

Political Action and Education Committee (PAEC) of AASA, along with CASA, KASAMA, KASY, MSA, SAS, TAS, ViSA, JASU, and LiNK present...

# Informasian:

## Asian American Trailblazers

10.16.2006



Patsy Mink (1<sup>st</sup> APA woman in Congress), Norman Mineta (1<sup>st</sup> Japanese American in Congress) and the Honorable Robert Matsui

## Did you know?

Asian consumer annual buying power in the United States has reached \$427 billion, a 59% increase since 2000.

Asian American women ages 15-24 have a higher rate of suicide than Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics in that age group.

Contrary to the "model minority" stereotype, in NYC, 24% of Asian American 25+ years old do not have a high school degree.

Congressmen Dalip S. Saund (elected 1956) is the first Asian American and the only Indian American elected to this position.

## Coming up this week

- Wed 10.11: **SAS** Roshni Info Meeting
- Thu 10.12: **SAS** Indian Classical Dance Performance
- Fri 10.13: **ViSA** Cultural Show
- Sat 10.14: **PAEC/AASA** Asian American Leadership Conference at Yale
- Sat 10.14: **CASA** Triad Night
- Tue 10.17: **SAS** Iftaar
- Tue 10.17: **KASY** General Meeting

[www.yale.edu/paec](http://www.yale.edu/paec)

[www.yale.edu/aasa](http://www.yale.edu/aasa)

## Chien-Ming Wang

Lillian Chen—**TAS**  
Taiwanese American Society



Most recently, a new wave of baseball mania has crashed over Taiwan due to the successful performance of 26 year-old Yankees starting pitcher Chien-Ming Wang from Tainan, Taiwan. He was called "the best ground-ball pitcher in the American League" by the New York Times and, with a 3.63 ERA and a 19-6 record this season, has broken the record for wins in a season by an Asian-born pitcher. Yankees games have some of the highest ratings on Taiwanese television despite the 12-hour time difference. His popularity in Taiwan has been compared to Yao Ming's influence in China, and he has even been called a national hero. With his recent win in Game 1 of the ALDS playoffs—the first ever for a Taiwanese-born pitcher—Chien-Ming Wang's ground-breaking performances in Major League Baseball are helping to promote the image of Asian athletes.

## Amina Wadud

Zahreen Ghaznavi—**MSA**  
Muslim Student Association

Amina Wadud is an Associate Professor of Islamic Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). She has specialized in Gender and Qur'anic Studies. She was one of the first Islamic scholars to challenge traditional interpretations of the Quran and Islamic law. Wadud was the subject of much debate and Muslim juristic discourse after leading a Friday prayer congregation of over 100 men and women in the Episcopal cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York (March, 2005), breaking with the tradition of having only male imams or religious leaders who lead congregational prayers. Wadud was hailed as the first woman imam. While this is probably not the case, it was still unique, since in most Muslim communities, it is not acceptable for women to lead prayers.



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## Japanese American Citizens League

Justin Hayase—**JASU**  
Japanese American Students Union

The oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) was founded in 1928 in San Francisco, California. The JACL now consists of 112 chapters across the country and over 23,000 members. Among the causes that they have supported are the repeal of the Cable Act (which revoked the citizenship of American women married to aliens), the passage of the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act (allowing Asian immigrants to become citizens), the rescinding of Executive Order 9066 (which led to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII). Today they continue to fight for issues such as affirmative action, gay rights, and immigrant rights. Breaking model minority stereotypes, the activism and accomplishments of the JACL have paved the way for many of the civil liberties that all Americans share today.



## Judge Nina Elgo

Ryan Villanueva—**Kasama**  
Filipino Students at Yale



In May 2004, Judge Nina Elgo, a first generation Filipino-American, became the first Asian Pacific American (APA) judge appointed to the Connecticut Superior Court. She is currently assigned to the Civil Division of the Hartford Superior Court. Prior to her appointment, she was an Assistant Attorney General, representing the state of Connecticut in child abuse and neglect cases, termination of parental rights cases, special education cases, and civil rights litigation. Even though people like Nina Elgo are trailblazing into politics, the percentage of APA's in the Congress (6 out of 535, 1%) indicates how far the road to fair representation still stretches. Even in Elgo's Connecticut, officials in the General Assembly believe there are no Asian state legislators. Nonetheless, figureheads like Judge Elgo do make the prospect of seeing more APA in politics hopeful.

Questions, comments, submissions?

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