

about

Third Thursdays is a monthly dinner series bringing the nonprofit, for-profit, and government sectors together to talk about Asian American & Pacific Islander (AA&PI) community issues and service opportunities. Third Thursdays serves young Asian and Pacific Islanders interested in supporting community activities and organizations throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Consisting of early-to-mid career professionals from the nonprofit, corporate, and government sectors, Third Thursdays provides a forum for networking, shared learning among peers, and community service opportunities.

For more information, visit our website:
www.thirdthursdays.org

get involved

The Third Thursdays organizers are always looking for more volunteers to help plan events, come up with new meeting ideas, and develop new projects.

In addition to developing the monthly dinner discussions, we are also planning several resources to help keep members informed about volunteer opportunities in the Asian and Pacific Islander community.

To get more information about helping out, send an email to the organizers at info@thirdthursdays.org

thanks

This Third Thursday was made possible through the generosity of Korea House, Locus, Julia Kim, and young APIs like you.



Perspectives on Spirituality and Religion in the API community

thursday, march 20, 2003
locus ✦ 1640 post ✦ san francisco

7:00 - 7:15pm ✦ registration

7:15 - 8:15pm ✦ panel discussion and
q&a

8:15 - 9:15pm ✦ facilitated dinner/
discussion groups

9:15 - 9:30pm ✦ discussion recap
& shout-outs



topic

Seldom formally discussed outside of academic and spiritual settings, religion and spirituality have served as important vehicles for personal and community growth, struggle, and transformation. This month's Third Thursdays explores the question: What role does spirituality and religion play in your life, identity, and work?

Whether it be a lesbian reconciling her identity with her Christian faith, a Buddhist who teaches activists the art of meditation, or a South Asian Muslim woman working as a psychologist, the personal reflections you hear will leave you with a broader understanding of the spiritual life of fellow APIs and its relation to community.

speakers

Viveka Chen

Meditation Teacher, Chairwoman, and Board Member, San Francisco Buddhist Center

Oneida Chi

Gays Reconciling Asian Christians Empowered (GRACE)
Bethany United Methodist Church

Sarah Majid, Psy.D.

Health Psychologist, Kaiser Permanente American Muslim Association
Islamic Society of North America

Steven Chen (Moderator)

ThirdThursdays Organizer

background

VIVEKA CHEN was ordained in 1997 into the Western Buddhist Center and became chairwoman of the San Francisco Buddhist Center of the WBO in the Mission District of SF. She is currently a meditation and Buddhist Teacher at the center and in addition, teaches meditation and stress management specifically to activists. Viveka has been providing culturally competent organizational and community consulting and facilitation services since 1991. She is dedicated to working with small to medium, diverse, nonprofit, community-based organizations committed to social justice for the Bay Area's communities of color and has been doing so for 12 years. Viveka's work focuses on using community development as means of realizing racial, social, and environmental justice. Viveka is currently on the board of directors of the Mission Economic Development Association in San Francisco and chairwoman and board member of San Francisco Buddhist Center.

ONEIDA CHI grew up Roman Catholic and attended Catholic school, and later converted to Evangelical Christianity in 1990. Oneida took on various leadership roles in an evangelical Christian Campus group and founded the first Asian American Bible study. In 1997, Oneida came out to herself and her family, and a year later, left the Evangelical church after being actively involved for 8 years. In 2000, Oneida joined a group called PACTS which discussed issues revolving around being queer and Christian. Oneida shortly helped organize a Tea House Concert to celebrate. GRACE was formed through the Concert. GRACE is a collective and a safe place and a bible study for queer Christians to meet and celebrate facets of our identities. Oneida facilitates discussions, studies, and meditation about issues of spirituality, and being queer and Asian. In 2001, Oneida became an active member of Bethany United Methodist Church, a religious organization at the forefront of breaking down barriers, and reconciling and accepting people regardless of sexual orientation. Oneida is currently participating in church discussions and advocating for church communities to open their doors to the LGBT community.

SARAH MAJID was born in Chicago, Illinois and raised in Appleton, Wisconsin. Sarah obtained her bachelor of science in psychology with minors in pre-med, biomedical ethics, and inter-religious studies. Sarah recently graduated from the California School of Professional Psychology in Alameda, CA obtaining her doctorate in clinical psychology. Sarah's work focuses primarily on pain management and coping with chronic medical conditions. Sarah is currently working for Kaiser Permanente in Southern California.

Sarah's family has been a significant influence on her spiritual life. Sarah's father was President of Fox Valley Islamic Center, the first and only Islamic Center in Northeastern Wisconsin. Sarah's father and mother are both board members of the American Muslim Association, Northeastern Wisconsin Chapter.

San Francisco Buddhist Center

<http://www.sfbuddhistcenter.org/>

Provided by Viveka Chen at the center:

May 2, 2003 - CompassPoint training on sustaining activism

April 18-20, 2003 - meditation retreat for people of color.

Sundays, 1:00 to 3:30pm - monthly meditation gatherings for people of color

Bethany United Methodist Church

<http://www.geocities.com/bethanysforg/>

American Muslim Association of North America

<http://www.al-amana.org/>

Islamic Society of North America

<http://www.isna.net/>

resources