



PURSuing OUR DREAMS

Hamkae Center

10TH ANNIVERSARY

June 8, 2023  6:30 PM

Crescendo Studios - Falls Church, VA

SCHEDULE

6:00 PM **Silent Auction** (New Orleans Room), **Photo Booth** (New York Room), **and Bar** (Black Box) **open**

6:15 PM **Buffet opens** (Back Patio)

7:15 PM **Program begins** (Black Box)

★ **MC: Dr. Sujatha Hampton**, *2nd Vice President and Education Chair of the Fairfax County NAACP and member of the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustee*

HONOREES

★ **Sara Touraif**, *Young People Power Award*
★ **The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis**, *People Power Award*
★ **Senator Ghazala Hashmi, Ph.D.**, *Community Courage Award*
★ **Mark Keam**, *Community Courage Award*
★ **Edgar Aranda-Yanac**, *People Power Award*
★ **Dong Yoon Kim, Emily Kessel, Victor Huynh, Min Su Kang, Max Kim**, *Founders Award*

PRESENTERS

★ **Chhandasi Pandya Patel**, *Four Freedoms Fund*
★ **Rachel Koelzer**, *NAKASEC*
★ **Emily Kessel**, *NAKASEC Board*
★ **Marita Etcubanez**, *Asian Americans Advancing Justice*
★ **Karen FitzGerald**, *Meyer Foundation*
★ **Kendra Allen**, *if, a Foundation for Radical Possibility*
★ **Jasmine Leu, Zowie Aquino, Miae Bok, Mitch Chan**, *Hamkae Center Staff*
★ **Jessica Yoo**, *Hamkae Center Board Secretary*

PERFORMERS

★ **Kashvi Ramani**
★ **Onion Ha**

8:30 PM **Dance Party** (Black Box)

8:50 PM **Silent Auction Closes**

9:00 PM **Buffet Closes**

9:15 PM **Silent Auction Check-out Opens** (Lobby)

9:30 PM **Bar Closes**



Hamkae
Center

June 8, 2023

"It's an honor just to be Asian." – Sandra Oh

This Oh fellow is quite insightful.

Thank you for joining this celebration tonight of 10 years of Asian American connecting, powerbuilding, and laughing. It's so good to have fun, right? Because we always seem to be in the midst of some political and social turmoil, a moment of multiple and overlapping crises.

And during times like this, what do we need to get through each day?

We need purpose.

We need joy.

And we need each other.

Hamkae Center has tried over the last 10 years (sometimes better than others) to be a political home to Asian Americans in Virginia (and sometimes to our friends in DC and Maryland). A place where being Asian American doesn't look one way. A place where we can be honest about the difficulties of getting through, of surviving, and talk about dreams of a better life. A place where Asian Americans organize with other Asian Americans to build the power needed to counterbalance the harms of oppression. A place where one can share, learn, and act with integrity to meet head-on the challenges facing our communities and pursue those dreams.

"Movements are born of critical connections rather than critical mass." – Grace Lee Boggs

Welcome to Pursuing Our Dreams 2023. Meet people who have decided to get engaged and make a difference. Listen to their stories. Tell your stories. Build those critical connections. And build with Hamkae Center together.

With love,

Sookyung Oh, Director



Centreville:

13890 Braddock Road
Suite 309
Centreville, VA 20121

Annandale:

6715 Little River Turnpike
Suite 207
Annandale, VA 22003



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@hamkaecenter



hamkaecenter.org

Hamkae Center is the Virginia affiliate of NAKASEC (National Korean American Service & Education Consortium).



JEFFREY C. MCKAY
CHAIRMAN

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COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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June 8, 2023

Hamkae Center
13890 Braddock Road, Suite 309
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Dear Friends:

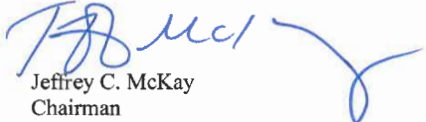
On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Hamkae Center on its 10th anniversary. "Hamkae" means together in Korean. This name symbolizes the Korean American roots in the past, the strength as an Asian American community in the present, and the vision for justice and prosperity for all communities in the future. This year's celebration amplifies the growth of Hamkae Center, which has expanded to working with multiple Asian American communities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, my values and Hamkae Center's mission are both centered on racial, economic, and social justice for its most marginalized communities. Fairfax County is committed to ensuring a successful future for all its residents, built on the pillars of a strong educational system, a thriving economy, and ongoing equitable opportunities for its diverse community. As we move forward, I am committed to continuing to create positive, solutions-oriented, and lasting changes for all our residents.

As we celebrate Hamkae Center's contributions to the community and its recognition of diversity and strength today, I am so grateful that Hamkae Center has a presence in our region. I look forward to continuing to partner to make Fairfax County an even better place to live, work, play and raise a family.

Best wishes and congratulations again.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey C. McKay
Chairman

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT!

SIRIUS



BETELGEUSE



Mary Kwak



RIGEL

Fox Rothschild LLP

HANA Center

NAKASEC

Virginia AFL-CIO

ANTARES

Berry Appleman & Leiden LLP

CASA

Legal Aid Justice Center

National Association of Asian American Professionals - Washington, D.C.

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice

Woori Juntos

MIRA

ACE Collaborative

Hayden Emmet

The Torrico Family

MEDIA SPONSOR

Korean Bapsang

RETURN TO SCHEDULE

AUCTION ITEMS

1	International Relations Starter Pack	D.C. is a city known for its diplomats and no better way to experience it than a trip to the capital! Explore the world-renowned International Spy Museum (2 tickets) then pick up some poké for lunch at Abunai with a \$100 gift card. You can then continue the fun at home with a 1-year subscription to Foreign Policy magazine!
2	Student Support Service	Are you or your child going to college and want support navigating the tricky landscape of financial aid? Get support from financial aid expert, Jessica Mardo, with two 1-hour FAFSA consulting sessions and a third financial aid consultation once your aid package comes!
3	A Wild Ride Abroad	Planning to visit the Philippines soon? Make sure to stop by Bohol, famed for its nature, especially the incredible Chocolate Hills. With this package, enjoy a 1-hour buggy ride for 2 at the foot of the Chocolate Hills. This also includes two free meals and free pick-up from your hotel!
4	Study Hall and Snacks	Looking to train the next math genius or need some solid math wizardry? Get private tutoring from Dr. Danjoseph Quijada, a math professor from the University of Southern California. You can either redeem this for five sessions of 1-hour tutoring or two sessions of 2.5-hour tutoring.
5	Lights, Camera, Action!	Need some new photos or looking to document a special occasion? Book a session with Vivian Yu. You'll get a two-hour photo session with complimentary pre-shoot consultation and a bundle of Korean skincare products to make sure you're looking your best. After the shoot, you'll receive 10 edited photos and all the originals!
6	Explore Eden Eats	Explore the wonderful Eden Center with your own personal food tour guide! Ha Nguyen will take you on a personalized itinerary of restaurants, bakeries, and much more.
7	Fantasy Worlds and Where to Find Them	<p>Are you an avid fan of fantasy and Asian American literature? Well dive into the worlds of these eight books and read some amazing stories by incredible Asian American authors!</p> <p><i>Iron Widow</i> - Xiran Jay Zhao <i>The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea</i> - Axie Oh <i>A Magic Steeped in Poison</i> - Judy I. Lin <i>A Venom Dark and Sweet</i> - Judy I. Lin <i>Magical Boy Vol. 1</i> - The Khao <i>Magical Boy Vol. 2</i> - The Khao <i>The Interplanetary Expedition of Mars Patel</i> - Sheela Chari <i>Jade Fire Gold</i> - June CL Tan</p>
8	Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month	<p>We just wrapped up APAHM, but sharing our stories doesn't end there! Learn more Asian American stories with this collection of contemporary literature featuring:</p> <p><i>Iron Widow</i> - Xiran Jay Zhao <i>Obie is Man Enough</i> - Schuyler Bailar <i>Kiss & Tell</i> - Adib Khorram <i>The Noh Family</i> - Grace K. Shim <i>Hollow Fires</i> - Samira Ahmed <i>All My Rage</i> - Sabaa Tahir <i>Magical Boy Vol. 1</i> - The Khao <i>Idol Gossip</i> - Alexandra Leigh Young</p>
9	Kids' Choice Awards	<p>On the hunt for more Asian American literature, but don't know where to start? Begin with these student favorites:</p> <p><i>Iron Widow</i> - Xiran Jay Zhao <i>Azar on Fire</i> - Olivia Abtahi <i>This Place is Still Beautiful</i> - XiXi Tan <i>The Red Palace</i> - June Hur <i>Squire</i> - Nadia Shammas <i>Beating Heart Baby</i> - Lio Min <i>You've Reached Sam</i> - Dustin Thao</p>

RETURN TO SCHEDULE

AUCTION ITEMS

10	Pearly Whites	Get a smile brighter than the summer sun! Drummond Dental is offering teeth whitening trays that come with a complimentary dental exam and cleaning!
11	Chef's Kiss	Indulge your inner foodie and pick up this package featuring a tofu-making kit and a signed cookbook by some of NYC's most daring chefs. Then put it into practice with your own tofu-making lesson with Jessica Yoo!
12	Treat Yourself	Need a day to yourself to relax? How about starting your day looking your best with earrings from Pinwheel Clay earrings, then taking yourself out on a date at Paint Your Heart out Pottery (\$30 gift card), and finally ending the night with a delightful self-care bundle filled with candles, scrubs, and face masks!
13	Sandwiches and Self-Care	Take on a new hobby or restart that New Year's Resolution with a 1-month unlimited pass to Breathe, Body, and Mind. After you're all worked out, enjoy sandwiches from Sandwich Republic with a \$100 gift card!
14	Soccer Showdown	Join the fun with friends and family with 4 tickets to watch D.C. United take on the New York Redbulls on September 23, 2023! This package also comes with a \$25 gift card to one of D.C.'s favorite foodtrucks, Kam and 46.
15	Music and Munchies	We're in the era of girl groups and there's no better way to celebrate than collecting some fun memorabilia! This package comes with a signed poster and CD from Bay Area girl group, One Voice, as well as a package of the limited-edition Blackpink Oreos.
16	Sweets and Stories	Indulge your sweet tooth with these chocolates from DC local Chocolate Chocolate. This package also comes with children's books from the shop's owners.
17	Nerd Out / Geek Out	This package of goodies is perfect for any fan of comics, superheroes, and pop culture, with 2 graphic novels from James Patterson and 2 fan-favorite Funko Pops (Draco Malfoy and She-Ra)!
18	Pachinko - Min Jin Lee	A fan of the award-winning Pachinko series on AppleTV? Well dive into the novel that started it all, signed by the author herself!
19	Hidden Girl and Other Stories - Kenneth Liu	Ken Liu, award-winning Science Fiction author most known for the Dandelion Dynasty series, has returned with Hidden Girl and Other Stories, a fantastic short story collection set across time and space. Get your own signed copy now!
20	Asian American Bestsellers	Build your library of Asian/Asian American literature with two outstanding additions: best-selling novels Edge Case by YZ Chin and The Land of Big Numbers by Te Ping, both signed by their authors!
21	Shang Chi and the 4 Things	Celebrate Marvel's first Asian American Superhero with this series of collectibles. This package comes with two Shang Chi Funko Pops, an edition of the Shang Chi Comic, plus the memoir of Shang Chi actor, Simu Liu.
22	Picnic and Pirouettes	Enjoy a night out at the Wolf Trap with 2 in-house tickets to the August 30 showing of Carmina Burana. Then enjoy a picnic before or after the event with a box of Filipino snacks!
23	A Night Out in Alexandria	Dine at the diving Yunnan by Potomac with a \$100 gift card then explore the waterfront with a scavenger hunt created by Let's Roam.

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AUCTION ITEMS

24	Day Tripping in Richmond	Looking for an excuse to take the family down I-95 to Richmond? Well look no further than this fabulous package featuring 4 tickets to the Children's Museum of Richmond and a personal tour of the Capitol Building with Del. Irene Shin herself. This package also comes with snacks, a book, and toys for the kids.
25	Foodies For Life	A package made for those who've ever imagined walking around a farmer's market with a baguette in tow. Get stylish with a handcrafted tote bag from Guro Designs and of course you can't forget a book to fill it (Hidden Girl and Other Stories by Ken Liu). Then once you get back, try recipes with a cookbook by award-winning chefs, Jeremiah Stone and Fabian von Hauske.
26	Revolutionary Decor	Want to brighten up your living space? This poster with one of our favorite slogans is a good way to do so!
27	Bring that Energy!	BollyX is a Bollywood-inspired dance-fitness program taught by Susheela Varky. A domestic and sexual violence attorney for the Virginia Poverty Law Center, Susheela is excited to continue her career as a "dancing lawyer" by teaching BOLLYX! The lucky winner will win a virtual, 1-hour BollyX class at a mutually agreeable upon time for you and 9 of your friends.
28	Game Night	Have a game night planned but tired of the same old Monopoly? Pick up some new games with this package featuring Codenames and Taboo.
29	Marvel Merch	A perfect package for the Marvel aficionado: 2 comics, Demon Days and Ms. Marvel, as well as a Demon Slayer figurine blind-box.
30	A Collector's Dream	Finished watching Across the Spiderverse? Continue the action by reading this comic of another of Spiderman's spidey friends, Silk. This package also comes with a copy of Tiger Division and a Dragon Ball figurine blind-box.
31	Shonen Jump Stuff	For fans of anime and manga is this package of 2 figures: a One Gundam figure and a Demon Slayer figurine blind-box. Also comes with an edition of The Alliance comic.
32	Animepalooza	Win this fabulous package of goods from Tosche Station, a local comic book store in Burke. This package comes with two comics, Invincible and Ambassadors, along with 2 figurines, Gundam and Dragonball Z.
33	Fire Nation Friends	For lovers of the Avatar universe is this pair of figurines of our favorite Uncle/Nephew duo, Iroh and Prince Zuko.

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Congratulations to Hamkae Center on their 10th Anniversary!

Thank you for your commitment to
organizing Asian Americans in Virginia to
achieve social, economic, and racial justice.



The Asian American Foundation

www.taaf.org

We extend our gratitude to the
PURSuing OUR DREAMS
2023 HOST COMMITTEE

Jenn Chu

Akshay Deverakonda

Susie Lee, *Chair*

Phil Tajitsu Nash

Elaine Poon

Atif Qarni

Neel Saxena

Niyati Shah

Kylie Stamm

Katie Zhang

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Jessica Yoo, *Secretary*

Katie Zhang

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Miae Bok

Patrick Canteros

Mitch Chan

Ashley Elstad

Shina Kang

Jade Feng Lee

Woo Jin Lee

Jasmine Leu

Quynh Nguyen

Sadia Obaidul

Sookyung Oh,
Executive Director

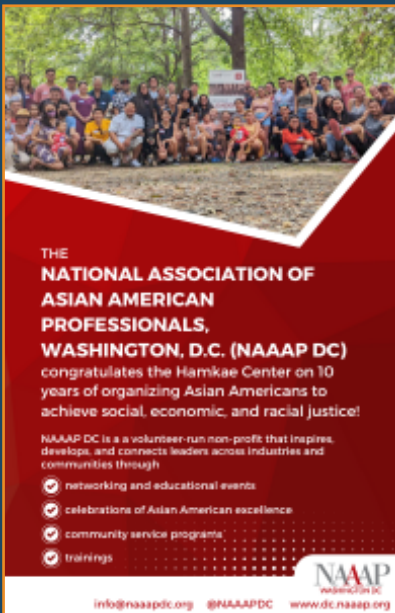
Sejung Park

Ramsha Saad

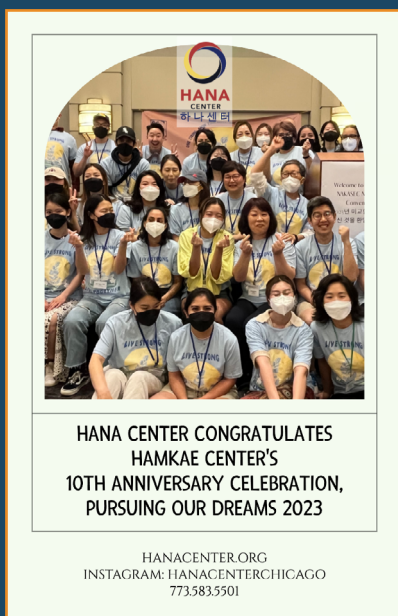
Ha Tang

Sami Watson

Soyoung Yoon



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Hamkae Center

Hamkae Center is a grassroots, community-based nonprofit that organizes Asian Americans in Virginia for social, racial, and economic justice.

Find us at **hamkaecenter.org** or on social media **@hamkaecenter**

**To make a donation to support our work,
follow the link below.**

DONATE NOW

Hamkae Center is proud to be the Virginia affiliate of the NAKASEC network, which also includes HANA Center (Chicago, IL), MinKwon Center (New York City, NY), Woori Center (Philadelphia, PA), and Woori Juntos (Houston, TX).

RETURN TO SCHEDULE



Dr. Sujatha Hampton has a Masters and Ph.D. in Special Education with a focus on Learning Disabilities and Serious Emotional Disturbance. She has worked as a teacher in Washington, DC, Austin, TX, and Montgomery County Public Schools; as a special education professor at The University of Virginia, focusing her work on pre-service training for teachers of students

with emotional and behavioral problems; and as the Title I Coordinator for Albemarle County Public Schools, where she focused on literacy and closing the opportunity and achievement gap. Upon moving back home to Northern Virginia, Sujatha wrote a novel which was published in 2010. Sujatha currently serves on the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees, the Advisory Council for the Political Leadership Academy at George Mason University's Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, and as the 2nd Vice President and Education Chair of the Fairfax County NAACP. The larger goal of all this work is the justice and joy that might be had if every child could access an excellent education offered in respect, rooted in truth, and suffused with love.

PERFORMERS



Onion Ha came to the United States when he was 6 years old. Growing up, he dove deep into lifestyle of hip-hop by becoming a breakdancer. He learned to appreciate the other elements of hip-hop and uses poetry as an emotional outlet for himself. He hopes his art will help people feel like they aren't alone in the struggle, hopes it will inspire people to continue fighting for what's right, and heal inward traumas residing inside.



Kashvi Ramani, a 17-year-old from Northern Virginia and a high school junior at a private school in Massachusetts, was named the Inaugural 2023-24 Virginia Youth Poet Laureate on 29 Apr 2023. She is the co-Head of the poetry club as well as the Head of the literary magazine at her school. In 2022, Kashvi was the Youth Poet Laureate of Arlington County

Virginia, and named a YoungArts Finalist in Theater and Merit winner in Writing for Spoken Word Poetry. She has been working with the Arlington, Virginia poet laureate and a few poets as co-editor of a poetry anthology to be published in May 2023. She has been a member of the 2021-22 Virginia Young Poets in Community and the 2020-21 Split This Rock's DC Slam Youth Poetry Team. Since 2019, she has won several Scholastic Writing Awards for her Poetry and in other categories like Personal Essay/Memoir, Dramatic Script, Novel, and Short Story. Her poetry has been published in Rattle, the YoungArts Anthology, Brown Girl Magazine, Beat Burg, Loudoun Community Magazine, Collaborative Solutions for Communities, Poetry Society of Virginia, SEEMA, American Kahani, and AsAm News. Kashvi draws inspiration for her poetry from topics important to her and passionate about. Poetry provides her the opportunity to express a unique perspective on the world through her diverse experiences. She hopes to continue her journey as a young female Indian-American and make a difference in her own small way.

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HONOREES



Sara Touraif is a second-generation Moroccan American who was born and raised, along with her 3 siblings, in the Fairfax area. In high school, Sara canvassed in the 2016 Presidential election and this sparked an interest in politics and government, which she studied at George Mason University. Combined with a passion for travel and learning about the traditions and lifestyles of

other people, Sara has remained very involved with community-grounded civic engagement, including at Hamkai Center and the affiliated c4, NAKASEC Action Fund.



Mark Lee Keam is a long time public servant and community activist. Most recently, he served a political appointment in the Biden Administration, and was elected seven times to the Virginia House of Delegates where he chaired the Higher Education Subcommittee. As a naturalized American, he has long advocated for immigrant and minority rights, and introduced bills to support DACA, Office

of New Americans, funding for ESL, and environmental justice. As chief counsel to U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, he helped draft the DREAM Act. Mark grew up in four countries and attended schools in five.



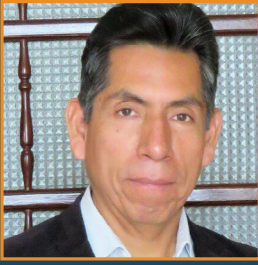
Senator Ghazala Hashmi, Ph.D.

serves in the Virginia General Assembly, representing the 10th Senatorial District which includes parts of Richmond City, Chesterfield County, and all of Powhatan County. She sits on the following Senate committees: Education and Health; Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources; General Laws and Technology; and Local Government.

Senator Hashmi also chairs the Senate Subcommittee on Public Education. Prior to her election in November 2019, Senator Hashmi had a long career in higher education in Virginia.

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HONOREES



Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, LLM currently works with Meyer Foundation as the Virginia Partnerships and Strategy Director. He is the former Senior Lead Organizer with Legal Aid Justice Center and the former Executive Director of the Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations. He is the founding member of the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights and Drive Virginia Forward Coalition. Edgar

has more than a decade of experience working in the field of immigrant rights in the Commonwealth. He has engaged in multiple campaigns for the rights of immigrants at the local, state and federal levels. Edgar also has fought for several state-wide immigrant rights causes such as the expansion of in-state tuition to include immigrant youth as well as the recently passed legislation that will expand access to driver's licenses to all Virginia residents regardless of their immigration status. Edgar has served on different boards including the Executive Committee of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, the Arlington Free Clinic and the Complete Count Committees in both Arlington and Fairfax Counties. In 2019, Edgar was named one of the 100 most influential people for the Nation's Capital Metro-Area Latinos by Tiempo Latino, a regional Spanish language publication. In 2016, he was the recipient of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' proclamation acknowledging Hispanic Heritage Month for his contribution to the Hispanic community in Fairfax County. In 2014, Edgar was awarded the Jane Bagely Lehman Award for Excellence in Public Advocacy for his work in helping to remove barriers to educational equity for undocumented immigrant students in Virginia. In 2012, he was recognized by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy as an outstanding social justice maker for his dedication to advancing opportunities for Virginia's Latino and immigrant communities. In 2011, he received a Practitioner Fellowship from the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor of Georgetown University where Edgar enjoyed the opportunity to study issues impacting immigrant workers in a more in-depth manner. In 2010, Edgar received the Linowes Leadership Award of the Community Foundation of the Greater Capital Region. Edgar received an LLM for foreign lawyers from the Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law where he received the Professor Samuel Gyandoh Award for his outstanding professional and personal service to the law school community. Prior to coming to the United States, Edgar was a practicing attorney in his native country Peru. He received his undergraduate degree in Political Science and Law from the University of Ancash in Peru "Santiago Antunez de Mayolo".

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HONOREES



The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis (TCI) advances racial and economic justice in Virginia by advocating for public policies that are designed in partnership with people most impacted, and shaped by credible, accessible fiscal and policy research. TCI is a critical player in an ecosystem of policy advocates that have a shared broad vision for building

power with communities of color and people with low incomes. We contribute a unique expertise with our fiscal and policy research capabilities, in order to dismantle systems of racism and replace them with new, inclusive systems of justice and opportunity.

FOUNDING MEMBERS OF NAKASEC VA

There would be no Hamkae Center without this group of individuals. They laid the foundation with their conviction and tireless efforts. They did the awesome task of building trust with undocumented Korean Americans, and later with the wider undocumented Asian American communities in the DMV region. They organized friends and families. They slept on church floors and cargo vans in their journeys to justice tours. The true weight of their sacrifices may never be calculated, and we hope that this acknowledgment is one of many times their contributions are documented and celebrated.



Victor Huynh



Min Su Kang



Emily Kessel



Dong Yoon Kim



Max Kim

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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!



**PURSUING
OUR
DREAMS**

Hamkae Center

10TH ANNIVERSARY

POD23 Designs by Sara Cha

 [@saraa.chaa](https://www.instagram.com/saraa.chaa)