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*“The American dream belongs to all of us” – Kamala Harris*

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## PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT



**ANN MELVIN**

I have been an elementary educator the past 24 years. Prior to that I worked in the financial industry. Throughout my life and in both fields of work I was witness to racial discrimination.

Most recently I witnessed racial discrimination and abhorrent behavior by a number of individuals. It was obvious to me as I watched this blatant discrimination at play that if more white people don't get involved in the fight for racial equality we will never make meaningful strides towards genuine equity and justice for all.

I am the parent of a non colored college aged student. Interacting with my daughter's persons of color colleagues about college processes and the like threw more light on the inequities that we all know exist. It was quite palpable to me.

I am so inspired by all that P-CoC has achieved in a short period of time. I became involved in P-CoC in 2020 as a direct result of racial discrimination. I am an active member of the support and advocacy team. I am blessed to be counted among such a beautiful group of people. I look forward to continuing this important work towards racial equality with P-CoC.

## ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

As with other labels, the term 'Asian' is tied to perceptions that are limited, outdated, or untrue. Here's a fact refresh:

- Since 1990 the population of Asians in the US has tripled. The increased size and diversity has resulted in communities representing a wider range of cultural affiliations than before.
- Education, income, and social class vary greatly across the range of nationalities, time of arrival, and generations of citizenship. The specificity of these experiences adds further nuance to the experience of Asians in America.
- About 3.5 million people the U.S. report having multiple ethnicities that include Asian. Identity can be difficult to assign or take on, and affiliation is often fluid.

As long as people from Asia have been in America, they have had the same issues of race and equity as other people of color:

- Heritage and history that complicates or confounds the American mythsos.
- Discrimination and dismissal due to myth and misperception.
- Difficulty gaining representation in, and political action by, government and society at large.

Equity is ultimately about recognizing the overlapping desires for safety, acceptance, and achievement inherent in each of us. Common cause can be found in non-racial issues as well as attitudes based on race and ethnicity.

Here are some Asian Americans with very different characteristics and backgrounds:



Tammy Duckworth (b. 1968) was born in Bangkok, Thailand to a Thai mother and US-born father, and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. She served in the US Army in Iraq, losing both legs after her helicopter was shot down. In 2009, President Obama appointed Duckworth as an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Duckworth was elected to Congress in 2012 and is currently a US Senator from Illinois.

Peter Tsai (b. 1952) is a Taiwanese-American inventor and material scientist who is best known for inventing the N95 mask filter. Tsai was a Professor Emeritus at the University of Tennessee, but ended his retirement during the COVID-19 pandemic to research N95 mask sterilization.



Anthony Veasna So (b. 1992 – d. 2020) was an American writer born in California to parents from Cambodia. His short stories were described by The New York Times as “crackling, kinetic and darkly comedic”. His debut book, a short story collection entitled Afterparties, was published in 2021.

Naomi Osaka (b. 1997) was born in Japan to a Haitian-American father and a Japanese mother. She is the first Asian player to hold the top ranking in singles and now lives in Los Angeles with commitments to equity as well as athletics. A quote on her website states: “As long as I can remember, people have struggled to define me. I've never really fit into one description.”



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HAILS AND WAILS

#### Hails

Amy-Ruth Gyang, a pioneer of the Student Ambassador Leadership Team | S.A.L.T., was honored to present at a T.E.D. Talk event. Hail to the one who blazed the trail - Amy Ruth, for your dedication and hard work is an inspiration to all. P-CoC Inc is proud of you.



### UPCOMING EVENT

#### P-Coc Annual Food truck/Juneteenth Celebration

Come celebrate Juneteenth and enjoy some delicious food at the same time! Join us for the Food Truck and Juneteenth Celebration, taking place in Hastings on Hudson across from the Hastings Metro North Station on Sunday, June 11th from 1-5pm. The event will feature a variety of food trucks serving up tasty bites and refreshing drinks, along with live music to keep you entertained throughout the afternoon. Children will have plenty of fun activities to participate in, so bring the whole family along. Don't miss this exciting event that's sure to be a highlight of the summer!



### RECENT EVENT

#### Tabling at Hastings Farmers Market

On April 15th, several members of P-CoC participated in a tabling event at the Hastings Farmers Market. P-CoC continues to spread awareness and joy across Westchester.



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#### P-CoC Inc Mission

A professional charity society laser-focused on race and color equity for persons of color, supporting ethnicity, cultural expression, fair treatment, and education for all

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