

Asian Pacific American Program Newsletter

Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program

July 2008

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Welcome to the Newsletter!

With this email, we start a new project at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program. Over the next year, monthly newsletters will keep you updated on new events, programs, exhibits, etc. at the Smithsonian. We will also feature historical events and people to spread the shared knowledge of the Asian Pacific American (APA) community across America.

Hopefully this new newsletter will be a fun, colorful, and interesting way to receive information each month. Please note, though, if you would like to unsubscribe to this newsletter at any time, you have that option at the end of the page.

Thanks so much, and please excuse any minor mistakes as we start off on this new endeavor!

Title Contest: \$25 Amazon Gift Card!

You may have noticed that we are currently without a catchy newsletter title. We would like to ask you, the readers, to submit ideas for a new name. The prize for having your title chosen will be a \$25 gift certificate to Amazon.com. Should your name be chosen for the newsletter, we will contact you with further details. If we receive duplicate newsletter titles, we will award the first submission. Please email submissions to esmanr@si.edu with the subject heading: Newsletter Title Submission.

Night of Recognition: OCA to Honor Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program

By Amanda L. Andrei

For over a decade, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program has served as a resource center for the range and talent of the Asian and Pacific American community. On Friday, August 1, 2008 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) will honor the APA Program and its director, Dr. Franklin Odo, for their cultural and educational contributions.

Back in 1995, there were no concrete blueprints for an APA Program -- only the drive to integrate the array of Asian and Pacific American experiences into the Smithsonian museums. Support came from individuals such as Irene Hirano, head of the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Los Angeles, and Jack Tchen, then a Queens College professor in New York City (now teaching at New York University).

Franklin Odo credits three main people for the program's early success: Marshall Wong from the Center for Museum Studies, Stacey Suyat, an administrator knowledgeable of the APA community with the ability to cut through red tape, and James Early, then the Assistant Secretary for Education and Public Service.

For further reading, please click [here](#).

Dr. Odo to Receive JACL Award

Dr. Franklin Odo has contributed greatly to the Asian Pacific Americans community. From being the director of the Smithsonian APA Program, a curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, to an accomplished author and editor, to teaching young students about the rich history of the APAs, he has been a valuable asset for many years.

In recognition of his countless accomplishments, the 2008 JACL (Japanese American Citizens League) National Convention's Sayonara Banquet will honor Dr. Odo with the prestigious President's Award.

Dr. Odo will receive the honor at the convention held in Salt Lake City, Utah on July 19, 2008.

The Japanese American Citizens League was started in 1929, amidst immigration quarrels and racist leanings, to fight for and uphold the civil rights of Americans of Japanese descent.

"Singgalot" Exhibit Opens in Los Angeles

The Smithsonian's exhibit dedicated to the Filipino American experience, "*Singgalot: The Ties That Bind*," opens at Remy's Art Gallery, 2126 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, on August 2 and remains on view until October 26, 2008.

The exhibit tells the story of the Filipino American experience in America, from the farm workers in Hawai'i who arrived in 1906 to the contemporary lives of Filipino Americans across the nation. Developed by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program and curated by former University of Hawai'i professor Dean Alegado, it explores the themes of history, culture, community, and the struggles and triumphs of the last 100 years within the Filipino American community.

Arriving in Los Angeles first, this exhibit is available to travel over pre-determined slots until 2011.

For more information on the exhibit or to book it at a venue, please visit www.filam.si.edu.

This Month in History

The Bayonet Constitution of 1887

In July 6, 1887, the Hawaiian monarchy lost much of its power in a coerced signing of the Hawai'i Constitution, also known as the Bayonet Constitution.

King Kalakaua reigned over an independent kingdom recognized by the international community. However, the Hawaiian League, a group of 400 members (mostly Americans) had other ideas. Led by Lorrin A. Thurston, this group forced Kalakaua to sign their constitution, giving the Legislature and the Cabinet the preponderance of political power, largely in the hands of the League.

American and European males, although foreign, were granted the right to vote in order to diminish the power of Native Hawaiians. Election to the House of Nobles was restricted to individuals with substantial incomes or property. Asians were entirely excluded.

The House of Nobles became restricted to people with high income or large estates, which excluded two-thirds of the Native Hawaiian population. This act paved the way for eventual overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy and its absorption into the American empire.

For more information on the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program, our events and programs, or contacting members of our staff, please visit our website at www.apa.si.edu.

We hope you've enjoyed the first edition of our monthly newsletter! Hope to see you soon at our upcoming events!

– Becky Esman and Amanda Andrei
Newsletter Editors