

Currents

Asian American Pacific Islander Community Newspaper Serving
Sacramento and Yolo Counties-Volume 35, No. 2 Summer/June 2022

Gun violence shatters many communities

What can we learn from this past week of shootings across the country? Be prepared. Have empathy. Reach out for help or to assist. Run; hide; fight back as necessary. The issues are racism, gang violence and mental health.

Sunday May 15, Laguna Woods, CA (Orange County)- On May 15, David Weiwei Chou, 68, Las Vegas, an AAPI male, was arrested for the Geneva Presbyterian Church shootings. One person died, 5 were injured; their ages ranged from 66-92. Laguna Woods started as a retirement community and evolved into a city. The Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church congregation was having their weekly after-service luncheon and honoring their former

pastor Rev. Billy Chang who just returned from a 2 year mission to Taiwan. The congregation had been a sister congregation with Geneva for 5-6 years and regularly use the church facility. Chou had arrived before the morning service. He secured doors with chains, nailed some shut, tried to superglue locks and placed explosives around the campus. He fired a shot into the air and Dr. John Cheng tried to stop him, but was shot 3 times and died. When Chou stopped to reload, Rev. Chang used a chair as a weapon and others were able to detain and hogtie Chou's legs with an extension cord; they confiscated at least two 9 millimeter semi-automatic pistols (legally purchased in 2015 and 2017). Chou had additional magazines loaded with ammunition and 4 Molotov cocktail-like incendiary devices. Law enforcement have called Dr. Cheng, Rev. Chang and congregation's reaction "exceptional heroism and bravery" which saved the lives of the 30-40 people at the lunch. [Note: In the January 15, 2022 11 hour hostage standoff at Beth Israel Synagogue in Colleyville TX, Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker threw a chair at and distracted Malik Faisal Akram sufficiently for the rabbi and 2 other hostages to escape unharmed. Akram died at the scene.]

OFF THE RADAR: Chou had no obvious ties to the church but was noticed socializing and mingling with the congregation before he started shooting. In his car were notes written in Chinese stating that he did not believe Taiwan should be independent from China. His wife returned to Taiwan in December for cancer treatment. They are in the midst of a divorce. He was evicted in February from a building that he and his wife once owned. Chou worked intermittently as a security guard in Las Vegas.

Saturday May 14, Buffalo NY - Payton Gendron, 18, Conklin NY, a white male, at 230pm shot people in the parking lot and inside the Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo leaving at least 10 dead, all Black Americans - and injuring 3 more. Gendron live-streamed his shooting spree on the Twitch social media platform. While still at the store Gendron put his gun to his neck, but two officers persuaded him to surrender.

MISSED CLUES: Gendron was hospitalized for a psychiatric evaluation in 2021 after he turned in his Susquehanna Valley High School (Binghamton NY) senior project stating his plans after graduation was to commit a murder-

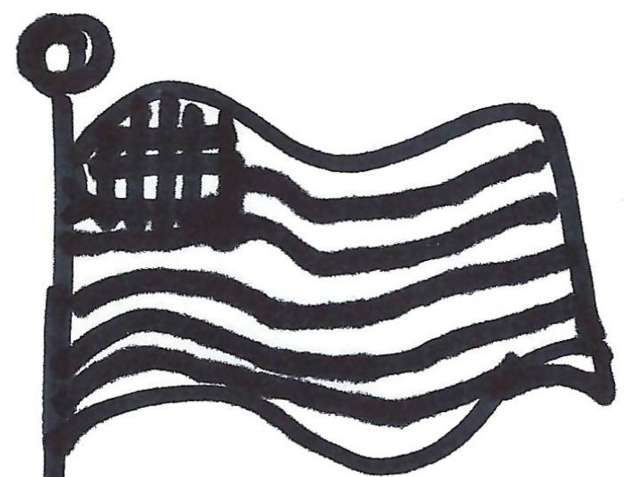
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Ukraine and abortion

AAPIs should care about Ukraine and abortion rights. Democracy needs to be protected here and abroad. No tyrannical country or state should infringe on voting rights, outlaw the right to make medical decisions, ban books, dictate their version of "history" or impose particular religious beliefs on others. That is what freedom is all about, right? Your comments are welcome.



suicide. He claimed it was a joke, but he was arrested and evaluated, released within a few days and graduated in June 2021. Then he dropped off law enforcement's radar. He posted a 180 page manifesto, describing his preparation for shooting Black people and his ideology that America should only belong to white people and that all others were "replacers" who should be eliminated by force or terror. He bought the Bushmaster semiautomatic rifle in Endicott NY a few months earlier and modified it himself to be an AR-15 assault rifle. In his car, he had also brought his Mossberg 500 shotgun (purchased in Great Bend, Pennsylvania in December 2021) and Savage Axis XP rifle (his father's Christmas 2020 gift).

Wednesday May 11, Dallas TX - On May 17, Jeremy Theron Smith, 37, a black male, was arrested in Dallas for assaults at Hair World Salon, a salon in the heart of Dallas' Koreatown, where three women (2 owners, 1 customer) were wounded with foot and arm injuries and admitted to health facilities. Smith did not demand money, but just came into the business to shoot people. Someone tried to lock the front door, but he entered before the door could be

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Gun violence shatters

Continued from front page

secured. Smith’s girlfriend told law enforcement that Smith was having delusions about Asian Americans after a car crash with an AAPI driver a few years ago - he believed that the Asian mob is after him or attempting to harm him. Smith had also been fired after verbally attacking an AAPI boss. His vehicle - a red/burgundy minivan - matches descriptions of a vehicle used in 2 other Dallas shootings on April 2 (in Koreatown) and May 10 (25 miles from the salon), both targeting AAPI businesses

Friday May 13, Milwaukee WI. 21 people shot in 3 different gun attacks near the downtown entertainment district where thousands had gathered for a NBA Bucks semifinal playoff (Bucks lost to the Boston Celtics). At 915pm, three people were shot in the Deer District (MLK and Highland)-a 16yo girl, 2 men (26, 29); a 19yo has been arrested. At 1030pm, a 20yo man was shot and injured on Water Street near Highland Avenue. The third shooting left 17 people shot in the Water Street Bar District (victims were 15-47yo); police believe a feud between two groups who encountered each other on the street started the shooting. All are expected to survive. Law enforcement is asking the public to share their digital media. Police so far have arrested 11 people (19-30yo), including 5 of the wounded and seized 11 handguns and rifles.

Sunday May 15, Winston-Salem, NC. Starting at 750pm, shooting started at Fairview Park (Bethlehem Lane) where 50 shell casings were found, then on US Highway 52 two victims were shot, followed by 25th St. where four victims were shot, and then at another 25th St. location a 7th victim was shot. The victims were 4 men (24-44yo) and 3 women (21-31yo).

Sunday May 15, Houston TX. Around 1pm at the La Tia Pancha flea market in Harris County, an argument broke out, several men pulled out guns, and 2 people were killed and another 3 were injured, all Hispanic. Some men fled before officers arrived. Law enforcement plans to interview those who are hospitalized and believe no innocent bystanders were injured. Two guns were recovered. . Angel Flores-Lopez, 27, was arrested for trying to dispose of his firearm.

Sunday May 15, Amadillo TX. Around 414am, Amarillo police arrived at an after-hours club at 1003 N. Fillmore and a short time later were dispatched to local hospitals where 5 gunshot victims were seeking treatment. One 25yo male subject died, another has life threatening injuries and the other three had non-life threatening injuries. Police believe there were 75-100 people inside the club when the shooting started. Earlier in the morning at a different club on the 500 block of N. Fillmore, another shooting was reported. In Texas, police cannot enter and break up out-of-control parties at privately owned after-hour clubs.

Immigration Attitudes and Conspiratorial Thinkers: A Study Issued on the 10th Anniversary of The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

May 9, 2022

After years of heated rhetoric around immigration and its impacts, new data from an AP-NORC poll reveals that two-thirds of Americans feel the country’s diverse population makes the US stronger – less than 10% say diversity weakens the country.

Still, roughly one in three (32%) adults agree that a group of people is trying to replace native-born Americans with immigrants for electoral gains. A similar share (29%) also express concern that an increase in immigration is leading to native-born Americans losing economic, political, and cultural influence. These two key measures tap into the core arguments of Replacement Theory, a decades old idea, which posits that there is a group of powerful people in this country who are trying to permanently alter the culture and voting strength of native-born Americans by bringing in large groups of immigrants – the study indicates about one in five (17%) adults agree with both of these central tenets. *

Most Americans cite a lack of economic opportunity (93%), poverty (92%), and violent crime (91%) as motivating factors for why immigrants leave their country, while just two-thirds cite the impacts of climate change.

Nearly a quarter of adults think changing the way life (24%) and influencing the outcome of elections (22%) are major reasons immigrants come to the U.S, while roughly 4 in 5 Americans say securing government assistance is a factor.

Overall, the public tends to think illegal immigrants introduce higher risks compared to legal immigrants, but less than half of Americans believe that either immigrant group poses major risks. Generally, the public perceives greater benefits from legal immigrants than from those who come illegally, although only about half the population acknowledges these contributions.

Across the survey, concerns about the potential impacts of immigration are felt acutely among Republicans, yet the strongest anxiety is captured by another element – an individual’s propensity to engage in conspiratorial thinking, measured by a validated scale that combined

responses from four items. Those who score in the top 25th percentile are referred to as high conspiratorial thinkers.

Despite partisan concerns over immigration, high conspiratorial thinkers are more likely than Republicans generally to believe in Replacement Theory (42% vs 26%) and express concern the election system discriminates against white Americans (38% vs 25%).

The nationwide study was conducted by The AP-NORC Center from December 1 to 23, 2020/1, using TrueNorth®, which combines a sample from AmeriSpeak®, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago, with a non-probability panel sample. Online and telephone interviews using landlines and cell phones were conducted with 4,173 people ages 18 and older living in the United States. The margin of sampling error is +/- 1.96 percentage points.

* The “great replacement” theory and rhetoric is a fixation on the idea that white people are being intentionally replaced. The theory has turned white nationalism into an international call to arms. Declining white birthrates, increasing immigration and the flight of refugees from unstable countries contribute to this fear. This theory supports the idea that violence is necessary and justified to preserve western civilization, to stop the genocide of the European people, and to stop the perceived invasion of foreigners.

Letter to the Editor

In the last edition, Currents replied to a reader who felt that reporting the arrests of two AAPI men for catalytic converter thefts was inappropriate because that reader felt that Currents should only highlight positive AAPI contributions and reporting that news maligned a particular AAPI community. Currents responded that we need to accept the good and bad of our communities and strive to make the world better for everyone without artificially filtering news to see only what we want to believe. Currents reader Marion Uchida wrote back: *Fully agree with the last feedback from the editor. Keep up the good work. Please use the money for whatever the paper needs. Thanks.*

ABOUT CURRENTS

Currents is a free community newspaper published three times a year entirely by volunteers. Currents covers local and national issues and events affecting the Asian American Pacific Island communities of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect endorsement by the other organizations and are those of the authors or the Editorial Board. The Editor reserves the right to reject prospective materials or advertisements. Current is distributed by bulk mail and other outlets. Currents articles may be reprinted without specific permission, but the source “Currents” and author should be acknowledged. Next publication date: October/Fall 2022. Deadline: September 15, 2022. Circulation: 6,000-7,000. Editor: Pattie Fong. Distribution assisted by: The Sacramento Gazette (David Fong), Hach Yasumura, Tim Fong/CSUS-Asian American Studies, and UCD Asian American Studies. Most graphics are by Randall Ishida. Advertising rates: 3.5” X 2”, \$50; 5” X 6”, \$80; 10” X 6”, \$200. Currents has no physical office, but donations, advertisements, addresses changes and other inquiries can be sent to Currents/Davis Asians for Racial Equality, PO Box 4163, Davis 95617. Inquiries can be emailed to pmfong@hotmail.com

Currents

Asian Pacific State Employee Association (APSEA)

Outgoing APSEA President's Message

As President of APSEA for the past 2 years, I express my heartfelt thanks to my fellow board, advisors, and members. We have accomplished much together in these years that passed too quickly. Throughout this pandemic, we as an organization have grown in leaps and bounds. When I took the Presidentship of APSEA, my goal was to leave it better than I found it. With the help of a fantastic board of directors, excellent advisors, and a dedicated group of volunteers, we did just that. We grew our Career Development Program virtually to a point where hundreds of participants benefit from it. We continue to sponsor the Cal-IPGCA training program. We took on important issues like Prop 16, Unity Against Hate Rally, and promoted civic engagement. We celebrated Women's History Month and AAPI Heritage Month. We offered the EEO Training, and we have now begun planning for the EEO Symposium to be conducted next fiscal year. We also continued to have fun with our Virtual Holiday Mixers and other networking events.

APSEA has a rich history and tradition, and it was an honor to serve on this board as its President. We have a fabulous new board. I can only say that under the new leadership, we will continue to be an innovative organization putting our members always at the front and center of everything we do. 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 cannot accomplish this without you.

On behalf of the entire board of directors, thank you for the opportunity to serve APSEA which will grow and prosper with your continued participation.

Sincerely,

Stephenson Loveson
President, APSEA 2020-2022



Become a member today

Join APSEA and experience the wonderful events that are put together by APSEA, such as the Career Development Program and the up-and-coming Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Symposium. 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

For more information, please call (916) 222-8178 or email apseamembership@gmail.com

APSEA 2021-2022 Board of Directors

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APSEA Supports First in California K-12 AAPI History Bill

APSEA is proud to support, along with dozens of other Asian American organizations, California's first K-12 AAPI History legislation sponsored by the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA).

Senate Bill 1363 has passed out of the Senate Education Committee and is headed to the California State Senate for a floor vote.

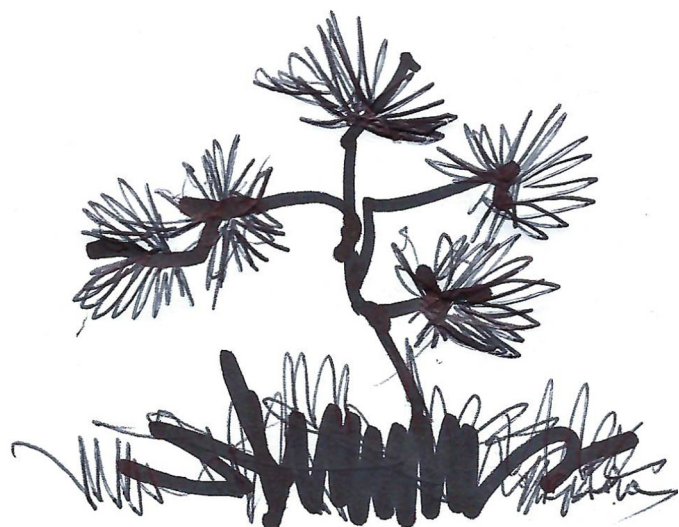
Introduced by Republican Senator Jim Nielsen who represents California 4th Senate District, SB 1363 has earned strong bipartisan support. Notable elected officials supporting this measure include California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, Attorney General Rob Bonta, and California State Treasurer Fiona Ma.

SB 1363 would encourage school districts to include in their curriculum the contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals and communities to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of California and the U.S.

Gaining a lot of momentum and traction, the K-12 AAPI History Bill, sponsored by APAPA, has received nearly 2,000 letters of support sent to California legislators and more than 60 diverse organizations from throughout California have signed on to support.

Among some of the notable organizations include OCA National, APSEA, and Teach AAPI, a fast-growing, grassroots organization for AAPI and ally families. Please visit <https://www.apapa.org/k12#/1/> to see the many different organizations that have signed on and join in on the momentum to add your signature and name to the growing list of support.

Read Currents online at
www.apsea.org --
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CommunityEngagement



APSEA Foundation 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.

After two years of virtual celebrations, on May 12th the APSEA Foundation resumed its 22nd Annual Scholarship & Reward Reception in person at Cafeteria 15L. The following awards were presented to:

The Association of California State Employees with Disabilities (ACSED) was the recipient of the APSEA President's Award.

APSEA's Member of the Year Award was presented to **Jean Cooper**, the CMPIS Assistant Director at the California Office of Systems Integration.

APSEA Foundation's Community Leadership Award was awarded to **Senator Dr. Richard Pan**.

In addition, the APSEA Foundation awarded scholarships to five high school seniors. The awardees were selected based on their academic achievements, volunteer activities that demonstrated their dedication to improving the API community, financial need, and special circumstances. The 2022 scholarship recipients are:

Amayahlidwina Alenepi (Vanden High School) received the Woo Family scholarship.

Lauren Duquez (Middle College High School) received the APSEA scholarship.

Kathleen Hyunh (Bella Vista High School) received the Avatar IT Solutions scholarship

Jared Ramil (Armijo High School) received the Family of Richard Lew scholarship

Larissa Yee (C.K. McClatchy High School) received the Oracle and Mitzi Higashidani

The reception sponsors include: Cindy Liu, Stan Ota, Donut Time, Lexmark, ACC Senior Services, APAPA, ARI Community Services, ACSED, My Sister's House, and OCA Sacramento

These scholarships could not have been awarded without the generosity of our donors, and their unwavering support during these times is especially appreciated. Thank you!

Kathleen Hyunh
Bella Vista High School



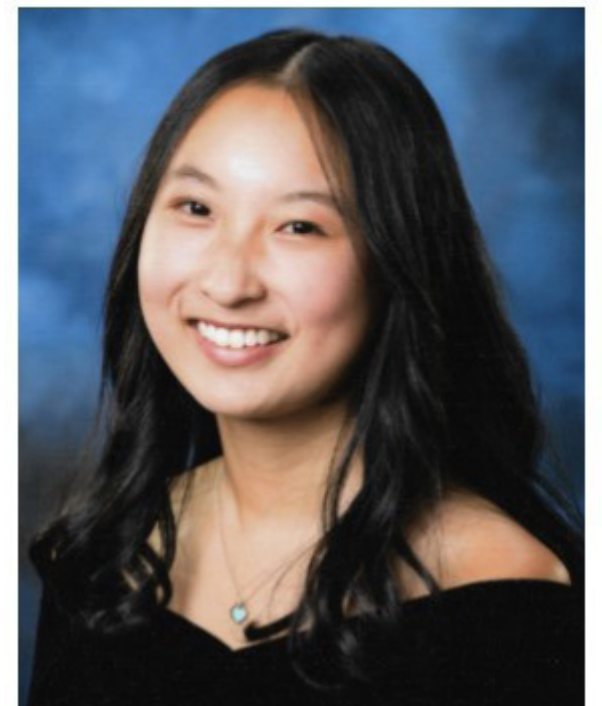
Lauren Dominique Duquez
Middle College High School



Jared Ramil
Armijo High School



Larissa Yee
C.K. McClatchy High School



Amayahlidwina Alenepi
Vanden High School



APSEA Foundation Board:2021-2022 (L-R) Bill Liu/treasurer, Cindy Liu/president, Brandon Louie/secretary, Denise Murata/vice president, Jenny Giang/member at large. Missing in this photo is Siek Run/member at large.

Isao Fujimoto (1933-2022)

Dr. Isao Fujimoto, PhD, professor and community organizer, died peacefully at his home in Davis on February 25th. He was 88 years old.

He is described as always being positive, joyful, full of laughter, constantly affirming others, ebullient spirit, insatiable curiosity, intense and infinite energy, continuously networking people together, abiding love and commitment to his students, having strong political views and very proud of his three kids. Many of his students consider him to be their “most influential” teacher ever.

Sept 28, 1933 - Born to Ayako and Taichi Fujimoto on the Yakima Indian Reservation in Wapato WA - the first of 13 children. They rented farm land from the Yakima tribe to circumvent the Alien Land Law. They lived in a Japanese ethnic enclave of about 125 families. In addition to farming, his father was a carpenter who organized the construction of an auditorium annexed to the Buddhist temple on the reservation.

Dec 1941 - Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Taichi is arrested as a community leader and imprisoned at Fort Missoula, Montana

Feb 19, 1942 - President Franklin Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 ordering the forced incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast.

June 1942 - Incarcerated with his mom and younger siblings and transported first to a converted livestock pavilion in Portland, and later to Heart Mountain Concentration Camp, Wyoming.

May 1944 - Reunited with Taichi and then imprisoned in the Tule Lake Concentration Camp until the end of WWII.

Dec 1945 - The family relocated to Pleasanton where Taichi worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad repairing railroad ties. Then they moved to the hamlet of Madrone (Santa Clara County) where they sharecropped 4 years with the Driscoll Strawberry Company. The Japanese community then joined together in cooperatives to rent and later buy farm land to become independent strawberry farmers.

1946 - Attorney Wayne Collins succeeded in staying Taichi’s deportation. (Collins led Fred Korematsu’s constitutional challenge to EO 9066 and Korematsu’s conviction was successfully overturned in 1983 because the “military necessity” claim for EO 9066 was false)

1954 - Earned a B.A. degree in biological science from UC Berkeley (3 years UCB, 1 year UCSF medical school). At UC Berkeley was “introduced ... to world-expanding experiences” through the Cal Indo Project - studying and meeting people from the newly formed country of Indonesia. He utilized his judo and wrestling experience as a youth probation officer at Hillcrest Juvenile Hall in San Mateo County.

1956 - Earned a teaching credential at San Jose

State University.

1957 - Drafted and sent to Korea as an US Army correspondent. This is the period when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik.

1958-1961 - Taught chemistry and biology at San Jose High School. Participated in teacher institutes at Howard and Cornell universities. The civil rights movement directed him to focus on science and the poverty and racism in the country. Participated in the Institute for Radiation Biology at Howard University. Completed the one-year Institute for Biology program at Cornell University’s College of Agriculture; was introduced to the Cornell literacy program in Honduras (Santa Rita de Yoro) to teach adults how to read and write in Spanish.

1959 - Received a Master of Education degree from Stanford University.

1962 - Quit his teaching job. Started a PhD in Rural Sociology at Cornell and led a team of Cornell students as part of the University of Philippines-Cornell Project to do field work on village development in Los Banos, Philippines.

1964 - The deaths of 3 siblings in an auto accident caused him to return to the US. He returned to Cornell in 1966. 1966 was the year of the Delano Grape Strike by Filipino, Mexican, Tagalog, Arabic farmworkers.

1967 - Recruited by UC Davis where he was a founding faculty member of the Community Development program in the Dept. of Applied Behavioral Sciences, College of Agriculture. Also helped to establish Applied Behavioral Sciences and Asian American Studies which offered its first classes in 1969. He was a primary instructor for over fifty courses and community programs, including:

Urban Community Resources (immersion/ experiential learning of students in the SF Tenderloin neighborhood where for 3 1/2 days

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Isao
Fujimoto

ON THURSDAY
APRIL 21, 2022 AT 3PM

students learned about the community’s social issues and how local groups address them

Central Valley Partnership for Citizenship was funded by the James Irvine Foundation for 8 years to build capacity for immigrant civic participation in California’s Central Valley. It collaborated with 20 activist organizations and 150 emerging immigrant community groups across eighteen counties. Isao’s PhD dissertation “Dynamic Mosaic” is based on his CVP experiences.

Asian Rural Institution in Naochiobara, Tochigi Japan, where annually information was shared with village leaders from throughout the Southern Hemisphere about sustainable community development.

California Institute for Rural Studies to increase social justice in rural California and to build sustainable communities based on healthy agriculture. He authored several CIRS publications, served as president of the board.

His Linden Lane house in Davis became the meeting place, sleeping accommodations and incubator space for students and visitors engaged in emerging topics - safe food, alternative energy, organic farming, family farming, community action. His back porch-office space housed the Alternative Agricultural Resources Center, International Tree Crop Association, Rural Resources Access Project. His students went on to start the Davis Farmers Market and Davis Food Co-op.

1977-78 In the midst of the controversy over his lack of “tenure” (he had lecturer status on campus), took a leave of absence and served as Associate Director of National Center for Appropriate Technology in Butte, Montana which engaged low income communities to lower their energy bills, start community gardens, and promote alternative technology

Isao Fujimoto

Continued from page 5

1983 - Took a sabbatical to Milton Keynes, England for work with the Open University's Alternative Technology Institute

1985-2015 - With the Rural Development Leadership Network, worked with rural leaders of color across the country on skill development, networking, and academic credential through Antioch College.

1992 - Assisted Micronesian Occupational College in Koror, Palau (Western Caroline Islands) to organize resources on alternative technology and a conference for sustainable agriculture.

1994 - Opted for early "retirement," but continued teaching both locally and abroad - spending summers in Kyoto, Japan where he taught his beloved UC Study Abroad course.

2002 - UCD residential building in The Colleges of La Rue complex is named for Isao.

2010 - Finished his PhD at age 76 and led the Cornell graduation processional.

2014 - Received the Bradford Rominger Award Agricultural Sustainability Leadership Award, from the UCD Agricultural Sustainability Institute

2016 - Received the UC system's Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award which recognizes scholarly work or educational service by UC emeritus faculty post retirement.

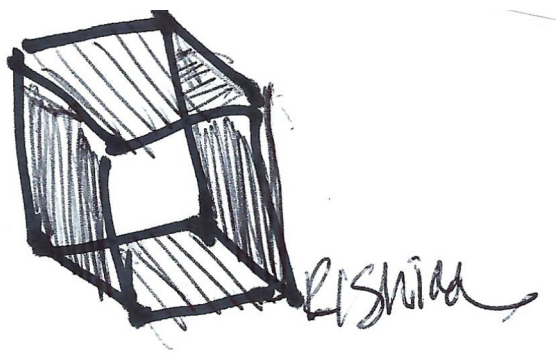
2017 - Published his memoir "Bounding Back - Community, Resilience & Curiosity." "Bounding Back" is based on the Daruma paper mache doll depicting Bodhidharma, founder of Zen Buddhism, who symbolizes "bouncing back." "No matter how many times - we - or our loved ones, our community are knocked to the ground, we can get up again."

In an interview, Isao was asked "Can you change the world?" His answer was: "Yeah. I think you can. I mean, I think you can do anything if you take a realistic, step by step approach. You can't change the whole world, but everybody can do something that will help their family, their neighborhood, people they work with. They can always make positive, constructive contributions. If other people do that too, it does make a big difference."

The opening paragraph of his PhD thesis reads:

Community development is about doing. It's action directed towards changing conditions - improving the quality of life, especially for communities and people who have been historically, structurally or systematically marginalized. Community development aims to improve the lives of people living in poverty, whether in the Central Valley of California or in Third World countries. However, experts in community development are just as often found among practitioners in the field as amongst academics, researchers or directors of agencies.

A memorial was held April 27th on the UCD campus. Donations in Isao's memory can be made to the UC Davis Isao Fujimoto Education and Student Support Fund (<https://give.ucdavis.edu/CLAS/ASIFGFT>) or to UCD Advancement Services, 202 Cousteau Place Suite 185, Davis 95618.



There will be sad & happier times

By Randall Ishida

Funerals and memorials are solemn occasions. Sometimes it is a time to let go. We have to remember how the person lived and not how they passed.

At a gathering such as this it also can be a time to reconnect and rejoice the memories that are cherished still in our hearts. It is a time to reminisce with those that we haven't seen in a long time. The person who passed brought us closer and a comradeship to those that gathered at the ceremony.

If we follow the many traditional activities one has bestowed upon us than their legacy will live a lifetime.

Obon is a Buddhist holiday that is another time to get together and renew our friendship. Obon also known as Bon Festival is an event that takes place over the course of several days commemorating and honoring ancestors. Obon centers around a belief that the spirits and souls of loved ones and dead ancestors come back and visit .

Because of the reopening of this pandemic we need to reconnect with people we have seen or heard from before we learn of their passing and not after. Friendships last forever.

Hayward's Japanese Garden

Open every day (except Christmas day) from 830am-4pm, the Japanese Garden at 22372 N. Third St in Hayward is not widely known. Tucked away in a residential neighborhood, this stunning Japanese garden was developed on just 1.2 acre. Designed and primarily constructed by late landscape designer Kimio Kimura, the garden has 800 tons of stone and 4,500 plantings and many pavilions and bridges. Formerly the abandoned "Botany Grounds" of the old Hayward Union High School campus, the community built the green haven with support and contributions from the local Japanese American community and nurseries which donated plantings. Kimura even personally went to people's yards to dig donated trees. Koi were donated by Kinji Shibuya, a local professional wrestler and actor.

Wintersburg Mission, Huntington Beach

Republic Service recently demolished a 1910 Wintersburg Japanese Mission church structure and the 1910 manse in Huntington Beach. The 112 year historic manse (home for the clergy) had burned in a February 25 fire which is under investigation; the church structure had not been damaged by the fire. Republic Service is a recycling and waste services which bought the property from Rainbow Environmental Services in 2014. Rainbow purchased the Furuta Goldfish Farm property, a 5 acre parcel, when it closed in 2004. Wintersburg is the site of the oldest Japanese mission in Orange County; still remaining are two homes that the Furuta family built in 1912 and 1947, the 1910 Christian mission, 1934 Wintersburg Japanese Church buildings and a barn built between 1908-1912. These structures are designated as "eligible for the National Register for Historic Places."

Historic Wintersburg Preservation effort chair Mary Urashima says that she has received orchestrated online harassment with anti-Japanese rants against preservation since 2016 and that suggests the fire may have been racially motivated. The current owners have been criticized for neglecting the property, leaving the buildings vulnerable to vandalism and fire, weedy and not maintained. Urashima's group would like the property transferred to the Heritage Museum of Orange County. The City of Huntington Beach says it has initiated discussions with Republic Services about transferring or preserving and restoring the property. The preservation group had tried to purchase the site but received no response from the owners. Republic Service did not allow preservationists to search for historic artifacts or permit the city to conduct its arson investigation before bulldozing the structures. It was reported that the Huntington Beach Fire Department did not recommend demolition of the structures.

There is a 2016 legal settlement between the Ocean View School District (which has a pre-school program next door) and Rainbow Environmental Services restricting development and safeguarding the property for historic preservation. Republic Services has sought to rezone the property for industrial and commercial uses, along with demolition of all of the historic structures.

Shirakawa Park

Shirakawa Park will be the newest city park in Fowler (Fresno County). The KB Home Development - Marshall Estates - at Adams and Armstrong Avenues is built where Tokio and Kikue Shirakawa had a 40 acre grape and tree fruit farm before being incarcerated during WWII at Fort Missoula, Montana, and later Fort Sill, Oklahoma. This honor for the Shirakawa family not only recognizes their legacy in the community but also help educate the public about the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans. It has also been proposed to install a designation on an existing building in the original Japantown site in Fowler.



Ming Terrace Restaurant, 860 Main St, Red Bluff had paneled booths, chrome finished tables and chairs, special embroidered Chinese paintings, ming trees made by SF craftsmen.

Tehama County

Last stop to the 金山 Gam Saan

By Jessica Chew

The Helen and Joe Chew Foundation (HJC) is seeking to find the Chinese American descendants of Tehama County to include them in the “Images of America: Chinese in Tehama County” a pictorial book. Many residents of Chinese ancestry have parents or relatives from: Red Bluff, Tehama, Vina, Corning, Gerber, Los Molinos, Mineral, Paskenta, Paynes Creek, Proberta, Las Flores, Lake California, Manton, Rancho Tehama Reserve, and Richfield dating as early as 1850 until 1950. I am seeking stories from families and any pictures to showcase the rich Chinese history in Tehama County.

After gold was discovered near Coloma in 1848, the Chinese traveled on the steamboat as far north as possible in order to reach the “Gold Mountain” (金山 or “Gam Saan” in Cantonese). The last steamboat stop on the Sacramento River was Red Bluff, California in Tehama County.

What is now known as Red Bluff’s Historic District, was once where the Chinese were segregated to live on High (Rio) Street called “Chinatown” and was prosperous beginning in 1850.

It thrived because it was strategically located next to the steamboat stop, adjacent to the railroad, and eventually parallel to the old US Route 99. Moreover, Tehama County’s access to different modes of transportation offered a variety of jobs whether it was working on the mines, expansion of the railroad, seasonal farming jobs, subdividing parcels with rock walls or other seasonal work. There was once over 2,000-3,000 Chinese families living in Tehama County with descendants of many surnames.

In the 1950’s Chinatowns in Tehama County were demolished. By 1970, the construction of I-5 to replace US Route 99(E) and 99(W) would change everything. Like many untold Chinatown stories, the construction of I-5 would forever eliminate the once thriving neighborhood ending the legacy of Red Bluff’s Chinatown in 1973 when the Ming Terrace Restaurant closed. It was the last residence and business to operate in the long lost historic Chinatown of Red Bluff.-

Although, a Chinatown no longer exists today, Chinese Pioneers now have descendants who have not only made America their home for generations but prospered paving the way for the advancement of all Americans today. The newest transplants of Chinese families have added to many towns’ growth and diversity in

numerous ways.

Please help HJC locate families including anyone from Tehama County. I am specifically looking for pictures of: Charlie Peanut (died in 1942), Jew Sing (cook for Earl McKenzie), Big Sam or China Sam (worked for the Hanna family), Charlie Fong or Charlie Ramsay (died in 1956), Charlie Long (ranch handler), Wong Gene (cook who married Mary Woo), Chiney Sam (cook for the Butlers), Chung Kee (husband of Mary), Sam Wong (died in 1952), Quong Lee (from Vina), Little Lee (worked for the Hildebrand family), Ah Me (hotel cook), Hi Lee & Quong Long Hi (owned a grocery), Qu Sing (cook at Hanna Ranch), Wong Sing (died in 1901), Gay You (arrived in 1899), Wing Lee (Chinese Laundry owner), Choy (vegetable peddler), Autu (worked for William H. Spencer), George Hong (from Corning) and many others.

For more information contact Jessica Chew at jcasas24@yahoo.com or check www.redbluffchew.org/chewhistory.

Jessica Chew is the founder of the Helen and Joe Chew Foundation and the only grandchild of Joe You Chew who is American born in 1921. The Chew family immigrated to America in 1865 as herbalists and by 1870 resided in Red Bluff serving as a doctor for the Chinese laborers working on the Gold Mountain. Jessica’s great grandfather, Chew You journeyed from China to Los Angeles before the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1881 and invested concurrently in several different herbal businesses first in Los Angeles, followed by San Francisco, Hong Kong, and Red Bluff by the 1880’s. His investments came from his savings working as a cook and later owning his own restaurants. The Helen and Joe Chew Foundation was created in honor of Jessica’s promise to her grandfather that she would establish a scholarship fund at his alma mater Red Bluff High School. Her goal for the Foundation is to share her family’s loving memories of Red Bluff’s Historic Chinatown while encouraging education.

Tanforan Memorial

Tanforan Memorial fundraising - The Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee is raising funds for its memorial statue to be erected in front of the San Bruno BART Station by The Shops at Tanforan. The project seeks to raise \$150,000 to finish the construction. Tax-deductible sponsorship donations at \$1,000-\$25,000 will include an engraved granite paver. Donors who provide \$25,000 will get a maquette (a miniature of the statue). Groundbreaking ceremony was held on February 11. The Tanforan site housed 7,984 Japanese Americans forcibly removed during WWII under EO 9066. The memorial will feature the Mochida sisters depicted in a Dorothea Lange photo Info: tanforan.memorial@gmail.com, or www.tanforanmemorial.org.

Palo Verdes Peninsula history project

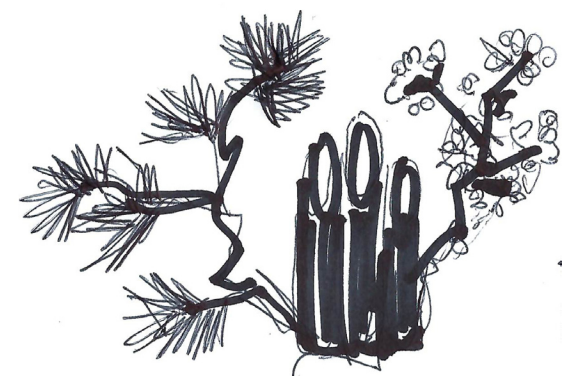
When Richard Kawasaki retired, he volunteered at the Palos Verdes Peninsula Library and the librarian asked him to take on her “40 Families Project.” The project is identifying and documenting the history of the approximate 40 families depicted in a 1923 group photo of local Japanese American farming families. They had gathered to celebrate the opening of a community hall and took a group panoramic photo - 184 of them - to preserve the moment. The Japanese American farmers were then growing barley, tomatoes and garbanzo bean crops. Kawasaki, born in the Topaz Utah WWII concentration camp and raised in SF and LA, often visited the peninsula where his maternal grandfather had a tomato farm.

So far the project has identified 117 of the Nikkei in the photographs and generated biographical sketches for 20 families. The Japanese American farming community almost complete disappeared from the peninsula after WWII. The Ishibashi family is only one of a handful who returned to the area after the war. Kawasaki believes that before WWII there were about 120 different families in the area and wants to capture as many stories from that era as possible.

If you have ancestral connection to the pre-war Palos Verdes Peninsula Japanese American farming era, contact Monique Sugimoto msugimoto@pvld.org, 310/377-9584 (extension 213). More information on the “40 Families Project” is at <http://pvld.org/40families>

Kawakami Home

Kawakami Home to be restored. In 1905 Kohachi Kawakami moved his family from Hawaii to San Jose. In 1919, Kawakami bought a home in San Jose’s Japantown and placed ownership title in his one year old son’s name to get around the California Alien Land Law of 1913. Before being forcibly relocated during WWII, the Kawakamis entrusted the house to a lawyer; they were transported to the Santa Anita racetrack and later Heart Mountain, Wyoming. The Japanese American Resource Center acquired the house in 2005. In 1977, the city of San Jose gave the house an “identified structure status” because of its historical significance.



A jury finds a Kansas scholar guilty of fraud and hiding ties to China

NPR, April 7, 2022
By John Ruwitch

A federal jury in Kansas City has found chemistry professor Feng “Franklin” Tao guilty on four counts of fraud and making false statements, charges leveled against him under a Trump-era program to root out Chinese spies.

The jury also found Tao not guilty of four related counts. After the mixed verdict, the judge declined to set a sentencing date and instead asked the defense and prosecution for a series of further briefs.

According to Tao’s lead attorney, Peter Zeidenberg, Judge Julie Robinson said she saw “significant issues” with the government’s evidence.

“While we are deeply disappointed with the jury’s verdict, we believe it was so clearly against the weight of the evidence we are convinced that it will not stand,” Zeidenberg said in a statement.

Prosecutors alleged that Tao concealed work with a Chinese university and an affiliation with a Chinese government-run talent program in a scheme to defraud the University of Kansas and the government.

Tao was arrested in 2019, just months after the Department of Justice launched the “China Initiative” under then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions to crack down on trade secret theft and economic espionage. The program was discontinued in February.

Tao was suspended from his role as an associate professor of chemical and petroleum engineering at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, was barred from entering campus and was forced to wear a tracking device on his ankle.

The government said Tao broke the law by not disclosing work he was doing for a Chinese university on conflict-of-interest forms. Prosecutors argued that he defrauded the university and federal agencies that provided grants for his research.

But his defense team said Tao never formally accepted the job offer at China’s Fuzhou University, was never paid, and did not violate rules about disclosure that were in place at the time.

“Given that the victim agencies all said they were fully satisfied with the work Dr. Tao did on their grants, we do not believe the conviction can possibly stand, as they received the benefit of their bargain,” Zeidenberg said.

A series of failures

Other high-profile China Initiative cases have foundered in recent months.

This past September, University of Tennessee professor Anming Hu was acquitted by a federal judge. In January, the government dropped its case against Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Gang Chen, who was being prosecuted on charges similar to Tao’s.

In February, the DOJ ended the China Initiative under pressure from critics who highlighted its high rate of failed prosecutions and argued that the program fueled racial bias and fear.

In a December report, the MIT Technology Review identified 77 China Initiative cases and over 150 defendants, the vast majority of which had Chinese heritage. Only a quarter of the cases actually involved espionage charges, it found, and appeared to be an increasing focus on research integrity cases — including Tao’s.

Scholars say the China Initiative had a chilling effect on academia.

Ann Chih Lin, an Associate Professor of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, conducted a survey across five U.S. universities.

It found that nearly three-quarters of Chinese-American researchers didn’t feel safe in America, or felt uncertain about whether they’d be safe here in the future — many because of government investigations.

A fourth of those polled had considered avoiding federal grant applications altogether — a move could undermine ambitious research projects.



More people now incorrectly blame Asian Americans for Covid than at height of pandemic

NBC, May 5, 2022

By Tat Bellamy-Walker

More Americans are now blaming Asian Americans for Covid-19 than at the height of the pandemic in 2021, according to a report released Wednesday by Asian American advocacy groups.

More than 20 percent of respondents said this year that people of Asian descent are at least partly responsible for Covid-19, compared to 11 percent who said last year that the community was to blame. The study, released by Leading Asian Americans United for Change (LAAUNCH.org) and The Asian American Foundation (TAAF), also showed higher levels of distrust of Asian Americans.

Thirty-three percent of respondents said that people of Asian descent are more loyal to their perceived country of origin than to the U.S., compared to 20 percent who said the same in 2021.

“It does stem from the perpetual foreigner myth that Asians and Asian Americans, no matter if you’re born here or not, you’re always seen as just from your country of origin,” said Eric Toda, a board member of TAAF and LAAUNCH.

The study’s findings are in line with other recent studies on the rise of anti-Asian hate, including one from California State University Santa Barbara’s Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, which showed a 339 percent increase in anti-Asian violence between 2020 and 2021.

Still, nearly one-third of respondents said that they didn’t know that anti-Asian violence is getting worse.

Many Asian American respondents, meanwhile, reported not feeling like they belong in the U.S. Twenty-nine percent of Asian Americans said that they fully belong and feel accepted in the U.S., compared to 61 percent of white respondents and 33 percent of Black respondents. Asian Americans between the ages of 18 to 24 experienced even lower sense of belonging, at just 19 percent.

Despite the lack of recognition of the hate the Asian American community has been facing recently, more than 70 percent of all respondents said it’s essential to combat anti-Asian racism. Researchers also said that the findings indicate a need for more education about Asian Americans.

“I think education and representation go hand in hand in creating more empathy and more perspective,” Toda said.

Hmong Americans are being targeted by law enforcement in California’s Siskiyou County

Prism, May 4, 2022

By Grace Deng

On April 15, dozens of people packed into a cramped Sacramento, California, courthouse. The group, largely consisting of Hmong American families from California’s Siskiyou County, had driven more than five hours to watch a hearing that would determine whether their community could continue to access the water they needed to live their lives.

“The entire galley was packed,” said John Do, an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) attorney who attended the hearing. “There wasn’t even seating for me.”

Siskiyou County is located in Northern California, adjacent to the Oregon border. Last year, the county’s Board of Supervisors banned trucks carrying more than 100 gallons of water from certain roads, claiming it was an emergency ordinance to limit water used to cultivate illegal cannabis. They’re also claiming that Hmong Americans growing cannabis are contributing to the state’s drought, though there is no scientific evidence to back that up. The average American family uses more than 300 gallons of water a day, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The ordinance targeted largely Hmong American areas which rely on water trucks for basic water needs, and caused a humanitarian crisis. Hmong Americans reported constant thirst, dying farm animals, and only having enough water to bathe once a week.

“The idea of having to choose between—am I going to sustain these animals I’ve purchased, or am I going to be able to bathe this week? Those are the sort of things we’ve heard about as a consequence of the water ordinance,” said Emi Young, another ACLU lawyer on the case.

A judge issued a temporary injunction against the ordinance, but the county is currently appealing the injunction by proposing the same ban for the entire county. The judge heard the arguments on April 15, but as of May 4, she has not made a decision. Siskiyou’s Hmong Americans and their allies believe the county plans to target Hmong Americans again, just not on paper.

“The county kept insisting the case was about cannabis,” Do said. “[The county’s representation] spoke as if everyone was part of a violent drug cartel, essentially, and I think that language is indicative of how they’ve been treated.”

Racism is rampant in the county. Asians—who are majority Hmong—make up 2.6% of Siskiyou County’s population, but 27.4% of all traffic stops in the county last year. In the past two years, the vast percentage of citations issued for cannabis cultivation and related property seizures affected Asians, despite there

being white and Asian growers alike in Siskiyou.

“It’s really scary,” said True Lee, an Hmong American who splits her time between Siskiyou and Minnesota. “You never know what you’re going to face when you leave your property. My mom ends up staying in as much as she can. She avoids going out at all costs.”

Hmong Americans find a home in Siskiyou

Growing cannabis is legal in California, but Siskiyou’s regulations have made it nearly impossible to grow legally.

“If the sheriff was really concerned about cannabis, there would be all kinds of enforcement going on throughout the county, and there’s very little in the non-Hmong areas,” said Glenn Katon, an attorney with Asian Americans Advancing Justice Asian Law Caucus.

White people have grown cannabis in Siskiyou since at least the late ‘60s without much incident, according to Margiana Petersen-Rockney, who co-published ethnographic research on cannabis farmers in the county.

In the mid-2010s, Hmong Americans started to arrive. The cheap parcels of land and mountainous landscape drew many Hmong elders.

“What I heard a lot, especially from the Hmong elders, was this was their retirement,” Petersen-Rockney said. “A lot of people from Minneapolis, Fresno, these cities, who wanted to get back to their agricultural roots and be able to grow gardens and live in kinship communities.”

Initially, the existing community welcomed them, according to Wayne Walent, a medical marijuana activist and former member of the Hmong American and County Community Advisory Council.

“We went to their parties, dances, they were coming to all of ours,” Walent said. “I think it was our sheriff, basically, that stirred it up.”

Hostility, racial profiling, and law enforcement in Siskiyou

Walent is referring to former Sheriff Jon Lopey, who compared cannabis enforcement in Siskiyou to “war in a foreign country,” according to quoted statements in an amicus brief by the ACLU.

However, Hmong community members say the racial hostility became even worse under Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue, who was elected in September 2020.

“It was Sheriff LaRue who started saying it first, the Hmong community was cartels and stuff like that. White residents in Siskiyou, that’s when they started calling us cartels,” said Jaea Vang, a Hmong American who lives

in neighboring Shasta County and has family in Siskiyou. “I don’t understand why they think it’s organized crime and assume everyone Hmong in Siskiyou is part of this cartel gang.”

Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue has asked the white community in Siskiyou to help “choke” out Hmong Americans and to “eradicate this illness.” LaRue has also told small business owners not to sell to Hmong Americans. Lee said Hmong Americans in Siskiyou often have to drive over two hours just to get basic groceries.

“I’m so used to people flipping me off, that I just wave ... I don’t know if they’re going to wave back or flip me off,” Lee said.

“They use that as a way to terrorize folks. They will go into homes,” Katon said. “They will go through personal belongings, things that could not have anything to do with cannabis.”

Lee’s mother had her truck and water confiscated by law enforcement after dark under the water ordinance last year. Her mother was carrying 100 gallons in a container and a cooler with 20 gallons in it, putting her 20 gallons over the water limit. The police left Lee’s mother on the side of the road.

“She was shaking and she was so scared. For weeks after that, she was still scared and affected by that entire experience,” Lee said.

If the ordinance is put back in place, Hmong Americans and their supporters worry the community will face another humanitarian crisis.

“[My mother has] made this her home,” Lee said. “She doesn’t plan to leave. That’s why I can’t really leave her behind. I don’t know who will be here to protect her.”

Hmong Americans still face hostility regardless of the judge’s decision. Vang said it’s become almost impossible to put down roots in Siskiyou as a Hmong American. Her uncle, a Siskiyou resident, told her the county is preventing Hmong folks from getting P.O. boxes and is requiring some to pay around \$300 a month for a “camping permit” to stay on their own private property.

But for the Hmong who’ve made Siskiyou their home, leaving isn’t an option.

“Deep in my heart, I know that the Hmong community ... want to make this their home, and they’ve worked so hard. This is where they want to retire,” Lee said. “I just want everyone to be able to live together and be at peace.”

Grace Deng is a freelance writer interested in race, identity, and equity reporting.



American River Conservancy seeks input re Okei's original gravestone

The discovery of Okei Ito's gravestone revealed a previously unknown story about the first group of Japanese settlers in America who started a tea and silk farm near Coloma in the gold fields of California. Back in 1869, they were refugees from a civil war. Their dreams of success - Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony - ultimately vanished when arid summer conditions killed their thousands of tea plants, the lifeblood of their farm. Their Prussian honorary samurai leader, John Henry Schnell, abandoned them as the colony disbanded within two years.

Of the original 22 colonists, few remained in America. Among them were Okei and her friend, Matsunosuke Sakurai. They became part of the neighboring Veerkamp farming family who subsequently purchased the former Colony site. Perhaps Okei longed to return to Japan, but it was unlikely she had the funds to return home. By 1871, she had contracted a deadly fever. At the age of only nineteen, her untimely death made her the first Japanese woman and immigrant who died and was buried on American soil.

The Veerkamps arranged her burial on the knoll where she often sat and gazed longingly in the direction of her homeland. In an act of tremendous kindness, Matsunosuke saved funds for some 15 years to purchase a lasting marble marker for her grave. It was carefully placed so the Japanese lettering faced west toward Aizu Wakamatsu, Okei's homeland; and the English lettering faced inland America, the country where she still rests in peace today.

Okei's gravestone stood for more than 100 years before it was severely damaged sometime after the Japanese American centennial celebration at the Farm in 1969. Somehow the crack was repaired. By the time American River Conservancy (ARC) bought the property from the Veerkamps in 2010, the stone could no longer safely remain exposed to the elements. ARC arranged for an exact replica, and the original was moved to a secure location. Another replica of the headstone exists atop Mount Seaburi at a memorial site in Aizu Wakamatsu, Japan.

Okei's life story is symbolic of the many thousands of Japanese who have followed in her footsteps arriving in a foreign land with little more than hopes and dreams. Ultimately, Japanese Americans have made immense contributions to the American economy and

culture. Meanwhile, Okei's grave has become a pilgrimage site for generations of Japanese Americans and Japanese people touched by her story of perseverance and sacrifice in the face of an unknown fate. Her original gravestone is not only the testament of her life. It is the very reason why the Wakamatsu Colony story remains alive today. Her gravestone is also a symbol of the importance of honor and duty, the samurai values of Matsunosuke's world. That he would honor his friend so beautifully by giving her this lasting memorial is touching beyond words.

A unique artifact of such significance deserves a place of prominence and protection. Returning it to the outdoor elements would expedite its demise. A world-class museum is not within scope of the ARC's long-term plans for the Wakamatsu Farm. As a land trust with over 33 years in environmental conservation and stewardship, artifact preservation is beyond the Conservancy's core mission. The place where the stone is now modestly displayed at the Farm is not readily accessible to the public and particularly non-accessible to disabled visitors. Perhaps gifting the priceless artifact to a museum or other qualified artifact repository is the most prudent choice for posterity. Public display in a place where more people will discover the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony story would likely result in many positive outcomes, not only for Wakamatsu Farm, but also for the preservation and telling of American history. Yet, moving the stone from its place of origin is no simple choice.

At this time, the ARC is at a decision point about the fate of the precious item. In the spirit of a community dialog, the Conservancy is reaching out to interested individuals and organizations to determine what course of action will best serve the gravestone's perpetual preservation. With the goal of building stronger ties to Wakamatsu Farm, American River Conservancy remains committed to sharing the story of Okei, Matsunosuke, the pioneers of the Wakamatsu Colony, and the enduring legacy of Japanese American immigrants through shared connections to the land where it all began.

To participate in the community dialog about the future of Okei's gravestone, please email wakamatsu@ARConservancy.org or contact Melissa Lobach, ARC Development Manager, 530/621-1224, PO Box 562, Coloma 95613.

Wakasa Monument preservation needed

A monument was created from cement and local stones in 1943 to honor James Hatsuaki Wakasa, 63, who while imprisoned in the Topaz WWII Concentration Camp was murdered while walking his dog after dinner by a military sentry. The government report claimed that on April 11, 1943 Wakasa was trying to "crawl through the fence" and ignored verbal commands; his body was found 3-5 feet inside the fence.

Prison authorities ordered the angry Issei prisoners not to memorialize his death, but they built the marker anyway. The government ordered it destroyed, because they were worried that Japan would cite Wakasa's killing as a US war atrocity to justify mistreating US prisoners of war and the climate in WWII prison camps was tense - Topaz had been open only 7 months and in the prior 4 months eight sentries shot at prisoners; four months earlier an uprising at the Manzanar prison resulted in two prisoners' deaths. For two days the government had a riot gear order in place - the angry inmates stopped working and armed themselves with anything. The inmate community asked for a civil trial and permission to have a funeral at the crime scene and to build a monument - all requests were denied. The Topaz inmates hid the monument by burying it.

In September 2020, the memorial was rediscovered when a hand-drawn map was found in the National Archives. In July 2021, without consulting anybody, Topaz Museum director Jane Beckwith had it removed by trash haulers using a fork lift. The Museum Board has since issued a public apology for mis-handling the artifact. The Museum Board requested that the National Park Service (NPS) assess and make recommendations about the current condition of the monument and its original location. On November 30-December 1, 2021 the NPS team examined the monument and its original location.

On February 4, 2022, NPS released its 60 page report which states that "fearing possible vandalism" the monument was removed to be sheltered in the courtyard of the Topaz Museum in Delta, Utah. NPS said that the stone needed more protection at its storage site, some fractures and fragments may have been exacerbated by the stone's removal, the excavation area had been backfilled where fragments were left behind.

The Topaz Museum, a non-profit volunteer organization, owns 634 acres of the original 19,800 acre prison "camp" site which detained 11,000 people of Japanese ancestry during WWII. The Museum is the legal steward of the prison and monument. Per the NPS recommendation, the Topaz Museum Board in May announced its Topaz Community Outreach Project to engage interested participants to help plan for the preservation and interpretation of the monument and for a commemoration ceremony in April 2023, 80 years after Wakasa's murder. To date (May 2022), the outreach plan has not been posted on the museum's website.

Postwar Interracial Co-ops and the Struggle against Redlining

“I am happy to inform all of the people living their Suburban Lifestyle Dream that you will no longer be bothered or financially hurt by having low-income housing built in your neighborhood.” - Tweet by President Donald Trump, July 29, 2020

By David J. Thompson

Levittown on Long Island in New York State is regarded as America’s first modern planned suburb. Built to accommodate returning World War II veterans, Levittown opened its doors on October 1, 1947. When complete, Levittown had 17,447 homes with a population of over 50,000. Levittown became the posterchild of the postwar USA and was featured proudly and prominently in all the mainstream magazines such as *Life*, *Look*, and *Fortune*. To many among a war-weary public, Levittown exuded everything associated with living the American Dream. There was, however one American element nowhere to be found in any of the 17,447 homes in Levittown—a Black family.

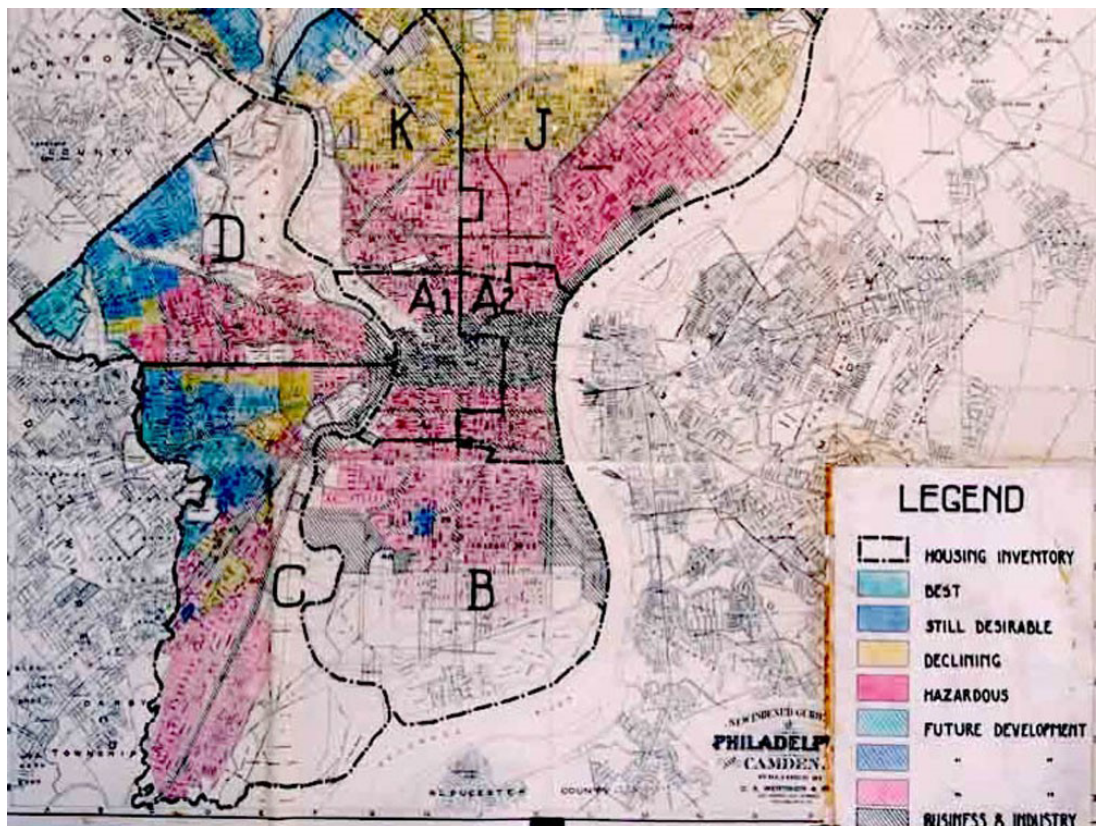
Blacks and whites had fought together in brotherhood all over the globe during World War II to defend democracy. However, a grateful government that welcomed home “the Greatest Generation” but fought that war with a segregated army had no desire to let returning Black soldiers live together with white ones. Fascism had been beaten abroad, but not racism at home.

Levittown was the direct creation of US government policy. The purchase of every single home in Levittown was insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). Every Levittown homeowner’s contract barred buyers who were “not member(s) of the Caucasian race.” Thousands lined up to apply for America’s most publicized low-cost home ownership opportunity, but any Black people who turned up were turned away. The American future was bright for some, but due to racial covenants, it was legally off-limits to Black Americans.

In 1948, the US Supreme Court ruled in *Shelley v. Kramer* that racially restrictive covenants were unenforceable. Thurgood Marshall, then legal counsel for the National Association for (NAACP), submitted a brief in the landmark case on housing discrimination. Levittown removed the offending language from its contracts, but the FHA continued to insure loans only to whites who wanted to buy homes in Levittown. William “Bill” Levitt remarked at the time, “We can solve a housing problem, or we can try to solve a racial problem. But we cannot combine the two.”

In 1950, Eugene Burnett, a Black former G.I., drove from his rental in the Bronx to Levittown to get in line for an application for ownership, but was told by a salesman, “It’s not me, but the owners of this development have not yet decided to sell to Negroes.” Burnett was one of the million black G.I.’s who were eligible for a federally guaranteed mortgage under the G.I. Bill of Rights. Turned down, Burnett drove back to the Bronx.

As of 2017, only 1.19 percent of 51,800 Levittown residents were African American



(617 people). Federal policy has left at least a three-generation legacy of continued *de facto* discrimination. Home ownership gave millions of white former G.I.’s and their families a leg up on the American ladder, even as one million Black G.I.’s found their economic path blocked.

Open Membership and the Co-op Struggle against Racial Covenants

Millions of Black and white G.I.’s fought together to defend democracy. Many came home with a wish to build a better America in which they could live together. A few racial walls were coming down—slowly.

In a number of American communities, former G.I.’s proposed new integrated communities. Winning the war against fascism abroad created interest in building a new America at home. Among these were a number of housing co-ops. The many cooperative housing communities that sprouted after the war proudly followed the Rochdale Principles, named after the English town that launched the co-op movement in 1844. The first co-op principle is *open membership*, which means simply that membership is open to all who wish to avail themselves of the services of the co-op and are willing to bear the responsibilities of membership.

Interracial housing cooperatives formed after World War II were specifically meant to be inclusive of families of any color whatsoever. However, the same FHA that financed hundreds of post-war white suburbs was adamantly opposed to integrated suburbs. As a result, the FHA opposed the establishment of interracial housing cooperatives.

Among the projects blocked were the following:

- **Community Homes, Reseda, California:** Based in Reseda near Los Angeles, the co-op housing group had purchased 100 acres in 1945, upon which they planned to build 280 homes. They spent four years buying the land, paying for site plans and floor plans, and meeting with

the local planning department. Yet, it all stopped with the FHA’s decree that the inclusion of people of color (“Blacks”) jeopardized good business practice. A 1949 memo from Thurgood Marshall to President Truman referred to the FHA’s prohibitive actions against Community Homes and York Center Cooperative Community in Illinois. The two co-ops were the only communities referred to in his memo. Truman then advanced some of Marshall’s suggestions in the National Housing Act of 1949.

- **Peninsula Housing Association (PHA):** Based in Ladera, west of Palo Alto, the PHA was formed in 1944 mainly by members of the local food co-op. By 1946, the housing co-op’s 150 members had purchased 260 acres of ranchland in the nearby Portola Valley. Denied FHA loans, the PHA ultimately closed and sold the land and plans to a developer who agreed to sell homes only to whites. In the 2010 US Census, Ladera’s 535 households have a population of 1,426, of whom only three people (0.2 percent) are listed as Black.
- **Mutual Housing (now Crestwood Hills) Association:** Three ex-servicemen returned to Los Angeles from the war with the idea of building an affordable integrated community based upon cooperative principles of open membership. By the late 1940s, the founders had recruited 500 members, and with a \$1,000 deposit per member, they had raised the funds to buy 800 acres in Kenter Canyon in West Los Angeles. At first, the FHA was against all the land being owned cooperatively. Then, the FHA required the MHA to have racial covenants forbidding anyone other than a Caucasian to own and live in the housing. By 1952, with no progress and lots of development costs, the MHA was broke and had to dissolve. The resurrected Crestwood Hills Association had to accept the cutting of the

Continued on page 12

Postwar Interracial Co-ops

Continued from page 11

collectively owned land into individual parcels, and they had to apply racial covenants to each lot in the first tract to get financing. By the time of the second tract, the co-ops had forced the FHA to follow the law and no racial covenants were required.

An Exception that Proves the Rule: The Case of Sunnyhills

When Ford moved its plant from Richmond, California to Milpitas, California, in 1954, one issue seemed insurmountable. Many Blacks worked for Ford in Richmond, and a number of them had worked on building Liberty Ships during the war in the same community. However, there was no housing open for Blacks in or near Milpitas, an hour's drive from Richmond.

In the 1950s, the United Auto Workers union (UAW) and its president Walter Reuther had taken a strong interest in sponsoring integrated housing cooperatives for their members. Ben Gross, a Black UAW Local 560 leader in Richmond who was part of the national union task force on housing, was given the role of locating land near Milpitas. The UAW wanted to sponsor integrated housing cooperatives that could be built to accommodate the existing UAW Richmond workforce, which was about 20-percent Black.

The efforts of Ben Gross and others in the Richmond UAW Local 560 were repulsed by both local landowners and local governments. Santa Clara County had few Black residents, and segregation and racial covenants had kept it that way. When the UAW pursued funding for the homes in the development, they ran into the same FHA rules, regulations, and culture that had stymied the other co-ops. Once again, the FHA, local developers, and local government agencies looked like they were going to stop an integrated co-op.

However, in this instance, the UAW officers pursued a new and different tack. The UAW arranged for a long-term mortgage through the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae). In this case, the UAW applied under a new co-op ownership program called Section 213 of the Federal Housing Act of 1950. This program was administered by the Cooperative Development Office of the FHA rather than the FHA's single-family home program.

Without the UAW's organizational and financial muscle, Sunnyhills would never have come about. Few other entities had the resources, people power, and time to withstand the years of struggle and the costs of litigation and development. Coming along a few years later than the other interracial co-op efforts also helped. Ultimately, Sunnyhills got built as an interracial cooperative, becoming the first one ever approved by the FHA.

When Sunnyhills was finally mapped out, the UAW saw to it that Ben Gross and other union leaders were perpetually honored. Gross Street in particular paid homage to the UAW-backed leader behind Sunnyhills. Due to his civic commitment, Ben Gross went on to become the first Black mayor of any city in California. He



Levittown, N.Y.: The Original Starter Community -

served as mayor of Milpitas from 1966 to 1970.

However, Ben Gross played one other unique role in US history. When Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev visited the USA in 1959, President Eisenhower wanted Khrushchev to see the fruits of a vibrant postwar America. One afternoon, after a visit to an IBM plant in San Jose, Khrushchev was whisked off secretly to see Ben Gross and his family in their home in Sunnyhills. Eisenhower wanted Khrushchev to see a home in an integrated neighborhood where Black and white families were living together. The Secret Service did not allow any photos to be taken and even confiscated the Grosses' personal camera. The only US housing seen by the leader of Russia was an interracial housing co-op that ten years earlier would not have been allowed.

Segregated Housing's Legacy Today

It is painful to record that in that postwar era and economy which saw so many changes in American society, racism was brushed under the rug. The housing segregation fortified by the policies of the FHA then has built the society we live in now. America, of course, continues to have a whole lot of work ahead of it if the country wishes to build an integrated society. The legacy of the blocked postwar co-op ownership projects—and of redlining more generally—is, of course, a central reason behind the nation's large and still growing racial wealth gap.

Although in their time these cooperators did not always succeed, their efforts, along with the NAACP and other groups, for a better and racially diverse America were not in vain. It is hard to imagine the Fair Housing Act of 1968 coming to fruition, for example, without these earlier struggles to painstakingly, project by project, break down the edifice of federally supported housing segregation.

But that is not to ignore the enormous human cost that the participants in these efforts often faced. In almost all of the proposed communities described above, hundreds of people lost their life savings after dedicating years of effort to build interracial communities.

This article is dedicated to those brave cooperators who in fighting to overcome the color bar in housing did, through their considerable personal sacrifice, help bring an

end to *de jure* discrimination and who remain, even today, an example to us all.

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David J Thompson is a former Director; Western Region of the National Cooperative Bank where he funded development of over 1,500 units of low and moderate income integrated cooperative housing. David is co-principal of Neighborhood Partners LLC, developer of over 1,000 units of integrated low-income affordable housing.

Racial justice coalition demands that Biden order study of reparations

By DeNeen L. Brown
Washington Post, May 5, 2022

A coalition of dozens of human rights organizations and racial justice advocates sent a letter to the White House Wednesday, demanding that President Biden issue an executive order to create a commission to study reparations for slavery.

The letter marks a change in strategy by advocates of reparations, who have long pushed for Congress to pass H.R. 40, a bill that would establish a commission to study reparations. In April 2021, the House Judiciary Committee voted to advance H.R. 40 for the first time since it was introduced in 1989.

Last June, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden supported a number of components of the bill. “He, of course, supports a study of reparations,” Psaki said, “and feels that would be the best next step.”

But the push for a reparations commission has faced staunch opposition in the Senate. In 2019, then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) told reporters he did not support reparations. “I don’t think reparations for something that happened 150 years ago, for whom none of us currently living are responsible, is a good idea,” McConnell said. “We tried to deal with our original sin of slavery by fighting a Civil War, by passing landmark civil rights legislation. We elected an African American president.”

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer challenged McConnell’s comments. “What McConnell said is just preposterous,” Schumer told reporters after the bill was reintroduced by Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee (D-Texas) in 2019. “The legacy of slavery and Jim Crow are still with us.”

The groups that signed the letter include the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America; the National Action Network, led by the Rev. Al Sharpton; the racial justice organization Color of Change; and the international advocacy group Human Rights Watch. The letter represents a recognition that unilateral executive action might be the only realistic path forward for reparations amid stalled progress in Congress.

A year after the Judiciary Committee vote, these activists say there is a growing urgency to establish a commission.

“Now more than ever, we know that many of the racial disparities that weigh this country down, and divide people in the US from each other, are unnecessary and can be eradicated if we address the ongoing legacy of enslavement,” says the letter, sent to the White House by email and Postal Service. “By righting our wrongs, we can make sure that all families in the US get a fair chance to acquire land, to buy a home, to enjoy good health, and to live without fear about tomorrow. That is why we write to request that you create by Juneteenth an expert commission like that which would be established by a bill in Congress, H.R. 40.”

Advocates for a commission say that

slavery drove the economy of the country, while the enslaved Black people were paid nothing for the forced labor. A commission would examine reparations not just for slavery, but also for the racial oppression that followed, including Jim Crow laws and black codes that denied Black Americans opportunities for education, housing and jobs.

“The lack of moral and political will to begin the process of reparations continues to be a bloody stain on our collective identity and consciousness,” said Dreisen Heath, a racial justice researcher at Human Rights Watch who testified about reparations before Congress last year. “President Biden supports a study of reparations and can steer the country on a healthier, less destructive course by using his executive power to establish a federal reparations commission now.”

In 1989, Rep. John Conyers Jr. introduced legislation to create a commission to develop proposals for reparations, which he reintroduced each new Congress. After Conyers retired in 2017, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Tex.) took over sponsorship the bill in Congress.

“This is a very historic moment in the history of the United States,” Lee told The Post. “There is a reckoning across the nation regarding restoring and repairing.”

She added, “The White House has been an important factor in understanding the impact of slavery. I hope receiving this information will help us members of Congress working with the language of H.R. 40.”

The first reparations for enslaved Black people came in January 1865, after Maj. William Tecumseh Sherman’s “march to the sea” shortly before the end of the Civil War. Sherman met with 20 Black ministers in Savannah, Ga., and asked how newly freed Black people could best survive economically after more than 200 years of enslavement and brutality.

“The way we can best take care of ourselves is to have land, and turn it, and till it by our own labor — that is, by the labor of the woman and children and old men; and we can soon maintain ourselves and have something to spare,” responded the Rev. Garrison Frazier, 67, who had purchased his freedom along with his wife’s. “We want to be placed on land until we are able to buy it and make it our own.”

Four days after Sherman’s meeting with the ministers, he issued Special Field Order No. 15, seizing Confederate land along the coast from South Carolina to Florida. Sherman promised “40 acres and a mule” for thousands of Black families, a move historians would later refer to as the first act of reparations for enslaved Black people.

More than 400,000 acres of land were seized, according to the Library of Congress. Families of formerly enslaved Black people would receive as many as 40 acres. The Army would lend them mules no longer in use.

But those reparations would not last long. The federal government soon reneged on its promise. On May 29, 1865, President Andrew

Johnson issued an amnesty proclamation that gave the land back to White southerners who took a loyalty oath.

“By the latter part of 1865, thousands of freed people were abruptly evicted from land that had been distributed to them through Special Field Orders No. 15,” the National Archives reported. “With the exception of a small number who had legal land titles, freed people were removed from the land as a result of President Johnson’s restoration program.”

Thousands of Black people were stripped of land and eventually forced into sharecropping and peonage.

In February, a coalition of more than 360 organizations sent a letter to Congress, urging it to “immediately bring” H.R. 40 to the full House floor. The commission, the letter said, would resemble the panel that investigated the forced relocation and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

David Inoue, executive director of the Japanese American Citizens League, which signed the letter sent to Biden Wednesday, said there is significant support among the Japanese American community for reparations for enslavement of Black people.

“For those of us in the Japanese American community, redress happened for us close to 40 years ago,” Inoue said. “It’s as simple as passing a commission to research and investigate reparations. It is beguiling it has not happened at this point.”

Inoue said he thinks the move to go directly to the executive branch is imperative because of the stalemate in the House and Senate.

“It’s probably never going to happen that we will be able to move a [reparations] bill through the Senate,” agreed Kenniss Henry, national co-chair for the legislative commission of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America. “This is our moment.”

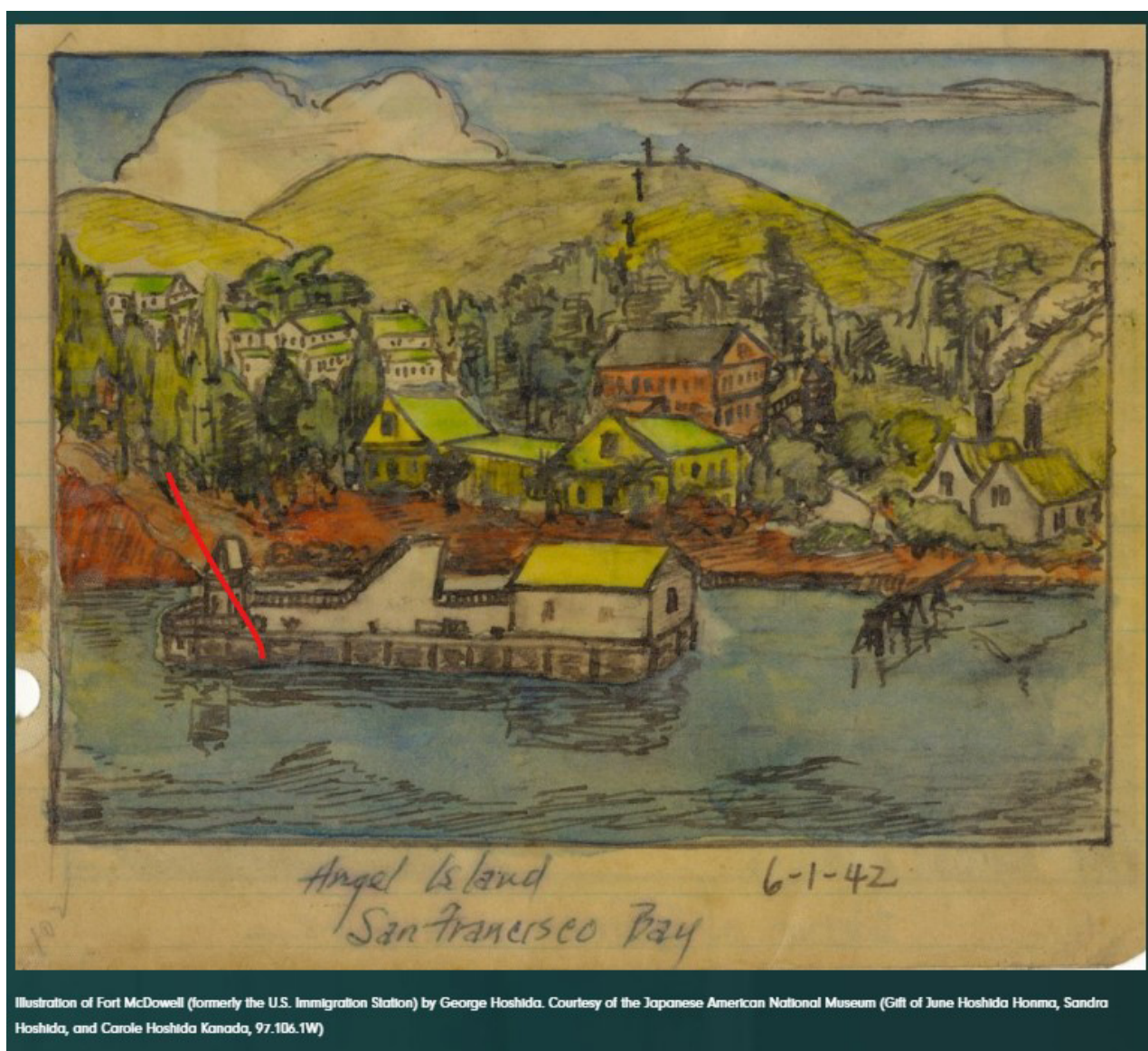
It is still unclear what reparations would look like, but the commission would make proposals.

“You can never completely repair the harms,” Henry said, “but you can make some major inroads. It is the same as trying to put a price on 256 years of forced free labor. You can create an algorithm to give you a ballpark figure.”

Nkechi Taifa, director of the Reparation Education Project, which signed Wednesday’s letter, said the federal government is lagging behind state and local jurisdictions that are moving ahead with reparations.

In 2019, the city council of Evanston, Ill., approved the first allocation of a reparations fund that would issue \$400,000 in housing assistance to Black residents who lived in the city from 1919 to 1969 or were direct descendants of people harmed by discriminatory housing practices in this period.

The next year, California became the first



New Japanese American Exhibit at Angel Island

Angel Island State Park and Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF) opened a new permanent exhibit in the Angel Island WWII mess hall an exhibit "Taken From their Families: Japanese American Incarceration on Angel Island During World War II." The exhibit opened in January features the imprisonment of 700 Japanese immigrants - 600 from Hawaii and 100 from the West Coast - by the US Dept of Justice and US Army.

While most of the Japanese Americans incarcerated in Hawaii were detained in locations including the Kilauea Military Camp near Hilo and Honouliuli west of Honolulu, close to 600 were sent to the US mainland. Angel Island and later Sharp Park near Pacifica were the first stops for those arrested in Hawaii. These locations were also transfer points for some Japanese arrested on the West Coast before being incarcerated in War Relocation Authority camps.

AIISF has been heading up this research for nearly 10 years with funding from the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites programs. Original documents from the National Archives and accounts by inmates from Hawaii describe their Angel Island experiences through drawings, family photographs, and writings.

A virtual exhibit can be viewed at <https://www.aiisf.org/taken>. AIISF is still seeking out written accounts of those who spent time in Angel Island during WWII and can be contacted at info@aiisf.org.

Nichi Bei Foundaion is planning its fifth

Nikkei Angel Island Pilgrimage for October 1, 2022. The exhibit is now available for in person viewing whenever the adjoining immigration station barracks are open, currently Wednesdays through Sundays. Info: aiisf.org/planyourvisit/

Racial justice coalition

Continued from page 13

state to establish a reparations task force. New York, New Jersey, Detroit, Providence, Asheville, N.C., and Wilmington, Del., have also established commissions to study reparations or introduced proposals.

"We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Taifa. "We are in control of the House, the Senate and the presidency. To let this opportunity wash away would be unconscionable for future generations."

California Reparations Task Force Update

Created in 2020, California's nine-member task force has met since June 2021. The two year task force is studying the institution of slavery, educating people about its findings and developing remedies. In addition to taking testimony from the public, the group voted (5-4) in March to limit restitution to descendants of enslaved Black people as of the 19th century. The opponents wanted broader eligibility because they believe lineage-based reparations unfairly shut out Black people who have also suffered systemic discrimination. The task force's plan for reparations is due in 2023.

Sutter County failed to protect Sikh man

Rouble Claire, 66, of Sutter, CA filed a federal lawsuit in May against Sutter County claiming that the Sutter County Sheriff's Office failed to investigate two 2021 racist hate crimes.

On May 11, 2021 Claire went to the South Butte Market and parked when a woman confronted him in the parking lot. She accused him of hitting and killing her dog with his car earlier that day. Claire denied the accusation. The woman cursed and called him a "f-- Hindu." Then she proceeded to ram Claire with her car boxing him against his own car with her vehicle. Claire went into the store and the cashier called 9-1-1. Before the deputies arrived, the woman left. After 30 minutes, Claire went home.

That afternoon, Claire saw another woman in front of his house with chalk and she had written "sand (expletive)" on the street and his driveway with arrows. He took photos while the woman initially avoided eye contact. Then she straightened up and called him a racial slur before walking away. Claire called law enforcement again and reported both incidents and said he wanted to press charges.

Months later the investigation was forwarded to prosecutors but no criminal charges were filed. The Sutter County Sheriff's Office eventually recommended assault charge for the parking lot incident, but the Sutter County DA's Office in December declined to prosecute citing a lack of physical evidence and "delayed" reporting of the incidents.

Claire and the Sikh Coalition tried to convince prosecutors to file charges before the 1 year misdemeanor statute of limitations expired. There is a 3 year statute of limitation if felony charges are filed.

Claire's attorney Gina Szeto-Wong filed a lawsuit in federal court against Sutter County,, two deputies and the two women. The parking lot perpetrator is a 23 year old neighbor of Claire's; the chalking defendant is still unidentified.

Sikh Coalition legal director Amrith Kaur Aakre commented: "I think it's just really, really important that these government agencies acknowledge for the community - local and far - that Yuba City, the state of California and this country are equally the home of Sikhs in the community and if they are going to be targeted and treated in this manner, then the government and those in authority will take action. I don't think that's happened yet, and I think that's a big problem." Sutter and Yuba Counties are home for the densest concentration of Sikh residents in the US.

Source: Sacramento Bee, May 15, 2022

Current Faces, New Places

Amy Tong in February was appointed by the governor to serve as Secretary of the California Government Operations Agency. She had served as Director of the Office of Digital Innovation since Dec 2021. Her other state service includes: Director at the California Dept. of Technology (2016-2021), Chief Deputy Director of the Office of Systems Integration and Agency Chief Information Officer at the California Health and Human Services Agency (2014-2016), Deputy Director and Chief Information Officer at the California Lottery (2012-2014), Chief Technology Officer at the Dept. of Tax and Fee Administration (2011-2012), Chief of the CALPERS Data Center (2008-2011).

Captain Emily Lo in February was promoted to the position of Battalion Chief with the Davis Fire Department. Lo is a 31 year veteran of the department. Born in Taiwan, Lo immigrated with her family in 1981 and was encouraged by a family friend to be a firefighter. She has an AA degree in fire technology from American River College and a bachelor's degree in fire service management from CSU Sacramento

Shuo Zeng, 34, a scientist with two PhDs, chased two men who stole his computer on December 31, 2019 while Zeng, an IBM engineer, was at Starbucks in Oakland's Montclair neighborhood. Zeng died when their getaway car ran him over. In January, Kejuan Wiggins, 20, was sentenced to 12 years; Javon Lee, 23, got 10 years. Byron Reed, 24, the driver is expected to get 15 to life.

Norman Yoshio Mineta, 90, died May 3 at home in Edgewater, Maryland of heart failure. He was elected to San Jose's City Council and as mayor, served two decades in Congress, was appointed US Secretary of Commerce by President Clinton and US Secretary of Transportation by President George W. Bush. Mineta's family was imprisoned during WWII in Heart Mountain Wyoming; his baseball bat was confiscated (deemed "a weapon") before the train ride to Wyoming. A UC Berkeley grad, he served 2 years in the Army, worked in his dad's insurance agency, became a democrat and won a seat on the San Jose City Council. On Sept 11, 2001, he ordered all 4,638 planes then flying over the US to be grounded and that was completed in 2 hr and 20 minutes without incident. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2006.

Kelly Fong-Rivas has been appointed into a newly created position of Racial Equity Adviser to the Sacramento Mayor Steinberg. She had been the mayor's chief of staff and served on the city's racial equity committee. Fong-Rivas will develop a municipal reparations initiative.

Jay Chen, who has served on the Hacienda Heights school board, and Mt. San Antonio Community College board of trustees, and has served in the middle east as a naval reserve officer, is running against Congresswoman Michelle Steel (1st Korean American elected to Congress) for the new 45th Congressional District (Orange and LA counties). Steel's campaign is race-baiting the contest with comments like (Chen is) 'trying to instill communism into young minds' and "Chen's out-of-touch, Bernie Sanders-inspired, socialist agenda is front and center." These comments add to the wave of violence against AAPIs, but this time by an AAPI elected official herself. Chen's family comes from Taiwan and speaks passionately about the dangers of Communist China.

Kevin Nishita was shot and died November 21, 2021 while providing security to a KRON-TV 4 news crew in Oakland. On December 22nd, the Oakland Police arrested two suspects on outstanding warrants. Oakland Police Chief LeRonne Armstrong reported that a third suspect had been identified but had not yet been arrested.

Sokhary Chau became the first Cambodian American mayor in the US. Chau is a refugee who survived the Khmer Rouge, was elected to city councilor in Lowell MA and chosen by his council peers to be the city's mayor. Chau, 49, works for the US Social Security Administration. In 2017, a city rights group sued the city for violating voting rights of minority residents and after the settlement the 2021 elections resulted in Lowell's most diverse class of officeholders.

Jeffrey Koji Maloney is now mayor for the second time in the city of Alhambra. He was re-elected to the city council in 2020. Maloney is an environmental attorney for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Martin and Susan Yoshimura Yan, both UCD graduates, gifted nearly 3,000 cookbooks, his first wok, thousands of photographs and other media to establish the Chef Martin Yan Legacy Archive at the UC Davis Library. Included are the 30 cookbooks that Yan authored, his food and travel shows and \$20,000 to preserve and digitize the archive. The library is planning a May public event to celebrate the collection. Yan earned his bachelor's degree in 1973 and master's degree in 1977. He was born in Guangzhou, was sent to work in a relative's restaurant in Hong Kong at age 13. After high school he headed to Calgary. In the late 1960s, he visited UCD for a weekend trip and shortly thereafter enrolled. To offset expenses, he started Chinese cooking classes through UCD extension.

Christine Iwamoto, 47, Sacramento, was sentenced in April to 2 years in prison and ordered to pay \$481,200 in restitution for her part of a conspiracy to take more than \$2 million in state funds from the California Office of AIDS. Yvonne Gaide, 60, Orangevale, is also charged. Schenelle M. Flores, 46, Sacramento, was sentenced in March to 5 years in federal prison. They used debit cards, state AIDS contract funds and dummy corporations to steal money from 2017-2018 and used the funds for vacation trips, sporting events and personal expenses.

Cynthia Chew, 53, Marin County, paid a civil penalty of \$3,250 which was donated to non profit First 5 Yolo. Chew had been arrested for having an unpermitted marijuana grown on her Brooks (Capay Valley) farm in 2017. The farming enterprise was in association with the Sugarleaf Rastafarian Church. Since criminal penalties for illegal marijuana cultivation have significantly reduced, civil penalties are considered a greater deterrent and may promote accountability.

Floyd Shimomura honored as a distinguished Winters High School alumni in the 2022 Winters JUSD Hall of Fame. Shimomura taught contracts and administrative law at UCD King Hall and served as a state attorney in the AG's Office, State Personnel Board, Dept. of Finance and Office of Administrative Hearings. He served as National JACL President during the campaign to have President Reagan sign the historic Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (redress and reparations

legislation). He has been helping the Historical Society of Winters to create the "The Lost Japanese Community of Winters" exhibit. In 2021, he was honored with Gloria Lopez by the Yolo Community Foundation 2021 National Philanthropy Day for their work on the exhibit.

Currents Places, New Happenings

Kitazawa Seed Company commemorated the 80th Anniversary Japanese Internment in the United States. This year marks Kitazawa Seed Company's 105th year since its founding, making it one of the oldest established seed companies in the country. The company was founded by Gijiu Kitazawa in San Jose in 1917. Sadly, Kitazawa Seed Company has not been in continuous operation for that entire time because President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 forced the company to shut its doors (1942-1945) and the family was incarcerated in Santa Anita Assembly Center and then in the prison at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. After a year at Heart Mounting, they were allowed to leave to work as "domestic help" in Michigan. In January, Kitazawa Seed (Maya Shiroyama and Jim Ryugo) has transferred the operation to True Leaf Market in Salt Lake City, but will continue to be ambassadors for the Kitazawa Brand.

Amache National Historic Site Act - Camp Amache - owned by the town of Granada, Colorado, has become a federal historic site to be managed by the National Park Service by a bill signed by President Biden on March 18th. The remote southeastern Colorado landmark is on the National Register of Historic Places but the NPS will make more federal money available for preservation. More than 7,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned at Camp Amache between 1942 and 1945. The 1 square mile site has remnants of barracks, latrines, mess halls, military police structures and a cemetery. The nonprofit Amache Preservation Society currently manages the site. When the site was closed down, the property was donated to the city of Granada; Granada intends to donate it back. Bob Fuchigami, an Amache survivor, advocates for conservation of the camp; in May 1942, he was 11 years old when his family was expelled from their Yuba City farm to Amache.

Chinese Laundry at Yosemite's Wawona Hotel has been restored as a visitor's attraction recognizing Chinese American contributions to the national park. The exhibits tell the story of Chinese workers who in 1883 helped build the 56 mile Tioga Road in 130 days. The Tioga Road crosses the Sierra Nevada reaching 10,000 feet in elevation and is one of the park's main roads. Chinese workers also built the Wawona Road. In addition to being laundry workers, the Chinese were employed as cooks and gardeners. A cluster of buildings will be making up the new Yosemite History Center which will tell the histories of immigrants who made the park what it is today.

Calendar

Now. **Hattie Weber Museum in Davis Central Park exhibit “Three Students and Civil Exclusion Order No. 79”** features 3 Japanese American Davis High School students (1940-1941). - Tetsuo and Tayeko Ito and Miyo Hiromoto. Tetsuo, a senior, had been accepted at University Farm (UCD); Tayeko, a sophomore, was DHS class treasurer; Miyo, a junior, was active in the Girls’ Athletics Assn, chorus and publishing. But in December 1940, they were uprooted and imprisoned with their families in Tule Lake and Amache Camp. Free: Saturday 10am-4pm, 445 C St, Davis.

May 20 Fri **UC Berkeley’s Asian American Research Center’s Book Talk: “A Rebel’s Outcry: Biography of Issei Civil Rights Leader Sei Fujii”** with Jeffrey Gee Chin and Chris Tashima. 4-5pm at Eastwind Books (2066 University Ave, Berkeley) or Livestream. RSVP rebelsoutcry.eventbrite.com.

May 20 Fri **UC Davis Asian American Studies End of the Year Gathering.** 1-3pm in the Hart Hall Courtyard, UCD. Info: asianamericanstudies@ucdavis.edu

May 21 Sat **Locke Asian Pacific Street Festival.** 11am-4pm, Main St, Locke. Free admission, free parking. Info: www.locke-foundation.org

May 21 Sat **Auburn Joss House and Chinese History Museum Grand Reopening.** 12noon-4pm at 200 Sacramento St, Auburn (Old Town Auburn). Guided tours, raffles, live music, Chinese Zodiac information, art, Dragon Dance and Drumming Group performance, fortune telling. Free. Info: info@auburnjosshouse.org

May 21 Sat **Yolo County Library APA Heritage Month: Virtual Bilingual in Filipino Storytime.** 10am on Zoom (meeting 84091653648). For children 0-5. Songs, rhymes, stories.

May 21, 22 **Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival.** 11am-9pm at The Sofia (B Street Theatre, 2700 Capitol Ave, Sac). May 21- Not Your Model Minority, Reparations, Minari, Blurring the Color Line, Lumpia with a Vengeance. May 22 The Donut King, Waikiki, Ricochet, Free Cholesterol Lee. Info: info@sapff.org

May 21-25 **National Nikkei Reparations Coalition’s (NNRC) National Week of Action.** A newly formed coalition to mobilize Japanese American community support for Black Reparations. May 21 Conversation: Strengthen Solidarity Through Taking Action-12noon; May 23 NNRC Workshop-5pm; May 25 Joint Action-6am-2pm. In solidarity with the HR40 Coalition. HR40 originally introduced in 1989 to establish a commission to study Black Reparations has floundered and the Coalition is asking Biden to create the commission by executive order. Info: www.tsuruforsolidarity.org

May 21 Sat **Stockton Boulevard Clean Up.** Meet at Mo Betta Restaurant parking lot (3751 Stockton Blvd) or the Corner of 47th and Stockton Blvd. 8am-1130am. After the clean up - lunch, music and fun at 5657 Stockton Blvd. Info: 916/454-2469

May 22 Sun **Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California Colma Cemetery Clean Up.** Community cleanup, free lunch, family honor and remembrance. Info: www.jccnc.org

May 23 Mon **Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation (SASF) Golf Tournament.** Valley Hi Country Club (Elk Grove). Four person Scramble. 10am Shotgun. Info: Evan Kanenaga, sasfrentals@gmail.com

May 23 Mon **Showing of “The Race Epidemic”** by Elk Grove Vice Mayor Darren Suen and Councilmember Stephanie Nguyen. Hosted by ARI, CAPITAL, Indian Assn of Sacramento and Sac. Asian Pacific Film Festival. 5-7pm at The Center at District 56 (8230 Civic Center Drive, EG). RSVP to snguyen@elkgrovecity.org

May 23 Mon **Dr. Mana Hayakaya Brown Bag Talk “Queen for a Day: Performing Patriotism and Protest in Wartime Incarceration.** 1215-130pm at 3201 Hart Hall, UCD. 22yo Yuriko Amemiya Kikuchi won the title of Victory Queen at the Tulare Detention Center (WWII prison) in 1942. What does her coronation really mean? Info: asianamericanstudies@ucdavis.edu

May 23 Mon **KVIE Channel 6: Far East Deep South.** 10pm. A Chinese American family travels from California to Mississippi to discover their family’s history.

May 26 Thu at 730pm (Mandarin), May 31 Tue at 3pm (Korean) **Bystander Intervention to Stop Anti-Asian Hate and Harassment.** Free trainings by Asian Americans Advancing Justice. 5 strategies for intervention: Distract, Delegate, Document, Delay, and Direct, while prioritizing your own safety. Sign up: bit.ly/3pehv3t

June 4 Sat **Santa Cruz 14th Annual Japanese Culture Fair.** Free. Taiko, martial arts, Japanese food, arts and crafts, ikebana and bonsai, music, dance. 11am-5p at Mission Plaza Park (103 Emmett St, SC). Info: www.jcfsantacruz.org

June 5 Sun **Sacramento Filipino Fiesta 2022.** 8am-5pm at Rizal Community Center (7320 Florin Mall Dr, Sac). A tribute to Bayanihan Clinic’s 20 years of service to Filipino WWII veterans. Free admission. Dance, song, food, eskrima, car show, health fair, career fair, games, children activities. Info sacramento.filipinofiesta@gmail.com

June 8 Wed **Adoptive Parents of Color Collaborative: Talking with Children about Race - a Developmental Approach,** featuring Malaika Parker. 11am-1230pm . Register at www.pactadopt.org

June 17-18 **Asian Pacific Islander Public Affairs (APAPA) Youth Leadership Program.** Speakers: Mary Yin Liu, Andrew Kim, Y.K. Chalamcherla, Catherine Yang. For high school students. Topics: Personal development, leadership, career path planning, civic engagement. 9am-4pm at APAPA Headquarters (4000 Truxel Road #3, Sac.) Free. Application deadline: June 5. Info: reevesonmasilamani@gmail.com, evanyuan0726@gmail.com, https://www.apapa.org/sacramento

June 17-19 **Sacramento’s 19th Annual Juneteenth Festival.** William Land Park. June 17, 6-9pm Gospel Under the Stars. June 18, 11am-6pm, live entertainment, health fair, talent show, vendors, arts/education pavilion, fraternity/sorority row, keynote speaker. June 19, golf tournament. Info: garysimon05@gmail.com

June 18 Sat **Placer Buddhist Church Pairing/ Wine Tasting.** 4-8pm at 3192 Boyington Rd, Penryn. \$35/person before June 10; \$40 after. Info: Rene Yamashiro 916/412-3212

rsyamashiro1@gmail.com, Joanie Nishimoto 916/422-9415 jsnishimoto@sbcglobal.net.

June 18 Sat **TOFA: Health and Wellness Event.** (To’u tupu ‘oe ‘Otu Felenite Association) 9am-12noon at Elk Grove Regional Park (9950 Elk Grove Florin Rd, EG). Free. Info: John Mann 916/607-6266, info@tofainc.org, https://tofainc.org

June 20 Mon **Tsubame No Gakko.** Japanese Cultural program in Fresno for grades 1-6. Last two weeks in June. Info: frantwat@aol.com

June 23 Thu **Sacramento Asian Peace Officers Assn 27th Annual Community Service Awards Banquet Dinner.** 530pm at New Happy Garden Restaurant (5371 Stockton Blvd, Sac). Info: Lt. Lai Lai Bui lbui@pd.cityofsacramento.org

June 24-26 **KAAN Building Community, Building Self 2022 Conference.** Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Denver CO. 3 days of keynote speakers, films, presentations, roundtables, performers, etc. for adoptees, birth families, family members, service providers and Korean Americans. Info: info@wearekaan.org

June 25 Sat **APSEA Picnic.** Free for APSEA members, family and guests. 130pm at William Land Park - Group Area 10 (Sac). Pizza, snacks, beverages. RSVP at Ticket Tailor. Info: www.apsea.org

June 27-July 15 **Jan Ken Po Gakko.** Japanese cultural program for grades 1-6 in Sacramento. Info: jan.ken.po.gakko@gmail.com; www.jankenpogakko.com

July 1-8 **Tomodachi Gakko.** Japanese cultural program for grades 1-9 in Turlock. Info: tomodachigakki@gmail.com

July 9 Sat. **Obon Odori Festival at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento.** 7-9pm at 2401 Riverside Blvd, Sac. July 10 Sun. Obon/Hatsubon Service.

July 14 Thu **Sacramento Buddhist Church Golf Tournament.** Check in 630-715am; 730am Shotgun start at Dry Creek Ranch Golf Course (809 Crystal Way, Galt). Info: betsuingold@gmail.com

July 16, 30, Aug 6-7, 13 **Nihonmachi Street Fair in San Francisco.** Info: www.nihonmachisf.org

July 18-22 **Tan Po Po Gakko.** Japanese cultural program for grades 1-6 in Stockton. Info: buddhist2sbcglobal.net, buddhistchrchofstockton.org

Aug 29-Sept 1 **Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation Kindergarten-3rd grade Hoops Clinic.** Location: 9040 High Tech Ct, Elk Grove. Hours: 6-730pm. Cost: \$60. Registration starts May 27th Info: www.sasfevents.org

Sept 18 Sun **Buddhist Church of Sacramento’s Drive-Thru Bazaar.** 9am-3pm at 2401 Riverside Blvd, Sac. Info: 916/446-0121

Sept 24 Sat **TOFA: 21st Annual Scholarship and Fundraiser Luau.** 6-8pm at Valley Oak Ballroom (9014 Bruceville Rd, EG). \$65/person, table of 8 \$500. Info: Lucy Oback lucyoback@gmail.com, Lisa Hafoka 916/512-5044, info@tofainc.org

Sept 25 Sun **Asian Pacific Bar Assn of Sacramento 34th Annual Golf Invitational.** 8am Shotgun at Haggin Oaks - Alister MacKenzie Golf Course. \$175/golfer, \$600/foursome. Info: abaslawfoundation.org