

2010 TYAF Outstanding Taiwanese American Youth Award

Mitzi Way

Mitzi Way is the youngest daughter to parents of Taiwanese descent. Born on April 12, 1993 she lives in Maryland with her sisters. Her favorite hobbies include drawing, painting, sculpting, and other artistic activities. She also appreciates music and likes to sing famous Taiwanese classics. She shows religious devotion to her spiritual ancestry and enjoys reading science fiction and mystery in her spare time. She has a particular fondness in listening to ghost stories and famous Chinese tales. Mitzi extremely values her family and Taiwanese heritage, and is very close to her family members and relatives. She loves traveling around the world with her family, especially visiting her relatives in Taiwan. Her friends describe her as loyal and trustworthy friend who always tries to help them and make them laugh. They agree that Mitzi is affable and respectfully humble towards everyone.

She attended Fallsmead Elementary School in Rockville and was the top of her class in mathematics. She was an active member in student government and loved to perform and sing on stage. Throughout her childhood she took ballerina and jazz & tap classes, but before she went to middle school she quit so she can focus more on her studies. Instead Mitzi started going to several academic camps and programs, which significantly contributed in improving her intellectual abilities. As Mitzi went to Herbert Hoover Middle School she was quiet and shy to express her talents, since all of her previous friends attended another middle school. Although she put most of her efforts in making good grades, by the end of middle school she became comfortable with her class and made new friends. She took Chinese painting and calligraphy classes and a sculpting class, but later proved to be too distracting from her schoolwork and she reluctantly dropped her lessons. After middle school she went to Winston Churchill High School. There she excelled in her subjects and maintains a 4.00 GPA. She is actively involved in the Math Honor Society and is volunteering in various non-profit organizations and clubs. She tutors other students after-school and takes challenges AP courses.



Mitzi is currently a senior at Winston Churchill High School. After graduating she wants to major in biology in a four-year college institution and become closer with her Taiwanese background.

Mitzi Way is daughter of Mr. Tsal N. and Mrs. Ching-Wei Wei (魏哲男 / 林淨微夫婦).

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Mimi Way

As a senior in Winston Churchill High School (MD), Mimi has performed many accomplishments throughout her student life; especially when it comes to helping others. At school, she joined the HOPE (Helping Out People Everywhere) Club, where she helped less fortunate children by doing tasks such as reading them stories and donating items (i.e. books) to childcare centers. She also attended the Manna Food Drive, where she helped the needy by packaging foods for shipping to their destinations. She also joined the Civitans Club, where she participated in the fund-driving programs, which helped produce materials given to the needy and created projects that will help the community such as the toiletries drive. She currently attends the Asian American Club, where she helps students



from all Asian countries come together to learn about each other's culture and views of the world. During the summer, she has joined the NSLC (National Student Leadership Conference) on Medicine and Healthcare. She arrived at University of Maryland, College Park to learn the basics when working in the medical field. This included humanities, history, domestic and international healthcare, insurance policies, medical laws, medical professions, and a mock epidemic. Afterwards, she visited to notable medical institutions that include the National Institutes of Health, the University Of Maryland School Of

Medicine and the National Museum of Health and Medicine.

She not only demonstrates the value to honor her native country, but also represents the power that her culture brings as part of a new generation. She has worked at TECRO (Culture Center of Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States) center, where she worked there as a librarian and teaching assistant. As a librarian, she helped file and organize books, met with people over the counter, enter in data, regulate the computer system on the library's computers, and help other new librarian workers on the counter duties. Her work as a teaching assistant includes learning and giving out cultural presentations, help setting up and participating in the activities held at the center and cleanup. Through her learning experience there, she has learned Taiwanese history and culture from the presentations and projects. She has also done some traditional Chinese paintings, where she painted traditional Chinese pictures, submitted the artwork, and even got in the finalist placement.

Mimi continues to work hard to represent the people of Taiwan. She now works as a secretary assistant under Dr. Tsal N. Wei, M.D. Her job includes typing letters to other doctors, typing and mailing medical claims, entering data, organizing patients' files, calling and mailing insurance companies, meeting with patients, regulate the amount of medical supplies imported, and help decorate the office.

Mimi Way is daughter of Mr. Tsal N. and Mrs. Ching-Wei Wei (魏哲男 / 林淨微夫婦).

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Alice Chang

I was born and raised in a small suburban town called Buffalo Grove, Illinois. When I was in kindergarten, I attended a local school every Sunday where I learned Mandarin. But that only lasted for two years. As a result, my Mandarin skills were lacking, and my exposure to Chinese characters and the Mandarin language was limited. Thankfully, in our home, my older sister and I were fortunate enough to grow up speaking Chinglish. From a very young age, I was familiar with this “fusion of cultures” or integration of two very different, yet similar worlds.

Five years ago, my family moved to Rockville, Maryland. Adjusting to life in Maryland was difficult at first since I had never lived in the city before. Over the years, I have grown accustomed to life here. I have made many friends and encountered many diverse cultures throughout my high school career. In addition, I have also grown in many aspects. Now, a senior at Walter Johnson High School, I am more involved in school and in the community, as I am the President of a club in my school that helps the homeless in the Maryland/D.C. area. I’m not much of a sports fanatic—I really only play badminton, both at school and at a local community center. Although it is not as demanding as track or volleyball, I get a pretty good workout from playing. Plus, it’s a fun pastime to engage in with my friends, and to relax and divert from my studies. Over the years, I have also developed a passion for singing and playing piano, violin, and guitar.

Being a Taiwanese American means a lot to me. Many of my friends tell me I’m *Chinese* because they consider Taiwanese “the same” as Chinese. I become offended whenever this happens. My family comes from Taiwan, and I am proud of my Taiwanese roots. I have not once been to China, but I have visited Taiwan five times, and each time I learn more about Taiwan’s unique culture. Four years ago, I went to Taiwan on a solo trip, which was intimidating, but very fulfilling. Two years ago, my family and I went to Taiwan where we visited both my mother’s hometown Hsi Luo and my father’s hometown Ping Tung. We also visited my relatives, including all my aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents, which was a very heartwarming experience because it evoked certain nostalgia.



Unfortunately, I cannot communicate with my relatives as well as I wish I could. My Mandarin is not up to par, but I am currently taking a Mandarin course at my school. I try my best to improve my Mandarin by practicing with my friends and speaking at home.

My Taiwanese roots have also encouraged me to participate in the Taiwanese community. I recall the 2009 Fourth of July Parade in D.C. where my family, friends, and I volunteered to be in the parade to hold the flag of Taiwan. During this hour-long “walk of fame,” I felt the sweltering summer heat, but I also felt a certain pride for my culture and my ethnicity. At that moment, I was nervous to be walking in front of hundreds of people, yet content in holding the flag of my parent’s motherland high.

Alice Chang is daughter of Mr. Ted and Mrs. Jane Chang (張翼德 / 廖維貞夫婦).

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Brian Su

The TYAF Scholarship has been of interest to me because of the prestige and quality of recipients in years past. When looking at the winners and their impressive backgrounds and accomplishments, I feel like I embody many of the qualities and characteristics of these individuals and it would be an honor to join this elite group.



I am currently a junior at Centreville High School. Along with being a well-rounded individual, I am a proud Taiwanese-American. I take pride in my involvement with various activities, whether it is academics, music, sports, or community affairs.

At Centreville High School, I am currently a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Math Honor Society. Besides Honor Societies, I am also a member of SGA (Student Government Association), where I take the leadership role of directing and organizing school spirit events.

Music is one of the biggest interests I have in life. I have had lots of experience with the piano, violin, and saxophone. I have played the piano for thirteen years starting at age three and participated in numerous competitions, festivals, and recitals. I received many honors and awards such as the “Superior” rating, the top rating in the State Music Festival for six consecutive years and “A+” ratings at Guild Piano Auditions. I took part in many festivals including the Sonatina Festival, Fall Festival, and Sonata Festival. In addition to my musical accomplishments in piano, I’ve also received the Best Musician Award at Centreville Elementary School for violin and was selected to become a member of TYOF (The Youth Orchestra of Fairfax), in which I became a section leader. Besides piano and violin, I also excelled as a saxophonist. I was first chair in the top band, Symphonic Band, both years in Liberty Middle School and was selected to be in the top band at Centreville High School as a freshman. I also played saxophone in the marching band. As a sophomore, I was nominated to become a section leader of the Marching Band and excelled at that position.

Sports play a vital part in my life, allowing me to maintain my health and balance out my academic and musical passions. I played basketball in the SYA (Southwestern Youth Association) sports league for five years and was chosen to be a part of the All-Star team. I was on the junior varsity wrestling team at Centreville High and also ran hurdles in outdoor and indoor track on the varsity team. I ran 300m hurdles at Districts for outdoor track and played a part in winning District Champions for Centreville High. I also played singles and doubles on the school tennis team during the spring season.

I would like to thank TYAF for sponsoring the Outstanding Taiwanese-American Youth Award and for supporting the next generation of Taiwanese-American citizens.

Brian Su is son of Mr. Hannsen and Mrs. Y. J. Su (蘇仁宏 / 林雅珍夫婦).