

The leading international umbrella association of organizations dedicated to the advocacy of multiethnic, multiracial, and transracial individuals, families, relationships, communities and allies



AMEA  
PO Box 29223  
Los Angeles, CA 90029-0223

AMEA is a 501(c)3  
non-profit public benefit  
organization

April–May 2006

Association of MultiEthnic Americans

Volume 1, Issue 1

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Did You Know That AMEA is Creating a Full-Functioning Internship Program?
- ◆ Do You Know How to Become an Affiliated Member Organization with AMEA?
- ◆ Help Us Plan Our Next National Conference Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the *Loving v State of Virginia Decision*

SEE PAGES 11-17

## AMEA Elects New Officers and Board Members

After tireless effort and dedication over the past several years, former AMEA president, **Nancy G. Brown** (M.N.) and former vice-president and founder of the MAVIN Foundation, **Matt Kelley**, are off to new and exciting adventures. Both will be missed tremendously, although they still intend to remain involved within the community.

As of January 2006, the AMEA Advisory Council elected **Jungmiwha “Jummy” Bullock** (M.A., ABD) as AMEA’s new President, where she has served on the executive board since 2003. Originally from Baltimore, MD, she currently resides in Los Angeles, CA, completing her PhD dissertation at the University of Southern California. **Harold Gates** (MSSW, CISW) has been elected as the new Vice-President and he has served

on the board since 2002. He currently lives in Madison, Wisconsin where he has a consulting firm working in the fields of cultural competence (featured in our June



**NEW AMEA EXEC BOARD:**  
(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)  
**JUNGMIWHA BULLOCK, NINA GRANT, SARA FERRY, MICHELLE M. HUGHES, AND HAROLD GATES. (ANN CLEMONS NOT AVAILABLE)**

issue). Both leaders, along with the advisory council and a new board, anticipate moving AMEA forward in new and exciting directions.

A board member since 2002, **Michelle M. Hughes** (J.D.), from Chicago, Illinois will remain on AMEA’s

board for another term, and original co-founder, **Ramona Douglass** will continue to represent AMEA on the Census Advisory Council in D.C.

Three new board members have also been appointed to the board from across the nation as of December 2005. **Ann Clemons** (M.A.) currently moved back to Chicago from Phoenix, AZ where she works with social services advocacy and is planning to start up a consulting and training business. **Sara Ferry** (M.A.) currently lives in Boston, Massachusetts, where she works as a school psychologist of the Boston School District. **Nina Grant** (M.A., ABD) currently resides in Ames, Iowa, where she serves as a director of multicultural programs at Iowa State University.

## Getting the Word Out: The New AMEA Newsletter

By Jungmiwha Bullock and Harold Gates

On behalf of AMEA, we would like to introduce our first official newsletter. This newsletter is part of our platform and the new board’s attempt to bridge the communication inter/nationally between individuals, families, scholars, activists, organizations, and allies within our diverse community on a more frequent basis. We will supply you with the most up-to-date information regarding a host of issues and events, from how to get involved, to learning the latest related activities of our affiliated organizations across the country.

The newsletter will be distributed every two months, beginning April 2006. Thereafter, it will be disseminated in June, August, October, December, February, and so forth to only dues paying members first. We will also begin a growing email list, as well as, update our website in the event we have urgent information during the off-months.

This is a work in progress so we are always open to suggestions and feedback. If you would like to contribute to the AMEA newsletter, please submit info or ideas at least 2 weeks in advance to: [AMEAorg@aol.com](mailto:AMEAorg@aol.com).

*AMEA: Representing the Multiracial, Multiethnic, and Transracial Adoption Community Since 1988.*

## Get Involved: New AMEA Opportunities!

**FOR YOUR  
CONVENIENCE, TO  
JOIN, VOLUNTEER,  
INTERN, AND/OR  
DONATE,  
A MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION IS  
LOCATED ON PAGES  
14-17  
IN THIS NEWSLETTER.**

Here are a few ways that you, your family and friends, organization(s), or business(es) can become involved with AMEA. Let us know if you are interested in:

### MEMBERSHIP

- We have several types of dues paying membership: *individual, family, member, and ally*.
- We also offer several benefits with your membership, which includes this newsletter. See page 14
- We can also assist you in starting your own AMEA affiliate group!

### LEADERSHIP

- We are currently developing our board and welcome new and energetic leaders.
- Board members are **not paid!!!**

- If you or anyone you know would be interested in applying, please contact us ASAP!

### WEB DEVELOPMENT

- We are currently revamping our website. We would like to hire a qualified webmaster (for pay) to help us in this process.
- It is our goal to have full functioning websites for all of our affiliate organizations up and running by 2007.

### FUNDING

- As a non-profit organization, we are always in need of funding for operating expenses to help serve the community with various activities and initiatives.
- If you have experience with grant writing, grant searching,

fundraising development and more, we would love to speak with you further.

- 100% of our membership dues contribute to fundraising goals.
- In-kind donations are welcome.

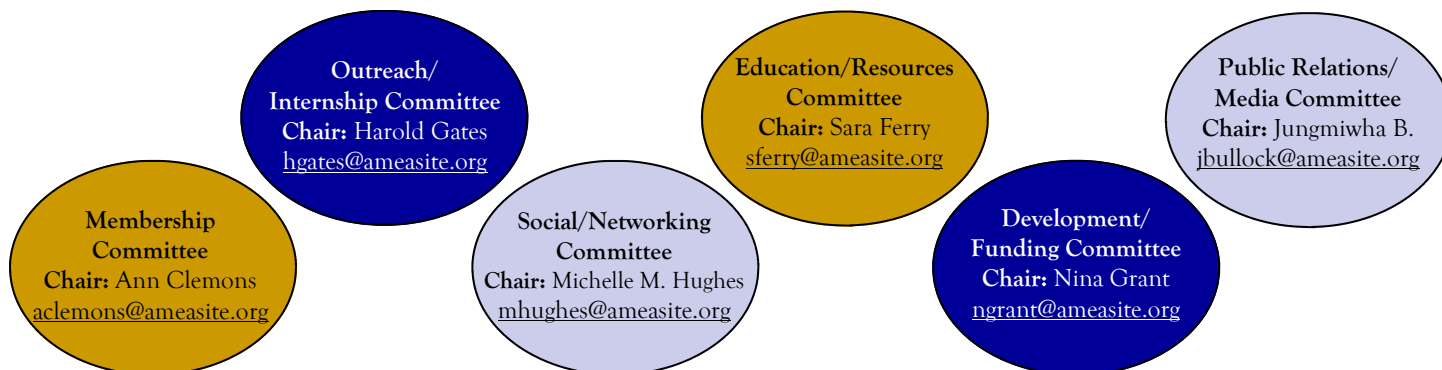
### VOLUNTEERING

- Volunteers are always needed. As activities arise, we would like to be able to reach out to a database of volunteers to help grow our affiliate organizations.

### INTERNSHIP

- We are in the process of creating our full-fledge AMEA internship program. See page 11
- This program is our attempt to bridge the disconnect between young and old generations MR/ME/TRA individuals.

## Committees Formed to Meet Needs of Community—Seeking Volunteers:



## AMEA and MAVIN Hire New Coordinator for National Mixed Heritage Center

AMEA and MAVIN Foundation have partnered to begin the creation of the first national center for "mixed heritage" resources, funded by a generous grant from the **K&F Baxter Family Foundation**.

The mission of the Mixed Heritage Center is to provide sustaining resources to multiracial, multiethnic and transracially adopted people and families as well as support the community leaders, practicing professionals and organizations that

serve them. Through consulting, research, resource referral services and training, the Mixed Heritage Center will be the most comprehensive source of existing and emerging information and tools for the mixed heritage community.

The MHC recently welcomes **Bif Brigman** as our new Center Coordinator. Bif brings passion and enthusiasm to MHC and is

excited about helping to develop the Center into a national resource that people can depend on and learn from.

Bif is a former small business owner, community activ-

ist and volunteer. His past experience includes serving on the boards of Nikkei Heritage Center of Washington, NW Craft Center and Seattle Art Muse-

ums Decorative Arts and Paintings Council; he is a past President of the Pioneer Square Community Council, 2002 Class Speaker elect for Leadership Tomorrow, and former Chair of the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods City Wide Review Team of the Neighborhood Matching Fund Program which reviewed and recommended the disbursement of over \$4 million in

**LOOK OUT FOR BIF'S  
MHC E-NEWS  
WHICH WILL KEEP YOU  
UPDATED ON THE  
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS  
OF THE MHC.**

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ON PAGE 10**

*AMEA: Representing the Multiracial, Multiethnic, and Transracial Adoption Community Since 1988.*

## University of Southern California's HapaSC Hold Annual Culture Show

By Nealen Laxpati, HapaSC Student President

Every year, the Hapa Student Community (HapaSC) organization puts on their annual culture show with the goal of portraying the unique experiences of individuals with mixed ethnic identity. Unlike the culture shows put on by other clubs on campus, the HapaSC culture show does not focus on the achievements, traditions, and artistic developments of a single parent culture. Instead, the theme of the event is "What is Hapa culture?" The individual performances form an investigative inquiry into the definition of the multiethnic experience, and how those experiences developed into a cohesive whole.

To this end, this year's HapaSC Culture Show was held on April 2 at 4PM at The Village Gate Theatre near USC. It featured the talents, experiences, and thoughts of anyone and everyone of mixed ethnic identity to a crowd of all backgrounds. One performer, **Stephen McCall** investigated the history of the word "hapa," and illustrated how its meaning has changed since coming to the mainland. **Tony Liao** described how he started breakdancing through the influence of Black

culture on the young Asian American community.

Other performances included the reading of hapa poetry, a scene from a mixed-race play, as well as a parody on "rice rockets." Numerous musical performances were also present, most of which were written by mixed race and mixed identity individuals.

The goal of the HapaSC culture show was not to display the history and traditions of an existing society, but rather to develop a better sense of the multiracial experience. Hapa culture is not a well-established geographical tradition, but

rather is a burgeoning societal offshoot that is growing from the interaction, mixture, and differences between races.

Through investigative events like the HapaSC culture show, we as mixed race students try to define this emerging tradition, and shape it towards our positive development and greatness.

HapaSC is advised by Dr. Velina Hasu Houston. For more information about HapaSC, please visit: [www.scf.usc.edu/~hapasc/v3/](http://www.scf.usc.edu/~hapasc/v3/) or email: [HapaSC@usc.edu](mailto:HapaSC@usc.edu) to learn more!



CURRENT STUDENTS AND ALUMNI OF HAPASC POSE WITH JUNGMIWHA AFTER THEIR CULTURE SHOW

**AMEA CURRENTLY HAS 11 AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S.**

**AND CANADA. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF EXPANDING OUR MEMBERSHIP AS A**

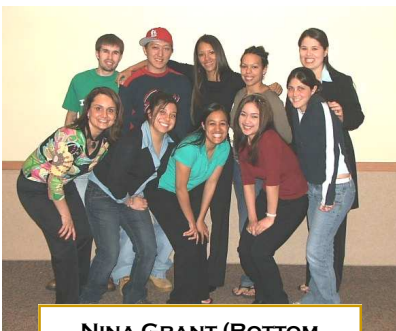
**LEADING UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY IN HOPES**

**TO COVER ALL STATES, AS WELL AS, THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA BY 2010.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SEEKING ANY TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP WITH AMEA,**

**INCLUDING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, REFER TO PAGES 14-17 FOR DETAILS.**

**THEN FILL OUT AND SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TODAY!**



NINA GRANT (BOTTOM LEFT) & JUNGMIWHA BULLOCK (TOP MIDDLE) POSE WITH STUDENT LEADERS AT M.E. WEEK 2005

## Iowa State University's M.E. Week—April 10-14, 2006

By Nina Grant, AMEA Board Member and M.E. Week Advisor

For a second year in a row, Iowa State University's Identifying as M.E. (Multi-Ethnic) will hold its annual Multi Ethnic Week, April 10-14, 2006. On **Monday**, a *Walk of Oppression* is planned, leading to the building where students will construct a "Wall of Oppression" which will represent all the different forms of racism that society has dealt with; there will be stories, words, etc. written on cardboard boxes that will make up a wall. The Wall will then move to a different building each day of the week so students from all areas can add bricks to the construction.

On **Tuesday**, we will hold a donor registration drive to help register individuals to become potential marrow donors. As many are aware, people of mixed heritages and people of color are in high demand for this type of donation, so we are trying to get as many individuals as possible to get registered and potentially save lives! That evening we will be showing the "Chasing Daybreak" movie, a MAVIN Foundation production and groundbreaking, feature-length documentary on mixed race in America.

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*AMEA: Representing the Multiracial, Multiethnic, and Transracial Adoption Community Since 1988.*



## Chicago Based Bridge Communications, Inc. Educates Adoptive Parents

By Michelle M. Hughes, AMEA Board Member and Founder of Bridge

**Bridge Communications, Inc.** was founded in 1994 with the purpose of educating and sharing information with individuals, families, social service providers and schools about the multicultural, multiracial experience. Bridge specializes in seminars to prospective parents adopting across racial lines.

The number of families who adopt across racial lines both domestically and internationally number in the thousands and continues to increase every year. In the past (and too often currently), adoption agencies often did not prepare families on how to become a multiracial family and often children "of color" were raised to assimilate to Caucasian culture, with no regards to their other racial or ethnic background.

This often created "identity issues" for some children as their parents ignored or inaccurately addressed "race" in America. The construction of race may not be "real", but racism is and when parents ignore it, it can be a difficult journey for children to figure it out on their own without their parents support and understanding.

Biracial children were and still are disproportionally placed for adoption and thus were very effected by parents with a lack of racial education. Sometimes, parents would raise their

Biracial children to believe they were White even though children on the playground knew better and would sling racial slurs. This was confusing to some adoptees and Bridge actively tries to prevent this for future children by giving their parents the tools to build a positive self identity; racial identity; and family identity in their children and family.

Bridge believes transracial adoption can be an incredibly rewarding experience. But it can also be frustrating

depending on a variety of circumstances. As with life, there are no magic formulas for success however, initial awareness and preparation can make a world of difference in a successful adoptive multiracial family. The seminars includes racial education exercises, role play, and everyone's favorite: adult transracial adoptees sharing their stories with parents. Bridge is always looking for additional adoptees who wish to share their stories on a panel.

Because Bridge Communications Inc. was founded by individuals from multiracial families with professional associations to the social services/adoption community, they have a strength that most diversity companies do not possess. Currently, all of Bridge's associates have lived the "multiracial" experience and are proud to share it with others. The strength of Bridge comes from the diverse experiences of their associates in both their professional and personal lives.

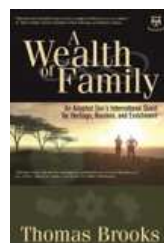
Bridge also conducts seminars on Biracial identity and teaches at culture camp for kids. Most recently, Bridge is now doing general diversity seminars for the workplace and schools and soon hopes to add medical facilities.

Bridge Communications can be found at [www.bridgecommunications.org](http://www.bridgecommunications.org)

### NEW 2006 BOOK RELEASE

*A WEALTH OF FAMILY: AN  
ADOPTED SON'S  
INTERNATIONAL QUEST  
FOR HERITAGE, REUNION  
AND ENRICHMENT*

SEE  
PAGE 9



## Oregon's Multiracial Family Resource Center Fundraising Event

By Sara Sheets, MFC Coordinator

On May 5, 2006 the Multiracial Family Resource Center of Portland, Oregon will hold its first fundraising event. Our mission is to create, maintain and provide multicultural preschool through high school education for transnational adoptive families, transethnic adoptive families, transracial adoptive families from the United States, and relationship engendered multiracial families. Our goal is to transform prejudicial attitudes through modeling healthy family systems.

For our fundraising event, we have been fortunate to have the **Portland State University Pacific Islander's Club**, the **PSU Student Multicultural Center**, and the **National Association of Social Workers** sponsor this event so all

proceeds can be used strictly for the benefit of MFRC.

Nine different cultures will be represented at the performance at 7:00pm in the Native American Student and Community Center at 701 SW Jackson on the PSU campus. **Thomas Wright** of the Oregon Council on Multiracial Affairs and long time AMEA Affiliate Organization leader of OCMA, will be our master of ceremonies and introduce the following dances: Hula, Tahitian, Capoeira (Afro-Brazilian battle dance), Spanish Flamenco, Argentine Tango, Mexican, Vietnamese, Filipino, and East Indian.

We will use the funds from this event to pursue our mission and goal. Please come out and support.

For more information, visit: [www.multiracialfamilycenter.org](http://www.multiracialfamilycenter.org)

## Multiracial Children: Advice for School Staff and Educators

By Sara Ferry, AMEA Board Member/Secretary, School Psychologist for Boston School District

The number of multiracial children is quickly increasing in the United States. The 2000 Census reported that one out of every forty, or 6.8 million Americans, identify as multiracial. Research suggests that if current trends continue, one in five Ameri-

cans may identify as being multiracial by 2050. As a result, the population of multiracial children is already increasing in our public schools.

Even with this increasing number of multiracial children, several common myths still exist. Several myths are

that multiracial children have low self-esteem and that they are confused about their racial identity.

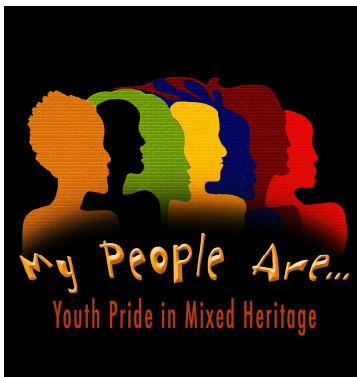
In fact, recent research has found that multiracial children do not differ from monoracial children in terms of self-esteem, comfort with themselves, or emotional or

learning problems. However, others who do not understand multiracial children's ethnic diversity may influence multiracial children's experiences in school and in life. These children may be faced with mislabeling

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ON PAGE 10

## Multiethnic Education Program to Release Powerful New Resource

By Asmara Pelupessy, Project Coordinator of MEP



The Multiethnic Education Program is about to release a powerful new resource for multicultural classrooms & families entitled, "My People Are...: Youth Pride in Mixed Heritage." It consists of a film, action booklet, and peer-to-peer training program.

The new film, "My People Are..." promotes positive racial and ethnic identity in all children, highlighting the "multiracial" experience. Multiracial people are one of the youngest and fastest growing groups in the United States. Discover a language that embraces multiracial identity and gives visibility to the experiences this community faces. Explore the limiting institutional legacy of "check one box" racial data forms. Understand the objectification a question like "What are you?" creates in young people's lives.

Young performers share pride in culture, history and ethnic roots through theater, spoken word, interview, dance, rap & song. "My People Are..." gives voice to mixed race youth & addresses an outdated task all of us confront - that of choosing or denying important aspects of our identity in order to fit in.

"My People Are..." is a new video for kids that depicts scenarios from the actual lives and experiences of its actors, who range in age from 13 to 20. The film was created through collaboration between **Oakland's Destiny Arts Center** youth performers and adult artistic directors, the **Multiethnic Education Program** and well known biracial Bay Area filmmaker, **Aarin Burch**. All elements of the development of the project, from writing to directing, have been influenced by youth insight.

Facilitators can use accompanying Action Booklet as a guide to engage constructive dialogue & hands on activities with young people about race, heritage & identity after viewing the film. The Multiethnic Education Program team includes certified youth trainers 13-20 years old who will be piloting the Peer

to Peer Training Program in the Bay Area. Our peer trainers are prepared to model positive language and discuss the challenging, rich and pertinent topics of race, ethnicity and the multiracial experience.

YOUNG  
PERFORMERS  
FEATURED IN  
THE FILM,  
"MY PEOPLE  
ARE..."



"My People Are..." is a tool for schools, after school programs, community centers, foster care communities, adoption communities and more. Here are some of responses from recent screenings:

"It also never occurred to me that as a person of two different races, I have never learned about other multiracial figures who are successful."

"This film challenges my internal recording that as a mixed person I am alone, invisible."

"I was inspired to find out more about my culture and race."

"This film presents the beautiful and positive angle of having two or more ethnicities - as opposed to the confusion it can create."

More than just an educational film, it is an intelligent, creative and dynamic celebration of the complexities of family heritage.

For more information about MEP: [www.multiethniceducation.org](http://www.multiethniceducation.org), call 510.644.1000 or email [info@multiethniceducation.org](mailto:info@multiethniceducation.org)

For almost 20 years, AMEA has continued to advocate on behalf of our infinitely diverse community. Now that we are transitioning and revitalizing our organization, we will do everything in our power to keep everyone more informed and knowledgeable about a range of topics. We offer direct advocacy to all of our members.

## Census Advocacy

One of the premiere strengths of the Association of Multi-Ethnic Americans has been its dedication to advocating on behalf of the freedom to choose how one wishes to identify in society. For almost two decades, AMEA has been on the front-lines of this cause, helping to lead the way for future initiatives, such as the recent CA Senate Bill 1615 (See pages 18-19). In 2005, AMEA received confirmation that our seat was renewed on the Census Advisory Committee on behalf of the multiracial community.

**Ramona Douglass** has served as AMEA's *Census Advisory Committee Representative* since the very beginning in the early 90s, and she continues to represent on all of our behalves in Washington D.C. She does this on top of working full-time in the corporate world (among other commitments) to insure that each and every one of us are not overlooked in policy by those who may or may not understand the importance of identifying with multiple heritages if we should so choose.

It is noteworthy to also mention that Ms. Douglass is not paid to serve in this capacity, but she continues to do so out of her deep commitment and passion towards unconditionally championing for the rights of each and every one of us.

**NEXT MEETING:** Ramona Douglass will be attending the next 2010 Census Advisory Committee meeting in Washington D.C. at the U.S. Census Bureau from May 11-12, 2006.

**JUNE NEWSLETTER ISSUE:** A Census Advisory update will be available in the next issue of this newsletter following the May meeting. Stay tuned!

**In order to advocate fully the community's needs, please bring any related issues or correspondence to our attention as soon as possible.**

**"CENSUS" -**

**[rdouglass@ameasite.org](mailto:rdouglass@ameasite.org)**

**"MEDIA" -**

**[jbullock@ameasite.org](mailto:jbullock@ameasite.org)**

## Media Advocacy

Have you ever watched a television program where you believed "multiracial/ethnic" individuals, relationships, or families were being misrepresented, however you felt unsure how you could actually change it? Are you a "mixed race" performer who may, for example, be conflicted between finding it beneficial to be able to play characters of different ethnic backgrounds, while at the same time find it disheartening to never be able to just play yourself, a "mixed

race" part that hardly exist? Or, are you a writer, producer, or director who has found it difficult to pitch work that falls outside the rubric "monoracial" storylines?

In 2004, AMEA became an official member of the **Media Image Coalition (MIC)** through the Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations ([www.lahumanrelations.org](http://www.lahumanrelations.org)) currently hosted at CBS studios. The mission of the MIC is to work with other national advocacy organizations to address stereotypes and misrepresentations of underrepresented groups in the media.

The organizations that form this coalition work together with producers, writers, directors, thespians and civil rights activists to deal with issues of representation in order to change what gets produced.

**Jungmiwha Bullock** has served as AMEA's *MIC Representative* since we joined the coalition, and in 2004, she was also elected onto the executive board of the MIC. She attends monthly meetings at CBS and helps to organize events in the industry. Bring positive/negative media issues to her attention.

**NEXT MEETING:** The MIC is holding its first all day retreat on April 22, 2006 at AFTRA headquarters in Los Angeles, CA.

**AMEA ALSO ADVOCATES IN**

**OTHER ARENAS, SUCH AS IN**

**EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND OTHER**

**FORMS OF LEGISLATION.**

**LET US KNOW WHAT OTHER ARENAS**

**WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ADVOCATE OR**

**JOIN. SEND SUGGESTIONS TO:**

**[AMEAORG@AOL.COM](mailto:AMEAORG@AOL.COM)**

## Did You Know?: Some Interesting AMEA Facts

### When was AMEA formed?

On July 4, 1986 - the Organizing Committee for a national Association of MultiEthnic Americans formed. On November 12, 1988 - members of the Organizing Committee convened in Berkeley, California and founded the Association of MultiEthnic Americans (AMEA). Carlos Fernandez, founder of I-Pride of San Francisco, was elected president; Ramona Douglass, of the Biracial Family Network of Chicago, was elected vice-president.

### What issues are AMEA involved with?

AMEA advocates within the health, media, educational, and governmental arenas. We partner with several organizations on the accurate collection of medical data for optimal *health* care. One serious gap has been our country's error in the way people have been racially profiled and screened for diseases, bone marrow donations, and drug reactions. The mistake has been the lack of cultural competency of health

care practitioners into the existence of multiple ethnicity in individuals.

With regard to the *media*, we represent the community on a board of constituent groups from around the globe that fight for the accurate representation and depiction of diversity in film, radio, and television. Should you have any concern about something you have seen or heard that you believe to be offensive, or proactive, please let us know about it so we can bring it forth publicly.

AMEA has also made an impact in *education*. In 2002, we held a na-

tional conference on the Multiracial Child in Arizona. We plan to hold a conference in 2007 in honor of the *Loving v State of Virginia* case.

In addition, Jungmiwha Bullock testified on behalf of AMEA in 2004, with Anthony Yuen and Janiva Cifuentes at the UC Regents public hearing against Ward Connerly's RE-52 proposal to institute a multiracial category on undergraduate admissions applications. We believe that students should have a choice in how they self-identify with their multiple heritages.

**The Association of MultiEthnic Americans (AMEA)** is an international alliance of multiethnic/interracial individuals and groups, incorporated as a non-profit, public benefit organization. AMEA was founded in November of 1988. Membership includes people from all ages and racial/ethnic backgrounds and heritages. **AMEA** is a non-denominational organization, open to all people.

### How did AMEA become involved with the census?

The first Board of Directors felt strongly that by working on the federal level, and utilizing something tangible like the census, AMEA would be able to positively affect the thinking of the United States as a whole, enabling them to raise their awareness of the reality of racial duality. This is the reality that so many Americans live with daily in the multiracial/multicultural community. This issue, also, relates to our mission.

In September 1989, AMEA sent a letter about this issue to Congressman Thomas Sawyer (D), Chairman of the House subcommittee monitoring the census. In 1993, Congressman Sawyer invited AMEA to present testimony for first "Census, Statistics and Postal Personnel" subcommittee he chairs.

AMEA President Carlos Fernandez presented the testimony on June 30, 1993. He was assisted by Edwin Darden, AMEA Eastern Regional Vice-President. In December 1995, AMEA was asked, by the late Secre-

tary of Commerce Ron Brown, to send a representative as appointee to the "Census 2000 Advisory Committee." Ramona Douglass was chosen to represent AMEA.

### As a result of AMEA's work, what happened to the Census?

On July 10, 1997, the Federal Interagency Committee made a recommendation allowing Census respondents to "check one or more boxes." In addition, the revisions of the OMB's Statistical Policy Directive

15 were made official and posted in the Federal Register of October 30, 1997 - Volume 62, Number 210.

AMEA was just reappointed a seat on the 2010 Census Advisory Committee in 2005. Ramona Douglass still remains on the Advisory Committee today as AMEA's representative, and our alternate representative is Jungmiwha Bullock. (See *Page 2 in this newsletter for Ramona's latest Census updates*)

Today, AMEA's efforts have inspired initiatives to change how race is now tabulated in all institutions.



## Finding Solidarity and Sisterhood in the Topaz Club

By Arana M. Fossett, Founder of The Topaz Club and AMEA member

The Topaz Club is an online-based social/support sisterhood that was created in January 2004. TTC (as it is commonly referred to by its members), was created in order to establish a social, professional, and support network for biracial/multiracial women and girls of African/African American descent in combination with other heritages.

TTC's primary focus is to address the needs, interests, and issues of the mixed race female who is part Black racially, as well as the social (and po-

litical) experiences and challenges she faces within the Black community. It also exists to address general women's issues and to keep itself informed on the historical and current accomplishments of mixed race woman who identify as such.

TTC has grown tremendously since its founding in 2004. It currently has over 300 members who live throughout the United States, in Canada, and in the United Kingdom. Its primary source of activity is based at its Yahoo! Groups website. Members

who live in some cities occasionally sponsor local social gatherings and group outings.

TTC's first *National Get Together* will take place August 9-13, 2006, in Chicago, Illinois. TTC is proud to support the multiracial community at large, as well as the mission of the AMEA.

Any and all inquiries about The Topaz Club should be directed to Arana Fossett. Email: [thetopazclubgal@lycos.com](mailto:thetopazclubgal@lycos.com) Website: [thetopazclubgal.tripod.com/id2.html](http://thetopazclubgal.tripod.com/id2.html)

**Like  
Minded  
People.**  
clothing for the conscious,  
inspired by life..

**SUPPORT MULTIRACIAL  
FOCUSED BUSINESSES & AMEA**

**\$1 WILL GO TO AMEA'S STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR EVERY ITEM  
PURCHASED AT**

**[WWW.LIKEMINDEDPEOPLE.US](http://WWW.LIKEMINDEDPEOPLE.US)**

**AT CHECKOUT, TYPE KEYWORD  
"LIKEAMEA" IN THE COMMENT BOX**



## New AMEA Member Launches *Mix-It-Up* Greeting Card Line

By Tiffany Morrison, CEO, Mix It Up, President of Lane Morrison Marketing, and AMEA member

For as long as I can remember, my mom has been customizing greeting cards to reflect our family's racial makeup. Two years ago, to reflect her interracial marriage to my dad, mom customized a greeting card with a cartoon drawing of a white couple by shading in the man's skin with a brown pencil and curling his hair with a black pen. When I saw the card, I had an "aha" moment and decided to launch Mix It Up. The alteration of that greeting card underscored the absence of products that reflect the growing number of nuanced families made up of interracial relationships, multiracial people

and families that have adopted transracially.

Mix It Up's product line includes blank cards for a variety of occasions, including weddings, birthdays, romantic relationships and baby. The cards are suitable for greetings, notes and birth/wedding announcements.



© Mix It Up/Lane Marketing

Since launching in January 2005, the company has been featured in a variety of media, including The San Diego Union Tribune, Newark Star Ledger, New Orleans Times Picayune and Wedding Dresses Magazine.

I have been pleasantly surprised by

the 100% positive response we've received. People have sent me the most appreciative and touching emails about what the launch of Mix It Up means to them. As part of the challenge of marketing Mix It Up cards, I've stumbled upon and connected with an amazing community of multiracial people through organizations like AMEA.

So what's next for Mix it Up? We have a number of new products - illustrated cards, customizable address labels, ornaments, tee-shirts and more that are ready to go. We plan to launch a new, revamped website by June, so please stay tuned!

Mix It Up cards are available online at [www.mix-it-up.net](http://www.mix-it-up.net). Tell Tiffany you heard about the line in the AMEA newsletter.

**AMEA: Representing the Multiracial, Multiethnic, and Transracial Adoption Community Since 1988.**



## AMEA Featured in New Book

Contributed By Elliott Lewis, Author

The Association of Multi-Ethnic Americans is featured in a newly released book on the multiracial experience. *Fade: My Journeys in Multiracial America* by Elliott Lewis is now available through online retailers and in bookstores nationwide.



Elliott Lewis

Lewis weaves his memoirs as a black-and-white biracial American with the voices of dozens of multiracial people of various combinations who are challenging how we think and speak about race today.

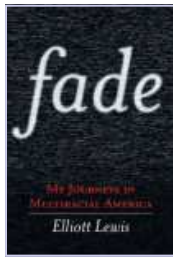
Lewis, a freelance television journalist in Washington, DC, interviewed original co-founder, **Ramona Douglass**, about helping to found the organization, the role it played in reformatting the race question on the 2000 U.S. Census, and Douglass' own experience growing up biracial in the 1950s.

The book also contains interviews with AMEA board member **Michelle M. Hughes**, founder of Bridge Communications; former AMEA Vice President **Matt Kelley**, founder of the MAVIN Foundation; and AMEA advisory council member **Maria Root**, psychologist and researcher on the multiracial experience.

*Fade* tackles hot-button topics such as the often complicated lives of multiracial people in communities of color and the birth of a national multiracial movement. The book illuminates

a variety of coping strategies and reveals stark generational differences in the ways mixed race people have come to terms with their identity.

Elliott Lewis, a frequent speaker at multiracial conferences, also shares his own life story and the coping tools he's developed to foster greater understanding of the



In Stores Now!

**The Seven Habits of Highly Multiracial People** excerpted from *Fade: My Journeys in Multiracial America* by Elliott Lewis (Carroll & Graf, 2006)

1. Undergoes "racial interrogation"

"What are you?" "What is your background?" "Where are you from?" For Highly Multiracial People, we face such questions so often, it feels like an interrogation.

2. Experiences the "chameleon effect" of being multiracial

Shifting, changing, varying public perceptions of our racial identity. We may be seen as African American one minute, Hispanic the next, Filipino an hour later. It's as if we're like walk-

CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 10

## Book on Adoption, Reunion, and Heritage

Contributed By Thomas Brooks, Author

AMEA is currently reviewing a newly released book entitled, *A Wealth of Family: An Adopted Son's International Quest for Heritage, Reunion and Enrichment* by Thomas Brooks.

**SYNOPSIS:** This inspiring account of adoption, reunion, and heritage from Thomas Brooks provides a timely and provocative perspective on multicultural families and powerful insights on overcoming racism and poverty.

Brooks grew up as the only child of a struggling single mother in inner-city Pittsburgh. He was battling racial stereotypes at school and searching for a place among his peers. Then he was told at age eleven that he was adopted.

Thomas Brooks had actually been born to a white biological mother who descended from Lithuanian

Jews and a black Kenyan foreign student father.

Years after that stunning revelation, Brooks escaped the ghetto and traveled to search for his heritage. He found his biological mother in London with his previously unknown British siblings. He then located his biological father and extended family in Nairobi. His international search and the resulting reunions have profoundly affected three families in the United States, England, and Kenya.

For more information, visit: [www.AlphaMultimedia.com/Family.htm](http://www.AlphaMultimedia.com/Family.htm)

### TO ASSIST AMEA AND MAVIN WITH

COMPILING A COMPLETE LIST OF  
BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THE  
MIXED HERITAGE CENTER (MHC),  
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUBMIT  
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS TOO.

### IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO REVIEW A

BOOK YOU HAVE WRITTEN,  
PLEASE MAIL US A COPY AND  
WE WILL GLADLY READ IT OVER!

RECENT BOOK RELEASES

### FROM PAGE 3 ("Iowa State University's M.E. Week")

On **Wednesday**, we will be hosting a keynote presentation. Last year, current president **Jungmiwha Bullock** was our distinguished guest. This year, our keynote speaker is **Desiree Robertson**, Director of CREW at Crichton College in Memphis, TN. She will speak about being adopted and raised by an African American family and finding out recently that her birth mother is White. She has presented at the First Annual Women of Color Mixed/Heritage Race conference and the National Student Conference on the Mixed Race Experience.

On **Thursday**, we are teaming with **Got Ignorance** (another student organization) to conduct the Voices of Discrimination. This will be a presentation consisting of audio recordings of personal stories of experienced discrimination and stereotyping. We also will join Take Back the Night for the lecture "Can I Kiss You?"

On **Friday**, we will be breaking down the wall and attending the rally teaming again with Got Ignorance. If you are in the area, come out and show your support!



**BOARD MEMBER, NINA GRANT,  
POSES WITH IOWA STATE  
STUDENT LEADERS**

For more information, contact Krystle at [kvas@aiastate.edu](mailto:kvas@aiastate.edu) or Nina Grant at [ngrant@ameasite.org](mailto:ngrant@ameasite.org) or 515.294.1701.

### FROM PAGE 2 ("New Coordinator for National Mixed Heritage Center")

public funds to community groups.

Issues and areas that Bif will be focusing his attention on immediately include upgrading the MHC beta website into a fully functional, interactive website, fund development for the MHC project, enhancing internal

### FROM PAGE 5 ("Multiracial Children: Advice for School Staff")

and prejudice in the schools by their peers and possibly even school staff, which may affect their self-esteem and their relationships with others.

Suggestions for school staff:

- Acknowledge all of the child's heritages. For example, don't simply assume because a child is of Caucasian and African American heritage that the child should be simply referred to as African American. This takes away from the child's entire identity and may inflict psychological harm on the child.
- Initiate discussions surrounding race and ethnicity in the classroom. Take the time out of class lessons to talk about race. This will help to create a safe place where all children feel comfortable and welcomed.
- Celebrate all ethnicities and heritages of all the children in the classroom. Don't just celebrate during holidays, but infuse the curriculum with culture, race, and ethnicity!

#### References

Carroll, D.W. (2004). *Multiracial Children: Practical Suggestions for Parents and Teachers*. *NASP Communiqué*, 32, 7

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. New Scholarship in Race and Ethnicity: "Moving Beyond the Black-White Color Line? The Implications of Immigration, Intermarriage, and Multiracial Identification". Website: [wwics.si.edu/index.cfm?topic\\_id=1427&fuseaction=topics.event\\_summary&event\\_id=61440](http://wwics.si.edu/index.cfm?topic_id=1427&fuseaction=topics.event_summary&event_id=61440)

Send the latest "Educational News" to Sara Ferry, AMEA Board Member and Education Committee Chair at [sferry@ameasite.org](mailto:sferry@ameasite.org).

and external communications and leveraging resources and efforts between AMEA, MAVIN and MHC.

Website: [www.mixedheritagecenter.org](http://www.mixedheritagecenter.org)  
Email: Bif Brigman—[Bif@mavinfoundation.org](mailto:Bif@mavinfoundation.org)

### FROM PAGE 9 ("AMEA Featured in New Book" - *Fade: My Journeys in Multiracial America* by Elliott Lewis)

ing, talking, living, breathing, human ink blot tests for how societies view race.

3. *Encounters bewilderment or disbelief when sharing life stories*

When Highly Multiracial People try to explain these experiences, we often face a lack of validation. Others will challenge, question, or try to discredit our personal histories and racial experiences, as if these "defining moments" could not have happened.

4. *Attacked for a suspected lack of racial group allegiance or authenticity*

You don't have to be Highly Multiracial to be familiar with this one. You're "not black enough," or "not Asian enough." You're "running away from your blackness," or otherwise trying to avoid your minority race.

5. *Experiences a temporary racial identity crisis*

What am I? Where do I fit in? How do I navigate racial issues? The temporary crisis may last anywhere from 10 minutes to 10 years, or even longer. But the key word is temporary. We go through the crisis on our way toward a resolved identity.

6. *Develops an interracial, mixed race, cross-cultural comfort zone*

Not surprisingly, Highly Multiracial People feel most at ease in integrated settings, at multicultural events, and at social functions with other interracial families and mixed race people.

7. *Adopts a racial identity acknowledging multiple backgrounds*

"I'm Multiracial," "I'm Biracial," "I'm Hapa" (half-Asian), "I'm Blackanese," "I'm Cablinasian," "I'm black, but my mom is white." Highly Multiracial People find a way to express their mixed heritage.

*Fade: My Journeys in Multiracial America*, is published by Carroll & Graf, an imprint of Avalon Publishing. Visit Elliott's web site at [www.LewisFreelance.com](http://www.LewisFreelance.com).

## AMEA Launching High School and College Internship Program

By AMEA Board 2006

It is our hope that prior to the fall 2006 academic school year, AMEA will announce the full details and parameters of our new student internship program. The internships will be open to high school and college students, with the option of credit and/or service learning/volunteer hours.

Students have several internship options to choose from. One option will be assisting one of the main AMEA committees, including *media/public relations, membership, social/networking, education/resources, development/funding, and outreach*. Another option is to intern through their local/state AMEA affiliate member organization to develop programs, increase membership, etc. The length of the internship will range based on need, from short-term to nine-month commitment periods. Each intern will be paired with a mentor to which they report during the length of their internship.

The goal of our internship program is threefold. First, we wish to provide a beneficial structure for students as part of their educational growth and development in order to build their skills in independence, creativity, and communication (among other skills). Second, our program aims to

bridge the disconnect between the younger and older generations within this diverse community. Last but not least, through connecting students with leaders and organizations across the country, it is our hope that this experience will help inspire them to become the next leaders and professionals in the future.

At this time, we have outlined five major areas of assistance which will help guide the internship program: **Professional/Cultural Competence Assistance; Affiliate Membership Organization Assistance; IT Development Assistance** (i.e., website construction and email response); **MHC Support Assistance** (i.e., archival collection, disseminating press releases); **Fundraising/Development**.

The information we are reporting here is subject to change. We are currently drafting internship contracts which we hope to finalize by this June/July. Meanwhile, should you or someone you know be interested in interning, please let us know so that we can keep you posted.

Harold Gates, AMEA Vice President is currently the Outreach/Internship Chair. Email: [hgates@ameasite.org](mailto:hgates@ameasite.org) or [AMEAorg@aol.com](mailto:AMEAorg@aol.com)

## Planning Ahead for Our Next National Conference: Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the *Loving v State of Virginia* Decision

On June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the anti-miscegenation statutes prohibiting interracial marriage in the state of Virginia violated "both the equal protection and due process clauses of the 14th Amendment." (for more information, refer to [www.ameasite.org/loving.asp](http://www.ameasite.org/loving.asp)) In 1992, AMEA commemorated the 25th Anniversary of the Loving Decision at the Loving Conference in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

**June 12, 2007** will mark the 40th Anniversary of the Loving Decision. To celebrate this monumental occasion, AMEA plans to organize a national conference. Currently, we are searching for funding sources and a location to host the conference, preferably in the middle of the United

States to insure that individuals and families across the nation can somewhat equally attend. Our preference is also to host it at a university or community facility.

We are also putting a planning committee together at this time to organize this conference from among the community, which will include students, families, schools, activists, legal officials, and community leaders & organizations.

### WHAT WE NEED:

- We welcome any suggestions for locations at this time.
- Volunteers and coordinators to help plan
- Funding sources and donations

Please email us as soon as possible if you would like to help!

AMEA INTENDS TO LAUNCH A NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE BY

MAY/JUNE 2006



# APRIL 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					31 AMEA Board Retreat Dinner	1 AMEA Board Retreat in Los Angeles
2 HapaSC Culture Show (Los Angeles)	3 AMEA and SB1615 Coalition sends out call for Letters of Support for bill	4	5	6	7 Initial Deadline for SB1615 Letters of Support to be faxed to Senators	8
9	10 Iowa State University Second Annual M.E. Week Events (Ames)	11 SB 1615 Coalition Conference Call (national)	12	13 Second Deadline for SB1615 Letters of Support to be faxed to Senators	14 End of Iowa State University M.E. Week end (Ames, Iowa)	15 10th National Mixed Race Student Confer- ence at MSU (East Lansing, Michigan)
16	17	18	19	20	21 Staged reading of "Shedding the Tiger" by playwright Velina Hasu Houston (LA)	22 Jungmiwha attends Media Image Coali- tion Meeting and Retreat (Los Angeles)
23	24	25 Senate Bill 1615 Legislative Hearing and Press Conference (Sacramento)	26	27	28 MAVIN Student Leadership Retreat Forms DUE (Seattle)	29
30						

TO GET YOUR INFORMATION OR THE DATE OF AN EVENT IN THE NEWSLETTER,

CONTACT US NO LATER THAN 2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT PUBLICATION.

**PLEASE NOTE: AFTER THIS EDITION, NEWSLETTER PRIORITY GIVEN TO MEMBERS FIRST.**

# MAY 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					Multiracial Resource Fundraising Event (Portland, OR)	Family Center Event
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	University of California, Davis Mixed Heritage Week Events (Davis, CA)			Ramona attends Decennial Advisory Committee Meeting (Washington D.C.)	University of California, Davis Mixed Heritage Week Ends	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				Deadline to get news to AMEA for June newsletter		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## Contributions to the AMEA Newsletter

We are interested in the latest news and updates occurring domestically and internationally as it pertains to the diversity of the communities we serve. If you have something you would like to contribute, please send to [AMEAorg@aol.com](mailto:AMEAorg@aol.com). Indicate the type of submission in the subject line (ex: Newsletter Article, Book Release, etc.). Due to spatial limitations and help, we serve the right to edit and choose the stories we include. We will send you a confirmation.

### ARTICLES

Send summaries of events, opinion pieces, and stories you would like to contribute. If it is about your organization, please include a description of your organization or its' mission.

### PHOTOS (preferably in .jpeg format)

When you send photos, please indicate the photographer and the people in the photo(s) if applicable, or a description of the photo(s).

### DATES of EVENTS

If you are holding an event, please send the date, time, location and costs of your event. We also accept Birthday Announcements!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Always include your full name, your title, and contact information for members to follow-up.

### BOOK RELEASES

We welcome new book releases, reviews, or recommendations of books you have read, produced, edited, or wrote.

### STUDIES

If you are conducting a study, we MAY be able to help post your requests. However, we do screen the types of studies that people send to us all the time to ensure that your study does not adversely affect anyone in the community. Please send a description of your study first.

## Why Join AMEA? What Do You Get With AMEA Membership?

*In order to sustain AMEA's advocacy and meet the needs of the community, including supporting our affiliate organizations with programming across the nation, raising money for our scholarship and internship programs, and maintaining the MHC (just to name a few), we really encourage you to apply for membership today. It is our hope to be around for you, your family, your children, your children's children, and so forth for decades to come. Without member-*

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS	DESCRIPTION
Bi-Monthly Newsletter	Be the first to get the latest news on the MR/ME/TRA community, including much of the ongoing news covered in this issue and more! Members also have the advantage of sending in stories in advance to be published with a personal byline.
Media Representation	All members will be able to voice their concerns to our AMEA media representative who will in turn advocate face to face with key industry leaders, such as producers, directors, and writers, in order to incite change.
Representation in Washington DC	As a member of AMEA, you have representation in Census activities and related issues that impact policy. Aside from AMEA, no other related organization provides this at this time.
Speaker's Bureau	Our officers and board members can be utilized as consultants or speakers at different functions and engagements that you organize. Each of us brings different expertise from our professions (i.e., education, media, law, politics, etc.).
AMEA Email Listserv	Network and stay connected with the many individuals, families, organizations, allies, and companies that serve this unique community more frequently.
Invitation to All Events	All members will be invited to attend all events that AMEA and its' affiliates organize, including an invitation to the next national <i>Loving v State of Virginia</i> conference that we are now planning.
Access to the Mixed Heritage Center (MHC)	When the MHC is officially up and running, our members, along with MAVIN Foundation's customers, will be the first to have access to the center's resources.
Free Promotion and National Publicity	Members have the opportunity to be showcased in relevant AMEA literature, such as the newsletter. If you have a book or product that is coming out, let us know, and we will try to help advertise for you nationally. Member organizations also receive national publicity with a link on our website that currently receives many hits per day. Individuals and families can send announcements or birthday wishes to be included in our newsletter, and more!
Discounts	When new products come out on the market that target members of the community we serve, we will attempt to work out different promotions, from educational resources to hair products! In addition, many invitations will also include member discounts to attend functions.
Cultural Competent Resources	For many parents, finding adequate resources that are culturally competent in raising your child/ren are crucial. As a member, we can assist you in your search by supplying you and your family with up-to-date global resources.
Guidance on Developing Your Member Organizations	Many organizations seek to move from "casual" to "official" status. We can work with your group to become not only socially involved with multiracial/ethnic issues, but also, to become more actively involved through AMEA.
Press Releases and Immediate Updates	Often times, we are among the first organizations to be informed of issues regarding our diverse community. Our members will be the first to know when we receive information on compliance and ethnomedical issues that are of concern.
And more!	We are always thinking of creative ways to inform and mobilize all people, regardless of multiracial and multiethnic status. We are a forum where people can feel comfortable and safe in a nonjudgmental environment. Our benefits lists will continue to grow as our membership flourishes. Thank you for your support!





Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of AMEA. With your membership you will be entitled to several immeasurable benefits that we hope you will find useful in the years to come. Membership is good for one full year from the date your application is processed and confirmed.

### **DIRECTIONS**

1. Please fill out the membership application completely and clearly.
2. Use a separate application if you are applying for multiple memberships. For example, if you are interested in becoming an individual member, and also would like to purchase a membership for your group or organization, we ask that you fill out a separate application. You may mail them in the same envelope with one combined check or money order for your convenience.
3. Make your check or money order payable to “AMEA” and mail it with your application to:

AMEA  
P.O. Box 29223  
Los Angeles, CA 90029-0223

4. Once we receive your application and payment, we will send you a confirmation letter. However, if you do not hear back from us within a few weeks, please let us know since there may be many reasons for the delay (i.e., letter lost in the mail, etc.).

Thank you for your support in advance. We really look forward to working *with* you and *for* you!

### **BREAKDOWN OF MEMBERSHIP TYPES**

We offer several types of membership. Please be sure to mark the correct membership on your application.

<i>Individual</i>	Memberships that are only for <b>one</b> person (including students and seniors)
<i>Family</i>	Memberships that are only for <b>one</b> family name. They cannot be transferred to other families. Family members are still encouraged to apply for individual membership.
<i>“Member”</i>	Organizations whose missions are to serve and work directly with the multiracial, multiethnic, and transracially adopted community. Member organizations (also known as “Affiliate Members” are designated by student groups, nonprofits, small businesses, and corporations.
<i>“Ally”</i>	Organizations whose missions are <i>not specific</i> to serving the multiracial, multiethnic, and transracially adopted community. These type of organizations (also known as “Affiliate Allies” wish to support the mission of AMEA and our affiliate member organizations as “allies.”

**NOTE: If you would like to form a new AMEA Affiliate Member Organization, contact us for details!**



## AMEA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print clearly

FULL NAME OF CONTACT PERSON

DATE

STREET ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

PHONE

CITY

STATE

ZIP

FAX

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

“Racial” / “Ethnic” Heritages/Identities (Optional)

How did you hear about AMEA? \_\_\_\_\_

### Select Membership Type

\_\_\_ Individual Membership \$15

\_\_\_ Family Membership \$25

Students/Seniors \$10

Specify Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ “Affiliate Member” Organization

\_\_\_ “Affiliate Ally” Organization

Student Group \$25

Student Group \$25

Non-Profit Organization \$50

Non-Profit Organization \$100

Small Business \$100

Small Business \$200

Corporate 1 (50-100 employees) \$500

Corporate 1 (50-100 employees) \$1000

Corporate 2 (101-250 employees) \$750

Corporate 2 (101-250 employees) \$1500

Corporate 3 (<250 employees) \$1000

Corporate 3 (<250 employees) \$2000

\_\_\_ **ALSO CHECK HERE** if you would be interested in the option of a “Lifetime Membership” if it became available

\* Please note that the rates of dues are subject to change and we reserve the right to deny or remove membership (with full refund) to any groups or individuals whose intention is to exploit, harm, or adversely affect the community and mission that AMEA upholds.

Please fill out each section that applies to the membership(s) for which you are applying.  
Please print clearly.

***INDIVIDUAL (only if you are a student)***

\_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL, COLLEGE or UNIVERSITY NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
GRADE/YEAR

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAJOR/MINOR FIELD(S) of STUDY

Interested in AMEA's Internship Program?

(Circle) YES NO

***MEMBER & ALLY ORGANIZATIONS***

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF ORGANIZATION or BUSINESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
YEAR ESTABLISHED

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
~ # of MEMBERS/EMPLOYEES

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
WEBSITE

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
STATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP

\* Please attach: 1) Brief background of your organization/business, including how often you hold meetings/month; 2) Officer/Leadership Breakdown and Contact Information, if applicable; 3) Any other related literature that would tell us more about your organization/business and how it supports MR/ME/TRA issues; 4) State organization needs, if any.

***FAMILY***

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
# IN HOUSEHOLD

Interested in connecting with families in your area?

(CIRCLE) YES NO

\* Please attach: 1) List of family members, ages, birthdates; 2) How would you describe your family? Feel free to be creative!

**If Applicable, How Else Would You Like to Get Involved with AMEA?**

☐ Volunteer Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Intern ☐ Prospective Board Member ☐ Add me to the AMEA email listserv

☐ I would like to donate (a) service(s) (i.e., website construction, printing, supplies, office space, etc.).

Please specify types of service(s): \_\_\_\_\_



## Thank You for Sending in Your Support for Senate Bill 1615

AMEA sent out the following information across the nation beginning on April 2, 2006, accompanied by a template letter of support.

### LATEST DRAFT Fact Sheet

#### Senate Bill 1615 (Simitian) The Ethnic Heritage Respect and Recognition Act

##### Summary:

SB 1615 brings out-of-date ethnic and racial data collection practices of the state into conformity with current federal data standards. Specifically, the bill ensures that a state agency or entity:

Provide multiracial Californians with the option of selecting one or more ethnic or racial designations whenever that agency or entity collects ethnic or racial data.

Report the number or percentage of respondents who identify with multiple ethnic or racial designations

Report the number or percentage of respondents identifying with each ethnic or racial designation who also identify with another designation.

SB 1615 also puts important safeguards into place:

To prevent any misreporting or manipulation of data collected from multiracial Californians that would reduce the number or percentage of respondents publicly reported by a state agency or entity to identify with an ethnic or racial designation.

To ensure that information currently reported is *supplemented by more and better information*, not replaced.

To guarantee continued robust civil rights monitoring and enforcement.

##### Need for the bill:

**Current data collection practices can be unfair and offensive** to the rapidly increasing population of Californians who identify with more than one ethnicity or race. Roughly 1 in 6 births overall in the state and 1 in 4 births to native-born mothers are multiracial/ethnic. While many state agencies have taken the initiative to put in place measures to recognize this reality, many multiracial Californians are still forced to deny significant parts of their heritage and ethnic identity on state forms when they are required to select only one ethnic or racial designation.

**An entire set of populations is virtually invisible and its diverse set of needs is not being met.** Current data collection practices not only create a false picture of the state's diversity but also set up a situation where accurate, reliable information is not available to doctors, teachers, service providers, and policymakers. For example, there is an increasing awareness in the healthcare community that intake forms requiring people to mark "only one race" can prevent doctors from providing culturally appropriate and medically relevant information to their multiracial patients.

**Individual communities of color are systematically underreported.** By forcing multiracial Californians to deny and hence not report part of their ethnic identity, current practices lead to a situation in which the true numbers for members of minorities and communities of color are underreported.

**Current state data collection practices are anachronistic and inconsistent with federal standards.** Since 1997 when the federal government revised its "Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity," federal agencies have been required to ensure that multiracial individuals have the option of selecting one or more ethnic or racial designations on federal government forms requesting such data. With several key exceptions, many state agencies and entities have not caught up and are still employing outdated practices. This is unacceptable in the largest and most diverse state in the country.

**The status quo perpetuates the myth** that almost everyone fits neatly into a single racial category when in fact an increasingly large percentage of California's population does not.

**Copy of Letter Sent out to the Community the week of April 2, 2006:**

Dear Community Members, Organizational Leaders, Students, Families, Allies and Friends,

On behalf of the SB1615 national coalition and the Association of MultiEthnic Americans (AMEA), the leading international umbrella association of organizations dedicated to multiethnic, multiracial, and transracial individuals, families, relationships, communities and allies, we are writing to ask for your support on a groundbreaking and time sensitive piece of legislation being considered by the California State Legislature this month. Senate Bill 1615, the Ethnic Heritage Respect and Recognition Act, would make California the first state in the U.S. to adopt federal standards that allow "multiracial" individuals to self-identify with multiple racial and ethnic categories on forms (details attached in "fact sheet"). It is our hope that Senate Bill 1615 will serve as a model for other states.

Today the vast majority of multiracial/multiethnic individuals are limited to choosing only one race on forms that ask for that information. This bill would ensure that multiracial Californians are no longer rendered invisible and allow their unique health and individual needs to be properly addressed, while at the same time respecting the racial/ethnic groups for which they belong by adopting federal civil rights guidelines. Furthermore, the bill also ensures that multiracial Californians will continue to be counted amongst the traditional communities they identify with, thus ensuring a complete picture of California's diversity.

To show your support for Senate Bill 1615 so that it has an opportunity to be considered at the next legislative hearing in two weeks, we encourage you to fill out and return the attached letter of support **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 7**. Regardless if you are a resident of the state of California, you can still send in a letter of support, but please do so by the deadline by mail or fax. This letter can be sent to the offices of Senator Simitian, the sponsor of the bill, and Senator Joe Dunn, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee that is considering the bill. Letters can be mailed and/or faxed, preferably both. Contact information for the Senators' offices is outlined below.

Again, we have attached a fact sheet outlining the particulars of Senate Bill 1615, and answering many common questions. We also encourage you to contact AMEA with any questions or concerns you may have. On behalf of our executive board of the Association of MultiEthnic Americans, our affiliates, and the SB 1615 national coalition, we appreciate your consideration, and urge your support for this critically important measure.

Sincerely,

Jungmiwha Bullock, AMEA President

Harold Gates, AMEA Vice President

Association of MultiEthnic Americans  
P.O. Box 29223  
Los Angeles, CA 90029-0223  
Email: AMEAorg@aol.com

MAIL and/or SEND FAXES by APRIL 13, 2006:

Senator Joe Simitian  
State Capitol, Room 4062  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 323-4529

Senator Joe Dunn, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2187  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 445-8390

Please email AMEAorg@aol.com a confirmation of your support. Thank you!

***AMEA: Representing the Multiracial, Multiethnic, and Transracial Adoption Community Since 1988.***

## AMEA Directory of Contacts

Please be mindful that all members affiliated with AMEA are volunteers and have professional and personal lives outside of this organization. However, we will do everything in our power to respond to you in a timely manner because we care about you. Thank you for your understanding.

### Officers and Board

To reach all members on the board, please send messages to our general email: [AMEAorg@aol.com](mailto:AMEAorg@aol.com).

Officers may be available for speaking engagements with enough advance notice.

Each officer and board member is also responsible for coordinating an AMEA committee. Please send information relevant to their committees.

After becoming a member, if you would like to participate on a committee, please feel free contact the appropriate officer for more info.

**President** Jungmiwha “Jummy” Bullock, MA, ABD  
Email: [jbullock@ameasite.org](mailto:jbullock@ameasite.org)  
Committee: Media/Public Relations

**Vice-President** Harold Gates, MSSW, CISW  
Email: [hgates@ameasite.org](mailto:hgates@ameasite.org)  
Committee: Outreach & Internship Program

**Board Member/Secretary** Sara Ferry, MA  
Email: [sferry@ameasite.org](mailto:sferry@ameasite.org)  
Committee: Education/Resources

**Board Member** Ann Clemons, MA  
Email: [aclemons@ameasite.org](mailto:aclemons@ameasite.org)  
Committee: Membership

**Secretary** Nina Grant, MA, ABD  
Email: [ngrant@ameasite.org](mailto:ngrant@ameasite.org)  
Committee: Development/Funding

**Board Member** Michelle M. Hughes, JD  
Email: [mhughes@ameasite.org](mailto:mhughes@ameasite.org)  
Committee: Social/Networking

Once more, we are now recruiting new members to the board. Please email us for an official AMEA board recruitment letter

The subject heading should read, “AMEA Board Applicant.” We will be in touch shortly. Thank you for your interest.

### Advisory Council and Other Contacts

To reach AMEA Advisory Council Members, please send messages to our general AMEA email address ([AMEAorg@aol.com](mailto:AMEAorg@aol.com)) and we will disseminate the information accordingly.

NOTE: Other Advisory Council Members still pending.

Reginald Daniel

Edwin Darden

Josef Liles

Maria Root

Sarah Ross

Thomas Wright

AMEA also advocates for the community and its' members through other vehicles, such as diversity in the media industry, census/governmental issues, and legislative/public policy initiatives.

The following members can be contacted directly in the event you have a concern or emergency that needs public attention. We will be more than willing to assist you.

#### DC Census Advisory Council

Ramona Douglass—[rdouglass@ameasite.org](mailto:rdouglass@ameasite.org)

#### Media Image Coalition through the L.A. Commission on Human Relations

Jungmiwha Bullock—[jbullock@ameasite.org](mailto:jbullock@ameasite.org)

You may also send inquiries related to the joint AMEA/MAVIN Foundation *National Mixed Heritage Center* to our Coordinator.

Bif Brigman—[Bif@mavinfoundation.org](mailto:Bif@mavinfoundation.org)

[www.mixedheritagecenter.org](http://www.mixedheritagecenter.org)

### Affiliate Organizations

This list is not comprehensive since new member organizations are joining. The following members have been member organizations for several years.

To reach all affiliate organizations, you may also send messages to our general AMEA email where we will distribute the messages to the head of each group.

#### Intercultural Pride (IPride) Northern CA

Contact: Wei Ming Dariotis

Tarah Fleming

Email: [info@ipride.org](mailto:info@ipride.org)

Website: [www.ipride.org](http://www.ipride.org)

#### Biracial Family Network (BFN) Illinois

Contact: Nereida Carroll

Email: [president@bfncicago.org](mailto:president@bfncicago.org)

Website: [www.bfncicago.org](http://www.bfncicago.org)

#### Multiracial Americans of Southern CA (MASC)

Contact: Jennifer Noble

Jonathan Brent

Email: [masc@mascsite.org](mailto:masc@mascsite.org)

Website: [www.mascsite.org](http://www.mascsite.org)

#### GIFT New Jersey

Contact: Lois and Pete Donegan

Email: [info@njgift.org](mailto:info@njgift.org)

#### HONEY Eugene, Oregon

Contact: Sarah Ross

Email: [eugenehoney@aol.com](mailto:eugenehoney@aol.com)

#### OCMA Portland, Oregon

Contact: Thomas Wright

Email: [areinst@aol.com](mailto:areinst@aol.com)

Website: [ocma-multiracial.org](http://ocma-multiracial.org)

#### MOHXCA Edmonton AB Canada

Contact: Theo D'Regean

Email: [skydogs@ocii.com](mailto:skydogs@ocii.com)

#### IFC Washington D.C.

Contact: Nancy McFall Jean

Email: [nancymcfalljean@earthlink.net](mailto:nancymcfalljean@earthlink.net)

[info@interracialfamilycircle.org](mailto:info@interracialfamilycircle.org)

Website: [www.interracialfamilycircle.org](http://www.interracialfamilycircle.org)