8th Annual
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration
“One World, Many Cultures”

12:45 PM - RIBBON CUTTING & OPENING CEREMONY

Color Guard / National Anthem .......................................................... Scouts of Suffolk County
Welcome Address........Duangduan “Sky” Hughes, AAPIHM Celebration Committee Chairwoman
Introduction of VIP Guests................................................................. Ramon Villongco, AAAB Chairman
Opening Remarks & Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies ........ Suffolk County Legislator Leslie Kennedy

Parade of Nations lead by Authentic Shaolin Kung Fu
Mohammed Rahman, Master-of-Ceremonies

Celebration officially opens with multicultural display, Asian cultural booths, arts and crafts, corporate sponsors, food and non food vendors, free blood pressure, music, shows, dental screening, AAAB Youth Orchestra, open theater and much more.

5:00 P.M.—VIP DINNER THEATER SHOW

Featuring the Rajamangala University of Technology Phra Nakhon student performance group (“RMUTP Performing Arts Club & Vajara Sunday School”)
EIGHTH ANNUAL ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION
Vajiradhammapadip Buddhist Temple & Thai Cultural Center
Centereach, NY
May 14, 2016

1:30 CONCERT PROGRAM

The Asian American Advisory Board/Wellbrook Foundation Youth Orchestra

Conductor: Peter Papiewski

1st Violins:
Paul DiMarzo
Eric Jon
Ariel Leong
Joshua Yen
Austin Young

2nd Violins:
Ashley Huang
Emily Huang
Justin Wei
Allen Young

Viola:
Chris Baker
Tim Buhrmeister
Jacqueline Gomez

Cello:
Jarod Chang
Sadé White
Melody Young

Flute:
Alyssa Mei
Julia Prigl

Clarinet:
Allie Tsamisis
Samantha Cotes

About AAAB/Wellbrook Foundation Youth Orchestra

Founded in 2011 by Suffolk County Asian American Advisory Board, AAAB/Wellbrook Foundation Youth Orchestra offers extracurricular music programs for children ages 10-18 yrs. The main goal is to promote not only music of Asian heritage but to explore the world of music in general, ranging from Renaissance to 21st Century. The orchestra also provides a forum for leadership and educational development for participants.

Participants of the program have an unique opportunity of working under careful guidance of Mr. Peter Papiewski and to perform in charitable events and cultural functions. To enroll in the program, please request an audition by sending an email to aaabyouthorchestra@gmail.com.

All programs are free of charge but we require a small nonrefundable enrollment fee.

About the Conductor

Peter Papiewski is a prize winner of local and national piano competitions both in his native Poland and here in the United States. He received his Bachelor Degree (BM) from the Manhattan School of Music and later a Masters Degree (MA) in Piano Performance from the Feliks Nowowiejski Academy of Music in Poland (Joseph Hofmann - Composer and Pianist) Masters Thesis.
EIGHTH ANNUAL ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

Asian American Advisory Board/Wellbrook Foundation
Youth Orchestra Concert

Vajiradhammapadip Buddhist Temple & Thai Cultural Center
Centereach NY

May 14, 2016

1:30 - 2:15 pm

National Anthem-------------------------------------Francis Scott Key/Soh Young Lee-Segredo

Piano Concerto in D Major-------------------------------Haydn—Allegro

Four Seasons of Formosa (Taiwanese folk song)-------------------Masaaki Hayakawa
I. The Ploughman's Song
II. Dumplings! Meat Dumplings!
III. In the Cold Pouring Rain

Symphony No. 40 in G Minor (K.550)----------------------Mozart
I. Allegro molto
II. Andante
III. Menuetto
IV. Allegro assai

Guest player ------------------------------------------------North Shore Youth Music Ensemble
Director Dandan Hong

Violin Ensemble: Happy New Year, Newspapers Song
Bianca Zou, Michael Wei, Ella Liu, Robert Chen, Alivia Yang, Daniel Liang, Sophie Gao

Violin Ensemble: Jubilant, Great Wall Song
Alice Huang, Stephen Ye, Alex Zhang, Alan Yue, Yiya Hu, Claire Xu, Elisa Kong

Conductor: Peter Papiewski

Piano: Matthew Chen
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration 2016
Open Theater

2:30 pm: China – “Spice Girls” by Chinese Group

2:35 pm: China – “Lovely Jasmine” by Chinese Group

2:40 pm: Taiwan – “Chinese Yo-Yo” by Little Dragon Chinese School

2:45 pm: Korea – “Boat Song”

2:50 pm: Korea – “Chestnut Song”

2:55 pm: Bangladesh – Cultural Performance

3:00 pm: Nepal – “Nepali Folk”

3:05 pm: Nepal – “Nepali Folk”

3:10 pm: Thailand – “Koh Ga Chow Jung Ga Ben”

3:15 pm: Thailand – “Berk Fah Nattaya Sayam”

3:20 pm: Japan – “Japanese Drum”
8th Annual
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration
“One World, Many Cultures”
Multi-Cultural Program, Induction, Presentation of Awards
May 14, 2016 at Vajaradhammapadip Buddhist Temple and Thai Cultural Center

5:00 PM PROGRAM

Color Guard ....................................................................................................................... Long Island Veterans
National Anthem ................................................................. Soh Young Lee Segredo & Wellbrook/AAAB Youth Orchestra
Summer of Formosa ................................................................. AAAB Youth Orchestra, Conducted by Peter Papiewski
Opening Remarks .................................................................................................................. Ramon Villonco, AAAB Chairman
Inspirational Guest Speaker .............................................................. NYS Senator Thomas D. Croci, 3rd Senate District
Introduction of Keynote Speaker ... Rev. Roderick Pearson, Executive Director Youth Bureau/ Human Services
Keynote Speaker .................................................................................................................. Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Executive
Induction Ceremonies of New AAAB Board Member ......................... Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Executive
Presentation of 2016 Distinguished Asian American Awards Ceremony .......... Jim Young, Emeritus Chairman
Presentation of Social Harmony Writing Contest Winners ......................... Amir Sultan, Writing Contest Judge
Greetings from the Royal Thai Consul General ........................................ Pompong Kanittanom, Consul General
Sak GaRa Tehwahrat ...................................................................................................................
RMUTP Performing Arts Club & Vijara Sunday School
Closing Remarks .................................................................................................................. Duangduan “Sky” Hughes, 2016 Overall Chairwoman

VIP DINNER THEATER SHOW

Recognition from Senator Chuck Schumer ................................................. Czareena Dotchev, LI Deputy Regional Director
Corporate Sponsor Recognition Award.......................................................... Ramon Villonco & Duangduan “Sky” Hughes
Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to AAAB .... Durgesh Karki, President Long Island Nepalese Society
Lila Bali Lila Bali Folk Dance (Bangladesh) ....................................................... Diya Kor, Anadmoyi Ghosh
A Glass of Wine Dance (China) ...................................................................................... Long Island Chinese Dance Group
Maruni Folk Dance (Nepal) ......................................................................................... Kalpana Thapa, Sanchita Thapa, Shristi Malla Thakuri
Presentation of Proclamation .............. Vanessa Lockel, SC Representative of NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo
Spirit of Korea (Korea) ................................................................................................. Young Hwan Kim (Tenor) and Soh Young Lee-Segredo (Soprano)
Bamboo Under the Moonlight Dance (China) ......................................................... Long Island Dance Group
Yo-Yo Perform (Taiwan) ......................................................................................... Long Island Little Dragon Chinese School
Featured Performance: Amazing Thailand (Thailand) .. RMUTP Performing Arts Club & Vajara Sunday School

Ms. Soh Young Lee-Segredo
Mistress-of-Ceremonies
6:00 PM DINNER SHOW

1. CHINA
   Title: Bamboo under the moonlight (Dance)
   Danced by Dai, under the soft moonlight the Dai girls dance into the beautiful melody of Dai instrument called “hulusi” among the fern hedge leaf of bamboo.

   Title: A glass of wine (Dance)
   Duration: 8 minutes

2. KOREA
   Title: Spirit of Korea
   or Spirit of Korea in Global Community (We can sing American the Beautiful after Korean songs to acknowledge we are all American.
   Artists will sing Korean classical, pop and folk songs.
   Artists: Young & Soh Young
   2 people, Young Hwan Kim (tenor) and Soh Young Lee-Segredo (Soprano)
   Artists recently presented the Lunar New Year Concert on February 20, 2016 in Flushing Main Street Library sponsored by Queens Library New American Program. They sang Korean classical, pop and folk songs.
   Duration: 10-12 minutes

3. NEPAL
   Title: Maruni Folk Dance
   Old traditional form of Dance
   Group of 3 people
   Duration: 4.40 minutes

4. TAIWAN:
   Title: Yo-Yo performance
   Long island little Dragon Chinese school
   Group Kids performance
   Duration: 6 minutes

5. THAILAND:
   See Grand Finale Performance Program on Following Page
The Legend of Lanna Parade
Lanna Kingdom is an ancient kingdom centered in present-day Northern Thailand. Lanna has its own traditions of worshiping and paying respect to Gods with a flower parade and dance.

The Lanna Angle Dance
It is the Lanna Kingdom’s belief that angels are a symbol of Mt. Pra Sumen—a holy place of goodness. Therefore when angels appear and dance, it represents the importance and the holiness of places and special occasions.

Fon Pang Prateep
The candle dance conceptually represents the enlightened glow of life. The word “Fon” means dance in the northern Thai dialect whereas “Pang Prateep” means a candle bow. The locals believe that this dance aims to worship the Lord Buddha.

Human Puppet and Kinnaree Dance
The Kinnaree is half female-half bird creature and is depicted as a young woman of sublime beauty wearing an angel-like costume. This dance shows the movement of a flying Kinnaree. The following dance is called Manorah Buchayun. It is a dance to express the story of “Phra Suthon-Manorah”. This performance is from a classic scene where Manorah is to be sacrificed and she asks for her wings and tail (Manora is half female-half bird creatures) to dance for King Arthitawong. She put on wings and a tail and then performs fabulous dances that overwhelmingly excite the audience. Then she hastily flies back to her parents at Khao Krailat.

The Legend of Tam Pon Link
Tarm Pon Link Kingdom is an ancient kingdom located in present day Nakhon Si Thammarat province, which is in Southern Thailand. This performance presents the uniqueness of this part of Thailand.

Renang Fan Dance
Rabam Kee Pas Re Nang is a fan dance mostly found in Pattanee province in Southern Thailand. This performance utilizes contemporary movement and music with girls dancing in a beautiful costume and dancing with fans in their hands.

Apsara Dance
This show presents the beauty of Khmer architecture at Phanom Rung Stone Castle.

Esarn Nails Dance
This is a traditional dance of Bhu-thai in Sakol Nakhon Province presented in Boon Pa Wat event. The significant decoration of this dance is the colorful 10 nails decorated with a beautiful festoon.
Soh Young Lee-Segredo, Mistress of Ceremonies and a singer for the National Anthem, is a multifaceted performer weaving many different cultures and has been performing since the age of five. Soh Young was MC at Miss New York Pageant and Korean American Association of Connecticut Gala and numerous local events in NY. Soh Young Lee-Segredo and NY1 CeFaan Kim were MCs at the Flushing Chamber of Commerce in October 2015 at the Flushing Town Hall.

She debuted Madison Square Garden by singing the Korean and American National Anthems at the International Taekwondo Competition on 1980. ‘The Soh Young Ensemble’ debuted in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall on September 23, 2007. ‘Soh Young and Friends’ became a winner of the KBS Korean Idol NY Competition in 2007. Soh Young is a soprano, a Korean Storyteller; the Multicultural Peace Mission Choir’s founding member and Director, and the founder and president of the Multicultural Council of NY. Her grant project for 2014 &15 is where local artists go into the public school and teach students about Hurricane Sandy through art and poetry. With MCCNY, Inc. 2016 grant, students in Bayview Ave. School in Freeport will learn about drums in fall.

She studied at Queens College, Bank Street College, Dowling College and St. John's University. She is life time member of NAACP and has received several awards from different branches. She is first Korean recipient of MLK Humanitarian Award from Nassau County MLK Celebration Committee in 2007. She was a Nassau County Human Rights Commissioner and she serves as MLK Celebration Multicultural Committee Chairperson since 2014. Soh Young Lee-Segredo is a Music Coordinator of the Hofstra University National Center for Suburban Studies Diversity Gala. She is an adviser for the KAAQ. National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) honored its member, Soh Young Lee-Segredo at the 25th Anniversary National Conference at Sheraton Hotel, New Orleans on October 3, 2015 with Equity, Social Justice Advocacy Award for her tireless effort to advocate her students she teaches in Hempstead Public School and her effort to connect diverse community organizations.
2016 Asian American & Pacific Island Heritage Month Honorees

Distinguished Organization Who Contributed Significantly to the Asian American Community

Tzu Chi Foundation
The Center for Chinese Learning at Stony Brook

Highly Accomplished Asian American Professionals

Police Officer Edwin Hugh
Vice President, Suffolk County Police Asian Jade Society

Dr. Piyush Joshi
Sr. Research Engineer, Electrical Group Leader
Superconducting Magnet Division, Brookhaven National Laboratory

Dr. Swosty Tuladhar
Rheumatology Fellow
Stony Brook University School of Medicine
Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology

Outstanding Individuals Who Contributed Significantly to the Asian American Community

Ms. Caroah Khan
Mr. Choon B. Lee
Dr. Emilio Quines
Mr. Syed H. Rahman
Mr. John Tsunis

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR DISTINGUISHED HONOREES
Tzu Chi Foundation

Tzu Chi Foundation Tzu Chi Foundation in Hualien. With the spirit of self-discipline, diligence, frugality, and perseverance, Tzu Chi set out to help the poor and relieve suffering. Over time, the foundation’s mission started with Charity and extended into Medicine, Education, and Humanistic Culture. Tzu Chi originated in the remote Hualien area and expanded to all five major continents of the world with chapters and offices in 47 countries. Tzu Chi provides aid to over 69 nations. Its volunteers selflessly contribute through a mindset of gratitude, expressing their sincerest care and support to each and every individual in need. The shared goal of Tzu Chi volunteers is to cultivate sincerity, integrity, faith, and honesty within while exercising kindness, compassion, joy, and selflessness to humanity through concrete actions. Transcending the bounds of race, nationality, language, and religion, they serve the world under the notion that “when others are hurting, we feel their pain; when others suffer, we feel their sorrow”. Not only do the volunteers endeavor to promote the universal value of “Great Love,” they also fully employ the humanitarian spirit of Chinese culture to its utmost. Tzu Chi Foundation’s “Four Major Missions” consist of Charity, Medicine, Education, and Humanity. Furthermore, considering ongoing efforts in Bone Marrow Donation, Environmental Protection, Community Volunteerism, and International Relief, these eight concurrent campaigns are collectively known as “Tzu Chi’s Eight footprints” Mission of Charity “Educating the rich to help the poor; inspiring the poor to realize their riches” Tzu Chi pays attention not only to the effectiveness of its aid and assistance; it also focuses on bringing out the good in everyone. By helping the poor, the rich get to feel the happiness of giving and find the true meaning of life. Likewise, the poor are motivated to harbor love abundantly and help out those less fortunate than themselves, so that they break away from perceived helplessness and despair. Consequently, more people become willing to help out others while enriching themselves through contribution. Mission of Medicine “Patient-centered medical care that respects patients as teachers” Among the four sufferings of life, illness is the most painful. During her charity visits, Dharma Master Cheng Yen realized that many families became poor after following some major illness. Therefore, she founded the Tzu Chi Free Clinic for the Poor in 1972, which began Tzu Chi’s mission of medicine. In 1986, the Hualien Tzu Chi General Hospital opened, and its guiding principles were “respect life” and “Patient-centered”. Tzu Chi’s medical network was completed by the openings of by large teams of volunteers, aim to perfect the “Four Entireties” of patient care: the entire treatment process, the patient’s entire body, the patient’s entire family, and the entire medical team.
The goal is to ensure proper care of the body, mind, and soul of the patient. From city to countryside, from the mountain to the sea, Tzu Chi’s comprehensive medical network provides the people with top quality medical service that consists of the latest technology and the warm human touch. Mission of Education “Educating children to be moral and upright” To foster outstanding and compassionate future medical professionals, Dharma Master Cheng Yen established the Tzu Chi Nursing College in 1989. The Master also wanted to address the lack of education and employment opportunities confronting aboriginal girls of Hualien area. In July 2000, Tzu Chi completed the establishment of its education program offering a well rounded curriculum and runs the full curriculum from kindergarten, elementary school and middle school to high school, college, and graduate studies. The shared objective of Tzu Chi schools and universities is the delivery of superior education where “kindness, compassion, joy, and selfless giving” is the school motto, ”Respect for Life and Faith in Human Nature” is the guideline, and “Education of Virtue, education of life, and education of the entire person” is the goal. Mission of Culture “Recording the examples of goodness and integrity for future generations” What is “Culture?” It consists of shining examples for the human character that becomes revered legacy in recorded history. Every one of Tzu Chi’s missions takes the individual human being as foundation. Each person is expected to behave in a moral way with proper manners and to have respect for Mother Nature. Each person is also expected to cultivate his inherent integrity and to maintain appropriate demeanor in interacting with others. When Tzu Chi first started its mission of charity, the seeds of humanity were planted deep. Later, the Mission of Medicine and the Mission of Education also carried integral connections with humanity. The calling of the Mission of Humanistic Culture is to purify the human mind, to pacify our society, to help those who suffer, and to rectify frenzied and chaotic acts. The Mission of Humanistic Culture bears witness to historical eras, creates new history for mankind, and establishes cycles of love and goodness. International Relief “Caring for people in suffering in the global village” “Bodhisattvas exist to relieve the suffering of mankind”. With providing help to flood victims of Bangladesh in 1991, Tzu Chi marked the start of its international relief efforts. International Relief not only provides emergency materials like food, clothing, grain seeds, and medical materials, it goes further to rebuild houses and schools, set up water supply systems, and offer free clinics. Though the aid projects vary, the ideal of “respecting life” is adhered to all the same. From its beginnings as a local charity, Tzu Chi has become a broad-based international humanitarian organization. In recognition of its global aid programs across five continents, Tzu Chi became a Non-Government Organized charity group to attain association status with the United Nations Department of Information in 2003.
CCL Stony Brook

The Center for Chinese Learning (CCL) is a private, not-for-profit organization. The goal of the Center is to develop and operate a nonsectarian, nonpolitical, and racially non-discriminatory program for the teaching of the Chinese language, and the understanding of Chinese culture and tradition.

It aims to nurture friendship among the members to work towards propagating the Chinese culture and language and to foster a sense of community by involving members in the running of the center.

The committed Board members consist of professionals from various backgrounds. Our board members have been engaging much of their personal/family time in serving the center. Yet, their works are free of compensation up to date.

Annual Activities and Accomplishments:

- CCL currently offers regular Chinese classes, bilingual classes and culture classes (Chinese dancing, painting, chess, Yo-Yo, Choir, etc), on Saturdays in the Morning and Afternoon sessions. We have around 240 annual enrollment.
- Over the years, the center has always been a big sponsor for SCAAAB's events.
- The center holds annual speech contest to help student promoting oral skills.
- Invited accomplished guest speakers to address issues of interest to the community.
Police Officer Edwin Hugh

Edwin Hugh was born in 1971 in New York City. At an early age of 4, Edwin moved with his family to Suffolk County, NY where he was raised, schooled, lives and currently works. Edwin attended and graduated from New Field High School in June of 1989. He then attended and graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh in 1993, attaining a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology. After receiving his education, Ed’s passion for helping his family, friends, and the community began to develop. His goal of entering public service was realized in February of 1997 when he joined the New York City Corrections Department where he became a Corrections Officer. He was assigned to Rikers Island Correctional Facility where he performed his duties to the highest standards.

In December of 1997, he was hired by the New York City Police Department as a Police Officer and served 6 years there with high distinction. He was assigned to Precincts 30 and 32 in Harlem, respectively, after the academy. His hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed and in 1999 he was picked up for assignment with the Manhattan North Task Force. This was an elite stand-alone unit that focused its efforts by tackling quality of life issues, thus creating better living conditions for the community he served. Ed never ceased to work selflessly for the community he served and protected. Few demonstrated this quality more when on September 11, 2001, the World Trade Center was attacked. Ed responded to that area without hesitation and almost became a victim himself when the towers came down that morning. With complete disregard for his own life, Ed stayed at the towers and helped with the evacuation and rescue efforts.

Ed’s career came full circle in 2003 when he was hired by the Suffolk County Police Department where he is currently a Police Officer assigned to the 6th Precinct. He brought his desire to serve the community back home where he was raised. Shortly after the Academy, Ed was assigned to Patrol in Unit/Sector 605. He served there with distinction and earned the respect and admiration of his peers. In 2014 he was elevated for assignment with the Sixth Precinct Crime Section where he is assigned to a plain-clothes unit that handles and investigates all misdemeanor crimes.

His commitment to his community and fellow officers did not stop there. In 2014, he became a founding member of the Suffolk County Police Asian Jade Society, a society that focuses its efforts on furthering Asian Americans in Law Enforcement and promoting Asian interests in the communities that it serves. This Society has grown its membership and has participated in many endeavors that focus its efforts on the promotion of Asian cultural awareness.
Dr. Piyush N. Joshi
Senior Research Engineer, Superconducting Magnet Division, Brookhaven National Laboratory

Piyush Joshi is a highly experienced and versatile senior research Electrical Engineer with expertise in energy storage and conversion systems, semiconductor physics, superconductivity, industrial automation, power transmission and generation, magnetically levitated transport system, electromagnetic launchers, analog and digital electronics, fast data acquisition, simulation and control software like Microcap, Lab View etc.

He is being honored for his contributions as chief electrical engineer in constructing and testing a superconducting magnetic energy storage (SMES) system, which uses superconducting magnetic coils to store energy with near-zero energy loss and nearly infinite cycle life.

This high profile project was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the U.S. Department of Energy’s Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). It built upon the Superconducting Magnet Division’s technological advances for nuclear and high energy physics research, applying them for new uses in storing electricity generated from wind and solar power systems.

For the SMES project, Piyush made significant contributions in developing "quench" detection and protection that protects the magnetic coils and electronics from excessive heat created as the system switches from superconducting to resistive states. Piyush also led discussions to establish standards for signals in an integrated control system that connects individual components and governs their processes. Despite logistical and technical challenges, the goal of operating a complete charge-discharge cycle was accomplished one day before the deadline, thanks in large part to Piyush’s commitment, expertise, and efforts.

Dr. Joshi is the recipient of numerous awards including the prestigious US Department of Energy’s Honor Award for R&D on Superconducting Magnets for Particle Accelerator and high energy Physics, and the 2015 Engineering Award from Brookhaven National Laboratory. He has also mentored many post-doctoral and graduate students in the field of science and technology.

Dr. Joshi earned a B.S. in Electronic Engineering from SBM Polytechnic, Mumbai, India in 1981, and received a M.S. and D. Eng. in Electrical Engineering both from NYU Polytechnic, Brooklyn, NY in 1987 and 1990, respectively.
Swosty Tuladhar is a first year Rheumatology Fellow at Stony Brook Medical School. She was born in Nepal to a middle class family, the younger of two siblings. From an early age she had a passion for helping people which naturally led to her career in medicine.

After securing her MBBS degree, she practiced in several prestigious institutions in Nepal before moving to US to join Seton Hall University Residency Program in NJ. Upon graduation, she joined a team of board certified physicians serving the community of Fair Lawn and Clifton, NJ. After two years of practice, she joined Department of Rheumatology, Stony Brook University Medical Hospital as a fellow physician to pursue her dream of being a rheumatologist.

Wherever she worked, her compassion and dedication was well regarded and appreciated by her patients and staff alike. She has published numerous research papers and was a Chief Resident in her residency program.

Though still early in her career, she has shown exemplary professionalism and commitment in her field and has a very promising career ahead of her.
MS. CAROAH KAHN

Ms. Caroah Kahn graduated the Thai Red Cross Nursing College at Chulakongkorn University in 1968. After working as an intensive care nurse in Thailand for seven years, Ms. Kahn immigrated to the United States (1976) and worked as an operating room nurse at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary Specialty Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, USA (1976 to 1978) and Mount Vernon Hospital in Westchester, New York (1978 to 2011).

As a nurse, Ms. Kahn is very well respected, twice winning a distinguished alumni award from the Thai Red Cross Nursing College at Chulakongkorn University (2008 and 2012). She also volunteered for many notable nursing assignments, including assisting Thai pilgrims in Mecca for four months (1972), working with the Thai Urologist Association in Bangkok for the World Congress Endoscopy meeting in Thailand (2001), training Thai urologists in using American medical technology in Changmai, Thailand (2002), and working with the Thai mission in Thailand at Narasun Pitsanulork University (2004).

For the past ten years Ms. Kahn has dedicated all of her free time to raising funds for the Vajiradhammapadip Buddhist Temple & Thai Cultural Center (the “Vajira Temple”) in Centereach, New York. Her fundraising enabled the Vajira Temple to build its new Buddhist temple building, which blends Thai and American styles of architecture and is the home for several Buddhist monks. Ms. Kahn is the largest fundraiser for the Vajira Temple’s Sunday School, which teaches Buddhism, Thai language, Thai Classical Dance and Traditional Thai Musical Instruments.

Ms. Kahn’s dedication and service to the Vajira Temple was recognized in 2014 when she received a Dedication & Service Award from the Vajira Temple. What makes Ms. Kahn’s dedication and service to the Vajira Temple extraordinary special is she is a Muslim and not a Buddhist. She is truly a generous person, not just financially, but with her body, mind and soul.