

The Asian Reporter

Volume 26 Number 8
 April 18, 2016
 ISSN: 1094-9453

The Asian Reporter is published on the first and third Monday each month.

Please send all correspondence to: The Asian Reporter
 922 N Killingsworth Street, Suite 2D, Portland, OR 97217
 Phone: (503) 283-4440, Fax: (503) 283-4445

News Department e-mail: news@asianreporter.com
 Advertising Department e-mail: ads@asianreporter.com
 General e-mail: info@asianreporter.com
 Website: www.asianreporter.com

Please send reader feedback, Asian-related press releases, and community interest ideas/stories to the addresses listed above. Please include a contact phone number.

Advertising information available upon request.

Publisher **Jaime Lim**
 Contributing Editors

Ronault L.S. Catalani (Polo), Jeff Wenger
 Correspondents

Ian Blazina, Josephine Bridges, Pamela Ellgen, Maileen Hamto, Edward J. Han, A.P. Kryza, Marie Lo, Simeon Mamaril, Julie Stegeman, Toni Tabora-Roberts, Allison Voigts
 Illustrator **Jonathan Hill**
 News Service **Associated Press/Newsfinder**

Copyright 2016. Opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of the authors and not necessarily those of this publication.

Member

Associated Press/Newsfinder
 Asian American Journalists Association
 Better Business Bureau
 Pacific Northwest Minority Publishers (PNMP)
 Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon

Correspondence:

The Asian Reporter welcomes reader response and participation. Please send all correspondence to:
Mail: 922 N Killingsworth Street, Suite 2D, Portland, OR 97217-2220
Phone: (503) 283-4440 ** **Fax:** (503) 283-4445
News Department e-mail: news@asianreporter.com
General e-mail: info@asianreporter.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (U.S. rates only)

Individual subscription (sent bulk rate):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Half year: \$14	<input type="checkbox"/> Full year: \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> Two years: \$40
Individual subscription (sent first class mail):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Half year: \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> Full year: \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> Two years: \$72
Office subscription (5 copies to one address):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Half year: \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> Full year: \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> Two years: \$145
Institutional subscription (25 copies to one address):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Half year: \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Full year: \$180	<input type="checkbox"/> Two years: \$280

NEW SUBSCRIBER / ADDRESS CORRECTION INFORMATION FORM:

Subscriber's name: _____
 Company name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____
 Fax: _____
 E-mail: _____

Mail with payment or Fax with credit card information to:
 The Asian Reporter, Attn: Subscription Dept.,
 922 N Killingsworth Street, Suite 2D, Portland, OR 97217-2220
 Phone: (503) 283-4440 * Fax: (503) 283-4445

For VISA, Mastercard, or American Express payment only:

Name (as it appears on the card): _____
 Type of card (circle): VISA Mastercard American Express
 Card number: _____ Security code: _____
 Expiration date: _____ Address of card: _____

The last four issues of *The Asian Reporter* are available for pick up free at our office 24 hours a day at 922 N Killingsworth Street, Suite 2D, Portland, Oregon.

Back issues of *The Asian Reporter* may be ordered by mail at the following rates: First copy: \$1.50
 Additional copies ordered at the same time: \$1.00 each
 Send orders to: Asian Reporter Back Issues,
 922 N. Killingsworth St., Portland, OR 97217-2220

The Asian Reporter welcomes reader response and participation. If you have a comment on a story we have printed, or have an Asian-related personal or community focus idea, please contact us. Please include a contact name, address, and phone number on all correspondence. Thank you.



MY TURN

■ **Dmae Roberts**



New 'Voices of Change'

I've spent the bulk of my career in public radio and nonprofit theatre, so I can personally attest to the difficulty of bringing varied Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities together to listen to programs or attend performances. When I produce a Chinese or Japanese stage play, some AAPI groups do not connect with it. If an event focuses on the Hawaiian or Tongan community, Asian Americans rarely turn out. It has been frustrating figuring out how to bring together pan-AAPI communities to support each other, whether it's a film, radio documentary, or stage play.



Members and supporters of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) are seen at a gathering of the organization. APANO reaches out to Asian American and Pacific Islander communities to improve the lives of children and families by helping change public policy. (Photo courtesy of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon)

One group that seems to be able to bring together many of Oregon's diverse ethnic groups is APANO, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon. APANO began in 1996 under the leadership of Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons with the support of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; in 2010, APANO acquired its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. According to Santos-Lyons, the main focus of the group is to improve the lives of children and families by helping change public policy. He said he's particularly proud of the group's efforts to secure healthcare access for "immigrants and low-wage workers, and statewide legislation to improve K-12 English Language Learner (ELL) programs for our kids."

When APANO moved its office from the Leftbank to the Jade District on S.E. 82nd Avenue in Portland, the organization grew not only in staff size, but gained a presence in the neighborhood to address displacement and social-justice issues. It also drew the attention of young people who participated in arts and media events as well as leadership-development programs.

Santos-Lyons, however, said APANO isn't known only in Portland. The organization brought notice outside of Oregon with its "Oregon Motor Voter" and "Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion" campaign wins last year, which he said were "big milestones in the organization's history."

APANO has successfully gathered pan-AAPI communities. The group's staff and volunteers, along with the audiences at its arts and outreach events, tend to be diverse and bring together many

ethnicities and cultures. This includes a great many young community activists and leaders.

One of APANO's predominantly young staffers is community-engagement manager Luann Algozo. She started as an APANO intern while completing her graduate program in conflict resolution at Portland State University. Algozo organized the first female Asian and Pacific Islander standup comedy show in Portland in collaboration with Dis/orient/ed Comedy. Shortly after that event, she was hired as a part-time communications associate and worked on a story-collection project focused on health equity.

Similar to many people on APANO's staff, Algozo always wanted to work in social justice and loves being able to work with and for AAPI communities in Oregon. When she moved from Anaheim, California, she recognized that Portland "wasn't a very racially diverse city." She said APANO was the first organization her classmates "highly recommended." Now she manages its communications as well as some fundraising, arts, and culture programs.

Algozo also organizes arts and media community events held in the group's temporary event space — JAMS — also known as the Jade/APANO Multicultural Space. It is located in the former Banner Furniture Outlet building at the intersection of S.E. 82nd Avenue and Division Street. The space will soon be filled with attendees of APANO's annual "Voices of Change" Asian Heritage Month celebration and fundraiser, at which the organization honors youth who have, according to Algozo, "demonstrated leadership in their community." The group also bestows the "Minoru Yasui Voices of Change" award (named in honor of the Oregon attorney who challenged the constitutionality of a curfew on Japanese Americans in Portland at the beginning of World War II) to recognize an Oregonian who has promoted civil liberties throughout their lifetime.

As a longtime southeast Portland resident, I can attest to the impact APANO's presence in the Jade District has had in the neighborhood. Their JADE/Midway Placemaking arts residencies and events have created an invigorated focus on gentrification

Continued on page 7