

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2022 KAAGNY Programs, Events and Initiatives



◇ January 13

### Remembering 2022 Korean American Day



On January 13, KAAGNY marked 119 years since Korean immigrants first arrived in Hawaii in 1903 by doing a special interview with Professor Edward T. Chang and explored the rich and inspiring history of Korean American immigration. The interview covered various topics including the rise of Asian hate incidents, the importance of having an Asian American history curriculum, and the role an understanding of history plays in forming the identity of subsequent generations of immigrants.

◇ February 22

### The Dow Kim Family Foundation Announced a Ten-year Financial Commitment to the KAAGNY

**DOW KIM FAMILY**  
foundation

“My family foundation and I are excited to pledge long-term financial grants to KAAGNY to play a small part in supporting the welfare and protection of the rights and interests of the Korean American community in the Greater New York Region,” said Foundation President Dow Kim.

With an initial donation of \$50,000 and an additional \$50,000 to help fund KAAGNY’s overall community programs in 2022, the Foundation’s donation plan marks KAAGNY’s first major, multi-year financial commitment. Dow Kim’s long term commitment has permitted KAAGNY to engage in long term planning in its efforts to better serve the Korean American Community.

◇ March 22

**In Unity With the Rainbow PUSH Coalition in Denouncing Hate Crimes**



KAAGNY welcomed the honorable Rev. Jackson, a civil rights leader and founder of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition. Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. who visited KAAGNY’s headquarters and spoke out against the increase in Anti-Asian attacks, and urged minority groups to work together to combat racial hate crimes.

“The history of hate crimes against Asians has been around since the early days of immigration,” said Rev. Jackson. “In order to gain rights and visibility, we need to stand in solidarity and not to be silent.”

◇ April 16

**Korean American College Soccer Tournament to Raise Awareness**



KAAGNY partnered with Carvana and event host AKP LLC at the 2022 Korean American Soccer Tournament in an effort to raise awareness of #StopAsianHate. The event featured teams of young professionals from ten different colleges and took place at Superdome Sports in Waldwick, NJ.

February 5

Ushering in the Lunar New Year by Distributing Food to Families in Need



KAAGNY celebrated the Lunar New Year on Saturday, February 5, starting at noon at 150th Street and Barton Avenue in Flushing, New York by donating food and PPE to over 1,000 families in need. KAAGNY, together with the Korean American Produce Association, Korean American Seafood Association, Korean American Grocer's Association, Korean American Nail Salon Association, and Korean American Businessman's Association, donated freshly made Korean rice cakes, dumplings, rice, fruit, and other groceries and food items. Also, hand sanitizers, KF 94 masks certified in Korea, and COVID-19 test kits were distributed that day.

◆ February 13

**Mourning and Honoring the Loss of Christina Yuna Lee**

KAAGNY mourned the loss of Christina Yuna Lee, a 35-year-old Korean American woman who was stabbed to death on February 13 in early Sunday morning after she was followed inside her Chinatown apartment by a homeless man.

Christina, a creative producer from New Jersey, was described by her landlord as “such a sweet girl” to The Post and as someone who “did not do anything wrong...[and] did not deserve this” to CBS New York.

Her gruesome death is a devastating blow to the Korean American community, which held a rally together with various community leaders at Sara D. Roosevelt Park, across from Christina’s apartment at 111 Chrystie Street.

Several months later, on April 20, the late Christina Yuna Lee’s family and friends gathered in Prospect Park to dedicate a bench and plant a tulip tree in her memory. KAAGNY joined Christina’s loved ones, including her parents and sister, who shared memories from their life with Christina.

KAAGNY President Charles Yoon, on behalf of the Korean American community, also addressed the crowd, as reported in the Gothamist: “She was an artist. She used to come and enjoy the park and it’s a beautiful setting and with the planting of the tree, there’s at least looking forward to the future, and hope that the future will be better.”

February 24

2022 Korean American Day Celebration Gala



On Thursday, February 24, KAAGNY’s Korean American Day Celebration Gala returned to the Ziegfeld Ballroom two years after the start of the pandemic in 2020.

In light of 119 years of Korean immigration to the United States, together with this year’s gala theme, “Building a Better Community Together,” KAAGNY celebrated the contributions of individuals and organizations that have gone the extra mile to build up the Korean American community, serve the most vulnerable, and empower Korean American voices.

NYS Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, NYC Comptroller Brad Lander, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, NYS Senator John Liu, NYS Assemblyman Ron Kim, NYC Council Member Keith Powers, NYC Council Member Sandra Ung, and NYC Council Member Shekar Krishnan were among those who attended.

The following persons and organizations were honored: Mr. Il Yeon Kwon, CEO of H-Mart (Person of the Year); Naeil Foundation (Community Legacy Award), David Chung (Community Philanthropy Award), Linda Lee, Julie Won and Hannah Kim (Public Trailblazer Award), Michelle Zauner (Next Generation Award), Diageo (Corporate Leadership Award), and Ebin New York (Building Bridges Award).

## ◇ March 1

**March 1 Movement Commemoration**

On Tuesday, March 1, KAAGNY, together with Korean American Community leaders, commemorated the March 1st Movement, a Korean national holiday that honors those who died, fought, and protested for Korean independence from the rule of the Japanese Empire since 1910. This event originally took place on March 1, 1919 with a series of protests, including reading and signing the Korean Declaration of Independence. 2022 marked 103 years since that historic day.

## ◇ March 3

**Community Advocacy**

On Thursday, March 3, KAAGNY President Charles Yoon attended the Mayor's roundtable discussion addressing rising security concerns for Asian Americans in NYC. On March 10, KAAGNY joined the SBS Commissioner Kevin Kim at Mayor Adams' press conference held at Hunts Point Produce Market, where the Mayor announced the Economic Recovery Blueprint. In March, KAAGNY also joined the Asian American Small Business Task Force, which conducts monthly meetings to address concerns of small businesses.

◇ May 15

**NYC Mayor Visit to K-town on May 15**



NYC selected K-town in Manhattan as the venue for announcing the City’s plans to reduce fines and penalties for small businesses. Afterwards, the Mayor, together with SBS Commissioner Kevin Kim and KAAGNY President Charles Yoon, visited several small Korean businesses in K-town.

◇ May 15

**KAAGNY Organizes KA Participation in the First AAPI Parade in NYC**



KAAGNY organized the Korean American Community’s participation in the parade march in the first Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Parade in New York City on Sunday, May 15. The Korean American community groups marched along Sixth Avenue (Avenue of the Americas) from 44th Street and ended at 55th Street in midtown Manhattan. Among the Korean American groups marching that day were KAAGNY, Korean American Vietnam War Veterans Association, KCS, Korean American Businessman’s Association, Korean American Family Services Center, MinKwon Center, Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York, Korean American Physicians’ Association, New York Korea Town Association, New York Korean Tae Kwon Do Association, New York Tae Kwon Do Center, Born Stars K-POP performers, Chung Hae Sun Korean Traditional Dance Group, among other groups. There was KPOP and traditional Korean dance performance as well as Tae Kwon Do demonstrations that took place during the parade.

◇ May 31

**Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration**



KAAGNY, together with Korean American Community leaders, participated in a networking event with the NYPD during the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration at Police Headquarters. Attending were several hundred NYPD officers, including the Heejin Park, President of the Korean American Officers Association and Commissioner Keechant L. Sewell.

◇ April 1

**Thanking and Honoring the Brave Good Samaritans Whose Intervention Saved the Life of a Korean American Woman**



KAAGNY, together with U.S. Rep. Grace Meng, honored the heroism of Cazim and Louie Sulijovic, the father-son duo who came to the aid of fellow Queens resident Eun Hee Chang, the 61-year-old Korean immigrant who was brutally attacked and robbed outside their restaurant, Louie's Pizzeria, in Elmhurst on March 26. On behalf of the Korean American community, KAAGNY also presented Louie and Cazim with an award and donation recognizing their bravery and selflessness. "It was an act of bravery and compassion, for which members of the Korean community are deeply appreciative." Both father and son were stabbed - in the case of the father - multiple times, in their efforts to save Ms. Chang.



◇ May 24

**New York State Kimchi Day Resolution**



During the Asian American Heritage month, together with Korea Agro-Trade Center , KAAGNY participated in the celebration of New York State’s Proclamation declaring November 22 as “Kimchi Day”. A contingent of other Korean American Community organizations, including New York Korea Town Association and the Korean Cuisine Globalization Committee, USA traveled to Albany, New York to commemorate the New York State proclamation celebrating Kimchi.

◇ May 31

**Borough President Mark Levine’s Visit to K-town**



KAAGNY welcomed Mark Levine during Asian American Heritage Month to K-town. Among discussion topics were assistance and loans to small businesses, as well as City services for the local businesses.

◇ June 13

**Celebrating KAAGNY's 62nd Birthday**



On June 13, KAAGNY celebrated its 62nd birthday. Mr. Ik Jo Kang, who served as the 17th and 18th President of KAAGNY and under whose leadership KAAGNY purchased its headquarter building in Chelsea, gave the celebratory address on behalf of the past presidents. Mr. Jong duk Byun, the 21st President of KAAGNY, gave a talk on the Red Apple boycott incident in 1990 when the relations between Korean and African American community were tense. Mr. Byun talked about the 10,000 person march on City Hall and how the tensions were diffused thereafter and programs were set up to promote better understanding between the two communities. The celebration concluded with Mr. Hyung Bin (age 97) Lim presenting an award to Charles Yoon on behalf of the Korean American Elders' Association for his efforts on behalf of the Korean American Community during the pandemic.

◇ June 15

**Celebrating Juneteenth Day**



For a second year in a row, KAAGNY participated in Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman's Juneteenth celebration event. The event was held at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens, New York. KAAGNY arranged for donations by Korean beauty supply companies Kiss USA, Shake & Go, and Ebin New York to donate give away items at the festival. Newly elected Korean American Councilwoman Linda Lee also attended the event.

◇ June 17

**KAAGNY hosted the 2022 Emerging Leaders Scholarship (formerly known as CKA-KALCA Public Service Internship Program)**



KAAGNY hosted CKA Interns as well as several KAAGNY interns at a mentorship event held at KAAGNY. Charles Yoon moderated a mentor panel consisting of NYS Assemblymember Ron Kim, SBS Commissioner Kevin Kim, and NYS Justice Judy Kim.

◇ June 25

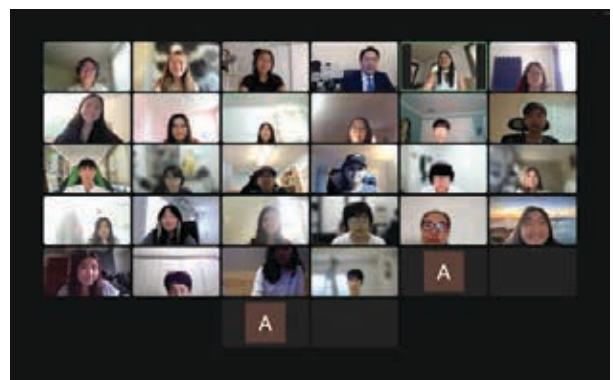
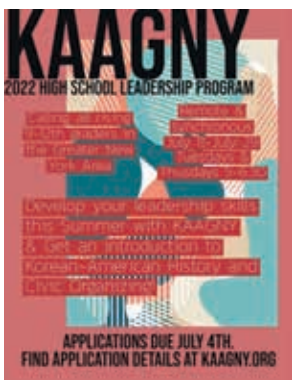
**Commemorating the Korean War**



On June 25, KAAGNY participated in multiple events remembering the outbreak of the tragic war on the Korean peninsula. KAAGNY paid tribute to the fallen troops and to the veterans who made immense sacrifices to defend Korea’s democracy and freedom.

◇ July 30

**KAAGNY’s Third Annual High School Internship Program**



For a third consecutive year, KAAGNY conducted a high school internship program. KAAGNY hosted 28 high school students for the third annual High School Leadership and Intern program. The students were selected to participate in the program after an application process that concluded on July 4th.

The KAAGNY Intern and Leadership Program was designed as both a pre-college program and as a crash course in Korean-American history. The program gives high school students an opportunity to think about their identity and how they can give back to their community. Like in past years, the program covered the Korean War, Asian-American activism, and Asian-American civil history. The program also offered pre-college preparation with a public speaking workshop, resume workshop, and a college information panel. Past interns, Lana Kim, Michelle Bae, Ellen Ko, and Kaitlyn Youn assisted program director Elizabeth Yoon in running the program. Congresswoman Grace Meng and Judge Judy Kim attended and spoke at the graduation ceremony.

◇ August 13

**Screening of “Free Chul Soo Lee” Followed By Discussions With the Film-makers**



KAAGNY rented out the IFC theater for a free screening of “Free Chul Soo Lee” followed by a discussion with the film-makers, Julie Ha and Eugene Lee. The film depicted the wrongful conviction of a Korean American who was wrongfully convicted of murder and placed on death row. Chul See Lee was finally freed from prison as a result of a decade of advocacy by the Asian American Community, including the Korean American Community.

◇ August 15

**815 Liberation Day Celebration**



On August 15, KAAGNY, together with the Korean American Community, celebrated the 77th Anniversary of Korea’s liberation from Japanese rule. KAAGNY recognized and honored Mr. Yoo Jin Hee, the President of the Kwang Bok Hwe, the association comprised of descendants of Korea freedom fighters who fought for Korean Independence. A number of elected officials and other community

leaders participated in celebrating Korea’s independence as well as the spirit of Korea’s independence and its relevance to the resolve and unity of the Korean American Community.

September 10 - November 12

**Korean Language Program**



KAAGNY ran two semester of Korean language instruction. Each semester runs for ten weeks and caters to beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes. The program is run online and tuition is nominal as it is subsidized by KAAGNY.

September 20

**Greeting President Yoon of the Republic of Korea**



On September 20, 2022, KAAGNY President welcomed Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol of the Republic of Korea on his meeting with the Korean American Community which was attended by approximately 200 Korean American leaders.

October 14

**Visit by the Academy of Korean Studies**



KAAGNY was visited by the Academy of Korean Studies in Korea. The purpose of the visit was to document KAAGNY's activities for the online encyclopedia of the Korean diaspora world-wide.

◆ October 23

2022 Korean Festival



The 2022 Korean Festival returned to Union Square on Sunday, October 23. This year, we welcomed thousands of attendees, despite scattered rain showers, which is a testament to the continued support and the growing interest in Korean culture across the greater New York area. Each year, our goal with the Korean Festival is to promote and celebrate Korean culture with our NYC community, and we were humbled by the turn-out. We appreciated the social media posts and feedback about everything from favorite food vendors and the beloved Ssireum (Korean wrestling) competition to the beautiful performances by the Sejong Traditional Arts & Dance Company and the interest in sharing Korean culture.

November 6

Get Out the Vote Efforts



KAAGNY participated in numerous get out the vote efforts, both for the primaries as well as for the general elections.

November 13

**KAAGNY Youth Leadership - K-pop**



On Sunday, November 13, KAAGNY hosted a group of Korean American youth in a conversation with Jason Kim, the writer of "KPOP," at the Circle in the Square Theatre in Manhattan. The conversation followed a full performance of the show, KPOP. Jason Kim, a Columbia English major, whose credits include a number of popular HBO dramas - and who is currently producing a movie based on Michelle Zauner's book, "Crying in H-Mart", spoke about his early immigration experience of overcoming the language barrier and cultural differences and what led to his career as a writer.

November 21

**Visit by the Korean NGO Researchers**



The Korean Association for Policy Studies, comprised of over a dozen NGO researchers, had a conference with KAAGNY officers to discuss best practices in serving the community as well as conflict resolution. Among the topics that were explored were rising anti-asian incidents as well as racial conflicts between communities in the United States and what could be learned from those experiences by the visiting NGO researchers. KAPC was founded in 1992 and it is a research group on public policy. It consists of 8,000 professionals.



◆ December 10

**End of Year Food Distribution to Families in Need**

On December 10, KAAGNY held an end of year food distribution event in front of the Murray Hill LIRR Station in Queens where there is a concentration of Korean American businesses and residents. KAAGNY distributed bags of rice, mandoo, Kimchi, seaweed and ramen to over 800 families in need who stood in line, some starting as early as 4 am on the December morning. Rice and ramen remaining after the morning distribution was picked up by The Nanum House, a homeless shelter which caters to Korean Americans in Queens.