

CAAHV VOICE

viSnot . Spring 2007



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EDITORS' NOTE

ON THE OCCASION OF OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY...

IN WORKING TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO CARE, TO BELIEVE, AND TO TAKE ACTION, we tend to only look and move forward. Amidst cycles of war and violence, displacement and poverty, we find refuge in future possibilities. We find refuge in our hope for better days, when one's immigration status doesn't determine whether he or she receives health care or an education, where violence isn't a solution to conflict any more so than violent cops make us safer, and where people can find more comfort in creating change than in apathy.

Anniversaries are times to take careful stock of one's past. In this special 20th Anniversary edition of the *CAAUV Voice*, we pause and reflect to pull lessons and inspiration from our past. We bring together two decades of our work, from our early years, through a visual timeline of our 20 years, to a photo essay on our recent participation in the historic immigration mobilizations, and finally to our current struggles for a better future in updates from the work of Chinatown tenants in Manhattan's Chinatown, the Cambodian and Vietnamese refugee community in the Bronx, and Asian women domestic workers citywide.

Anniversaries are also times to celebrate. And, after 20 years, there is a lot to celebrate. As you read through these pages, we hope that you will celebrate what happens when people care enough to take action, when communities choose to do more than survive. We hope you will celebrate your support and involvement in CAAUV's work over the years. Without it, none of this would be possible. We also hope that you, your friends, and your family will commemorate 20 years with us at our 20th Anniversary celebration on May 18th, "Our Roots Grow Deep" (see back cover for more information).

Rooted in our communities by a vision for change and a sense of the movement rising—and with your support—we're ready for the next 20 years.

—THE EDITORS

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CAAUV VOICE

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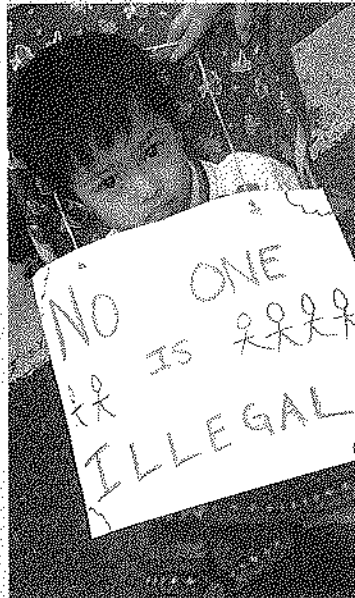
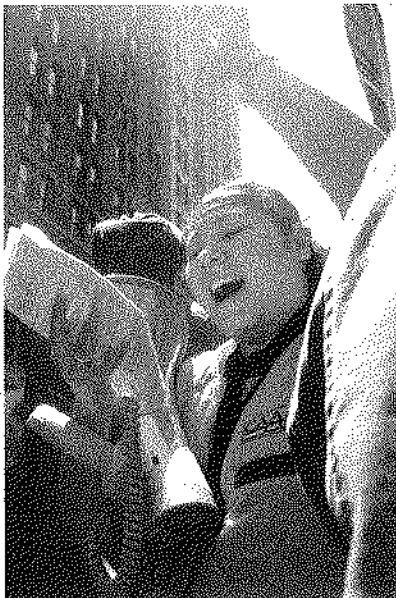
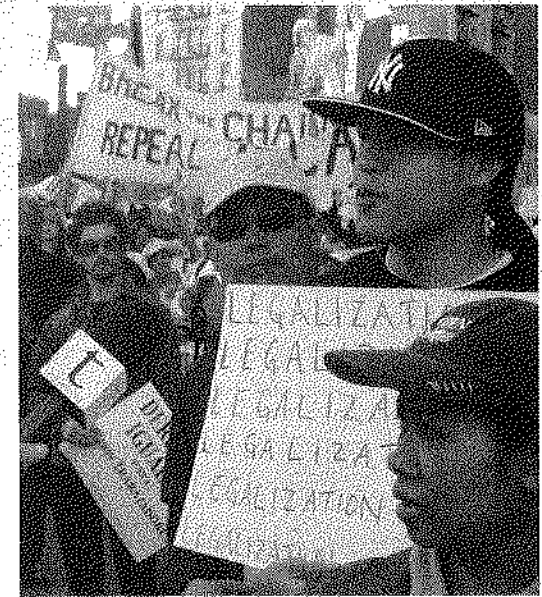
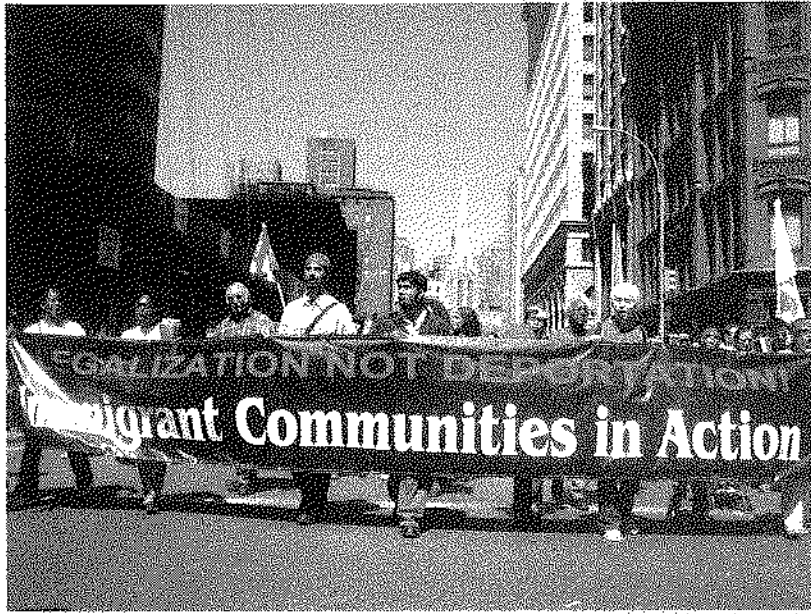
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MOBILIZING FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS



IN 2006, IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE rose up in opposition to proposed measures to criminalize undocumented immigrants and those who provide services for them. CAAAV members joined some of the largest marches in the history of New York City, and through our signs and messages, highlighted the root causes of migration and the struggles of migrant workers. As part of Immigrant Communities in Acción, a coalition of grassroots membership-based organizations, CAAAV joined the call to end criminalization, deportation, US-Mexico border militarization, and for the implementation of full legalization of undocumented immigrants. For many of us, the marches demonstrated the potential power of immigrant communities, in a way that we have never experienced. They also showed us the need for long-term strategy and organizational infrastructure that can hold the energy that we experienced in the streets, and move it toward building power in immigrant communities. | SEE PAGE 10 FOR MORE ON IMMIGRATION

20 YEARS OF CHANGE

20 Lessons for 20 Years of Organizing

This year, CAAAV will celebrate its 20th Anniversary and in honor of the occasion we thought we would highlight 20 of the many lessons of recent years that we hope will shape and guide our work for the next 20 years.

1 Organizing should be rooted in vision and community.

The theme of our 20th anniversary celebration is "Our Roots Grow Deep." Roots are what ground us. We have learned how important it is to be rooted in a clear vision for social change, grounded in struggles of the communities we serve so that we are always acting in their interest. Our organizational strategy is driven by the practice of building a multi-generational organization and waging campaigns that affect real change in the lives of Asian workers, youth, families and tenants who have been uprooted by the impact of US foreign policy in their home countries, and are struggling to root themselves in New York.

2 Analysis and reflection are critical components of organizing.

In order to ensure that what we do today builds toward a better future, we take time to reflect, evaluate and analyze current conditions. We study global, national and local conditions, reflect on our strengths and weaknesses, identify areas of change, and seek to sharpen our organizing methods in order to chart a clearer, long-term plan for the future.

3 When our fights expose the roots of oppression, they lead to bigger fights.

The campaigns that expose the ways government and capital interests work together to create oppressive conditions in our communities have the greatest potential to raise consciousness, deepen our understanding of the system, and open doors to other important fights. For example, our justice campaigns for exploited domestic workers have held individual employers accountable, and exposed the urgent need for labor standards for domestic workers, and full legalization for undocumented workers in general.

4 However slow it is to reach, we must organize to scale.

We know how hard organizing is, but we are clearer than ever that we have no choice but to continue, and get better at it so we can take it to the next level, where it has a direct impact on the forces that create oppression in our communi-



to challenge White supremacy and joined broader people of color coalitions. Vincent Chin's murder sparked a national movement against anti-Asian violence.

1986 The Coalition Against Anti-Asian Violence convenes in New York.

1987 NYC - The Wang Woo family police brutality case sparks citywide organizing in support of the family, street outreach, public forums, media and mobilizing people for trial monitoring. The Coalition becomes the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence, an independent organization.

1987-1988 In Bensonhurst, CAAAV organizes in response to anti-Asian fliers distributed all over the neighborhood in reaction to Chinese families moving into neighborhood.

1988 CAAAV leads a campaign against a fundraiser being held by the LAMBDA Legal Defense Fund at a performance of *Miss Saigon*. The campaign includes protests, public

education, and civil disobedience within the theater.

1992 After the Rodney King beating and trial in Los Angeles, CAAAV initiates the People of Color Against State Violence and organized protests against the acquittal of the LAPD officers charged with beating King.

1992 CAAAV makes an organizational decision to create long-term community organizing projects rooted in Asian immigrant communities.

1992 The Lease Drivers' Coalition is formed to organize South Asian cab drivers in New York City.



TIMELINE

JUNE 19, 1982 Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American was murdered by two recently laid-off white autoworkers, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz. Ebens and Nitz were convicted of manslaughter and served no jail time even though they beat Chin to death with a baseball bat. This murder and other attacks against Asians in the U.S. marked a shift to the right in the U.S. political landscape in a period of anti-Asian and anti-immigrant xenophobia. Asian American activists began to feel a need



1993 CAAAV conducts Workshops in northwest Bronx with Khmer and Vietnamese residents which culminated in a speak-out of over 100 community people against police abuse in the neighborhood.

ties. We see exciting potential for growth in the major immigrant rights, anti-police brutality and anti-war marches, and the greater convergence of the US social justice movement across issues and communities. The movement is growing, and we need to continue to grow the local organizing.

5 We must create and nurture an organizational culture that calls out oppression and reflects our vision.

We have all lived with and internalized all the forms of oppression that exist in the world, so how do we create an organizational culture which models something different, and reflects the world we are trying to create? In thinking about this, we realized that creating a climate where people feel safe and supported to openly call out and challenge abuses of power and privilege is an important first step. Ultimately as a movement we need to create concrete mechanisms of accountability to principles of respect, justice, equity, and shared power.

6 We must be accountable and responsible to the communities we serve.

After some years of developing organizational routines and habits, we decided to have regular, deeper check-ins on the question: are we truly building the power of our communities, of all oppressed people? Our staff evaluations and program work plan evaluations provide space for staff and members to reflect on what we have built, and where we have fallen short.

7 We must shift the consciousness of the community as a whole to believe in the fight.

Living in the "belly of the beast" and in a media capital of the world, where so much of our "individual-freedom-based" popular culture is generated, we have large obstacles to organizing for the collective good. It is important that we do media and cultural work that tells stories that shift our consciousness about the importance of the fight for justice and what's worth fighting for. In this way, our video projects such as *Eating Welfare* and *Chinatown Is Not For Sale* have been important tools for community dialogue.



1993 CAAAV forms organizing committees in the Korean and Chinese communities

1993 Dat Nguyen, an Asian immigrant, is beaten by undercover police officers in Chinatown and then wrongfully charged with multiple crimes related to the beating. CAAAV organizes a one-year campaign which eventually leads to Nguyen's acquittal by a jury.

1994 CAAAV forms an organizing committee in the Southeast Asian community

1995 Yong Xin Huang, a 16-year old Chinese American high school student, is shot in the back of the head by NYPD officer Steve Mizrahi while Huang was playing in a friend's backyard. CAAAV organizes a two-year campaign to pressure the Brooklyn D.A. and State Attorney General to prosecute Mizrahi. CAAAV organizes in coalition with Mothers Against Police Brutality to stage a sit-in at the Brooklyn D.A.'s office. Rather than prosecute Officer Mizrahi, the Brooklyn D.A.

orders the families arrested and prosecutes the families for a year. Ultimately, the D.A. and Attorney General refuse to investigate Huang's murder.

1995 CAAAV participates in a city-wide action to shut down five bridges and tunnels to protest budget cuts and escalating police oppression in NYC. CAAAV and the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights organize a protest at Columbus Park and—in an act of civil disobedience—blocks off the Manhattan Bridge

1995 CAAAV creates the Women Worker's Project (WWP) to organize low-income Asian immigrant women.

1995 CAAAV organizes Chinatown street vendors to be part of city-wide street vendor demonstrations and public hearings to protest Giuliani's 'Quality of Life' campaign's harassment of vendors.

8 Organizing tactics should be flexible, diverse and creative.

In the interests of our communities, we must embrace—as our board member emeritus and mentor, Richie Perez, often said—any and all tactics. Those of us who focus on grassroots organizing in immigrant communities never thought we would be doing voter education, but the times have called for it. Whether it's building our food and sewing cooperatives, targeting a domestic employer, fighting for bilingual housing inspectors in Chinatown, or fighting for language access legislation at all city agencies, openness to varied tactics, cultivating new skills, and developing relationships with organizations with a range of expertise is critical.

9 How we treat each other is a vital part of organizing.

Not only are we trying to change the systems of society, we are trying to change ourselves and our relationships to each other so that we feel a greater sense of balance, connectedness and community. This requires each of us to do work on our own capacity for compassion and self-awareness. Our Organizer-in-Training Program emphasizes developing relationships between people that build community and reflecting on our own practice as critical parts of organizing.

10 Everyone has a role in the movement.

There is no shortage of resources needed to strengthen CAAAV or the social justice movement as a whole. We started Asian Resistance Media as a space for Asian activists and professionals who are interested in supporting grassroots organizing to contribute their resources to help lift and support our organizing projects. Their contributions have had the greatest impact when they were part of a strategy driven by CAAAV's community organizing programs. ARM's work, in coordination with community-based organizing, has increased the impact of CAAAV's campaigns through resource development, the web, publications and direct action.



1996 The first Youth Leadership Project summer program in the Bronx. The program is created as an organizer training institute for Southeast Asian youth

1996 YLP wins a campaign in the Northwest Bronx, getting the Montefiore Medical Center to rehire bilingual translators at the community health clinic.

1997 WWP focuses specifically on organizing immigrant women working as domestic workers. Domestic workers often find themselves working for long hours for below-minimum-wage pay, no benefits, and under abusive conditions.

1997 In response to cuts in welfare, YLP organizes a campaign to protest the local welfare center in the Bronx for their failure to provide translators (forcing children to miss school to translate for their parents) and assigning SEA welfare recipients to pick up garbage in city parks for what amounts to less than minimum wage pay.

11 Movement building and base-building must happen together.

While one of our toughest balancing acts, we recognize that alliance building and base-building must happen together. After all, a movement is constituted by people so we must organize, organize, organize. And as people join the struggle, we must make sure that they see themselves as part of building a broader movement for change. We must trace each and every struggle to their root causes and their expressions in other communities, around the world, and connect with those who are organizing for change. CAAHV is a part of many national and local networks and alliances and has always seen this work as central.

12 We are here today because of a proud tradition of organizing and struggle.

Someone has already attempted to answer every major question we come across—sometimes that's apparent and sometimes we take it for granted. We should do our best to draw lessons from past experiences, recognize where work has been done that we build upon, as well as appreciate that conditions are constantly changing. We are proud to be a part of a history of strong Asian women organizers in particular—founded 20 years ago by two members of Organization of Asian Women. We proudly continue to carry forward a tradition of women's leadership.

13 Political leadership comes in many forms.

We believe in the leadership of working-class and poor people in our communities. We have programming that supports that leadership to grow in all of our program areas, in different ways. Our Summer Institute in the Bronx trains Southeast Asian youth organizers, our Asian Women's Organizing and Leadership Institutes build confidence of Asian domestic workers to organize and our Chinatown Summer Youth Program trains new youth organizers in the fight against gentrification and displacement. There are numerous expressions of leadership and we should encourage development of the entire range. Our members are great listeners, strategists, mentors, support, public speakers, mediators, facilitators, and recruiters—and they all have different styles.



1997 In response to Mayor Giuliani's "Quality of Life" campaign (which results in increased police force and criminalization of people of color in public spaces), the NYC Coalition Against Police Brutality (CAPB) is formed to combat increase in police killings and violence throughout the city. CAPB includes CAAHV, the Audre Lorde Project, the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, and the Student Power Movement (later renamed Forever in Struggle Together).

1999 CAAHV organizes street vendors to protest the closing of the Dragon's Gate Market, an outdoor vendors' market, in Chinatown.

1999 As part of CAPB, CAAHV organizes a one-year campaign called Peoples' Justice 2000 to protest the brutal murder of Amadou Diallo by the NYPD and the violent attack by police against Abner Louima. Later the Racial Justice Project of CAAHV is created to focus on police brutality cases.

After conducting a street survey of Chinatown residents, CJP identifies gentrification of Chinatown as one of the main issues threatening the community.

2000 CJP launches a one-year campaign against Benjamin Shaoul, a slumlord attempting to wrongfully evict Chinese and Latino tenants in order to cash-in on rising rents in the area. This was the first campaign in a series of organizing efforts by CJP to unify tenants in Chinatown against displacement and gentrification.



14 Building a sustainable and relevant organization is critical to movement-building.

Organizations hold memories, experience and lessons. It's important to build organizations that are sustainable so that they are around to hold that history and are relevant so we can build upon it. Sustainable organizations are supported by members and members' resources, and grow at a pace that parallels the growth and depth of the organizing.

15 Everyone needs mentorship and support.

We are always learning, and always in a process of change. Everyone in our organization carries responsibility, and needs support and guidance in meeting those responsibilities with confidence. As much as possible we should have mechanisms of support and mentorship for everyone in the organization, regardless of how long they've been around or how much experience they have in a particular area.

16 Lessons should be shared to benefit the broader movement.

The more we build with other organizations, the more we realize that we share similar questions or challenges. A few years ago, we began doing exchanges with our allies where our leaders and members would share our work and struggles. These gatherings have helped us strengthen our organizing methods, broaden our perspective, and deepen our analysis. One reason why we created the CAAHV Voice years ago was to document and share our work, so that we can collectively benefit from the lessons.

17 Lessons are everywhere, in every tradition.

There is powerful learning in every struggle, every organization, every movement, and often in the most unexpected places. Openness to learning from different traditions of organizing and movement-building is critical to building to another level of power. In recent years, CAAHV has sent members to South Africa, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, Mexico, Kenya, Hong Kong, and India, to learn from movements in other parts of the world, and build relationships with organizations doing parallel work.



city-wide contingent in Washington D.C. to protest the I.M.F. and World Bank. From this point forward, CAAHV begins to relate local work to global trends and events that affect Third World countries and contribute to the patterns of global migration that are part of the root causes of Asian immigrant poverty and oppression in the United States.

2000 As part of CAPB, CAAHV launches Third World Within, an alliance of grassroots groups whose aim is to highlight the connection between local and global issues affecting oppressed communities.

2000 New Home in the Bronx! CAAHV is able to purchase a building in the Northwest Bronx.

2001 CAAHV is part of a U.S. delegation to Durban, South Africa to participate in the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerances.

2000 CAAHV participates in a

18

Victories are few and far between, we should celebrate them.

Many victories are hard to see because they are the ground that we stand on, but we should take the time to acknowledge and celebrate the victories, because they provide a sense of hope, courage and inspiration in difficult times:

The Women Workers Project of CAAAV started organizing Filipina domestic workers in 1998, and since then...

- Won over \$100,000 in unpaid wages for Asian domestic workers.
- Established the first Asian Women's Leadership Training Program for domestic workers.
- Became staffed by a domestic worker.
- Founded Domestic Workers United (DWU), an organization of NYC Caribbean, Latina and African domestic workers.
- Along with DWU, as part of the NY Domestic Workers Justice Coalition, helped to pass unprecedented New York City legislation promoting rights and dignity for domestic workers and is organizing for a statewide Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, including a living wage and basic health coverage.

The Youth Leadership Project, started in 1996, has...

- Established an annual Summer Institute of organizing skills and leadership development for Southeast Asian youth, which includes conducting a summer day camp for Southeast Asian children.
- Became staffed by a graduate of a pilot program conducted in 1995.
- Fought for, and won, the preservation of bilingual services in the local health clinic.
- Secured language access for Southeast Asians at the local welfare center.
- Established a precedent-setting center for non-English speaking parents at the local school district to gain information about their children's education.
- Obtained funding from the local school district to run a Southeast Asian Achievement Program.
- Advocated for dozens of Southeast Asian youth in the criminal justice system, including preventing the deportation of those who were not citizens.

The Chinatown Justice Project, started in 1999, has...

- Organized with tenants, vendors and youth against gentrification and displacement



19

Asians have a particular contribution to make in the struggle for social change in the U.S.

While varied among different groups, each Asian community has an experience that teaches us about the history and nature of U.S. society, and the history of oppression that it's based on. It's no accident that the "model minority" myth was promoted inside the U.S. while key Asian nations were developed by the U.S. as "tigers" to help facilitate U.S. economic interests in the region. Nor is it an accident that in today's "global city" Asians are tracked both into high-level services such as corporate law and investment banking, at the same time that they are tracked into low-wage services such as nail salon work. In order to understand our contribution to building a social change movement that has the power to create "another world," we need to have an analysis of our communities, the role we play in the economy and society—as well as the role our nations of origin play in the world.

20

Given the role that the U.S. plays in the destruction of human dignity around the world and the earth itself, U.S.-based organizations have a critical role to play in exposing the U.S. from within its own borders.

CAAAV seeks to lift the voices of tenants in Chinatown, the Southeast Asian community, and Asian domestic workers, connecting them to voices for justice around the world, to help open doors to "another world."

Ultimately, these lessons are a reflection of the hard work—and dedication of our members and staff, the patience and true solidarity of our allies, and the generosity of our mentors and supporters over the years.

2001 After 9/11 CAAAV—as a part of the Third World Within ~ Peace Action Coalition—joins with other social justice organizations to oppose the war in the Middle East and to combat the wide-scale and unjust deportations and detention of immigrants and increased militarization of law enforcement in communities of color.

2001 CAAAV initiates the Southeast Asian Freedom Network (SEAFN) a national network of SEA organizations, to combat the deportation of Southeast Asian refugees.

2001 CAAAV, Andolan Organizing South Asian Workers, and Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees forms Domestic Workers United, a city-wide, multinational and multiracial organization of domestic workers created to organize workers in the Caribbean, Latin American and African communities and to build the power of the workforce as a whole.

ing of streets to vending and the increase in tickets being issued to vendors.

2002 CJP releases "Chinatown is not for Sale"—a documentary by youth members of CJP that highlights tenants' year-long struggle in 166 Elizabeth Street.

2004 CAAAV sends members to the World Social Forum in India to learn about the struggles of third world peoples and the share the experiences of oppressed communities in the United States. This is the first of several World Social Forums that CAAAV sends delegates to.

2001 CAAAV participates in the formation of a city-wide street vendor coalition called Street Vendors United to oppose the closing

2005 CJP launches the Chinatown Tenants Union (CTU). CTU's first campaign is to demand the hiring of bi-lingual operators for the city's housing complaint hotline and bilingual housing inspectors.

2005 CAAAV sends members to protest the World Trade Organization negotiations and discussions in Hong Kong, and to share with protestors from around the world the experiences of low-income Asian immigrants and refugees in the United States.



2006 As part of Immigrant Communities in Action, CAAAV participates in a city-wide coalition against racist and anti-immigrant legislation in Congress which would have harsh consequences for all immigrants, militarize the borders, and criminalize immigrants, their families and anyone who assists immigrants.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT

CHINATOWN JUSTICE PROJECT

WOMEN WORKERS PROJECT

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT

DURING THE U.S. INVASION of Vietnam in the 1970s, at the hands of the Khmer Rouge regime, and later in refugee camps in the 1980s, millions of Vietnamese and Cambodian people endured malnutrition, starvation, forced labor, torture, and loss of family and friends. Twenty years after being resettled into the Northwest Bronx, New York's largest concentration of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees continue to bear the emotional and physical scars left by their war torn past.

These past experiences and present day scars have eroded the physical health of Cambodian and Vietnamese community members. Many complain of chronic aches and pains. Diabetes and high blood pressure are commonly reported ailments.

Equally troubling are the lingering effects of the community's histories on the mental health of refugees. Images of the atrocities of war and displacement flood their memo-

The youth organizers of the Youth Leadership Project.

ries and torment their dreams. Many war survivors have trouble sleeping, terrorized by nightmares or haunted by visions and ghosts.

The Southeast Asian community in the Bronx seek healthcare locally, at a satellite clinic governed by Montefiore Medical Center. However, language barriers and the failure of medical staff to link the community's prevailing health conditions to traumas experienced two decades ago often lead to inadequate health care.

The Youth Leadership Project is partnering with NYU's Vietnamese Community Health Initiative to systematically document these health conditions and identify the community's vision for comprehensive health care. Also, YLP is using a questionnaire developed by the Harvard Program For Refugee Trauma to investigate the impact of past trauma on the community's present mental health state.

This ground-breaking needs assessment will expose war and forced displacement as root causes of the community's current health crisis and demand a War Survivor's Program from Montefiore. Through conducting interviews with the adult and elderly members, YLP will record their stories as part of an oral history exhibit, set to debut in May.

For this generation of American-born and raised youth organizers, the process of sharing and preserving these stories strengthen inter-generational bonds and facilitate a journey to

their long forgotten past. Understanding their legacy as the aftermath of a U.S.-led military invasion will fuel YLP's demand for accountability. Channeling the necessary attention and resources into this community, which, still suffering from a war it did not choose to fight, is a first step toward a path of healing and recovery.

CHINATOWN JUSTICE PROJECT

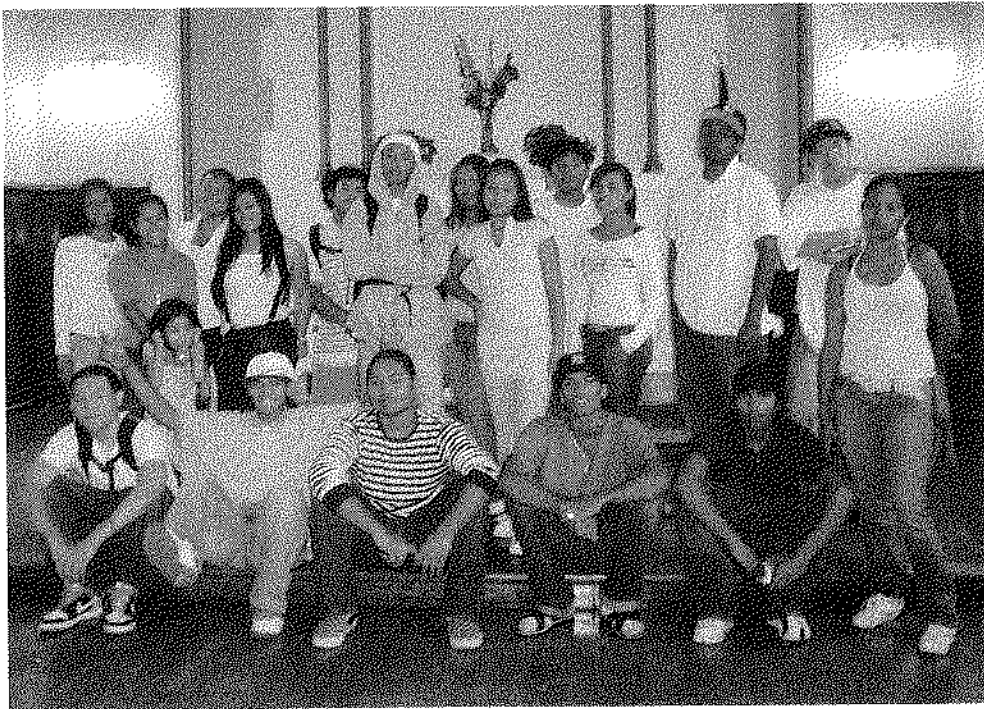
AS 2007 BEGINS, the Chinatown Justice Project (CJP) continues to grow in numbers, while CJP's campaigns for language access and against gentrification continue to gain in strength.

The Chinatown Tenant Union (CTU), a project of CJP since 2005, saw a jump in membership to 94 members and gained 1,200 supporters in 2006.

Several CTU campaigns also picked up momentum in 2006 and continue into 2007. With the help of the CTU, residents at 55 and 61 Delancey Street in Manhattan's Chinatown have organized to fight for repairs, respect, and an end to forced and baseless evictions. Their landlord had previously evicted almost half of the old tenants—mostly Chinese—when he bought the building in 2001 and has been trying to evict many of the tenants who have remained. He also has a history of ignoring tenants' requests for repairs, with the result that tenants often live with no heat, hot water, or electricity and broken ceilings and bathrooms.

Before the CTU began organizing the two buildings on Delancey Street, tenants were often afraid to challenge their landlord. With the help of CTU, however, tenants have organized meetings with him and have forced him to agree to make all repairs and to end baseless evictions. In a neighborhood that is rapidly gentrifying, the campaign at 55 and 61 Delancey has shown that tenants, if united, can fight displacement and better their living conditions.

The CTU is also working with tenants living at 81 Bowery, one of the last single resident occupancy buildings in Chinatown and one of the few truly affordable housing options in the neighborhood, to fight forced





Tenants of 55 and 61 Delancey Street, CTU members, allies and youth protest landlord for not providing services like heat and hot water and for baseless evictions of Chinese tenants.

evictions and for healthy living conditions. The tenants, mostly low-wage workers, pay on average \$400 per month to live in single rooms, often two-to-a-room.

CJP is also a member of a coalition that fights for housing justice. As part of the city-wide Communities for Housing Equality Coalition that includes the Urban Justice Center, Make the Road by Walking, and the New York Immigration Coalition among others, CJP has been working hard to ensure that residents who do not speak English have ac-

cess to city services. CJP found that Chinese tenants often don't report housing violations to the City's Department of Housing, Preservation, and Development (HPD)—many are not even aware that a city agency exists to help them with their housing needs and concerns. Currently, CJP continues to work with the coalition on introducing and passing city legislation that would require HPD to provide services, from translation of documents to hiring inspectors, in multiple languages.

WOMEN WORKERS PROJECT

RECENTLY, OUR WORK HAS WON us some exciting victories. The Women Workers Project Justice Clinic brings forward cases of exploited Filipina domestic workers and has shown what is possible when workers unite and organize. Nancy, one of our members, worked as a domestic worker for three years for fourteen hours a day, six days a week, and earned \$2 an hour without overtime pay. After more than a year of advocacy, Nancy won a \$55,000 settlement. Another member, Windy, recently received more than \$35,000 in back wages after winning a case against her employers who paid her a mere \$200 a week for working over 100 hours.

On September 30, 2006, the Women Workers Project held our annual Asian Women's Organizing and Cultural Night, attended by members of the domestic worker community, and our allies, friends and family who support the struggle. At the event, Ms. Nita Asuncion gave a compelling speech about her experience working for 3 years, 8 months on Park Avenue. Ms. Asuncion suffered verbal abuse on a daily basis; the constant yelling and being the target of newspapers, a vase, and a bottle of mustard thrown at her. She even pointed a pen in Ms. Asuncion's eye and pushed her. On August 8, 2004 her employer



CAAUV : ORGANIZING ASIAN COMMUNITIES

Founded in 1986, CAAUV (also known as Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence) organizes across diverse poor and working-class Asian immigrant communities in New York City to build community power and strengthen the broader movement for racial, economic and global justice. CAAUV is a volunteer-driven organization led by members of our program areas.

CAAUV'S PROGRAM AREAS INCLUDE:

CHINATOWN JUSTICE PROJECT

Uniting low-income residents and youth for affordable housing, preservation of public space, and an end to displacement caused by gentrification.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT

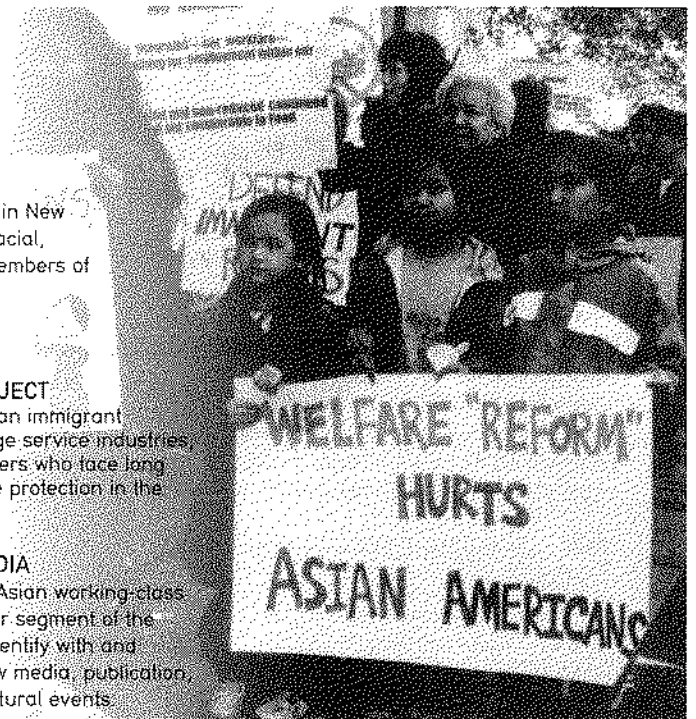
Organizing young people and adults in the Vietnamese and Cambodian refugee community of the Bronx for immigrant rights and racial justice, while creating alternatives to poverty.

WOMEN WORKERS PROJECT

Building power among Asian immigrant women working in low-wage service industries, particularly domestic workers who face long hours, low wages and little protection in the workplace.

ASIAN RESISTANCE MEDIA

Increasing the visibility of Asian working-class struggles so that a broader segment of the community can begin to identify with and support them, through new media, publication, political education and cultural events



VISIT THE CAAUV WEBSITE: WWW.CAAUV.ORG

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING



Women Workers Project Director Carolyn de Leon-Hermogenes speaks at the May 14, 2006 press conference to release the Domestic Workers United-DataCenter study on domestic work in New York, "Home Is Where the Work Is: Inside New York's Domestic Work Industry."

pushed her with greater force and she realized that she must leave because the abuse would only escalate. Ms. Asuncion courageously spoke out about her experience at the WWP Organizing and Cultural Night and exposed the exploitation endured by domestic workers globally, pointing out the dire need to organize for just laws.

WWP and Ms. Asuncion met with Urban Justice Center (UJC) and New York University Immigrant Rights Clinic (NYUIRC) to assess her options and she decided to go forward and seek justice so that "what happened to me should not happen again." Nita's case was filed in federal court Friday, November 17, 2006. Nita is currently fighting for justice and back-wages totaling nearly \$300,000.00. She hopes that by pursuing the case, she will encourage other domestic workers who are being abused and working under exploitative conditions to also speak out for justice.

Women Workers Project continues the tireless fight to improve the working conditions of Asian women to collectively create alternatives to sweatshop conditions and assert our basic right to live and work in peace, with dignity and respect wherever we are.

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

In the fight for domestic worker justice, Women Workers Project works in coalition with **Domestic Workers United (DWU)**, and the other members of the NY Domestic Workers Justice Coalition, which is engaged in a statewide campaign to pass a Bill of Rights

for domestic workers in New York State, to win respect and fair labor standards. If passed into law, all domestic workers will be officially included in the definition of "employee," and will have protections from unjust firing, access to health care, paid vacation, paid legal holidays, sick days, and notice of termination. Last year we won the support of the Black, Latino and Asian Legislative

Caucus and passed the "Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights" in the Assembly Labor Committee. With renewed determination on the part of our members and coalition partners, and the change in the administration, we look forward to fast movement this session. In the meantime we are planning a series of events and actions to organize and build the movement for dignity and respect, and to end slavery once and for all!

REAL LEGALIZATION PROGRAM

In the broader fight for justice for our communities, Women Workers Project works as part of **Immigrant Communities in Action (ICA)**, a coalition which has successfully united communities in Queens to have a voice in the immigration debate. As part of ICA, WWP is organizing the Asian community for a real legalization program and to contest dangerous measures that criminalize immigrants and militarize the border. ICA's demands include:

1. Broad legalization and no guest worker programs
2. Improved family reunification opportunities for all
3. Reduced detention, deportation, and militarization at the border
4. Equal rights for all workers and communities, including access to driver's licenses
5. No compliance to the REAL ID Act

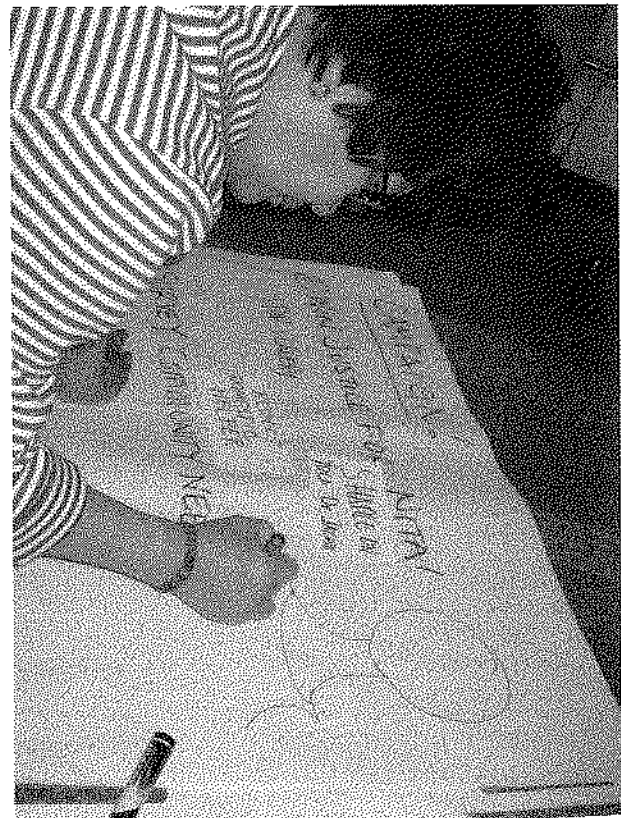
VOICING IMMIGRATION POLICY DEMANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The fight for true justice happens on many levels and in many places, including on our streets, in the courts, in Albany, on Capitol Hill and at the

United Nations. The United Nations High-Level Dialogue on Managed Migration & Development (UNHLD) that took place last September 13-15 2006, examined "the multi-dimensional aspects of international migration and development," in order bring together governments and NGOs to strategize how to "maximize benefits" and minimize negative impacts on migrant workers globally. The UNHLD utilizes a framework of "managed migration" and "co-development" which often translates to guest-worker programs and stronger immigration law enforcement, in line with what the US Congress is trying to do with recent proposals for comprehensive immigration reform.

Because the HLD was limited only to international NGOs, grassroots organizations within the US who are part of the **National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights** collaborated to hold our own "Community Dialogue" to highlight the voices and perspectives of the communities directly impacted by the policies and outcomes of the HLD. The grassroots press conference and rally in front of the UN called on the UNHLD to create policy that addresses the neo-liberal economic and military policies that are at the root of migration globally.

Women Workers Project member, Inday, prepares for a 2007 workplan discussion.



THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS

Thank you to all the individuals and organizations who donated to us in recent years:

Rajani Adhikary	Relinda Forbes	June Kushino	Leah and Joseph McDonough	Suyin So
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Thank you to all the individuals who supported us and attended these events:

Asian Women Organizing and Cultural Night

Youth Leadership Project Spring Fundraiser

We thank and recognize the generous support of the foundations who funded us in 2006:

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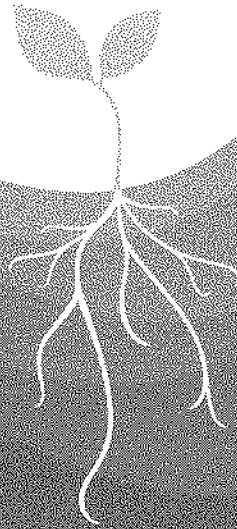
Public Welfare Foundation
Surdna Foundation
Union Square Award Grants Program
William Prusoff Foundation

We also want to thank the staff, members and volunteers of CAAAV who make our work possible.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT CAAAV

Just through your donations, you've been able to create and sustain a long history of strong and vibrant power for changing and making the conditions for Asian immigrant and refugee communities. Please make your donation to CAAAV and please give generously to make our work more effective. Donations to CAAAV Organizing and Community Development are tax-deductible. Thank you for your support.

**OUR ROOTS
GROW DEEP**



CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities

20th Anniversary Celebration

May 18, 2007 at 6:30pm

A vibrant program looking back and celebrating twenty years of building movement.

LOCATION:

In the Home of the National Black Institute of Action Arts
2031-33 National Black Theatre Way
At Fifth Avenue (Between 126th & 127th Streets)
Harlem, NY 10035

PERFORMANCES BY:

- Singer and songwriter, Vienna Teng
- Star of musical theater, Aileen Payumo
- Gamelan Dharma Swara Balinese Dance Troupe
- Praying Mantis Martial Arts Institute Lion Dancers

HOSTED BY DEEPA FERNANDES

\$50 TICKET INCLUDES DINNER

Come help us envision the next twenty years.

FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION:

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