



Mayor Carlos Alvarez

**Office of the Chair
Dennis C. Moss
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District 9**

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Vice-Chairman
District 12**

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District 1**

**Dorrin D. Rolle
District 2**

**Audrey Edmonson
District 3**

**Sally A. Heyman
District 4**

**Bruno A. Barreiro
District 5**

**Rebeca Sosa
District 6**

**Carlos A. Gimenez
District 7**

**Katy Sorenson
District 8**

**Javier D. Souto
District 8**

**Joe A. Martinez
District 11**

**Natacha Seijas
District 13**



S. SHAWN KHOSRAVI, CHAIR

Dear Friends:

It is my honor and privilege to serve our community as the Chair for the Miami-Dade County Asian American Advisory Board ("AAAB") for 2009-2010. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the AAAB and the many individuals and organizations that have given us their support and validated our goals for preserving and disseminating Asian American culture and heritage as well as opening avenues for promoting the contributions of Asian

Americans in this wonderful Miami-Dade County community we share and call home. Asians have many reasons to be proud; all across America and around the world, individuals of Asian descent have distinguished and are distinguishing themselves in an array of disciplines. From business to academia, public to private sector, science to the arts, Asian Americans have played vital roles in advancing prosperity, peace and innovation our country enjoys today. There are so many success stories about Asian Americans, in part, due to the long standing American tradition of a hard work ethic, nurturing ingenuity and rewarding entrepreneurship.

Life in our community here in Miami-Dade County has been enriched by Asians who have chosen to come here, have worked hard and given back to the community. Each one has brought a part of his or her heritage, which, over time, has become a part of our common heritage and contributed to the celebration of diversity in our community.

Our goals at the AAAB are to promote positive images, to bring together various Asian and non-Asian communities, to educate fellow Americans about the wealth and depth of Asian culture and many contributions by Asian Americans, to foster relationships with public officials, to build coalitions with and support other diverse community

JOIN ASIAN AMERICAN ADVISORY BOARD

Friends of Asian American Advisory Board ("Friends") is a non-profit entity, comprised of all volunteer, non-paid community service oriented citizens residing in Miami-Dade County.

Friends promotes positive images of Asian Americans, including awarding annual scholarships to Asian students, eliminates misconceptions about Asians, brings together various

Asian and non-Asian communities, serves as a resource available to all Asians, and supports fellow Asian American businesses and activities.

Those who join as members of Friends would be supporting the work and efforts of Friends to preserve and disseminate the diverse Asian American cultures and heritages, to keep the public informed of Asian activities

and programs here in South Florida, and to provide financial support for its many projects.





10 YEA 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The AAAB held its ten year anniversary celebration at the luxurious Mandarin Oriental – Miami Hotel in September 2008. Three hundred fifty people attended the black tie dinner gala, including Miami Dade County Commissioners Bruno Barreiro and Katy Sorenson, U.S. Attorney Alex Acosta, and Consul Generals from Israel,

Japan, and Jamaica. Key note speakers S. Floyd Mori, National Director of the National Japanese American Citizens League and Karen Narasaki, President and Executive Director of the Asian American Justice Center, both traveled from Washington D.C. to Miami to participate in the event. During dinner, slides of Asian coun-

tries and peoples were displayed on the large screen and a fashion show of many colorful Asian costumes were modeled. Mistresses of Ceremony were local news anchors Amara Sohn and Shannon Hori, with channels 4 and 6.



21ST CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL CELEBRATION BY LISA HU BARQUIST



On a breezy, temperate Sunday in early February 2009, 10,000 people attended the 21st Annual Chinese New Year Festival held at the Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus. People came to watch the entertainment, taste the varied and delectable foods, and buy Asian products.

The lion and dragon dance opens up Chinese celebrations to bring in good luck and prosperity. The New Year is one of the most important celebrations for Chi-

nese – it signifies a new beginning; it is a time for reunions with family and friends and to give thanks for what has transpired the previous year and to welcome a new year. Legend has it that Buddha had asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. 12 animals came and Buddha named a year after each animal and people born in that animal's year would have traits of that particular animal.

2009 is the year of the Ox. Those born under the Ox

are loyal, fearless, hardworking and friendly. President Obama was born in the year of the Ox. For Oxes in 2009, any setbacks and obstacles will be overcome.

The Annual Chinese New Year Festival hosted two shows displaying the athleticism, musical talent and beauty of Asia. NBC6 news anchor Amara Sohn along with AAAB Board member Lisa Hu Barquist emceed the shows.

3RD ANNUAL FLORIDA TURKISH FESTIVAL

Anatolia Cultural Center, which represents Turkish-Americans living South Florida, brought a world-wide event to Fort Lauderdale's Huizenga Plaza on Sunday, April 19th, 2009. Near 7,000 South Floridians were treated to an incredible event featuring beautiful costumes; heart simulating live music and amazing sight of the most diverse dancing on stage as well as

to various art craft and delicious food from Turkey.

The Ottoman Army Band, "Mehteran", came all the way from Turkey and showcased their marches, costumes and dances that have been around since 13th century. The Blue Star Folk Dancing Group presented a variety of Turkish folk dance pieces from traditional dances to modern

choreographies keeping the spirit of the dance. The crowd was cheered with the heartwarming speech of Mr. Mitch Ceasar, the chairman of the Broward Democratic Party.





THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA

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Dear Mr. President:
The following Asian American and Pacific Islander organizations write to express our strong support for moving forward on

comprehensive immigration reform this year. Together we must advance a practical solution that will regain control over the broken immigration system, help the economy, and move this country forward.

Immigration is a defining issue

for Asian American communities. Everyone agrees that our immigration system is broken and in desperate need of repair. The status quo is unacceptable – we have families waiting more than a decade to rejoin their loved ones, divided communities, outdated immigration systems and quotas, and ineffective enforcement strategies. We need to move forward with a common sense American solution that secures the border, protects the rights of all workers, and modernizes our legal immigration programs by resolving the back-

logs while preserving our current family immigration system. Another key element of this reform is allowing undocumented immigrants, including many undocumented students in the Asian American community, to apply for legal status and come out of the shadows.

This comprehensive approach will level the playing field for workers and stop dishonest employers from gaining an unfair advantage. It will make undocumented immigrants into legal taxpayers, allow immigrant families to reunite with parents, spouses,

children, and siblings, and bring needed money into the federal budget.

The other options – maintaining the status quo, trying to force 12 million illegal immigrants to leave the country, or forcing immigrant families to be separated for decades – are neither viable nor desirable.

The Asian American community expects Congress and the White House to advance real solutions to this important challenge. We look forward to working with you to address comprehensive immigration reform this year.

Respectfully

THE ASIAN CULTURE FESTIVAL



During the first weekend of March thousands of people invade the 35 acres of serene Fruit and Spice Park to celebrate the Asian Culture Festival. It is the largest Asian festival, which draws approximately ten thousand fans from across tri-county area. It highlights the cultural diversity of Asia. A large number of Asian Consulates and local organizations representing various Asian countries set up edu-

cation booths showcasing their respective countries. It offers a program full of Cultural performance by supple acrobats to passionate Taiko drummers; a fashion show with attractive models presenting colorful traditional Asian costumes. This event attracts two hundred plus vendors merchandizing, Asian art, craft, jewelry, and costumes; tropical plants and fruits; and vari-

ety of Asian cuisine. A large number of out-of-town performers contribute to Miami Dade County economy. It is estimated that this event generates close to \$400,000 in sales, park fee, hotel rental, and taxes, insurance, and cost of other services. It brings a much needed income to several small businesses who set up their shops at the event.

MIAMI HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT RACE

When the Asian colors float over the waters of Biscayne Bay, it presents the most spectacular mix of Asia and South Florida—dragons, water, sand and palm trees. Economically, it is the most powerful event. According to Joe Chi, President, Miami Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival Miami World Corporate Commu-

nity Dragon Boat Championship, the estimated impact of this years -ship Race which was Combined with a National Open Water Swimming Championship, wakeboard waterskiing, skate boarding and other activities were better than usual in spite of a troubled economy. With over 800 dragon boat-

ers, over 1000 swimmers and 20,000 spectators over 4 days we estimated an impact of close to 2 million dollars on the Miami Dade economy. This was estimated by multiplying 22,000 persons by a \$100 basis figure .





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**F R I E N D S O F A S I A N
A M E R I C A N .**



**COUNCIL GENERAL
YAMAGUCHI**

Council General Yamaguchi returned to Japan after completing his assignment as Japanese Council General in Miami Deputy Council General Naohito Watanabe will succeed him as interim Council General.

Mr. Yamaguchi was great friend of the Asian community, during his tenure the Japanese Consulate very actively participated in community activities, especially the Asian event. He often invited Asian community leaders to his residence to plan and participate in the Asian activities. Asian community leaders expressed that he will be missed, and wished him well on his new assignment.



CHAIR'S LUNCHEON

On May 19, 2009 Chair, Dennis C. Moss hosted a Recognition Lunch at the third floor County Commission terrace. This marked the beginning of a new engagement between ranking elected officials and the Asian community. At this occasion Commissioner Barbara Jordan presented a proclamation to the Asian Board. Commissioners Audrey Edmonson, Sally Heyman, and Javier Souto were also in attendance..

At this event Chairman Moss recognized the planners and organizers of the Asian Heritage Month representing the U.M. Miller School of Medicine; the Jackson Healthcare System; Miami Dade College and Miami V.A. Medical Center. Many in the audience thought that this activity has the potential to become an annual ritual.



ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

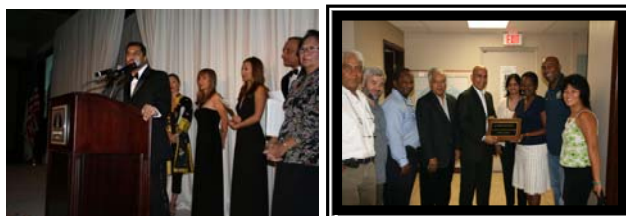


Bill Simonitsch, Esq., an Asian Board member was the keynote speaker at V.A.'s main event on May 27, 2009. In his speech, he highlighted the Asian diversity, contributions of the Asian Americans to American society, he focused especially on the military contributions. He shared their valor in various, pointing out the Medal of Honor winners and reminded them that current V. A. Chief is also an Asian American—General Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The month of May is the season to showcase the Asian Heritage in our community. Again, this year, the Board collaborated with Miami Dade College, Miller School of Medicine, Jackson Healthcare System and Miami V.A. Medical Center.

FAUZIA AND MOHSIN

On Saturday, June 27, 2009 UHI Medical Clinic held a brunch meeting at the Clinic attended by State Representative Oscar Braynon and City of Miami Gardens Mayor Shirley Gibson and a number of Asian community members. At this occasion the Mayor Gibson and Representative Braynon dedicated a plaque to recognize a generous donation to Clinic by Fauzia and Mohsin Jaffer Foundation. The foundation donated \$18,000 for seed money and later for operational funds.



SCHOLARSHIP

In order to support and encourage the academic excellence our community's students have achieved in recent years, Friends is happy to award scholarships every year in amounts of **no less than \$1,000 to several deserving students.** Starting now until **August 1, 2009,** Friends will accept applications from students of Asian heritage who are about to start, or are already attending, an accredited institution of higher learning. additional information or please visit Scholarship section at "Friends" Website at WWW.FriendsofAAAB.Com OR Please contact our Executive Director, Mr. Mohammad Shakir at 305.375.1570