

Currents

Asian American Pacific Islander Community Newspaper Serving
Sacramento and Yolo Counties-Volume 33, No. 3 Fall/October 2020

Vote YES on Prop 16

Restore equal opportunity in California

This is truly heartbreaking -- and enraging.

The most comprehensive study ever done on the impact of California's affirmative action ban on U.C. shows long-term decreased educational opportunities, lowered wages and wealth, and stunted economic mobility for Black and Latinx students.

The evidence is clear: California's ban on affirmative action has helped nobody and held millions back. I'm more committed than ever to passing Yes on Prop 16, to start to address a generation of wrongs in California. Are you with me? Add your name to recommit to the fight to pass Yes on Prop 16 right now.

The nearly 25-year ban on affirmative action here has shut a generation of Black and Latino/a students out of equal opportunity to a high-quality education. It has derailed dreams and depressed wages. Moreover -- despite the efforts of the opponents of equal opportunity to sow racial division -- the study shows that no groups at U.C. benefited from the ban.

For decades, we've known that while talent and promise are universal in all communities, equal opportunity is not. This study spotlights the systemic barriers that we must dismantle for everyone who calls California home to be able to build a stable, successful life.

We cannot continue to ignore systemic racism or let opponents of equal opportunity divide us. The fight for racial and gender equality is on the ballot in November. By passing Proposition 16 to reinstate equal opportunity programs like affirmative action, we can knock down barriers to opportunity and ensure all our communities thrive.

I hope you agree: Recommit to the fight alongside me to pass Yes on Prop 16 and reinstate affirmative action in California for good.

Passing Yes on Prop 16 is how we make California's values a reality while building a stronger statewide economy for years to come. Thank you for joining the fight.

Onward, Vincent Pan
Opportunity for All Coalition



Editor - YES ON 16 - Chinese Americans are only AAPI group being manipulated to challenge affirmative action programs. The faulty thinking of some Chinese American parents is that they truly believe that their child is entitled to "that (admission) slot" and that affirmative action programs hurt their chances. In October 2019, Edward Blum's "Students for Fair Admissions" group lost his lawsuit against Harvard that claimed that Harvard's admissions "personal" rating system disfavored AAPIs. In August 2020, the US Department of Justice accused

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VOTE - Nov 3rd (or earlier)
2020 CENSUS -it's not too late!

Yale of systemically discriminating against white and Asian Americans applicants. DOJ actually ordered Yale "not to use race or national origin in its upcoming 2020-2021 undergraduate admissions cycle." Yale has already indicated it will not comply.

The Nation's reporter Elie Mystal (August 24, 2020) writes: "No matter who wins (this Yale standoff), Asian American students will lose. Asian Americans are the fastest-growing minority group in the country and have been for most of this century, but their representation at elite universities has not kept pace. It's not because Black kids are taking up spots. It's because many of the other factors that universities consider serve to disadvantage Asian American applicants. Geographic diversity favors white kids, school recommendation letters favor white kids, and most important, legacy status favors white kids. To use just one popular example, more than a third of those admitted to the Harvard Class of 2022 were legacies." [Legacy status = children of alumni.]

"Trump's Department of Justice isn't trying to end affirmative action; it's trying to keep Black children out of elite colleges and universities. It has no problem with affirmative action for middling white students."

The big picture is that the Black Lives Matter movement is legitimate - the toxic stress resulting from generation after generation of "no opportunity" and unequal/unfair treatment has rendered Blacks and other people of color hopeless and without competitive skills. It is our collective responsibility to get this right and level the playing field of opportunity.

The LA Times just endorsed: "If we want to live in a country that better reflects our national narrative of equal opportunity, we have to build it. That means using the right tools such as affirmative action. Vote YES on Proposition 16."

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Message from the President - Stephenson Loveson

Welcome to another year with the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA). I am excited to begin my term as your President. As I step into this new role, I want to reaffirm my commitment to this organization and to APSEA's values. APSEA is an organization with rich history and tradition, and I see our members playing a vital role in shaping our future. My team and I are eager to get to know you, understand your needs, and provide support to help further your professional endeavors.

We will continue to serve our members by providing the quality programs you ask for. APSEA prides itself in our Career Development Brown Bag series, the recently established Conversation with Leaders events, organizing networking opportunities, and a membership that includes some of the most distinguished members in State government. We are looking into new ways to connect, engage, inspire, and demonstrate how we can all make a difference in both the workplace and community.

APSEA will continue to partner with communities to promote civic participation, and cultural awareness. We will continue to support young adults pursuing higher education by supporting the APSEA Foundation. And most importantly, APSEA will advocate on statewide issues important to you, including ensuring equal opportunity for our members. This is the heart and soul of why this organization was founded, and we are dedicated to advancing the great work APSEA has already accomplished in this area. To further advance these principles, I am interested in initiating conversations, finding ways to build bridges, developing dialogues, engaging state leaders and partnering with other employee groups for meaningful change.

We welcome members to deepen their involvement by leading and/or participating on a committee. APSEA is a community and I encourage you to join us in building a community that grows and thrives. We can't accomplish this without you. If you would like more information about which committees are seeking new members, please send an email to apseamembership@gmail.com.

Exploring Our Past and Reconnecting With Our Community, Yes on Prop 16

In 1995, a debate around affirmative action began to unfold in California. The Fall 1995 issue of *Currents* newspaper provided a glimpse of the different viewpoints around affirmative action. Dean Lan, a founding member of APSEA, penned an article for *Currents* newspaper titled *Myths and Realities* which sought to debunk misconceptions and myths around affirmative action. Ensuring equal opportunity sits as a core part of APSEA's mission. APSEA has a long history of supporting policies that promote equal employment opportunities (EEO) for its members and has been a member of the California Civil Rights Coalition that also includes the Association of California State Employees with Disabilities, Black Advocates in State Services, Cafe de California-Chicano Latino State Employees Association, and LULAC Lorenzo Patino Council of Sacramento. This is why in 1996, APSEA joined other Sacramento-based Asian Pacific American organizations in opposing California Proposition 209, the ban on affirmative action involving race-based or sex-based preferences in California.

Now in 2020, a new debate surrounding affirmative action is underway. Proposition 16 asks voters to decide whether to repeal or keep Proposition 209. This moment has provided APSEA with an opportunity to reflect on its 45 year history, an occasion for our current board to connect with our founders, and for APSEA to connect with our members and lifelong community partners.

One letter APSEA received comes from a UC Davis School of Law alumnus by the name of Bill Tamayo. Bill writes, "I am a beneficiary of affirmative action having been admitted to the School of Law in 1975 when King Hall was actively recruiting minority students. My father immigrated from the Philippines as a farm worker to the plantations of Hawaii as a young man in the 1920's and eventually settled in San Francisco. He eventually served in the U.S. Army during WWII in the Pacific. His highest educational attainment was the 6th grade in the Philippines. My mother immigrated from the Philippines in 1951 armed with her education, the equivalent of having completed 10th grade in the U.S. My dad worked as a janitor for over 25 years, and my Mom worked as a

minimum wage beautician (with forced - but never paid - overtime) all her working years in the U.S. My Law School Admission Test scores correlated directly with my parents' low income. Fortunately, the Pilipino Law Students Association saw my potential and recommended me to the Admissions Committee which eventually offered me admission."

Bill's career accomplishments include: representing hundreds of Asian immigrants in immigration proceedings and employment discrimination matters; serving as co-counsel in *EEOC and Castrejon v. Tortilleria "La Mejor"*, the first federal court case to formally hold that undocumented workers after the passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (which bars the hiring of undocumented workers) are protected by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and co-leading the legal team that wrote the legal memo for Congress that led to the "self-petitioning" provision of the Violence Against Women Act in 1995.

Bill's closing paragraph says, "Without affirmative action, I would have never had the opportunity to attend law school and to eventually serve the Asian American community and other communities of color. Many of my colleagues who were given opportunities through affirmative action have also made a difference in their communities."

Last January, we shared the story of the Asian Pacific State Employees Association founding. If you read the article, you may recall APSEA was founded in 1975 by a small group of Asian Pacific Islanders employed in California State government who wanted to protect Asian Pacific people from racial and gender discrimination and to improve the hiring and promotional opportunities for Asian and Pacific Islanders. Issues our founders identified in 1975 are still prevalent today. These include negative stereotyping, racial and gender harassment, and discrimination in hiring and promotions as well as the struggle for our communities to be properly recognized, respected, and served. What has changed is we are seeing a new generation of young leaders standing up and speaking out against injustice, intolerance, and inequality.

Months of research, discussion, and debate resulted in APSEA resolving to support Proposition 16. A copy of the resolution can be found on the APSEA website, www.apsea.org. APSEA is expanding our efforts in the areas of EEO education, training, and outreach. APSEA remains committed to the other core component of our mission, helping our members advance their careers. We are working through the process of adapting our Career Development Program Brown Bag Workshop offerings to a virtual format. Please keep an eye on our website and social media pages for updates as to when these offerings will resume. Last but not least, we understand the importance of maintaining a connection with local communities and are exploring how we can continue our volunteerism efforts (like last year's Season of Service initiative) while also protecting the health and safety of our volunteers.

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Employees Association/APSEA

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – Maeley Tom



APSEA is delighted to spotlight a long time APSEA member Maeley Tom in this month's edition. "Maeley Tom is the first woman and first ethnic minority to serve at the highest levels of the California Legislature. In her newly published memoir, titled **"I'm Not Who You Think I Am"** Maeley Tom chronicled the ups and downs of climbing up the political ladder in the California State Legislature from the 1970's to the early 2000's" - Sacramento Bee June 4, 2020

We spoke with Maeley to learn more about her memoir and talk about her experiences as an APSEA member.

As a longtime member of APSEA, what value do you feel APSEA provided to you?

First, I was honored to be able to work with the founders of this organization such as Jim Kahue, Albert Ow Young, Dick Lew as well as institutional leaders such Dean Lan, Jean Chong, Elaine Chiao and Helen Fong because the APIA state employees need a voice within the California state work force. For me personally, it was APSEA that fought for representation on the State Personnel Board which is the reason why I became the first Asian to ever be appointed to the State Personnel Board in its 65 years history in the year 2003.

What can APSEA do to help advance the Asian American presence in California across all levels in the state leadership?

APSEA can do more to raise its profile in state service by publicizing their workshops and initiatives to the power structure that governs the state of California. Meet with key principals such as the Director of Human Resources, Pres. of the State Personnel Board, CEO of CalPERS, Chair and members of the APIA Leg. Caucuses and a Cabinet Secretary representing the Governor's Office.

Initiate mixers with the other ethnic State Employee organizations and conduct joint events.

What made you decide to write the book?

There were four major motivations for the book:

My unusual childhood and upbringing, sharing the experiences of breaking the glass ceiling in the State Capitol, the coming of age of the API political voice, and the sharing of advice to the next generation of APIA leaders. Most important I wanted to show there is no easy

path to success by being candid about what I did well and what I did not do well.

How did your book address the challenges you faced as a minority woman in the State Capitol during an era when it was dominated by a majority of White males?

I discuss how moving up the ladder required my being able to define myself beyond being a competent Asian female staffer but, to find ways to distinguish myself by "making a difference" and showing leadership. It just so happened the APIA communities were almost invisible within the halls of the State Capitol and I, along with Georgette Imura, took the initiative to change that image of APIA. I also had to learn to take risks and integrate myself into the mainstream power structure of the State Capitol so that people would forget I was Asian and just saw me for my skills and competence.

What do you want the reader of your memoir to learn from it?

When people see the challenges I faced growing up, it is not how you start out but, how you end up that counts. Believe in yourself because if you do not, how do you expect others to believe in you? Speak up and take risks. Failures and mistakes are lessons learned. Define yourself and do not allow people to stereotype you. I also emphasize the value of mentorship and giving back.

Can you tell us about your hobbies, family and how you are keeping yourself busy in retirement?

My favorite past time hobby is singing karaoke because I did some professional singing in Hawaii and in college. I especially enjoy performing for non-profit organizations such as Asian Community Center and My Sister's House Gala.

I am especially proud that my daughter is the Deputy Director of Broadband for the Dept. of California Information Technology and her fiancé Stuart Dairiki is in a senior technology position with Oracle.

My grandson starts his freshman year at Kansas University on a 4 years baseball scholarship. I am living the best years of my life.

I enjoy my retirement with my husband Ron who was a lobbyist at the state capitol. I continue to mentor and participate in leadership forums and am now doing some volunteer work for the Biden campaign.

Where can one buy your book?

The book **"I'm Not Who You Think I Am"** is only available on Amazon's book site. Hopefully when it is safe to gather again, I would be happy to do a book signing for all APSEA members who purchased the book.



How to become a member

Complete a membership application form and indicate which type of membership you are registering for. Forms can be found at <http://apsea.org/membership>.

Mail your completed and signed form to:
APSEA

P.O. Box 22909

Sacramento, CA 95822

Membership benefits include:

- Career and personal development via our Career Development Program Brown Bag Workshop sessions, leadership and training conferences, networking events and activities, and business holiday mixers
- Opportunities to acquire and further develop your leadership skills as a Board Member or project lead
- Access to an extensive network with an opportunity to socialize/work with other members, organizations, community leaders and elected officials
- Career guidance and mentorship
- Scholarship opportunities

Individuals from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds are welcome to join. You do not have to be a State employee to become a member. Become a member of APSEA by signing up today!

For more information, please call (916) 962-6309 or email apseamembership@gmail.com

VIRTUAL EVENTS

Sept. 29 Tuesday

Networking event

6-7pm Register at Eventbrite

October 13 Tuesday

Current Trends in Equal Opportunity and

Prop.16, 530-7pm

Co-sponsored with Assn of Calif State
Employees with Disabilities.

Check www.apsea.org for event details.

People Who Trust Trump Are More Likely To Discriminate Against Asians

Huff Post, September 1, 2020

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans who have greater trust in President Donald Trump are more likely to engage in discriminatory behavior against Asian Americans, according to a new study.

The researchers — who looked at the opinions of more than 1,140 adults living across the U.S. of both major political affiliations — also found that people who had less accurate knowledge about the virus and less trust in science reported more negative attitudes toward Asians.

Trump continues to refer to the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 as the “Chinese virus,” a dog-whistle misnomer critics say the president uses to dodge criticism over his administration’s failures in addressing the pandemic. Trump — who has also called the virus the “Kung Flu” — claims his rhetoric is directed at China, where the virus originated, and not meant to disparage or harm Asian Americans.

But the new research suggests otherwise, according to Berkeley Franz, the study’s co-author and an assistant professor at Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine at Ohio University.

“What is most compelling about our findings is that public health messaging from leaders has real and important consequences, not only for believing COVID-19 is serious or understanding how it is transmitted, but also for shaping attitudes toward racial and ethnic minorities in the U.S.,” Franz told HuffPost.

Advocacy groups who have been collecting reports of harassment and attacks against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (referred to as the AAPI community) since the pandemic’s beginning say that Trump’s language only further fuels anti-Asian sentiment and xenophobia.

Stop AAPI Hate reported that as of June 3, incidents of anti-Asian American discrimination documented across the U.S. approached 2,066 since early March. Of those incidents, approximately half of the perpetrators specifically mentioned the terms “China” or “Chinese.” (For instance, “Go back to China.”)

In Franz’s study, respondents were asked about their attitudes and bias toward Asian Americans. Questions included: How likely are you to order food from a restaurant with primarily Asian employees? How likely are you to sit next to an Asian person on a bus or other public transportation? How much have you attempted to limit interactions with Asian customers or coworkers, or intentionally move farther away from an Asian individual while in a public place?

Those polled were also asked to rate how much they trusted science and scientists and how much they trusted Trump (ranging from no trust at all to complete trust in the source).

The researchers hypothesized that trust

in the president might increase exposure to messages that frame the virus in terms of its country of origin (the “Chinese” or “Wuhan” virus).

They also hypothesized that downplaying science and emphasizing the Asian origin of the virus would serve to stoke bias toward out-groups — in this case, Asian Americans.

They were right on both counts. Although other countries have dealt with COVID-19 outbreaks that were similar in severity to what occurred in China — Italy, in particular, and Iran — the study found that distrust of Asians (Chinese and Koreans) was higher than distrust of Italians or Iranians.

“By asking questions about how safe people felt around those groups, we could capture if people had come to associate the risk of the virus with people of Asian descent rather than people from countries with just as much spread of the virus,” said Lindsay Y. Dhanani, the study’s other co-author and an assistant professor of psychology at Ohio University.

As racist attacks against Asians continue to be reported, Dhanni said she hopes that the study will draw attention to the problem.

“I hope it really highlights that, on top of the stress that comes with living through a pandemic, Asian Americans are also being vilified and having to navigate really challenging experiences,” she said.

Recently, a few of those discriminatory attacks have made national headlines: In early July, the CEO of a San Francisco tech startup was caught on camera unloading on an Asian family who sat near him at a restaurant in Monterey, California.

When asked to leave the restaurant, the man, Michael Lofthouse, could be heard saying, “Trump’s going to fuck you! ... You fuckers need to leave.”

At the end of July, a protest was held after two men in New York’s Brooklyn borough slapped an 89-year-old Chinese American in the face as she left her home, then tried to set her on fire.

To curb anti-Asian bigotry, the New York Police Department announced the launch of an Asian Hate Crime Task Force. Because of language barriers and fear of the police, many victims have been reluctant to speak with officers during investigations, the NYPD said.

Those within the Asian communities are looking for short-term solutions, too. In New York’s Chinatown, residents Gilbert Chan and Barbara Yau recently handed out over 500 personal safety alarms at an apartment complex housing low-income senior citizens. They’re calling their campaign “Safe From Hate.”

“It’s incredibly sad that we felt the need to arm our elderly and other vulnerable populations with a safety device,” Chan, who self-funded the campaign with Yau, told HuffPost. “Hopefully, we’ve given them

confidence to carry on their daily routine for something as simple as buying groceries or taking a stroll in their own neighborhood.”

In San Francisco, a group of volunteers, many of them former U.S. veterans, formed SF Peace Collective to patrol the streets of that city’s Chinatown and offer assistance to the vulnerable elderly residents there.

“It not only inspires and empowers the community and others to take action and be proactive, but also provides a sense of safety and security because nobody should have to live in fear,” the group’s founder, Max Leung, told NBC News in March. “For them to know that there are actually people out there who care is important.”

Solutions to hate crimes can’t just come from within the communities directly affected by them, though. The language politicians employ to talk about the virus needs to change or the continued scapegoating of Asian Americans will continue, experts say.

“When Trump calls it the “China virus” or “Wuhan virus,” he makes it easy to blame someone else instead,” said Therese Mascardo, a psychologist of Filipino descent who works within the Asian American community. “It’s unfortunately typical human nature for people to search for someone to blame for their frustrations and hardships.”

Finding a scapegoat gives some a sense of control, she said. With little information to make sense of what’s going on, creating a story about who is to blame provides reassurance. (Indeed, the Ohio University study found that those who were less informed on the virus were more prone to express anti-Asian sentiment.)

“It can be difficult to accept that this pandemic is happening just because pandemics happen — that truth makes us feel powerless and out of control,” Mascardo said. “Now, instead of being powerless, we have identified an enemy to our wellbeing — a ‘bad guy’ that we can focus our frustrations and aggressions on.”

To counter such a harmful ideology and the hate speech it spurs on, Americans need to look at racist incidents as an American problem and not just an “Asian American problem,” she added.

Many seem to understand that. According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, roughly four-in-10 U.S. adults say it has become more common for people to express racist views toward Asians since the pandemic began. Now, that recognition needs to be coupled with action, Mascardo said.

“I’d tell people to speak up when you see racism happening. Don’t give in to the ‘bystander effect,’ where we think someone else is going to do something and so we release ourselves of responsibility,” she said. “We need to stop waiting around for someone else to fix racism and discrimination.”



ACC SENIOR SERVICES

CAREGIVING IN THE PANDEMIC

It's Time to Address Our Stress and Anxiety

By Soojin Yoo, MSW

Even before the pandemic, life as a caregiver was challenging. Now with COVID-19 redefining our life every day, caregivers are faced with more physical, emotional, and financial burdens that are too much to bear.

More than 40 million people in the U.S. provide day-to-day care for their loved ones in addition to fulfilling their own life responsibilities. Older women care for their spouses with dementia while trying to manage multiple chronic conditions and diminishing mobility. Middle-age adults known as the "Sandwich Generation" help out aging parents while being responsible for the well-being of their children. Millennials have to set aside their aspirations in life to be the primary caregiver for their boomer parents or siblings with severe disabilities. They find that the caregiving journey can be very lonely, unpredictable, and draining, both physically and emotionally.

Even in normal times, society provided less than adequate social support for this vulnerable population. Now caregiving families are left to their own devices when many of these care resources, formal and informal, are no longer available. In-person day programs, social enrichment activities, and support groups are closed. Family members and relatives, who usually share caregiving duties, stopped visiting due to the fear of the virus. It takes extra time and energy to make a medical appointment or arrange rehab services, if available. Hiring in-home help is an extremely anxiety-inducing task for some families, who choose to provide care without any respite.

Deprived of social outlets and support, many caregivers and their loved ones are noticing difficulties with their mental health. Constant worries and vigilance are tiring. People with dementia do not understand this new reality and this can make proper caregiving more stressful. Family relationships

are affected when disagreements and conflicts build up. Caregivers whose loved ones are at care facilities mourn the loss of in-person contact and companionship. Working caregivers, who lost their jobs, have to deal with their own financial insecurity and fear of not being able to provide for their care receivers, as well. It is not surprising that caregiving families are increasingly suffering from issues such as anxiety, sleep problems, and depression.

Yet, it is more important than ever for the caregivers to pay attention to their self-care and mobilize any resources they can use to support them through this difficult time. Caregiving is more manageable and rewarding when the caregivers are surrounded by people who are willing to listen and help problem-solve.

Please take some time to assess your level of physical strain and mental stress. Do not hesitate to ask for help from your network of friends and families. Utilize professional help available in your community. The ACC Caregiver Support Program has proudly served caregiving families in Sacramento County since 2008. Care assessments and consultations, benefit reviews, service referrals, and support groups continue to be provided via phone calls, email, mail, and online at no cost.

At one point in our lives, we may all find ourselves in the position of caring for someone we hold dear. It is the most private and precious act of love, but requires the collective efforts from people around us and broader society to be successful. Please remember that you are not alone in this journey and reach out for help.



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ACC Bridge to Healthy Families
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ACC SENIOR SERVICES

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Powerful Tools for Caregivers online classes at ACC help caregivers take better care of themselves while caring for their loved ones. Whether you provide care for a spouse, partner, parent, friend; at home or in a care facility; whether down the block or miles away, yours is an important role. This course is for family caregivers like you!

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Contact Soojin Yoo at (916) 503-5386 or syoo@accsv.org to register.

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accsv.org/online or call ACC at (916) 393-9026

COVID-19 experience from Rev.(ret) Bob Oshita, Sacto Buddhist Temple

August 22, 2020. Hope all is going well ... It's been a very tough 6-7 weeks after losing Patti's Dad. Today, I am 17 days home from my visit to Sutter General's Cardiac ICU. I had a bout with COVID Pneumonia that I've tried to document (below). I thought in sharing the experience, it would be a reminder for all of us to remain even more vigilant and not let down our guard. I'm finally feeling pretty good. It's 4 PM now on Saturday and I haven't taken my usual long afternoon nap! Please feel free to share this with folks so they will know even more, this COVID is no Hoax! It's a Monster! When you find yourself short of breath and tired, don't delay in seeking help. Do not give in to the hope that you can tough it out. I was in denial and thought I would maybe wait just one more day to see if I felt a little better. Luckily, Cheryl Lieu and Kelvin Mark advised us wisely. If I delayed even one more day, I might be in the hospital still. Think I will take my nap now. Please do not let your guard down. COVID is just waiting for us to relax our guard. Stay safe and well! Bob...& Patti too!

Wednesday Evening, August 5, 2020. ...and it's good to be home. I'm still tiring easily, short of breath and coughing, but the Doctor was delighted to have me come home. But first, thank you everyone for your good thoughts and worried concern. Let me explain the journey of symptoms and my thoughts. It might help you avoid even more serious complications with COVID. This Virus is a Monster.

Tuesday, July 21, I developed a sore throat. I was having drainage and the symptoms were familiar; like an amped up allergy issue. The next days I was tiring easily, but we attributed our lethargy to just grieving. Although I never lost taste, I realize looking back, I was losing my appetite.

Saturday, July 25th, we ordered Akebono and I got my favorite Chirashi. But only ate about 1/3 at the most. The next day, Sunday, July 22nd, I spiked a 100.3 fever. That's when we began sleeping, eating, separate and using separate bathrooms etc. So far, that quick decision looks like it has kept Patti safer.

Monday July 23rd, Patti is trying hard to keep me nourished. I ate some fresh fruit and a Cha Shu Bao.

Tuesday, July 24th. Spiked another fever of 100.3. Tylenol works quickly to bring it down. Arranged for COVID Testing the next morning.

Wednesday, July 29th – 9:00 COVID Test at Sutter Urgent Care in Elk Grove. No appetite. That morning I began coughing up blood. I told the Urgent Care Doctor, but she was not too concerned since my Oxygen was at 92.

Thursday, July 30th – Test Results back quickly. Patti tested Negative. Bob Positive.

Friday, July 31st, did absolutely nothing. Shortness of breath increasing. Oxygen Count down to 92. But I could work it up to 94. Called Kelvin, who called out Primary Care, Dr. Joe Le. He actually dropped off a Z-Pack Antibiotic Treatment at our home.

Saturday, August 1st, I was in denial. I thought



for sure I'm getting better now. But there was a feeling of tightness and shortness of breath I could not deny. Oxygen Count was a shocking 78! Kelvin & Cheryl Mark have been our go-to physician consultants. So good to have them as an immediate resource. Cheryl said I need to be taken to the ER and evaluated immediately. Patti called the Paramedics around 4 PM. First ambulance ride.

Okay – things move like a blur all around me as I feel I am unable to move. Once at the ER, Chest X-ray within 10 minutes, multiple blood draws, EKG and a couple (maybe 3) IV bags of various Antibacterial Cocktails. The Arterial Blood Gas Draw was a painful one. They did a second COVID swab test. Silly me was still wondering if I would be able to go home that night. The ER, Dr. Moser, was good. He said, "The Virus will tell us how long you'll be here..."

Once admitted, I was taken to Cardiac Intensive Care. Kelvin was monitoring my test results and shared with Patti that tests showed my heart was releasing enzymes of "distress." Lungs had developed COVID Pneumonia for certain. They were concerned it was both Bacterial and Viral. Only heard later that I was showing signs of developing Congestive Heart Failure. That's scary.

Sunday, August 2nd. The Doctors needed to know the extent of the COVID Infection. There is test called the D-Dimer that is like a COVID Marker. It measures the extent of my experiencing "Coagulation" in my body. Normal is like 135-150. Found out days later that my number was worrisome high – 500's? (It can get into the 1500 range when we are having catastrophic cascade of bleeding). What was also not great was my "C-Reactive Protein" Marker. This indicates the level of Inflammation in my body. So that same Sunday, I had an Ultrasound on my Kidneys, Liver and Spleen. This was cause for concern. COVID Inflammation can cause Renal and Multi-Organ Failure. The Nurse indicted concern for Pulmonary Embolism too...always checking for discomfort or pain in my chest. All this going on and I feel no better or worse than when I first went to the ER. Just hard to breath.

Monday morning, August 3rd, I met my Internal Medicine/Hospitalist, Dr. John Howard. He was immediately just so positive. The recent tests

showed that my Pneumonia was all COVID, so we stopped the Antibiotics. He said I was doing really well and that all the numbers seem to be moving in the right direction. Excellent motivator. He encouraged me sleep on my stomach as much as possible and sit up for as long as I can. I'm not a stomach sleeper. But Dr. Howard said, (and this is good), "COVID loves it when we sleep on our backs!" He explained how sleeping prone will help with lung expansion and not squash the Aveoli into our backs. That did it for me. I engineered a "Massage Table" with rolled up towels and slept on my stomach only. Also once I got up in the morning, around 7 AM, I did not lay down again until 9 or 9:30 PM. I would nap in the chair, but not lay down at all. Dr. Howard was also delighted the Ultrasound showed Inflammation not spreading. But I need to lose weight and eat better. Okay.

I was on Steroids for the Inflammation, blood thinner shots twice a day to prevent clotting and Bronchial Dilators twice a day. Doc explained that the Steroids were to calm my body down so that it does not overdo fighting the Inflammation. Trying to do too much too quickly is counterproductive...and can be harmful. So now I'm on a mission to try to do my small part to get better. Honestly, I still feel no better than I did when I came in on Saturday. But it is a tremendous Peace of Mind to know I'm in a treatment, things are improving and that I'm being constantly monitored (Always plugged into the Heart/Oxygen Monitor).

Tuesday morning, August 4th - and I'm now accustomed to the routine of daily testing and treatments. Still feel no tremendous improvement, but Dr. Howard came in this morning totally elated. Numbers continue to improve. He said I was doing a great job. But all I'm doing is sitting up and sleeping on my stomach. It was more his demeanor that was so encouraging. He indicated I might be going home soon. I didn't mention this to Patti because I still did not feel much better and we certainly don't want to raise our hopes. Plus, I was more than willing to stay a while longer to keep Patti safe.

So now we know clearly where the COVID seems to be affecting and what we need to do. I have been very impressed with the level of care and attention I've received here from the Doctors down the entire line of health care staff.

Oh yes, when Dr. Howard left this morning, he said, "I'll see you tomorrow Reverend!" I thought I was hearing things. I don't tell folks what we do. Patti said that maybe he talked with Kelvin or Cheryl. Who knows.

Wednesday, August 5, 2002. Woke up from another uncomfortable stomach sleeping night. Used minimal Oxygen (.5 liters) through the night. I asked to use it since my face is down into the towel rolls I use to sleep. That morning no more Oxygen. Shockingly, in order to be allowed Home Oxygen, we need a saturation rate of less than 88 with room air! Dang! That's no good. I guess Oxygen Equipment must be in short supply right now.

10:15 AM – Dr. Howard is back and smiling!

Continued on page 7

Reverend Bob

Continued from page 6

He is really uplifting. He again indicated that the improvements have been remarkable. I had Patti on Facetime so she could meet him too. This morning I asked where my number/markers are now. He was so happy. He got on the computer and shared the changes. Amazing. “C-Reactive Protein” (Inflammation Marker) went from almost 500 on Saturday to 11.5 today! (10 is normal) So my COVID Inflammation was responding to the treatment as best as we could hope. The D-Dimer (Coagulation Marker) went from 500’s on Saturday to 295 today. He said that’s great and I’m halfway to the 135-150 normal range. So he’s decided to release me that day to go home. My BNP (heart enzymes indicating heart stress and lungs not working well) went down from 895 (4 times normal) to within normal range. I still feel short of breath and am coughing, but no more blood. I still tire easily, but I have the confidence to know my body is on the mend now. I just have to take it easy. I’m off all treatment now. Just the Bronchial Dilator.

Oh yes, it turns out that Dr. Howard attended the Betsuin with his two boys about 20+ years ago. He said, “Oh yes, I’ve enjoyed hearing you speak a number of times. And my boys were in Troop 50 there!” Patti said later, “That was the Betsuin was at a “high point” / “Hay-day” time.” He even played basketball with the ABA group on Sunday night. Hahaha. Small world.

So here we are now. Just home, in quarantine, resting. Have not heard of folks “replapsing” with COVID again, but we are not going to push it.

This Virus is scary. There is still so much unknown about how it affects us. It can come on so unassumingly and then suddenly we can’t move. We have to stay vigilant and not take this lightly. It can explode out of control in less time than we imagine. Do not hesitate to get help. Don’t delay. Do not give in to the slightest thought of denial. I am just so grateful that we had advocates that would not let us delay!

Austin TX AAPI mental distress twice as high

NBC Austin, Texas - September 4, 2020

This week, the Austin City Council approved an agreement between the city and the Northwest Austin Universal Health Clinic to provide mental health services for the Asian-Pacific Islander community.

The agreement consists of a \$100,000 grant for the first 13 months followed by two 12-month extension options — each \$100,000 — for a \$300,000 agreement in total.

The clinic will use the money to hire a social worker, yoga instructor and expand services to better serve those in need of help.

“There is a very rich denial of mental health needs in the Asian American community,” said Vince Cobalis, member and former chair of the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission. “People don’t recognize that this is something that can actually be treated — people just say that’s the way they are.”

APSEA Foundation 2020 Scholarships

The Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA) Foundation, a 501(c)(3), was founded in 1999 by Asian Pacific Islander (API) state government workers and legislative staff to support and advance the educational and career development of API state government workers and students by providing training, grants, and awarding educational scholarships. As the nonprofit, charitable arm of APSEA, the Foundation has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships to high school students in the greater Sacramento region over the last 12 years.

After careful consideration, the APSEA Foundation is proud to announce the 2020 scholarship recipients. These four high school seniors were selected based on their academic achievements, volunteer activities that demonstrated their dedication to improving the API community, financial need, and special circumstances. The awardees are:

Avantika Chand (Ronald E. McNair High School)
UC Merced, Class of 2024
Scholarship from Jean Shiimoto

Amandip Chauhan (River Valley High School)
University of the Pacific, Class of 2024
Scholarship from the Woo Family

Katie Han (Benicia High School)
Stanford University, Class of 2024
Scholarship from the Chinese American Council of Sacramento

Samantha Tsang (John F. Kennedy High School)
UC Berkeley, Class of 2024
Scholarship from APSEA and APSEA Foundation

These scholarships would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors, and their unwavering support is especially appreciated during this time. Although this year’s APSEA Foundation Gala was canceled due

to COVID-19, we hope you will visit www.apseafoundation.org to learn more about these four exceptional young women.

For high school seniors interested in scholarship opportunities, the application process will begin around the end of January 2021. Please contact scholarship@apseafoundation.org with any questions.



While the Asian American-Pacific Islander community in Travis County only accounts for about 8% of the population, Cobalis said the percentage of those experiencing a behavioral health issue is high. The latest data from an Asian American Quality of Life report shows 44% of the community face mental distress — more than double the percentage of U.S. adults nationwide.

Cobalis said COVID-19 may be making the problem worse.

“Right now, we have a lot of racism going on with the labeling of COVID-19 as the China virus,” he explained.

Despite the high levels of stress, the report found the use of mental health services is “relatively low,” and states many of those within the community rely on religious leaders or their family doctor for mental support. Those at the Northwest Austin Universal Health Clinic, which

serves a big part of Austin’s Asian community, experience the connection firsthand.

“It’s really a conversation about what you’re dealing with, why did you go to the doctor’s office when referred, so it turns into sort of a therapeutic almost, I call it, non-traditional counseling and it depends on the connection (the patient) has with staff,” said Dr. Sanjna Malpani, the medical director at the clinic.



Letters to the Editor

It is a crazy world we live in today. (This letter was actually submitted April 9th, but is still relevant today). With this hysteria of COVID-19 you don't know what to expect. A shortage of medical masks, supplies, and hospital space. Kids and young adults are taken out of school. There's a shortage of computers. When you look back as I have in the past, it is hard to tell we've come a long way. Since my parents lived in the WWII area they had no supplies or computers when they (Japanese Americans) were sent to internment camps. Are we repeating history?

My dad was a senior in high school and was taken away to a deserted area in Arkansas (Jerome, Arkansas) They didn't have computers then. Today they (the school districts) are trying to get all or most of the students computers (laptops) so that they can finish their lessons. Now that is crazy. What is important - their health or finishing their lessons? Something like this where you are not prepared and you can't change the course of time. High School seniors will be missing out on their senior prom, senior trip and their graduation possibly. You can never be prepared for the future. You can't start where you left off, but you can start to move on. You just have to find a different path. - Sue Lee Yoshida -

Thanks so much for all your dedication to education and promote API issues. - Honey Lum -

Thank you for recent donations from Matsuo and Hasuko Fujitani, Marian Uchida, and Artima Lim. Currents costs about \$800 to print and \$1100 to mail out.



About 2,000 of you are receiving this edition of Currents as a one-time mailing.

If you want to receive Currents regularly (3 times/year), please send a note to Davis Asians for Racial Equality, PO Box 4163, Davis 95617 or email pmfong@hotmail.com. Currents can be also be found on the APSEA website (www.apsea.org) in the "Resources" section.

Locke Foundation

WWII Chinese American G.I. – No Longer Silent, Ignored or Forgotten

By Ron Chan 陳光宗, Bay Area Chinese Genealogy Group

This may be our final opportunity to tell the story and honor our cherished WWII Chinese American Veterans. The nonprofit WWII Chinese American G.I. Program, with the support of the American Legion Cathay Post 384, Chinese Historical Society of America, Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA) and Museum of Chinese in America, was formed to take the opportunity of the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II to honor and celebrate the 1,300+ Chinese American Veterans in California. We owe it to them to educate and inspire a new generation with their personal, wartime experiences, contributions, and sacrifices to our nation and community.

To honor the most senior of Chinese American Veterans, a five part program was created.

August 29, 2020. A two hour webinar, Operation: WWII Chinese American G.I., featuring keynote speaker Montgomery Hom, filmmaker, author and military historian. Panelists were Major General William Chen, United States Army, (Ret), and author / historian, Connie Young Yu. This webinar took a very intimate, personal view of the Chinese American experience leading up to and including America's fight for freedom in WWII. We saw the war through personal Veterans stories, and the lens of the world's largest private collection of WWII Chinese American memorabilia. (View this webinar at www.chsa.org)

September 26, 2020, 1PM - 2PM Pacific Time, is the 75th Anniversary WWII Chinese American G.I. Honor Event. We will honor Chinese American Veterans from the Golden State. We will listen and learn from our most senior WWII Chinese American veterans, plus currently serving and retired military personnel, as they share their personal story and message to future generations. Our ceremony includes Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, remarks from Rep. Ted Lieu, Judy Chu, Governor Gavin Newsom, American Legion Cathay Post, Chinese American Citizens Alliance/ Congressional Gold Medal project and the premier of the special short film by Emmy nominated Montgomery Hom, "We Served with Pride", which chronicles the road to the Congressional Gold Medal and more. To register for this event, <https://tinyurl.com/ChiAmGICeremony>

December 2020 will deliver a 100+ page commemorative book, Operation: WWII Chinese American G.I. – Profiles of Service and Sacrifice from The Golden State. The book includes heartfelt personal tributes, a historical presentation of Chinese Americans in the military, a look at the Home Front and Women at War, previously unseen WWII memorabilia, and much, much more. We will list all 1300+ California WWII Chinese American Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) honoree's in the book to recognize their acts of patriotism, loyalty, and courage. As many as 20,000 served, 40% of who were without citizenship. For over 70 years,

Chinese American patriotism went unrecognized -- until now.

2021 will be the release of the complete movie documentary, "We Served with Pride, The Chinese American Experience in WWII". The film captures the untold story about Chinese Americans serving in the U.S. military at home, and on the front line. From hundreds of hours of research and interviews, Chinese American Veterans share their stories, who patriotically and loyally answered their country's call to duty. Narrated by actress Ming-Na Wen and television journalist David Louie.

2021 will feature a virtual exhibit where we open the doors of our warehouse of WWII Chinese American memorabilia to share its contents. For example, we show a pair of boots, with a medal beside it, and then share the saga about the hero who filled these shoes. Check our August webinar for a preview of the just a fraction of our artifacts telling the stories of uncommon valor, as a common virtue.

For more information on the nonprofit - Chinese Historical Society of American (chsa.org) "WWII Chinese American G.I. Program" - go to www.chsa.org. At CHSA's website, you can also sponsor a Veteran tribute (deadline Oct 4), order the book or register a veteran for the Congressional Gold Metal



Ruby Jang



Harry Jang

A Tribute to Chinese American WWII Heroes

By Locke Foundation

The Federal Government has designated the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta a National Heritage area and Locke a National Historic Landmark. Locke is the largest, most complete example of a rural agricultural Chinese American community in the US. Its story has been told to a certain extent over the years, but there has never been a concerted effort to capture oral histories. The Locke Foundation (LF) is now taking on this task with urgency. The primary mission of the Locke Foundation - Oral History Project is to gather and preserve the stories of the Delta. Ultimately these oral histories will be archived in the Locke Boarding House Museum where historians, educators and the public can have access to the information.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II. The LF is reaching out to any Chinese American who served in WWII. These veterans have the potential to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. **If you know of any Chinese American (living or posthumous) who is/was a WWII veteran, please contact Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project at www.caww2.org/preservation for the application or contact: <https://chsa.org/wwii-chinese-american-gi/>.**

The LF is proud to share the life and times of two WWII veterans as part of the Oral History Project. Both were residents of Locke. Ruth Jang is a rare Chinese American woman who served in the Army Air Force. Harry Jang was a highly decorated Lieutenant in the Army Air Force as a navigator.

CORPORAL RUTH JANG, 97, was definitely a rarity for any branch of the US Military service. At 21, Ruth joined the armed forces. In 1943, she joined for duty and adventure. She and a friend went to the recruitment center, and contrary to their mutual agreement, her friend enlisted in the Navy. Ruth, who could not swim and was afraid of the ocean, entered the Army Air Force. Ruth said that she enjoyed more food than was available to her in Locke and swears that she grew an inch taller.

Her first station was Moody Field, Georgia, where her duties were as a "Gopher", delivering messages from each building riding a motor scooter. Ruth became the Captain of the woman's basketball team because she was taller than many of the other women players. A cherished adventure - Once a pilot took her up in a B25 Bomber where they dive bombed cows on a farm. She was then transferred to Mitchell Field, Long Island, New York where she helped care for injured servicemen. Her favorite place was New York as one of her assignments was to escort wounded soldiers to free Broadway shows. She recalls enjoying Showboat and watching the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes. Being the only Chinese in her unit, we asked whether she ever experienced racism or discrimination. Her answer was, "No". Instead, she felt very special and popular. On weekends she enjoyed going out with her Polish, Jewish and Italian girlfriends. They enjoyed dancing with the servicemen. She ate pizza and pickled herring for the first time. In 1946, at the end of the war she was discharged.

After the war, Ruth fell in love and married her childhood friend, Harry Jang, also, from Locke. She worked with the State of California, the Sacramento Unified School District as a translator and raised three children. At age 56, Ruth earned her AA degree, then Bachelors in Early Childhood Education and Nutrition. True to her fun-loving nature, she spent her later years playing golf, attaining a handicap of 17. She was an officer of the Sacramento Chinese Women's Golf Club, enjoyed playing Mahjong and cooking special dishes.


LIEUTENANT HARRY JANG joined the Army in 1941 just before Pearl Harbor as a Private. He was a hospital orderly. As a Chinese, his alternative was to be a cook. Neither choice did he have any interest in. He wanted to be a pilot and studied 2 years of Aeronautical Engineering, but realized it was not his strong suit. Harry, being upwardly mobile, then took the exam for officer training. He ranked third out of 300 applicants. To his disappointment, he was rejected because of blatant racism. He was Chinese. Undeterred, he petitioned the Adjutant (Chief Administrative Officer) who granted him admission to the Air Force.

In 1943, he was commissioned Lieutenant Harry Jang. As a navigator, he was assigned to the 367 Squadron, 306 Bomb Group in Thurleigh Field, England. His group of fighter planes was famous. It suffered the most

casualties of the Air Force during the entire war. The movie, "Twelve O'Clock High", was inspired by his squadron's valor. Harry was afraid for his life on every mission. He was haunted for the rest of his life by what he saw. He witnessed his fellow American airplanes being hit by anti-aircraft fire, exploding in mid-air, and exploding when shot down by German fighter planes. After flying his 35th combat mission, his friend suggested signing up for another combat tour in Asia. Harry said, "No". He was happy to be going home. Years later at a reunion he ran into an old cohort. Happy and relieved, he said, "Harry, I thought you died". Harry's plane had gone down in flames on its very next mission, along with his friend. Hearing this, Harry felt lucky indeed to have survived. For his courage and exceptional navigational skills under fire he was honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After his distinguished service, Harry graduated with a Master's degree from UC Berkeley and became an architect. Lieutenant Harry Jang will be posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal as a patriotic and courageous Chinese American.


Locke Foundation Oral History Project Preserve the Delta Legacy



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Many Black and Asian Americans Say They Have Experienced Discrimination Amid the COVID-19 Outbreak

About four-in-ten U.S. adults say it has become more common for people to express racist views toward Asians since the pandemic began

By Neil G. Ruiz, Juliana Menasce Horowitz and Christine Tamir

PEW Research Center, July 1, 2020

The coronavirus outbreak continues to have far-reaching health and economic consequences for the American public. But for many, especially Black and Asian Americans, the effects extend beyond medical and financial concerns. About four-in-ten Black and Asian adults say people have acted as if they were uncomfortable around them because of their race or ethnicity since the beginning of the outbreak, and similar shares say they worry that other people might be suspicious of them if they wear a mask when out in public, according to a new Pew Research Center survey.

Black and Asian Americans are also more likely than their white and Hispanic counterparts to say they have been subject to slurs or jokes because of their race or ethnicity, but Asian adults are the most likely to say this has happened to them since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak. About three-in-ten Asian adults (31%) say they have been subject to slurs or jokes because of their race or ethnicity since the outbreak began, compared with 21% of Black adults, 15% of Hispanic adults and 8% of white adults. This aligns with some reports of incidents of discrimination against Asian Americans since the virus outbreak first emerged in China and then started spreading in the United States.

At the same time, about half of Black Americans (51%) say they have heard expressions of support because of their race or ethnicity since the coronavirus outbreak; about three-in-ten Hispanic (29%) and Asian (28%) adults say the same. The survey was conducted during a time when demonstrations continued across the country to protest the death of George Floyd, a Black man killed while in Minneapolis police custody.

Beyond the personal experiences of various groups, about four-in-ten U.S. adults (39%) say it is more common for people to express racist or racially insensitive views about people who are Asian than it was before the coronavirus outbreak, while 30% say it has become more common for people to express these views toward people who are Black. Smaller shares say that, compared with before the outbreak, it is more common for people to express racist or racially insensitive views about people who are Hispanic (19%) or white (14%). Asian Americans, who account for 6% of the U.S. population, are the fastest growing major racial or ethnic group in the U.S. Hispanics make up 18% of the population overall, while Black Americans are 12%.

A majority of Asian adults (58%) say it is more common for people to express racist

or racially insensitive views about people who are Asian than it was before the coronavirus outbreak; roughly four-in-ten white, Black and Hispanic adults say this is more common now. A sizable share of Black adults (45%) also say it is more common for people to express racist views about Black people than before the outbreak, more than the shares of white, Hispanic and Asian adults who say the same.

These are among the findings of a Pew Research Center survey of 9,654 U.S. adults conducted from June 4-10, 2020, using the Center's American Trends Panel. [The Asian sample of 278 English speaking AAPI and Pew notes the challenges posed by such a limited sample.]

Asian and Black Americans are more likely to report adverse experiences due to their race or ethnicity since the pandemic began

About four-in-ten Asian (39%) and Black (38%) adults – and 27% of Hispanic adults – say someone has acted uncomfortable around them because of their race or ethnicity since the coronavirus outbreak. Only 13% of white adults say this has happened to them.

When asked about other negative situations they may have experienced because of their race or ethnicity since the pandemic, Asian and Black adults are more likely than Hispanic and white adults to say that they have been the subject of slurs or jokes or feared someone might threaten or physically attack them because of their race or ethnicity.

Asian Americans are more likely than any other group to say they have been subject to slurs or jokes because of their race or ethnicity since the coronavirus outbreak: 31% say this has happened to them, compared with 21% of Black adults, 15% of Hispanic adults and 8% of white adults. About a quarter (26%) of Asian Americans and 20% of Black Americans say they feared someone might threaten or physically attack them, more than the shares of white and Hispanic Americans.

Black adults younger than 50 are more likely than older Black adults to say they have had each of these experiences. For example, 44% of Black adults in the younger age group say people have acted as if they were uncomfortable around them since the pandemic began, compared with 30% of Black adults ages 50 and older. About three-in-ten Black adults under 50 (28%) say they have feared someone might threaten or physically attack them (vs. 9% of older Black adults) and 25% say they have been subject to slurs or jokes because of their race or ethnicity since the coronavirus outbreak (vs. 15%).²

Black men (49%) are more likely than Black women (31%) to say someone acted as if they were uncomfortable around them. Black men are also more likely to say they have feared

being threatened or physically attacked because of their race or ethnicity (27% vs. 15% of Black women).

The survey also asked about expressions of support since the coronavirus outbreak. About half of Black adults (51%) say someone has expressed support for them because of their race or ethnicity during this period, more than any other racial group. In particular, younger Black adults say they received this support (55% vs. 44% among those ages 50 and older). This survey was conducted at a time when Americans were following news coverage of George Floyd's killing while in custody of Minneapolis police nearly as closely as they were following news related to COVID-19.

Sizable shares of Black and Asian adults say they worry other people might be suspicious of them if they wear a mask in public

About four-in-ten Black Americans (42%) and 36% of Asian Americans say they worry a great deal or a fair amount that other people might be suspicious of them because of their race or ethnicity if they wear a mask or face covering when in stores or other businesses. About a quarter of Hispanic adults (23%) and just 5% of white adults say they worry about this.

Despite these concerns, majorities of Black (69%) and Asian (80%) adults – as well as white (62%) and Hispanic (74%) adults – say they've worn a mask or a face covering all or most of the time in the past month when out in stores or other businesses.

Black men and women are about equally likely to say they worry that other people might be suspicious of them because of their race or ethnicity if they wear a mask or a face covering in stores or other businesses. About four-in-ten in each group say they worry at least a fair amount, with 21% of Black men and 16% of Black women saying they worry a great deal (this 5 percentage point difference is not statistically significant).

Concern among Black adults varies considerably by age. About half of Black Americans younger than 50 (51%) say they worry about people being suspicious of them because of their race or ethnicity if they wear a mask or face covering; 30% of Black adults ages 50 and older say the same.

Three-in-ten or more U.S. adults say racist views about Asian and Black Americans are more common than before the pandemic

A majority of Asian Americans (58%) and 45% of Black Americans say that it is more common for people to express racist views toward their group since the coronavirus outbreak. Smaller shares of Hispanic (21%) and

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Experienced

Continued from page 10

white (18%) Americans say the same about people expressing racist views toward people who are Hispanic or white, respectively.

Age and education are linked to differing perceptions of whether racist views toward Asians are now more common. About half of younger adults ages 18 to 29 (51%) say that racist views about Asian people are more common now since the coronavirus outbreak, compared with about four-in-ten or fewer among those in older age groups. Those with college degrees or more (47%) also are more likely than those with some college or less education (35%) to say the same

Democrats and those who lean Democratic (52%) are more likely than Republicans and Republican leaners (25%) to say that it is more common for people to express racist views about Asian Americans since the coronavirus outbreak. This partisan gap is narrower when it comes to views about whether it is now more common for people to express racist views about people who are Black (33% of Democrats vs. 27% of Republicans say this) or Hispanic (18% vs. 8%). Meanwhile, Republicans (23%) are more likely than Democrats (16%) to say that it is more common for people to express racially insensitive views about white people.

[PEW surveyed 9,654 US adults between June 4-10, 2020 from PEW's American Trends Panel. The panel is notably limited in AAPI representation, but the survey is weighted to be representative by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories.]

Current Issues

Mercy General Hospital/Dignity Health's Black health workers protested in July against management's failure to take any action against employees and managers who used racist language (including calling an employee a monkey), intimidation, and forbid employees from wearing Black Lives Matter face masks.

Juan Tang, a 37 year old cancer researcher, made her first federal court appearance in July. Charged with visa fraud and concealing alleged ties to the Chinese military. Tang entered the US on December 27, 2019 to study with UCD Medical School Dept. of Radiation Oncology. She completed her UCD studies at the end of June. Tang was funded by the Chinese Scholarship Council which administers the exchange program with UCD which promises up to 20 PhD fellowships. The exchange program has brought in about \$5 million to the university over the past 8 years. Tang is one of four visiting Chinese researchers recently charged with visa fraud

Assembly Bill 979 would require the 600+ publicly held companies in California to have at least one person on color on their corporate board. Introduced by Assembly members Chris Holden (D-Pasadena) and Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Garden). Holden believes that many corporations needed to be prodded into racially diversifying their boards.

CSU students, beginning in 2023, will be required to take an ethnic studies or social justice course to graduate. The CSU trustees adopted that proposal in July to thwart pending legislation which focused only on Native American, African American, Asian American and Latino studies. (916) 930-0626 The adopted requirements also includes gender, sexuality, religion, immigration status, ability and age

Oregon's Chinese Mining Sites are disappearing with each forest fire. A team of US Forest Service employees, archaeologists and volunteers are part of the Oregon Chinese Diaspora project trying to preserve and document Chinese history in Oregon's gold country. At one point 40% of the residents of Grant County (central Oregon) were Chinese. Artifacts being dug up and preserved are glass fragments from China, pieces of pottery, and food tins repurposed as sieves, water filters and mining tools. Stone walls, bones, rubber boot soles have been found in the Malheur National Forest (eastern Oregon). Aqueducts crisscrossing mountains for miles, streams diverted, rock piles "tailings," and deep miles-long ditches may survive the massive fires now burning. LIDAR images taken from low flying planes have helped map these ground elevations. The archeologists believe there were 7000-8000 acres worked by Chinese owned mining companies during the Gold Rush. The Forest Service is obligated to protect any archeological sites. Source: Oregon Public Broadcasting, Nov 5, 2019

Hate motivated graffiti continues to plague UC Davis: September 23, 2019-Neo Nazi and white supremacist flyers were found at Mark Hall and the Mathematical Sciences building. October 30, 2019-racist slurs were spray painted on the 6th floor of the Social Sciences building. March 17, 2020="The Chinese Communist Party = a danger to society" with a drawing of a surgical masked man was spray painted on a shipping container at Toomey Field.

CARE Collaborative Approach for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Research and Education is a registry of AAPI interested in participating in research. For this registry you need to be AAPI, 18 years old or older, can speak or read English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese or Korean. Register to participate on the registry and get a \$10 gift card from the study team! Info: <https://careregistry.ucsf.edu/>

Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) Act (S 1050, HR 2358) was signed into law by President Trump in December 2018 creating a medal specifically recognizing the approximately 20,000 Chinese American veterans of World War II, approximately 1300+ are in California. Chinese American Citizens Alliance campaigned for the legislation. In 2019, Congressional Gold Medals were presented to Filipinos and Filipino Americans who fought in WWII in a similar recognition program; about 260,000 Filipinos fought in WWII.

AAPI landmarks currently being considered for state historic designation by the California State Historical Resources Commission at their August 14th meeting included **Vernon School** (Verona, Sutter County)-Established as a gateway to the gold fields, Vernon (later Verona) became a fishing village populated by Native Hawaiians brought to California by John Sutter as laborers. The 1863 building just north of the confluence of the Feather and Sacramento rivers was constructed in a simplified Folk Victorian style of wood boards nailed to a wood frame, on

wood piers with concrete footings. A community resource, the schoolhouse was also used for church services and other meetings. **Nisei VFW Post 8985** (Sacramento, Sacramento County) -The one-and-two-story International Style building located in downtown Sacramento was designed by A.E. Kimmel and Roy Swedin. The building was constructed as the Flower Garden, a restaurant operated by Black entrepreneur Phelix Flowers, and also functioned as a lodge for African American Elks Club members. In 1954, the building was purchased by Sacramento's Japanese American Citizens League for use as a VFW post established by Japanese American veterans. **Harada House** (Riverside, Riverside County) -This two-story residence was built sometime before 1887 and purchased in 1915 by Jukichi Harada, a Japanese immigrant. The house became the subject of a 1918 landmark Superior Court decision granting the Harada family the right to own the property, challenging an anti-immigrant and racist property ownership law that forbade immigrants from Asia from owning property in California. The property is a National Historic Landmark and is significant for its association with Jukichi Harada, who had a profound influence on the history of California. For a full list and description of nominees, visit ohp.parks.ca.gov/ pending



Over 1,000 anti-Asian reports in California

The Sacramento Bee's AAPI weekly newsletter, Sept 17, 2020

The Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center received 1,116 reports of anti-Asian discrimination in California between March and July this year, according to a Thursday report.

As of August 5, 2,583 incidents of anti-Asian discrimination nationwide have been self-reported to the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center since March. More than 40% of those reports are from California, with 174 of those reports coming from California youths between the ages of 12 and 20.

Of the types of discrimination reported, verbal harassment and name calling were the most frequent, making up about 70.6% of incidents nationwide. Chinese people were the most likely to report discrimination at about 40.4%, followed by Koreans at 15.7%.

Anonymous reporters recalled incidents ranging from children being mocked in class for having the "corona touch" to being spit on and sprayed with Lysol in public.

"A white woman in an SUV mounted the curb to try and run over one of my family members, who was just out taking a walk for exercise," wrote one person from Thousand Oaks. "This woman saw that they were Asian, pulled over, started yelling and spitting at us, drove off, then turned around and tried to run them over with her car."

<https://stopaapihate.org>

How to talk to your Asian immigrant parents about racism

Article Source: NBC News, June 11, 2020

By Sakshi Venkatraman

“In Asian families, there’s a lot of this rhetoric of ‘don’t make waves’ and ‘respect your elders.’ Having a conversation where you will make waves and challenge your elders is the first barrier of entry,” one expert said.

Kat, a 24-year-old New Yorker, has been talking to her parents about racism since she was 11. As she grew up and made friends of different backgrounds, she says she became more acutely aware of their colorist and anti-black remarks.

“This was really traumatizing for me,” Kat, who chose to use a pseudonym for this article, told NBC Asian America.

After tearful, frustrating conversations, Kat said, she realized she needed to take a different approach. She considered the fact that her parents, Chinese immigrants to Malaysia who didn’t finish high school, may have lacked awareness and been subjected to white supremacy throughout their lives. So she educated herself about systemic racism and about her parents’ background. Though things aren’t perfect, she says, she’s made progress

“It’s exhausting, but I feel like we’re getting there,” she said.

For Asian Americans across the country, the past two weeks of protests and collective rage after the killing of George Floyd while in the custody of Minneapolis police have been an opportunity for self-reflection. Conversations have ignited because one of the officers arrested for Floyd’s death is Asian American. Many who are marching, donating and speaking out on social media have recognized that doing their part to support black communities involves untangling the deeply rooted anti-blackness in their own. And what has dominated the timeline for young Asian Americans looking to be active in the movement is one plea: talk to your families.

“We have a responsibility to contend with the internal anti-blackness in our own communities,” Deepa Iyer, a lawyer and activist, said. “We have to have those conversations with our uncles and aunties and in the WhatsApp group.”

While starting at the dinner table might seem like a good step, young Asian Americans trying to uproot generations of biases often run into roadblocks.

“In Asian families, there’s a lot of this rhetoric of ‘don’t make waves’ and ‘respect your elders,’” said Yuki Yamazaki, a psychotherapist studying Asian Americans and colorism at Fordham University. “Having a conversation where you will make waves and challenge your elders is the first barrier of entry.”

Yamazaki and other experts say young people seeking to challenge biases in their

families and communities are often met with generations of deeply rooted beliefs, sometimes formed in their home countries under a white imperialistic influence.

“When we look at the history of the subcontinent where South Asian immigrants are from or originally from, you have colonialism and long legacies of internalized notions of beauty and worth attached to skin color,” said Monisha Bajaj, a professor of international and multicultural education at the University of San Francisco.

Even those who spent their childhood or young-adulthood in the United States have been implicitly fed anti-blackness because “we live in a system that is racist,” Yamazaki said.

“From the language that people might be growing up with to implicit biases like ‘Oh, I won’t go into that neighborhood because it’s dangerous’ is often the euphemism for ‘it’s a black neighborhood,’” Iyer said.

These discussions can be difficult, so here, three experts and a young person share how to begin, while also taking into consideration families’ lived experiences in their home countries and in the U.S.

Be humble and realize you need to educate yourself first

It’s no use going into a conversation with family members not fully informed yourself. Don’t just say “systemic racism” without knowing what it means. Presenting concrete evidence of structural racism and police brutality will make the stories, videos and articles easier to understand in a broader sense. Read and research and come into the conversations armed with knowledge of what you’re going to talk about. Consider that your parents and families simply might not know as much about U.S. history and the centurieslong history of anti-blackness if they weren’t educated here.

“It’s like making a case,” Iyer said.

Realize that you might be changing someone’s worldview

Racism should be met with rage, and seeing family display overt anti-blackness is rightfully enraging. But putting your emotions aside while you try to educate them can be the most effective approach, according to experts. It makes it so that “you’re in control,” Yamazaki said.

According to Kat, talking to her parents became easier when she put her anger aside.

“When people feel like their moral values are being judged and set of beliefs compromised, they automatically go into defense mode and stop trying to understand and learn,” she said.

Yamazaki said that police brutality and white supremacy might be hard to digest for an Asian immigrant parent who feels that they have

never directly experienced it. And blackness may not be in their worldview at all. Understanding their internal frustration might make it easier to communicate with compassion.

“You’re talking about something that’s going to inherently alter someone’s worldview,” she said.

Ask about their experiences with oppression and discrimination in their home countries and the U.S.

For many immigrant parents, views on government institutions, racism and white supremacy have been shaped by their experiences in their countries of origin. Work to understand the social and political situation they grew up in and how they still carry that with them.

“In my parents’ generation and older, there was a lot of government turmoil, political turmoil, colonization, decolonization, a lot of unstable government,” Yamazaki said. “So I think when you look back in your own family’s history, [you can see] how the government protected or didn’t protect or even fear-mongered.”

Kat said learning about the oppression her parents faced in their home country of Malaysia helped her understand their mindset when it came to whiteness and government institutions in the U.S.

“After reading up on how they were raised, how the British implemented divide and rule ... I could understand and empathize with my parents better,” she said.

If immigrant families are coming from a country with palpable corruption and disorganization, their instinct might be to trust a U.S. government and police force that, for the most part, has protected them.

Whether in their country of origin or in the U.S., it’s likely immigrant parents have experienced some type of discrimination. Even if they can’t understand the systemic oppression that black Americans have faced, use their experiences to help them empathize.

“Your family likely in some generation went through something, some hardship, and for a lot of Asian families it was because of race or culture or native language or specific ethnic group,” Yamazaki said. “What do they think of that? What did it feel like to have that taken away?”

For Kat, her mom’s personal experiences with xenophobia in the U.S. have been helpful in explaining the experience of other minorities.

“In Chicago, a white man said to me and my mom ‘this is not China’ when we spoke to each other in Cantonese,” she said. “She felt unsafe and discriminated against, and I said ‘this feeling you have right now, the feeling of being attacked for your identity, is exactly what

Immigrant parents

Continued from page 12

other minorities go through.’ My mom nodded in agreement and I felt like we were making progress.”

Explain the model minority myth

Though this may not be a task for your first conversation about race in the U.S., dismantling the model minority myth might help families understand how their own preconceived biases came to be.

“Asian Americans are fed this narrative,” Yamazaki said. “‘Look at Asian people, look at how well you’ve done.’ That narrative has been perpetuated by white people and internalized by Asian people.”

Though some Asians have long benefited from this idea, it’s a narrative designed to pit minority groups against one another, according to Iyer.

The stereotype was created to make geopolitical gains from the growing Asian immigrant population in the U.S. and wielded to stop black social movements, Ellen Wu, a historian and the author of “The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority,” told NBC Asian America last week.

White liberals in the 1960s weaponized the experiences of Japanese Americans post-internment, branding them as “success stories” and proof that people of color had equal opportunity. This tactic was employed as an attempt to weaken the civil rights movement, Wu said. Though it gave Asian Americans room for more social mobility than black Americans, it only fed into a system of white supremacy.

Speak from a personal and empathetic standpoint

“All conversations have two elements: the content itself and the delivery,” Yamazaki said. “That’s really different depending on who you’re talking to: grandpa vs. mom vs. older sister vs. dad. Knowing who you’re talking to and what you’re talking about are really key elements.”

Your family members care about you, so tell them why supporting the protests and learning about anti-blackness is something so important to you.

“I realized that whenever I brought up my personal experiences with racism, they were more inclined to listen to me finish. I realized it was harder to get my parents to empathize and care for others, but it was a lot easier to make them care about my experiences because they care about me,” Kat said.

It’s not just one conversation. Follow up

“We need to rally ourselves and say ‘this probably won’t go well the first time,’” Yamazaki said. “Having that awareness before you go in will help you frame what you’re going to talk about.”

Take small steps. Centuries of systemic racism can’t be tackled all at once. Even just broaching the topic and why this is a relevant moment is an important first step.

“It’s not one conversation, it’s not one WhatsApp message,” Iyer said. “It’s a series of conversations and to be invested and committed to doing that could take some time.”

Make sure to consistently send along articles, videos, readings, etc. that could help their understanding.

Take care of yourself and understand your limitations

You’re likely not a therapist or an expert, and dismantling deeply rooted preconceptions in your family members is a large task that may not end up the way you imagine. Recognize the limitations in your knowledge and in your ability to sway your relatives. If tensions get too high and a conversation gets ugly, take a break. Pick it up again later. And if a relative refuses to be receptive, that presents another opportunity for self-reflection.

“If you get into a situation where it becomes combative, you also have to take care of yourself,” Bajaj said. “If that relationship doesn’t make sense to continue because it’s affecting your health and well-being, then it may make sense to cut it off, as well.”

Current Faces, New Places

Yu Ben Meng, CalPERS Chief Investment Officer, resigned in August for health and family reasons having served in the position for less than two years.

Kelly Marie Tran will be the first Southeast Asian actress to lead in a Disney animated film “Raya and the Last Dragon,” slated for release in March 2021. Trans previously appeared in Star Wars: The Last Jedi and Rise of Skywalker. She hopes that film will allow SE Asians feel “seen” on the big screen. She will voice the princess Raya’s journey to find the last dragon to save her kingdom. The dragon race had previously sacrificed themselves to save humanity.

Collin Morikawa, 23 year old from LA, won his first major 2020 PGA Championship in August and this victory came in his first full year in professional golfing. 15 months ago, Morikawa was attending UC Berkeley.

Asian Bar Assn of Sacramento Foundation 2020 scholarships were awarded to Nathalie Nguyen (Lincoln Law School), Kerry Sherman (UCD King Hall), Vannalee Cayabyab (UCD King Hall), and Jacqueline Nguyen (UCD King Hall).

Sacramento City Manager Howard Chan’s home was the site of a sit-in demonstration on July 22. The protestors claimed that Chan allowed rogue police remain on the police force.

Dr. Khoa Lam, on July 10 around 6pm was walking around his parent’s apartment complex-Moore Village in Davis - talking with his wife on FaceTime when a white women told him he didn’t belong here and needed to leave. He told her that his parents lived there. Lam decided that he was being “Karen-ed” and started

recording the exchange. (“Central Park Karen” incident in May involved the white woman with the unleashed dog who called the police falsely reporting that the Black man/birdwatcher was threatening her.) The woman didn’t like Lam video recording her and said she was going to call the police. A nearby man approached Lam and called the police complaining that Lam was taking photos of homes, was very standoffish and refused to answer questions. Two police officers arrived and lectured Lam on perspective and handled the situation poorly based upon the police chief’s investigation which identified the racial profiling by the civilians and the need for training his officers to avoid bias by proxy. Chief Pytel apologized to Lam and promised to institute appropriate bias training.

UCD Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies

received a \$1 million in state funding to work in Filipino research studies, advocacy and education. Launched in 2018, the center builds on the work of the Welga Digital Project, an initiative led by Dr. Robyn Rodriguez, chair of UCD Asian American Studies and Director of Archives and Public History Jasso Armento to document and preserve Filipino American history including the California farmworker movement and the Delano Grape Strike. The funding will also support a wide scale survey of Filipino health and wellbeing in California.

UC Davis wins \$190,000 grant for K-12 teacher education on Chinese American history. The grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities will train 72 teachers and help them design curriculum. Dr. Robyn Rodriguez (Asian American Studies chair) and Stacy Greer (The History Project) will co-direct the workshop. NEH awarded another \$60,000 to UCD Art history professor Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh for her study of Ani, a medieval Armenian city.

Grace Kim received the 2020 Outstanding Service Award from the Sookmyung Girls High School Alumnae Association.



ABOUT CURRENTS

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Finding Samuel Lowe

Paula Madison's Personal Crusade to Tell the History of Chinese in the Caribbean

By gracehwanglynch

"If we have the African diaspora teamed with the Asian diaspora, we would be unstoppable."

At age 58, Paula Madison was at the peak of her career—an NBC executive overseeing diversity and inclusion—when she decided to walk away from it all. She went in search of her grandfather, a Chinese merchant who settled in Jamaica. But this decision was anything but rash; everything she had accomplished to this point, including her career as a journalist and network brass, had been leading to this moment. Madison's vision for her life's work began much earlier, when she was just six years old.

When Paula Madison was a child, her mother Nell Vera Lowe—a statuesque Jamaican woman of Chinese and African ancestry—always emphasized that family was the most important thing in life. However, young Paula was confused. Her mother arrived in Miami on a plane and then boarded a train to New York alone and never looked back. Where was her family?

"I did ask her that out loud once, you know, she didn't answer me. She just was really sad. And then I realized in my six-year old brain that the sole reason for my mother's consuming sadness—her melancholy—was because she didn't have her family," Madison recounts. "So when I was six years old, I promised, 'I'm going to make my mother happy, I'm going to find her family.'"

One family member in particular—her paternal grandfather—captured Madison's imagination. All she knew about was that he was a Chinese merchant named Samuel Lowe, and that he left Jamaica to return to his homeland when her mother was a little girl.

"China's a big place. I don't know many Chinese people. How is this going to happen?" she wondered. Yet the seeds of this idea took root. The journey from Harlem to China would take decades, with many detours along the way. First stop: Vassar College, where Madison majored in history and Black Studies with a concentration in African and Caribbean Studies. Although the school didn't offer an Asian Studies major, she signed up for a course in Chinese history. As graduation neared, Madison applied to study journalism at Syracuse University's Newhouse School at the suggestion of a friend who admired her writing skills. Until then, she didn't even know Black people could be journalists. "I never saw people who looked like me on TV until later," says Madison. "And I never knew of any black journalists in newspaper until later still."

This interest in journalism again went back to Nell's influence. Nell—whose highest level of education was equivalent to elementary school—was a voracious reader of newspapers and used the New York Herald Tribune to teach Paula and her two brothers to read when they were just three years old.

So Madison began her career, moving from newspaper reporter to editor, then rising up the ranks of broadcast management. Her goal: to become financially secure and retire at



Nell Vera Lowe (with handkerchief) with her cousin George Barnes and unknown woman in New York.

age 58 to pursue her lifelong dream of finding her Chinese family.

Madison's older brother Elrick Williams amassed a fortune by starting an algorithmic trading company, trading at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. He eventually became CEO of The Africa Channel, in which the Williams family is the majority investor. As their search began, Williams—who also recognized the power of multimedia storytelling—suggested that the siblings film their journey. Madison initially balked. "It was very personal. It was going to put me in a light that I'm not used to being. And I'm used to being in charge," she explains. "I knew it was going to bring me to a puddle of tears."

The clues quickly fell into place, leading her to Jamaica, Toronto, and finally an emotional return to their ancestral village in China. In 2014, the documentary *Finding Samuel Lowe* premiered at the Venice Film Festival and was screened at CAAMFest the next year. Madison soon became a CAAM board member.

"Paula brings a valuable personal and industry perspective to CAAM," says executive director Stephen Gong. "She encourages us to be bold within our organization and challenges outsiders' notions of the Asian American community."

Madison now is active in the Hakka Chinese diaspora and a historian of Chinese in the Caribbean. She also spends weeks at a time in China each year, getting to know her extended relatives. At entertainment industry conferences, such as the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, she is an outspoken advocate for better Asian American representation. "We can't keep pointing to Crazy Rich Asians to prove to white people that we have money," she says. "That is not solely it." She especially wants to change the media's historical over-sexualization of Asian women and emasculation of Asian men. To do that, Madison believes Asian Americans need to become more united with each other—and with other marginalized groups—to confront racism directly, as in the Black Power movement of the

1960s and 70s. "If we have the African diaspora teamed with the Asian diaspora, we would be unstoppable," Madison declares.

We can't keep pointing to Crazy Rich Asians to prove to white people that we have money. That's not solely it.

One thing that excites Madison is finding out that *Finding Samuel Lowe* became a cult hit among communities of Asian men dating Black women. At a New York City screening, she was surprised when 80 people part of a meetup of couples fitting that demographic showed up. "This is the future," she told the crowd. "My grandparents are the past. This blending that's going to come from these people is not brand new." She points to other places, such as Trinidad and Cuba, that also have a long history of Chinese male workers and merchants marrying and starting families with African and Indigenous women.

Even with the success of the *Finding Samuel Lowe* documentary produced/directed by Hakka Chinese Jamaican filmmaker Jeanette Kong, Madison still felt like her ancestors had more to say. "I felt like I'd let (my Grandfather) and my mother down," she admits. "I needed to give them more time so they could be seen more holistically. I'd talked about them as too one dimensional. They appear to be just tragic figures. I thought if I wrote a book I could give them more voice."

On the heels of the film, she wrote a memoir elaborating on the process of finding her Chinese family. Madison's love of telling these stories continues. She is now working on a limited television series based on her grandfather and grandmother's love story, her parents' tumultuous marriage, and Paula and her brothers' coming of age in Harlem. The historical settings include Marcus Garvey's Jamaica, the Black Panther's and Nation of Islam's Harlem, and Guangzhou and Shenzhen China during the Sino-Japanese War. She plans to shoot in Harlem, Jamaica, and China with the culturally authentic casting of Chinese in China, as well as Black and Chinese Jamaicans.

You can watch *Finding Samuel Lowe* at home. Stream the film for free on Kanopy (with a participating library card), or rent it on many other services including YouTube, Amazon Prime, or iTunes.

Source: CAAM40 Storytellers, CAAMForward, April 16, 2020



Samuel Lowe with his arranged marriage Chinese wife Ho Swee Yin and three of his Jamaican-born children with a Jamaican woman other than Madison's mother.. c 1929

Asian Americans in the Boardroom

By Doug Chia, May 7, 2020

Throughout American history, there has never been a sense of urgency to increase the numbers of Asian Americans in corporate, professional, or civic leadership positions, despite their success in the upper-middle ranks of a multitude of fields, most notably medicine, engineering, and information technology. Asian Americans are still in the phase of breaking the color barrier, sometimes referred to as the “bamboo ceiling.” (e.g., Andrew Yang, Nikki Haley). Similarly, there has not been a sense of urgency to increase the numbers of Asian Americans in the boardrooms of the largest public company. Is that about to change?

Based on 2018 data from Deloitte and the Alliance for Board Diversity, the percentages of Fortune 500 company board seats held by people identified as African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino(a), and Asian/Pacific Islander were 8.6 percent, 3.8 percent, and 3.7 percent, respectively. That was up from 7.6 percent, 3.0 percent, and 2.1 percent, respectively, in 2010. Based on the latest estimates from the US Census Bureau, the percentages of people in the United States who identify as African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Asian represent 13.4 percent, 18.3 percent, and 5.9 percent, respectively. [1]

There is some evidence that Asian American women may be treated differently than Asian American men in director searches, resulting in Asian American women having relatively better recent success in board appointments. From 2016 to 2018, representation of Asian/Pacific Islander women on Fortune 500 boards increased by 38.6 percent, whereas the increase was 20.3 percent for Asian/Pacific Islander men. This may be attributable to the more deliberate and intense focus on increasing the number of women in corporate boardrooms. Board recruiters have explicitly said that Asian American men are treated as white males for purposes of director searches. This differentiation runs counter to the initiatives for more overall board diversity by the NYC Comptroller, Goldman Sachs, the US Congress, and others.

“Model Minority” Director?

The notion that Asians are the “model minority” group in America has long been perpetuated, and the basis, meaning, and impact of that term has been the subject of spirited debate within the Asian American community. Most conclude that this characterization stems from a blanket perception among Caucasians that Asian Americans work hard, are law-abiding and fiscally conservative, focus on and make sacrifices for their children’s education, and have imbedded cultural norms to accept subordinate positions and defer to higher authority. Often cited is the proverb used in several East Asian cultures, “The nail that sticks out gets hammered down,” to explain Asian Americans’ not drawing attention to themselves or vocalizing dissent.

The conventional wisdom of Asian Americans being the model minority should theoretically create the dynamic where Asian Americans become more attractive director

candidates, as scholars posit that boards are still for the most part hand-selected by their CEOs, and CEOs seek to populate their boards with directors who will most likely defer to the preferences of management. In addition, the fact that many potential Asian American director candidates can be found in the technology sector, or in technology-related roles at companies outside the technology sector, suggests there is a pool of Asian Americans who should be sought after by boards due to the increased demand for director candidates with technology, cybersecurity, blockchain, and artificial intelligence expertise and experience. The next wave of demand may very well be for medical and public health credentials should boards be expected to take a bigger role in overseeing the risks related to disease outbreaks post COVID-19, which demand should also result in the consideration of more Asian American director candidates from the medical and public health fields.

We have not seen any of these dynamics play out thus far. This may relate to Asians American being less likely to promote and advocate for themselves to the people seeking board candidates, such as board chairs, CEOs, chairs of board nominating committees, and director recruiters. As is the case with many highly sought-after corporate opportunities, people eager to be identified for director slates take affirmative steps to make their interest known and strategically interact with the those already on boards and those who can get them there. Some enroll in training programs on how to position oneself for a board seat opening and understand the job of a director. Asian Americans may be less likely to take those steps. Moreover, the dearth of Asian Americans in CEO and other c-suite positions at large public companies is a major structural barrier, as it is for other minorities and women.

Waiting Game

The diversification of boards is following the same pattern as the waves of civil rights efforts in American history. Women fought for and were able to successfully gain access to the ballot box during the early 20th century women’s suffrage movement. In the mid 20th century, African American leaders mobilized and achieved results in the face of extreme and violent resistance during the civil rights movement. From then on, the prominent voices for civil rights have mostly been African Americans and now Hispanics (although to a lesser extent). A national movement and well-recognized leaders for Asian Americans have yet to materialize.

The current shifts in board composition are following a similar progression. In the push for diversity in the boardroom, corporate leaders (e.g., Thirty Percent Coalition), investors (e.g., State Street Global Advisors), and policy-makers (e.g., California State Legislature) have focused more on pressing every public company board to have at least one female director and accelerate the replacement rate of board members to 50 percent women.

This is a logical strategy given the gender issue is binary, the data on the benefits of having women on boards are available (although not dispositive), and the ultimate outcome desired is clear (i.e., 50/50). On the other hand,

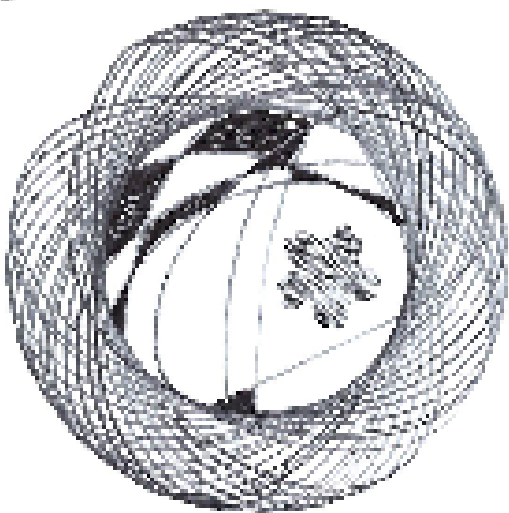
discussions over race and affirmative action in the United States very quickly become highly charged and political, and endless quandaries arise. Who is to identify a person’s race? What about people of mixed race and ethnicity? Which racial groups should benefit from affirmative action and why? What is the ideal proportion for each race? How are goals and quotas different? And, what about claims of “reverse discrimination”?

Progressive social change in the boardroom has always lagged behind the corporations themselves. Boards would rather resolve the more clear-cut issue before turning to the more complicated one fraught with reputational risk. For many boards, the former will be done out of expediency, but the later will be strongly resisted. As these dynamics play out, Asian Americans will be standing in line behind women, African Americans, and Hispanics for open board seats.

Endnotes

(1) The terms “African American/Black,” “Asian/Pacific Islander,” and “Hispanic/Latino(a)” used by Deloitte and the Alliance for Board Diversity, and “African American/Black,” “Asian,” and “Hispanic/Latino” used by the US Census Bureau include people from outside the United States who were not born and/or raised in the United States. The term “Asian Americans” as used by the author in this article refers only to people of Asian/Pacific Islander descent who were born and/or raised primarily in North America.

Douglas K. Chia is the President of Soundboard Governance LLC and a Fellow at the Center for Corporate Law and Governance at Rutgers Law School. Based in New Jersey, Soundboard Governance is an independent corporate governance consulting firm helping companies achieve sound board governance practices. With respect to #BlackLivesMatter, Chia says “Corporate leaders can demonstrate real leadership when the leadership we need from our political leaders is absent or misguided.”



Professor Chen wants to learn why 90% of Chinese women with lung cancer are non-smokers

UC Davis and UC San Francisco have received a \$3.35 million grant to study a health disparity that has perplexed researchers for years: Why Asian American women who never smoked tend to get lung cancer.

More than half of all Asian American women with lung cancer in the United States do not smoke.

“The phenomenon among Chinese is that lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death of Asian women, but nearly 90% of Chinese women with lung cancer have never smoked,” said UC Davis Health Professor Moon Chen, a nationally known expert in cancer health disparities.

“It’s an anomaly, it’s a mystery,” he said.

Chen is one of three principal investigators on the National Institutes of Health grant, awarded through the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. The other investigators are Professor Scarlett Gomez and Associate Professor Iona Cheng, both from the UCSF epidemiology and biostatistics department.

Chen, associate director of Population Research and Cancer Disparities with the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, said the study will be the largest of its kind in the United States. It will be known as FANS, short for Female, Asian American, Never Smokers Study.

Researchers will tap the California cancer registry to identify 600 women who are so-called never smokers and have lung cancer. That population will then be compared with 600 other Asian American women who don’t have lung cancer and are never smokers.

The study’s participants will be in the Bay Area, most of whom are of Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Filipino and Vietnamese descent.

When the two study groups are compared, researchers will look at the women’s lifestyle, environment, behavior and genomics.

While some studies in China attributed the disparity to the use of charcoal coals in cooking, Chen said it doesn’t explain the high cancer rate in the United States, where people cook with electric or gas stoves.

Chen’s best guess about the lung cancer disparity is that it’s potentially due to a genetic mutation. The goal of the study, he said, is to answer that question and then prevent lung cancer in never smokers.



Student group releases racial justice report on UCD School of Medicine

By Caleb Hampton, Davis Enterprise, August 5, 2020

Report card highlights successes and failures

Members of the UC Davis chapter of White Coats for Black Lives (WC4BL), a medical student-run organization working to dismantle racism in medicine, released a Racial Justice Report Card (RJRC) last week, scoring the UC Davis School of Medicine in 14 different categories related to racism.

The report card system was developed in 2018 by the national chapter of WC4BL “to allow medical schools to evaluate their school and larger institution on metrics of racial justice and equity.” Additionally, it was designed “to ensure public accountability” for academic medical centers.

The 2020 UC Davis report comes amid increased attention by the wider public to racism in medicine, particularly following the death of George Floyd earlier this year and the ongoing disproportionate harm of the coronavirus pandemic to Black and Latino communities.

“The intent of this report is to more specifically delineate which areas of racial justice are doing well and which provide opportunity for focused improvement,” the UC Davis report states. In each category, UC Davis was given a letter grade, with A being the highest grade and C the lowest.

UC Davis scored high on the proportion of underrepresented in medicine (URM) students in its student body. According to the report card, 19% of UC Davis medical students identify as Black or African American and 27% identify as Latino. The data used for the report card was not from the entire student body but only from 2019 graduates, the most recent matriculating class.

According to national data analyzed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Ph.D. candidate Davi da Silva, UC Davis is the only medical school in the United States where the percentage of Black and Latino students is equal to or greater than their share of the U.S. population. The vast majority of medical schools nationwide meet neither of those criteria.

Despite its diverse student body, UC Davis scored poorly on faculty representation. Roughly 2% of UC Davis Medical School faculty are Black. Another 2% are Latino.

UC Davis was given a high score for its recognition of URM students and alumni in the school’s physical spaces and for not celebrating racists or white supremacists in any statues, portraits or building names. The school’s Alumni Wall of Honor currently features California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, who has been at the forefront of the state’s coronavirus response.

The WC4BL student group gave UC Davis

a moderate grade for its anti-racism training and curriculum. All first-year medical students at UC Davis take a mandatory Health Equity Course and there are additional elective courses on racism in medicine. However, students reported that, outside of those courses, race is often handled irresponsibly. “The broader curriculum consistently uses race as an intrinsic, genetic risk factor and basis for diagnostic reasoning,” the report card states.

UC Davis ranked poorly in racial grading disparities. According to the report card, an evaluation done 10 years ago found potential bias in grading. Since then, UC Davis has not followed up with any other evaluations of possible racial bias in grading.

WC4BL gave UC Davis a moderate score on the support and resources available to URM students. There are lounge areas and designated safe spaces on campus, as well as support staff in the Office of Student and Resident Diversity. However, according to the report, UC Davis lacks mental health providers and peer counselors specifically equipped to serve URM students.

UCD was given a low grade in the “Campus Policing” category. In 2014, UC Davis set up a Police Accountability Board composed of students, staff and faculty. However, the board cannot make specific recommendation on disciplinary actions and disciplinary action taken by UCPD is not public record.

UC Davis also scored poorly on its treatment of marginalized patients. “Students are routinely given more independence when caring for marginalized patients,” the report states, adding that supervision was enforced less strictly at clinics that serve marginalized patients.

The UC Davis WC4BL chapter also reported the UC Davis Medical Center has failed to provide equal access for all patients. According to 2019 demographic data collected by the health system, the proportion of patients who received primary care services at UC Davis was just 5% Black and less than 3% Hispanic, while Sacramento’s population is 13% Black and 27% Hispanic.

The report card also noted that the UCD Medical Center has reduced the number of Medi-Cal patients it accepts for primary care in recent years. There are 424,238 Medi-Cal enrollees in Sacramento County, roughly half of whom are Latino. The number of Medi-Cal patients at UC Davis is currently capped at 5,000. The report recommends that the Medical Center remove all caps on Medi-Cal patients.

The full report is available online at https://health.ucdavis.edu/diversity-inclusion/PDFs/Racial-Justice-Report-Card_FINAL_2020.pdf.

Tech CEO Michael Lofthouse captured in video berating Asian family

CBS SF, July 7, 2020

A San Francisco tech CEO Michael Lofthouse issued an apology late Tuesday for his behavior captured on a viral video delivering vulgar and racist comments toward an Asian family celebrating a birthday at a restaurant in Carmel Valley.

In a statement issued to the media, Lofthouse said he lost control of his emotions.

“My behavior in the video is appalling,” the statement read. “This was clearly a moment where I lost control and made incredibly hurtful and divisive comments. I would like to deeply apologize to the Chan family. I can only imagine the stress and pain they feel. I was taught to respect people of all race and I will take the time to reflect on my actions and work to better understand the inequality that so many of those around me face every day.”

The video originally posted on Instagram shows a man cursing and gesturing with his middle finger at the family at the Bernardus Lodge and Spa’s Lucia restaurant.

Jordan Chan, the woman who posted the video, told KION the incident happened as her family was celebrating her aunt’s birthday on the Fourth of July and that man was insulting and harassing her family with racist language, saying, “F— you Asians,” “Go back to whatever f— Asian country you’re from” and “You don’t belong here.”

The video starts with the woman asking the man sitting one table over to repeat what he had just said to them. The man stares at the camera for a few seconds, then extends his middle finger and says, “This is what I say.”

The man then says, “Trump’s gonna f— you,” as he stood up to leave, followed by “You f— need to leave! You f— Asian piece of s—!” A server then immediately yells at him “No, you do not talk to our guests like that. Get out of here,” the waitress could be heard saying in the video.

A message to cloud computing firm Solid8 asking for a statement has not been returned and a message sent to an Instagram account apparently used by Lofthouse was not returned. In addition, his LinkedIn account appears to have been deleted and his Twitter account has been suspended.

“I’ve dealt with racism before but never on that scale,” Chan told KPIX 5. “Never on the level where somebody completely unprovoked felt obligated to voice their hatred for absolutely no reason.”

In a statement to KION, Bernardus Vice President and GM Sean Damery said, “This is an extremely unfortunate situation, however we are proud of our staff at Lucia in keeping with Bernardus Lodge’s core values; this incident was handled swiftly and the diner was escorted off property without further escalation. We provide guests with a safe environment for lodging and dining, and extend our sincere apologies to

the guests enjoying a birthday celebration on a holiday weekend.”

California Assemblymember Rep. Evan Low (D-Campbell) says Lofthouse’s behavior is not an isolated incident. Civil rights organizations say there is a rising tide of anti-Asian sentiment in the United States that’s crested and intensified during the coronavirus pandemic.

“What’s important is to call it for what it is. This is racism,” said Low. “And there’s a type of hate crime that’s too often associated with this. And there’s a fine line between that and free speech.”

Asian Law Alliance CEO Richard Konda says President Trump’s rhetoric and the language he’s used to describe the coronavirus has fanned the flames of bigotry towards Asian Americans.

“It was really disturbing that this would happen,” said Konda. “Unfortunately, our President has made it a hobby of using terms like ‘Kung Flu’ or ‘Chinese Virus’ or ‘Wuhan Virus.’”

Jordan Chan posted her commentary on Instagram:

(FYI he had a LOT more to say after I stopped recording) This is the face of the man who relentlessly harassed my family and it was completely UNPROVOKED, UNWARRANTED, and UNCONSCIONABLE. We were celebrating my tita’s birthday, literally just singing happy birthday to her and taking pictures, when this white supremacist starts yelling disgusting racist remarks at us. (“Fuck you Asians” “Go back to whatever fucking Asian country you’re from” “You don’t belong here.”) It is no coincidence that this man has the audacity to showcase such blatant racism on the 4th of July. White supremacy has a notorious habit of masquerading as patriotism! The fact that Donald Trump is our president (i.e. THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD) gives racists a platform and amplifies voices of hate. The surfacing of racists is so prevalent right now, even in such an ethnically/culturally diverse and liberal state like California, because Trump HIMSELF uses his position to incite racial tension and to promote aggression towards POC (people of color), foreigners, and immigrants. We need change! PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE VOTE THIS UPCOMING RE-ELECTION, PROTECT ALL PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF SKIN, COLOR AND ETHNIC ORIGIN.

- Bernardus Lodge and Spa’s Lucia Restaurant wait staff Gennica Cochran yelled at Lofthouse: “You don’t talk to a guest like that, you have to go now ... They are precious guests,” has been hailed as a local hero, and several GoFundMe accounts have raised thousands of dollars to acknowledge her leadership. The donations came from around the world.
- Solid8 is a cloud technology services company launched in 2017 and based in San Francisco.

- Linda Lofthouse, mother of Michael Lofthouse, apologized for his behavior, claiming that he is suffering from drug addiction and she has a daughter in law who is of Asian descent.
- Lofthouse claims he resigned as Solid8’s CEO, cut all working hours to avoid “a food impact on the people closest to me,” and would sign up for an anti-racism program immediately.

Filipinos, Pacific Islanders have high rates

LA Times in July reported that both Filipino Americans and Pacific Islanders are infected with and dying of COVID at alarming rates with very little attention.

For a variety of reasons, Filipino Americans have been hit hard by the novel coronavirus. People with roots in the Philippines account for about one-quarter of the Asian Americans in California, yet data compiled by The Times show that Filipino Americans account for at least 35% of COVID-19 deaths in the state’s Asian population.

Of 48 Filipino Americans known to have been infected with COVID-19 in Southern California, 19 have died, according to the Philippine Consulate General of Los Angeles. Although the data may be skewed by its small sample size, this puts Filipino Americans at a 40% mortality rate, significantly higher than the overall 3.7% mortality rate in the U.S., according to research by Johns Hopkins.

The Times research identified preexisting health conditions and occupational hazards among factors that contribute to the high number of Filipino American deaths. Most of those who died were older than 60, and many had diabetes and hypertension. Many were retired, living in multigenerational housing with their children or in nursing homes. Younger victims worked essential jobs, providing healthcare, working in law enforcement and at grocery stores.

Because the California Department of Public Health does not report ethnicity by Asian subgroups, it is difficult to identify more data about Filipino Americans. According to Dr. Melinda Bender from SF State University, Filipinos have relatively high rates of obesity, high blood pressure and heart disease, all of which are associated with more serious cases of COVID-19. They also have the “highest sedentary behavior of Asian Americans, and the Filipino diet is high in fat. All of these factors put Filipinos at risk.” The prevalence of asthma among Filipinos also increases susceptibility to a respiratory infection like the coronavirus.

In California, almost a fifth of registered nurses are Filipino, putting them at greater risk while on the frontlines in hospitals and nursing homes. They also tend to work in the ICU, acute care and surgical units, where COVID-19 patients are treated. This combination of working essential jobs while having underlying health

Filipino, Pacific Islander

Continued from page 17

conditions increases the risk of contracting more serious COVID-19 infections. The high number of Filipino Americans in healthcare goes back to the United States’ colonial history in the Philippines. Medical education in the Philippines was modeled after the American medical education system. In the 1960s, when there was a shortage of nurses in the United States, it was easy for American hospitals to recruit Filipino nurses who had learned nursing the American way.

In the Midwest, the Filipino Consulate in Chicago tracked 17 Filipino American deaths. Half of the victims had been working in healthcare. “Nursing intrinsically requires being in close quarters with patients, and there is no way you can do six-feet social distancing,” said Dr. VJ Periyakoil, the director at the Stanford Aging and Ethnogeriatrics Research Center, which examines ethnicity and health. Several generations of a Filipino family might live under the same roof, which can lead to difficulties isolating sick family members. According to Periyakoil, socioeconomic conditions are a big risk factor for Filipinos. “If you’re poor, your housing circumstances are going to be quite limited; there will be more people sharing the same space; you’ll be working on daily-wage or low-paying jobs, which require you to go into work,” she said. “When you’re forced to go into work, forced to be in contact, forced to take public transport, the nature of your finances imposes certain realities and restrictions on your daily life that put you at risk for higher stress and infections including COVID.”

A research brief published on Health Affairs reported that Asian Americans appeared to have a fatality rate from COVID-19 four times higher than that of the overall population. The article noted, however, that this result could be due to inadequate data on Asian Americans, no standardization of which “Asian American” ethnicities are included and the lumping of AAPI together. Recently, Pacific Islanders have been found to suffer the highest infection rate of any racial or ethnic group in Los Angeles County, but the data remain limited.

By July, nearly 1,400 Californians with ancestry in Hawaii, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga and other Pacific Islands have been infected with the coronavirus, which is sickening and killing members of the small but close-knit community in disproportionate numbers. In LA County, Pacific Islanders suffer the highest infection rate of any racial or ethnic group, more than 2,500 per 100,000 residents. That’s six times higher than for white people, five times higher than for Black people and three times higher than for Latinos, according to county health demographic data that exclude Long Beach and Pasadena, which have their own health departments.

Health experts say the reasons are similar to why Black people and Latinos are falling ill and dying at higher rates: reduced access to healthcare; higher levels of poverty; crowded housing; multigenerational households that make it more difficult to physically distance or quarantine; and higher rates of underlying health conditions that increase risk for severe illness from COVID-19, such as heart and lung disease, asthma and diabetes. Many Pacific Islanders also work in frontline jobs, such as food service, hospitality and healthcare, where

they are more likely to contract the virus and bring it home.

Community leaders that say the infection rate reflects the culture of Pacific Islanders which centers on large family gatherings, in-person church services, funerals and birthday celebrations that, in some cases, have continued despite orders to maintain social distance. Stigma and shunning from having to stay home or testing positive is also big in the Pacific Islander community. COVID survivors find that others are afraid to be physically in the same space. The fear of stigma causes many to avoid getting tested and trying to fight off the illness at home for too long.

“The shame factor of it is real,” said Dr. Raynald Samoa, an endocrinologist at City of Hope in Duarte who battled COVID-19 himself. “People are not getting their families tested. They’re not speaking out, they’re not getting identified because they’re afraid that they’re going to have to stay home from work or that it’s going to negatively impact their family.” Samoa said Pacific Islander groups assembled their own COVID-19 response teams and strategy and started messaging on Facebook and making other appearances to raise awareness.

California is home to nearly 317,000 Pacific Islanders, and more than 55,000 of them reside in LA County, according to census data. Those figures include people who identify as multiracial, which is common in the community. Statewide, Pacific Islanders have experienced infections and deaths at higher rates than most other groups, but the disparities aren’t as pronounced as they are in LA County. Their statewide infection rate is three times higher than that of white Californians, and 20% higher than Latinos’ infection rate, while their death rate is nearly 60% higher than that of white people but lower than that of Black residents.

Although numbers remain small overall — California has reported 35 deaths and 1,389 confirmed cases among Pacific Islanders as of July 15 — they reveal an outsize toll on a community that already experiences higher rates of underlying health conditions. Sixteen Pacific Islander residents in LA County have died which is a rate of 83 per 100,000 people — twice as high as white and Latino county residents. Health officials say they are not surprised by the high rates of illness.

The county Health Department has examined statistics on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders from the beginning of the epidemic but did not initially report them to protect confidentiality “due to the low numbers of reported cases and deaths.” In April, LA County health officials began releasing that data at the urging of Pacific Islander community groups who felt real data would get their community’s attention to take the pandemic seriously. Pacific Islander leaders began pushing officials, county by county, to release data on their community rather than lumping them together with Asians. The disaggregated statistics have been a big talking point in pushing the Pacific Islander community to comply with social distancing, testing and wearing masks.

With the partial reopening and recent surge in cases, “It’s going to be twice as hard to quarantine and try to get tested,” Alisi Tulua said. “While it’s flattening for other people, it’s still climbing in our community. If we bring it home, maybe we’re OK, but our parents will

suffer. And if we’re not careful, we’re going to kill off a whole generation of our people.”

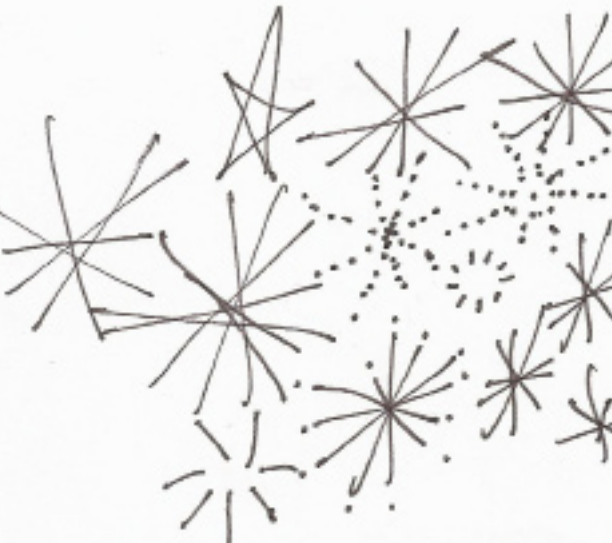
LA County Health Department has been working with Pacific Islander groups to create “culturally relevant and sensitive materials” that resonate with the community. That includes “tailored outreach” with educational graphics that will be shared on social media in the Tongan, Samoan, Chamorro and Marshallese languages, public service announcement videos featuring Tongan, Samoan and Chamorro community leaders and photos of Pacific Islander families wearing masks. Those materials are being distributed to community leaders.

When 26 year old Pele Ili became the only healthy adult in his household (2 sick parents, sick brother, healthy 12 year old brother), he started posting on Instagram and Youtube encouraging others to take the stay-at-home orders seriously. Pele said, “I was naive to think this couldn’t touch my family. I was ignorant to think that me feeling healthy meant that I was okay to attend a few small gatherings but little did I know my house was compromised,” Pele wrote on April 12. “This could happen anywhere, anytime, and to anyone whenever you’re not home. No one is above this.” He also comments on combatting the stigma of getting sick, “Pacific Islanders have this sense of pride, where they can take care of themselves and they want to keep everything in house, you know, just to not draw as much attention on our family.” But he found it to be one of the most overwhelming and emotional times of his life. “There were times where I didn’t know if they were ever gonna come back out,” he said. “They could barely talk. And I think the hardest part was just not knowing what was going to happen.”

Churches are the heart of many Pacific Islander communities/villages and present additional exposure because village and church leadership is not promoting compliance with masks and social distancing. Some pastors, but not all, have been livestreaming Sunday services. Some families have become creative in staying connected, like having a fixed weekly Zoom prayer hour with local and out-of-state family members. Universal compliance to the public health orders is lacking.

Many are speaking at webinars urging other Pacific Islanders who may be feeling symptoms to get tested and seek medical help. The hardest part for Pacific Islander culture is admitting you need help, when in reality you could be helping someone else, or saving a life by seeking medical attention earlier.

Source: Los Angeles Times, July 19, 2020, July 21, 2020



AAP1 voters could make a difference in 2020

By Albert Hunt, The Hill, July 29, 2020

Asian Americans — relatively affluent, well-educated, entrepreneurial — voted heavily Republican. That was for George H.W. Bush 28 years ago. For Republicans, it has been all downhill since.

The fastest growing sector of the American electorate, the number of eligible Asian American voters has more than doubled since 2000. They will vote overwhelmingly for Joe Biden and other Democrats this November, experts on Asian American politics say. They could make the difference in a handful of swing states.

“Rarely in American history has a voting group shifted so quickly from one party to the other as have Asian Americans,” writes Tom Patterson, the Benjamin C. Bradlee Professor of Politics at Harvard’s Shorenstein Center. He is the author of a new book, “Is the Republican Party Destroying Itself?”

This seismic shift and its significance are a telling story about contemporary politics. Donald Trump, with his insulting rhetoric and anti-immigration policies, has accelerated the Republican problem, but it began well before 2016.

Asian Americans comprise almost 6 percent of the U.S. population and close to 5 percent of eligible voters. Before the 1965 pro-immigration legislation they were 1 percent.

It’s a diverse group. Chinese Americans and Indian Americans are the largest, while those with Vietnamese and Philippine heritage are the most conservative, though even they have become less Republican.

Karthick Ramakrishnan, a political science professor at the University of California at Riverside, has studied these voting patterns, drawing on extensive surveys from APIA Vote. He tells me much of the Republican problem is self-created. “In polls the top issues are always ones like health care, education, even gun control. Immigration is never one of the top three, but it’s very important in shaping their views of politicians and parties.”

For new arrivals, the signals Republicans have sent for a quarter century have been “largely negative,” he says.

More pointedly, Tom Patterson observes the Republicans’ message to Asian Americans has been “they are not really welcome here.”

Starting with Pete Wilson in the 1994 California Governor’s race, Republicans have been branded as the anti-immigration party. Wilson’s immigrant-bashing won that race, but alienating Latinos and Asian Americans enabled Democrats to dominate the state for the past several decades. Despite the efforts of a few — like President George W. Bush and the late John McCain — Republicans nationally have taken on that Wilson mantra.

There are efforts by some right-wingers to appeal to Asian American voters on affirmative action. Critics charge that some elite universities and colleges discriminate against high-achieving Asian American applicants to favor other minorities. That’s the core of a lawsuit against Harvard University. A federal judge ruled against the plaintiffs who are expected to appeal all the way to the Supreme Court.

Yet polling by APIA found the majority or plurality of every Asian American group thought affirmative action in college admissions was a “a good thing.”

Politically, the question is how much these voters might affect the November outcome and where.

Another expert, Taeku Lee, a political scientist at the University of California at Berkeley, told me the “rising tide” of this vote “is not limited to coastal blue states.” The largest concentration are in reliably Democratic Hawaii, California, New York and New Jersey.

Professor Lee, however, cites several swing states where Asian Americans could spell the difference. In Georgia and Arizona, the numbers of Asian-Americans have soared in the last decade and this year will comprise about 4.5 percent of eligible voters. It’s about 3.5 percent in Florida and North Carolina.

These states, carried by Trump in 2016, all are in play this fall.

Democrats have a couple concerns. One is whether the pandemic limits their outreach. Another is the chronic issue of turnout. For all their success, Asian Americans have been less engaged in the civic and political arena than most.

However, according to APIA, in the 2018 midterms Asian Americans, while still voting at a lower rate than whites or Blacks, of showed a huge increase in turnout from the previous midterms. Ramaskrishnan anticipates a “record high level turnout” in 2020 with a competitive year and “the polarizing effect of Trump.”

A simple rule in American politics: If people think you don’t like them, they don’t vote for you.

Al Hunt is the former executive editor of Bloomberg News. He previously served as reporter, bureau chief and Washington editor for the Wall Street Journal. For almost a quarter century he wrote a column on politics for The Wall Street Journal, then the International New York Times and Bloomberg View. He hosts 2020 Politics War Room with James Carville.



Yolo County waives fees to fix offensive restrictive land covenants

State law authorizes a person who holds an ownership interest of record in property that is the subject of a racially or otherwise unlawfully restrictive covenant to record a Restrictive Covenant Modification document to have the illegal language stricken (Government Code §12956.2). This law exists because before it became illegal to do so, many CC&Rs were recorded with language that today is outdated and inappropriate.

On August 25th, Yolo County Assessor/Clerk-Recorder Jesse Salinas with Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that fees related to filing those documents would be waived in the future.

Prior to 2005 homeowners who found restrictive covenants on their property based on race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, familial status, marital status, disability, national origin, source of income, or ancestry had to apply to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing to have the language voided. In 2005, Assembly Bill 394 changed the process allowing homeowners to record a Restrictive Covenant Modification with the County Recorder, upon verification by County Counsel that the language in the covenants violated state and federal fair housing laws. Assembly Bill 394 also stated that the County Recorder “may choose to waive the fee prescribed for recording.”

The Assessor/Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters along with the District Attorney are informing the public of their intent to officially waive the County’s Recording Fee and the District Attorney Fraud Prevention Fee which are normally charged to the Restrictive Covenant Modification. At the Yolo County Board of Supervisors meeting on August 4th, the Board of Supervisors thanked Salinas and Reisig for their proactive efforts and unanimously agreed to permanently waive the county imposed fees.

Salinas stated, “It is alarming that in 2020 we still have language in covenants that is discriminatory in nature. Our office researched what we could do and how we could remove the language from these covenants and shared it with Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig. He was completely on board and wanted to work as quickly as possible to waive these locally generated fees. Unfortunately, Yolo County cannot waive any State related fees to these documents, but we will be working actively with our legislative partners to address this issue in the future.” Reisig echoed Salinas’ statement and added, “We have a moral obligation to do what we can to remove the remnants of hate, discrimination and intolerance from these official recorded documents. Thank you to Jesse Salinas for his leadership on this important issue.”

If your CC&Rs contain racially or otherwise unlawfully restrictive covenants, the Yolo County Clerk-Recorder’s Office will work with you to prepare and record a Restrictive Covenant Modification as well as waive the standard fees associated with recording this document. For more information, contact the Yolo County Recorder’s Office at (530) 666-8135, or clerk-recorder@yolocounty.org. The Recorder’s Office is located at 625 Court Street, Room 104, in Woodland and is open Monday – Friday, 8am-4pm.

CALENDAR

Sept 25-28 **Jan Ken Po Gakko Virtual Arts and Crafts Fair.** 4 exciting days of online shopping at <https://www.jankenpogakko.com>

Sept 26 Sat **75th Anniversary WWII Chinese American G.I. Honor Event**, honoring Chinese American Veterans from the Golden State. 1-2pm. WWII Chinese American veterans will share their personal stories. Program also includes Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, Rep. Ted Lieu, Rep. Judy Chu, Governor Gavin Newsom, American Legion Cathay Post, and a premiere clip from “We Served with Pride” by Emmy nominated Montgomery Hom. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/ChiAmGICeremony>

Sept 29 Tue **CSUS Convocation: Advancing Out Commitment to Antiracism.** Keynotes: Ibram X Kendi (Boston U), Shaun Harper (USC). Plenary Speakers: Robert Nelsen (CSUS president), Diana Tate Vermiere (VP), Noah Marty (Associated Students Inc).

Sept 29 Tue **APSEA Virtual Networking Event.** 6-7pm by ZOOM. Register through Eventbrite.

Sept 30 Wed **“Official” last day to complete the 2020 Census.** You may get a reminder by email (from “2020census@subscriptions.census.gov”), a phone call from a Census-Bureau issued phone, or a knock on your door (between 9am-9pm, enumerators will have ID badges, car identification, and Census issued iPhones). If not sure if you completed the form already, do it again - the Census will weed out duplicates! The lawsuit to retain the original October 31 “last day” will be decided on Sept. 24..

Sept 30 Wed **Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute 23rd Gala (Virtual).** 530-630pm at. 2020 Civic Leadership Honoree Maeley Tom. Founded in 1997, APALI is a leading Silicon Valley/Bay Area nonprofit civic leadership organization with a mission to recruit, train, convene, mentor and nurture a pipeline of socially-conscious and effective civic leaders. Free registration at eventzilla.

Oct 8 Thu **Chinese for Affirmative Action Virtual 51st Celebration of Justice.** Info: Lanlian Szeto lszeto@caasf.org, coj@caasf.org

Oct 9 Fri **Chinese American Council of Sacramento Foundation FEED event.** Free box lunch to guests invited through My Sister’s House, St. John’s Women’s Center, Sacramento Community Service Center, TOFA and Hui O’Hawaii. Info: Karun Yee 916/591-8181

Oct 10, Nov 21, Dec 12 **Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation “Curbside Pick-Up Dinners” fundraisers.** Oct-Chow Mein, Fried Rice, Lumpia \$12, Nov-Crab, Fried Rice \$50, Dec-Chicken, rice, corn, salad \$12. Pre-order only at www.sasfevents.org, 916/391-6000

Oct 13 Tue **APSEA and Assn of California State Employees with Disabilities’ Virtual Workshop: “Current Trends in Equal Opportunity and Viewpoints on California’s Prop. 16.”** 530-7pm. To attend, check www.APSEA.org - “APSEA at a Glance” for registration details.

Oct 14-18 **Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) CAAMFest FORWARD** film event. Info: events@caamedia.org

Oct 15 Thu **Unity Bar Virtual Gala.** 2020 ABAS Unity Bar scholarships will be awarded at this event.

Oct 24 Sat **My Sister’s House Run for a Safe Haven annual fun run.** Info: 916/930-0626

Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum still bad

The July 2019 hearing of the first draft of the state’s proposed Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum drew intense criticism and forced state officials to order a rewrite. Of 21,000 comments, 18,000 asserted that the section on Arab American history with reference to Israeli oppression of Palestinians was one sided or prejudiced.

On August 13, 2020 the staff rewrite of the curriculum was presented to the State Board of Education which starts a one month public comment period. The goal is to have the model curriculum - a high school guide, not a mandated curriculum with sample lesson plans - adopted by March 2021. Last year, as the 2019 draft was being dumped, Assemblyman Jose Medina (D-Riverside) withdrew his bill requiring ethnic studies to be a high school graduation requirement

The new document is more moderate and inclusive, encourages classroom discussion of all students’ ethnicities and family background, but still has deficiencies. The draft continues to be focused on four ethnic and racial groups - African American, Chicano and Latino, Native American and Indigenous people and Asian Americans. In February, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond announced that the four groups would continue to be the focus and claimed that the intervening Black Lives Matter protests reaffirmed his decision. In response to the first draft, Sikh, Korean and Jewish Americans and other ethnic groups called for inclusion of their heritage and immigrant stories. These suggestions were opposed as watering down the curriculum and impossible with classroom time constraints.

The Critical Ethnic Studies Association (CESA) is identified as having had too much control over the development and rhetoric of the original draft. CESA’s stated goals include organizing a movement around critical ethnic studies and “develop(ing) a critical ethnic studies approach to scholarship, institution building, and activism driven by the spirit of the decolonial, antiracist, and other global liberationist movements that enabled the creation of Ethnic Studies, and which continues to inform its political and intellectual projects. CESA-type rhetoric is still pervasive in the curriculum.

Critics believe that the curriculum needs major re-working. The curriculum states that ethnic studies courses can help students learn to present their ideas in strong, compelling, jargon free language when the draft curriculum itself is still loaded with undecipherable jargon. The curriculum encourages teachers to focus on the history of the dominant ethnic group in their class which risks leaving their students unexposed to other groups. Expanding the curriculum to include other groups is needed - to ignore their history and contributions, students will get a warped education on what being an American means, how the nation was shaped and how to get along with others who look different. Muslim Americans, the latest vilified group, are demanding inclusion.

Comments can be submitted to ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov. The public comment period is September 1-30, 2020.

Ten Ways to Fight Hate: A Community Response Guide

Source: Southern Poverty Law Center

Hate in America has become commonplace. What can we do to stop the hate?

1. ACT. Do something. In the face of hatred, apathy will be interpreted as acceptance by the perpetrators, the public and worse - the victims. Community members must take action; if we don’t, hate persists. Pick up the phone, sign a petition, repair acts of hate-fueled vandalism, use whatever skills and means you have, be creative.

2. JOIN FORCES. Call on groups that are likely to respond to a hate event, also call on local law enforcement officials.

3. SUPPORT THE VICTIMS. Report every incident, speak to the press, research your legal rights.

4. SPEAK UP. Share this with media contacts you know, ask the media to consider that no meaningful dialogue can occur with the Klan, white-pride civic groups, “heritage” organizations, white supremacist, other extremist groups and that hate crimes and bias incidents must be taken seriously and reported prominently.

5. EDUCATE YOURSELF. A hate crime must be motivated by bias. A bias incident is conduct, speech, or expression that is motivated by bias or prejudice but doesn’t involve a criminal act.

6. CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE. Do not attend a hate rally. Every act of hatred should be met with an act of love and unity.

7. PRESSURE LEADERS. Form relationships with community leaders before a hate incident occurs, educate community leaders about the causes and effects of hate, demand a quick, serious police response, demand a strong public statement by political leaders, encourage leaders to name the problem, push leaders when they show bias or fail to act.

8. STAY ENGAGED. Hold candlelight vigils, interfaith services, and other activities, honor history and mark anniversaries, break bread together, move from prayer to action, begin a community conversation on race, consider building something (physical) that the community needs, and use it as an organizing tool, create a Facebook page or an online community discussion board celebrating diversity and inclusion.

9. TEACH ACCEPTANCE. [Bias is learned early, often at home.] Examine your children’s textbooks and the curricula at their schools to determine whether they are equitable and multicultural, expose your child to multicultural experiences by intentionally expanding your circle of friends and experiences, encourage your children to become activists, examine the media your children consume from internet sites to the commercials during their favorite TV shows, model inclusive language and behavior.

10. DIG DEEPER. Human rights experts recommend starting with the language we use and the assumptions we make about others. Many good books, films, and workshops can help guide you in self-examination.