

Currents

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The significance of the Anna May Wong Quarter

Sixty years ago Anna May Wong became the first AAPI woman to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Last October the US Mint issued her quarter, making her the first AAPI displayed on US currency. Pioneering actor Wong is part of the American Women Quarters program which includes Maya Angelou (writer), Dr. Sally Ride (educator, astronaut), Wilma Mankiller (elected chief of the Cherokee Nation) and Nina Otero-Warren (New Mexico suffrage leader).

Born in LA in 1905, Wong started as a silent film star and found herself type-casted in femme fatale or Asian dragon lady roles.



She despised the bleak Chinese roles she was offered and Hollywood's discrimination and fled to European film sets. Wong returned in the early 1930s to still find limited opportunities which perpetuated racial stereotypes like the untrustworthy daughter (*Daughter of the Dragon*) and sex worker (*Shanghai Express*.) She lost out as the lead in *The Good Earth* which was cast with all white actors. She signed onto a rare multi-picture contract to play a humanized, sympathetic doctor in *King of Chinatown*. In the 1950's she made television appearances which included playing the first AAPI lead television actor in *The Gallery of Madame Liu-Tsong* (1951). She appeared in more than 60 movies. Wong was slated for the movie adaptation of *Flower Drum Song* but bowed out due to illness. She died February 2, 1961.

Author Lisa See dedicated Chapter 14 of See's own family's story *On Gold Mountain* to Wong's story; Wong was a See family friend. Wong's story reflects how she fought against racism of white Hollywood in its "Golden Age" era. We still see remnants of that racism in today's Hollywood.

Chapter 14 "Anna May Speaks (From the Grave)"

During my lifetime, nobody asked me what I thought. Nobody asked me if I liked it when one of my brothers used to brag to his classmates about me, hoping my fame would rub off on him. Nobody explained that even after I was dead, my family would try to keep me a secret. Nobody told me that practically the only thing people would remember about me

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Happy Lunar New Year 1/22/23

Realtors apologize for red-lining

On October 21th, the California Association of Realtors (CAR, Realtors) apologized for their leading role in California's housing discrimination including segregation and exclusionary practices and laws. The state association has become the latest Realtor group to repudiate its "regretful history of advancing discriminatory policies" and is the first state association to do so. This nationwide reckoning by Realtors include Chicago (2018), National Assn. of Realtors (2020), and Realtors in Atlanta, St. Louis and Minneapolis. The real estate industry "woke" (realized their responsibility) with the 2020 killing of George Floyd.

CAR'S predecessor - California Real Estate Association - in the 1950's and 1960's supported two measures that impacted the ability of low-income and minority residents to access housing:

Article 34 (1950) still requires voter approval of public housing projects making it difficult to build affordable housing in the state. Multiple efforts to repeal Article 34 have been thwarted by the Realtors.

Proposition 14 (1964) overturned the Rumford Fair Housing Act, which made it illegal to discriminate in housing on the basis of race. US Supreme Court struck down Prop 14 in 1967 in a case brought by Lincoln and Dorothy Mulkey who in the 1960's were three times turned away by Santa Ana landlords and the white couple who followed them applied and were offered leases.

"Unfortunately, this organization has a regretful history of advancing discriminatory policies," Otto Catrina, CAR's 2022 president, said October 21. "I'm here to say the association was wrong. We not only apologize for these practices, we strongly condemn them."

"I want to thank God for this historical moment. It's been a long time coming," said Derrick Luckett, California president of the

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The significance of the Anna May Wong Quarter

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was that I had created “bad stereotypes,” and that only a few people would cherish me in their “fanzines” and their fantasies. Nobody ever asked me what I thought. But you go ahead. Ask me where I belong, who I am. I’m going to tell you, and you can believe it or not. I don’t care. Because whatever I say, you will change anyway.

You ask me, *What is your home? Is it California?* I ask you back, How could it be the United States, where I cannot buy property? Where I cannot marry a white man? You ask me, *Is your home Los Angeles, where you were born? Is it Chinatown? Surely you must be comfortable there?* Of course I loved Dragon’s Den. I was there almost every night. But the rest of Chinatown? The people didn’t want me unless they could profit from me. So, when they wanted to raise money for China Relief, they held a Moon Festival. They said, “We need a grand marshal. We need a star.” They knew in their filthy hearts there was only one person to ask. “We will ask Anna May.” Naturally I went, knowing that the day after the Moon Festival they would go back to their old ways and I would go home alone.

What of Europe? You must have been happy there. That is where you had so much fame.

This is what I know. I couldn’t get a decent job in America and I wanted to be a star. When I went to London, someone asked me, “Why did you leave America?” This is what I said: “I left America because I died so often.” I was killed in virtually every picture in which I appeared. Pathetic dying seemed to be the thing I did best.”

Another time a reporter asked me that same question and I answered, “When I left Hollywood I vowed that I would never act in films again. I was so tired of the parts I had to play. Why is it that the screen Chinese is always a villain? And so crude a villain--murderous, treacherous, a snake in the grass! We are not like that. How could we be, with a civilization that is so many times older than that of the West? We have rigid codes of behavior, of honor. Why do they never show these? Why should we always scheme, rob, kill? I got so weary of it all--of the scenarists’ conception of the Chinese character. You remember *Fu Manchu? Daughter of the Dragon?* So wicked!”

I’m telling you this because I *knew* I was creating bad stereotypes. That’s why I wanted the part of O’Lan so badly. The Good Earth showed Chinese people in a good light, but Thalberg wanted white actors for the leading roles. Today, when they say I perpetrated those stereotypes, I wonder.

I couldn’t take any more of America. So, in 1928, I sailed for Germany to make *Schmutzies Geld*. Someone told me that means *Dirty Money*. Then I went to Paris, then London, then back to Berlin. I learned to speak German and French. At least I said I learned those things.

Perhaps I just learned how to pronounce the words before the camera. Perhaps I had no idea what I was saying. Perhaps I learned my lines by typing out my scripts. It doesn’t matter, because I was a star. In 1929, I was in *A Circle of Chalk* with Laurence Olivier. At night, at the stage door, people waited for me. Did they wait for Olivier? Never. I would walk outside into the fog or rain, and they would be there--young men in their tuxedos, young women with their bangs cut straight and blunt. Those young men lusted for me. Those young women tinted their faces ivory with ochre powder, hoping to duplicate my complexion.

In 1931, Sessue Hayakawa said, “Come back to America to star in *Daughter of the Dragon*.” I told reporters, “It is good to be home. I’m glad they want me back here to make a picture. I must confess I was discouraged when I left Hollywood. But I wasn’t bitter. Everyone had been kind to me. And I’m grateful now; it wasn’t easy at the start. It makes me appreciate good fortune.” The next year I was in *Shanghai Express*.

Is China your home country?

The Chinese have their own ways of being cruel. When I went to China after I lost the part in *The Good Earth*, I thought, Ah, perhaps this is my home. In Nanking, officials held a four- hour state dinner for me. I spoke Cantonese. They spoke Mandarin. Let me tell you something about these two languages. It’s not like the difference between Spanish and Italian. Mandarin and Cantonese are as different from each other as German and English.

I told my interpreter. “Tell me everything they say. I want to know *everything*.” Through the dinner he whispered quietly in my ear that the others were actually saying as they stood to make their “toasts.” “Does she know that her films are banned in our country? What of this courtesan in *Shanghai Express*? It this how she wants the world to view Chinese women? Does she realize how she degrades our mothers and sisters and wives and daughters? I sat there. I smiled. I listened. I told them in English, “When a person is trying to get established in a profession, he can’t choose his parts. He has to take what is offered. I came to China to learn.” When I was done, they gave me a standing ovation. And in America, they wrote, “She was received like a princess.”

I stayed in China for ten months. All my life I was homesick for China, even though I had never been there before. The rhythm of life there harmonized with something in me that had been out of tune. I was no longer restless. It’s hard to explain. Our Chinese expression “being in harmony with heaven and earth” is the essence of it. I went to Toishan to visit my home village. The women came out. They didn’t believe I was real. They thought I was machine-made on the movie screen.

When I returned to America, I worked hard to raise money to help the people of China.



I spoke everywhere. Paramount didn’t mind. The studio was helpful. Publicists wrote press releases for me: “In view of current events in the Orient, anything Japanese annoys Anna May Wong, Chinese actress.” I had an apartment overlooking a Japanese garden. When I looked at it I got angry. I wasn’t soothed. I kept a bowl of goldfish. I always had fish, because it calmed me to watch them swim, and I could forget whatever bothered me. But I couldn’t stop thinking about that garden. Paramount sent out another release: “Last night Miss Wong moved to a furnished home in another part of Hollywood, far from any landscaping suggesting Japan.”

And you ask, *Was it enough not to look at a Japanese garden?* Of course not. I had one of the largest and most expensive wardrobes in Hollywood. I’d bought gowns in Paris, New York, Hollywood, and China. I auctioned off more than two hundred gowns, ensembles, wraps, accessories-including fans, jewelry, and headdresses. All the money went to relief funds.

This is what I know: When I kissed Jameson Thomas in *Piccadilly*, British censors cut it. When I was courted on screen by a Russian duke in *Haitang*, Hungarian officials banned the film. No film lover could ever marry me. If an American actress was made up with slanted eyes and eyebrows, and wore a stiff black wig and dressed in Chinese costumes, it was all right. But me? I was full Chinese. I always died in the movies, so that the white girl with the yellow hair could get the man.

My answer to all of your questions? I never *belonged* anywhere, because no place was home to me.

My father was a laundryman. You know what this is like--nonstop work, and people treating you badly and not paying the proper amount. My parents sent me to Chinese school

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ACC to Publish Community Cookbook, Submit Your Recipes

By Dani Lee, ACC Senior Services

Every family has a treasured recipe, beloved as much for the memories it evokes as it is for its taste. Most families have recipes handed down through generations, squirreled away on food-spattered index cards, taped on the inside of well-worn cookbooks, cut from yellowing newspaper or magazine articles, or jotted down from memory after a favorite restaurant meal.

It's time to share those recipes with others! ACC Senior Services invites you to submit your recipes and stories for inclusion in a community cookbook that celebrates the Asian American, Pan-Asian and Pan-Pacific communities. To submit a recipe, visit accsv.org/cookbook. Because space is limited, priority will be given to submissions that best meet the editorial guidelines of the cookbook.

Coordinated by Chef David SooHoo, his James Beard/Julia Child award winner wife Elaine Corn, food writer Maryellen Burns, and others, the book will feature 100 plus recipes from home cooks, local chefs, restaurateurs, grocers, farmers, and food purveyors throughout Sacramento and the Delta.

Submit recipes that are meaningful to you – the foods you eat every day, authentic family, or banquet style dishes, the tried and true, the ones that excite your memory, or capture the quirks and cherished customs of your family or that you've adapted from meals you ate in your favorite eatery,

Our mothers, grandmothers, and the men in our lives seldom cooked from a recipe and restaurants seldom share them so you might have to recreate them by how the dish tasted, the memory of it. Create a new recipe based on old-time

tastes and modern takes, healthy or not so much.

The book will include appetizers, soups, congee and jook, noodles and dumplings, stir-fried and grilled specialties, sweets, and savorys—recipes that provide insight into our culture and tell the stories of who we are. Recipes such as Pancit, Ramen, Pad Thai to Lo Mein and Macaroni and Cheese; Thai Grilled Chicken, Korean BBQ, and Singaporean Grilled Fish; dumplings boiled, fried, baked, or steamed or those that cross

View ACC Cookbook Guidelines and Submit Your Recipe

Visit accsv.org/cookbook. Because space is limited to 100 recipes, priority will be given to submissions that best meet the editorial guidelines of the cookbook. Submission deadline is February 15, 2023.

cultures – from apple pie to Makizushi or Frank Fat's famous Banana Cream Pie are welcome.

We would like to have all the recipes by February 15, 2023. We also need volunteers to help shape the cookbook – from collecting the recipes to editing, designing, compiling, printing, publishing, and distributing the cookbook. We



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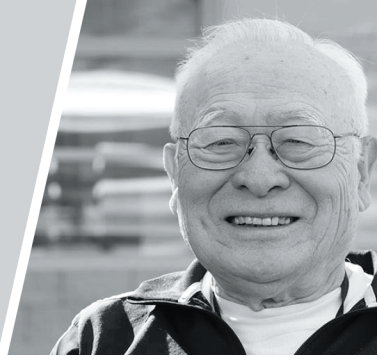
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The significance of the Anna May Wong Quarter

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after regular school, but I hated it. Instead, I went to the movie theater to see *The Perils of Pauline*. Do you remember, Stella, how we used to laugh about that, how you saw the same things in Waterville and wished you were somewhere else and I was in Los Angeles and wished I was *someone* else?

I was born Wong Liu Tsong. It means something like Frosted Yellow Willows or Frosted Willow Blossoms or Hoarfrost of the Willow Trees. All my life I wished for something different. I remember coming home from the serials and standing in front of the mirror and acting out all the parts. I remember walking to school and holding my eyes wide open so that I would look Caucasian.

When I was ten years old, I worked for a furrier. Sometimes I was a model. Once they dressed me in a mink coat and brocade ankle-length pantaloons and took my picture for the rotogravure section of the newspaper. My father was so impressed by my elegance that he cut out the picture and sent it to my half-brother in China. My brother wrote back, "Tsong is indeed very beautiful, but please send me the dollar watch on the other side." You know what I say to that? A fur coat doesn't tick.

One day I heard about a movie they were making about the Boxer Rebellion--*The Red Lantern*. I went to a casting agent. Was it Tom Gubbins. No. I was Reverend Wang, a Baptist minister. He said, "Well, you have big eyes, big nose, big ears and mouth. I guess you'll do." He changed my name to Anna May Wong. I was twelve years old and I wanted to be in pictures. For two more years I went after school to work on different movies as an extra. My brothers, my sisters, they kept it a secret. They know how mad my father would get. One day, one of my sisters said she had to tell Father, to sooth her own conscience.

My father was angry with me. He said people in Hollywood used harsh words. He said acting was not an honorable profession. He said things about white men: "They will take advantage of you. They will compromise you." My father got so angry he tried to arrange a marriage for me. He didn't ask me what I thought. But I'll tell you, I thought, I didn't want a husband to boss me around. I don't want to live my life in Chinatown. I don't want to marry a cook or a laundryman. I don't want a husband who will take all my money, even if he lets me keep working. Besides, no Chinese man will marry me. I'd become too American to marry one of my own race.

My father gave up and I never got married. And when I was in *The Thief of Bagdad* my costume was so see-through that my family never forgave me. In their eyes, I was like a courtesan. Only my brother Richard remained faithful to me. Still, did my father complain that I brought home money? Did he complain when I supported the whole family? Did he complain when I bought one brother a typewriter and

helped another to learn photography? Did he complain when I put all my brothers through private school? And here is the truth: I was beautiful as the slave girl.

After *The Thief of Bagdad*, the press began to call me "the celestial maiden." They called me "sloe-eyed." They called me "exotic." They called me "the Oriental Siren," "the China Doll," "the Lotus Girl," "the Chinese Flapper." They called me "the Queen of the B-films." They said I'd never cut my hair, never worn eyeglasses, never worn wool underwear, never curled my hair, never eaten lobster, never been



on a bicycle, never owned a radio. They said I had the longest nails in Hollywood--which was true. They made it *news* when I cut my nails for *Daughter of Shanghai*. It was news again when I grew them back two inches and protected them with gold nail guards for *Dangerous to Know*.

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be beautiful? In 1938, *Look* magazine called me "The Most Beautiful Chinese Girl in the World." I remember once in London I stopped a debate in Parliament when I walked into the visitors' gallery. They stopped everything just to watch me walk, watch me sit down. When I came back from my "Triumph Abroad," they said I was the "Toast of the Continent." They said my complexion was like "a rose blushing through old ivory," that my face shone on the screen like a Ming vase. But when Hollywood wanted a "Chinese," they hired Luise Rainer, Sylvia Sydney, Dorothy Lamour, Myrna Loy, and Sigrid Gurie.

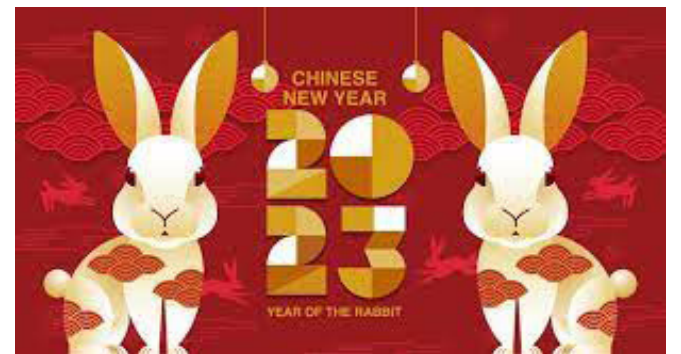
Behind my back, people talked about how lonely I was. Even today, some say, "Didn't Anna May have tuberculosis?" "Didn't Anna May drink?" "Didn't she have sad love affairs?" "Didn't she become a virtual recluse?" "Didn't her brother have to take care of her?" Did any of them ever ask *me*?

This is what I want to ask you: what would you do if your family was ashamed of you? What would you do if you were their worst secret? This is what I did: It was the end of 1930 and I was on Broadway doing *On the Spot* with Wilbur Crane, when my mother crossed a street in Los Angeles and was hit by a car. My brothers called and told me. They left nothing out. Fracture of the skull. Broken leg. Internal

injuries. They called later to say that our mother had died. Can you imagine how I felt to be so far away? Do you know how I felt when the police let the driver go free? But look, he was a white man. I filed a lawsuit. My father and my brothers and sisters joined me. What would they have done if I wasn't there?

So I say let people gossip all they want. Does it change my life? Does it make me disappear? When I returned from China, I found here a restless seeking for something that couldn't be found. The Chinese found it many years ago--a sort of serenity, an inner calm that comes from the understanding of life. This is such a short life. And mine was really short. Only fifty-four years.

People say, Oh, she died of a broken heart. She died of disappointment. She died of too much bitterness. She died to pay for her sins against the Chinese people. But I say nothing matters one way or the other. I have learned not to struggle, but to flow along with the tide.



Happy New Year January 22, 2023

The Year of the Rabbit is a year of homecoming, with an emphasis on family and friends. It is a time to reconnect with those who have been lost, return to your roots, and celebrate what matters most: your relationships with others. The Rabbit is a symbol of fertility, so this can be an especially good year for new beginnings and fresh starts.

California Realtors apologize for red-lining

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National Association of Real Estate Brokers, or NAREB, a 75-year-old organization of African American real estate professionals, formed when Blacks were denied membership to Realtor associations. “A lot of people have been denied wealth and things that they should be entitled to,” Lockett added. “And I’m hoping going from this point forward that we’re going to be in a better place, a better space and we’re going to be eventually one big group to make sure that we all are fighting for democracy and housing on a level playing field.”

Historians document a different America at the start of the 20th century, saying many US cities were integrated before the Realtors started a series of practices - exclusionary zoning (redlining) and racially restrictive deed covenants - and began carving out all-White neighborhoods across the nation. During the 1930s, the Home Owners’ Loan Corporation, backed by the federal government, created maps that categorized parts of cities into grades based on their purported creditworthiness. The redlining drove racial segregation and income inequality by preventing residents living in certain neighborhoods from receiving loans. The Federal Housing Administration promoted the housing discrimination by requiring new developments contain deed covenants or other barriers to non-White homebuyers as a condition for funding and the Realtors played key roles in the development and support of those policies.

The legacy of this housing discrimination continues. US Census figures show that while 64.5% of White, non-Hispanic Californians were homeowners in 2021, just 35.5% of Black households, 45.6% of Latino households and 61.2% of Asian households in the state were homeowners.

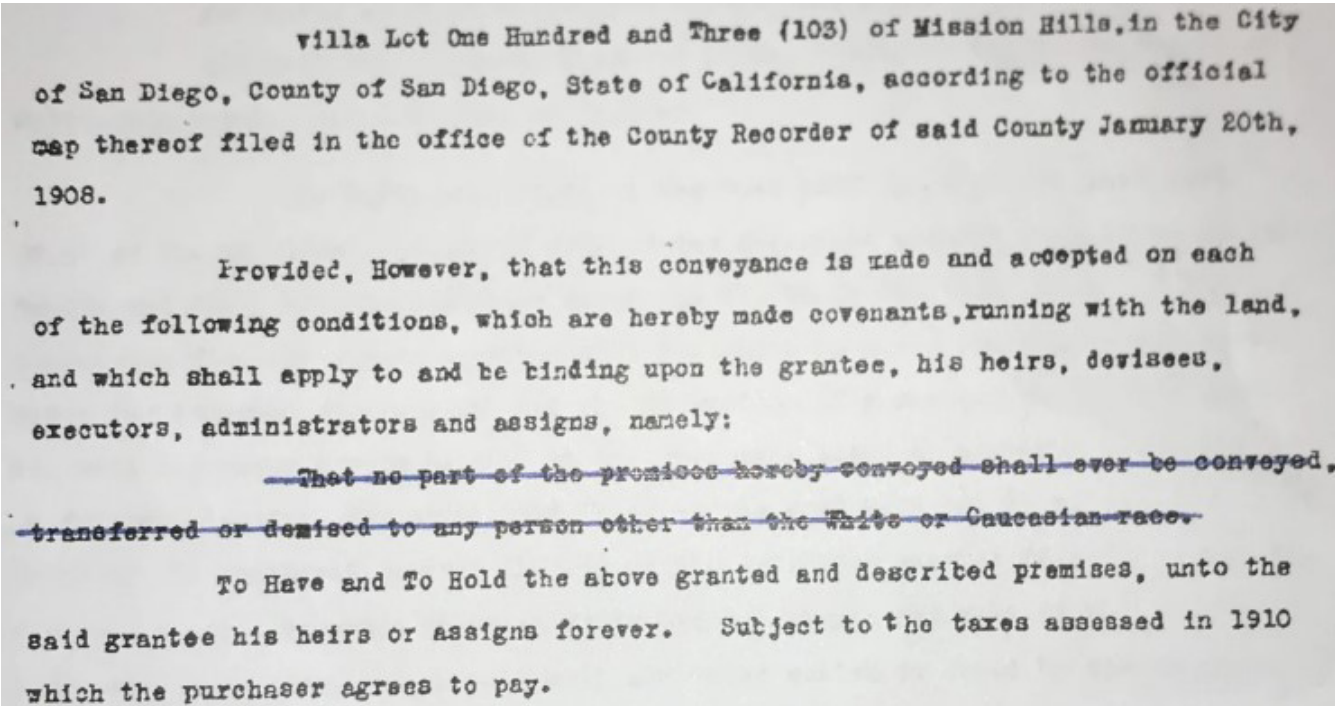
The denial of homeownership led to a loss of housing appreciation that contributed to higher household wealth among Whites. CAR reported that less than half of Black households earn the minimum income needed to buy a home.

“Homeownership is a key element in building generational wealth and economic security for working families,” Catrina said during the news conference. “As stewards of homeownership, Realtors have a unique role to play in the fight for fair housing.”

CAR has promised to support homeownership in underserved communities, the repeal of Article 34 and other legislation promoting fair housing. CAR has partnered with housing groups in Los Angeles, Riverside and Richmond CA to provide grants of up to \$10,000 to help minority homebuyers pay closing costs. CAR has sponsored a law requiring periodic implicit bias training for all real estate salespersons and wants laws that protect consumers from appraisal bias.

Last November, Charlie Oppler, president of the National Association of Realtors, issued a

public apology which followed the association amending its code of ethics to ban hate speech, including racist social media posts by its agents. In the months that followed, they unveiled a new Fair Housing Action Plan and a number of diversity-focused grants. The national association is urging its member to be introspective, identify



the missing actors, and recruit and mentor members of underrepresented communities to increase diversity in the realtor ranks.

Other realtors believe that equity will improve with grants to help with closing costs, down payment assistance programs, partnering with nonprofit organizations to support first generation homeowners, supporting policies which address supply and affordability of homeownership and supporting systems for redacting restrictive covenants in property records.

Others are waiting for more than the Realtors to step up to the bat - It’s also going to take the lenders, the mortgage industry, the appraisers, and the relationship they all have with each other to improve homeownership equity and close the racial gap in homeownership.

Within the appraisal industry, where nearly 97 percent of appraisers are white, leaders in the field initially refused to acknowledge bias despite damning reports released in 2020 showing racial discrimination in appraisals. The Appraisal Foundation, which sets national standards for real estate valuation, has since added its first Black member to its Appraisal Qualifications Board. Among their new diversity initiatives is PAREA, Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal, which can help aspiring appraisers sidestep the long-held requirement that trainee appraisers have mentors.

JPMorgan Chase in October issued a \$30 billion commitment to racial equity, including an expanded home buyer grant program for minority buyers, meant to help 40,000 Black or Latino families buy a home in the next five years. PeerStreet, an online marketplace for real estate investors, created the Evolving Neighborhood

Uplift Fund, a donor-advised fund to provide property down payments for aspiring Black real estate investors.

Some critics claim that the Realtors’ apology is empty rhetoric and suggest the creation of a reparations fund with a 10% tax on

all homes over \$10 million,

California deleting racist land covenants

California Assembly Bill 1466 went into effect July 1 requiring every county recorder in California have a program to identify and redact unlawfully restrictive covenants from the state’s real property records.

Restrictive covenants in titles and deeds include language that said things like “no person of any race other than the Caucasian or white race” may use or occupy the property, with the exception of “domestic servants of a different race domiciled with an owner or tenant.”

As of July 1th, each California county recorder must create a detailed plan that will explain how they will carry out removing the historic restrictive covenants that were once used to keep Black and other people of color out of certain neighborhoods.

The original bill would have required title companies to search all real estate documents provided to homebuyers for unlawful restrictive covenants and submit restrictive covenant modification (RCM) forms to effectuate the removal of any unlawful covenants that were found. It was later fine-tuned to task the county recorders to do the notification instead.

Title and escrow companies are now required to notify a buyer or seller in a real estate transaction if there is a restrictive covenant on a property. Additionally, those companies will assist with the preparation of a restrictive covenant modification form.

Jewish community responds to rise in hate

The rise in hate incidents against the Jewish community - Holocaust deniers hung highway banners, swastika and other graffiti has appeared on campuses and other public places - has prompted necessary responses in the Jewish community. Davis’ Congregation Bet Haverim has hired security for the synagogue which has never been needed before and has distributed printed sanctuary safety evacuation plans. According to Rabbi Jeremy Simons, “Most rabbis in the country at this point have gone to a training about how to apply emergency first aid to bullet wounds.”

According to retired law professor Alan Brownstein, he hopes that the synagogue’s Countering Antisemitism Committee will reach out to the broader community to expand community awareness of the three different levels of biases Jewish people face - ignorance, insensitivity and hostility - and develop an appreciation that the Jewish community is not just a religious group but an ethnic group, as well. His hope is for the broader community be empowered so that when anyone tries to plant the seed of antisemitism that those seeds die. “The fact that there are people that are antisemitic is horrible, but the fact that people don’t challenge it is even more depressing.”

The City of Davis has launched a Hate-Free Together campaign, a community wide effort to share resources, support and opportunities to condemn hate, create safety and cultivate change.

Town-hall meeting explores ‘meteoric’ rise in hate crimes

By Lauren Keene
Davis Enterprise, December 23, 2022

Gloria Partida still has difficulty discussing the hate-crime beating her son suffered nearly a decade ago.

The Davis City Councilwoman and founder of the Davis Phoenix Coalition struggled to keep her emotions in check during a recent Yolo County District Attorney town-hall meeting exploring the rise — locally and beyond — of hate-motivated crimes and incidents.

“He beat him so badly he needed rehabilitation,” Partida recalled.

The law defines a hate crime as a criminal act committed whole or in part because of one or more actual or perceived victim characteristics, or a person associated with them.

“They’re message crimes — hate crimes are not only meant to harm the individual, but also to send a message to the whole community that has been victimized,” said Jonathan Raven, Yolo County’s chief deputy district attorney and guest host for the online meeting.

Protected groups include those targeted because of their disability, gender, nationality, race/ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

Lawrence “Mikey” Partida, who is gay, endured the brutal beating in March 2013 after celebrating his cousin’s birthday on I Street. A neighbor attacked Partida physically and with anti-gay slurs as he left the gathering.

Yolo County prosecutors pursued assault, battery and hate-crime charges against the 19-year-old suspect, who later pleaded no contest to those counts, served local prison time and paid restitution for Partida’s recovery expenses.

“That (hate-crime) enhancement was really important to my son, because it was the only way he felt he could fight back,” Gloria Partida said. “It’s a message that we send, that it’s important for us to have laws that protect the most vulnerable in our community.”

Data from the California Attorney General’s Office shows a 32.6 percent increase in hate crimes statewide from 2020 to 2021. Of the protected groups, Asians were targeted 177.5 percent more often, followed by the LGBTQ+ (47.8 percent) and Jewish (32.2 percent) communities, Hispanics/Latinos (29.6 percent) and Blacks (12.5 percent).

Nancy Appel, senior associate regional director and California legislative director at the Anti-Defamation League in San Francisco, called the rises “meteoric.”

“It’s almost unprecedented,” Appel said. “We are seeing numbers at record levels, going back to the year or so after 9/11.”

Many of those groups also report experiencing hate incidents, defined as non-criminal behavior motivated by hate, prejudice or bigotry.

That includes at least two August incidents in Davis in which a group of masked men unfurled anti-Semitic banners saying “Communism is Jewish” and “The Holocaust is an anti-white lie” on the Highway 113 bike overpass.

In September, someone shouted “white power” at a passing Black Student Union float during the Davis High School homecoming parade in downtown Davis.

Although not crimes, and broadly protected by the First Amendment’s free-speech provisions, such acts have deep impact on the community, Appel noted.

“Just because the activity might not be unlawful or criminal does not mean it does not still cause a tremendous amount of emotional harm to the targets of that speech, and that it is not still incumbent upon our community leaders, and law enforcement to the extent possible, to speak out against it,” Appel said.

She added: “As the saying goes, it’s awful but lawful.”

The August “banner drops” were condemned by the Davis City Council, as well as Davis Police Chief Darren Pytel, UC Davis Chancellor Gary May and numerous community

groups.

Because the incidents occurred near the UCD campus, officials there offered support resources to those affected by them.

They contributed to the increase in hate and bias-related crimes plaguing the UCD campus, according to Danesha Nichols, director of the university’s Harassment and Discrimination Assistance and Prevention Program.

Most take the form of hateful speech, either in person or via social-media platforms.

“Social media seems to be a big contributor to hateful rhetoric,” Nichols said. It’s complicated to address because of free-speech protections, “and yet our community is being impacted by this hateful, mean-spirited speech.”

Partida agreed that, despite its reputation for tolerance and inclusion, Davis also has seen an increase in hate crimes and incidents, and “this year there seems to be more than usual.”

Raven, who prosecuted the suspect in Mikey Partida’s assault, highlighted new laws benefiting the fight against these crimes. They include AB 2282, which expands offenses to include the displays of “terrorist symbols” such as swastikas, hanging nooses and burning crosses, and broadens the locations where the law applies.

Still, there’s more work to be done.

Despite Congress’ 1990 passage of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, which calls for the FBI to collect hate-crime data from law-enforcement agencies, those offenses remain “notoriously underreported,” Appel said.

While some crimes go unreported by the victims themselves, at the same time there’s no corresponding law compelling the country’s roughly 18,000 law-enforcement agencies to send their hate-crime data to federal authorities.

“So it’s effectively voluntary on their part,” Appel said. It’s frustrating, she added, “because data drives policy. You have to know what the problem is in order to address it.”

Locally, community leaders are seeking to do their part. Late last month, city, county and university leaders signed a resolution creating “Hate-Free Together,” a joint effort to combat hate-motivated behavior among individuals, public agencies and businesses, including schools and religious institutions.

The Davis Phoenix Coalition, which Partida launched in 2013 to embrace diversity and inclusion of marginalized communities, continues to address related issues such as school bullying — behavior her son’s attacker had previously demonstrated.

“We as a community failed this young person, and we needed to do more,” Partida said.

Appel also emphasized the importance of prevention. In addition to its advocacy work, the

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7 tips for managing your mental health during the holidays (and all year long)

By Lisa Howard
UC Davis Health, December 19, 2022

Neuropsychologist Angela Drake has advice for navigating the season’s emotional challenges

The holidays can be a time for joy and connecting with friends and loved ones, but they can also bring stress and sadness. Angela Drake is a clinical neuropsychologist at UC Davis Health. She has practical advice for navigating the season’s emotional challenges and specific tips for taking care of your mental health.

1. Manage holiday expectations

The most common advice Drake gives her patients is to figure out how to manage their expectations. “Often what we are experiencing is a disconnect between our actual situation and what we think it should be,” Drake said. During the holidays, this can be particularly acute. If someone grew up with a big family, they might feel a sense of loss with a small gathering. “They are mentally comparing the two without even knowing it,” Drake said. She suggests focusing on what you are grateful for in the present.

2. Let go of the fantasy

She also encourages people to manage their expectations of other people. “We can all have the fantasy that everyone is going to have a wonderful time, but the reality is that there are often tensions in families,” Drake said. “It likely won’t be a fantasy version of the holidays.” She says you can set your expectations by recognizing certain family members may always be difficult. “You can’t control other people, but you can adjust your expectations and reactions, which can be empowering.”

3. Check in with yourself

One way to manage your reactions is to check in with yourself regularly. “It is a way to monitor your emotional state and see how you are doing. You can think of it as a stress, anxiety or mood scale. You rank what you are feeling from one to ten,” Drake said. “And when you are at a certain level — whatever you decide — you take a break.” She suggests doing something you enjoy and find relaxing. She encourages patients to listen to music, exercise, do deep breathing (see tip #5), or do whatever activity or hobby they enjoy. The idea is to develop self-awareness so people can engage in self-care before reaching

Town hall meeting

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ADL offers programs for educators, training them to recognize bias and empower others to speak out.

“We don’t believe that anyone is born hating,” she said. “The system fails you somehow if implicit biases go unchecked and they escalate.”

This article is based on the Yolo County District Attorney’s Office Commons Town Hall meeting on December 13, 2022. To view the recording, go to yoloda.org/commons-town-hall-meetings/.

an emotional breaking (or boiling) point.

4. Have a plan

In addition to regular self-monitoring, Drake suggests having a specific plan for what you will do if you feel stressed out, sad, or anxious during the holidays. It could be calling a friend, walking, turning on music, reading, or watching your favorite TV show. The activity is as individual as you are. “All of this is moving towards wellness,” Drake said. “It’s about being proactive and engaging in self-care, rather than trying to ignore or stuff down emotions, which typically only works so long.”

5. Breathe

Drake uses a technique called diaphragmatic breathing to relieve stress and anxiety. It is also known as deep breathing or belly breathing. “You can do deep breathing anywhere, and it doesn’t cost anything,” Drake said. She notes that people often “go, go go” during the holidays and will try to power through whatever they need to do. “But then it leaves them exhausted,” Drake said. “Deep breathing, holding oxygen in your lungs, allows better oxygen exchange. Your blood oxygen goes up. And as soon as that happens, you start to relax.” You can learn deep breathing from free online instructions and videos.

6. Share the happy memories

In addition to stress, the holidays can also be a time of grief as people are aware of loved ones who have passed away. “You don’t want to submerge yourself in grief, but it is not useful to just ignore it because you are still going to feel it,” Drake said. A strategy she recommends is known as reminiscence therapy. “The idea is to acknowledge loss and grief but not dwell on the sad memories. Just focus on the happy memories,” Drake said. “I encourage people to celebrate that person. Talk about them, reminisce, tell stories.”

7. Connect with community

“Loneliness has negative health effects. The holidays can amplify loneliness, especially when people no longer have family or live far away from their families or friends,” Drake said. For people who do not have a network of friends or a support group, her advice is to get out there and find one. She notes that people find community through many avenues, including churches, clubs, meetups, volunteering, cultural centers, LGBTQ centers, and many others. “Finding community is hard these days, but it is so important. You talk to people, interact, and get to feel good about what you are doing. And it is good for you,” Drake said.

Help is available by dialing or texting 988

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, help can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by dialing or texting 988 from a smartphone. You can learn more about the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline on their website.

ACES study at MSH on AAPI survivors

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) which are traumatic experiences children from newborn to about 17 years of age endure are still largely understudied amongst the AAPI communities, even though its effects can be life-threatening. Some of these traumas may be sexual or physical violence, abuse, neglect, or being witnesses to violence either in the home or in the community. These experiences, especially with exposure at a young age, have the potential to impact a victim’s quality of life. In order to better support survivors at My Sister’s House (MSH), a recent study was conducted by staff to better understand the needs of the clients so that negative impacts could be lowered and intergenerational trauma decreased.

In order to gauge one’s ACEs, the 10 question component survey was utilized with the clients to identify and discuss its impact on them and their children. The questions inquire about the abuse, neglect, and household issues they experienced. The study provided by My Sister’s House found that approximately 80% of API survivors experienced at least one ACE while only 61% of those outside of MSH experienced one. Even more alarming, approximately 45% of API respondents scored a 4 out of 10 on their ACEs score compared to those who are not a survivor. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2019), an average of 16% of adults score a 4 or higher.

These outcomes indicate that API Survivors may experience increased suicidality, mental illness, and poor quality of life if action is not taken to mitigate impacts. A higher score could also lead to an increase in chronic disease, cancer, and heart disease, those with higher ACEs score also have a shortened lifespan of about 20 years. As illustrated in the chart, the higher the ACEs score, the higher the likelihood of experiencing negative outcomes as an adult:

Other notable mentions from this study indicate that out of the participants, approximately 60% of API respondents reported being verbally and emotionally abused. In stark contrast, less than 10% had parents who were divorced. The percentage of divorce rates were very low which may be due to their cultural and marital values. In most API countries, divorce is largely looked down upon and even illegal as in the Philippines (Library of Congress, 2020).

Despite the alarming results of the survey for API survivors and respondents, My Sister’s House suspects that scores may be under-reported due to comprehension, an inability to complete the survey accurately if they are surrounded by others, or other factors. According to Yen Marshall, MSH Executive Director, Asian immigrant children are taught to honor and respect parents and elders above all else, so verbal and emotional abuse in the home may be overlooked and not acknowledged, and

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The Mental Health of Asian American Students

Hyphen Magazine, Dec. 20, 2020

When mental health activist Shivani Nishar was in middle school, she began experiencing symptoms of depression and anxiety. Growing up in what she describes as the “white suburban fairytale” of Palo Alto, California, Nishar, whose parents immigrated to the United States from India, found it difficult to fit in.

“I didn’t have a lot of people who looked like me or had parents like me, and that contributed to me feeling like I didn’t belong,” said Nishar.

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Minority Health, Asian Americans as a collective are three times less likely than others to use mental health services, and research shows that Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) youth are more than twice as likely to have unmet mental health needs compared to white children. The impact of this can be dire, as suicide is the leading cause of death for Asian American teenagers.

One of the major challenges in addressing AAPI mental health issues is that most American research data on this subject is not disaggregated, or sorted by cultural background. Asian Americans represent a broad swath of cultural identities with different histories of immigration and socioeconomic backgrounds, but most data treat the AAPI community as a monolith, failing to distinguish between the myriad languages, cultures, and economic backgrounds that make it up. Even so, research still shows that race plays a major role in how Asian Americans navigate mental health disorders.

FACTORS IN AAPI MENTAL HEALTH

Trauma—often from adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)—has long been strongly correlated with the presence of mental health disorders. While the impact of ACEs among Asian Americans as an entity is uncertain, research has shown that intergenerational trauma has adversely affected the mental health of certain communities, especially the descendants of Southeast Asian refugees. Unaddressed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from a history of war, conflict, and displacement contributes to disproportionately higher numbers of mental health disorders among Southeast Asian refugees and their children.

The model minority myth—where Asian Americans are stereotypically characterized as a naturally high-achieving group—can put extra pressure on Asian American students. Teachers are often the ones who recognize signs of emotional distress in their students and refer them for counseling. But teachers implicitly biased by the model minority myth may fail to recognize signs of mental health struggles in their Asian students.

Dorothy Jiang, a crisis counselor coach and mental health activist, believes that the

myth can cause significant stress for AAPI students: “Asian Americans are seen [by society] as perfect to the degree that they are robotic and emotionless,” said Jiang. “It also ties into a core part of Asian American identity, so if you don’t achieve this myth status then your Asian American identity is threatened and that belonging is disrupted.”

Jiang also believes that the challenges of navigating different cultural identities puts Asian American students at a higher risk of mental health disorders. In addition, because Asian Americans are often seen as privileged compared to other students of color—but lack white privilege—Asian students traverse a precarious zone in between, not necessarily fitting in with white or other BIPOC communities.

Xinzhi Zhang, director of the Healthy Mind Initiative at the National Institute of Health, believes that race-based bullying can also be fuel for the challenges Asian American students go through, especially because teachers are not often trained on how to address racial harassment. According to research from the US Department of Education, more Asian American students have been bullied because of their race than any other racial group, with 11.1 percent of Asian students reporting facing hate speech at school. Despite that, says Zhang, many teachers don’t seem to know how to react to the abuse.

“My boy noticed his friend got bullied and reported it to the teacher and nothing was done,” Zhang said.

Zhang also believes that a lack of awareness of mental health issues and services may prevent AAPI students from receiving help. Some Asian parents might not understand why their children are struggling or may paint their children’s difficulties as trite.

“We have heard stories of parents laughing at their kids, saying ‘we’ve experienced so many worse things,’” Zhang said. “Stigma is really significant for the Asian American community.”

Jasmine Li is a high school student who currently volunteers with Colie’s Closet, a community organization that works to educate students about mental health. In seventh grade, Li injured her shoulder and could no longer participate in competitive swimming. Her inability to participate in swimming led her to become depressed, and Li didn’t feel like she could talk to her parents.

“It’s hard for a lot of Asian Americans to even talk about it because it’s something that can be seen as shameful,” Li said. “When I had a year-long injury, I fell into that same stigma and didn’t want to talk to my family.”

But stigmatization of mental illness is not unique to Asian Americans. Black people, Latinos, and non-Hispanic whites have also shown high levels of stigma concerning mental health issues.

Even if they overcome internalized

stigma, AAPI youth still may face barriers to treatment due to racism and lack of cultural competency. In 2017, 13 percent of Asian Americans reported being racially discriminated against when seeing a medical provider.

THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

Increasing the number of Asian American mental health practitioners and changing cultural stigmas is unlikely to happen quickly, and there are no easy answers to the problem. Culturally competent school environments, peer affinity groups, and free youth mental health centers might be good short-term solutions.

But long-term, systemic solutions require a deeper engagement with some of the root causes of mental health disparities, such as making mental health treatment more accessible, fighting stigma in AAPI communities, and giving AAPI youth a stronger sense of belonging.

As a volunteer for Colie’s Closet, Li regularly gives presentations to classes where she talks about her own challenges with mental health and educates students on how they can get help and fight stigma. Her work is just one example of what organizations and individual activists are fighting for every day—a world where all people are able to get the mental health services they need. In her award-winning piece for NIH’s Healthy Mind Initiative essay contest, Li explained the importance of diverse communities coming together to push for change.

“Together, we will break the cultural norm that says mental health is a joke, break the façade that mental health is abnormal, and break the secret code of silence.”

ACES study

Continued from Page 7

may be untreated and carried over to the next generation.

Fortunately, MSH understands how critical it is to lower all risk factors. Their support groups include the discussion of parenting practices that can reduce ACEs score or lower risks as a result of an elevated ACEs score. Additionally, an API mother’s ACEs 2-series class was offered for survivors at MSH. As an active culturally-responsive organization in Sacramento, MSH’s goal is to continue preventing ACEs as well as decreasing the effects of a higher than normal score through its various support groups, counseling services for survivors, and outreach to educate the local community

The ACES evaluation tool assigns points to childhood experiences of physical, sexual or verbal abuse; physical or emotional neglect; separation or divorce; a family member with mental illness; a family member addicted to drugs or alcohol; a family member who is in prison; witnessing a parent being abused.

Letters to the editor

HELLO. I’M REACHING OUT WITH A compliment and a concern.

First, the compliment. I live in the Arden/ Arcade area. I regularly receive your newspaper and enjoy reading it. I admit, I usually only scan through however, when I received the October edition I actually sat down to read it. I was impressed and thankful for the valuable information inside, especially all the information about fentanyl. I had not heard most of the details shared in that article and I found them extremely helpful. I thank you for sharing that information with the community, I wish the details you shared were more talked about. I your article contained important details like what it looks like, how a person might reach when overdosing, and how it gets to our communities in the first place. Thank you!

The concern came when I reached page 18 of the paper. Until then I was happily reading along and thoroughly impressed when I came to the article about Derrick Morton (Black American). What disturbed me about the article was the need to add “Black American” to the article title. I questioned what relevance that had since the article clearly describes Derrick as a black man. As I read the article I was sure I would find something that made it necessary to call out Derrick’s ethnicity, but I didn’t. I read it several times. The other articles in this section didn’t name the individuals ethnicity so I was confused. I just didn’t understand the value in adding that to t he title. It bothered me. Mostly because I was so surprised at how amazing all the articles were, then...that.

I loved how the newspaper spoke about issues that are concerning to all, not just Asians, or blacks, or Americans. Until I read the “black american” I was singing such praise for this paper and was ready to share with my neighbors and friends. After that, I changed my mind and will look to see what the next edition looks like before I become a fan.

I wanted to share this with you all in the hopes that you will closer review articles for comments like this in the future. I think your paper is amazing and should reach more people but not when unnecessary descriptions are implemented when speaking about someone that is not Asian. I hope that this was an accidental oversight.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and share with your writers and editors.

Nachet Roots (Sacramento)

Editor: Thank you for your email.

I pondered whether or not to include the “Black American” comment early in the Kaiser medical school article. I knew that the reader would sooner or later guess that it is Black American medical students and faculty being targeted. Since Currents articles focus on the AAPI experience (as a perpetrator, as a role model, as a victim), I wanted to make sure that

the reader was aware upfront that this article was not about an AAPI medical student, but a broader situation which should concern all of us. I had anticipated an AAPI reader feeling deceived into reading about Black American medical student’s situation.

Whether or not the AAPI community understands and appreciates that discrimination inflicted on the Black community is ongoing, generational, implicit and institutional and affects all people of color is up for debate. For so many years, the AAPI community has been riding on the backs of Black American suffering - taking advantage of Black American civil rights gains, “passing as white” when we can, and not speaking up against injustices thinking that head-down/staying silent is the better response.

Many AAPIs feel comfortable in believing that they themselves “bootstrapped” the economic and educational gains of their families and do not support affirmative action programs. Currents has presented articles describing AAPI “white advantage” and urging readers to see and care beyond their own families and communities. Currents encourages readers to defuse the myth that meritocracy exists everywhere, for everyone. Currents wants its readers to be more aware and civic minded by standing up (be upstanders, not bystanders) and have facts on hand when commenting or discussing racism and discrimination in our country.

Your comments are appreciated and more sensitivity will be considered in the future about identifying anyone’s particular ethnicity. In the past year, another reader was offended that Currents identified an AAPI catalytic converter thief (by name only) and she felt the article maligned his particular AAPI community.

Thanks for the kudos. Keep on reading and I hope that Currents will earn your approval.

Pattie Fong

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ANALYSIS OF Governor Newsom’s and President Biden’s appointments in the October 2022 edition of Currents. While the numbers may appear to be appropriate, I want to emphasize that President Biden has not yet appointed any AAPI to a significant, influential cabinet or secretary position. The AAPI community does not lack the talent, education or experience which is needed for such high level policy positions and that he continues to ignore the wealth of skills and support he has received from the AAPI community is very very disappointing.

Grace Kim (Seal Beach)

WHY ARE PEOPLE STILL HATING EACH OTHER because of ethnic background and family ancestry? Why is there so much hate against Asians?

We should have been over this racial profiling stuff a long time ago. There are a lot of people who are slow learners.

There may be some people in America who don’t know what racism is.

Paul Tieck (San Francisco)



Women on corporate boards unconstitutional

On May 13, 2022, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Maureen Duffy ruled that California’s landmark law SB 826, Women on Boards, requiring women on corporate boards is unconstitutional. She found that SB 826 violated the right to equal treatment. The conservative legal group Judicial Watch challenged the law, claiming it was illegal to use taxpayer funds to enforce a law that violates the equal protection clause of the California Constitution by mandating a gender-based quota.

SB 826 was signed by then-Governor Jerry Brown as a political message during the #MeToo era. In the three years it has been on the books SB 826 has been credited with improving the standing of women in corporate boardrooms anyway. Less than half of the 650 corporations told to comply with the gender equity goals actually filed a compliance report in 2021; the other half blew off the mandate. The sole enforcement tool - a \$100,000 fine for failing to file an annual report or comply with the law and a \$300,000 fine for multiple failures - was never levied.

The state defended the law as constitutional, saying it was necessary to reverse a culture of discrimination that favored men and was put in place only after other measures failed. The state also said the law didn’t create a quota because boards could add seats for female directors without stripping men of their positions.

SB 826 had required publicly held companies headquartered in California to have one member who identifies as a woman on their boards of directors by the end of 2019. By January 2022, boards with five directors were required to have two women and boards with six or more members were required to have three women.

AAPI arrested in federal drug sting and EDD fraud

Last June, the FBI broke up a nationwide marijuana smuggling and unemployment fraud ring. Those arrested had also impersonated FBI, Drug Enforcement (DEA), Secret Service agents and US Attorneys and presented phony federal court orders. The defendants — Quinten Giovanni Moody, aka Christano Rossi (37, Dublin), Myra Boleche Minks (44, Loomis) and Jessica Tang (48, Sacramento) are described as being part of the “Moody-Minks Organization,” a criminal organization whose members and associates engage in, among other things, drug trafficking, fraud and the impersonation of federal law enforcement officers. The organization operated throughout California, Georgia, Nevada, Texas, and elsewhere.

The investigation began with a May 12, 2017 seizure of two suitcases at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport after a Delta Airlines flight arrived from Oakland. The suitcases were retrieved by a “Moody-Minks Associate” and agents later found the luggage contained more than 31 pounds of marijuana. That “associate” was convicted in federal court in Georgia on drug charges and cooperated describing a smuggling scheme to funnel marijuana from California to Georgia and identifying Moody as a person known to him as “Q.”

In March 2019, Placer County sheriff’s deputies showed up at a house in Loomis responding to a report of “suspicious activity” and determined Minks was renting the home under a phony name. They knocked but no one was home. The deputies smelled a strong odor of marijuana and noticed several suitcases sitting in front of the residence. Minks later drove up to the house, left and was then stopped and claimed that she was a partner in a Mendocino County marijuana farm and that she was being paid \$5,000 to \$11,000 a month operating under the name Exclusive Consulting LLC. When arrested, she had \$47,000 in cash, another \$4,898 inside her purse, a fake California driver’s license, and credit cards issued in other names and airline tickets in other people’s names. She also possessed a department store security tag remover. Deputies searched the Loomis home and found pay-owe sheets, marijuana and marijuana packaging materials. They also found a lease for a home on Abbeyville Road in Lincoln, which they searched and found five 1-pound bundles of marijuana.

Minks was identified by voice recognition evidence as impersonating federal law enforcement officers and US attorneys - “Cynthia Lee,” “Amanda Sanchez Green,” “Michelle Smith,” and “Betty Yu” - trying to get information about other investigations and thwarting a Newcastle real property sale transaction. The group attempted to get two of Moody’s vehicles out of FBI impound in Georgia with a fake federal court order.

A Bank of America debit card with \$22,880 in California EDD unemployment benefits was mailed to Tang’s Sacramento home in the name of an identity theft victim from Dallas; Moody used the debit card to buy a gold and diamond bracelet at a Cartier store in Las Vegas for \$12,788.25. Moody, Minks and Tang obtained the names, social security numbers, and other personally identifiable information of other victims and submitted applications

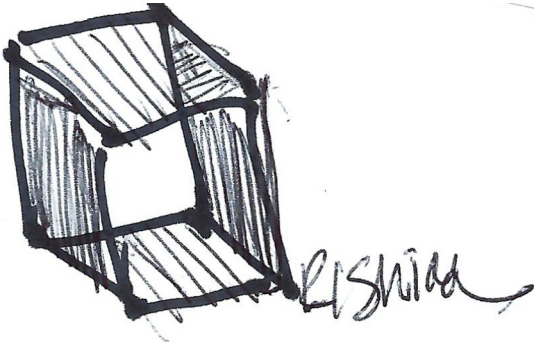
for unemployment insurance benefits in the names of these victims without their consent and knowledge. The applications contained false and fraudulent representations, including false statements about the identity of the applicants, the applicants’ occupation and previous employment, and false addresses. In total, the defendants fraudulently caused EDD to disburse in excess of \$120,000.

Another “Moody-Minks Associate” was arrested at the Reno-Tahoe Airport in May 2021 attempting to board a JSX Airlines flight to Las Vegas with 75 pounds of “Bubba Kush” marijuana in her luggage. While waiting for law enforcement to arrive, a female “Kim” or “Sabrina” pretending to be a JSX airline employee called saying that the suspect needed to proceed to Las Vegas where the Las Vegas Police were waiting to arrest her. That associate was arrested and her cellphone had a recording of her argument with Minks over how much she was getting paid for each trip.

This associate was later spotted in November 2021 near a home in Grand Prairie, Texas, where police had responded to a call about “suspicious activity” - a UHaul truck delivering a crate to a residential garage, followed with loud banging sounds, and then another UHaul truck arrived to pick up the crate. The crate had 106 pounds of marijuana and the second “Moody-Minks Associate” was arrested again.

Also according to court documents, Moody, Minks, and co-defendant Jessica Tang, 48, of Sacramento, participated in a scheme to defraud the California Employment Development Department (EDD). The defendants obtained the names, social security numbers, and other personally identifiable information (PII) of identity theft victims. They submitted applications for unemployment insurance benefits in the names of these victims without their consent and knowledge. The applications contained false and fraudulent representations, including false statements about the identity of the applicants, the applicants’ occupation and previous employment, and false addresses. In total, the defendants fraudulently caused EDD to disburse in excess of \$120,000.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with assistance from the Drug Enforcement Administration, California Highway Patrol, Placer County Sheriff’s Office, Placer County Probation Department, San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office, Colma Police Department, Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority Police Department, Roseville Police Department, San Francisco Police Department, Atlanta Police Department, U.S. Department of Labor – Office of Inspector General, and California Employment Development Department.



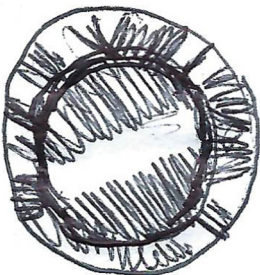
ABOUT CURRENTS

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SPLC - how to protect democracy

- Southern Poverty Law Center’s recommendations for protecting democracy include:
- Speaking out against hate, racism, extremism and attacks on voting and democratic institutions
 - Protecting every citizen’s right to vote
 - Enforcing current federal and state laws against private militias and political intimidation
 - Holding the planners and perpetrators of the Jan. 6 attack - and those who inspired their violent acts - accountable with real consequences
 - Improving government coordination and response to domestic extremism
 - Confronting white supremacy and extremism among active-duty military personnel and veterans
 - Funding hate crime prevention, digital literacy and anti-bias education initiatives to steer individuals away from hate and extremism
 - Making tech and social media companies more accountable and transparent to promote online safety

Source: SPLC Report, Summer 2022



Tong at APSEA EEO Symposium

APSEA’s Symposium on Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) held virtually on November 2nd and 3rd was launched with a keynote address by Amy Tong.

Amy Tong described her experience as a 1st generation immigrant arriving in the US with her family and 8 suitcases and adjusting to everything being new, even the darkness of the night skies because in China cities are lit all night long. Tong has recently been appointed by Governor Newsom as Secretary of the Government Operations Agency. Her prior roles have been as the State’s Chief Information Officer, Director of the Department of Technology and Director of the Office of Digital Innovation.

Because she and her family as immigrants relied heavily on public services, government services had an “important impact on me and became my main reason to choosing public service as a career.” After graduating from CSUS, she started as a programmer with the California Dept. of Water Resources and thereafter worked for six different state agencies while she noticed that departmental leadership “did not look like me” and in those days even the legislature had very few AAPI legislators.

Tong says she saw AAPI start to diversify the state workforce and from what she has seen the government does strive to open up equal opportunity for all. By 2019 AAPIs were on par with their population and AAPI were earning the same compensation on the average. She experienced discrimination and saw the surge in violence against AAPIs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tong helped to organize the State Capitol 2021 AAPI demonstration to unify the AAPI and other supportive communities against AAPI hate; this organizing has become a national movement. She says racial hate is affecting our work places and the negative impact is not limited to AAPIs. The governor recognized that and recently appointed Pam Chew to be the chief equity officer for state operations, procurement, and all aspects of state government.

Governor Newsom’s DEI (diversity equity inclusion) policy has directed each state department to produce a 2023 action for equity changes in their departments. The focus is to be on hiring and procurement. Tong notes that some departments are ahead of the curve in improving equity and can be role models for other department. That, she says, is a top priority, i.e. helping other departments to meet the governor’s goals.

“The governor has challenged all of us to process, promote equal participation, equal services” and it is important not to lose sight of the need to promote equity across the state. Each department’s action plan will be viewed for right processes, right people, right audience, with a fixed evaluation date. Tong says this can be done because the state’s COVID-19 response showed what we can do quickly and where we need to do more.

As lead for state innovation, Tong says we need to drive to provide better services and use data and technology to evaluate those services. Department leaders should encourage all state employees - all of us - to find the path for equal employment opportunities for all and equal services for all Californians we serve. Remember you have been given the public trust and must think proactively to promote equity.

Tong relates that two decades ago technology was dominated by men, and being a female, it took more effort to prove that I should be on their team and that I was not “baggage.” That took a lot of doing, it was hard, there was a lot of skepticism and there were those who would question whether or not I was skilled enough? Her solution has been to use data to drive decision making because it is factually based and doing so helps to establish credibility.

Each move in her career path - technology, digital innovation, CIO technology - has been accidental except one. She never sought advancement and was recruited for the last three appointments. She says she had always been “heads down” doing the work and focused on delivery of the department’s product. When advancement opportunities became available, people talked to me about moving up. I had to think long and hard with each move. She never had to deal with the psychological barrier of the impostor syndrome, but took on each appointment as a new challenge. “Each position opened my eyes about my potential to making positive impact for the agency. It’s not about proving to anybody other than myself; it was the work that is truly motivating to me. I can see myself contributing in that role and being a good contributor. I got opportunity to make an impact. It takes courage to take on the challenge, but I felt able to contribute as well as open the doors for others to come behind me. I do not want to be the last one; I want to set example for others.”

A significant challenge to technology innovation will be to make sure that the state invests in broadband connectivity for everyone in the state, making sure that all state services delivered by technology does not require high speed connectivity, and assuring that all state websites are presented in a common reading grade level - easy to comprehend and user friendly.

Tong says don’t be intimidated working with data. Data is “a beast itself” and while “open data” was a big thing five years ago, today it is about using data in a more surgical way, using the facts behind the data in decision making. She has seen data used negatively describing someone’s productivity and ability. But “the number one thing I have seen is data is the narrative you want to make, it is the story that you want to tell with data supporting that story.” When you look at data through that lens, data - good or bad - is okay, it is part of learning and it reduces one’s anxiety about working with data.

Departments are already working to

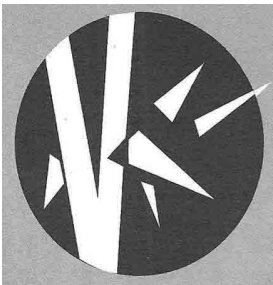
implement the governor’s DEI executive order. The governor’s goal is not to force compliance, but to set the entire state operation on a journey that we embed DEI into everything that we do. You would be pleasantly surprised about what departments are already doing. Always be on the lookout for ways to embed DEI into the fabric of what we do.

Newsom’s DEI Order, Executive Order N-16-22

On September 13, 2022, Governor Newsom issued a directive to all state agencies and departments to develop or update the strategic plan to reflect the use of data analysis and inclusive practices to more effectively advance equity and to respond to identified disparities with changes to the organization’s mission, vision, goals, data tools, policies, programs, operations, community engagement, tribal consultation policies and practices, and other actions as necessary to serve all Californians; and for the plan to engage and gather input from California communities that have been historically disadvantaged and underserved within the scope of policies or programs administered or implemented by the agency or department, and make the plans publicly available.

The governor’s order also directs the state to establish an anonymous hiring system, create new pathways and/or apprenticeship opportunities for new and existing employees to qualify for positions. For state contracts, he called for an action plans to increase access to the grant or contract selection process for small business and disadvantaged business enterprises for all federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Target Area Contract Preference Act programs. Agencies are to improve language and communications access to state services and programs. The use of dispute resolution services for civil rights complaints shall increase by 20% and community conflict resolution services will be established statewide. A California v. Hate Resource Line and Network and Commission on the State of Hate will be initiated along with a statewide review of existing regulations implementing nondiscrimination protections in state programs and activities and initiate appropriate rulemaking. The state will also facilitate a pay disparities analysis by job category, region and industry.

The Office of Data and Innovation will collaborate with departments and agencies to evaluate disparities in government operations and services. The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) shall create a Racial Equity Commission comprised of 11 appointed members to guide public entities to embed new practices into their operations.



Current Faces, New Places

Thong Hy Huynh civil rights and community services awards were presented by the Davis City Council on May 24 to Anne Kjemtrup (lifetime achievement), Max Mauratonio (young humanitarian), Natalia Baltazar (civil rights advocacy) and COVID19 Yolo Community Response Facebook Group, Davis Food Co-op, Steve Streeter (community involvement), and Catherine Bernstein (public servant). Huynh died in 1983 in a racially motivated stabbing death at Davis High School.

Nichi Bei Café launched February 2022 as a monthly livestream program. The Café is a hour-long program of video reports, interviews, previews of upcoming community events, and cooking, origami and cocktail lessons. This project is funded by a \$36,000 grant from the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation. www.nichibei.org/café

Davis Police Dept (DPD) Corporeal Pheng Ly received long distance (5100 miles) kudos for recovering a cellphone stolen December 11 from John Walter of Connecticut who was at the time at the Newark NJ airport. After discovering his iPhone missing and the “Find My Phone” app turned off, Walter continued his trip to Portugal but monitored the app during the flight seeing his phone travelling to Gridley, Yuba City and Davis. Walter called DPD and sent a screenshot of the “Find My Phone” app to Ly who traced it to a Davis hotel whose parking lot was filled with rental cars. One car was not wet from recent rain and the renter was from New Jersey and had arrived at 3am that morning. Ly contacted the driver about how his car could be illegally parked and upon making personal contact with the driver told him that he really wanted the stolen iPhone returned immediately. Only 9 hours has passed since the theft. At the end of his shift, Ly mailed the iPhone back to Mr. Walter who shared this story and expressed his thanks to Ly and Ly’s fellow officers via a Letter to the Editor at the Davis Enterprise newspaper. (Davis Enterprise Dec 21, 2022)

Jason Mikami founded Mikami Vineyards in Lodi in 2005. His family has farmed grapes for three generations. In 1896, his grandfather immigrated to the United States from Japan at 14 years old, found work in farm labor and eventually made his way over to Lodi, tending to grapes and other agricultural products. The Mikami family grape farming was interrupted in 1942 when the family was forcibly relocated under EO 9066 during WWII. After the war, the family returned to Lodi with renewed passion and Mikami’s late father, Jim Mikami, bought the land in 1963. Mikami sold the first wine under his family’s label in 2008 - Zinfandel and Petite Sirah. Mikami (UCD MBA ‘96), an engineer and senior executive at Uber, grew up on the land learning about grapes and wine from his father. He now he enjoys taking his 14-year-old daughter out to the vineyard to give her the opportunity to connect to his family’s legacy and heritage. “There’s not a lot of Japanese Americans left in the farming industry compared to my grandfather’s time,” he said. “I feel proud to be able to maintain some level of connection to being one of the few Japanese American families in farming and in winemaking.”

Darrel Ng (Davis) was appointed by Governor Newsom, along with Blake Harland (Woodland) to the 40th District Agricultural Association aka

Yolo County Fair Board.

UCSD Prof. Lynette Ong’s *Outsourcing Repression* started her research after hearing complaints in 2011 from people in China being intimidated by thugs for hire. Ong says those people did not see it as state oppression but characterized as societal pressure. Ong calls it repression. She heard about people losing their farm land and being forced to live in high rises by people associated by government but not actually employed by the government. Some people were hired for short term projects and immediately disposed of when the project is complete. In the French concession of Shanghai, real estate developers set fire to property because they want the land - everyone escaped except an elderly couple who died and the goverment and developers were sufficiently embarrassed to let the project go idle (2018). Violence in China is part of the study, but everyday oppression “persuasion” by grassroot brokers, social brokers, neighbor brokers persuade compliance, but this outsourcing of oppression cannot be directly traced to the state or government. Compliance may be coerced by promises of housing (so that a couple can marry), jobs and other benefits.

Ong noticed that when conflict within the family arises (example, an agreement to sell land), mediators or “social brokers” or other nonstate actors who are sufficiently embedded in the community show up and insert themselves as “mediators.” Many are former state employees-retirees who have certain social stature and respect in the community.

Ong questions whether this informal outsourcing of coercion wrecks the legitimacy of the government by blurring the boundaries between the state and society.

Source UCSD China21 podcast, Dec 2022

Stephanie Nguyen was sworn in December to represent California’s 10th Assembly District and the first AAPI woman to represent the Sacramento region in state government. For the past 10 years, Nguyen has been the executive director of Asian Resources Inc.

Tammel Esco, 42, was sentenced in November to 17.5 years in NY state prison for his March 11th attack - first degree assault as a hate crime - on a 67 year old Filipino American woman. He punched and stomped on her 125 times. The assault occurred in Yonkers. The victim suffered bleeding on the brain and facial fractures. He lived in her building, but they had no prior relationship. He followed her into the building; the assault was recorded on security cameras.

US Representative Ted Lieu (D-Torrance) won a 4 way race to become vice chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, the 5th ranking position in Democratic House leadership when the party is in the minority. In this status, he is the highest ranking AAPI in the history of the House Democratic Caucus.

Lee Herrick, 52, a professor at Fresno City College and University of Nevada Reno has been appointed by Governor Newsom to be the state’s 10th poet laureate. According to Herrick, a poet laureate is asked to advocate for poetry, educate and bring poetry to as many communities as he can. He will be the AAPI

to hold the position. Born in South Korea and adopted when he was 10 months old, he was raised in Danville and later settled in Fresno with his wife and daughter. He wants to bridge poetry with social justice and civic engagement organizations across the state. He served as Fresno’s poet laureate from 2015-2017.

How to Spend a Birthday by Lee Herrick

Light a match. Watch the blue part
flare like a shocked piñata
from the beating
into the sky,
watch how fast thin
wood burns & turns toward the skin,
the olive-orange skin of your thumb
& let *it* burn, too.
Light a fire. Drown out the singing cats.

Let the drunken mariachis blaze their way,
streaking like crazed hyenas
over a brown hill, just underneath
a perfect birthday moon.

Patricia Lee was appointed as first Black and AAPI woman on the Nevada Supreme Court. A Las Vegas attorney, she will need to be elected in 2024 to retain the seat. Born in Korea to a Black military father and Korean mother, she earned her undergraduate degree from USC in psychology and communications and law degree from George Washington University Law School

Sherry Chen won a \$1.5 million settlement with the US Dept of Commerce for her years long battle against false accusations that she was a Chinese spy. She was arrested in 2014 while working as a National Weather Service (NWS) hydrologist and accused of using a stolen password to download information about dams and vital infrastructure and then sharing that information with a classmate who worked for the Chinese government; the information “shared” was from public websites. The charges were dropped before the case went to trial but the accusations cost Chen the NWS job. The settlement is one of the largest ever paid by the Dept of Commerce to an individual plaintiff.

President Biden disbanded the “China Initiative” in 2022; then President Trump launched in 2018 to supposed counter China’s intellectual espionage but the prosecution of AAPIs across the country resulted very few and insignificant rule violations by AAPI researchers who were targeted and most investigations were abrupted dropped.

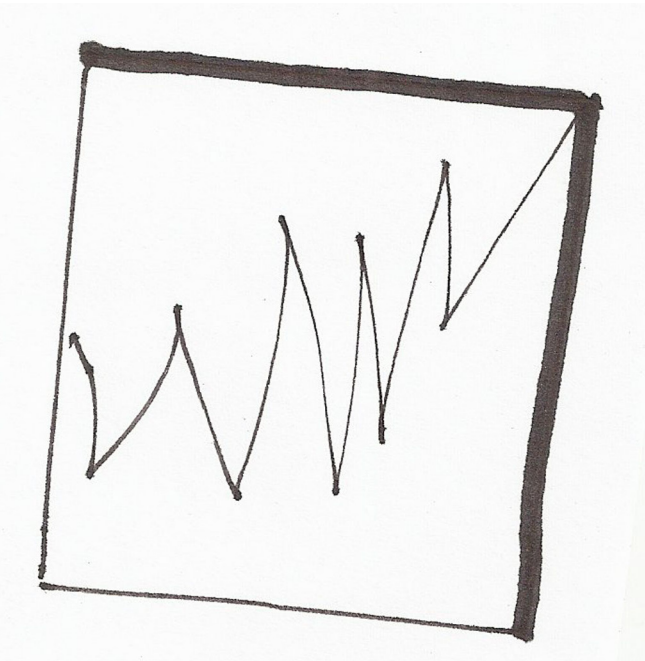
Councilwoman Amourence Lee was supposed to take San Mateo’s mayor’s seat on Dec. 5 as part of San Mateo City’s rotational system but it was delayed by other councilmembers who insisted that the vacant 5th seat be filled first. San Mateo has a 128 year tradition in which the most senior council members becomes next in line as mayor. Lee says “I believe that we are in uncharted and very dangerous territory. And I absolutely believe that this is sowing seeds of division and strife that will take years to repair. ... And I’ve heard from so many of my

Current Faces, New Places

Continued from Page 12

community members, including the API and Jewish community members, who feel incredibly cheated. We're told to wait our turn and then that turn doesn't come." Lee is now the first AAPI female mayor in the city's history.

Leanne Fan, 14 years old and San Diego 8th grader, invented a device that detects and treats mid-ear infections in children and was awarded this year's 3M Young Scientist Challenge grand prize. Her low-cost headphones use machine learning technology and blue light therapy. She named them "Finsen Headphones" after Niels Finsen, the Nobel Prize recipient who discovered that ultraviolet light can help treat bacterial infections. "Every year over 10 percent of the world's population experience a mid-ear infection, most of which are children or underprivileged people... Furthermore, not everyone has access to a doctor which makes it difficult to diagnose and treat a mid-ear infection. My solution to this mid-ear infection problem is to create a low-cost device that can both detect and treat a mid-ear infection." The Finsen Headphones can also play music. When Fan became a finalist in the challenge, she was assigned a 3M scientist to help transform her idea into a working prototype. Fan won a \$25,000 cash prize and a special destination trip. According to Fan, she plans to use some of the prize money to process the patent application for her invention.



Currents on the web

You can now find Currents on the APSEA website! Go to www.apsea.org and click on the "Community Engagement" tab to find this or past editions of Currents. If you want to opt out of the hard copy, need more copies or want to suggest where Currents can be available to others, send an email to pmfong@hotmail.com. Thanks.

In Appreciation to Korean War Veterans

Reprinted from Leisure World Weekly (Seal Beach), December 1, 2022

LW Weekly Editor's Note: Grace S. Kim submitted the following column as an appreciation to all Korean War veterans. Her husband, the late Dr. Luke I.C. Kim, was born in North Korea in 1930. Kim Il-Sung had established his Communist dictatorship in North Korea in 1946, from which Dr. Kim and his family escaped to South Korea. On June 25, 1950, the North Korean People's Army launched an invasion into South Korea, which was the beginning of the Korean War. The Kims ultimately fled Korea and established a life in the US (Davis CA), retiring in Leisure World. With this column, Grace Kim remembers the service of millions of military personnel, US and otherwise, who fought in the Korean War theater of operations.

By Grace Kim

During Japanese colonial rule from 1910-1945, more than 140,000 people were arrested in Korea and many fled to Russia, China and United States. A provisional Korean government of the Republic of Korea in Exile was established in Shanghai, China, in April 1919. A demonstration at the funeral of Korean Emperor Gojong, who was rumored to have been poisoned by the Japanese Imperial family, triggered the government in exile.

Among the 20 million Koreans who attended the funeral March 1, 1 million participated in the demonstration, 7,500 people died, 16,000 were injured, and 46,000 were arrested and detained.

They were all fighting for Korean independence.

During World War II, young men and women were drafted to serve in the army. They were forced into hard labor, females were used as comfort women (sex slaves), and students were sent to factories to produce military uniforms and weapons.

At the end of World War II in 1945, Korea was liberated from 36 years of Japanese colonization. But after disarming Japanese soldiers, the Soviet Union and United States of America arbitrarily divided Korea at the 38th parallel.

Three million Christians and non-communists fled North Korea to South Korea. In doing so they became traitors to the North Korean Communist government.

South Korea established a Democratic government in 1948. On June 25, 1950, the Korean War began with a surprised attack by North Korea. The Soviet Union and China helped North Korea in an attempt to unify Korea as a communist country. A well-trained and well-prepared North Korean Communist army occupied most of the South Korea in a few days. They kidnapped Christians and community leaders. Young people were drafted into the army, and many of them were later killed.

The United States and 16 United Nations (UN) countries fought for South Korea's freedom and independence.

General Douglas MacArthur, our hero, landed in Inchon Harbor on September 28, 1950, and regained South Korea and most of North

Korea.

We thought that it would be a unified democratic country but China sent an army 300,000 strong and attacked UN soldiers in the freezing cold months of November and December 1950. US Marines were encircled and trapped in Chosin Reservoir mountains by the Chinese army and many died in the fierce attacks.

Gen. MacArthur ordered a temporary evacuation from North Korea. About 200 US Navy ships and Merchant Marine Cargo ships assembled at Hungnam Harbor to evacuate 100,000 UN forces, 18,000 tanks and vehicles and 350,000 tons of military supplies. Additionally, there were 100,000 North Korean refugees waiting at Hungnam Harbor hoping to flee North Korea aboard one of those ships. These people enthusiastically welcomed and supported UN forces as they advanced on North Korea.

Lt. Gen. Edward Almond was responsible for the huge evacuation. Initially he refused to take in North Korean refugees and some commanding officers opposed rescuing these refugees, claiming that they could be enemy aliens who might plot destructive acts in the ships. However, South Korean President Syngman Rhee, Korean generals and particularly Dr. Bong Hak Hyun, a personal friend and advisor to Gen. Almond urged Gen. Almond to allow the North Korean refugees aboard ships or they would be killed.

At the last moment, Gen. Almond relented saying 100,000 refugees who were safely transported to Koje Island, South Korea. This Hungnam Evacuation was the largest, most successful massive military evacuation on the sea in military history, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

My husband, Dr. Luke Il-chang Kim, was a pre-med student at Seoul National University, School of Medicine. He was serving in the Republic of Korea Army Intelligence Unit as an interpreter. At 20 year old, he was asked by the ship's captain to be his interpreter.

So he experienced this historical evacuation first-hand.

During the Korean War, a half million people died, 3 million were wounded and 10 million were separated from their families.

About 415,000 South Koreans died or were wounded, 429,000 were kidnapped, 100,000 UN forces were killed and 33,629 wounded. More than 1.5 million North Koreans and Chinese died. The Korean War is not a forgotten war.

We will never forget all the young UN soldiers' sacrifices and their love of liberty, justice and democracy in Korea.

We Koreans deeply appreciate and honor all the Korean War veterans. We will never forget your sufferings and sacrifices for the Freedom and Democracy for the Republic of Korea.

Without your help, South Korea would not be the successful and prosperous country we have now. God bless America and Korean War Veterans and their families.

Currents Places, New Happenings

Bainbridge Island, west of Seattle, was the first Japanese American community (276 residents) forced into concentration camps during WWII. Filmmaker Rory Banyard captured this story in a 30 minute film “Bearing the Unbearable” (2021) for the National Park Service, part of his commission for the Minidoka National Historic Site (Idaho, 700 miles away.) Banyard notes that Bainbridge Island stands apart from the rest of the US - it was an integrated community (compared to nearby Seattle), 150 of the arrested residents returned reflecting that they felt welcomed and supported by their neighbors, compulsory public education meant that all the kids grew up together, Bainbridge defied neighbors and friends against EO 9066, the local paper opposed the arrests and provided weekly updates on their wellbeing. An interpretive center and memorial is being planned for the island.

Appearing “too Asian”

In October, the US Supreme Court heard arguments in another lawsuit brought by Students for Fair Admissions (SFA) that accused Harvard of systematically discriminating against Asian American applicants. SFA claims that, compared with other racial groups, AAPI applicants received a lower “personal rating” — a subjective score for traits like self-confidence, likability and kindness.

In 2019, a federal appeals court judge found that Harvard met the strict constitutional standard for considering race in its admissions process. That lawsuit however suggested that AAPI applicants have been trying to downplay their identity, hobbies or interests to appear “less Asian.”

“Less Asian” may include not declaring one’s race, avoid taking certain AP exams, not mentioning certain sports, Chinese language school, piano and Indian classical instruments and other “classically Asian activities.” Essay topics such as the family’s immigrant hardship story have been avoided. SFA says “an entire industry exists to help them appear ‘less Asian’ on their college applications” and pointed out a 2004 test-prep guide which advised AAPI students to conceal their racial identity.

Harvard and supporters of affirmative action have argued that there is no such thing as a penalty for Asians and that race is, in fact, one factor among many used to evaluate applicants. The university strives for diversity in not just race but also academic interests, geography, politics and socioeconomic background. The number of AAPI admissions had steadily increased for decades and now is 28 percent of the class, up from nearly 20 percent in 2013. Asians make up about 7 percent of the country’s population. (About 15 percent of admitted students this year were Black; 13 percent were Latino; and 3 percent were Native American.)

Admissions consultants say it is not enough to be just a well rounded student, that differentiation is important and within certain communities, playing the violin and piano are oversubscribed activities.

Bing Kong Tong building in Isleton opened on October 20th as a new museum dedicated to the city’s Chinese history. The major renovation began in 2012 to the building which dates back to 1926, when it was rebuilt after a fire,. It represents Chinese American architecture of the time.

The “tong,” or meeting hall, was a central gathering point of the community that included a language school and social services. The building, vacant since the 1940s, now displays a number of cultural artifacts and displays about the families that once inhabited the community.



Sharp Park Detention Center, Pacifica

Sharp Park Detention Center (Pacifica) is now home to an archery range. This WWII facility is described in diaries of Hayashi Ichihashi, who attended SF’s Lowell High, then Stanford and Harvard (for his PhD.) He taught at Stanford in international relations and Japanese studies. When EO 9066 orders were issued, he and his family were bussed to Santa Anita Racetrack (LA), then different camps including Tule Lake. He alone was transferred back to Sharp Park under arrest for unknown charges. Ichihashi found the facility pleasant compared to crowded Santa Anita – flowers in full bloom, food abundant but greasy and over seasoned with garlic, toothbrushes and toothpaste were freely given, sheets and pillow cases were changed every Monday, blankets were clean.

Sharp Park specifically held “influential” Japanese American prisoners who were treated carefully counter any claim by Japan that American POWs were being abused. Japan was regularly sending relief supplies to the concentration camps (Sharp Park, Angel Island, Manzanar, etc.) - tea, soya, beans. Sharp Park held between 500-2500 prisoners of Japanese, Italian and German heritage, some from Canada, Mexico and China.

Ichihashi was there August to October 1942 and then reunited with his family in Tule Lake. When released in 1945, the Ichihashis returned to the Bay Area, the marriage and family fell apart, he was no longer an active Stanford faculty member. Sharp Park had tall iron net fences surrounding 10 army barracks intended for 40 each. Ichihashi’s diaries have been edited by Stanford law professor Gordon Chang as “Morning Glory, Evening Shadows: Yamato Ichihashi and his Internment Writing. 1942-1945.”

SFA adds that the perception of bias in Harvard’s system has contributed to high anxiety and suicide; Harvard supporters acknowledge the negative impact of SFA’s allegations on student mental health.

In the meanwhile, applicants nowadays are challenged with balancing their narrative about how to embrace ethnicity without flaunting it, how to draw on their personal experiences-homeland travel, language, family-

without falling into stereotypes. Or, articulating the value of their AAPI identity to differentiate themselves from other applicants. An equal challenge is to the US Supreme Court - they are being asked to forbid race consideration in light of the applicant’s right to present their qualifications through their life experiences. Reference: “Applying to College, and Trying to Appear ‘Less Asian’” by Amy Quin, NY Times Dec 2, 2022

How Toxic Stereotypes Harm Asian Americans in Government

By Asian American Federal Employees for Non-Discrimination and OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates

In the last two years, Asian Americans have faced the perpetual foreigner stereotype in full display in public streets, parks, schools, and the workplace. According to Stop AAPI Hate, 10,905 hate incidents targeting Asian Americans were reported between March 2020 and the end of 2021. Many of these incidents were delivered with the familiar centuries old “Go Back to China” exhortation, regardless of the target’s background.

At the same time, Asian Americans find themselves confronted with this stereotype across the federal government...

- As diplomats, they have difficulty getting hired, promoted, or assigned to diplomatic posts in countries from where their families immigrated.
- As employees, they are scrutinized more closely and lose their jobs.
- As scholarship winners, they are told to pay back their tuition.
- As contractors, they are denied contracts at higher rates.
- As military service personnel, they are pulled off assignments or denied ranks.
- And as grantees, they are placed under investigation for international collaborations.

Why? Foreign connections. To the 71% of Asian Americans who are foreign born, foreign connections include family abroad, travel, businesses, inherited property, cultural interests and activities. To the government, such connections are viewed as national security risks.

Asian Americans have been cast as outsiders for decades. They’ve been named the “Yellow Peril” (Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882), the “Fifth Column” accused of signaling enemy forces to shore (Japanese American incarceration), the “Red Scare” (Chinatown Files), terrorists (post 9/11 profiling and surveillance, and Muslim bans), and spies (see the Dr. Wen Ho Lee case and China Initiative probes).

- A closed culture, the federal government is not a place where people can easily speak out. Some Asian American tell their stories, but incognito. Asian Americans whom we talk to fear losing their security clearances, jobs, careers. Data is scarce. Yet, the impact is no less traumatizing. The affected parties need support from the community—stories, funds, advocacy.

Advocates within AAFEN and OCA have spoken out to challenge the disloyalty myth. We’ve listened to stories by the people impacted. We’ve organized community events. And we’ve engaged high level officials in the federal government. But more needs to be done. We need to interrupt this cycle of discrimination.

- To do this, we need allies. Together, let’s reimagine national security: a time where people of all backgrounds, particularly immigrants, are not automatically regarded as threats, but as assets. Where Asian Americans are at the table when sweeping decisions are being made that affect our community. Where we challenge the exclusion of loyal Americans based on the majority’s perception of “foreignness.” Where we can strengthen America from within.

Confronting the “Loyalty” Question

In 2021, Leading Asian Americans to Unite for Change (LAAUNCH) reported findings from a survey of 2,766 American adults...

- The results: Although 48% of respondents disagreed with the statement that Asian Americans as a group “are more loyal to their countries of origin than to the U.S.,” roughly 1 in 5 Americans agreed with it.
- Why this matters: This national survey was the first in two decades to assess public attitudes toward Asian Americans, according to NBC News, and shows our communities are continually seen as perpetual foreigners.

Our Take

While national concerns need to be addressed seriously, history has taught Asian Americans that they must remain vigilant to protect civil rights and civil liberties. Despite widespread repudiation of the Japanese American incarceration, the government retains the legal authority to rely on “military necessity” to restrict the rights of a group. Fear can drive government decisions without evidence of national security risks and cast suspicion of disloyalty of an entire group based on race, ethnicity and national origin. Vigilance is needed, especially in times of heightened national security concerns, like the present US-China conflict.

CACS planning Yosemite trip, May 15-18, 2023

By Karun Yee

I will tell you why CACS has chosen such an iconic and beautiful place to invite you to. We have chartered a four day bus tour that includes hotel, (double occupancy), historical lectures by park rangers, and various park activities to enhance your enjoyment of Yosemite.

Our focus on the newly opened Chinese Laundry in Wawona was one of the reasons I was pleasantly surprised there was any connection to the Chinese and Yosemite. Park Ranger Yen Yen Chan did incredible research bringing to light the Chinese contributions to the area. You will get a rare chance to meet her on our day in the valley.

I was able to contact the Southern California Chinese Historical Society since they have been doing a Sing Peak pilgrimage to the park for ten years. I wanted to learn how they ran the program. In doing so, they were so helpful and kind to invite me along their last

campout in Lee Vining (last minute development since the fires were impacting Wawona). The camaraderie of this group still brings fond memories of the whole experience.

Back to the Chinese laundry story, I was invited by my husband’s Doug’s Aunt Sandra and Uncle Franklin Yee to come to the grand opening of the museum exhibit last year. I rented a cabin from the “Redwoods” and invited my kids and their families to come down. We enjoyed the marvelous splendor of this incredible place. I met so many people at this event who said I should organize a trip for the Northern California Chinese historical societies to learn about these amazing contribution.

That is why as the CACS historical chair, I have organized this trip for all of you to know the inspiring stories of dedication and hard work that helped to forge this beautiful national park. I hope you can join us on this incredible

journey.

For more information go to travelyosemite.com or NPS.gov/yose/planyourvisit. The bus capacity is 40. Highlights include lectures by Park Ranger Yen Yen Chan valley tram tour, Mt. Suger Pine Steam train and Mariposa Sequoia grove. Reservations must be received by January 31. Contact Karun Yee, CACS Foundation Historical Chair at 916/591-8181



Calendar

Jan 10, 2023 Tues **Deadline for CAAM Fellowship Program**, a year long career and project development opportunity for Asian American filmmakers. Work with mentors including Jason DaSilva, Deann Borshay Liem and Fariyah Zaman. Info: Center for Asian American Media, www.caamedia-submittable.com

Jan 11 Wed **APSEA CDP Virtual Workshop: Ascend to Your Next Level**. 12 noon-1pm. Speaker Stephanie Tom, Chief Consultant AAPI Legislative Caucus. Are you constantly browsing CalCareers? Are you ready to move up? Is it time for a change? Free to APSEA and ACSSED members and Dept of Rehabilitation employees. Register by Jan 6 at www.acsedonline.org/jan-workshop-2023

January 22, 2023 **Lunar New Year, Year of the Rabbit**

Feb 11 Sat **Chinese New Year celebration in Locke**. Noon-4pm on Main St, Locke. Lion dance, martial arts, flower arranging, cooking demonstration, calligraphy, music contest, refreshments. Free admission, free parking. Info: 916/776-1684, www.locke-foundation.org

Feb 19, 1942 **President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued EO 9066** which ordered the arrest and removal of 120,000+ Japanese Americans from the west coast on the false argument of "military necessity" during WWII.

Feb 25-26 **12th Annual Films of Remembrance**. Feb 25-SF; Feb 26-San Jose. Films: Hanami (Lisa Maeda), An Un-interrupted View of the Sea (Mika Yatsushashi), Sansei Granddaughters Journey (DeBoer, Bepp, Fujii, Fujii-Oka, Shintani), Sincerely Mine Okubo (Yuka Murakami), We Came Back for You (Akira Boch, Taiji Terasaki), Putting Them Where They Could Do No Harm (Steve Nagano), Reparations (Jon Osaki), Betrayed: Surviving An American Concentration Camp (Rory Banyard), Voices Behind Barbed Wire: Stories from Hawaii (Ryan Kawamoto), Manzanar, Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust (Ann Kaneko). Info: www.filmsofremembrance.org

Feb 25, Sat **Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation's Crab Feed**. Info: @sasfevents on Facebook and Instagram

March 10 deadline for **Benny Goodman Foundation Scholarship** for students with a passion for music and who use their musical gifts and talents to enrich and inspire others. Eligibility: UC or CSU student, GPA 3.0 or higher in music classes, majoring in music (jazz, classical, clarinet), passion and talent with a plan to pursue a music career. Info: www.sacregcf.org/students

March 16, 2021 **Spa shooting spree** at three spas/massage parlors in Atlanta, Georgia - Eight people were killed, six were AAPI women. 21-year-old Robert Aaron Long, a sex customer, pled and has been sentenced to 4 consecutive life sentences for 4 malice murder pleas. He faces the death penalty on pending hate crime charges.

Mat 11 Sat **Northern California Time of Remembrance exhibit "Uprooted! An American Story."** Grand opening of the redesigned Uprooted exhibit and presentations by the exhibit designer. \$15/person admission. Proceeds supports the 8 week student education



Right On! Silent Walk to Stop AAPI Hate, Boulder CO, Oct 2022

program and event expenses. The California Museum (1020 O St, Sac). Info: www.nctor.org

Mar 25 Sat **Right on! Sacramento Stop Asian Hate silent art walk and conference** to transform hate to compassion. A billboard of 150 people and musicians will move down Capitol Mall from Old Chinatown Square. Start time TBD. Project leader Angie Eng says: "Our political voices may be quieter on the streets or in the media but hate crimes against Asians persist. Join us in transforming hate and ignorance into compassion and understanding. Right On! is a social justice art event. Activists stand as human billboards. They will wear t-shirts with dates from Supreme Court cases of the last 150 years targeting Asians living in America. Drummers from different AAPI traditional cultures will set the tone for each of the four groups participating in the procession. As the moving billboard goes down Capitol Mall, history flows and shows how racism written into our system can also be written out." Participate/donate (tax deductible) at <https://angieeng.com/right-on-political-art-action-to-stop-asian-hate/>. The A Right on! Walk was held in Boulder Colorado last October.

April 2 Sun **Nichi Bei Day at Athletics v. LA Angels**. Info: nichibei.org/athletics

April 29, 1992 **LA Riots in Koreatown** lasted 5 days following the Simi Valley jury's acquittal of white police officers - Laurence Powell, Timothy Wind, Theodore Briseno, Stacey Koon - who had been charged with the March 3, 1991 beating of Rodney King at a LA traffic stop. 53 people died, 2000 injured, 9500 arrested and there was \$1 billion in damage. The riots highlighted the racial tension between the Black and Korean communities. Powell and Koon were convicted on federal civil rights violations and sentenced to 2 1/2 years prison with fines waived - the judge felt they were good family men and good police officers, King at fault for the most of the 50 blows in the 81 second beating and that the officers were unjustified and acted criminally for 5-7 of their strikes on King. In a civil jury trial, King was awarded \$3.8 million.

May 3, 1983 **Thong Hy Huynh** was stabbed to

death on the Davis High School campus. Jay Pierman, then 16, was convicted in voluntary manslaughter as an adult and sentenced to 6 years prison.

May 15-18 **CACS Yosemite Trip**. A chartered four day bus tour that includes hotel, (double occupancy). Lectures by Park Ranger Yen Yen Chan, a valley tram tour, Mt. Sugar Pine Steam train and Mariposa Sequoia grove. Reservations needed by Jan 31. Info: Karun Yee CACS Foundation Historical Chair 916/ 591-8181

May 22 Mon **Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation's Golf Tournament**. Info: @sasfevents on Facebook and Instagram

June 30-July 2 **Korean American Adoptee/ Adoptive Parent Network (KAAN) 2023 Conference** in Chicago. Info: www.wearekaan.org

June 19, 1982 **Vincent Chin**, 27, was beaten to death in front of McDonalds in Detroit Michigan by Ronald Ebens, 43, and Michael Nitz, 23. Chin died 4 days later. The AAPI community was outraged when Ebens and Nitz were allowed to plead to manslaughter and granted 3 year probation with \$3000 fines and served no jail time. Ebens was convicted of federal civil rights violation but that verdict was overturned on appeal and the second trial in 1987 resulted in a not guilty finding. The 1987 civil lawsuit ordered Ebens to pay \$1.5 million (unpaid) and Nitz to pay \$50,000 (paid) to Chin's estate.

June 3 Sat **11th Annual Soy and Tofu Festival**. Peace Plaza, SF Japantown. Info: info@soyandtofufest.org

June 19 **Juneteenth** (short for "June Nineteenth") marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops' arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday.