

Asian American Women's Coalition (AAWC)



Virtual Annual Meeting

March 6, 2021



Continuing Our Legacy Program:

**How “Smarties” Survive & Thrive
in a Time of Uncertainty**

Featuring

**The Philadelphia Health Department
Presentation on Covid-19 Update**



Keystone First

THE POWELL FAMILY FOUNDATION



PECO®

An Exelon Company

PROGRAM

WELCOME & GREETINGS

- **Elizabeth Lai Featherman**, *AAWC President*
- **Ken Vuong**, *Senior Financial Analyst, PECO Financial Operations & PECO Asian American Resource Group President*

RECOGNITIONS (presented by **Cecilia Moy Yep & Ida Chen**, *AAWC Co-Founders*)

- **Im Ja Choi**, *Founder & CEO, Penn Asian Senior Services (PASSi)*
- **Community Recognition: Meeting the Challenges of COVID-19 in 2020**
 - **Philadelphia Chinese Community Organizations United** (*Waiman Ip*)
 - **Greater Philadelphia Asian American Lions Club** (*Grace Kong, Lynn Mac, Ying Ng*)
 - **Chinese American Women's Sisterhood Society of Philadelphia** (*Grace Kong*)
 - **Korean American Association of Greater Philadelphia** (*Sharon Hartz and Jhan Kim*)
 - **Ascend Greater Philadelphia** (*Elaine Cheong, Ny Chhour, Julius L. Del Rosario, Alex Han, Cindy Phuonh, Amanda Tien, Yen Tieu, Ana I.M. Van De Walle, Simon Wong*)
 - **Kampoeng Indonesia** (*Diana Widjojo, Irza Hajati, Aditya Setyawan, Lilian Christaka, Novi Dermawan, Sinta Penyami Storms*)
 - **Christine Wong**, *volunteer, Northeast Philadelphia Development Corporation*
 - **National Association of Asian American Professionals** (*Cindy Ng, Diane Nguyen, Amy Hong, Kristy Li, Annie Chung, Catherine Rheault, Alice Fei, Peggy Kelly, Lori Chen, Tracey Nguyen*)
 - **Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation** (*Rachel Mak, Rosaline Yang, Lamei Zhang*)
 - **Northeast Philadelphia Chinese Association** (*Pearl Huynh*)
 - **Percy Tse**, *Intern, Four Oxen*
 - **Anna Perng**, *Community leader & advocate*

PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PRESENTATION
COVID-19 UPDATE & THE ASIAN COMMUNITY

- **Rhona Cooper**, *Public Health Preparedness Clinical Coordinator*, City of Philadelphia

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

- **Dr. Yong-Tong Li**, *Psychiatrist*

WHAT THE AAWC SCHOLARSHIP MEANS TO ME

Introduction by **Kathy Ngee**, *Chair of AAWC Scholarship Committee*

- **Anna Vien Nguyen**, University of Pennsylvania (2018 *Powell Family Foundation Scholar*)
- **Weena Doyle**, Drexel University (2010 *PECO Scholar*)
Emergency Medical Technician, Narberth Ambulance
- **Video clips** from **Daniel Peou**, *Principal*, Furness High School, and **Teresa McGill**, *Director of Guidance*, West Catholic Preparatory High School

AAWC ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

- Collaboration with Kampoeng Indonesia

COMFORT BREAK – STRETCHING EXERCISE

- **Lanica Angpak**, *Founder & Director*, Cambodian American Girls Empowering (CAGE)

AAWC ANNUAL MEETING

- Report from the President & Treasurer
 - **Elizabeth Lai Featherman**, *AAWC President*
 - **Margaret Chin**, *AAWC Treasurer*

CLOSING REMARKS

- Elizabeth Lai Featherman, *AAWC President*

RAFFLE/DOOR PRIZES

Honoree: *ImJa Choi*



Im Ja Choi is the Founder and CEO of Penn Asian Senior Service (PASSi), the largest Asian-serving homecare provider in Southeast Pennsylvania today. Im Ja's vision and leadership propelled PASSi's growth from a small non-profit organization to a multi-subsidary agency that

has over 600 employees serving more than 750 seniors. PASSi has gained local, national, and international recognition for its work with the culturally marginalized aging population.

Im Ja founded PASSi (formerly Korean American Senior Services of Pennsylvania) in 2004 to help her mother, who was then recovering from stomach cancer. As a child of immigrant parents, she wanted her mother to have home care assistance without the added burden of language disparity.

While initially focusing on Korean elderly, Im Ja's awareness of the widespread need for culturally and linguistically appropriate services fueled her desire to offer PASSi services to seniors and aging adults in other Asian populations. To support this effort, she established a State licensed Vocational Institute to train PASSi's home health aides, including bilingual certified nursing assistants for local health institutions. Training is offered in English and several Asian languages (Korean, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Khmer). Since 2006, PASSi trained more than 1,000 home health aides, 400 CNAs, and 250 vocational English students. Im Ja also donated \$105,000 of the \$125,000 award she received as a 2011 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Community Health Leader to support research on Asian seniors in the Greater Philadelphia region.

In 2014, Im Ja continued to expand PASSi's programming with the establishment of the Penn Asian Jubilee Center, a 100-capacity adult day care facility offering



culturally and linguistically-based services for Asian seniors. In April 2019, PASSi opened the Evergreen Center for active Asian retirees, with amenities that include, among others, heated swimming pool and sauna, auditorium, garden café, and fitness room. The PASSi Kitchen Xpress opened in April 2020 to provide meal delivery service to Asian American seniors who are unable to come to the Jubilee Center due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

PASSi's work has not gone unnoticed. The Global Ageing



Network conferred on PASSi the Excellence in Aging Service Award at its bi-annual conference in Montreux, Switzerland in September 2017. The PA Department of Labor and Industry in December 2020 named PASSi as one of three recipients (out of 78 nominees) of the

Governor's Award for Safety Excellence.

Im Ja serves on the PA Department of Aging Cultural Diversity Advisory Council, and the PA Commission on Women. Im Ja has an MS degree in Organizational Dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania, and a BA degree from Korea University.

Source: Penn Asian Senior Services Inc. <https://passi.us/>



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

We appreciate the efforts of individuals and organizations who supported and worked with Asian and other communities to address the many challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHILADELPHIA CHINESE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS UNITED

Waiman Ip, *Board Secretary*



Donated 25,000 face masks to healthcare workers and first responders at Temple University Hospital, Thomas Jefferson Hospital, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, House of Dragon Firehouse, 6th District Police station, and police station in New Jersey. Also distributed masks to On Lok Senior House and 801 Locust Postal Senior Apartment.



GREATER PHILADELPHIA ASIAN AMERICAN LIONS CLUB

Grace Kong, Lynn Mac, Ying Ng



Distributed 10,000 facemasks to first responders and police officers at the 6th Police District and to the Fire Fighters at the House of Dragon in Philadelphia Chinatown.

Distributed 50,000 face masks to the Chinese community in Philadelphia Chinatown from August 15, 2020 to September 19, 2020 for 6 consecutive weeks.

Partnered with Councilmember Bobby Henon's office to distribute food in Chinatown. Donated 500 mooncakes and 80 cases of tangerines to the community on September 27, 2020.

CHINESE AMERICAN WOMEN'S SISTERHOOD SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA

Grace Kong, *President*



- Donated \$1000 to the Philadelphia Chinese Community Organizations United to support personal protective equipment donation to China.
- Raised \$6000 to support Philadelphia

Chinese Community Organizations United donation of personal protective equipment to health workers and first responders.

- Donated funds to Ascend of Greater Philadelphia to support Asian restaurants delivering lunch to front line workers at various Philadelphia hospitals.
- Donated 12,000 mask to Health Center #2 in Northeast Philadelphia.



KOREAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Sharon Hartz, *President*, and
Jhan Kim, *Chair*, Make a Mask Committee



The Committee partnered with organizations, businesses, and individuals in the Korean community to make and



donate fabric masks, N95 masks, and disposable masks to local hospitals, nursing facilities, township offices, police stations, the Montgomery County Commissioners' office, senior associations, senior

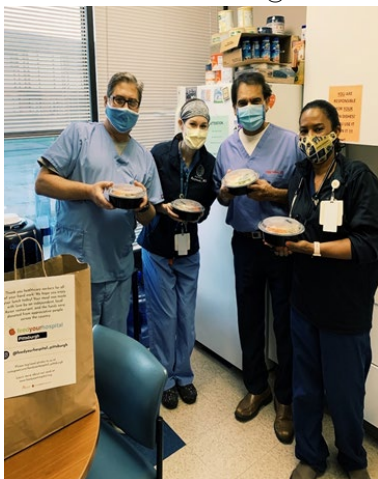
apartments, and schools. The committee members, and a team of 70 volunteers, have distributed 46,000 masks, valued at \$90,000, to vulnerable individuals and local facilities.

ASCEND – PAN-ASIAN LEADERS GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Elaine Cheong, *President*

Ny Chhour, Julius L. Del Rosario, Alex Han,
Cindy Phuonh, Amanda Tien, Yen Tieu,
Ana I.M. Van De Walle, Simon Wong

Feed Your Hospital Project



UPMC-Pittsburgh



MetroHealth



Methodist Hospital

KAMPOENG INDONESIA

Diana Widjojo, Irza Hajati, Aditya Setyawan,
Lilian Christaka, Novi Dermawan, and
Sinta Penyami Storms



Distribution of monthly care packages to the
South Philadelphia community; year to date contribution
totaling over \$50,000.



Christine L. Wong, *Volunteer*
NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA DEVELOPMENT CORP.



Conducted community education and organized 24 weeks of food distribution, from July to December 2020, in Northeast Philadelphia.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS – PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

- Lori Chen
- Annie Chung
- Alice Fei
- Amy Hong
- Peggy Kelly
- Kristy Li
- Cindy Ng
- Diane Nguyen
- Tracey Nguyen
- Catherine Rheault



On October 10, 2020, NAAAP held a Frontline Workers Appreciation Day – an event to honor and recognize frontline and healthcare workers. Some 50 volunteers gathered at the Navy Yard to deliver lunches and personal protective equipment to eight healthcare organizations and first responders in the Philadelphia metro area (Crozer-Chester Medical Center, Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC; Einstein Medical Center, Lankenau Medical Center, Roxborough Memorial Hospital, St. Mary's Medical Center, Temple University Hospital, & Thomas Jefferson University Hospital).

NAAAP donated over 80 cases of hand sanitizers, 3,000 face masks, 500 meals prepared by Sang Kee Restaurant, and 800 customized heroes T-shirts.

PENN ASIAN SENIOR SERVICES, INC. (PASSi)

Im Ja Choi, *Founder and CEO*

PASSi *Kitchen Xpress*, prepares and delivers nutritionally balanced meals to Asian seniors, whose movements have been restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Asian meals are delivered five days per week in partnership with PASSi's transportation partner, MERCY Fleet.

Since its launch in April 2020, PASSi *Kitchen Xpress* has delivered more than 21,000 meals to seniors.

PHILADELPHIA CHINATOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (PCDC)

Rachel Mak, Rosaline Yang, and Lamei Zhang



Distributed masks and food to the community, and provided support to Chinatown businesses.

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA CHINESE ASSOCIATION

Pearl Huynh, *President*



- Raised funds to purchase masks and sanitary supplies for Public Health Center #10. About 6,000 masks were delivered in June-August 2020.
- NEPCA volunteers called over 100 seniors to check their health conditions, assisted those who live alone in applying for home delivery meals, and brought food/food

supplies to the elderly and the ill.

- Partnered with the Share Food Program by developing two distribution sites in Castor Gardens and in Mayfair to make available fresh produce to residents in Northeast Philadelphia.
- Assisted the Fujianese Church, and other community organizations with their initial food site operations in the Northeast neighborhood by recruiting volunteers who provided information to residents.
- Worked with agencies to assist 23 non-resident immigrant families in applying for the Philadelphia Worker Relief Fund; each family received an \$800 grant.
- Raised \$200 to fund \$20 gift certificates for the homeless, who attended information sessions on applying for COVID-19 stimulus grants.

PERCY TSE

Intern, Four Oxen; Sophomore, Rutgers University
Member, Philadelphia SUNS



Percy started a service project in September 2020 to provide 26,000 masks to the homeless in Philadelphia and New Jersey in view of the COVID pandemic. The masks were delivered to the Sunday Love Project, Project Home, Covenant House PA, and eight other organizations.



Percy received an additional donation of 100,000 masks, which were delivered in February 2021 to PCDC and SUNS for distribution to the vulnerable population in the Chinatown area.

A total of 126,000 masks had been collected and distributed.

ANNA PERNG

Community Leader and Advocate



- Advocated for language accessibility for COVID and health information for the Asian community
- Conducted outreach calls to educate the Asian community members on the COVID-19 vaccine
- Connected the Food Share Program to Chinatown
- An extraordinary activist who advocated for support and action for victims of COVID-related racism and violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community
- Serves on the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities Commission



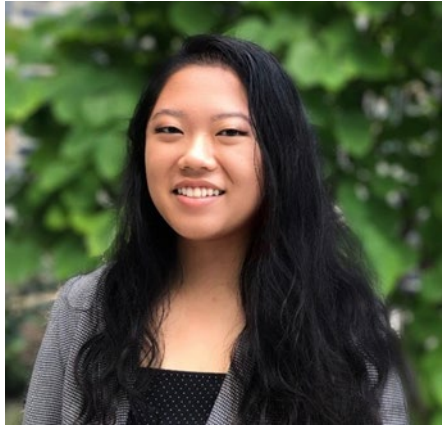
UPDATES FROM PAST & CURRENT AAWC SCHOLARS

*Sharing their thoughts on how
they have coped and supported
others during the time of the
COVID-19 pandemic ...*

Michelle Chan

2018 AAWC Scholar

Temple University



I'm the Vice President of Active Minds at Temple University, a student run organization for mental health awareness. Our organization helps students find success despite the struggles they face. During the pandemic, I've been fundraising and shipping out care packages to our members and planning virtual events.

Morgan Hural

2019 Independence Blue Cross Scholar

Sophomore at Bloomsburg University



This semester was definitely harder than any other because of online classes. I found myself having a little more trouble focusing and in completely understanding the texts. But I dedicated myself to my schoolwork and ended up getting a 4.0 GPA and making the Dean's List!

It was difficult to participate in extracurricular activities since most of the clubs I am in, like the Dance Ensemble, were not allowed to continue this semester. However, I was still able to go to my work-study job as an office assistant for the Human Resources Department, and attend meetings via Zoom for the Accounting Association. Since I am an accounting major, this club was a great opportunity for me to meet people in the industry and start connecting and networking for internships and jobs.

Although challenging, this semester gave me a lot of great memories and was definitely one to remember!

Linda Jiang

2019 PECO Scholar

University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Class of 2022



This past semester I completed the second part of our Anatomy course and learned how to conduct the full head-to-toe assessment, so I will be able to start OB clinical during the spring semester.

I also worked as a work-study student for Penn Medicine's Cardiology Department and learned to analyze images of the heart.

Furthermore, I continued to engage with the Asian Community at Penn by staying involved, although virtually, in organizations, such as APANSA, 7/8, and APALI. For APANSA (the Asian Pacific American Nursing Student Association), I was elected Programming Chair for the next two semesters and will be planning virtual events to engage the PennNursing Asian community.

Balancing a virtual semester was most definitely challenging, but understanding that a virtual format is necessary to keep people safe made the past semester more bearable.

Queenie Lam

2015 AAWC Scholar

2nd Year Clinical Psychology Ph.D. student at New York at Long Island University- Brooklyn



I am currently working as a mental health counselor at my university's clinic and supporting patients who face many difficulties during the pandemic. A few of the individuals I have supported via teletherapy were positive for COVID-19, and have successfully overcome it.

All professionals are learning to adapt to the changes brought about by the pandemic, while facing their own personal challenges as well.

Jingru Lin

2018 Sandra Featherman Memorial Scholar

Villanova University



This is a photo of me with the executive board members of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Villanova chapter. I helped our chapter plan a virtual annual conference for 130 professional & student members.

During the summer of 2020, I volunteered with the Asian Americans United (AAU) and the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC) for work related to the presidential election. I helped AAU make phone calls to encourage Asian Americans to participate in the elections. At the request of PCDC, I provided interpreter services for community members on mail-in ballots. I was glad to have contributed to my community's effort so our voices can be heard.

2020 has been a tough year for a lot of people, but we came out stronger!

WinLy Mai

2014 Margaret Chin Scholar
Drexel University



I am currently in an accelerated nursing program at Drexel University.

Than Nian

2017 AAWC Scholar



I am working as a Medical Assistant at Southeast Health Center. With many changes and challenges during the pandemic, I am happy I could be an essential part in helping the community.

Lena Oeun

2020 Powell Merit Scholar

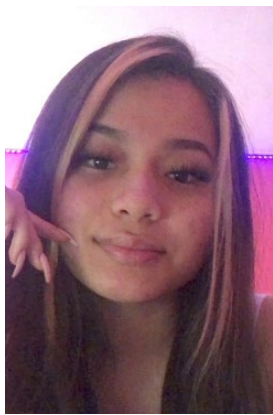
Temple University



I've been actively posting personal educational finance videos on my social media platforms. It includes many different ways people can pay for their college or personal education but also creating awareness on preparing long term for any future financial economic impact. Overall my goal is to ease financial burden by providing useful information through colorful and entertaining content creation.

Lucy Vo

2020 PECO Merit Scholar



I am currently in the process of applying for volunteer positions with different hospitals.

Grace Welsh

2020 Wells Fargo Scholar

Chestnut Hill College



Life has been unusual these past few months of the pandemic. I stayed home much of the time, and have been busy starting my first year as a college student online. I now anxiously await for the hopeful return to campus for the spring semester.

The annual Christmas bazaar, my parish's largest fundraiser and my favorite volunteer activity, was cancelled due to present conditions. However, I still was able to volunteer as an altar server at my local parish. I continue to altar serve during live-streamed Masses so that our elderly parishioners, including those who are health-compromised or quarantining, could attend the weekly Mass. I have also been given the job as a sacristan at my parish.

Winnie Wong

2020 Powell Scholar

New York University



This year, I participated in the First Year Study Away Program at NYU's Washington DC campus. After a few weeks, I noticed the large homeless population in DC, and wondered what I could do to keep the homeless safe during the pandemic. With support from NYU DC, I spent three months organizing a walk to raise funds for the homeless - to buy PPEs, thermometers, and disinfectants for DC's homeless shelters. We walked 9,763 steps, which represents the number of homeless people in DC. The photo above shows me, and my friends who helped organize this event, at the end of our walk.

I also serve on the executive board of NYU's Asian American Women's Alliance, and help raise awareness for minorities who have been highly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Michelle Wu

2019 PNC Scholar

COVID-19 saw the rise of xenophobia and hate crimes against Asian Americans. My social media feed became



filled with rants and violent postings about Asians. While being on social media was exhausting and took a toll on me mentally, I wanted to document and spread positivity in the Asian community.

I created a short documentary that examines how Asian American organizations in Philadelphia are working to keep their communities safe from COVID-19 and the racism spurred by the pandemic. I focused not only on adversity faced by the Asian community during the pandemic, but on their resilience. I wanted to show the beauty of the Asian community, and for Asians to be proud of who they are. Especially in a time like this, I felt it was crucial to highlight how communities can stand together and advocate for social justice. My documentary, *A Side of Light*, was recognized and screened at the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival as the opening film during its virtual screening event. This film also gave me a chance to be spotlighted on an ABC News interview with Alicia Vitarelli.

Academically, it was a challenge to transition to a remote environment, I am very proud to say that I've completed my Fall 2020 semesters on the Dean's List.

Shu Lin Zhao

PECO Scholar

Drexel College of Medicine; MD candidate 2023



I'm in my second semester of second year medical school at Drexel University College of Medicine and I've just been attending classes and studying during this pandemic. I haven't really done much else in terms of clinical care, but have attended some regional and national conferences about healthcare issues in the AAPI community and COVID-19.

A photograph of a white surface, possibly a desk or table. In the top right corner, a gold-colored pen lies diagonally across a piece of lined paper. In the bottom left corner, there are two pink chrysanthemum flowers with green stems. The text "FEATURED SPEAKERS" is centered in the middle of the image.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Yong-Tong Li, MD

Psychiatrist, Cpl. Michael J. Crescenz VA
Medical Center, Philadelphia



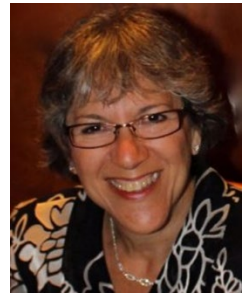
Dr. Yong-Tong Li is a board certified psychiatrist and a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Currently she practices at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Philadelphia. She is passionate about community outreach, especially on the issue of suicide prevention among young people.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Li has been doing volunteer work on psychological peer support for front line health care providers, and community outreach mental health through MHFCA.

Dr. Li is one of co-founders of the Mental Health Forum for Chinese Americans (MHFCA). She was a counseling psychiatrist at the Counseling and Psychological Services of the University of Pennsylvania for more than 17 years, and was an attending psychiatrist at the Hall-Mercer, Community Mental Health Center of Pennsylvania Hospital for more than a decade.

Rhona Cooper

Public Health Preparedness Clinical
Coordinator
Philadelphia Department of Health,
Division of Disease Control



Ms. Cooper is the MCM Coordinator and the Closed POD Coordinator for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), where she is a member of the Bio-Terrorism and Public Health Preparedness Program.

She represents PDPH in the Philadelphia Health Care Coalition. She has engaged with various partners and stakeholders on the forefront of emergency response, including acute and long term care health organization, law enforcement, government, and critical infrastructure agencies. She has also to reach out to various communities to disseminate information related to the pandemic.

Prior to joining PDPH, Ms. Cooper worked for 28 years with the School District of Philadelphia, first as a school nurse and then as a school nurse administrator. Ms. Cooper has been a proud member of the Philadelphia Medical Reserve Corps since 2011.

The **ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S COALITION** (AAWC) is a multicultural organization with a mission to advance the interests of Asian American women through leadership and mutual support. AAWC was founded in 1987 by the Honorable Ida Chen, first female Asian American Judge in Pennsylvania, and Cecilia Moy Yep, founder of the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation. AAWC's members include women from all professions and walks of life. AAWC has initiated numerous activities for the Asian community and collaborated with other organizations to raise awareness and provide support on issues of interest to the Asian American community. One of its main program is providing scholarship support to graduating Asian American female high school seniors interested in pursuing a college degree.

BOARD OFFICERS

Elizabeth Lai Featherman, *President*

Marife Domingo, *Vice President*

Margaret Chin, *Treasurer*

Rona Magno Navera, *Co-Secretary*

Lan Ngo, *Co-Secretary*

BOARD MEMBERS

Vicky Faye Aquino

Nancy Francis

Lily Higgins

Grace Kong

Virginia Lam

Pearl Lee

L. Lew

Rachel Mak

Kiran Matsko

Katherine Ngee

Carol Wong

Jenny Wong

Stephenie Yeung

Gloria Yu

ADVISORY BOARD

Im Ja Choi

Weena Doyle

Susanna Foo

Nydia Han

Melissa Kim

Leanna Lee Whitman

Diana Lin

Michelle Luu

Carissa Pineda

Wendy Smith

Cindy Suy

Natalia Tan

Thu Tran

Kim Vo

Margaret Yee

Suzanne Young

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Sponsors

PECO

The Powell Family Foundation

Keystone First

Special thanks to Mong Kok Station Bakery and Asia Bakery

Graphic Design

Vicky Faye Aquino

Annual Meeting Planning Committee

The Hon. Ida Chen

Marife Domingo

Elizabeth Featherman

Rona Navera

Lan Ngo

Gloria Yu

**We hope to see you again at the
AAWC Annual Banquet
on June 3, 2021**