

February 2021



FAPAC-DOI Newsletter



In this issue

Contributors

Henry Chang

Lena Chang

Ashley Chou

Barbara Green

Tanya H. Joshua

Table of Contents

President’s letter.....2

Member spotlight: Henry Chang.....3

Returning home to American Samoa.....4

What keeps me going: Malasada Maven.....5

Member resources.....7

From the president

Dear FAPAC-DOI,

Happy February and happy Lunar New Year to all who celebrate it! This month, I thought I would share a bit more about me and my roots in our public lands; I am honored to be the first profile on DOI’s [@peopleofinterior](#)!

I hope you are all staying safe and well.

All the best,

Lena Chang
President, FAPAC-DOI



“My parents were the first to introduce me to #USInterior lands; my best childhood memories are of time spent on public lands and in #NationalParks. I grew up running around the giant redwoods and enjoying the vast expanses of the Sierra Nevada mountains. It gave me a deep appreciation of how conservation of wild places and species can enrich our lives. I started my career in conservation as a volunteer wildlife rehabilitator, specializing in birds of prey. Inspired, I went back to school in my 20s to earn a degree in biology with the specific goal of working for the @USFWS. I could not be prouder to be working for Interior protecting the lands and species that I love.”

Member spotlight

Henry Chang

PERMA Chief

USFWS Joint Administrative Operations

Both of my parents were born in China. They came to the U.S. as college students in the late 1950s, the only way for a Chinese national to immigrate to the U.S. at that time. They met in Southern California and still live there today. I love to surf, but I have lived away from the West Coast for over 30 years. Although my surfing abilities have diminished, I still enjoy getting in the water on my family visits.

I have been with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) since 2003, and I currently work with the Service's Joint Administrative Operations program as the Chief; Policy, Economics, Risk Management, and Analytics Division (PERMA). My program is affiliated with Headquarters, but I live in Amherst, MA, and I work out of the regional office in Hadley, MA. Prior to working for the Service, I worked in the Peace Corps headquarters office in Washington, D.C., and as a program examiner at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the International Affairs/Economics Branch.



*Henry Chang going for a surf in California
Photo courtesy of Henry Chang*

Before OMB I taught English as a second language and social studies at a high school in Washington, D.C. Managing multiple classes of 25+ teenagers on a daily basis provided me with more lessons than I provided. I also served two stints as a Peace Corps Volunteer - first in Sierra Leone as a health extension worker, and then in Botswana as an English teacher.

Living in Africa as a Chinese American unexpectedly challenged and awakened many facets of my identity conscience. In Africa, I was labeled as either an American or a Chinese national. After simple conversations, Sierra Leoneans and Botswanans readily accepted me as an American. I often felt more American living in Africa than I do living in the U.S. It fascinates me that most African nationals are more accepting of a multi-cultural U.S. than many Americans. Hopefully someday I will always be rightfully seen as an American with no need for any conversation.

I feel very fortunate to be a part of FAPAC. I appreciate the inviting respectful space FAPAC provides for me to learn about employees' experiences and share my own.

Returning to American Samoa

Beating COVID-19 in Pacific Island Communities

Tanya Harris Joshua

Deputy Policy Director and Communications Lead
Office of Insular Affairs



The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) recently provided \$1,670,450, in CARES Act funds to the government of American Samoa to support its residents who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The territory of American Samoa has been the only U.S. territory without any cases of the COVID-19 virus, however, an estimated several hundreds of American Samoans have been stranded outside of the territory since travel to the territory was shut down on March 22, 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding provided by OIA will be used to support a larger effort by the American Samoa Government (ASG) to repatriate its residents who have been stranded. The ASG has been coordinating with OIA and other federal partners to repatriate its residents back to the territory and will use these funds to support pre-quarantine requirements, purchase testing and cleaning supplies, and provide overall support of isolation and quarantine stages prior to departing for the territory.

An initial group of 159 American Samoans were repatriated to American Samoa on February 5, and as of February 15, have concluded quarantine protocols, tested negative for COVID-19, and have all been released to their families.

The repatriation has been a huge collective effort that includes health workers, ASG officials, Hawai'i State officials, and federal officials. It also included community service and church organizations, such as the Tagata Tutufa'atasi Alliance of American Samoa, who have also provided food, shelter, and other on-going support to the folks who have been stranded since last year.

A February 5 press release issued by the American Samoa Government stated that protecting the territory from COVID-19 remains the number one priority but hopes to be able to bring more residents home as soon as possible. Furthermore, the American Samoa Government remains vigilant to ensure the safety and good health of the people, while making adjustments following the first repatriation flight to utilize data collected from the first repatriation to improve the efficiency of the process.

An emergency declaration for the territory has been updated to make wearing a mask mandatory in public places, encourages residents to practice social distancing, and also encourages residents to take the COVID-19 vaccine.

Malasada Maven

Barbara Green

Equal Opportunity Manager

National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office

I have a confession...I have an addiction and I have no intention of going to rehab for it. Let's just say I developed a COVID craving to help me cope. Yes, I know eating my way through a pandemic may not be the best way to deal with it, yet who can resist a Hawaiian donut loaded with specialty fillings? Especially when there are over 20 fillings to choose from?

In 1878, Portuguese laborers ventured off to Hawaii to work on plantations and brought their traditional foods with them, which included a decadent and delicious treat, a fried dough pastry known as a malasada. Numerous Hawaiian bakeries ended up specializing in making malasadas and the world became a happier place.

In Hawaii, the day before Lent is *Malasada Day* and I am here for that, my friends. Any day involving those warm delicious donuts rolled in sugar is my kind of day. Fortunately for me, a bit of Hawaii planted roots in Alaska. *Wiki Wiki Onolicious* opened locations in Alaska, Arizona and Utah, and I want to thank them for choosing our beautiful state to fill a craving I never knew I needed until I indulged in

their heavenly culinary confections.

Now mind you, I am aware of the downfalls of stress eating, so I ensure to balance out my newfound addiction by walking. I am using the upstairs loft in my home as an indoor track and I am willing to put in the steps to prevent gaining the "Quarantine 15" since I was a star in gaining the "Freshman 15" in college. And this lovely little oasis in Alaska also serves kukis, their gourmet cookies, and I will admit to indulging in their huge chocolate chip kuki. Poke, rice bowls and musubi are on the menu, yet we are in a pandemic people, and I am inclined to satiate with sweets to temper the stress.

In Alaska, whenever a new restaurant opens, you can wait for hours until you are allowed entry due to the massively long lines of those waiting to get in. When *Olive Garden* opened their first Anchorage location almost

10 years ago, our fine citizens waited in line for over three hours outside when it was -5 degrees. Eating is serious business in the Last Frontier. I tend to wait until the novelty has worn off, which could take three to four months, so it took awhile for me to visit my pandemic paradise. Yet, it was well worth the



wait, and *Wiki Wiki Onolicious* has made it very easy to be safe in our cautious COVID-19 times through online ordering and curbside delivery.

We have a myriad of ways to cope through difficult and challenging moments. Oh sure, I can start working on crossword puzzles or read a book. However, to keep what little sanity I have intact, please excuse me while I reach for my chocolate, caramel cream or mango and cream cheese malasada. This is one addiction I have no intention of kicking, even when our lives return to some semblance of normalcy. And no, I am not being paid for promoting this marvelous mecca. I am simply a donut diva...a malasada maven...who is maniacally mad for malasadas and cannot resist a tempting tasty treat. Anyone care to join me?



Malasada!



*The Wiki Wiki Onolicious store in Anchorage, Alaska
Photos from wikiwikidonuts.com*

Member resources

What we're watching...

[The Chosen:](#)

show about Jesus on the App store

[Profs and Pints:](#)

online lectures and virtual tours

[Finding Ohana:](#)

Netflix film about a Hawaiian family

[Asian Boss:](#)

Meet Japan's Only Wheelchair Idol

What we're reading...

[The Powerful Purpose of Introverts:](#)

Why the World Needs You to Be You
by Holley Gerth

What we're listening to...

[NPR's Life Kit:](#)

How to Work Less and De-Stress

[Self Evident:](#)

Asian America's Stories

["Next to Me"](#)

by Jordan Felix

[Remembering Corky Lee:](#)

Legendary Photographer of Asian American Life

What we're eating...

[Instant Pot](#)

[Minestrone Soup](#)

[Pressure Cooker](#)

[Chicken Pho](#)

[Spinach Ohitashi](#)

(Japanese recipe)

What we're doing...

21 in 21:
Exploring 21 new places in 2021
(e.g. state parks, nature trails, unexplored local areas)

Diversity, equity, and inclusion

[NCAPA](#):
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans

Join the FAPAC-DOI email list by reaching out to the FAPAC-DOI board at fapacboard@ios.doi.gov