

July 2021



FAPAC-DOI Newsletter



In this issue

Contributors

Lena Chang

Ashley Chou

Susan Farrell

Brenda Ling

Table of Contents

President’s letter.....2

Member spotlight: Brenda Ling.....3

Summer story: Susan Farrell.....4

Member resources.....5

From the president

Dear Chapter Members,

Happy July! I hope you had a great 4th of July holiday. It has been hot and very dry here out west, so the potential for wildfire is always on our minds. For those of you in current fire areas, we hope you are staying safe and well. I remain forever grateful for the fire and emergency management professionals who stay at the ready to protect us and our natural resources. Thank you for all that you do!

I’ve continued to get outdoors when I can, staying extra careful in higher temperatures. This photo was taken in one of my favorite local areas in the [Santa Monica Mountains](#) National Recreation Area on a route I worked for months to climb. It felt great to finally accomplish that goal over the 4th of July weekend!

We’d love to hear about your summer adventures and goals! What do you hope to do, see, or accomplish?

Stay well (and hydrated!),



Lena Chang



*Rock climbing in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Photo credit: Michel LeDuff*

Member spotlight

Brenda Ling

Public Affairs Officer

Gateway National Recreation Area, National Park Service

Chair, National Park Service Asian American Employee Group

I was a newspaper journalist before joining federal service. I worked in Minnesota, Iowa, Virginia, Florida, and Pennsylvania. My first federal job was with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service in North Dakota where I translated research into articles for the public and news releases for the media. I then joined the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Wyoming where I worked with ranchers and farmers. Again, I translated complex conservation programs in communication materials to help them better understand conservation practices, allowing them to make more informed decisions about their land. I'm now the public affairs officer with the National Park Service (NPS), at Gateway National Recreation Area, which is in New York and New Jersey.

The common thread throughout my career involves taking complex issues and presenting the information in a way that a regular person could understand. This work comes naturally to me because I am a child of immigrants. Growing up in New York City's Chinatown, I tagged along whenever translation was required. I knew how much my parents relied on my efforts.

I led the effort to create an Employee Resource Group (ERG) for Asian Americans within the NPS. There were 12 of us who came together in the beginning. Our ERG became official at the end of March 2021. We now have 155 members. Many who joined are allies and wanted to support their Asian American colleagues. Our group grew quickly in part because there was a need for employees to find each other and to connect. The other reason was due to the growing number of anti-Asian hate incidents. Asian American employees needed a safe space to share their concerns about safety and well-being.

We are still in the midst of the pandemic and I look forward to the day when we can put this period of death, anxiety, and scapegoating behind us. I also don't want us to forget what the Asian community endured as it continues to deal with anti-Asian hate.



Summer story

Susan Farrell

Reclamation Training and Development Officer
Bureau of Reclamation, Human Resources Policy Office

I completed my bucket list to visit all 50 states five years ago, but then decided to start on the list of U.S. National Parks (22 done so far!). This year I was able to check off the Grand Canyon National Park - South Rim. Here is one of the photos I took while there.



View of South Rim in Grand Canyon National Park

Member resources

What we're watching

[Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy](#)

[History of the Sitcom](#)

The Chosen

Marvel Studio's
Black Widow

Raya and
the Last Dragon

The Tomorrow War

What audio books we're listening to

The Power
of God's Names
by Tony Evans

Leader Shift
by John C. Maxwell

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World
That Can't Stop Talking
by Susan Cain

What songs we're listening to

Gospel Song
by Rhett Walker

Miracles
by Colton Dixon

Who by Donny Osmond

What we're reading

The First 90 Days
by Michael D. Watkins

Everybody Always
by Bob Goff

What we're cooking

Sesame Shishito Peppers and Snow Peas

1/2 cup snow peas
12 shishito peppers
1 T roasted sesame oil
1 T tamari (or soy sauce)
1 T chopped garlic
Pinch of crushed red peppers (optional)

Saute all ingredients in a pan until the sesame oil and tamari (or soy sauce) start to caramelize. Enjoy!

Submitted by Susan Farrell

Diversity, equity, and inclusion

[Governor Newsom Signs AAPI Equity Budget](#)

[Executive Order on DEI and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce](#)

[“Historic investment”:
California allocates millions to fight anti-Asian hate](#)