

The
WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
celebrates

ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER Heritage Month

MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

Live streamed from the Board Chamber
<https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>

PROGRAM

Welcoming Remarks and Acknowledgements
Legislator Benjamin Boykin II, Chairman of the Board

Presentation of Proclamations to



**OCA ADVOCATE –
WESTCHESTER & HUDSON VALLEY CHAPTER**

Presented by Legislator Ruth Walter
*Accepted by William Kaung,
Vice President of Advocacy & Board Member*



IRFAN KATHWARI FOUNDATION
Presented by Legislator Catherine F. Parker
Accepted by Farooq, Farida and Farah Kathwari

[see back for more]

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Benjamin Boykin II
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Legislator, 2nd District

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Minority Leader
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Legislator, 4th District

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Legislator, 6th District

Catherine F. Parker
Legislator, 7th District

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Vice Chair
Legislator, 8th District

Catherine Borgia
Legislator, 9th District

Damon R. Maher
Legislator, 10th District

Terry Clements
Legislator, 11th District

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Legislator, 12th District

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Legislator, 13th District

David J. Tubiolo
Legislator, 14th District

Ruth Walter
Legislator, 15th District

Christopher A. Johnson
Majority Whip
Legislator, 16th District

José I. Alvarado
Legislator, 17th District





OCA was founded nationally in 1973, and has worked tirelessly to eliminate hate speech, fight for criminal justice reform and lobby for national legislation for immigration reform and anti-hazing in the military. In early 2000, OCA was renamed OCA Advocate, embracing the hopes and aspirations of Asian American and Pacific Islanders. OCA Advocate-Westchester Hudson Valley Chapter (WHV) is currently one of the 100 chapters and affiliates of

the national organization. The chapter is an award winning advocacy organization and one of the oldest in the tri-state region. OCA Advocate-WHV also mentors youth, connects seniors to services and helps new immigrants. OCA Advocate-WHV is currently working to develop new outreach programs for both Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) youth and seniors. Their youth program recognizes both gifted students and those talented youth facing hardship and need. OCA Advocate-WHV connects APIA seniors to services available to them and helps those who are struggling. OCA Advocate-WHV events work to address needs in the Hudson Valley through coalition building with other organizations, such as *Families With Children From China*. They host yearly events to address the needs of the community and raise awareness for their causes such as the Asian American Heritage Festival, the Intergenerational Conference and Human Rights' Day events. Government advocacy on behalf of APIA people is central to the OCA Advocate-WHV's mission. They have played a significant role in influencing national opinion in important cases.



IRFAN KATHWARI FOUNDATION was established in 1992 in Larchmont by Farida and Farooq Kathwari in memory of their son, Irfan. They immigrated to the United States from Kashmir, India in the mid-1960s, and settled in New Rochelle. The foundation supports organizations involved with education, minority enrollment, humanitarian assistance, and conflict resolution. Through their family foundation, the Kathwari's have been able to contribute to many worthy organizations at a local, national, and

international level. Farooq Kathwari, in his role as CEO of Ethan Allen Interiors, Inc., has established a corporate culture that values philanthropy, social responsibility, and community service. In addition to many charitable activities, the company grants scholarships to children of employees of Ethan Allen Interiors, Inc. In the Westchester community, he is an active leader on many boards including ArtsWestchester, the American Jewish Committee's (AJC) Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council (MJAC), and the New Rochelle Hospital board among others. Farooq has also served as a member of President Obama's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders from 2010 to 2014, and is especially honored to have received the Outstanding American By Choice Award from the U.S. government, and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the Ellis Island Foundation. Farida Kathwari is active with several Westchester and NYC- based organizations including AMWA (American Muslim Women's Association), SAYA (South Asian Youth Action), and Purls for Peace. Along with her husband, Farida set the example for the family by teaching their children that all people are equal, emphasizing compassion and respect for all, and always thinking of those who are less fortunate. Their daughter, Farah Kathwari, lives by these values as well. She currently works for the NYS COVID-19 contact tracing initiative, has her own renovation and interior design business, and has served as a board member of the Westchester County Human Rights Commission. She is a member of the steering committee of Indivisible Westchester, is a member of the NY Executive Committee of Human Rights Watch, and a member of Board of Refugees International.