

Gary Mar, Retiring Chair of the Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies

RE: Annual Committee Report 2010-2011

This year the Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies continued to sponsor panels at the Eastern and Pacific Divisions. The Committee used the remainder of the funding from 'A Shorter Rethinking of Philosophy Through Asian American Eyes' to support a project dealing with the 10th anniversary of 9/11. A report on the teaching of Chinese Philosophy is being prepared by one of the committee members.

The Eastern Division panels were affected by the severe winter weather conditions which shut down airline travel and trains. These weather conditions forced speakers from the West Coast to cancel their participation in the meeting and even my colleagues from Stony Brook University, several hours away by train from Boston, were unable to attend the meetings. Nevertheless the panels that were planned were able to use the time during the sessions to engage in more in-depth discussions of the important issues raised.

The panel dealing with Asian Philosophy was on the topic of 'The Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi' and was arranged by A. Minh Nguyen, Eastern Kentucky University and Josef Velazquez, Stonehill College. Two of the three scheduled speakers Fred Dallmayr and Veena Howard were unable to make it to Boston, as was the chair Gail Presbey. The symposium went forward with only one speaker (Douglas Allen) and an emergency substitute chair (Josef Velazquez, Stonehill College). The presentation and discussion of Allen's paper, together with his reading of Howard's extended abstract upon the audience's request, turned out to occupy the allotted time. This panel is reported on in the current issue of the Newsletter.,

The panel dealing with Asian American Philosophy was on the topic of Recognition: Race, Misrecognition, and Emotion and was arranged by Falguni Sheth, Associate Professor, Hampshire College. Two of the speakers David Kim, University of San Francisco and Darrell Moore, DePaul University, were unable to come because of the weather. This panel was chaired by Gary Mar, Stony Brook University and chair of this committee, and the other panel members were Falguni Sheth speaking on 'Revisiting Recognition: Politicized Identity and Misrecognition' and Alia Al-Saji (McGill University) speaking on 'A Phenomenology of Cultural Racism: Misrecognition and Embodiment.' The session was well attended and featured lively participation from the Society of Women in Philosophy (SWIP) and others. This panel will be featured in a future issue of the Newsletter.

At the Pacific Division Meeting of the APA in Diego, California our Committee sponsored two panels. The panel dealing with Asian Philosophy was organized by Bo Mou (San Jose State University) and was on the topic 'Constructive Engagement of Analytic and Continental Approaches in Philosophy: From the Point of View of Asian Philosophy.' The participants in this panel were Mario Wenning (University of Macau) speaking on 'Daoism and the Future of Critical Theory', Marshall Willman (New York Institute of Technology-Nanjing Campus) speaking on 'Psychoanalytic and Phenomenological Meanings of the *Zhuang-Zi* and Sandra Wawrytko (San Diego State University, speaking on "Psychosis and Buddhist Awakening." This panel will be reported on in a future issue of the Newsletter.

The Pacific Division panel dealing with Asian American Philosophy was '9/11 Ten: Approaching the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 through Asian American Eyes.' This interdisciplinary panel invited scholars from 2 allied fields. George Lipsitz (Black Studies at U. C. Santa Barbara, Chairman of the Board of Directors of

the African American Policy Forum, and member of the Board of Directors of the National Fair Housing Alliance), speaking on ,Affinities, Affiliations and Alliances; Why Asian American Perspectives Matter Now', Mary Watkins (Core faculty and Coordinator of Community and Ecological Fieldwork and Research in the M.A./Ph.D. Depth Psychology Program, Pacifica Graduate Institute) delivered a paper entitled ,Get out of 'here'!: The Shame of Forcibly Displacing Neighbors and Strangers, and Gary Okihiro (International and Public Affairs and Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Columbia University), spoke on ,The Alien: Reflections Along the Border, Ten Years After September 11, 2001'. The panel was chaired by Gary Mar, Stony Brook University and chair of this committee, who edited the latest issue of the Committee's newsletter featuring these papers.

Nobuko Miyamoto (Founding Artistic Director of *Great Leap*, Ford Foundation Leader for the 21st Century, founding member of *Yellow Pearl*, due to a hip injury was not able to participate in this event, but she did participate in a follow-up event at Stony Brook University. Nobuko gave a four day workshop to philosophy students at Stony Brook University so that they could create a performance piece for a conference held at Stony Brook University on May 5th, 2011. This workshop for philosophy students was sponsored, in part, by the APA grant ,A Shorter Rethinking of Philosophy Through Asian American Eyes.'

The program 9/11 Ten 3/11: Remembering 9/11 Ten Years Later, the 12th annual "*With Liberty and Justice for All...*" Symposium was held at Charles B. Wang Asian American Center at Stony Brook University on May 5th, 2011. The conference was in three acts: the first act dealt with the oral testimonies of the 9/11 First Responders collected by Dr. Benjamin Luft, the director of Stony Brook University's World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program (WTCMMTP), the only program on Long Island dedicated to caring for surviving 9/11 first responders. Act II consisted of artistic responses to 9/11 and Japan's 3/11—the photographs of Asian American communities after 9/11 by Corky Lee, ,the unofficial, undisputed photographer laureate' of the Asian American movement, the music of Chris Iijima and Nobuko Miyamoto (song writers and singers from the musical group *Yellow Pearl* introduced—at this conference via videotape of John Lennon on the Mike Douglas Show from the 1970's). Yellow Pearl created the sound track for the burgeoning Asian American movement inspired by the Black Power movement of the 1970s (see the Smithsonian article on Yellow Pearl <http://www.folkways.si.edu/magazine/>). The third act of the program consisted of commentators Dr. Stephanie Brown and Dr. Andrew Flescher from Stony Brook's Center for Medical Humanities, Bioethics, and Compassionate Care and Gary Mar, professor of Philosophy and founding director of Stony Brook University's Asian American Center, and current chair of the APA Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies.