

Organizer's Index

Welcome and Farewell

STAFF UPDATES: During the early summer months of 2007, Western States Center said farewell to Kayse Jama, our New Voices Fellow of two years, who successfully shepherded our Western Institute for Organizing & Leadership Development for Immigrants and Refugees (WILDIR) Program. Kayse now serves as the Interim Executive Director of the Center for Intercultural Organizing. A few weeks later, the Center welcomed Trainer/Organizer Aimee Santos-Lyons to the Gender Justice and RACE Programs. Hailing from the Philippines, Aimee brings twelve years of both U.S. and international experience in social development and humanitarian concerns, with a special emphasis on gender equity, reproductive health and gender-based violence. Coming on in August is Civic Participation and Political Power Field Director Nancy Haque, who has recently returned to Portland from Northampton, Massachusetts, where she earned a Masters in Public Policy. Before making the decision to go back to school, Nancy worked at the national Jobs with Justice office in DC for nine years as the Western Field Organizer—so she is very happy to finally be working in her old time zone again!

BOARD UPDATES: The Center also recently welcomed Dan Neal (Wyoming) and George Cheung (Washington) to the Center's Board of Directors. Dan Neal now is Executive Director of Equality State Policy Center, having spent much of his career as a journalist with the Casper Star Tribune, where he served as Editor from 2000-2004. He has also served as a strategist for both Congressional and ballot initiative campaigns. George is Founder and CEO of Lopez & Cheung, Inc., a public affairs consulting firm specializing in social science research, demographics and civic engagement. George also founded and served as the first Executive Director of Equal Rights Washington, the state's largest LGBT advocacy organization. He has a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. The Center is looking forward to welcoming another new Board Member—Amy Herzfeld—this fall. Amy works as Executive Director of the Idaho Human Rights Education Center and serves as co-chair of Your Family, Friends and Neighbors (YFFN), Idaho's LGBT advocacy organization. We will profile Amy in an upcoming Center publication.

Countries traveled through before coming to the US: **16**

Size of Portland's Somali community in 1999: **1,500**

Size of Portland's Somali community in 2007: **12,000**

Years as "stateless" person: **18**

Years lived in the Pacific Northwest: **8.5**

Number of books read this year: **1, *Guarding the Golden Door***

Number of immigration-related articles read this year: **Over 200**

Times explained or defended the term "people of color" in trainings: **Countless**

Number of musicals organized: **10**

Number of times performed in street to evict military bases: **72**

Number of times performed before member of Philippine First Family: **1**
(Marcos' daughter Imee. She clapped politely)

Miles traveled doing anti-trafficking work: **48,000**

Miles traveled since joining Western States Center: **4,840**

Number of diaper changes per week: **21**

Most recently read book: ***Rules for Radicals* (Saul Alinsky)**

Number one reason for joining the Center: **"Opportunity to kick ass for social justice."**



Kayse Jama



Aimee Santos-Lyons

Year parents immigrated from Bangladesh: **1971**

Years lived in the Northwest: **6**

Highest elevation reached in feet: **17,000** (*Himalayas in Tibet*)

Age at first protest: **10**

Days spent in Jail for civil disobedience: **5** (*after WTO protest in Seattle*)

Number of scarves knitted in grad school: **15**

Number of episodes of Project Runway missed: **0**

Most recently read book: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* (Barbara Kingsolver)

Advice for social change organizers: **"Remember ... e-mail does not replace conversation."**



Nancy Haque

Miles traveled chasing wolves: **15,000**

Coldest temperature experienced while chasing wolves (*Northeastern British Columbia*): **-40**

Democrats in hometown of Idaho Falls when growing up: **1** (*Dan's Father*)

Union members in hometown of Idaho Falls when growing up: **1** (*Dan's Father*)

Ballet dancers in family: **1** (*Dan's Son*)

Number of black limousines observed airlifted in Casper airport: **1** (*Dick Cheney's*)

Victories during last year's legislative session in Wyoming: **9**

Winning argument for becoming a Western States Center board member:

"Chance to learn different approaches to organizing."



Dan Neal

Average hours of sleep per night at grad school: **5**

Average hours of sleep per night at Equal Rights Washington: **5.5**

Years partnered (human): **2**

Years partnered (pets): **2**

Pet-to-people ratio in household: **2:1** (*2 dogs and 2 cats*)

Ballet recitals attended for own niece or partner's niece: **12**

Number of organizations mobilized to fight anti-immigrant ballot initiatives: **60**

Number of signatures submitted by anti-immigrant ballot initiative sponsors last election cycle: **0**

Current standing in fighting anti-immigrant measures: **3-0**

Hours in meetings dealing with anti-immigrant issues: **Countless**

Most persuasive argument for joining Western States Center's Board: **"Lodging at LaQuinta motels."**



George Cheung