



*Malden Asian Pacific
American Coalition*

Battles Fought. Lessons Learned.

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Mission (Revised 2003)

- A volunteer, nonprofit community organization whose mission is to
 - Help advance and preserve culture of APA living and or working in Malden
 - Promote human rights
 - Seek equality and justice in all areas of community life
 - Help ensure equal access to services

Mission (continued)



- People of various ethnic, cultural and linguistic background have come together around this mission recognizing that (1) a vibrant and growing community requires the full participation of all its residents and (2) a community is only as strong as its most vulnerable members.
- MAPAC is committed to justice, equality, and the inclusion of all people in the community life of Malden.

Demographic



- Chinese Americans in Massachusetts
- Chinese American enclaves in Boston: limited employment and cultural life
- Immigrant influxes during 1970s-2000s
- Urban gentrifications and power struggles within
- Migrant families settled along the T lines

Precipitants



- Chinatown: down stream vs. “hub”
- Business as usual vs. Progressive movement
- Clinical observations: accessibility
- Personal choices in light of glass ceilings
- Continuous learning as a clinician
- Malden’s Asian population growths
- Healthy Malden movement early 1990



Backdrops

- Hospitals mergers throughout last decade
- Closing of the Malden Hospital
- Unserved and underserved populations: a glass half full
- Volunteer opportunity for a new cause
NASW's mission borrowed
- Beyond a social worker's imagination



Players

- Low income advocates
- Local residents
- Outreach workers from “nonprofit” agencies
- Municipal power brokers
- Faith based leaders
- Elected officials
- Community media

Accomplishments



- Addressed justice for victims of bias and hate crimes in 1995
- Membership services: annual lunar New Year celebration, community access TV show "Asian Spectrum", badminton club, candidates nights
- Team up with savvy organizers
- New voice served as political pressure in municipal elections

Challenges



- Funding and management constraints
- Great Wall Center: agency and program challenges as well as opportunities
- Asians challenged to get involved in electoral process
- Coalition's internal unrest: Malden vs. Greater Boston
- Running to learn about the true colors
- Civic participation: a genuine movement

Transformation



*"Making a commitment generates hope.
Keeping a commitment generates Trust." Blaine Lee*

- Malden Asian Pacific American Coalition: challenged and transformed
- Realigned with low-income advocates, youth groups and leadership development
- Focused on the vulnerable populations and progressive causes

Some Thoughts about Safer Practice

- Powerful training: biopsychosocial paradigms! Is it enough? Amelia Earhart---nurse, social worker and aviator
- Self care: can't do it all! Except, may be, something to die for
- Clinical practice: nourish the seed of change
- Coalition building: Is it worth it?
- Leader vs. manager: Your choice.
- Macro practice: "Together We Can."
- Responsibility, accountability and peace of mind

Suggested Reading



- Asian Americans in Massachusetts, Institute for Asian American Studies at University of Massachusetts in Boston
- Becoming American: The Chinese Experience. A Bill Moyers Special DVD series
- Hate Crimes and Glass Ceiling by Tom L.N. Chung, Ph.D., Massachusetts Asian American Commission



Sustaining A Dream

**“Building Community.
Creating Trust.”**

Great Wall Center, Inc. 1999-

Thank You!

