



# California Newsletter

May 2009

## In this Issue

### Introduction to SEARAC California Newsletter

SEARAC is excited to bring back our *California E-Newsletter*. This newsletter is to inform and connect Southeast Asian American organizations and individuals in California to current news, upcoming events and opportunities relating to Southeast Asian American communities. The *SEARAC California E-Newsletter* covers a wide selection of topics, and, we invite community members and organizations to send any announcements and updates that they would like to see included in this E-Newsletter to Nenick Vu, the E-Digest manager.

### Introduction of Listserv manager

Hello everyone, my name is Nenick Vu. I am the new California Field Organizer in the SEARAC Sacramento office. I am responsible for providing a wide range of community organizing and training and technical assistance to Southeast Asian American communities and organizations throughout California. In addition, I am also responsible for the E-Digest and moderating the SEARAC California listserv. If you have any questions or comments about the listserv or E-Digest, or would like to post events or news, feel free to contact me at:

[nenick@searac.org](mailto:nenick@searac.org) or by calling 916-428-7769.

### NEWS

- ☞ UC Admissions Policy Change

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☞ Santa Ana Unified School District's Southeast Asian Parent Educational Conference
- ☞ Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay Bone Marrow Drive
- ☞ 2009 Asian Pacific Islander Policy Summit
- ☞ Opening Doors, Inc. Sacramento's World Refugee Day Celebration
- ☞ Asian Resources' 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fortune Festival
- ☞ Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay's Vietnamese American Family Celebration Festival
- ☞ SEARAC's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala: "Beyond the Mekong: Celebrating 30 Years of Service within the Southeast Asian Community"

### GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES

- ☞ HOPE Initiative, Inc.'s 2009 Scholarship Program
- ☞ VACCEB Community Scholarships

SEARAC California is a branch of Southeast Asian Resource Action Center. Helping to serve as local Southeast Asian advocacy support, SEARAC California provides assistance to local Southeast Asian organizations engaging in policy and decision-making bodies on local, state, and federal levels. With support from The James Irvine Foundation, The California Wellness Foundation, The California Endowment, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service-Office of Refugee Resettlement, SEARAC California is able to continue providing technical assistance and advocacy support to local California community based organizations.

## NEWS

### **UC Admissions Policy Change**

In February 2009, the UC Board of Regents adopted changes to freshman admission requirements to give more high-achieving students the chance to apply to UC and receive a full review of their applications. The policy changes include the removal of the SAT II as a required test, the completion of A-G requirements by the end of junior year, as well as different guaranteed admission percentages at both the high school level (9%) as well as overall in the state (10%). The policies will take effect for the fall 2012 entering class and can be found at:

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/eligibilitychanges>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Santa Ana Unified School District's Southeast Asian Parent Educational Conference**

SAUSD's Southeast Asian Parent Educational Conference will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 8AM. It will be a free event at Century High School, 1401 South Grand, Santa Ana, 92705. For more information, please contact Jennifer Kuo at [jkuo@ocapica.org](mailto:jkuo@ocapica.org) or (714) 636-9095 x204.

### **Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay Bone Marrow Drive**

VACCEB will be hosting a bone marrow drive to find a match for a Leukemia patient (Matthew) on May 9, 2009 at 11am, on 106 International Blvd, Oakland, CA, 94606. For more information, go to the website

<http://www.teammatthew.org/>, or contact Diep Doan at [ddoan732@gmail.com](mailto:ddoan732@gmail.com).

### **2009 Asian Pacific Islander Policy Summit**

On May 26-27, the 2009 API Policy Summit, "Connecting the Dots: The Catalyst for a Stronger Community Voice," will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center in Downtown Sacramento. The summit will include workshops, speakers, a gala, as well as the opportunity to meet with legislators and constitutional officers. Registration and more information can be found at <http://apisummit.org/Welcome.html>.

### **Opening Doors, Inc. Sacramento's World Refugee Day Celebration**

Opening Doors, Inc. Sacramento will be hosting its World Refugee Day celebration at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 18, at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 5625 - 24th Street, Sacramento. It will be a multi-cultural buffet dinner and award ceremony. This year the recipient of the UNHCR Award will be Mr. Robert Khang, the first Hmong refugee to resettle in Sacramento. Since his arrival almost 30 years ago, he has been actively involved in helping hundreds of other refugees, and others successfully resettle in the United States. If you have any questions about the event please contact Maurine Huang at (916) 492-2591.

### **Asian Resources' 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fortune Festival**

Asian Resources will be hosting its 5th Annual Fortune Festival: A Celebration of Culture & Commerce & Community Health and Safety Fair on Saturday, June 20, 10 am-4 pm at the Fruitridge Shopping Center parking lot, 5709 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento, CA, 95824. For more information, please contact Asian Resources at (916) 454-1892.

### **Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay's Vietnamese American Family Celebration Festival**

VACCEB's Vietnamese American Family Celebration Festival will be held on June 20, 2009 in Oakland. The free event will have seniors and young children performing, traditional dances, exhibits, a scholarship award ceremony, and food. For more information, please contact Diep Doan at [ddoan732@gmail.com](mailto:ddoan732@gmail.com).

### **SEARAC's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala: "Beyond the Mekong: Celebrating 30 Years of Service within the Southeast Asian Community"**

SEARAC will be hosting its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in the Green Room of the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center on September 26, 2009. The evening's festivities will include a VIP reception, a full dinner, exciting speakers, an awards ceremony, and cultural entertainment. The awards ceremony will pay tribute to

outstanding individuals and organizations that have empowered and created positive change for the Southeast Asian American community. Information and tickets are available at [www.searac.org/searac-30anniversary.html](http://www.searac.org/searac-30anniversary.html).

## GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### **HOPE Initiative, Inc.'s 2009 Scholarship Program**

HOPE Initiative, Inc. will be awarding ten \$1,000 scholarships to ten high school, college, or graduate students. Students must be attending full time, high school, college, or graduate schools, and must be upstanding citizens, role models for other students, and active members or leaders of their community. Applications are due May 31<sup>st</sup>. For more information about the application process, go to <http://www.hionline.org/scholarship.aspx>.

### **VACCEB Community Scholarships**

The Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay is offering two \$500 scholarships for two Vietnamese American high school seniors in the East Bay who write essays demonstrating their involvement in the Vietnamese community. One scholarship will go toward an applicant that is related to a senior participant at the senior center and one scholarship will go to an applicant in the wider community. Applications will be due May 29<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 pm. For more information about the application and essay prompt, go to [www.vacceb.net](http://www.vacceb.net).