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1. The recipient organization must have status under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contact a home mortgage consultant for details.
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10/07/11 - 05/11

Together we'll go far



May is:

Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month

&

Mental Health Awareness Month



Asian Pacific Islanders with Disabilities
of California



National Asian American Pacific Islander
Mental Health Association
NAAPIMHA

Friends Level

American Association of People with Disabilities

Asian American Government
Executives Network

Asian Avenue Magazine

Sekwon & Oksun Chong

Terry S. Gock Ph.D. MPA

Dr. Sumi T. and Dr. Richard Hennessy

Steven T. Hiratsuka

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Chin Fun & Florence Kwok

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for asian pacific american women



*Thank You - NAAPIMHA and APIDC
"Laughter is the Best Medicine"
Is a wonderful venue to educate our
communities*

*Heartfelt Joy and Congratulations to
Our APAWLI Fellows-
DJ Ida, Daphne Kwok and Esther
Goodhart
"... one at a time ..."*

The Asian Pacific Islanders with Dis-
abilities of California and the National
Asian American Pacific Islander
Mental Health Association are proud
to present:

Laughter is the Best Medi-
cine

Chop-Shtick*

May 21, 2011

Betts Auditorium

Washington, DC

Comedians:

Esther Ku

Ryo

Shecky Wong

Musical Talent of
Petawane



Esther Ku is a comedian, actress and musician. She began her stand up career in Boston and was selected as a finalist for the Last Comic Standing Season 6 show. She considers herself the best kind of Asian



Ryo is 100% Japanese, by way of Japan, and started his journey into comedy ten years ago after he retired from being a professional ballroom dancer. His latest



Phil Nee aka Shecky Wong was one of the first API comedians. He moonlighted while working as a photographer at ABC in NYC, and was soon voted winner of Showtime Cable's Funniest Person competition. He wrote and performed the solo show "The Last of the Nees (or



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Reaching out to APIs through successful multi-cultural communication campaigns

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Tonight brings us together to celebrate our Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander cultures and the diversity within.

Some have been diagnosed with a serious mental health problem, others have a physical disability and some have both.....

Our laughter is not meant to hide the pain



James Burris, aka Petawane, was born in New York's Harlem and began singing when he was just six. Known for his versatility, he can sing hip-hop and twist so far to the left you think it was R&B. He counts Sam Cook, Nat King Cole, Teddy Pendergrass, Willie Hutch, Curtis Mayfield, the Chi-Lites and the Delfonics as inspi-



Esther Paik Goodhart declares "I'm the face of diversity. I'm a physically disabled Oriental Beauty whose father was a famous Korean minister, but I am Queen of the Jews who teaches Hebrew at three temples. Her dystonia made it difficult to walk. She learned to be strong and every step she took was small, but was always forward. She hosts the PBS TV program Asian



Isaac Goodhart (see above) did the cover artwork. After breaking his mother's heart by not going to medical school, Isaac Goodhart found his bliss in art school at the famed New York City School of Visual Art. Isaac is making a living illustrating for


att.com

always moving forward.

always giving back.

At AT&T we've spent the past 130 years keeping people and communities connected—around the corner and around the globe. Giving back keeps us moving forward—always.

AT&T is proud to support the first annual "Laughter is the Best Medicine" benefit. We applaud the National Asian American Mental Health Association and the Asian Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California for their efforts to ensure that we are all connected and included.

Rethink Possible 

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Honored Guests

John Aldam

Sandra Cheng

Jonathan Griggs

Sophia Heung

Anisha Imhoff-Kerr

Lucianne Latu

Maria Leach

Carolyn Leung

Jean Lin

Sawako Niato

Herbie North

Mariko Okumoto

Nami Roberts

Leafa Taumopeau

Kinike Bermudez Thompson

Ronald Thompson

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Center

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Thank you!

Bobby Antalek, Vida Benevides, Jerry Brooks, Sharon Brooks. Café Asia, Paulo Delvecchio, Li-Jia Gong, Daniel & Loi Ho, Iris Ho, Jenny Ho, Geoffrey Ida, Chin Fun & Florence Kwok, Larry La-Meiwah Restaurant, Keith McAllister, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum—DC, Leslie Toy, Chi-SerTran, Chris Tsou, Alvina Yeh, I-Chan Yang, Anne Mathews—Younes

A special thank you to SAMHSA for generously providing support for many of our honored guests to attend. In particular Carlton Speight at SAMHSA and Jackee Williams at AFYA, Inc.



Anisha Imhoff-Kerr was diagnosed with bipolar disorder at age 11. Since that time, she has worked toward her own recovery and helping educate others about mental illness in youth. This includes the need for school and family support systems, reducing stigma, and how to use your own recovery to help others. In 2001, she cofounded *State of Mine*, a mental health advocacy group for teenagers in New Mexico. She has produced videos and community awareness art shows, and



Jean is a volunteer Outreach Coordinator for Asian Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California. As a Chinese American with Cerebral Palsy she has first-hand experience confronting the many barriers that people with disabilities face. This has not dampened her wonderful spirit as she continues to be a strong advocate to raise awareness around accepting disabilities in our communities. Jean has worked at the



Herbie North: “At the age of one I was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis, a sickness that resulted in brain damage, learning, hearing and physical disabilities. Growing up wasn’t the easiest thing and I definitely had many trials along the way. I have learned that my disabilities are a blessing from God and they shouldn’t ever limit me from doing anything I want, including rugby, football, paintballing, surfing and wrestling...sports the nurses warned my par-



Kinike Bermudez Thomas:

“Recovery is the discovery of all I am and can be! A diagnosis is not who I am, yet once labeled, I became stigmatized, experienced discrimination and my liberties were limited. I am Kinike, a wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, trainer, taxpayer, mental health advocate and an active member of my community I live with diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, bipolar disorder and post traumatic stress disorder as a survivor of child incest and teenage rape. Throughout my journey with both physical and mental diagnoses, I



Can Truong’s dream of going to medical school were lost when he was diagnosed with depression and bipolar disorder. While he suffered permanent damage caused by multiple hospitalizations, medication and electroconvulsive shock treatment, he has become one of the nation’s leading consumer advocates for mental health and is the current director of the National Asian American Pacific Islander Empowerment Network established by NAAPIMHA. He speaks on recovery throughout the country and presented at the World Federation



Thai Yang: “In 4th grade I became the class clown, not by choice but for survival. As a new Southeast Asian refugee immigrant who recently contracted polio, I was still learning to use a wheelchair and was a test candidate for my school’s district inclusion for children with special needs. I was known as the cripple *Chinese* boy who was treated more as a pet than that of an equal. First of all, I am *not* Chinese. I am Hmong. Secondly, I am no one’s pet. And being pitied upon made me very angry. So I often got into physical fights when I was teased. It was poetry and laughter that changed my

