



**We're better
TOGETHER**

“

**MAKE A
FRIEND WHO
DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE YOU.**

”

building bridges

EVENTS, NEWS AND OPINIONS OF THE

NEW BRIDGES COALITION

**AUTUMN 2024
INAUGURAL ISSUE**

A JOINT PROJECT OF

**AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN OF WESTCHESTER
JAPANESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW
YORK**

**INDIA CENTER OF WESTCHESTER
NAACP GREENBURGH-WHITE PLAINS
OCA – ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN ADVOCATES
URBAN LEAGUE OF WESTCHESTER
WESTCHESTER COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION**

Dear friends,

You are receiving this newsletter because you attended a New Bridges event or because you signed up at our table at a recent Westchester Cultural Heritage Festival in 2023 or 2024. We would like to invite you to participate in our upcoming events!

The New Bridges Coalition is a joint project of six not for profit groups and the Westchester County Human Rights Commission. Please visit our newly updated website at newbridgescoalition.org for more information.



SIGN UP FOR OUR EVENTS TODAY!

October 11, 7:30-9:00pm: [NBC-Z Zoom Organizational Meeting](#)

November 9, December 14, 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm : [Senior Craft Circle at Intown Towers](#)

November 10, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm : [New Bridges and NBC-Z Movie 'n Ramen](#)

November 15, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm : [NBC-Z toys collection meeting](#)

November 17, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm : [NBC-Z Escape Room](#)

Coming soon: Holiday toys collection for Lois Bronz Children's Center. Visit our Events page to get the latest.

Also, please visit [our partners' websites](#) for many more events!



The New Bridges Mission

New Bridges is devoted to the promotion of a just society and the exploration of inter-culturalism and diversity in Westchester County and beyond. We intend to accomplish this objective by providing a forum for educational and social exchange to encourage increased self and social awareness as well as an appreciation of the cultural histories of the communities that comprise the American Mosaic.

We're grateful to our sponsors!

**The family of
Bob Chao**



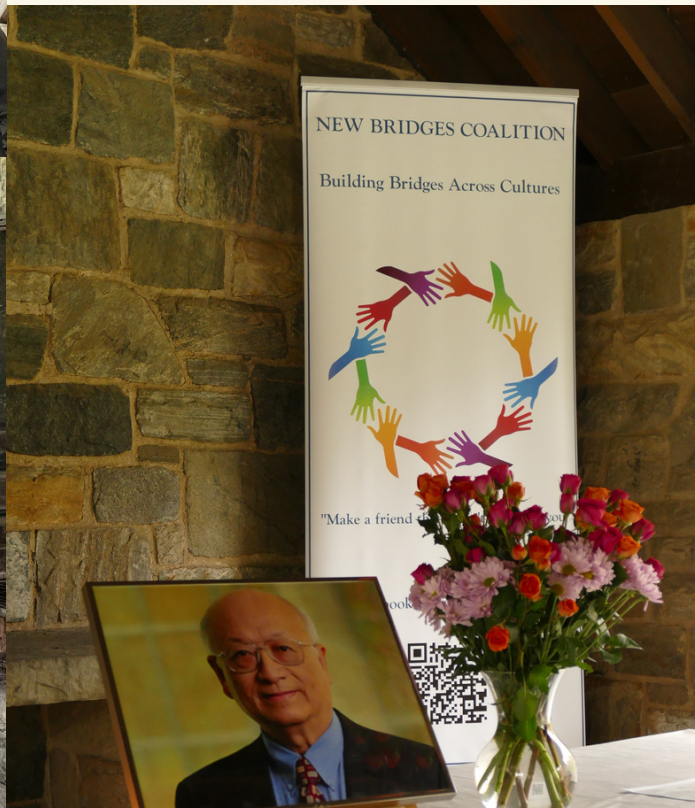
2nd Lunch and Learn Diversity Event

On April 21 at Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale, fifty members from the seven New Bridges Coalition organizations met over delicious foods of many cultures. Guests from Sikhs of Westchester and Yonkers Gurdwara joined us and added to the richness of diversity experienced that day. Mr. Tak Furumoto, a survivor of the WWII Japanese American internment camps, also attended.

The goal of the event was for attendees to meet members of different backgrounds and to build the foundation of future friendships and alliances.



The event also honored the late Robert "Bob" Shyun-Jing Chao, past OCA-WHV president, and one of the founders of the New Bridges Coalition. His vision was to create and nurture cordial ties of friendship among the Asian American, African American, and the many other diverse groups in our community. Bob helped plan the first Lunch and Learn in 2021, and his spirit was felt at this event.





Bob's wife and daughter, Ann and Yvonne, graciously attended the event. His co-founders Mayo Bartlett, of African American Men of Westchester, and Tejash Sanchala, of the Westchester Human Rights Commission, spoke on our history and goals, and moderated the discussion.

Each of the nine tables received discussion questions to get people thinking about issues of racism, belonging, and how to build relationships with others of different backgrounds.

Members of each organization were distributed among the tables, along with the teen volunteers who also participated in the discussions. The small groups enjoyed finding points of commonality, as well as discovering new viewpoints. After an hour, a spokesperson for each table reported on their findings and insights.



We observed wonderful interactions at each and every table!

Despite the chilly weather, feedback from the event was unanimously positive. Thanks to the many volunteers who contributed to this event! We hope that the New Bridges Lunch and Learn will become an annual event!



Senior Craft Circle



As part of a community building initiative and to reduce isolation in seniors, the New Bridges Coalition and OCA-WHV have co-sponsored four Craft Circles for the seniors of Sunnybrook and Intown Towers in Mt. Vernon. Organized by OCA-WHV board member Jeanhee Chung, New Bridges Coalition and OCA-WHV supplied hors d'oeuvres, yarn, needles, crochet hooks, and patterns, as well as refurbished two small donated sewing machines.

While most attendees originally were strangers to one another, we pushed the tables together and encouraged mingling. We went around the table and everyone introduced themselves. The seniors proudly discussed their origins from Korea, Jamaica, India, Puerto Rico, and Mt. Vernon, and enjoyed chatting and making friends, as they knitted, crocheted, and shared crafting tips. Volunteers and skilled seniors assisted beginners with crochet and knitting lessons. It was a great way for seniors who had been living in the same buildings to finally break the ice.

The first event was so popular that the seniors stayed two hours past the original ending time! All agreed that they would like to make this a repeating event.

A second event was held at a different time of day and drew only a dozen seniors, but the smaller group allowed for more in-depth interactions, and it is sure that foundations for new cross-cultural friendships were laid.



generation z



Dear families with teens,

We would like to share an exciting opportunity for high school and motivated middle school students to be founding members of **NBC-Z, the New Bridges Coalition youth chapter!**

The AAPI and African American teens of Westchester are called to come together to brainstorm how Generation Z can work together to build bridges between our communities. There will be opportunities to earn service hours, leadership opportunities and free fun such as pizza, bowling, and an escape room.

Visit tinyurl.com/NBCYouth or scan our QR code above to sign up for upcoming youth events.



Friendship and Service

NBC-Z's first in-person meetup was a success! High school students from several different schools across Westchester County signed up to take part. Many of them are members of the Youth Advisory Council, and learned about New Bridges during the Annual Social Justice Fair held by Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins. Other members belong to the youth chapters of our member organization.



After taking in “Betelgeuse Betelgeuse” at the movies, our high school students walked over to Roc-N-Ramen for some delicious Caribbean/Japanese fusion food, to get to know one another and brainstorm projects for the year.

Before long, even the more reserved students warmed up! Will we be friends by the end of the year? Can we help bring our communities together?



You can help too!

NBC-Z's first joint service project will be to collect gifts and pack holiday boxes for children at the Lois Bronz Children's Center in White Plains. They will also continue to volunteer at the Senior Craft Circle as well participate in events led by our member organizations.

If you wish to contribute toys and gifts for NBC-Z's toy drive, please contact us at info@newbridgescoalition.org to find the nearest collection point. We are collecting new, unwrapped gifts for children aged from infants to 12 years old.

The deadline is December 13, 2024.

Look for the helpers

In a world where there is so much chaos and conflict, it's important to recognize that there are so many wonderful people giving up their time to nurture positivity; creating a world where you know that people may not look like you, but they still love you and are watching out for you. We're breaking the cycle of stress and fear that distorts decision-making.

Many thanks to the New Bridges Steering Committee: **Mayo Bartlett, Siddhartha Basu, Jeanhee Chung, Bing Dang, Eric Eller, Janice Griffith, Munish Kapur, Bill and Rose Kaung, Daniel Lewis, Jin Li, Jaclyn Liu, Hugh Marriot, Bhavana Pahwa, Grace Pan, Jagruti Patel, Sorraya Sampson, Tejash Sanchala, Koji Sato, Bernard Thombs, Lilian Wu, and Meow Yee.** We also thank the **family of Bob Chao** and **UPS** for their support.



We thank **Melanie Lewis** for photography. We appreciated the help of our youth volunteers/participants at the 2024 Lunch and Learn:

Ashley Dang
Cindy Wang
Reginald Williams
Emily Xie
Sophie Xie



Visit our website at <https://newbridgescoalition.org>.

Follow us on social media



Sign up for news <https://newbridgescoalition.org/join/>

Donate to our member organizations:

<https://newbridgescoalition.org/our-partners/>