



Asian American Women's Coalition

The 2024 AAWC Annual Meeting

Smarties in 2024, Continuing Our Legacy



**In partnership with PECO
Asian Bank | Asian Mosaic Funds
Methodist Hospital Foundation | Quantum Inc.**

*Saturday, March 16, 2024; 10:00 am - 1:30 pm
PECO Energy Hall, 2301 Market Street, Philadelphia*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Ida Chen, Margaret Chin, Marife Domingo, Grace Wu Kong,
Jacqui Lam, Pearl Lee, Anita Li, Rona Navera, Katherine Ngee,
Anna Vien Nguyen, Wendy Smith, Sarorng Sorn, Sophie Xu,
Cecilia Moy Yep, Gloria Yu

Clipart: <https://pictures.homes/helping-hand-heart-clipart>

Annual Meeting Program

10:00 AM WELCOME & GREETINGS

- **Grace Kong**, 2024 AAWC President
- **Alan Yun**, PECO AARG President

10:05 AM 2024 HEALTH UPDATE

- **Rhona Cooper**, Public Health Preparedness Clinical Coordinator, Philadelphia Health Department
- **Melanie Smith**, Director, Alzheimer's Association of Delaware Valley

Q & A Session

10:40 AM THE TRADITION OF GIVING: IT BEGINS WITH YOU & ME

Moderator:

- **Nydia Han**, Consumer Investigative Reporter & Co-Anchor, 6abc

Panelists:

- **Tiffany Tavaréz**, Senior Vice President, Technology Diverse Segments, Representation & Inclusion, Wells Fargo
- **Grant Natindim**, President, Filipino Intercultural Society of Drexel University (FISDU)
- **Rex Yin**, Executive Chair, Asian Mosaic Fund
- **Erika Acosta**, 2023 President, Penn Philippine Association, (PPA), University of Pennsylvania
- **Kathy Rubino**, Vice President of Development, The Fund for the School District of Philadelphia

- **Mandy Lee**, *President*, Alpha Sigma Rho (Epsilon Chapter), Temple University

Q & A Session

11:30 AM PANEL DISCUSSION WRAP –UP

- **Nydia Han**

11:35 AM AAWC SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

- Presided by **Cecilia Moy Yep** and **Judge Ida Chen**, *AAWC Co-Founders*

11:45 AM LUNCH & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

12:30 PM SPECIAL SCREENING: “10 TIMES BETTER”

- **Jennifer Lin**, *Producer/Director*

Q & A Session, moderated by **Nydia Han**

1:15 PM COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT (*to benefit St. John’s Hospice*)

- **Cecilia Moy Yep**, *Co-Founder*, AAWC

1:18 PM AAWC ANNUAL MEETING (*presentation of 2023 Annual Reports*)

- **Grace Wu Kong**, *AAWC President*
- **Margaret Chin**, *AAWC Treasurer*

CLOSING

- **Marife Domingo**, *AAWC Vice President*

1:25 PM DRAWING OF DOOR PRIZES

- Hosted by **Katherine Ngee**, *member*, AAWC Board of Directors & **Wendy Smith**, *member*, AAWC Advisory Board

SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS

ERIKA ACOSTA – Erika is a fourth-year undergraduate student at the University of Pennsylvania studying Health and Societies, with a concentration in Health Policy and Law and minors in English and Asian American Studies. She has been involved with the Penn Philippine Association (PPA) since her freshman year, and has served as Vice President of Communications, Director of Alumni Relations, and President of the Executive Board.



She was also the 2023 Cultural Show Co-Chair for the 25th Anniversary *Barrio*, where she co-wrote, directed, and choreographed the annual PPA Cultural Show. In this role, she partnered with AAWC to establish the PPA scholarship, which is partially funded by proceeds from the *Barrio* ticket sales.

A passionate advocate of minority health equity, violence prevention, and AAPI empowerment, she is currently involved as Penn Anti-Violence Educator, Student Harm Reduction Coalition Volunteer, and PEER Asian American Mentoring Program Mentor. She also plays the *bandurria* with the Philippine Folk Arts Society, Inc. Rondalla. In her free time, Erika does cross-stitching, makes corny jokes, or daydreams about stories she promises to write someday.

VICKY FAYE AQUINO – Vicky is the Associate Director of the Pan-Asian American Community House (PAACH) at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also a Lecturer at the Penn Language Center, focusing on Filipino language and culture. Before joining Penn, she worked in the areas of development and human resources for five years at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.



Vicky is on the advisory board of the Asian American Women's Coalition, where she previously served as a board member and chair of the Scholar Development Committee. She has been volunteering as event photographer for AAWC's annual community events for the past decade. She was also involved in several non-profit organizations,

including the Philippine Folk Arts Society, Inc., where she volunteered as a cultural performer and rondalla player. Recently, she became a board member of *Bahay Kultura*, the first Filipino American school in Philadelphia.

Vicky holds a double bachelor's degree in Psychology and Business Management from De La Salle University. She obtained her master's degree in Art and Design Education from The University of the Arts, where she graduated with distinction and received the Elizabeth C. Roberts Prize for her master's thesis, "*The Effects of Doodling on the Academic and Artistic Learning of K-12 Students.*" Vicky is also a traveler, a visual artist, and a proud mom. She has traveled to over 30 countries, and has hosted six solo art shows and group exhibitions in Philadelphia, New York, and Manila. She hopes to keep sharing her passion for travel and art with her growing family.



IDA CHEN – The Honorable Ida Chen was born in Hong Kong and migrated to the United States from Indonesia. She serves in the Philadelphia Family Court, and is the first female Asian American Judge in Pennsylvania.



MARGARET CHIN – Margaret retired from the School District of Philadelphia after 38 years of service working with the children of Philadelphia. Prior to her retirement, she was the principal at Southwark School in South Philadelphia, and served as a cabinet member of the central administration. She was among the first Asian American who held a high position at the School District, where she was responsible for ESOL/Bilingual, World Language, Art and Music, Cultural Exchange, Translation and Interpretation services. Margaret is also a highly respected and a dynamic leader in the Asian community. She served for multiple terms as President of the Asian American Educators, as well as the Asian American Women's Coalition. She is the current Vice Chair of Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation, a member of the Schoolmen's Club of Philadelphia, and serves as Trustee at the Christopher Ludwick Foundation.



RHONA COOPER, MSN, MA, RN - Rhona is the Clinical Coordinator on the Bio-Terrorism/Public Health Preparedness Team at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health's Division of Disease Control. She is an emergency planner involved in the development and implementation of the City of Philadelphia's response to public health emergencies.

She has been a leader in the planning and operation of the City's response to COVID-19, MPOX, and other biological emergencies. Rhona is particularly proud of her involvement in the City's management of the healthcare of 25,000 evacuees from Afghanistan at Philadelphia International Airport during Operation Allies Welcome, as well as the current sheltering of asylum seekers who have arrived in Philadelphia by buses sent from Texas.

Before joining the Department of Public Health, Ms. Cooper worked for over 28 years as a certified school nurse and a nurse administrator for the School District of Philadelphia.

GRACE WU KONG – Grace is the Director of the Chinese unit at Echelon Care and Rehabilitation Center in Voorhees, New Jersey. She manages this specialized unit to ensure that Chinese residents receive the care they need. The Center is staffed by multilingual interpreters, fluent in various Asian dialect, who conduct programming and activities appropriate to the residents' cultural diversity.



Grace is passionate about advocating for the senior population and volunteers in many community organizations to assist in educating immigrant communities.

She has been working in the medical field for the past 35 years in various capacities, including as Dietetic Technician/ Dietary Supervisor at Thomas Jefferson Hospital, Community Liaison and Interpreter at the Chinese Health Information Center, Personal Care Plus Specialist for Ameri-Choice for Medicare/Medicaid Dual patients. She assisted Ameri-Choice in opening the first Chinatown Community Service Center in Philadelphia, and helped provide information on Medicare, Medicaid, and Kids Choice benefits to the Asian communities. She also worked as Partnership

Specialist for the US Census Bureau for the 2010 and 2020 Decennial Census.

Grace currently serves as President of the Asian American Women Coalition, Commissioner for the Mayor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs in Philadelphia since 2016, and Secretary for the Asian American Lions Club. She sits as a member of the Board of Directors for Penn Asian Senior Services Inc., Asian Advisory Committee for Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, and the Northeast Philadelphia Chinese Association. She co-founded and was past president of the Chinese American Women's Sisterhood Society of Philadelphia.

Grace was born in Hong Kong, and raised in Philadelphia Chinatown. She attended Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic School and John W. Hallahan Girls Catholic HS. She holds an associate's degree in Dietetics in Food and Clinical Nutrition and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Gwynedd-Mercy University. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, exploring nature, traveling, dining out, and spending time with her three children and 2 grandchildren.

MARIFE DOMINGO – Marife is a Senior Manager, Business Architecture at Comcast. She has been with Comcast for thirteen years, first as a Senior Testing Engineer at Comcast Business and later as Manager at Xfinity, the company's residential service brand for consumers. Prior to joining Comcast, Marife worked at Temple University Beasley School of Law managing databases and judicial clerkship application process with the Office of Career Planning.



Marife serves as Vice President of AAWC, supporting its scholarship, membership, and outreach programs. She also manages a *Rondalla*, a Filipino string ensemble that holds annual benefit concerts for disaster victims in the Philippines. In 2022, Marife joined the first Public Orchestra concert in the city under the *Rehearsing Philadelphia* endeavor hosted by Drexel University and the Curtis Institute of Music.

Marife holds a bachelor's degree in Information Science and Technology from Temple University. She has master's degrees in Communications from the University of the Philippines and Human Organization Science from Villanova University.

NYDIA HAN – Nydia is 6abc's Consumer Investigative Reporter, Troubleshooter, and co-anchor of Action News Sunday mornings and Action News at 10 A.M. She is also the creator of the documentary series, #ThisIsAmerica, a provocative, fresh look at who we are as Americans.



Nydia is an Emmy award-winning journalist, committed to getting real results for our Action News viewers. She is dedicated to exposing scams, protecting consumers, and encouraging businesses and agencies to do the right thing. In her work related to #ThisIsAmerica, Nydia hopes to inspire all of us to get to know each other's unique American stories, check our own biases, and act as positive agents of change and unity in our communities. Nydia also covers general news as an Action News anchor and has traveled frequently to cover national stories.

Prior to joining Action News in October of 2002, Nydia worked for KTRK-TV, the ABC station in Houston, Texas, and KOCO-TV in Oklahoma City. Nydia started her career as a reporter at KIFI-TV in Pocatello, Idaho.

Nydia is dedicated to helping our community in a myriad of ways. She is on the community advisory board for the Asian American Women's Coalition and volunteers her time for a number of other organizations. She is especially passionate about raising awareness and desperately needed funds for lung cancer research after the passing of her mother in 2009. Nydia also enjoys mentoring aspiring journalists.

Nydia received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism with a focus on International Studies from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. Fluent in Korean, Nydia also graduated from a program at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea.

Nydia is a mom to two young children, a wife and a friend. She enjoys good food, good wine, and most of all, a good laugh.

Source: <https://6abc.com/about/newsteam/nydia-han/>



JENNIFER LIN – Jennifer Lin is a veteran journalist, who was stationed in Beijing, New York and Washington, D.C. for The Philadelphia Inquirer. “*Beyond Yellow Face*” is her third film project. In 2013, she produced “*Geil of Doylestown: Forgotten Explorer*.” In 2021, she produced and co-directed “*Beethoven in Beijing*”, which premiered nationally

on PBS’s Great Performances and was a finalist for the Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film. The project also received production support from the National Endowment for Humanities. Jennifer has written two books, *Shanghai Faithful: Betrayal and Forgiveness in a Chinese Christian Family* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017) and *Beethoven in Beijing: Stories from the Philadelphia Orchestra’s Historic Journey to China* (Temple University Press, 2022).

Source: <https://www.documentaries.org/filmmakers/jennifer-lin/>

MANDY LEE – Mandy is a Chinese American, born and raised in Northeast



Philadelphia. She is the first in her family to go to college, and will be completing her bachelor's degree in Nursing at Temple University in May 2024. After graduation, she plans to continue working as a patient care assistant while preparing for the National Council Licensure Examination-RN exam.

Mandy is the current President of the Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Sigma Rho Sorority, Inc. and works with other members to achieve the four pillars of the organization: academic excellence, interpersonal growth, moral development, and strength in unity. With her two-year leadership experience at Alpha Sigma Rho, she has learned the value of academic achievement, personal development, community engagement, and friendship. In her free time, Mandy enjoys cooking, baking, hanging out with friends, attending concerts, and traveling.

Join us at the AAWC Annual Banquet on May 16, 2024.

PEARL LEE – Pearl serves as Vice-President/Investments at Janney Montgomery Scott LLC where she advises individuals, families, and non-profits in achieving their financial goals. Prior to her current role, Pearl had a 19-year tenure at Morgan Stanley serving in the same capacity. Pearl is a Board Member and Treasurer at the Penn Asian Senior Services Inc. (PASSi), an organization that promotes the well-being of Asian American seniors and other adults challenged by language and cultural barriers. She is also on the Board of the Asian American Women's Coalition, where she serves as Finance Chair.



GRANT NATINDIM – Grant is the 2024 President of the Filipino Intercultural Society of Drexel University (FISDU), a student organization aimed at promoting and celebrating the Filipino culture.



FISDU has over 100 members, and takes pride in its annual cultural show, *Barrio Fiesta*, which features the retelling of a modern story through a Filipino lens. In 2023, the *Barrio Fiesta* had over 500 attendees who tasted traditional Filipino cuisine and viewed a roster of traditional dances performed in *Tadhana*, a Filipino-version of the popular Disney movie, *Encanto*. Aside from this event, FISDU works with various external organizations to help the community through volunteerism. The organization, along with its regional umbrella organization, District Five, gives to charities through proceeds from various intercollegiate events. One such charity is the PUSO Foundation, where various Filipino student organizations are able to donate to various projects and activities in the Philippines. FISDU also support the AAWC Scholarship program.

Grant is a third-year Chemical Engineering student at Drexel University. He is currently working as a co-op on a Solution Analysis team for an anodizing company, and has previously worked in the pharmaceutical industry. He hopes to create another successful *Barrio Fiesta*, and leave a good foundation as the organization selects new board nominees for the coming year.

KATHERINE NGEE – Kathy is a native Philadelphian and attended all local schools - Holy Redeemer, West Catholic High School for Girls. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Education from Drexel University. Kathy is a Board member of the Asian American Women's Coalition, currently serves on the AAWC Scholarship Selection Committee, and previously held positions as President and Vice President of AAWC.



She has worked in various positions including administration, human resources, and marketing for IBM Corporation, Technology Service Solutions, and Worlco Computer Resources, Inc. A strong believer in giving back to her community, Kathy promotes and supports Philadelphia's Chinatown by serving as Secretary of Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation, as well as actively participates in her elementary school, high school, and church events. Her interests include travel, fine dining, reading, health and wellness issues, old Westerns, and yoga.

KATHY RUBINO – Kathy serves as Vice President of Development for The Fund for the School District of Philadelphia, an independent non-profit organization that raises and administers critical philanthropic funding to elevate the educational experience and enhance the wellbeing of children in our local public schools. Kathy is an innovative, award-winning non-profit leader with more than 20 years of experience securing resources for



Philadelphia institutions including the University of Pennsylvania and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She has dedicated her career to improving the lives of Philadelphians through strategic and effective philanthropic partnerships.

MELANIE SMITH, MA, MPA, MSW – Melanie is the Director of Care and Support at the Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter. In this role, Melanie leads the Alzheimer's Association's program delivery and growth strategy to reach and serve all communities in Southern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and the state of Delaware, and she leads a community-based team to further the Alzheimer's Association's impact in mission programs and services.



She previously held roles in education, outreach and advocacy for national non-profit organizations, and also NYC Health + Hospitals (New York

City Health and Hospitals Corporation) in public education, outreach and communication.

Melanie has master's degrees in Social Work from Boston University, Health Policy and Management from New York University, and Public Communication from American University in Washington, DC. Melanie is honored and grateful to serve the Alzheimer's Association and advance its mission: *"to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia – by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support."*

WENDY SMITH, ESQ. – Wendy is a managing partner at Morgan, Akins & Jackson, PLLC, and has been serving the Philadelphia legal community for over 18 years. In 2012, she was named one of Pennsylvania's *"Lawyers on the Fast Track."* She is one of the originators of the Board Observer Program, a program that seeks to provide young attorneys with valuable leadership experience by pairing them with non-profit boards in the community. Wendy is an active member of the Asian



Pacific Bar Association, and an advisory board member of the Asian American Women's Coalition. She enjoys spending time running after her 1 year old son, tending her gardens, and keeping her reading up with her book club.



TIFFANY TAVAREZ- Tiffany serves as Senior Vice President, Diverse Segments, Representation and Inclusion (DSRI) at Wells Fargo. DSRI focuses on expanding diversity at all levels, intentionally deepening commitment and connection to employees and diverse suppliers, and developing products and services for customer segments that are critical to the business. Prior to joining DSRI, Tiffany

was Senior Vice President of Community Sponsorships and Strategy, Wells Fargo Advisors and Vice President of Community Relations for the Wells Fargo Foundation. Her career experience includes philanthropy, program development & strategy, and stakeholder engagement at organizations such as Exelon, Comcast, Temple University, and the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage.

She is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. In 2023, Tiffany was recognized as one of the Top Women and Top Latino Power Players by Metro Philadelphia, Philadelphia Business Journal's Women of Influence, and City & State Pennsylvania Top 100 Leaders in Diversity. She was recently awarded a 2023 Marshall Memorial Fellow (MMF), a German Marshall Fund's flagship leadership development program to introduce a new generation of leaders from business, government and civil society to expand their understanding of transatlantic relations and create new opportunities for global collaboration.

Tiffany currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for Monument La, member of the Board of Directors for Esperanza, Commissioner for the Pennsylvania Commission for Women under Governor Shapiro, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Forum of Executive Women. She is a first-generation college graduate who has earned degrees from both Temple University and University of the Arts.

CECILIA MOY YEP – For most of her life, Cecilia has been an active advocate



for the Chinatown community and still resides there. In 1966, the State planned to destroy the Holy Redeemer Church and School. Realizing the irrevocable damage this would bring to the community, she organized the community's first Town Meeting. She also founded the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC), which became the leading force to save the church

and school. Cecilia led the development of various affordable housing projects in Chinatown, including Hing Wah Yuen, Dynasty Court, On Lok House, Gim San Plaza, Mei Wah Yuen, and Sing Wah Yuen. She is also proud of the realization of her China Friendship Gate project. Cecilia has served on many Civic Boards and City Commissions. She received the prestigious Philadelphia Award in 1999, and honored as a "Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania" by Governor Ed Rendell in 2006. Cecilia is the

co-founder of the Asian American Women's Coalition.

RAKSMEYMONY "REX" YIN – Rex is a 1.5-generation Cambodian American queer educator passionate about education equity, social equality, and community healing. He approaches his work with a critical consciousness of his personal history, community narratives, intersectionality framework, and ecological systems theory.



Professionally, Rex is the Deputy Director of Content and Learning Strategy at the SPARK Quality Support Center serving Philadelphia's city-funded preschool programs. For the community, Rex is the Operations & Organization Lead for Philadelphia Asian & Queer, Board Secretary for the Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia, Executive Chair of the Asian Mosaic Fund, and member of the Friends of Mifflin Square Park in South Philadelphia.



GLORIA YU – Gloria is a member of the Asian American Women's Coalition Board of Directors and past president of AAWC.

ALAN YUN – Alan is the Manager of Data Analytic, Contract Management at PECO Gas Operation. He has worked with PECO for over 8 years. At his current role, Alan manages a team that analyzes data and provides insight to support business decision and improve processes for the PECO Gas Operation. Prior to PECO, Alan was a Senior Consultant, leading a team in data analytic/business intelligence practice to provide custom business intelligence and data analytic solution to professional service firms, such as law firms and strategic consulting firms. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in Information Systems from Drexel University, and M.B.A from Carnegie Mellon University, Tepper School of Business.



Asian American Women's Coalition

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. Founded in 1987 by the Honorable Ida Chen and Cecilia Moy Yep, AAWC has initiated numerous activities for the Asian community and collaborated with various organizations to raise awareness and provide support on issues of interest to the Asian American community. AAWC also provides scholarship assistance to graduating Asian American female high school seniors interested in pursuing a college degree.

BOARD OFFICERS

Grace Wu Kong, *President*
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