



Tradewinds

March/April 2009

Newsletter

Getting to know the A/PGF Board: The President

Conducted by Roy Liebman, Publications Chair



A/PGF's newly-elected president is Jonathan Ong who is returning to the office that he held a few years ago. One of his former terms coincided with our organization's 25th anniversary, and he was the almost unanimous choice to re-assume the presidency in 2009. In whatever capacity the very likeable Jonathan has served our membership he has done so with dedication.

RL: What's your background? Where were you raised?

JO: I was born and raised in Vietnam, but ethnically I am Chinese. My father emigrated from China to Vietnam and married my mom who was mixed Chinese/Vietnamese. I spent the first 15 years of my life in Vietnam until 1980 when I left Vietnam as "Boat People" and came to Thailand in December 1980. The journey out of Vietnam was a story of itself.

Tell us something about your life in Vietnam before you came here.

I had a normal childhood, a loving and structured family life. Both my parents were very busy running a business, but everyone was at home. Being the last child, I got more attention from them. Being ethnic Chinese living in Vietnam my father wanted to make sure that we didn't forget our roots. He sent us to Chinese school. However, government law required that all

children must learn Vietnamese. So all Chinese schools had "Dual Programs", both Chinese and Vietnamese. This made schooling very tough with longer school hours and more homework.

Do you want to say something about your education?

After spending 8.5 months in refugee camps in both Thailand and the Philippines I arrived in Houston, Texas when I was 16 years old. I went to high school in Houston and, after graduation and turning 18, I moved to California and have lived here ever since. I went to college for a few years, then found a full time job and had to quit school.

Any interesting "extra-curricular" activities? What do you like to do in your leisure time for fun?

I enjoy watching movies, both in theaters and DVDs at home. I also like small gatherings with friends. I'm not much into the bar scenes, never have been although I'd frequented in bars in my younger days. But I've never been a bar groupie since I don't drink, so it's hard to find bar friends.

What do you hope to accomplish during your term(s) as A/PGF's president? Where would you like to see A/PGF at the end of your tenure?

To continue with A/PGF's commitment to provide social venues for its members and bring social awareness to the gay Asian community. I'd like for our members to reach out to gay Asian individuals, and lend them support, especially those who are newly coming out. I'd like to see an increase in memberships at the end of my tenure, given all the fun social events we're having.

Any colorful stories about yourself you want to tell? Anything about your personal life past or present?

I've had many life adventures. But the most memorable one was my journey out of Vietnam as "Boat People".

Do you want to say anything about your coming out process?

I "officially" came out to my older brother whom I highly respect. Besides him, I did not come out to anyone in the family. Both my parents had passed away a long time ago and my sister probably already knew.



Valentines Day Bowling Winners

Congratulations to our winning Bowlers of the Month for February – Harris and Ariel! They got the highest combined scores of the evening beating 7 couples at this event. They also received special prizes handed out by our dear A/PGF President Jonathan O in celebration of Valentines Day.

It was a fun night and we would like to thank the members and non-members alike who participated in this special bowling event and we hope to see more of you guys at our future bowling events.

Click [here](#) to see additional photos from this event.

Musical Groups In The Movies 1929-1970



Roy Liebman, A/PGF Publications Chair, has a new publication of his own. His fifth book Musical Groups in the Movies, 1929---1970 has been published by McFarland and Company.

It is also going to be part of the publisher's new pilot project to provide e-books to academic libraries, so will be available in two formats simultaneously. In addition, two of Roy's earlier books, From Silents to Sound and The Wampas Baby Stars, are due to be reissued in soft covers in 2009. His last book, Vitaphone Films, is also still being sold.

Click [here](#) for more information on this book.



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Upcoming Events

Check our Event Calendar at www.apgf.org for complete details on any of our events

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