Asian American business community by conducting seminars with SBA, and state and local government agencies to provide business opportunities to Asian American businesses. He is the founder and current President and CEO of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce in Greater Philadelphia. He has served as the Vice Chair for the National Asian American Voters Coalition and Vice Chair for the National Asian American Republican Committee and was invited to the White House to meet President George H.W. Bush.

He has also served as a member of the Municipal Commission for East Whiteland Township, the Pennsylvania Heritage Commission, the Mayor's Asian American Advisory Commission of the City of Philadelphia and a board member of the Philadelphia Multi-Cultural Affairs Committee. He actively participated and lobbied for the formation of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs and served as Vice Chair on the commission, where he spearheaded state-wide town hall meetings and the Asian American Heritage Festival in Philadelphia.

Acknowledgements

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Development

Beverly Lavia, Director
Bureau of Equal Opportunity Employment

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Lily Chang



Lily Chang was born in Taiwan and came to the United States in 1982 to pursue her graduate studies. She was commissioned as a Missionary by Presbyterian U.S.A. and also worked as a Community Youth Minister for Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Lily has a daughter, Tiffany Hwang who is currently the Executive Director of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs. Lily is an award winning photographer that started a series called, "One Woman's Search for Humanity"; a compilation of social documentary photographic essays.

She started singing without formal training at an early age and loves singing Hymns. An important symbol to Lily is the Lotus flower whose images can be seen in her photographic works. In Asia, the lotus is a symbol of peace. Beneath the water's surface, a system of roots sustains the plant. Like the Lotus, we are also nourished by unseen connections. These connections are strengthened by understanding, awareness of our differences, and most importantly, compassion and love. Currently, Lily is a Chinese language interpreter for the International Service Center in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Vocalist Bio

Asian Indian Americans of Central PA (AIACPA)

About the Performance:

This dance revolves around the idea of marriage. India is well-known for its system of arranged marriages. But what happens if two people fall in love? In this story, a young man and a young woman are sitting together at their wedding when they both have a flashback of how it all began. The young woman is your typical “drama queen” and the guy is head over heels in love with her. After their wedding, the young couple describes how marriage is a horrible thing and ruins you, but in the end, you must look beyond that and enjoy the good times with the person you are with.

Bollywood dance is the dance-form used in and popularized by the Hindi-language film industry (Bollywood) based in Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India. It is a mixture of several styles including but not limited to: belly-dancing, Kathak (one of the eight forms of Indian classical dance which originated in northern India), Indian Folk dance, modern dance, jazz dance and popular Western dance.

This dance was choreographed by Miss Sreya Sristi.

About the Performers:

Miss Sreya Sristi (Somy):

Sreya, who goes by Somy to her family and friends, is currently a junior at Cumberland Valley High School. She has been dancing for 12 years and has learned Bharatanatyam, an Indian classical dance form, for 8 years. Somy is passionate about dancing and performing. She plans to pursue studies in medicine at the University of Pittsburgh and possibly a life in Bollywood.

Mr. Shawn Mathews:

Shawn is an 8th grade student at Central Dauphin Middle School and has been dancing for four years. Shawn is passionate about performing and is completely self-taught. He learned how to dance by watching YouTube videos. While most of his performances are choreographed to Hindi music from Bollywood, Shawn does not speak Hindi fluently. He is planning to learn Hindi to help him to become a better dancer. Shawn is looking forward to high school and is currently undecided on what he'd like to pursue in college.

Miss Gita Mukundan:

Gita is 15 years old and currently a 9th grade student at Cumberland Valley High School. Gita has been dancing for about 10 years. Initially, she was self-taught but for the past several years, she has been learning Bharathnatyam, a classical form of Indian dance. Gita hopes to work in the medical field and pursue a career as a pediatrician.

Mr. Surya Ramanathan:

Surya is an 8th grade student at Cumberland Valley's Good Hope Middle School. He is a self-taught performer who learned how to dance by watching dance performances on television. Before he knew it, he was performing at local programs. Surya is a quick learner and an avid team player who enjoys dancing. Surya is looking forward to high school and is currently undecided on what he'd like to pursue in college.

Chinese Cultural and Arts Institute

中華文化藝術學會



CCAI was incorporated in the Spring of 2000 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. CCAI's goal is to bring a greater understanding of the long history of the Chinese cultural arts and to further facilitate and nurture this understanding among other different cultures. CCAI has been actively participating in local cultural and community events and bringing exquisite traditional and modern Chinese performing arts to audiences in Central PA. Since CCAI's inception, we have worked

extensively with adopted and immigrant children to help them identify with their heritage through these cultural and arts programs.

CCAI currently offers Chinese dance, music, calligraphy, painting, language, Folk Arts, summer camp, yoga, ballet, Hip Hop, dragon boats and Tai-Chi Chuan classes. Besides these, we provide seminars such as Chinese culinary, paper cutting, origami, tea arts, crafts and other folk activities.

As CCAI grows, our needs for funding grow. CCAI is kicking off a funding drive to sustain our current expansion. As CCAI looks to the future, we are beginning a capital campaign to acquire land and build a traditional style arts and cultural center. The funding for the new center will come from a combination of foundation, corporate and private support. In order to make this possible, and continue to bring the programs you see today and help the children who participate in the programs, CCAI needs your support.

Ribbon Dance Greeting the Spring

Choreographer: Chen-Yu Tsuei

Performer: Jessica Chou, Erica Leyder

This dance is a highlight from "Temple Fair" and was premiered in 2005. In ancient China, most of the festival celebrations were held in front of temples. The magnificent performance is a major aspect of the festivities. This dance symbolizes the celebration of a good harvest and the expression of gratitude to the gods at a temple gathering. It represents the scene of a joyful and peaceful society.

Iron Fan Dance

Choreographer: Chen-Yu Tsuei

Performer: Emily Chung, Kyla DeWittie, Morgan Heidingsfelder, Lianne Uroda, Stephanie Uroda

Iron fan is an ancient Chinese weapon. The dance comprising martial art as well as classic turning, flipping, and jumping illustrates the mood of powerfulness. Nowadays, it is an art form to express bravery and excitement.

2014 Planning Committee

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Office of the Governor

Special Thanks

**Asian Indian Americans of Central
Pennsylvania (AIACPA)**

Bangkok 56 Thai Cuisine

Paxton St., Harrisburg, PA

Beijing (Chinese) Restaurant

N. Progress Ave., Harrisburg, PA

Chinese Cultural and Arts Institute

Department of Public Welfare

Office of Administration

Department of General Services,

Bureau of Publications

**Governor's Advisory Commission
on Asian American Affairs**

International Service Center

2nd St., Harrisburg, PA

Miyako

N. 2nd St., Harrisburg, PA

New 2nd Wok

N. 2nd St., Harrisburg, PA

Passage to India

Race St., Harrisburg, PA

Spring Garden Restaurant

35th St., Camp Hill, PA

Thai Palace

Market St., Camp Hill, PA

Garden Vietnamese Restaurant

Reily St., Harrisburg, PA