

OCA & FCC PRESENT:

# *Asian American in 2018*

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## *API LGBTQ Family Acceptance*

Join us for a workshop to hear Asian American and Pacific Islander parents share their experiences of confusion, guilt, fear, and uncertainty, then moving into unconditional love, acceptance, and celebration of their LGBTQ+ children. You will have an opportunity to better understand the challenges API LGBTQ individuals and families are facing in the immigrant community and how you can also become allies.



### **Virginia Ng**

Virginia Lou Ng was actively involved with the Girl Scouts, having led 6 different Girl Scout troops. She recently retired from the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center as the Associate

Administrator specializing in volunteer management, marketing and special events. She has served on the Bergen County Human Services Advisory Council, Bergen County Human Relations Commission and the NJ State Asian American Advisory Council. She also served as a state commissioner on the NJ Commission on National Service. She currently sits on the Asian Advisory Council of Bergen County. She is the past OCA New Jersey Chapter President and currently serves as the OCA National Vice President of Finance. In 2017, The Ng Family, Virginia, husband John, sons Jonas and Maxwell were honored by NQAPIA for their work in the LGBTQ community.



### **Aruna Rao**

As the proud mother of a queer and transgender child, Aruna is passionate about advancing LGBTQ rights. She recognizes the urgent need for family acceptance of LGBTQ people in API and South Asian communities and is dedicated to creating a loving,

inclusive world where LGBTQ people are an integral part of community spaces. Aruna serves on the steering committee of API Rainbow Parents of PFLAG NYC, where she speaks at family acceptance workshops. She is the founder of Desi Rainbow Parents & Allies, a group that supports South Asian parents of LGBTQ children by offering monthly in person and phone support groups, educational events, and one-on-one peer support for parents struggling with accepting their LGBTQ children.



### **Aya Yabe**

A mother of a married gay daughter, Aya is a member of API Rainbow Parents of PFLAG NYC and is involved with its community outreach efforts. Her goal is to make the world a better place for LGBTQ-identified people in Asian communities. She

believes in a social change by increasing the visibility of Asian parents of LGBTQ children to normalize LGBTQ presence in society. In 2017, with her daughter, Miki, She appeared in a video entitled "Parents and Their LGBT Children on Unconditional Love" produced by Next Day Better and AARP. Originally from Japan, she maintains strong ties with LGBTQ communities in her homeland. She has been working with the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) since 2016 for its International Family Acceptance campaign through coming out workshops and speaking engagements including the one at Waseda University, Tokyo, in 2017.



### **Clara Yoon**

Clara is a proud Korean mother of a transgender, bisexual son. She is the founder of API Rainbow Parents of PFLAG NYC that provides support for LGBTQ individuals and families of Asian heritage and addresses culture-

specific needs of the API community since 2012. She is currently serving on the PFLAG NYC Board of Directors. Clara is also a co-founder and president of Korean American Rainbow Parents (KARP). She was one of planning committee to organize the first national Korean American LGBTQ conference (KQTCon) in NYC in April 2018. She organizes and speaks at many workshops and events across US, Japan, and Korea on family acceptance and LGBTQ equality. Clara was honored at the NYC Council Pride Celebration in 2017 and received the 2015 Community Catalyst Award from NQAPIA (National Queer Asian & Pacific Islander Alliance) for her work in API community. Clara appeared in a number of interviews including Korean American Story and Asian American Life at CUNY.TV to advocate for LGBTQ causes especially in the API/Korean American community.