

# Vietnamese American Professional Women Association of Silicon Valley (VAPW)



WWW.VAPW.ORG

Summer/Fall 2008 Newsletter

## Message from the President & Officers

The Vietnamese American Professional Women Association of Silicon Valley would like to thank you for your continuous support of our organization and our events.

Earlier this year, we had our first community service celebrating Tet with gifts and lion dancing for the residents at the Mission de la Casa Nursing home in San Jose.

In June, we held our first Membership Mixer event at Jenny Do's Green Rice Gallery. The Honorable Jacqueline Duong, the founder of the organization, spoke about her vision behind the organization. Author Samantha Le, read an excerpt from her book, Little Sister Left Behind, and provided thoughts on her experience as a Vietnamese American author. We raffled jackets from Hanh Tran, Fox Racing, to attendees.

In September, VAPW launched our College Scholarship Program. This Program will go towards students with promising academic achievements and commitment to Santa Clara County.

VAPW is growing as an organization and we would not be here today without your support and the support of its Board and Members. You can help us continue our growth by sharing this newsletter to your network or by bringing a friend to our next VAPW event.

Again, we thank you for your support and we look forward to meeting and hearing from you!

Best wishes,

*Kimberly Pham, President, Office of County Counsel*  
*Christine Pham, Vice President, Santa Clara University*  
*Helen Duong, Secretary, Redevelopment Agency*  
*Thao Nguyen, Treasurer, Comerica Bank*

## VAPW Higher Achievement Scholarship

VAPW is excited to announce that we have been awarded a generous grant of \$3,000 from Comerica Bank through the help of our Treasurer, Thao Nguyen. These funds will be applied as seed money for the VAPW Higher Achievement Scholarship for college-bound females

of Vietnamese heritage.

Attaining a college degree opens many new doors and opportunities and VAPW hopes this scholarship will make higher education more accessible to our youth.

For more information about this program, please contact Boardmember Ann

Nguyen on the Scholarship Committee.

### How You Can Help:

- Volunteer your time with the Scholarship Committee
- Contact your company and colleagues for additional funding sources for our program.

(See pg. 2)

### Board of Directors:

◆ *Nguyet Dinh, East Side Union High School District*

◆ *Teresa Hung, Attorney*

◆ *Myvan Khuu, Office of Councilmember Madison Nguyen*

◆ *Maria Le, San Jose Redevelopment Agency*

◆ *Ann Nguyen, Robinson & Wood*

◆ *Mai Phan, Attorney*

◆ *Laura Phan, Mt. Pleasant Elementary School District*

◆ *Evelynn Tran, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority*

◆ *Thu-Thuy Truong, TTi, Inc.*

### Advisory Board:

◆ *Honorable Jacqueline My-Le Duong*

◆ *Councilmember Madison Nguyen, San Jose*

# Vietnamese American Professional Women Association of Silicon Valley



## VAPW Higher Education Scholarship Eligibility

Please forward this information to your networks! VAPW will be awarding scholarships to high school seniors who will be attending college during the academic year 2009-2010.

### Eligibility:

- Female high school senior of Vietnamese ancestry attending school in Santa Clara County.
- Entering college in the 2009-2010 academic year.
- Selection criteria include fi-

nancial need, commitment to community service, leadership abilities or the potential for leadership.

### To apply, please submit:

- 1) Completed Application
- 2) High school transcript
- 3) Personal statement
  - (a) past, present and future service to the Vietnamese community; and
  - (b) what would winning this VAPW Scholarship mean.

### Submission deadline: **November 3, 2008.**

Submit entire application package to:  
1) Ann Nguyen, via email at [aan@robinsonwood.com](mailto:aan@robinsonwood.com)  
or  
2) Ann Nguyen, 227 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

For complete eligibility rules and guidelines, please download an application at [www.VAPW.org](http://www.VAPW.org).

“SHARE YOUR SKILLS AND EXPERTISE BY BECOMING A MENTOR FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS IN YOUR FIELD.”

If you share VAPW's values of community, leadership, and excellence, then join us today!

### **1. Support Your Community**

Participate with VAPW as a volunteer on numerous charity and community events within our local community.

### **2. Develop your Leadership**

Share your skills and expertise by becoming a mentor for young professionals and students in your field.

### **3. Advance as a Professional**

Stay ahead of the latest trends, hear experts in related fields, and prepare yourself for the future of the profession

by participating in our speaker lunch series; members pay reduced rates for these programs.

### **4. Build Your Network**

Network with VAPW members from a variety of professions that include: medicine, government, law, sales, consulting and finance.

### **5. Expand your Knowledge**

Through VAPW's networks, you can get advice from other professional concerning specific challenges and issues you face.

### **6. Be Recognized for Your Work**

As opportunities arise, VAPW will nominate distinguished members to community and national awards.

### **7. Stay Informed with the Latest News**

VAPW will provide members with the latest news, opportunities, programs and events in our community.

### **Annual Dues**

\$50 for Professionals

**Free** for Students

For more information on joining or to fill out the Membership Application, visit [www.vapw.org](http://www.vapw.org).



## Members' Corner

- VAPW would like to congratulate the **Hon. Jacqueline Duong**, who has recently received the National Conference of Vietnamese American Attorney's 2008 Trailblazer Award.

- **Helen Duong** and **Christine Pham** will both be starting graduate programs this fall. Helen will be seeking her MBA at Stanford University and Christine will be studying for a J.D. at Santa Clara University. Good luck with your studies!

- **Mai Phan** will be exchanging vows with her fiancé in October. Congratulations to the happy couple!

Share your announcements with us at [info@vapw.org](mailto:info@vapw.org).



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San Jose, CA 95113-  
E-mail: [info@vapw.org](mailto:info@vapw.org)

## About VAPW:

*The Vietnamese American Professional Women Association of Silicon Valley (VAPW) strives to outreach, educate, prepare and engage Vietnamese American professional women in areas of leadership and development, to provide a network of support and promote the professional growth of its members, to mentor and encourage youths in the community to enter professional careers, and to encourage community responsibility and participation.*

*VAPW members will commit themselves to the highest standards of ethics and professional conduct. The VAPW accomplishes its mission through a variety of activities including guest speaker luncheon series, educational forums, scholarship programs, mentorship programs and participation in other community events.*

*The VAPW is non-partisan and does not make political endorsements.*

## Launching of the Official VAPW Website

Learn all about the Vietnamese American Professional Women Association of Silicon Valley at our newly created website. All VAPW members contributed to the input of the design and content for the new website. The website has a very basic structure that makes it more functional than flashy. Our goal was to make it accessible for "people of all abilities and disabilities". The block colors present the site as simple, but yet visually appealing. We try to capture a warm color palette of yellow, red and orange that is prominently used in the Vietnamese culture. Visit our website today at [www.vapw.org](http://www.vapw.org).

### At the website you'll find:

1. Background information about the VAPW group and its board
2. All types of resources to support you in your personal and professional life

3. Professional networking events that we will be hosting
4. How VAPW can help you or your organization
5. Scholarship opportunities
6. Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities
7. A gallery with photos and videos of past VAPW events

Please feel free to email us if you have comments and suggestions on how we can improve our website at [info@vapw.org](mailto:info@vapw.org)

We would also like to thank **Samantha Lê**, Creative Director and owner of e33 design, for working pro-bono to help us bring the website to fruition. Visit her website at <http://www.e33design.com/>

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.vapw.org](http://www.vapw.org)