

The Fierce Advocate



Spring 2009 Edition

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Upcoming

SAALT's 2009 South Asian Summit. April 24-26, 2009, in Washington, DC

[Register](#)

Engage Her Multicultural Women's Leadership Conference. April 25-26, 2009, in Berkeley, CA

[Register](#)

International Workers Day and Immigrants Rights Rallies. May 1, 2009

Welcome to the new Fierce Advocate!

Dear Fierce Sisters,

Welcome to NAPAWF's new quarterly organizing newsletter! Our goal is to keep you regularly updated on NAPAWF's organizing efforts, latest news, and chapter activities. But unlike a river, the information happily flows both ways. If you know of an upcoming event, have chapter updates, or would like to see something published in the newsletter, please drop us a line and [let us know](#). Looking forward to hearing from you!

In sisterhood,
NAPAWF National

Chapter updates: Joe Biden, HERstory + more

--Washington, DC chapter--

The DC chapter worked with former NAPAWF National Board Chair, **Christina Lagdameo**, to host a fundraiser for [Odanadi](#), an anti-trafficking organization based in India. The funds that were raised will be used for the care and empowerment of women and girls who were formerly trafficked. The DC chapter is gearing up for some exciting activities in the next few months, including their next Afternoon Tea discussion, which will focus on media stereotypes of Asian American women through history; and [Pride and Heritage](#), an annual event which celebrates the accomplishments of LGBTQ Asian Americans, scheduled for early May. Contact [Pang Houa](#) for more info.

2009 California API Policy Summit. May 26-27, 2009, in Sacramento, CA

[Register](#)

First Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking. October 29-31, 2009, in Lincoln, NE

[Register](#)

APHA 137th Annual Meeting & Exposition. November 7-11, 2009, in Philadelphia, PA

[Register](#)

Other news

**SAVE THE DATE!
Join Congressional leaders at the 4th Annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Town Hall**

Each year, the [Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus](#) hosts a Town Hall meeting to discuss key issues facing the AAPI community. The meeting attracts Congressional leaders such as Speaker of the House **Nancy Pelosi** and Senate Majority Leader **Harry Reid**, Congressional staff, API advocates and community members from across the country who come together on Capitol Hill. **Join NAPAWF at this year's Town Hall, and stay tuned for details!**

Updates from the Pan Asian



--St. Cloud chapter--

On March 19, Vice President Biden hosted a [Town Hall meeting](#) in St. Cloud, MN, to discuss the President's economic recovery plans. NAPAWF St. Cloud members **Anjali Dreyer**, **Azania Tripp**, **Tahira Naroth**, and **Hedy Tripp** attended the Town Hall, and

Azania addressed Vice President Biden with a question about how the "newly established White House Council of Women and Girls was going to collaborate with the economic recovery plans to ensure long-term equality for women and girls." Vice President Biden assured Azania that unlike previous economic recovery efforts, women were not going to be left out, and cited President Obama's ongoing commitment to gender equity.

--Seattle chapter--

In honor of International Women's Day and Women's History Month, the Seattle chapter hosted a HERstory event entitled "Women Organizing Across Cultures for a Common Agenda," featuring **Dawn Mason** and **Dolores Sibonga**. The HERstory project features regular speaker panels and community forums among APA women and girls that build intergenerational ties and takes steps toward institutionalizing the history of APA women's activism through community storytelling. Contact [Mary](#) for more info.

--SF Bay Area chapter--

Over in the Bay ("Yay") Area, the fierce sisters are coming together to address the issues of human trafficking and sex work, starting with a reading group led by fierce sister **Candace Chen**. Spring has officially begun and things are moving at full speed with increased events and membership recruitment, led by co-chairs **Linda Yang** and **Julia Rhee**. Later this spring, our newest Bay Area sister, **Mary Watts**, will also be guiding chapter members on data collection and reporting for the [API community in the U.S. Census](#) and how the chapter can be a part of the solution for accurate community representation. Please also look out for NAPAWF Bay Area representin' at the [Multicultural Women's Leadership Conference](#), convened by Engage Her, coming up April 25-26 on the UC Berkeley campus.

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CYWC begins campus social action

Women Network

Betty Hawk, a member of the Pan Asian Women Network--an Asian American women's organization that preceded NAPAWF--appeared on [To the Contrary](#), a PBS radio show. She interviewed with Joy Fowlin about the obstacles APA women face when planning for retirement, including how Social Security factors into the plan. The Pan Asian Women Network, founded in 1976, is the oldest public policy organization dedicated to APA women's issues.

New video from NAPW

Check out a blog and video commentary from our friends at National Advocates for Pregnant Women entitled "[How PersonhoodUSA Will Hurt All Pregnant Women](#)".

Message from Sister to Sister: The National Women's Heart Health Foundation

Help join the fight against heart disease, the number one killer of women. Participate in SCREEN 4 from Sister to Sister: The National Women's Heart Health Foundation. Go to www.sistertosister.org/screen4 and sign up for the free online initiative that encourages women to get screened for heart disease and recruits three others to join them. Log on soon, because for every team of four



The nine students of the [California Young Women's Collaborative](#), NAPAWF's youth-led API women's health project, have been busy working towards better women's health on the UC Berkeley campus this semester.

Last year, the CYWC students collected survey responses from over 1,400 UC Berkeley undergraduate women about their experiences with sexual assault and the student health center's sexual health services. The resulting groundbreaking data has informed the students' current efforts to make the UC Berkeley campus more responsive and culturally sensitive to women's health issues, with a particular focus on API women's health.

Along with on-campus social action, the students have also become sought-out presenters at a variety of speaking engagements this semester, including at UC Berkeley's Tang Center Awareness Week, the 2009 API Issues Conference, the UC AAPI Multi-Campus Research Program & East Bay Asian Consortium Convening, and the upcoming California API Policy Summit.

Look out for CYWC factsheets about the students' research findings, coming soon!

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Dispatches from the Freedom Network



On March 18-19, eleven NAPAWF members and staff convened in Dallas, TX, to attend the 6th Annual [Freedom Network Conference](#). The Freedom Network is a coalition of non-governmental organizations that provide services to, and advocate for the rights of, trafficking survivors in the United States. In conjunction with this year's theme, "**Increasing Awareness, Assisting Victims, Prosecuting the Perpetrators, Serving the Survivors**," NAPAWF members learned more about human trafficking issues, met with

that signs up by June 21, Sister to Sister will donate **one free screening to a woman in need.**

[Donate to NAPAWF](#)

[...Because you like the work that we do.](#)

[Membership](#)

[Join NAPAWF today and be a part of the fierce sisterhood!](#)

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various federal, local and non-governmental efforts to combat trafficking in the U.S. and brought our API women's multi-issue, progressive approach to the conference. All the NAPAWF sisters who attended the conference have pledged to share their learning and continue their work with our chapters and members. If you want a briefing presentation, or have a project or campaign idea, please [let us know!](#)

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Kappa*Noodle brings in fun and funds



On February 19, the [Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority](#) at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, put on an extremely successful all-you-can-eat noodle event called Kappa*Noodle. As if the noodles weren't enough, they also held an auction, with all proceeds benefiting NAPAWF National. Thank you to **Kappa Phi Lambda** and Philanthropy Chair Maggie Chu for all of your hard work in organizing the event!

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National-chapter structure, new and improved!

Change is in the air... not only within the country, but within NAPAWF National as well! NAPAWF has seen many changes this past year including staff transitions and the start of a new executive office in New York City. All of these new places and faces mean that we've also re-engineered some of the flows of information and communication between National and Chapters. Each chapter co-chair has received personal calls from a national staff person to explain this new structure, and we will continue to work with chapter leaders to

ensure a smooth transition.

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NAPAWF in the news

--Azania Tripp, NAPAWF St. Cloud member, was [quoted in the St. Cloud Times](#) about her participation at Vice President Biden's Economic Recovery Town Hall meeting.

--Priscilla Huang, Policy and Programs Director, was [interviewed about the HPV vaccine requirement for immigrants](#) on Med Page today.

--Nancy Chung, Reproductive Justice Fellow, was [heard on KPFK's Morning Review](#) discussing the immigrant HPV vaccine mandate.

--Priscilla Huang wrote a [blog post on Feministing](#) that drew parallels between the pre-Roe movement for reproductive rights, and the current movement for immigrant justice.

--Priscilla Huang [guest blogged on the ACLU's Blog of Rights](#) in opposition to funding restrictions that block the ability for service providers to offer reproductive and sexual health services for survivors of human trafficking.

--Liezl Tomas Rebugio was [featured as an "Innovator" and activist to watch](#) in ColorLines.

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Staff comings and goings...



NAPAWF is excited to welcome **Lan Nguyen** as its 2009 [Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies](#) Fellow! Lan first came to NAPAWF as an Amherst College Winternship Public Service Fellow and is delighted that she's back in the DC office as part-time staff. At Amherst, she was a founding member of the Five-College Pan Asian Network (5PAN), an intercollegiate APA activism organization that seeks to raise awareness and mobilize students around such issues as on-campus hate crimes, immigrant rights, educational disparity, and more. Abroad, Lan worked at an orphanage for physically and mentally disabled children in Saigon, Viet Nam through the Tom Gerety Fellowship for Action, and studied in Denmark through the Minorities and Multiculturalism

program. At NAPAWF she will be working on immigrant rights and health care reform issues.



On the other side of the country, NAPAWF sadly saw the departure of **Liezl Tomas Rebugio**, our former Anti-Trafficking Project Director. Liezl was the driving force behind the development and launch of our Anti-Trafficking program, and in a short amount of time became a nationally recognized leader on human trafficking issues. As the principal author of [*Rights to Survival and Mobility: An Anti-Trafficking Activist's Agenda*](#), Liezl was instrumental in crafting NAPAWF's survivor-centered, human rights-based approach to addressing human trafficking issues, and helped us understand complex trafficking issues through an intersectional race and gender justice analysis. Thank you, Liezl, for your fierce leadership and advocacy!

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The Fierce Advocate is the quarterly organizing newsletter of the [National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum](#).

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