



Asian American Coalition of Chicago

www.aacchicago.org
aacchicago2025@gmail.com

**ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION OF CHICAGO
ANNOUNCES CELEBRITIES AND PRESENTERS
FOR 42nd ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR 4723//2025
CELEBRATION EXTRAVAGANZA
"...ONE..."**

FEBRUARY 22, 2025 AT HYATT REGENCY O'HARE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: GENERAL: aacchicago2025@gmail.com
December 23, 2024 MEDIA: info@enericom.net
TICKETS: aacchicago2025@gmail.com**

CHICAGO, IL - - A myriad of popular personalities from TV, film, music and theatre are scheduled to appear in person at the **42nd Annual Asian American Coalition of Chicago Lunar New Year 4723/2025 Celebration Extravaganza** set for **Saturday, February 22, 2025 at the Hyatt O'Hare**, 9300 West Bryn Mawr, in Rosemont, Illinois, Executive Producer and Show Director Rieny G. Cualoping and AACC 2024-2025 President and Producer, Indonesian Cultural Segments and Unity Dance, Martino Tangkar, announced today. (The producers will continue to announce talent whose schedules are currently pending final scheduling, who are joining the show, in the coming weeks.) Several of the personalities* are also scheduled to sing a new segment featuring an "All-Star Singing Ensemble" of The National Anthem.

The list includes:

PAN ASIAN AMERICAN PING TOM MEMORIAL 2025 AWARDEE *(Announced Last Week)*

1. Linda Yu, Trailblazing Anchor and Legendary TV Broadcaster; Currently Principal, Linda Yu Media. Attorney **Darryl Tom** nominated Linda Yu for the award and will again participate in this year's award ceremonies, representing **The Tom Family**.

CELEBRITY PRESENTERS - MAJOR MEDIA TV BROADCASTS AND MAJOR NETWORK TV SERIES

- 2. Joanie Lum**, Reporter, FOX 32 Chicago TV News;
Scheduled to Introduce the Pan Asian American Ping Tom Memorial Live Award Segment.
- 3. Tonray Ho**, Actress, AEA, SAG/AFTRA (Nurse Leah on NBC-TV's "Chicago Med"); Owner, BeSTUDIOPilates;
- 4. Eric Horng**, Reporter, ABC 7 Chicago TV News;
- 5. Tina Nguyen**, Sports Anchor and Reporter, FOX 32 Chicago TV News;
- 6. Vi Nugyen**, Reporter, NBC 5 Chicago TV News;
- 7. Ji Suk Yi**, Co-Host of Spotlight Chicago, WGN-TV (1 p.m. Weekdays); Contributing Host, "Windy City LIVE," ABC 7 Chicago for 7 Seasons;

(MORE)

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- - ADD ONE

CELEBRITY PRESENTERS – MUSIC, THEATRE AND MORE

- 8. Marisa Buccheit**, Operatic Soprano;* Miss Illinois 2014;
- 9. Kimbirdlee Fadner**, Actress, AEA, SAG/AFTRA; Actress, Singer,* (Soprano); Musical Theatre, Writer, Composer, Producer and Model (New York via Wisconsin); Chinese Brush Painter;
- 10. Cheryl Hamada**, Actress, AEA, SAG/AFTRA; Singer*;
- 11. Mia Park**, Actress, SAG/AFTRA (Nurse Beth Cole, “Chicago Med” NBC-TV 5 Seasons); Rock and Jazz Band Drummer and Singer; Cultural Producer, Taiji and Yoga Teacher, Professor and Hospice Nurse;

PRESENTERS

- 12. Van Ferro**, Actor, AEA; Singer;* President, Artist Auxiliary Board, Chicago Artist Guide;
- 13. Won C. Kim**, Extras Actor;
- 14. Don Villar**, Secretary/Treasurer, Chicago Federal of Labor; Former Longtime Writer/Producer, ABC 7 Chicago TV News; and

YOUTH AMBASSADOR PRESENTER

- 15. Kayla Tejero**, Singer* and Actress; Nurse.

MEDIA requests including Images to: **info (at) enericom.net** .

TICKETS

Ticket sales are on track to be sold out for the Asian American Coalition of Chicago's **42nd Annual Lunar New Year Celebration, “...ONE...”** to be held **Saturday, February 22, 2025**, at the **Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, in Rosemont, Illinois!** The black-tie gala usually attracts over 1,000 people.*

Currently, tickets are available at \$1,500 sold per table of ten **when funded by December 31, 2024** , or \$2,000 per table of ten **if funded on or after January 1, 2025** for this popular star-studded event. No tickets will be sold at the door. **Cocktail Reception and Exhibits begin at 4:30 p.m.; Opening Ceremonies are at 6 p.m., with Dinner, Entertainment, and Awards Ceremonies following, until approximately 10 p.m.** Tickets are available on a **first-funded, first-seated** basis. Purchase information appears on the website www.aacchicago.org (Zelle and checks accepted.)

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Tags: AACC, 42nd Annual Lunar New Year, Asian American Coalition of Chicago

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* (Excludes Years with World Health Challenges)

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BACKGROUND

Every year a different Asian community takes turn playing host of the Lunar New Year gala. This year it is the **Indonesian American Community**, which has twice before (2006 and 2015) held the gavel for the Asian Pacific American community's most important event of the year.

AACC... WHO WE ARE

An event held on this grand of a scale only once a year, Lunar New Year is traditionally the single largest organized annual event of its type in Chicago's Asian American community.

According to the latest U.S. Census (2020), the **Asian alone population in Illinois** numbers approximately **755,938, or 5.9%** of the statewide population. Approximately **119,672** Asians alone reside in **DuPage County**, comprising **12.8%** of DuPage County's population; with **413,271** residents of **Cook County**, comprising **7.8%** of Cook County's population.

Champaign County has 24,487 at 11.9% Asian alone population; Lake County has 59,390 at 8.3%; Will County has 42,849 at 6.2%; McLean County 8,142 at 4.8%; Peoria County 7,779 at 4.3%; Kane County 21,634 at 4.2%; Kendall County 4,700 at 3.6%.; McHenry County 8,803 at 2.8%; and Kendall County 4,700 at 3.6%.

2020 U.S. Census Info Source:

<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/illinois-population-change-between-census-decade.html#race-ethnicity>)

Asian alone population in Chicago includes communities including West Rogers Park, Albany Park, Uptown, Armour Square and Bridgeport; and in suburban Cook County in communities including Glenview, Schaumburg, Hoffman Estates, Niles, Carol Stream, Morton Grove, Des Plaines and Naperville.

Numerous dignitaries traditionally attend the festivities, including the Asian consular corps, elected and appointed governmental officials, political candidates, top business and corporate leaders, decision-makers at Chicago's major media press outlets, and everyone who considers himself or herself a mover and shaker in and around, or for, the Asian Pacific American national movement.

AWARDS

The Coalition previously announcee that this year's **Pan Asian American Ping Tom Memorial** honoree, its highest award, is trailblazing anchor and legendary TV broadcaster **Linda Yu**, currently Principal, Linda Yu Media. Attorney **Darryl Tom** nominated **Linda Yu for the award and will again participate** in this year's award ceremonies, representing **The Tom Family**.

LINDA YU

Linda Yu arrived in Chicago in 1979, making her the first Asian American on-air journalist in the city. In 1984, she appeared at the First Asian American Coalition of Chicago Lunar New Year Celebration, and she has played a role in numerous Coalition annual productions since then through 2016, when she

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BACKGROUNDER

-- ADD ONE

retired as anchor/reporter after over 32 years at ABC 7 Chicago TV News (WLS-TV). She began her career in Chicago in 1979 at NBC 5 Chicago (WMAQ-TV.) She is the winner of five local Emmy Awards. She retired from TV news after 46 years in news and 37 years in the Chicago market.

This will be Linda Yu's approximately 29th time participating in this event, (four by video). Since the Coalition created the Pan Asian American Award in 1992, she has introduced this prestigious segment 11 times. In 1989, Yu was a founder (with David Ibata) of the Asian American Journalists Association, Chicago Chapter. In 2005 she was a Silver Circle inductee for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Chicago/Midwest Chapter. She served as the longtime Advisory Board Chair for the Chinese American Service League, for 30 years, when under the leadership of the (now late) and also legendary Bernarda Lo Wong. Yu was also a volunteer and supporter of Common Threads, the Juvenile Protective Association, and the March of Dimes.

In 1988, **Joanie Lum** became the second Asian American on-air journalist in Chicago. The 2025 live portion of the presentation to **Linda Yu** will be introduced by **Joanie Lum**, now a Reporter at FOX TV Chicago.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sponsor, ad and general inquiries should be directed to aacchicago2025@gmail.com (e-mail preferred) .

MEDIA

ENERI Communications again has been named the charitable agency of record for the 42nd Lunar New Year Celebration, and has received the assignment to coordinate media relations, TV station/media company participation and celebrity presenters. All media requests may be directed to ENERI Communications at info@enericom.net .

MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Media wishing to cover from the press platform that evening must be credentialed and requests are due by **Friday, February 7, 2025 COB**. Media wishing to sit at dinner tables should pre-arrange purchase of dinner tickets directly or through the assistance of community organizations.

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* (Excludes Years with World Health Challenges)

PRESS RELEASES/THIS DOC TO BE POSTED (AFTER 12/28/24) IN PDF AT:

www.aacchicago.org

www.enericom.net/privateaacc/press

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