

A photograph of a dirt road winding through a dense forest. The road is made of reddish-brown earth and is flanked by lush green vegetation, including ferns and tall trees. A blue car is driving away from the viewer on the road. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The text "JULY 2022" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters in the center of the image.

JULY 2022

FAPAC-DOI Newsletter

In this Issue

Contributors

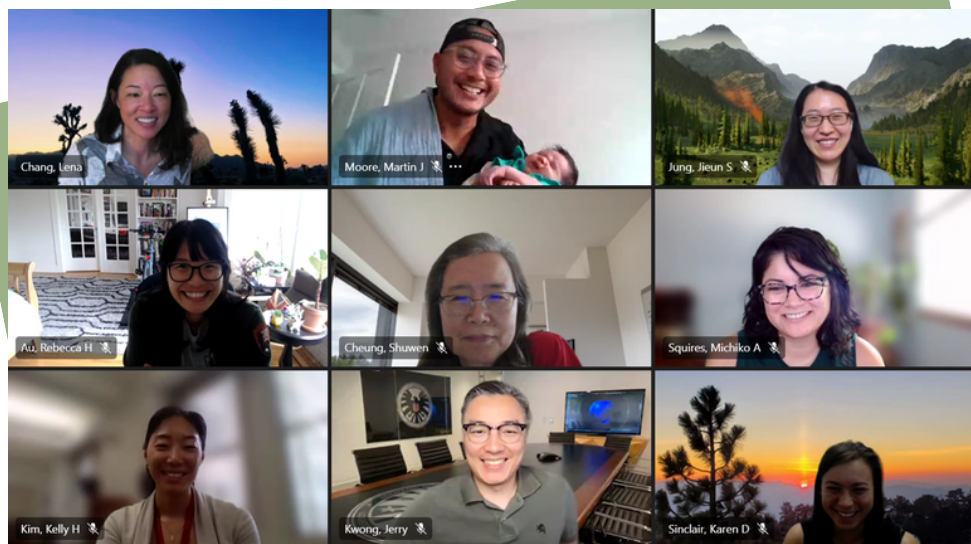
Isha Kalia
Barbara Green
Lena Chang
Karen Sinclair
Martin Moore
Philip Y. Lu
Nicole Ringland

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FAPAC-DOI Happy Hour

Wednesday, July 27th, 2022



Thank you to all of our members whos attended our July Happy Hour! Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the upcoming election, network with other members, and play trivia. We look forward to hosting more networking events for FAPAC-DOI members in the future.



FAPAC-DOI Logo Contest

We need a new logo! Help give our organization a new look by designing a logo for FAPAC-DOI. Please reach out to Isha Kalia at isha.kalia@boem.gov by August 15th if interested. No art or graphic design background necessary.

WHAT'S NEW

National
Independence
Day Parade

Photo credit to
Philip Y. Lu



July kicked off with the National Independence Day Parade on Constitution Ave in Washington DC! Hosted by the National Park Service, the parade featured many AANHPI groups such as the Dev Garjana Percussion Band, the Falun Dafa "Tian Guo" Band, the Taiwanese American Parade Group, the Greater Washington Chinese American Community (pictured left), the Vietnamese American Community, Sikhs of America, and more.

Election season is among us, and it is time to start thinking about the future of FAPAC-DOI. We are accepting nominations for all four officer positions this year: President, VP of Outreach, VP of Programs, and VP of Finance. Nominate yourself or another FAPAC-DOI member [HERE](#) before 11:59 PM on August 8th. Hear from our current officer team about their experiences on the FAPAC-DOI Board below.



FAPAC-DOI
Officer Election

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Isha Kalia
FAPAC-DOI Intern

Hello everyone! My name is Isha Kalia and I am a rising sophomore at Stanford University majoring in Public Policy with a concentration in Resource, Energy, and Environmental Policy. I am a second-generation Indian American immigrant born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Growing up in a predominantly white state, I did not realize the power of representation until I went to college in California. I remember on Diwali, all of the Stanford dining halls served Indian food and the university hosted a large celebration with dance performances and religious rituals. Hundreds of students and community members came to dance, eat, and appreciate Indian culture.

For the first time ever, I felt represented. I felt seen. **I felt like I belonged.**

As a FAPAC-DOI intern, I hope that I can help make the Department of Interior a place where all employees feel how I did. Federal government should be a place where we all feel represented, no matter what background we come from.

How long have you been with FAPAC-DOI?

I am interning with FAPAC-DOI for the summer and started working at the Main Interior Building in June! Exploring Washington D.C. has been very fun so far. I love the public transit, walkability, and free events happening in the city.

What are some of your favorite things about being a member of FAPAC-DOI?

My favorite thing about this internship so far has been the people I have met. I never realized the breadth of work done at the Department of Interior. From biologists to policy experts, DOI has it all!

While attending FAPAC-DOI meetings, I was introduced to people who were so passionate about AANHPI representation in government. It was extremely inspiring to see how everyone was taking time out of their busy schedules to advocate for a more diverse future.

EXPLORING DC



MY FIRST DAY AT THE DOI



Isha Kalia
FAPAC-DOI Intern

HEAR FROM OUR CURRENT BOARD



LENA CHANG

President

Why did you decide to become a FAPAC-DOI officer?

I was really happy to have found FAPAC DOI in the early days of the chapter (2017-2018); this was before Teams, when just a few of us would gather on conference calls.

I got to know Thao, Kelly, and Thomas on these calls, and during that time, they convinced me I should run for Secretary. I joined the board back then, and when it was time for Thao (Thao Tran was the founding President of FAPAC-DOI) to end her term, she and Kelly encouraged me to run for President. It was something I was a little afraid and reluctant to do, but in hindsight it was one of the best growth and learning experiences I've had in my professional career.

What has been your favorite part of being an officer?

Of all things, meeting wonderful people and raising awareness of AANHPI issues together has been my favorite part of being on this board. Seeing the chapter grow and getting to know people across the DOI, even the Secretary herself, has been a joy. Creating a safe space to share and learn about each other has been incredibly rewarding. Elevating awareness of AANHPI issues has had a profound and healing impact on me personally. The relationships built here are lasting.

What are the major roles and responsibilities of your position?

My emphasis has been toward keeping the chapter engaged, planning and facilitating regular meetings, guest speakers, and annual AANHPI Heritage Month events; leading the team of board members collaboratively, and ensuring we are identifying and achieving our goals together for the chapter.

Why do you encourage other people to run for office?

This is one of the best opportunities for growth and development, both professionally and personally. You will be pushed out of your comfort zone, you will interact with people at all levels of government, you will lead meetings and events; you will learn and hone many skills you didn't know you had, and you will experience the rewards of learning and sharing our stories and touching people's hearts directly; you will learn from our leaders, and you will mentor and guide the emerging talent that is all around us. You will grow.



Matthes Crest, Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite National Park
Photo Courtesy of Tom Clancey

**KAREN SINCLAIR**

Vice President of Outreach

Our current president, Lena Chang, invited me to join FAPAC-DOI's chapter meetings and then encouraged me to apply as Vice President of Outreach.

Although initially nervous and self-conscious about how much I could actually contribute due to my disconnected relationship with my cultural background, I never could have imagined how much I would grow due to being an officer for FAPAC-DOI.

As Vice President of Outreach over the past two years, I have had the privilege to support the growth of our community by helping to manage our monthly newsletters and website, by capturing inspirational quotes and insights from our speakers, and by highlighting AANHPI resources and stories. My favorite part of being an officer is networking with, developing relationships with, and gaining wisdom from our members throughout DOI! I'm still in shock that I was able to share the screen and my story with the Secretary of Interior, Deb Haaland!!!!



After every chapter meeting and newsletter story submission, I consistently found myself in awe of and inspired by the strength, vulnerability, and perseverance presented by our guest speakers, leaders, panelists, and story-tellers. Despite each of our unique backgrounds and the remarkable careers you all have achieved, I would have never guessed that I would see aspects of my own personal struggles with my professional identity, family history, and cultural background reflected back to me through your stories.

As the last day of my position draws near, I find myself reflecting on the key lessons learned over the past two years. I hope to continue to be a leader in my immediate areas of influence, to advocate for inclusivity and the hidden voices in history, and to help pave the way for more diverse voices in DOI. However, the most valuable life lesson I am taking away from being an officer (and the one that I have profound gratitude to our community for) is the newfound connection to and ownership in my identity as a biracial Chinese American.

I encourage others to run for office because you will gain so much more than what is listed in your title. You will connect with inspiring colleagues and mentors. It's an opportunity to dedicate time to researching AANHPI history and advocating for the issues that affect your community!

Don't worry if it feels intimidating, it feels like you don't have enough time, or you don't have enough experience, being an Officer is worth it and your contributions will make an impact. YOU got this!



MARTIN J. MOORE III

Vice President of Programs

Hey there and Aloha! Happy Summer! It's been quite a year! In case we haven't met, I'm Martin. I am a grants manager with the Department and I also have the privilege of serving as the FAPAC-DOI Vice President of Programs.



I have served with the FAPAC-DOI board for about a year and am so grateful for the opportunities it's opened up. We were able to spend some time with Secretary Deb Haaland! That had to have been the highlight of my time with FAPAC-DOI!

At first, I was intimidated by the position I was elected for. Vice President of Programs just seems so regal. Then I got to know President Lena and VP of Outreach Karen Sinclair and I felt so confident in the plans we could accomplish. Even before my nomination, FAPAC-DOI has been so intriguing. We have community members from all over and it's so awesome to be able to come together, even as scarcely as we do, and still have a great time with this new virtual paradigm shift. FAPAC-DOI needs strong leaders who can step up to the plate and continue this amazing legacy that we have had the opportunity to take part in. We can make change by being the change so come together and if you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out!

SAVORY SEOUL CASA

Barbara Green, Equal Opportunity Manager NPS

I need all the motivation I can muster when I'm on the treadmill at the gym, so to make the time pass by pleasantly, I love watching the Food Network. One of my favorite shows is "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." I imagine I'm on the road with Guy Fieri and assisting as his newly appointed trusted sidekick indulging in all the decadent dishes he devours. Fieri relishes food the same way I do, so anytime you want a buddy to accompany you Guy, please pick me.



Much to my great delight, Fieri traveled to Anchorage last October and filmed an episode at Seoul Casa, a Mexican-Asian fusion restaurant, combining flavorful Mexican and Korean food into a blended terrifically tasty treat. The first time my daughter Nicole took me there, she recommended the Kimchi Supreme Tots. That did not require considerable convincing since I love tater tots. The Kimchi Supreme Tots are topped with cheddar and mozzarella cheese, grilled kimchi, onions, and you can add kalbi beef, pulled pork or Korean barbecue chicken. Truly my idea of sheer bliss.

Nicole ordered the Three Amigos Tacos, comprised of a kalbi taco, spicy pork taco and a Korean barbecue chicken taco with a side of chips and salsa, and I chose to try the Kimchi-rito, a Korean flour tortilla burrito stuffed with kimchi fried rice, sour cream, spicy mayo, Pico de Gallo, lettuce, cheddar and mozzarella cheese, and spicy pork. My next visit, I enjoyed a rice bowl with cabbage, lettuce, green onions and a fried egg, and of course, another heaping platter of Kimchi Supreme Tots.



Seoul Casa is now one of my favorite restaurants and I want to thank the universe for the creative culinary minds who decided this is what we need in Alaska. Thank you, Andrew Cho, who brought his expertise in fusion dining from California to Alaska. Cho recognized its popularity while living there and decided to share the same experience in Anchorage. You are my new hero, Mr. Cho.

The “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives” episode featuring Seoul Casa was filmed in October last year and aired earlier this year. It was very exciting to watch an episode featuring an Anchorage restaurant. Seoul Casa is one of the first two Anchorage restaurants featured on Fieri’s popular show, with three others airing after my new favorite restaurant was showcased.

Fieri is not the only well-known celebrity to dine at Seoul Casa. Steve Aoki, disc jockey, record producer and heir to his father Rocky Aoki's Benihana fortune stopped by Seoul Casa. Alaska is not a state rife with celebrity visits, so it is fun whenever we residents see photos of those who chose to make the trek to the largest state with appetites to match. Yes friends, we take our eating seriously up here since restaurants are a happy haven to flock to when the weather is frigid outside.

Another motivation for the time I spend on the treadmill? The longer I stay on the treadmill, the more tots I can eat. Sounds like a superb win-win to me.

Barbara Green
Equal Opportunity Manager
National Park Service
Alaska Regional Office



AANHPI

Small Business Spotlight

"I'm thrilled to embrace the flavors and experiences that reflect my Asian American heritage and celebrate them as ice cream flavors - the ultimate American treat," said Ice Cream Jubilee founder Victoria Lai.

As a second generation Chinese American, Lai spent much of her professional career advocating for minority groups and immigration rights. However, things changed when she won the 2013 D.C. scoop challenge.



After winning the competition, Lai decided to turn her ice cream making hobby into a successful business. Lai now has three storefronts in the DC area and ships nationwide. Try flavors Red Bean Almond Cookie, Roasted Barley Tea, Matcha Green Tea, Thai Iced Tea, and Coconut Lychee Lime. With every 5-pint package of ice cream purchased, Ice Cream Jubilee will make a donation to nonprofits dedicated to combating the rise in Anti-Asian hate that has spiked since the Coronavirus crisis.

ORDER NOW

AUGUST 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Department of Interior Ally Enrichment and Engagement Week (AEEW 2022)	2	3 OSMRE 45th Birthday	4 Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act	5	6
7	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People	10	11	12	13
14	15 Feast of the Assumption (Catholic)	16	17	18 Janmashtami (Hindu)	19	20 Asia Collective Night Market (DC)
21	22	23	24	25 National Park Service 106th Birthday	26	27
28	29	30 Al-Hijri (Muslim)	31 Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)			

August 9th – International Day of the World's Indigenous People: This day was created by the UN to celebrate the culture of indigenous people around the world.

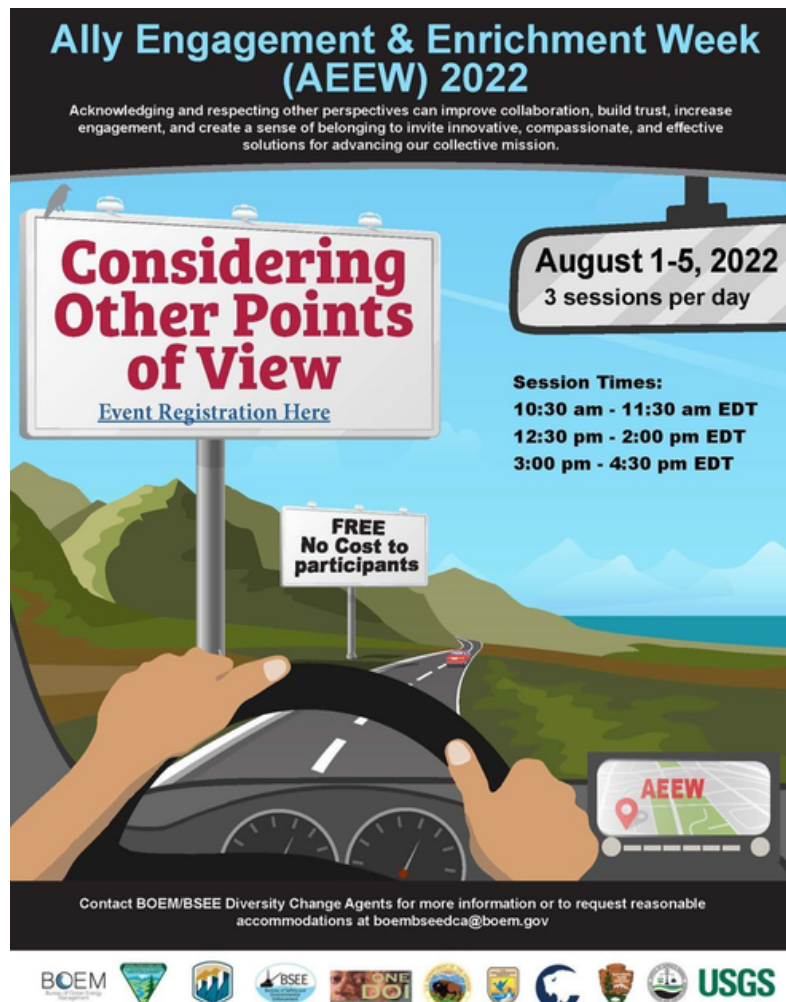
August 15th – Feast of the Assumption: This holy day is celebrated in Roman Catholic communities (Philippines). It marks Virgin Mary's ascent into heaven at the end of her life.

August 18th – Janmashtami: This holiday celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna, one of the most popular deities in the Hindu religion.

August 30th – Al-Hijri: In the Muslim faith, Al-Hijri marks the start of the New Year.

August 32th – Ganesh Chaturthi: This ten day Hindu festival celebrates the birth of Lord Ganesha, the God of new beginnings.

ALLY ENGAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT WEEK (AEEW)



- August 1-5, 2022
- **Register** for each session you are interested in
- **Review** the weeks' agenda of topics and description (within DOI Talent).
- **Expect** to be engaged and enriched all week long.
- Please note all DOI participants will need to self-certify in DOI Talent after completion of each session attended for the learning record to be updated.



ASIAN AMERICAN FILM SERIES (SOCAL)

- Waterman free film screening and Q&A
- July 29th, 6-9 PM PST
- Alhecama Theatre in Santa Barbara, CA
- [Register here](#)

ASIA COLLECTIVE NIGHT MARKET (DC)

- A gathering of some of the best Asian restaurants in the DMV
- August 20th, 2-11 PM
- [Register here](#)

