



OCA Chicago - Asian Pacific American Advocates  
EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

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**A Celebration of Cuisine as the Heritage Ambassador  
Panel, Meet The AAPI Restaurateurs & Appetizers  
Hosted by OCA, Let's Talk Womxn & Vermilion**

The **Greater Chicago Chapter of OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates** and **Let's Talk Womxn** are hosting a celebratory social evening and panel discussion at Vermilion, 10 W. Hubbard Street, Chicago, Illinois on Thursday, May 26, 2022, 5-7 pm, to celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) restaurateurs and the conclusion of AAPI Restaurants Week 2022 in Chicago.

AAPI Restaurants Week 2022, made possible by a generous grant from Southern Company Gas Foundation, ran from May 13, 2022 to May 22, 2022, introduced diners to 33 AAPI-owned restaurants in Chicago and the suburbs, and showcased a rich variety of cuisines and foods. The purpose of #AAPIRestaurantsWeek2022, at no cost to the participating restaurants, was to celebrate Asian American and Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month, support AAPI-restaurant owners, and celebrate our culinary heritage. Spanning a massive population of over 40 countries across the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent and Pacific Islanders, AAPI Restaurants Week celebrated the disparate richness of AAPI heritage with food as the cultural heritage that is cherished and enriches the fabric of American cuisine. Please go to <https://bit.ly/3vTL9vX> for the directory of participating restaurants.

This evening is an opportunity to meet the participating AAPI restaurateurs and hear more about their businesses, their heritage, and their cuisines in a social setting. Enjoy specially crafted appetizers at Vermilion and hear from a panel of the participating restaurateurs that spans an array of cuisines and heritages across India, Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, and Korea.

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OCA IS A NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP-DRIVEN ORGANIZATION OF COMMUNITY ADVOCATES HEADQUARTERED IN WASHINGTON D.C. DEDICATED TO ADVANCING THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

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Panelists include Rohini Dey, Ph.D. (Vermilion, Let's Talk Womxn Founder), Mary Aregoni (Saigon Sisters, LTW Chicago CoHost), Kathy Hardy (Taste of Philippines), Asana Nakornchai (BITES Asian Kitchen + Bar), Daniela Recillas (Forastero), and more.

This social evening and panel discussion will feature passed appetizers for \$35 + tax/gratuities & a cash bar. Prepaid registration is required to attend this evening and can be found at <https://www.opentable.com/vermilion-chicago>.

## OCA

The mission of OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates is to advance the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States. The **Greater Chicago Chapter** focuses on professional and leadership development and is dedicated to promoting the economic, professional, and social well-being of AAPIs in the Greater Chicago area. Our homepage is <http://www.ocachicago.org>

## LET'S TALK WOMXN

Let's Talk Womxn is an action-led movement of 600+ women restaurateurs founded mid 2020 by Rohini Dey, Ph.D. It is now in 13 cities, growing rapidly, and includes women entrepreneurs in food and drink. It is nourished by 2-4 of CoHosts in each city: Chicago, Seattle, Boston, Atlanta, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Greater NY, Cincinnati, Kentucky, Miami, Minneapolis, Houston, Milwaukee. Everything Let's Talk Womxn does is out-of-hide by women owners to boost each other, combine strength, collaborate, and generate visibility for each other. You can see more on these segments ([Today Show](#), [Good Morning America](#), [WGN NewsNation](#)), or on <http://www.letstalkwomxn.com>. Let's Talk Womxn was lauded in the [Top 50 Power List NRN](#) within months of inception and as [NRN Top 25 Most Influential Women](#). LTW has keynoted forums across sectors, countries, and within corporations to share the unique B3 model of "collaboration by competitors" for women's empowerment. A model applicable to both entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs. Because LTW deliberately has no bureaucracy or overheads, all support and revenue flows directly to its women business owners.

## VERMILION

A pioneer of bold global fare, Vermilion's melding of Indian and Latin American has won many accolades including Best Restaurants by Travel & Leisure, Town & Country, Esquire, Bon Appetit, USA Today, Wine Enthusiast, and Chicago magazine. The sensual white space coalesces fire, lights, and metal fluidly. Dramatic accents like the fire-table, metal wall of black & white photography, bar curtain-lighting form the backdrop for the memorable food and botanic cocktails. No instagram bait & switch dishes, no overly finessed homage to the chef, no precious overpriced bites. Expect substantive fare like the blackened chili tamarind ribs, lobster Portuguese, tandoori skirt steak, and more. Vermilion is woman led and known for its deep commitment to social advocacy and championship of women.