

March e-newsletter

March 31, 2009

KACF hosts Janice Lee Book Event

On January 16th, KACF co-sponsored a book signing event featuring Korean American author Janice Lee and her acclaimed debut novel, "The Piano Teacher". Over 100 guests were on hand at the Shin Choi boutique, in Manhattan's fashionable Soho district (119 Mercer St., New York, NY 10012), to hear Ms. Lee read from her New York Times bestselling book and participate in a Q&A with the author.

The Piano Teacher has received excellent reviews for its story set during World War II in war-torn Hong Kong rich with themes of romance and betrayal. Ms. So-Chung Shinn, former Managing Editor of "Opera News" and "Interior Design" magazines, emceed the event and Mr. Su Yong Choi generously sponsored the refreshments.



Above: Picture from KACF's Janice Lee Book Event at the Shin Choi boutique in Soho on January 16, 2009.

Photo credit: Catherine Choi

Continued Below

New KACF Board Members' profiles

KACF is excited to introduce the newest members of its Board of Directors. **Mr. John Kim**, president and CEO of New York Life Investment Management LLC; **Dr. Steven Yang** orthopedic surgeon in group practice with Manhattan Orthopaedics, P.C., Assistant Adjunct faculty of the Lenox Hill Hospital Department of Orthopedic Surgery, and Clinical Assistant Professor of New York University School of Medicine - Hospital for Joint Diseases; **Mr. Tony W. Lee**, Managing Director of Ripplewood Holdings LLC; and **Ms. Gina Chon**, an Associate at Lehman Brothers Private Equity—Merchant Banking Group and former Chair of the KACF Steering Committee have joined the KACF Board. Former Board Members **Patrician Han** and **Dr. Yong T. Shin, MD** have stepped down after their three year terms.

Continued Below

Feeling Generous?

Please contribute!
Contributions can be sent to:

KACF
501 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor
NY, NY, 10017

Or donate online at NYCharities.org-KACF

Contact **Kyung B. Yoon**,
Executive Director of KACF, for
more info:
info@kacfny.org

KACF e-newsletter Team
Philip Lee Philip.Lee@kacfny.org
David Kim David.Kim@kacfny.org

**Please check the KACF
page every month in Ko-
reAm magazine!**

More in this e-newsletter!

Meet KACF's newest staff members: Development/Operations Officer Catherine Choi and Program Officer Brennan Gang

KACF Board Member Jim Wohn presented with Networker of the Year Award from Metropolitan Business Network

Upcoming community events and announcements...

KACF hosts Janice Lee Book Event (cont'd)

The Soho boutique was filled to capacity, and the audience responded with great interest to Janice Lee's message. KACF Steering Committee Chair Philip Lee said, "I think it's great that KACF sponsors events such as this book event, which really highlights some of the artistic work that Korean Americans are doing today. Their work is on the forefront of new American culture, and KACF has helped to increase awareness." In the past, KACF has held these unique private events with Min Jin Lee, bestselling author of "Free Food for Millionaires," and contemporary Korean artist Il Lee.



Photo credit: Catherine Choi

New Board Members' profiles (cont'd)

KACF President Suok Noh said, "KACF is proud to have such a fine group of first time Board Members join KACF. They each bring a wealth of experience and leadership to our Board and all share the Board's passion for KACF's leading work in the community."

Mr. John Kim

Mr. John Kim is president and chief executive officer of New York Life Investment Management LLC. As CEO, he is responsible for all NYLIM divisions and subsidiaries, their continued profitability and the strategic growth of the organization. Mr. Kim is also a member of the Executive Management Committee of New York Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Kim has an impressive 25-year track record as a highly successful business executive with deep knowledge of the investment management and retirement businesses. He was previously president of Prudential Retirement where he led their defined benefit, defined contribution and guaranteed products businesses.

Prior to joining Prudential, Mr. Kim served as president of CIGNA Retirement and Investment Services. He spent 17 years of his career with Aetna Life & Casualty where he rose to the position of chief executive officer and chief investment officer of Aeltus Investment Management. He also served as managing director and head of Fixed Income at Mitchell Hutchins Institutional Investors.

Mr. Kim is a Chartered Financial Analyst and holds Series 6, 7, 24, and 26 designations.

"KACF is proud to have such a fine group of first time Board Members join KACF. They each bring a wealth of experience and leadership to our Board and all share the Board's passion for KACF's leading work in the community."

Mr. John Kim has a M.B.A. from the University of Connecticut and a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Steven Yang

Dr. Steven Yang is an orthopedic surgeon. He is Assistant Adjunct faculty of the Lenox Hill Hospital Department of Orthopedic Surgery, on the staff of New York Hospital Queens, and is also Clinical Assistant Professor of New York University School of Medicine - Hospital for Joint Diseases. Although he is a board certified general orthopaedic surgeon, his specialty training is in the treatment of musculoskeletal and neurologic conditions of the hand, upper extremity, and shoulder. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and a member of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH). He has a Certificate of Added Qualification in Surgery of the Hand (CAQ). He is a member of the Performing Arts Medical Association.

After graduating from Yale University, he studied at the Duke University School of Medicine. He then went on to obtain a Masters degree at the Harvard School of Public Health. An internship in general surgery and a residency in orthopaedic surgery were completed at the Lenox Hill Hospital, a New York University teaching hospital. Fellowship training in surgery of the hand and upper extremity was undertaken at the Hospital for Special Surgery of the Weill Cornell University Medical College. He has researched and published numerous journal articles and textbook chapters in the area of orthopaedic surgery.

New Board Members' profiles (cont'd)

Mr. Tony W. Lee

Mr. Tony W. Lee is a Managing Director of Ripplewood Holdings LLC, where he is currently responsible for investments in the global chemicals and general industrial sectors. During his tenure at Ripplewood he has played a significant role in the investments in ICM Equipment Company, Asbury Automotive Group, Kraton Polymers and Supresta Holdings. Mr. Lee also served as the Director of Business Development for Asbury where he was instrumental in doubling the size of the company to over \$4 billion in revenue through strategic acquisitions.

Prior to joining Ripplewood in 1997, Mr. Lee was a financial analyst in the Mergers & Acquisitions group at Salomon Brothers, Inc. in New York. While at Salomon, Mr. Lee completed eight transactions totaling over \$20 billion, including the first 4-way merger in Europe.

Mr. Lee graduated with an A.B. degree in economics from Harvard College. Mr. Lee is married with 3 children and lives in New York City. He enjoys golf and is a patron of New York's Metropolitan Opera, where his wife serves as Chairman of the Young Associates Directors.

Ms. Gina Chon

Ms. Gina Chon is an Associate at Lehman Brothers Private Equity—Merchant Banking Group, a Lehman Brothers affiliated private equity fund with \$4.5 billion under management. She has been an ardent supporter and member of KACF for five years, and was elected Chair of the KACF Steering Committee from 2007 to 2008.

Ms. Chon holds an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School, where she was a member of the Private Equity Club, Columbia Finance Association (AVP), Columbia Women in Business, and President of the Korean Business Association. She holds a B.A from Cornell University in economics with a Business Management & Marketing minor. Ms. Chon graduated Magna Cum Laude with Dean's List distinction.

Meet KACF's newest staff members: Catherine Choi and Brennan Gang!



KACF is pleased to introduce our newest staff members. Here they are in their own words.

Brennan Gang—Program Officer

“When I was approached about the possibility of coming on board at KACF as Program Officer, I jumped at the chance because the potential to expand KACF's ability to make a greater impact on the lives of individuals and communities was absolutely enticing.

Meet KACF's newest staff members: Catherine Choi and Brennan Gang! (cont'd)

Kyung Yoon, our Executive Director, and I had many conversations about how KACF can make a lasting impact, and we always came back to two things: 1) to build a bridge of understanding, cooperation, and partnership within the different generations of Korean and Korean Americans and to non-Korean communities; and 2) to promote philanthropic leadership among Korean Americans so that we can build a Korean American identity of service and activism. Tall order(!) but we both believed that these things could be done. So here I am.

Now the work! To realize our hopes for the Foundation, my priority for the upcoming year is to strengthen our grantmaking work and to develop capacity building initiatives that will support our grantee partners as they do critical work in our communities.

At the same time, I have the responsibility to harness the energy and commitment of our KACF volunteers to help them become philanthropic leaders so they can be agents of positive change. For the lack of better word, I call this 'work,' but I feel very lucky and charged to be doing this."

Brennan will be overseeing KACF's grantmaking and other initiatives related to the programmatic work. Recently, she served as Program Officer for The New York Women's Foundation, a public foundation committed to helping low-income women achieve sustained economic security, where she helped to manage over \$2 million grantmaking budget, including strategic review and analysis of grant applications, and develop short- and long-term strategies in three areas of work: grantmaking, capacity building, and public education and advocacy. Brennan is a graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College where she studied English.

Catherine Choi—Development/Operations Officer

"As KACF's Development/Operations Officer, I look forward to building KACF's infrastructure, strengthening fundraising strategies, and building relationships with our donors and volunteers. I think it's a very exciting time to be involved in philanthropy and believe in KACF's mission to build bridges across the Korean-American community. As an active volunteer and Steering Committee member, I've always been amazed by the enthusiasm of all the talented young professional volunteers who help accomplish KACF's mission of empowering and mobilizing Korean-Americans to become philanthropic leaders.

"I think it's a very exciting time to be involved in philanthropy and believe in KACF's mission to build bridges across the Korean-American community."

-Catherine Choi

"I have the responsibility to harness the energy and commitment of our KACF volunteers to help them become philanthropic leaders so they can be agents of positive change."

-Brennan Gang, Program Officer

Working with our Executive Director, Kyung Yoon, and Program Officer, Brennan Gang, I look forward to helping KACF grow and accomplish its goal of building a Korean American identity of service and activism."

Catherine is a graduate of Wellesley College where she studied International Relations and Economics. Prior to joining KACF, Catherine worked as an Investment Banking Analyst at Jefferies & Co. in New York. During her spare time, Catherine enjoys running, squash, and raising awareness for Prader-Willi Syndrome. She is officially entered into the 2009 ING New York City Marathon.

Board Member Jim Wohn presented Networker of the Year award by MBN NYC

This past January, KACF Board Member Jim Wohn was recognized as the Networker of the Year from the Metropolitan Business Network (www.mbnyc.com).

As the recipient, Jim Wohn asked that Metropolitan Business Network of New York members direct their charitable giving to KACF. In the following weeks, KACF received donations totaling \$5,450 in Jim's honor.

KACF Executive Director Kyung Yoon thanked Jim Wohn for raising awareness of KACF among New York City business leaders and for making KACF his charity of choice to be the beneficiary of his award.

Jim Wohn said, "Recognition of KACF'ers in the community can only benefit our organization, directly or indirectly. I'm truly humbled by the award, and at the same time, I'm so happy to direct these funds to KACF!"



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Upcoming community events and announcements...

1) The Metropolitan Museum of Art Look Again! program series: Korean Art

Time: March 28, 2009

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Location: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Carson Family Hall, Uris Center for Education, ground floor

1000 Fifth Avenue. New York, New York 10028

2) The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Art of the Korean Renaissance, 1400–1600

Time: Now until June 21, 2009

Location: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Arts of Korea Gallery, 2nd Floor

These forty-five exquisite works of art illustrate the height of artistic production under court and elite patronage during the first 200 years of the Joseon dynasty (1392–1910), a time of extraordinary cultural achievements. The diverse yet cohesive group of secular and religious paintings, porcelain, sculpture, lacquer, and metalwork highlights the aesthetics, conventions, and innovations of a Neo-Confucian elite and its artistic milieu. This is the first in a series of international loan exhibitions at the Museum focusing on significant periods in Korean art history.

[Click here for more information](#)

Korean American Community Foundation

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