



Asian American Federation
of New York

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

CONTACT: Kristin Hokoyama
(212) 344-5878 x27
Kristin@aafny.org

**Asian American Federation Honors 4 Outstanding Individuals
at its 9th Annual Gala**

New York – Tonight, the Asian American Federation of New York will honor four outstanding individuals for their achievements on behalf of the Asian American community. At its ninth annual *Spirit of Asian America Gala*, an array of politicians, community organizers and supporters of the Federation will gather at The Regent Wall Street to celebrate the work of this year's honorees. The honorees include:

- **Ralph Dickerson, Jr.**, President of the United Way of New York City. Dickerson has been at the helm of UWNYP for 15 years which has enabled him to respond to the emerging and unmet needs in many of the city's diverse communities. His leadership has allowed him to make critical connections between human service agencies, those they serve, and individuals willing to help.
- **Mallika Dutt**, Executive Director of Breakthrough: Building Human Rights Culture. Breakthrough promotes an understanding of human rights and addresses four interrelated themes: supporting women's dreams, enhancing sexual wellbeing and health, encouraging peace and religious harmony, and promoting racial, ethnic and caste equality. Breakthrough believes all of us as global citizens have a responsibility to ensure that all human beings can live with dignity.
- **David Henry Hwang**, Tony Award Winning Playwright. Hwang was honored with the Tony Award in 1988 for his critically acclaimed play, *M Butterfly*, and received a Tony nomination in 1998 for *Golden Child*. His most recent achievement was the Broadway musical, *Flower Drum Song*, which starred an all

Asian American cast and was hailed as one of the best new musicals on Broadway.

- **Anthony D. Romero**, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union. Romero has been Executive Director for 2 years. Under his leadership, the ACLU, Romero has steered the most successful membership drive in the organization's 83-year history as well as raised concern about civil rights violations across the country.

“All of our honorees have proven to embody the spirit of Asian America through their work on behalf of the Asian American community,” says Cao K. O, Executive Director of the Federation. “We are thrilled that they are joining us in this special occasion where we recognize the achievements that they have made on behalf of our community.”

In addition to the distinguished honorees, the gala will draw many of New York City's preeminent corporate executives, community and civic leaders, and elected officials. Ms. Cindy Hsu, news anchor for WCBS-TV is the Mistress of Ceremonies. Ms. Hsu has received Emmy awards for her stories on the plight of Chinese refugees from the Golden Venture ship and her continuous coverage of the Nor'easter in 1994. She hosted a half hour special on WCBS-TV called “Crisis in Chinatown” which looked at the affects of both the September 11th tragedy and the continued fear of SARS on the Chinatown community.

The Asian American Federation of New York is a non-profit leadership organization that provides public policy and community service to identify and meet the critical needs of Asian Americans in the New York metropolitan area. The Federation serves the Asian American community by analyzing issues and voicing common concerns, advocating for responsive policies, offering financial and management assistance, coordinating services, and creating unified, community-wide initiatives. The Federation, which began operations in 1990, has a membership of 36 community-based agencies.

For more information about the Federation, please visit our website at www.aafny.org.

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Central Office:120 Wall Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10005 • Tel: (212) 344-5878 • Fax: (212) 344-5636

Queens Office:107-06 71st Road, 2nd Floor, Forest Hills, NY 11375 • Tel: (718) 544-4700 • Fax: (718) 544-2387

E-mail: info@aafny.org • Website: www.aafny.org