

Currents

Asian American Pacific Islander Community Newspaper Serving
Sacramento and Yolo Counties-Volume 36, No. 3 Fall/October 2023

On June 29, 2023, the US Supreme Court in *Students for Fair Admissions Inc v Harvard and University of North Carolina* ruled that their admissions practices which considered race as a factor violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution.

Remembering an affirmative action family legacy in Davis

By Melissa Moreno and Norbie Kumagai

This summer the US Supreme Court just overturned the 1978 Bakke court case decision which upheld Affirmative Action in admissions and diversified our institutional leadership. Affirmative action was Dr. Lindy F. Kumagai, M.D.'s legacy for the nation. He was at the forefront to defend California's affirmative action programs at the University of California (UC).

Dr. Kumagai, a father of three, was a

citizen of Davis, California and the Medical School Director at UC Davis who fearlessly and successfully pushed back against Bakke who attempted to eliminate affirmative action altogether. The case first went through the county courthouse in Woodland, California, and then to the US Supreme Court who decided to uphold affirmative action but made quotas unconstitutional.

Dr. Kumagai was born and raised in Rock Spring, Wyoming, where his father was a coal mining laborer. Then his parents moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, to start a restaurant when he was in high school. There he met his wife, whose family during WWII had been forced to move along with many other West Coast Japanese Americans to Topaz, and then settled in Utah.

The Kumagai family created a sense of belonging in the Japanese Christian Church, which was across the street from the Buddhist Temple. This community was only one of eight in the entire nation, and were hubs of support for Japanese families after World War II. With community and family support, Dr. Kumagai earned his medical degree from University of Utah, completed his residency in Boston at Mass General, and then returned to Salt Lake City in summer of 1957.

In August of 1969, Dr. Kumagai left the University of Utah School of Medicine to join the faculty at UC Davis as a professor of internal medicine, endocrinology. Dr. Kumagai came with the understanding from the dean of the school of medicine, Dean John Tupper M.D., that he would create a special admissions program - affirmative action - to diversify the faculty and student population at the medical school. Back then, UC Davis agreed to reserve 16 out of every 100 spots for qualified minority students.

In 1978, when student Allan Bakke applied for admission to the School of Medicine and was denied, Dr. Kumagai was the chair of the admission's committee. When Bakke applied for a second time and was denied, Dr. Kumagai still served on the committee. Bakke did not qualify for any of the 84 spots, and claimed he had higher test scores than one of the applicants

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in the 16 spots reserved for people of color and white women who had been admitted.

Bakke, a son of a lawyer, chose to sue the UC Board of Regents. The lawsuit originated in the superior court of Woodland, California, in Yolo County. Eventually, the case made it to the US Supreme Court. Former Solicitor General Archibald Cox was retained to plea the case for UC before the US Supreme Court; he was famous for Watergate and had been fired by President Richard Nixon.

Cox asked Dr. Kumagai to travel to Washington D.C. to brief his legal staff. Dr. Kumagai rejected this offer, and requested that Cox's team come to UC Davis and the UC Davis School of Medicine to get a firsthand experience and feel for the community. Cox accepted.

Dr. Kumagai took Cox on a tour of the court in Woodland, the City of Davis, School of Medicine at UC Davis, and the Medical Center in Sacramento to provide solid context and evidence from which to better advocate for the case. Later Cox sent Dr. Kumagai copies of the brief prepped for the US Supreme Court arguments; the pleading had been signed and autographed for each of his sons, who were still in high school. According to Dr. Kumagai's family, he did not really talk about the case. He was immersed in his teaching, going to the hospital, and going to court for two years nonstop.

Many years later when former UC Davis Chancellor Vanderhoff was in the process of retiring, he held a gathering at College Park with neighbors. There the chancellor, remembering Norbie's father for pushing back against Bakke, standing up for Affirmative Action, and helping start the Paul Hom Asian Health Clinic in Sacramento, told Dr. Kumagai's son, Norbie, "Your family has a proud legacy."

Dr. Kumagai is remembered by many, especially in Yolo County. This includes Shelton Yep, Carl Jorgenson, Floyd Mori, Marty West, Helen Thomson, UC Davis Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Leon Mayhew, Fujimoto family, Jann Murray Garcia, Jorge Garcia, Barton L. Wise, and many others. Carl Jorgenson, now

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Affirmative action legacy

Continued from Front Page

retired UC Davis Sociology Professor, served on academic affairs committees with Dr. Kumagai supporting the emergence of ethnic studies departments at the time.

Dr. Kumagai had a close relationship to Asian American Studies and worked closely with its founder Professor Isao Fujimoto. Together they strongly advocated for having community service recognized as part of the tenured evaluation process and criteria. From 1978 to 1979, together with Professor Roy Doi, Dr. Kumagai argued the case for Professor George Kagiwada's tenure in 1978. The spokesperson for Kagiwada's committee was a UC Davis law school student Bill Tamayo, who was mentored by Dr. Kumagai and familiar with the importance of Affirmative Action. Later, Tamayo dedicated his life to affirmative action when becoming a US Employment Opportunity Commission attorney.

Affirmative Action programs at UC ended in 1998 after the passage of Proposition 209 became effective in 1997. From 1969 to 2007, Dr. Kumagai did his best to support thousands of medical students of color, including securing fellowships for Dr. Jann Murray Garcia and Jorge Garcia, who are regarded as top medical social justice leaders in the nation. When Dr. Kumagai passed away of cancer in 2007, former Supervisors Mariko Yamada and Helen Thomson closed the meeting in his honor. Sacramento City Council Leaders Dave Jones and Roger Dickson created a resolution in his honor as well.

According to Shelton Yep, Yolo County Board of Education Trustee, "Dr. Kumagai was a mentor and advocate for all students at UCD before the Bakke case surfaced. He was there for the students from all of the affinity groups, Asian American Studies, Black Studies, Chicano Studies and Native American Studies. Every summer we had high school students from different communities attend via Upward Bound. His message was always clear to the students. 'No matter where life takes you, don't forget where you came from and always represent your community.'"

Also Floyd Mori, past national president and chief administrative officer for the Japanese American Citizens League, says "Dr. Kumagai was a longtime family friend of my older brothers. That friendship has carried for generations. Significant was his commitment and advocacy for his community. His spirit of family broadened to all he touched."

Today, in this time in history, many have benefited from Affirmative Action, including white women married to white men. Affirmative action was not perfect, as UC Davis Law School Dean Kevin Johnson reminded us, we need innovative thinking with the end of race-conscious admissions and hiring. Yet, Dr. Kumagai's historical legacy in Native, Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities is still important to remember. Gratitude for Dr. Kumagai's courage and fire, grateful to the work and care of his wife Hisa Aoki Kumagai, three sons, and the social, cultural and political community he created. The continuation of Dr.

Being Asian American and the struggle applying to selective colleges

HUB Editorial
By Juna Brothers

Affirmative action is a complicated subject, especially for Asian Americans applying to private colleges.

Discrimination against Asian American applicants in elite university admissions was the justification for the abolishment of race-conscious admissions in the recent ruling by the Supreme Court.

Investigations into Harvard University revealed that Asian American applicants were rated much lower on their "personality" score than other applicants.

Harvard admission officers frequently characterized Asian applicants as "not exciting" or "standard strong," meaning their grades and extracurricular activities were good, but their personality was unremarkable.

A separate investigation by the Department of Education found more stereotypical descriptions of Asian applicants.

These findings are consistent with the racial stereotype of Asian Americans as mindless working machines.

This stereotype prevents the full consideration of the diverse culture and varied socioeconomic privilege across Asian ethnicities, and can interfere with a holistic review of individual Asian applicants by confining them to one singular group.

It's hard to deny that some kind of bias exists, at least in the Harvard admission process. But it shouldn't be used to justify the end of race-conscious admissions.

The issue isn't affirmative action, it's the stereotyping of Asian applicants. Ending affirmative action will only exacerbate existing societal inequities.

"I think (an Asian bias) exists. But I don't think it's necessarily the worst thing, because there are a lot of qualified Asian people ... and



Kumagai's legacy is still needed in education, culture, and society.

About Authors

Norbie Kumagai is a retired governmental affairs consultant in the City of Lakewood/North Beach and Brea, California (North Orange County). Norbie is a proud Davis High School Alumni of 1975 and he currently lives with his wife Debbie Mayhew in Central Davis.

Melissa Moreno, Ph.D., is an ethnic studies faculty and consultant. Dr. Moreno, is a proud affirmative action admit to the University of California and University of Utah.



Senior Ellie Chang is applying to several colleges this fall.

there are a lot of (other) qualified minorities," senior Ellie Chang said.

For the 2023-242 application cycle, many private colleges have altered their supplemental essays to heavily center around personal identity. Institutions are permitted to consider the discussion of race in these essays.

Chang, a Taiwanese American, will be applying to many selective colleges this fall. Through she is a strong supporter of race-conscious admissions, she has decided not to write about her cultural background in her application essays.

Juna Brothers is a senior at Davis High School (DHS) and is of Korean/Japanese heritage. She writes regularly for HUB, DHS's student run news service. This editorial was published in September in the Davis Enterprise.

ABOUT CURRENTS

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Winters monument approved

On June 20th, the Winters City Council approved the installation of a monument commemorating the city's Japanese community that existed before World War II. The 300-resident community, the largest AAPI enclave in Yolo County (Woodland was second largest), will be memorialized in Winters' Rotary Park to recognize the Japantown that once existed at that location. Woody Fridae and Floyd Shimomura presented the plan and requested the council's permission to proceed with the project.

The proposed monument will have a black granite base, with a black marble, ceramic tile top showing a 1930 Japantown photograph of the community gathered for a Nishida family wake. The monument will face the Winters Community Center — the same perspective as the 1930 photograph — with the trestle bridge visible in the background on the right side. "When you look at that picture," Shimomura says, "You can see the Railroad Bridge, which hasn't changed at all, and Japantown was basically where the community center is now." Fridae adds that the photo "gives people an idea of where the Japanese community was as well as its size and a sense of togetherness among the community (members)."

On the base, the proposed text would recognize the Japanese community with the following inscription, "Japanese immigrants first came to Winters in 1888 to provide a better life for their families. This first generation, the Issei, came as farmers, laborers, and horticulturists."

A few homes of the original Japanese settlement remain on Elliot Street and at the dead end of the street, i.e. the cottages that face the Nature Park trail. These are all that remain following the fire on V-J Day. "V-J Day celebrations at Winters heralding end of World War II on August 14, 1945, culminated with a spectacular fire in what was then called 'Jap Town.' Before the flames were brought under control, this fire of 'unknown origins' destroyed several cabins, the roofs of the five principal buildings in the Asian business district. (All these remaining building were then razed in April 1948 ...)" according to historian Joann Leach Larkey who wrote "Winters: A Heritage of Horticulture, A Harmony of Purpose" (Yolo Historical Society, 1991).

The Winters Historical Society raised sufficient funds during its June 2021- March 2022 exhibit "Lost Japanese Community of Winters" to have the monument created and installed, as well as to clean up the proposed site (where a hazardous tree has been cut down) and develop new landscaping. Shimomura says, "The monument is going to be totally paid for by private donations" and won't cost the city anything to install. "It's easy to have an idea, and even to get a couple of people interested in it, but this is one of those projects where the more we've worked on it, the



A concept drawing of Rotary Park where the Japanese community monument is proposed to be placed. (Courtesy graphic) By Crystal Apilado

more interest and participation we've gotten from more people, it's kind of like something that turned into a movement, which is kind of a feeding thing that starts out small and grows organically. I think (the memorial) was something that we talked about in general, but it wasn't until after the exhibit was over that we started talking about it more concretely."



The exhibit "Lost Japanese Community of Winters" featured Japanese American residents of Winters, some arriving as early as 1888. But after the beginning of World War II, the US government under President Roosevelt's Execution Order 9066 forcibly interned Japanese Americans from across the west coast and detained them in wartime prisons. Those Japanese American families north of Putah Creek were imprisoned in Amache (Granada, Colorado) and those south

of Putah Creek went to Gila River (Arizona.) Many of Winters' Japanese families didn't elect to return following the end of WWII and the burning of Japantown on V-J Day. Signage in Winters clearly showed the former residents that they were no longer welcome.

"The Lost Community" exhibit grew from a push by Gloria Lopez to track her own family's ancestry in Winters and the historical society while delving into the history of Winters' different communities, produced the Japanese American exhibit.

"There were a number of Japanese and non-Japanese people that came to see (the exhibit), and they ended up making connections there at the museum. Some families hadn't seen each other in many years, and it was kind of a reunion of sorts," Fridae said. "There were a number of specific people who came to it and saw pictures of either their relatives, or in some cases themselves, in the displays, and it was a great opportunity to celebrate the Japanese community." Though his father has passed, Shimomura said he hopes he can show the monument to his aunt, as she, "may be the only person who is still living who was in that photograph."

The monument is expected to be installed next spring.



Ben Shimomura & Family in 2021

Manzanar Committee digitizing pilgrimages

The Manzanar Committee is collecting materials throughout 2023 to document the Manzanar pilgrimages; the very first community-organized camp pilgrimage was in 1969. The project, funded in part by a Japanese American Confinement Site grant, will preserve and make available Manzanar's archival history through the Densho and Manzanar Committee websites. Materials sought include photos, brochures, video, news clippings. Manzanar is the first WWII concentration camp to have an official historic marker (erected in 1973) and first site to become part of the National Park Service (1992). Info: 323/662-5102, info@manzanarcommittee.org

AAPI leaders call out Sacramento Bee

In July Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho met with Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg to discuss a partnership to address homelessness issues. On August 7th, Ho gave the city a 30 day notice with demands identifying 7 objectives. On September 20th, he filed a lawsuit against Sacramento city officials for not consistently enforcing its own ordinances addressing homelessness which he claims is risking the safety of unhoused people, city residents, business owners and other members of the community. Ho claims that Sacramento has failed to use its resources and legal avenues to address Sacramento’s homelessness. In 2022, Ho’s office was not referred any citations for sidewalk obstruction, unlawful dumping, unlawful camping, etc. Ho’s original focus was for the safety of his staff and court personnel when accessing the downtown courthouse. He claims that in the last 7 years, Sacramento’s unhoused population has exploded by over 250% and the community is “at a breaking point.”

Who elected Sacramento DA Thien Ho to be the supreme dictator of homeless enforcement? (Breton’s original title)

Prior to filing the lawsuit, Ho was criticized for using his office to overstep his authority as a law enforcement officer. In his August 20th published editorial, Marcos Breton used language which was offensive, calling Ho a “supreme dictator.” Breton later responded: ... (I)in response to a column I wrote about Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho, with a regrettable choice of words in the headline. Before we received this letter, I had already apologized to Ho and changed the headline. I apologize to anyone offended by the choice of words. Sincerely, Marcos Breton, California Opinion Editor, The Sacramento Bee. Breton’s opinion piece in that Sunday edition of the Bee was a full page spread with a half page photo of Ho, not merely a “column.”

AAPI leaders criticized the Bee for the racist opinion piece with the following letter:

Dear Sacramento Bee Editorial Board: It is with great disappointment and outrage that we send this letter to your office. It is beyond comprehension why The Bee originally published a headline that evokes racist Asian connotations and stereotypes against Sacramento County’s first Asian district attorney (“Who elected Sacramento DA Thien Ho to be the supreme dictator of homeless enforcement? | Opinion”). Asian Americans have often been stereotyped as weak and soft-spoken. When we do dare to stand up, speak out and demonstrate the courage to take on institutions, we are branded as outsiders, dictators and tyrants. The use of the word “supreme” is a dog whistle that plays upon Asian racial tropes and casts District Attorney Ho as a foreigner. It is well known that “supreme leader” has been used to describe dictators such as North Korean Dictator Kim Jong Un or Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam, who is many times referred to as “Lãnh Tụ,” a term used to address a supreme leader. The word “dictator” is often used to describe communist leaders around the world, most notably from the People’s Republic of China. The choice to combine and use these words when referencing an Asian man shocks the conscience. DA Ho i



an immigrant from Vietnam. He has very publicly shared his escape from communism and the suffering of his family at the hands of a dictator. While disagreements are expected and necessary for a functioning democracy, as an experienced journalist, Mr. Bretón should know that personal attacks are unacceptable and inappropriate. The Bee cannot tolerate or condone this type of journalism. We are requesting a public apology to DA Ho and the Sacramento Asian community for the original headline with the same publicity as the original opinion piece.

Signed by Jinky Dolar, Stephanie Nguyen, Darren Suen, Siri Pulipati, Phong La, Ed Perez and 90 other AAPI elected, former elected and community leaders.

Who is DA Thien Ho? An Immigrant Story & the American Dream

By Thien Ho

Before the rise of communism, my father was a teacher in Saigon, Vietnam. After the communists came into power, we saw our friends, families and fellow citizens taken away to “re-education” camps in the jungle. In 1976, approximately a year after the fall of South Vietnam, my family fled in a small fishing boat along with several other families.

As we snuck aboard the boat, my parents hid my infant brother in a cardboard box with holes punched in it for ventilation. To get past the different checkpoints and out to sea, my father stole a uniform from a communist Army officer and stood on the deck of this tiny fishing boat. He painted my toy gun black and put it in the holster.

At one of the checkpoints, the military

guard questioned my father and accused him of hiding refugees below deck. My father calmly told the guard that he had just purchased the fishing boat and was taking it out for a cruise with his wife and two sons who were below deck. Still suspicious, the guard demanded to search below. There were 30 men, women and children huddled in the boat’s hull shoulder-to-shoulder in utter fear and silence, because capture meant death.

My father told the guard, “You can search the boat, and if you find refugees, you can kill everyone onboard, starting with me. But, if you look down there and all you see is my wife and two boys, I’m going to take this gun (pointing to my toy gun) and blow your brains out! How dare you even question me, I outrank you!” After a brief but tense pause, the guard responded, “Nah, we don’t need to look. But let’s come back to the guard shack for a drink before you go.” About thirty minutes later, we were on our way out to sea.

The families pooled their money to buy a boat and retained the services of a fishing boat captain to navigate across the South China Sea to freedom. But before actually making it out to sea, the captain jumped off the boat and swam ashore, because his family was stuck behind. We faced an agonizing decision - proceed out to sea, with nobody onboard who could competently navigate the open waters, or turn back and risk capture, imprisonment and execution. We decided to take our chances at sea.

There was the initial excitement of hitting the ocean, the exhilaration of seeing the dolphins swimming alongside our boat. There was also the fear and uncertainty. Hours turned into days, as we lost our way on the ocean, ran out of gasoline, food and water. We even hit a storm. I remember lying exhausted in my mother’s lap unable to move. I was hungry, thirsty, and tired.

Adrift and lost at sea, we were finally rescued by a French merchant ship that took us to Malaysia, where we spent several months in a refugee camp. Eventually my family was sponsored to Stockton, California by my uncle. We had nothing but the clothes on our backs and each other.

My father drove trucks during the day and went to community college at night. My mother would tuck me into bed and then work the graveyard shift at the local cannery. She returned in the morning smelling like the peaches she had been canning all night long.

We eventually moved to San Jose, the heart of the Vietnamese Community in Northern California. I am the first person in my family to attend college. I graduated from U.C. Davis in 1995 with a degree in political science and then went to the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in the Oak Park community of Sacramento. I have been serving the people of Sacramento as a prosecutor since 2004. My family’s story is the story of so many immigrants, so many people, so many Americans. It is the quintessential story of the American Dream.

Ho was elected Sacramento Co. District Attorney in June 2022

FilAm photojournalist, wife assaulted, Sacramento

By Jun Nucum
Philippine News Today, March 18, 2023

SACRAMENTO – A Filipino photojournalist based in Southern California and his wife were assaulted by a man while strolling in Sacramento in a brazen robbery attempt that may constitute as a hate crime at the State Capitol. (The attack took place on February 1, 2023.)

Nicanor ‘Nikki’ Arriola, president of the Asian American Press Club of the U.S., and his wife, Julienne, were walking on a fine afternoon along the Capitol last month and taking some pictures the day before they were about to go back to Carson after visiting relatives in Sacramento.

Suddenly, a black man appeared and assaulted them in front of others in the scene who witnessed but reportedly did nothing even to help but may have even taken videos of the attack while they were shoved and kicked multiple times. They were even dragged by the man who was trying to get Arriola’s camera.

Arriola, who was wearing his press badge, suffered six broken ribs aside from abrasions while his wife is still hurting from knee and other bone injuries. Both were confined a few days at the University of California Davis Medical Center.

“I thank God I had no injury on my head that would have caused concussions, except for a big bruise on my nose,” Arriola stated. He said it was strange that the man left his camera at the scene in his hurry to a getaway car after finally wrestling it from Arriola. “We were almost run over, though, by the getaway car who backed hurriedly towards us as the man escaped,” he added.

Arriola and wife are still in much pain from the injuries they sustained and may take some time before they get fully healed emotionally and psychologically aside from physically. The couple is asking for continued prayers for their recovery.

“We are also thankful that we were not shot or stabbed by our assailant. I was really not going to let him get my camera, my source of living,” said Arriola. “I want to thank the Sacramento Police for doing their best in apprehending the attacker and I was told that the driver of the getaway vehicle would be next.”

Arriola said he still keeps seeing images of what happened to them and could not stop talking about the horrible scenarios, which could be therapeutic for him.

“That guy is full of hate. There were also others taking pictures of themselves but it seems we were the only Asians he chose to hurt. It was so horrible I thought that was the end of us at that time,” Arriola recalled. “For now, I’m staying home and most of the time watching news about Asian Hate Crimes all over the US. I am praying for all those victims especially those

who died.”

Before the incident, Arriola covered a number of Asian hate crime incidents, including the ongoing trial of Nicholas Weber at the Van Nuys Superior Court. Weber is accused of hate crimes having attacked members of the Roque family at a McDonald’s drive-through on Victory Blvd. in North Hollywood.

Arriola rued that “a lot of people hate us even though we are contributing a lot in this country.”

“It really pains me to realize this,” he added. He maintains though that covering Asian Hate Crime remains his advocacy.

The Asian American Press Club of the U.S. issued a statement condemning the incident.

“We, the (members of the) Asian American Press Club of the U.S. condemn the wrong that had been done to one of our own AAPCUS family member, our president Nicanor “Nikki” Arriola and his wife. On the afternoon of February 1st, 2023, while on a leisure trip at the Capitol premises in Sacramento, California, both he and his wife were attacked and beaten by a stranger. The initial premise is that the perpetrator was after his camera equipment. As we all know, Nikki’s camera represents his profession, personhood and his livelihood. He did what any human being would have done. He protected his prized possession with his life,” the club stated.

“... We solidly stand behind Nikki Arriola and will do all we can to give him the justice he deserves...,” the club added.

MORE: To the *Asian Journal* (April 19, 2023), Arriola reported: “This is definitely an eye-opener, not only for us, but for the entire society. We have to stand firm in letting the authorities know that we cannot just let these incidents pass and stay unnoticed. We should, as a society, also be vigilant against these types of crimes,” Arriola said, who noted that similar cases in the past have been left unresolved as most of the victims often opted to let them slide due to the fear of retaliation from assailants and possible immigration-related repercussions.

“We have met actual people who have experienced the same fate but who remained mum. They thought it’s just going to be a waste of time and the case will not prosper at all. Some of these people were ‘undocumented’ and they fear that coming out in the open and telling their ordeal will adversely affect their stay in the US. But we explained to them that [immigration] and police matters are totally different,” he added. Arriola said their case is not considered a hate crime since no racist slurs were communicated during the incident.

UPDATE: On March 15th, Keylen Xavier Lee Farley was arraigned in Sacramento County Superior Court on two counts of felony robbery, aggravated assault and elder abuse. A second suspect, the getaway driver, has not been arrested as of September, 2023.

Wing Luke Museum Seattle-hate vandalism

On September 14th, 5:15pm, Craig Milne, 76 (white male), was arrested for hate crime and first-degree malicious mischief for vandalizing 9 windows at the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle. The museum is a local landmark that exhibits Asian and Pacific American art, culture, and history in the heart of the Chinatown-International District (CID). Milne used a sledgehammer to smash windows on that Thursday evening while a museum tour organized by Tsuru for Solidarity was in progress. The damage is expected to exceed \$100,000.

It took about 45 minutes for the police to respond; the police explain the delay comes from staff shortages (Beyonce concert was that night) and their belief that it was only a property crime and no one was hurt (yet.) Museum staff and community members stopped the vandalism and deescalated the situation; the museum security guard disarmed him before the police came. They feel that the CID and AAPI community is being neglected by the city. Milne was still on scene and arrested, and was heard saying “Chinese people have ruined my life” and “The Chinese have tortured and tormented me for 14 years. I don’t regret anything I did here.” Milne also all because of the Chineserambled about losing 2 houses, his car was stolen, he s been toutured, his briefcase was stolen for the third time. The criminal complaint states that Milne continued to making racially biased statements and expressed no remorse.

In a statement, the King County prosecutors condemned Milne’s actions, writing, “The blatant racist motivations behind the defendant’s actions, the extreme nature of this property destruction, the disregard for individuals who were inside the building, and the lack of remorse gives the State significant community safety concerns.”

Milne’s criminal history includes an October 2013 fourth-degree assault and resisting arrest for punching an AAPI man inside the Spartan Recreation Center locker room in Shoreline, Washington. He allegedly hurled racial slurs at an Asian officer during his arrest. Those charges were dropped in 2015 for unknown reasons.

The Seattle Times (Sept 15, 2023) reported the backdrop for the AAPI community feeling neglected: The attack comes as some Asian American and Pacific Islander residents in Seattle feel heightened concern about public safety, and a growing sense of indifference from local law enforcement and city leaders, said Stanley Shikuma, Seattle JACL co-president who was present for the museum tour. Since June, at least 14 home-invasion robberies — all targeting victims of Asian descent — in South Seattle have been reported to the Seattle Police Department. No arrests have been made in connection to the robberies. After 23 year old Jaahnavi Kandula, a graduate student at Northeastern University from India was fatally struck in January by a police officer’s car in a South Lake Union crosswalk, (on September 11) footage was released showing the vice president of the Seattle Police Officers Guild joking “She had limited value” in reference to a potential wrongful death settlement.

Stop AAPI Hate; #StopTheBlame campaign

At www.stopaapihate.org, everyone can report AAPI hate incidents. Established in 2020 as a national coalition fighting against racism and racial injustice targeting AAPI people, more than 11,000 self reported hate incidents have been documented through the website. The rabid increase in AAPI hate was fueled by racist language circulated during the Covid-19 pandemic and the heightened violence toward AAPI communities proved that words matter. StopAAPIHate is the nation’s largest AAPI hate reporting center. Cofounded by Chinese for Affirmative Action, the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University, and AAPI Equity Alliance, reports can be made in 15 AAPI languages and online reporting is open all the time, 24/7.

With more and more US political leaders promoting anti-Asian rhetoric and policies, AAPI safety and AAPI rights are on the line. StopAAPIHate is joining forces with Chinese for Affirmative Action to launch #StopTheBlame, a national campaign dedicated to stop anti-Asian scapegoating. The “Stop the Blame” campaign will monitor high-profile debates and election stops to publicly hold candidates who use racist speech accountable. The campaign kicked off on September 21st and will ramp up as the election season progresses.

The campaign comes amid escalating tensions between the United States and China, and rhetoric from political leaders and legislation, like Chinese land ownership and book bans, that have already been deemed by many Asian Americans as discriminatory and racist. Rep. Judy Chu (D-California), chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, underscored the campaign’s critical timing saying, “This anti-Asian rhetoric, many times, has to do with politicians who are trying to outdo one another. ... They don’t care who they hurt in the process.” [Chu’s own reputation was attacked in February by fellow Congressman Lance Gooden (R-Texas) who questioned her “loyalty” to the US when she defended Dominic Ng, a Biden appointee. Gooden never responded to demands for an apology or retraction of the unfounded insults.].

“Stop the Blame” will have a website with data and research on Anti-AAPI language used by candidates and track and document

California v Hate, new hate reporting hotline

In June, all victims and witnesses of hate incidents/crimes can report anonymously to a free hotline and receive support services. The California Civil Rights Department is managing the hotline which in its first month received 180 reports from 40% of the state’s 58 counties. People can report hate acts (hostile expression or action motivated by bias based on protected characteristics) and hate crimes (minor and serious violation of laws which law enforcement may investigate and prosecute). Protected characteristics include race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation and gender.

The state Civil Rights Department wants to help communities targeted by hate, find options to address hate acts, connect people with resources, improve hate incident reporting and enhance prevention. The Department’s care coordinator will offer information about support and accessing resources including legal, financial, mental health mediation services. Some services may be free, others could involve a charge. Written reports can be submitted online in 15 languages. LA’s hotline in 2019 received 2,171 incident reports.

Reports are also taken by calling 833-8-NO-HATE (833-866-4283), Monday-Friday 9am-6pm. The hotline operators can provide help in 200 languages. At other times, reports can be made to 2-1-1 system where the Public Utilities Commission service provides free information and referrals in 52 counties to connects people to health and human services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you are in present danger, call 9-1-1.



2nd Annual Golden Harvest Parade & Festival

Greener Tomorrow for Youth





Ride SacRT Fixed-Route Bus and Light Rail FREE to the Golden Harvest Parade and Festival
Saturday, October 28, 2023
Capitol Mall

SacRT has partnered with the Sacramento County Fair and Golden Harvest to offer a free ride to the parade and festival. This offer is available to all SacRT riders. Riders must board the bus or light rail at the Capitol Mall station and disembark at the Capitol Mall station. Riders must board the bus or light rail at the Capitol Mall station and disembark at the Capitol Mall station. Riders must board the bus or light rail at the Capitol Mall station and disembark at the Capitol Mall station.

October 28, 2023

Parade
11:30am - 1:00pm
Capitol Mall
Begins at 9th/N St, End at 9th/Capitol Mall

Festival
9:00am - 5:30pm
Capitol Mall, Capitol West Side
Farmers Market, Booth Vendors, Stage Programs, Artwork Contest

Webinars
Oct. 3, 7:00pm - 8:00pm, Clean Air
<https://tinyurl.com/vxrjwbhy>
Oct. 10, 7:00pm - 8:00pm, Clean Water
<https://tinyurl.com/mrx3etn5>
Oct. 17, 7:00pm - 8:00pm, Clean Environment
<https://tinyurl.com/bde42me9>



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states which have proposed land bans (33 states so far in 2023, including Florida, Louisiana, Alabama). The website will also feature campaigns and initiatives that are pushing back against anti-AAPI policies.

“Stop the Blame” will also advocate to reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act whose “Section 702” authorized US intelligence agencies to acquire to acquire communications of non-Americans, who use American communications platforms, without a warrant. The measure has been criticized by many Asian American and other advocacy groups for its

potential to be weaponized as a tool to racially profile communities of color.

Such policies created under the pretense of “national security” have been used in the past to scapegoat AAPI communities and fuel racism and the erosion of AAPI civil rights. The infamous federal China Initiative pursued prosecution of Chinese American scholars who interacted with Chinese-based counterparts and were hence accused of spying and giving away classified information; that program resulted in very few significant convictions.

NORC Data: Nearly 50% AAPI Report Facing Discrimination

On May 3rd, Stop AAPI Hate released the results of a new survey conducted by nonpartisan and independent research organization NORC at the University of Chicago that details how Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) face widespread discrimination that often goes unaddressed and highlights the critical need for policymakers and civil rights agencies to vigorously protect the rights of AAPI communities.

According to the report, nearly half (49%) of AAPIs nationwide say they have experienced illegal discrimination — or, in other words, a violation of their civil rights. These civil rights violations can include being unfairly fired or penalized at work, denied service at restaurants or stores, overlooked in buying or renting homes, bullied at school or unfairly targeted by the police — simply because they are AAPI.

“The scale at which AAPIs have had their rights violated is shocking, and these findings should be a wake-up call for state and federal governments. We need immediate interventions from policymakers and civil rights agencies to ensure our communities can live, work, learn, travel, shop and vote without being targeted because of who we are,” said Manjusha Kulkarni, co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate and executive director of AAPI Equity Alliance.

Protecting against illegal discrimination and enforcing civil rights laws is the responsibility of a number of federal and state civil rights agencies, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice and state civil rights departments.

Examples of discrimination submitted to Stop AAPI Hate include:

- “I was going to a fast food restaurant and an employee asked if I had a COVID. I said ‘no’ and they said that due to extreme caution, they were going to have to ask me to leave because I was ‘high risk.’ I said I was vaccinated and boosted and they said it didn’t matter. One of the customers said it was because I wasn’t a local, but I am. I think it was because I am Chinese.” (Man, Midwest)
- “I lost my social services job after I reported several men for sexualizing my Asian heritage. They indirectly asked about my race and then made advances which I rejected. They expected docility. When I did not comply with their expectations, they humiliated and ostracized me. After pressure from human resources, management, and friends of the men I reported, I was terminated.” (Woman, Maryland) (edited for length)

“This study provides a comprehensive view of how AAPIs experience and respond to discrimination, and in particular civil rights violations,” said Vadim Volos, Vice President of Public Affairs and Media Research at NORC. “We discovered that few AAPIs who experience discrimination reported the incident. This survey also demonstrates why many are reluctant to report, with lead causes cited being they felt reporting would not make much of a difference, feared unwanted attention for themselves or their families and they were unsure of where to go or what to do.”

The findings also reveal that

although millions of AAPIs have experienced discrimination, only one in five reported it. There are existing processes to investigate and resolve civil rights violations, such as HR processes at work or through formal reporting to a government civil rights agency, but as the survey findings indicate, there are several reasons why so few report:

- The reporting process is not easy. A majority (56%) of those who have reported civil rights violations said that the reporting process was difficult — signaling that the process itself is a deterrent.
- Many AAPIs do not believe reporting makes a difference. Half (52%) of those who experienced discrimination but did not report it thought reporting would not make a difference.
- Policymakers and government agencies need to do more outreach to AAPIs on who they should go to after they have experienced discrimination. More than one-third (36%) of AAPIs did not know where to go after experiencing discrimination.

Too often, those who are discriminated against feel compelled to make adjustments in their own lives even though they are not at fault. Nearly a third (31%) of AAPIs whose rights were violated report changing their own behavior, such as switching schools, jobs or where they shop. Additionally, half (50%) of AAPIs experiencing discrimination indicate a negative impact on their mental health.

“Without the support needed to stand up for their rights, AAPI communities are paying an enormous price, forced to leave jobs, switch schools, change commutes and avoid stores,” said Candice Cho, Managing Director of Policy and Counsel for AAPI Equity Alliance and co-author of the report. “We must strengthen civil rights protections and enforcement to encourage and help communities of color take action against discrimination.”

The new data suggest that there are ways to improve civil rights protections, provided policymakers, government agencies and others take immediate, deliberate action to protect the rights of AAPI communities, including:

- Passing new laws to strengthen civil rights protections and enforcement. A majority (67%) of AAPIs believe new civil rights laws are needed.
- Investing in partnerships between government civil rights agencies and trusted community-based organizations serving AAPIs. These are the groups that AAPI communities trust to report discrimination to and learn about their rights from.
- Providing multi-language outreach to AAPI communities. Most (64%) AAPIs said they would feel more comfortable reporting a violation if they had a better understanding of their rights and how to enforce them.

“Our elected officials, civil rights agencies and community-based groups must come together to focus on protecting our civil rights — starting with increased education and culturally competent outreach to our communities,” said Annie Lee, Managing Director of Policy at Chinese for Affirmative Action and co-author of the report. “We need to do more to ensure AAPIs know that they don’t have to endure

discrimination alone. There is a whole dedicated system that exists to protect their civil rights, but its impact is limited if people don’t know when or how to use it.”

While continuing to advocate for government action, Stop AAPI Hate plans to release more educational materials for AAPI communities to help them better understand their rights.

AAPI role in electrification battle

In August Sacramento delayed enforcement of the city’s building electrification strategy. The ordinance passed by the Sacramento City Council banned natural gas hookups in new construction projects starting in 2023.

Methane from burning natural gas contributes to greenhouse gases and climate change. To achieve zero carbon emissions goal by 2045, many state and local leaders believe that building decarbonization will significantly assist in achieving that goal. Seventy-six California cities have passed electrification ordinances banning natural gas hook ups in new construction. Sacramento joins San Luis Obispo and Santa Cruz to pause enforcement because the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeal last April ruled that Berkeley’s ordinance overstepped the federal government’s role in regulating efficiency in electrical appliances, e.g. those yellow “EnergyGuide” stickers, and decided that no-new-gas ordinances unlawfully affects the use of electric appliances. Berkeley has appealed the decision.

The major opponents of electrification ordinances are the California Restaurant Association (CRA), its foundation, Southern California Gas (SoCalGas) and its parent company Sempra. The Sacramento Bee found that SoCalGas’ contributions to CRA grew from \$174,594 in 2015-2018 to \$1.8 million in 2019-2022 (10X.) CRA says that SoCalGas’ financial support to their association was for pandemic related business grants and worker assistance. CRA says its motivation for fighting electrification ordinances is to protect new restaurants who prefer using gas, especially Chinese restaurants with open gas flame heated woks. According to the Bee, SoCalGas recruited AAPI community and culinary leaders to be their pro-gas spokespeople and then CRA funded widely circulated research which some say is misleading and masks SoCalGas’ arguments as a social justice issue.

Last April SoCalGas admitted that it mistakenly billed its customers \$1.1 million which went to pay CRA’s lawyers at Reichman Jorgensen (Palo Alto) to sue Berkeley; that violates state and federal law. Before 2019 SoCalGas had no financial relationship with the firm, but from 2020-2022 paid them nearly \$5 million. SoCalGas says that the fees were paid for legal research which ended up being used in SoCalGas’ lawsuit against Berkeley. CRA denies any coordination with SoCalGas. In August, the California PUC disagreed: “It strains credibility to suggest that the utility did not fund research that supported the California Restaurant Association’s litigation.”

Land scare’s ugly head rises in Solano County

These Congressmen saw Chinese spies where none existed

By Randall Yip, AsAmNews Executive Editor
AsAmNews, September 18, 2023

They saw red and now some might say, they have eggs on their faces.

Three U.S. Congressmen set off alarm bells after a major land deal near a military base raised fears of Chinese spies.

According to ABC7 News, Flannery Associates has been purchasing \$1 billion worth of farmland for the last five years near Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, 50 miles east of San Francisco.

It’s not unusual for the backers of a corporation to remain anonymous.

However, with U.S.-China relations at a low, Reps Mike Thompson (D-CA), John Garamendi (D-CA) and Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA), the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee all expressed concern that Chinese spies were behind the purchase of 55,000 acres of farmland in Solano County.

When the dust settled, the truth finally came out. Flannery Associates is backed by Silicon Valley venture capitalist and billionaire Michael Moritz. Moritz has been highly critical of San Francisco’s liberal politics. His hopes are to build a new housing development and city near Travis Air Force Base, one he says will bring new jobs to the area.

But earlier, when asked if there was concern about Chinese malware impacting Travis, Thompson told ABC7 News “I think that’s why we are all interested in this.”

According to the Silicon Valley anti-malware company Proofpoint, malware is installed when an unsuspecting user clicks on a malicious website, opens an attachment to an email or installs software infected with a virus.

The attack can originate from anywhere in the world, so it’s unclear why the Congressman thought spies would purchase \$1 billion worth of land to launch a malware attack.

All of this could be dismissed with a shrug, except for one trend.

34 states as well as Congress have passed or have considered legislation to ban the purchase of land by Chinese and others from countries considered threats to the U.S. The bills are reminders of the Alien Land Law, a Congressional act that banned the purchase of land by Asians in 1924.

In Congress, APA Justice, citing Advancing Justice/AAJC tells AsAmNews that eight similar bills or amendments have been introduced.

“Legislative action must be based on evidence and facts, not fear,” said Edgar Chen, Special Policy Advisor, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association to AsAmNews. “While we recognize there are legitimate national

security concerns over geopolitical competition between the United States and China, unless there is concrete evidence that land investments from individuals who hail from foreign nations, whether from China or elsewhere, are being used for espionage purposes, lawmakers should not rush to paint all real estate transactions – especially by ordinary individuals with no ties to foreign governments – as threats to national security.”

Thompson has proposed such a bill in Congress and a spokesperson defended his action.

“The bipartisan bill introduced by Congressman Thompson is important to close loopholes in federal law that could allow foreign adversaries to purchase agriculture land across our country that threaten our national security and food security. Congressman Thompson has always been a strong supporter of the AAPI community and will continue to work with local AAPI leaders as we continue to hear more about the proposed project in Solano County,” said the spokesperson.

Despite repeated attempts beginning last week and including this morning, representatives from Garamendi and Smith’s office, did not get back to us with comments.

Here’s what they said earlier.

“We have heard scheme after scheme that makes no sense at all,” Rep. Garamendi said. “We’re going to build a deep water port. Really? Around Travis Air Force Base? Which is 10 miles from the Bay. No, you’re not... We’re going to farm... well at that price you’re going to lose a lot of money farming. Well, we’re going to build a city... No, you’re not going to build a city...so none of the reasons why the land is being acquired make any sense at all.”

Rep Smith says the U.S. will continue to do business with China, but needs to be cautious.

“We have foreign direct investment in this country, from a wide variety of countries,” Rep. Smith said. “I think we need to get the information and evaluate what the best steps forward are to protect national security.”

Cynthia Choi of Chinese for Affirmative Action and co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate expressed her own concerns.

“Many politicians have been citing Chinese ownership of farmland as a threat to national security, when in reality, experts say Chinese land ownership accounts for less than 1% of farmland and an even smaller percentage of agricultural land. Despite the facts, they continue to sensationalize issues regarding China to justify overreaching measures that harm innocent Asian Americans and immigrants,” she said to AsAmNews.

The ACLU recently joined in a lawsuit

to overturn a ban against Chinese ownership of homes and land in Florida signed by GOP presidential candidate and Gov. Ron DeSantis.

“We continue to remain concerned about any attempt by Congress to target individuals solely because of their national origin, which falsely equates individuals from countries like China as synonymous with the Chinese government,” said Kia Hamadanchy, senior policy counsel at ACLU. “These efforts are a reminder of historical instances where false claims of national security were used as a justification to prohibit Asian immigrants from becoming landowners and will only serve to exacerbate discrimination against Asian communities living in the United States.”

My First KAAN

By Johnny Collins

I think I can describe KAAN in one word, unbelievably so much better than I expected. I’m not good at counting. I’ve been to IKAA a few times and other Korean adoption conferences around the world and this KAAN event was my favorite because of the sessions. I also loved that I got to meet people that were adopted from other countries besides Korea and listen to their stories.

KAAN did a great job creating a safe space to share and never pushing anyone to share if they didn’t feel comfortable. I’m a little older than some of the attendees at 50, so I wasn’t interested in going out at night, but those options were also on the table. I heard many people had a great time singing and hanging out and getting to know each other. I went to bed early the first night and the second night I had some great conversations with people that wanted to stay in and just chat. I think we have some amazing people in our community and there are hundreds and maybe thousands that are struggling emotionally or financially and I wish we could help them all get to attend KAAN 2024.

I was lucky to receive a scholarship for free registration for KAAN 2023 and I will definitely pay that forward next year to cover someone else’s registration fee. I would love to challenge everyone in our community to give to KAAN to help lower costs for the conference and offer more grants to our fellow sisters and brothers. If anyone wants a new silly KAD friend feel free to add me on Facebook or Instagram Coach_Johnny1! Thank you, staff, of KAAN, you’re all super awesome!

Johnny is a Korean adoptee who has traveled the world. He has lived outside of the US for the past 28 years and has worked in 45 different countries. KAAN 2023 was his first KAAN Conference and he is already looking forward to KAAN 2024 (June 21-23, 2024, Chicago). Though he is new to the community, he looks forward to supporting and growing the community.

287 registered for the 2023 KAAN condwewnxw, 77% are adoptees, 57% firs time attendees, coming from 33 states and 2 countries . 30 received registration scholarships.

Could the Chinese government fund construction of huge new dam in Santa Clara County?

By Paul Rogers
Bay Area News group, August 25, 2023

Six years after unveiling plans to build a 320-foot high dam and reservoir at Pacheco Pass in southern Santa Clara County, the largest water district in Silicon Valley still hasn't found any other water agencies willing to help fund the project.

But this week, an unusual potential partner came to light: China.

The revelation of interest from one of the United States' most contentious rivals is the latest twist in the project's shaky history: The price tag has tripled to \$2.8 billion since 2018 due to unstable geology found in the area. The Santa Clara Valley Water District, which is pursuing the plan, has delayed groundbreaking by at least three years, to 2027, instead of 2024 as announced five years ago. And environmentalists won a lawsuit this summer that will require more study of how ongoing geological work will affect endangered plants and animals.

During questioning from water district board members at a public meeting Tuesday night, Rick Callender, the district's CEO, said he had been approached by a local developer who offered to broker a deal in which "international governments" would pay some or all of the costs.

"They would probably sell the water to farmers, right?" said Jim Beall, a former state senator who was elected to the water district board last year.

"I don't know who they would sell the water to," Callender said. "We didn't get that far."

Beall said he was concerned that he had never heard of the proposal.

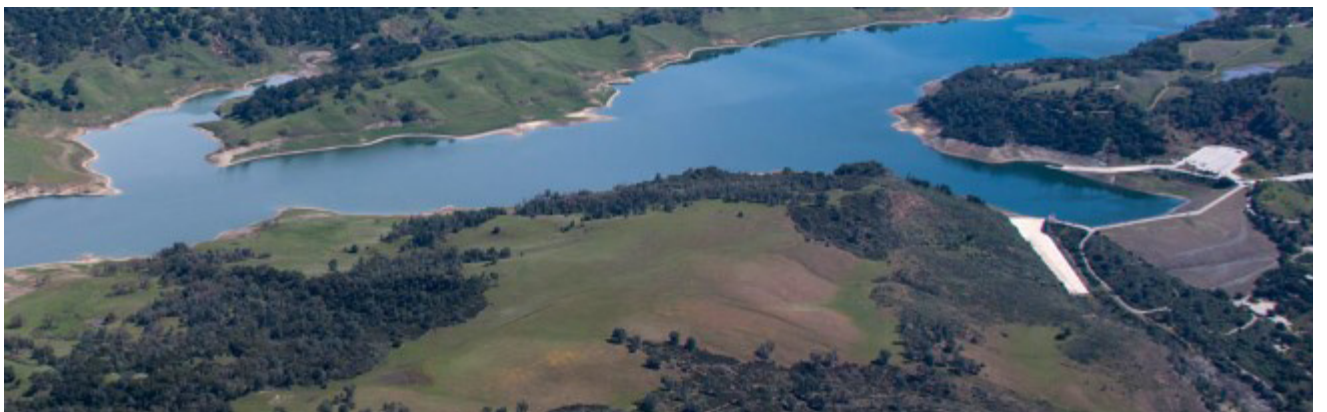
"Some things should be disclosed," he said. "I mean, we should know. I'm interested in this international thing. I didn't know there was an international connection here. Is the federal government involved?"

"Is China involved?" he added moments later.

"Yes," Callender said. "That was the proposal that came from a local developer."

Callender said he dropped the idea over his concerns about whether Chinese funding would be "acceptable or legal."

In an interview afterward, Callender declined to identify the developer. He said it was not Edmund Jin, a Chinese businessman who bought the 12,000-acre El Toro cattle ranch where the new dam would be located in 2017,



beating the water district to the property and possibly setting himself up for a large payout if the district takes the property by eminent domain.

Callender said the unnamed developer called him about five months ago and said the Chinese government could pay some or all of the dam costs.

"I said I'm not interested," he said. "They don't need to put a proposal in writing. Foreign government investment in Valley Water? What is that? I've never heard of it happening. I don't care if it was England or Canada."

Over the past decade, China has invested more than \$1 trillion in ports, railways, wind farms, bridges and other projects in dozens of countries, including Greece, Kenya, Croatia, Indonesia, Russia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nigeria as a way of building economic ties and expanding political influence. The jobs are often filled by Chinese construction workers.

The effort, called the Belt and Road Initiative, has been a centerpiece of President Xi Jinping's tenure.

Under it, China also has helped fund some water projects, including dams in Cambodia, Laos and Pakistan. Some have had serious construction problems. The \$2.7 billion Coca Codo Sinclair hydroelectric plant in Ecuador, finished in 2016, has been plagued with thousands of cracks and other major flaws.

In Pakistan, officials shut down the Neelum-Jhelum hydroelectric plant last year after detecting cracks in a tunnel that transports water through a mountain to drive a turbine, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Callender said he opposes Chinese funding on broader grounds.

"You don't want foreign investments in local government," he said. "Play it all the way through. A foreign interest owns the reservoir. They are selling the water. And the money is going back to China instead of local interests. It's so far from our tax base it doesn't make sense."

With the Pacheco project, the water district, based in San Jose, is hoping to build the largest new Bay Area dam since Los Vaqueros

Reservoir in Contra Costa County was built 25 years ago.

The district's plan calls for constructing a 320-foot-high earthen dam on the North Fork of Pacheco Creek in the rugged canyons about 2 miles north of Highway 152 near Henry Coe State Park.

The new reservoir would hold 141,000 acre feet of water, replacing a small reservoir that was built in 1939.

The project received a major boost in 2018 when former Gov. Jerry Brown's administration awarded it \$485 million from Proposition 1, a \$7.5 billion water bond passed by voters in 2014. That was supposed to pay for half.

But as its price tag has risen, no other partners have signed on. According to a staff presentation Tuesday night, the project's current cost estimate is \$2.78 billion. Including financing, it is \$3.27 billion. But that assumes partner agencies will pay 35% and share the water. If none come forward, the full cost to the water district will be \$5.5 billion, the staff report showed.

Four of the district's board members: Chairman John Varela, Dick Santos, Tony Estremera and Nai Hsueh, have indicated support for continuing to design the project. Two others, Rebecca Eisenberg and Barbara Keegan, are opposed, saying expanding recycled water, conservation and other projects that have greater likelihood of being built, such as a \$1 billion plan to enlarge Los Vaqueros Reservoir, make more sense. The other board member, Beall, has raised increasingly skeptical questions but has not come out strongly in favor or against Pacheco.

In an interview Thursday, Varela said he had not heard of the Chinese funding possibility until this week but opposes it. As for the lack of partners, he said, California's droughts are increasingly severe, and Silicon Valley needs more reservoir capacity.

"It's still early," he said. "The seeds are in the ground. We're going to find partners. I'm confident we will."

Back-to-back California shootings reflect an American tragedy, not an ‘Asian issue,’ experts say

By Kimmy Yam and Mirna Alsharif
NBC News, January 25, 2023

As Asian Americans attempt to make sense of two deadly shootings in California targeting the community within a matter of days, experts warn against drawing broad cultural conclusions from the gun violence.

Local officials say that Huu Can Tran, 72, who killed 11 people in Monterey Park on Saturday, may have been targeting his ex-wife in a personal dispute, while Chunli Zhao, 67, who the next day killed at least seven people and seriously injured one at two agricultural businesses in Half Moon Bay, engaged in an instance of “workplace violence.” Though both suspects are older Asian men, experts are making the point gun violence is pervasive and spans race, cultures and identities.

“The problem is, when an Asian American or Asian person does something in the United States, it feels like the whole weight of a community, whether that’s an ethnic community, or an entire race, gets placed on the bodies of people,” Jennifer Ho, professor of ethnic studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder, told NBC News.

The violence, rather, is symptomatic of a “uniquely American phenomenon,” she said.

“Asian Americans aren’t exempt from mass killings,” Ho added.

While the timing of the tragedies and some shared characteristics between the suspects have led many to lump them together, or float a contagion effect between the shootings, the Half Moon Bay shooter told police that he had no knowledge of the previous shooting at Monterey Park, two police sources with direct knowledge of the investigation told NBC Bay Area. And while there’s no evidence of the contagion effect between the latest tragedies, it’s been seen in mass shootings in the past, James Densley, co-author of “The Violence Project: How to Stop a Mass Shooting Epidemic,” said.

“Any mass shooting is lowering the threshold for the next one, so if you were somebody contemplating this type of crime and going through a crisis, there is certainly a chance that witnessing some type of shooting serves as motivation to do your own,” Densley said.

According to Densley, mass shooters will often study other mass shooters, but this is usually more common in younger people.

So far this year, the U.S. has had 39 mass shootings in 24 days, according to the Gun Violence archive, which defines a mass shooting as a single incident in which at least four people — other than the shooter — are shot.

Gun violence isn’t innate in Asian cultures

Gun violence, experts note, is not inherent in the Asian diaspora’s culture. When looking at countries with comparable income levels to the U.S., several East Asian countries rank among the lowest incidence of gun violence, including Japan, Korea and Taiwan, which have some of the strictest gun laws in the world. And while China’s population is more than twice that of the U.S., it records a few dozen firearms-related crimes a year.

In looking at attitudes among Asian Americans, the overwhelming majority support stricter gun laws at 81%, according to a 2022 AAPI Data report on the state of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. It’s roughly 20 percentage points higher than the national average. So Ho condemned those attempting to paint the Asian American community with a broad brush due to the pair of tragedies.

“The longer you’re going to be in the United States, the more you are going to be susceptible to certain American norms and access to guns,” Ho said. “That means yes, there is going to be more of a tendency to decide that you’re going to settle whatever grievance you have, through shooting.”

Pawan Dhingra, president of the Association for Asian American Studies, similarly said that as more Asian Americans become acculturated to American society, more will also absorb the pathologies of the U.S.

“There’s things that Americans are known for that immigrants and their kids gravitate towards because they’re becoming more and more ‘American,’” he said. “Gun violence is one of those things.”

The tragedies have highlighted gaps in Asian mental health help

While experts warn against drawing early conclusions around the shooting, they say that some of the resulting discussions around the lack of mental health help, particularly among older Asian immigrants, have been long overdue. Dhingra noted that many immigrants, particularly those who left amid war or political upheaval, deal not only with unresolved trauma from experiences in their home countries, but also from the experience of immigration. And the lack of culturally competent, language-friendly mental health services has further kept elders from working on, or even recognizing, these issues.

“When they do seek it is typically for more extreme situations, which is to say that people wait until it’s quite severe,” Dhingra said. “Lower levels of assistance is what we’re not accessing.”

Research shows that Asian Americans are about a third as likely as white Americans to seek mental health help. Warren Ng, psychiatry medical director at New York-Presbyterian

Hospital, previously told NBC News that many Asian immigrants fear bringing shame to their families or communities. And others may internalize the racism that they confront.

“It’s always a concept of ‘we’ve already accepted that this is our fate, that we don’t have it any better,’” Ng said. “We are not equals.”

Gun control advocates, however, emphasize caution and nuance when discussing mental health in relation to gun violence. The Violence Project, Densley’s nonprofit, nonpartisan research center dedicated to reducing violence, points out that mental illness is not a motive that can “explain away” the cause for gun violence.

“If a mass shooter has a mental health diagnosis, this doesn’t mean that their every action is related to that diagnosis or that their symptoms caused them to pull the trigger,” according to the Violence Project’s website. “All we can say with some degree of certainty is that no one living a fulfilled life perpetrates a mass shooting.”

Shootings point to need for greater inclusion of Asian Americans in gun reform discussions

Though more details need to emerge before determining whether the tragedies are indicative of deeper issues in Asian America, Karthick Ramakrishnan, founder and director of demographic data and policy research for the nonprofit AAPI Data, said that the gun violence directed at and among Asian Americans, does expose a glaring disparity.

“We have mountains of evidence now for over a decade, that Asian Americans are among the strongest supporters of gun control. And yet we do not think of gun control as an Asian American issue,” Ramakrishnan said.

Gun control organizations haven’t invested enough time and resources in the Asian American community, Ramakrishnan said. And campaigns and parties have often targeted Asian American voters with a focus on education and affirmative action, he said.

Experts said that with little movement on gun reform, it’s likely that the community could see more of this violence. And Dhingra said he fears that, as more attacks occur in Asian American spaces, it could lead to more Asian Americans purchasing weapons for self-defense, leading to more firearms to be used and misused.

“I would imagine that this is not the end of a trend but the beginning of a possible trend,” Dhingra said.

Asian American shootings: This is ‘not an exception’ and other issues that need to be discussed

Farm working, mental health, and social and cultural barriers that some Asian American communities face

By Sandra Baltazar Martinez
UC Riverside News, January 25, 2023

Days after two California massacres involving the Asian American community, many are seeking to understand what drove two men to commit these crimes. Primary among questions are the role of culture and society, and whether mental health is a pressing issue in the Asian American community.

Dylan Rodríguez, professor of media and cultural studies, sees mass shootings as a societal issue that affects all communities. The Asian American community is not an exception, he said.

“Thinking of this as an Asian/American ‘exception’ to the overwhelmingly young white male problem of ‘mass shootings’ is a dire mistake and the wrong premise,” said Rodríguez, the author of three books, including his most recent, “White Reconstruction: Domestic Warfare and the Logic of Racial Genocide,” published in 2021.

These most recent shootings are part of a national symptom; the aggressors are part of communities absorbing negative behaviors influenced by celebrities and politicians, all of whom contribute to the violence, Rodríguez said.

“What happened in Monterey Park, Half Moon Bay, Oakland, and before that, Virginia Tech, should not be framed as Asian American exceptions, but rather as direct reflections of a national culture and climate that actively cultivates acts of repression and terror against women, criminalized and vulnerable people, and whomever else is deemed a target of resentment. Mass shootings are the horrific logical expression of this national culture and climate,” Rodríguez said.

The Half Moon Bay massacre involved Asian Americans farmworkers, a job many do not associate with the Asian community, said Carol K. Park, an ethnic studies doctoral student and staff with UCR’s Young Oak Kim Center for Korean American Studies.

“We often don’t think of Asians as immigrant workers in the field like we used to do in the early-to-mid-1900s when Filipino, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, etc., all worked as farmworkers,” said Park, author of “Memoir of a Cashier: Korean Americans, Racism and Riots.”

“But they are still here; there are still Asians working in California farms. In the case of Half Moon Bay, the attacker lived there.”

One reason for this lack of connection is the intentional omitted history in U.S. textbooks

and Asian exclusion laws enacted in California and in the U.S., Park said. For example, in 1882 Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, limiting migration from China, and in 1913 California enacted the Alien Land Law, prohibiting Asian immigrants from owning land.

The Asian American presence in the United States can be traced to the mid 1800s, when Chinese workers migrated to the United States. Their labor was first used in gold mines, and then in building the West, including working in agriculture, railroads, and the garment industry.

In the Monterey Park shooting, it seems to be a case of ostracizing. The attacker lived in Hemet and drove about 80 miles to Monterey Park apparently in search of community and acceptance. “He ended up committing suicide. Obviously mental health plays into this,” Park said.

When it comes to mental health, seeking psychological services can be a cultural barrier for Asian Americans, said Kalina J. Michalska, assistant professor of psychology and director of the Kids Interaction and NeuroDevelopment Lab, or KIND Lab. In a 2021 study, Michalska found that Asian American students were less likely to seek mental health resources. Their reluctance can be a mirrored response to how their families perceive sharing their family issues with therapists — someone families can consider a stranger.

“There’s a lot of stigma around mental health, for men especially,” Michalska said of her study, titled “Shared Cultural Values Influence Mental Health Help-Seeking Behaviors in Asian and Latinx College Students.”

Asian American study participants indicated that cultural values were one of the reasons preventing them from accessing mental health resources. For those participants, beliefs such as putting others’ needs above theirs and not deviating from familial and social norms, were priorities.

Other barriers might be more related to language and access, such as not being able to leave work for an appointment, finding childcare or transportation, said Toshia Ann Yamaguchi, UCR Health director of Student Mental Health and a health sciences assistant clinical professor with UCR School of Medicine.

“There is a lot of stigma around mental health in Asian American communities. Many families might be inclined to avoid acknowledging mental health symptoms exhibited by their family members and dismiss the mental health treatment recommendations by providers,” Yamaguchi said. “Many individuals may be inclined to deny symptoms they are grappling with themselves. Furthermore, there is a lack of psychiatrists and therapists who speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, etc.”

Another aspect that does not get discussed often, is the sense of community and belonging.

“A deficit in the sense that one belongs in one’s community has been increasingly acknowledged in the literature recently as a profound risk factor for poor mental health outcomes, including suicide risk,” Yamaguchi said. “Notably, participating in one’s community traditions and feeling a sense of belonging are two modifiable factors that protect against the pervasive harmful effects of childhood trauma. In other words, a lack of community or sense of belonging can impair one’s resilience in the face of other stressors.”

Current Faces in high profile cases

Gary Wang, 30, who co-founded cryptocurrency firms FTX and Alameda Research and was FTX chief technology officer pled guilty in December 2022 to 4 counts of wire fraud, securities and commodities fraud. **Nishad Singh**, 27, former FTX Director of Engineering, pled in February 2023 to six criminal charges of fraud and conspiracy and campaign finance violations (political donations to LGBTQ+ and democratic campaigns.) Co-defendant Caroline Ellison, 26, pled in December 2022 to 7 counts conspiracy, fraud and money laundering. Wang graduated from MIT, worked at Google Flights before founding Alameda Research (whose bank accounts were used to receive FTX customer deposits) and FTX with Sam Bankman-Fried. Wang owns a 16% stake in FTX and lives in the Bahamas. All three are cooperating with prosecutors in Bankman-Fried’s FTX cryptocurrency fraud case scheduled to go to trial for October 2023. In August, Bankman-Fried’s bail was revoked and he returned to custody on allegations that he attempted to tamper with witnesses twice while out on bond.

Walt Torres Nauta Jr., 40, from Guam, is “the aide who stayed” as former President Trump’s butler, valet, and aide. He was indicted with Trump in the criminal case alleging Espionage Act violations and other offenses. Nauta is charged with obstruction (lying to federal investigators) and helping Trump to conceal boxes of documents. He was a petty officer in the US Navy assigned to the White House as a culinary specialist (cook). After Trump’s term ended, Nauta remained in Trump’s employment working at Mar-a-Lago. Nauta joined the Navy in 2001.

Stephen Lee is one of 19 people charged along with Trump in the Georgia case. Lee is a pastor at a Lutheran church in suburban Chicago and tried to pressure Ruby Freeman, a 2020 election worker in Atlanta to falsely admit to fraud.

Current Faces in high profile cases

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Freeman called 911 when in December 2020 Lee knocked on her front door. Lee told the police he was trying to “get some truth on what’s going on.” The 19 defendants include Scott Hall, John Eastman, Robert Cheeley, Kenneth Chesebro, Jeffrey Clark, Jenna Ellis, Harrison Floyd, Rudy Giuliani, Misty Hampton, Trevian Kutti, Cathy Latham, Stephen Lee, Mark Meadows, Sidney Powell, Michael Roman, David Shafer, Ray Smith, Shawn Still and Trump. Only 2 of these co-defendants were part of the 16-person “fake electors” group; others were charged with different acts to interfere with the 2020 election.

Four Chinese companies and 8 Chinese nationals have been indicted in federal court for selling key precursor chemicals to Mexico’s Sinaloa Cartel and Jalisco New Generation Cartel, who manufactured fentanyl and smuggled it into the US. One indictment charging fentanyl trafficking, precursor chemical importation, and money laundering offenses named: **Hubei Amarvel Biotech Co. Ltd.** (aka AmarvelBio aka Amarvel Biotech in Wuhan, Hubei province), **Qingzhou Wang**, 35 (aka Bruce Wang, marketing manager); **Yiyi Chen**, 31 (aka Chiron Chen) and **Fnu Lnu** (aka Er Yang aka Anita Yang). Wang and Chen were arrested June in Fiji and extradicted to the US.

Another indictment charged **Anhui Rencheng Technology Co. Ltd.** (Rencheng), **Anhui Moker New Material Technology Co.**, **Shutong Wang**, and **Shifang Ruan** (aka Eva Ruan) with conspiracy to manufacture and distribute fentanyl, manufacture of fentanyl, and other related offenses. This indictment charges those same defendants, as well as **Xinyu Zhao** (aka Sarah Zhao) and **Yue Gao** (aka Ellie Gao) with illegally concealing their activities, including committing customs fraud and introducing misbranded drugs into the US marketplace. The indictment also charges Rencheng, Wang, and Ruan with conspiracy to distribute butonitazene, a controlled substance.

A third indictment charges **Hefei GSK Trade Co. Ltd** (aka Hebei Gesuke Trading Co. Ltd. aka Hebei Sinaloa Trading Co. Ltd.), and **Ruiqing Li** with similar offenses, including conspiracy to manufacture and distribute fentanyl, manufacture of fentanyl, conspiracy to distribute a List I chemical, distribution of a List I chemical, customs fraud conspiracy, introducing misbranded drugs into interstate commerce, and distribution of metonitazene, a controlled substance. The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has seized more than 200 kilograms in precursor chemicals shipped directly to the US in an undercover operation which the DEA paid for with cryptocurrency (that quantity is enough to manufacture 50 kilograms of fentanyl and kill 25 million people).

The Chinese Embassy responded to the charges by characterizing the investigation and indictments as entrapment and threatened that the prosecutions will create obstacles

for any future US-China counter-narcotics cooperation. During Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s June trip to China, China agreed to participate in a working group to clamp down on the flow of precursor chemicals. China usually downplays its role in the fentanyl supply chain, but in 2019 China did restrict fentanyl-related substances and convicted a ring of fentanyl supplier using Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) intelligence. Last year China stopped cooperating in that agreement after then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan.



Jasper Wu, 23 months old, was shot in the head by stray crossfire on November 6, 2021 (Saturday afternoon) while sitting in his car seat in his mom’s car on I-880 (Oakland) when rival gang members driving in the opposite direction shot at each other. In December 2022, CHP arrested Trevor Green (22, Richmond), Ivory Bivins (24, Vallejo, both members of the SF Chopper City street gang) and Johnny Jackson (28, Richmond). Green and Bivens are charged with the rolling gun battle against Jackson and Keison Lee, both Eddy Rock street gang members; they were trying to kill Jackson with their AK15 style rifle. Lee had been shot in the lower back, went to SF General Hospital for treatment, his car was found close by riddled with bullet holes and a spent shell case, his hands tested positive for gunshot residue and he admitted to being shot at on the freeway. In November 2022, Lee died in a separate drive-by shooting. Bivins car was located and tested positive for gunshot residue. In the May 2023 preliminary hearing, the judge ruled that Jackson was the target of the ambush by Green and Bivens, not involved in Jasper’s murder, and was actually shooting back at Green and Bivens in self defense; the judge did uphold Jackson’s charge of felony possession of a firearm.

Jasper Wu’s family objected to Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price’s decision

to dismiss in June special gang enhancements which had been charged by Price’s predecessor Nancy O’Malley and by doing so drastically reduce possible sentences for the Green and Bivins if they were convicted for Jasper’s homicide. Jasper’s mother An Wu reacted to Price’s decision, “What kind of message are we sending to the public?” DA Price says her controversial policy is intentional “to bring balance back to sentencing and reduce recidivism” and in her office prosecutors are now not allowed to “file or require defendants plead to sentencing enhancements.” DA Price was sworn into office in January 2023.

The National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association (NAPIPA) took issue with DA Price’s criticism of Jasper’s parents when they complained that Price’s policy does not vigorously prosecute the case and Price’s blaming “certain vocal members of the local Chinese community and media including

reporter Dion Lim (ABC news reporter) ... (who) misled the public” and “spreading misinformation.” Jasper’s mom disagrees, “We were not misinformed.” NAPIPA co-founder Paul Jhin told Lim, “It was a little condescending. It was discussing how some people, referring to Asian Americans and Chinese Americans don’t know the basic constitutional law and basic rights and laws like innocent until proven guilty. I felt a little offended and I think APIs, we need to speak out more. We saw this (email) and felt like we had to respond.”

Price was criticized earlier in the prosecution when she spoke broadly advocating for non-jail punishment for Jasper’s killers and dropped charges that could have prevented parole. Price accused critics of disseminating “politically driven misinformation” and has been questioned for overstating her ability to win specific convictions. (Price considers herself a civil rights attorney and criminal defense attorney, and was never a career prosecutor.)

NAPIPA’S response to DA Price’s email written “to the Chinese communities” (April 6, 2023)

The National Asian Pacific Islander

LOCKE FOUNDATION

The History of Locke and the Locke Foundation

By Stuart Walthall
Chairman, Locke Foundation



The mission of the Locke Foundation is to educate the public about the history and culture of Locke, Ca. The Locke Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation and has operated continuously since November 5, 2003.

Founded in 1915, the town of Locke is a relatively young Chinese American community. It is important to note that Locke is NOT a Chinatown, which traditionally lie within or adjacent to a non-Chinese community. Locke is a stand-alone community built by and for Chinese.

The land on which Locke was built was leased by the Locke family estate to a group of Chinese businessmen who wished to relocate after a devastating fire destroyed the Chinatown section of nearby Walnut Grove, located one mile south of Locke. The entire Main Street section of Locke, known as the Historic District, was built in one year.

Locke was not truly intended to be a permanent town. The construction of most Locke buildings were constructed inexpensively and are somewhat flimsy. Chinese residents, fearful of losing their property or of being deported back to China, came to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in search of prosperity. The dream of *Gum Saan*, referencing California as "Gold Mountain", had drawn Chinese immigrants to the area where they would make their fortune, then return to China to support or start a family and to buy land. Unfortunately, this dream did not come true for many who came to Gold Mountain.

In 1971 the entire town was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1990 the Historic District became a National Historic Landmark. This rare distinction denotes the national significance of Locke. As stated by the National Park Service: "Locke is the largest, most complete example of a rural agricultural Chinese American community in the United States".

During its heyday from the 1920's to 1940's Locke was an autonomous island of Chinese culture with a permanent population of about 600. At one time it had four restaurants,

a half dozen markets, dry goods stores, five brothels, a post office, two slaughter houses, a flour mill, shipping wharves, an opera house, speakeasies during prohibition, numerous gambling establishments and a school.

Following WWII, Locke's population began to slowly decline. Children grew up, went to work or college (particularly University of California Berkeley), and did not return to their hometown.

Starting in the early 1970's Locke's demographics began to shift. Chinese residents of Locke were passing away. Non-Chinese, many of whom were artists and bohemians, began to replace the original residents of Locke.

As Locke's Chinese population declined, so did its structures. Buildings shifted. Floors sagged. Walls and windows fell into disrepair. Sacramento County helped by upgrading many buildings' electrical systems and removing many propane tanks and heaters to reduce fire hazards. Fire suppressant was sprayed on to building exteriors, then upgraded to a water-fed fire suppression system attached to all buildings in the Historic District. But Locke was decomposing.

In 1976, Clarence Chu, his sister Chu Lien Fan and her husband Ng Tor Tai, were told by friends from San Francisco that Locke Ranch was for sale. The friends looked at it first and believed that the Chu family's development corporation in Hong Kong would be interested in this unusual site. The Locke estate consisted of 500 acres, about 14 of which comprised the town of Locke.

When the family came to look at the Locke property their first impression about the town of Locke was it did not look Chinese at all, but more like a Hollywood set for a Wild West movie. There was not much Chinese culture left except for the Chinese. However, the interest to purchase the Locke estate was established immediately by the Chu family. They felt because of their ethnic background, they could definitely help to preserve the town's history and culture.

At the same time Sacramento County's Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) was also interested in purchasing the town alone, but not the remainder of the property as a whole. By 1977 the Locke family estate decided to sell to Locke Property Development Corporation owned by Clarence and his family.

Clarence quickly held a meeting with the resident building owners. There were 60 Chinese and 12 non-Chinese present at the meeting. He could speak their native Chung Shan dialect. He immediately felt close to them and likewise, they to him.



Clarence Chu and Chu Lien Fan

The Chinese residents were concerned about whether his company would honor the land lease which they had with former Locke Ranch owners. Clarence was able to comfort these Chinese residents, many of whom were elderly, and assure them that the basic structure of the town would remain the same. There would be no dramatic changes. He made sure they could continue to use the back open space for their community vegetable gardens also.

Prior to Clarence's arrival, SHRA wanted to restore the structure of the town and do something to maintain culture and community. In the 1990's SHRA initiated a series of meetings and studies to determine what might be done to repair Locke's antiquated sewer system. Clarence consulted with them and explored possibilities. Since a government grant could not benefit a private owner, SHRA offered to buy the land in order to secure a grant which would pay for a new sewer system. After the new sewer system was in place, the property would then be sold to another owner, other than Locke Property Development. Clarence felt this would just perpetuate the land ownership issue. He wanted to resolve the ownership question "once and for all".

Clarence is particularly proud of the sequence of events that followed. Clarence and the County returned to the bargaining table. He asked the County Board of Supervisors to support the creation of a subdivision. Without owning the land under their homes, the residents would never feel secure. Their homes would be merely "personal property".

He also urged the County to make right the historic wrong in the Alien Exclusion Act, which prevented Chinese from owning and purchasing land in the first place. All five Sacramento County Supervisors voted to approve the creation of the subdivision so that after the sewer system was in place, the residents could buy the land under their homes. Locke Property Development sold the land to the County for a fraction of the price they could have received in an open market. By doing so, Locke building owners were able to purchase the land under their buildings for a mere \$3000-\$5000 per lot.

Clarence Chu and Locke Property Development retained their ownership of several buildings, including the Joe Shoong Chinese School, the Dai Loy Gambling Hall and



LF Oral History Project
& LockePRDA
present

***Voices: Chinese Women
of the Delta***
Fundraiser Luncheon

Proceeds to Support a
New Documentary Film
Sunday, November 5, 2023
12:30 - 4:00 PM

Lucky Jade Restaurant
7007 South Land Park Dr. Sacramento, CA
Table \$650 / Individual Ticket \$70

For Information & Tickets
***Locke Foundation - Oral History Project**
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***Locke Prior Residents, Descendants
& Ascendants [LockePRDA]**
Carol Lee 916-716-4012
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the Jan Ying Association building. He currently maintains these buildings and offers them as historic museums to the public. He also owned the Locke Boarding House, one of four original buildings dating back to 1909 when Locke was then known as Lockeport.

Now that Locke was privately owned, how would it be governed?

THE CREATION OF THE LOCKE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION AND THE LOCKE FOUNDATION

In 2000, SHRA bought the underlying land, then began a four year process to return the town back to its residents. The most difficult part of the project was to create an ongoing town governance structure that would

balance the needs of building owners and residents, the Chinese cultural and historic groups, governmental entities, and the historic preservation community. All of these groups had intense interest in the outcome, and many had different goals and objectives. SHRA, with the use of outside consultants, architects, historic preservationists and others, developed a plan that would manage these competing interests.

In the end, two non-profit organizations were created: the Locke Management Corporation (LMC) and the Locke Foundation (LF). The membership of each board was balanced between residential and business property owners, representatives of local Chinese cultural groups, governmental entities and the historic preservation community, with no group having a majority.

On December 14, 2004, SHRA turned ownership of the now subdivided land to the building owners in an emotional ceremony that received widespread publicity. After nearly 100 years, the wrong that had been done to these Chinese citizens by the Alien Land Law was finally made right.

It should be noted that the initial board of directors for the Locke Management Corporation and the Locke Foundation were one and the same. However, as responsibilities and interests changed, so did these two organizations. In 2019 the Locke Foundation submitted amended bylaws to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisor which separated the LF from the LMC, and also severed its connection with Sacramento County. This was

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LOCKE FOUNDATION

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done to enable the LF to operate as a traditional California non-profit, free to self-govern, and not be subject to the bylaws of the LMC which are mandated by Sacramento County.

The function and responsibilities of the LMC are: to represent residential and commercial property owners, maintain common areas, collect assessments, promote business and protect Locke’s historic structures. To enable the proper governance of Locke, the LMC has bylaws, CC&R’s and a Special Planning Area Ordinance (SPA) as mandates and guidelines. In short, the LMC is an HMO for a whole town.

The function of the Locke Foundation is: education, preservation, and promotion. The Locke Foundation is the only organization whose sole function is to advocate for the town of Locke - it’s history, culture and legacy.

At the inception of the two Locke organizations, the Locke Foundation was considered the little sister organization. The fledging LMC had pressing issues addressing the many aspects of town governance. Minimal time was spent on the Locke Foundation at board meetings.

Unlike the LMC, which began operating with \$25,000 in seed money from the County, the Locke Foundation started with a budget of zero dollars. If the LF was to be an effective organization, able to accomplish its mission, it needed to raise funds.

Fundraising began with outreach to local organizations, businesses and individuals. The community responded. Donations and sponsorships began to flow in to the LF bank account. The LF also staged a series of festivals and events which increase the profile of the Foundation. The LF was now up and running.

In 2005 California State Parks purchased the Locke Boarding House from Locke Property Development with the intention of creating a visitors center. Significant funds were spent meticulously restoring the Boarding House back to its original condition. From the early 1920’s to the advent of WWII, the building functioned as a boarding house operated by the Kuramoto family. WWII led to their internment and the Boarding House ceased operations.

In 2008, through contractual agreement with the Locke Foundation, State Parks opened the Locke Visitors Center to the public. The Visitors Center then morphed into the Locke Boarding House Museum. The museum is manned and operated by LF docents and volunteers. It serves as the headquarters for the Foundation and has become the first-stop destination for the most visitors who come to Locke.

The Museum is free to the public. The Locke Foundation presents rotating exhibits, lectures and film. Also on exhibit are historic



Locke Boarding House Museum

photographs, reference materials, ephemera, artifacts, on-sale items and friendly informed docents to welcome visitors. The Boarding House also functions as Information Center for Locke and surrounding communities.

In addition to operating the Locke Boarding House Museum, LF activities and accomplishments include: staging Locke’s signature events- The Locke Chinese New Year Celebration and The Locke Asian Pacific Spring Festival; the LF Scholarship Program - awarding scholarships to local high schools seniors; docent led historic walking tours; the Locke Oral History Project - capturing the stories of former and current Locke residents; the Locke Artifact Program - collecting, cataloging, preserving and displaying the precious relics from Locke’s past; the Locke Foundation Quarterly Newsletter; the Locke Membership Program - over 200 paid members of the Foundation; creation of the Locke Memorial Park and Memorial Tile Project; funding of historic signage and plaques; the Locke Centennial Building Survey - creating a complete color catalog of all historic buildings from all angles. The LF also funds advertising for the town’s museums and businesses.

In its twenty years of its existence, the Locke Foundation has grown into a viable and influential organization. Its museum, docents, newsletter and website are valuable sources for historians, scholastic institutions, authors, media, agencies, cultural organizations, and most importantly..... the public.

Sources for this article: Remembering 100 Years - Locke Foundation Publication; Sally Ooms; Clarence Chu; Locke Foundation Newsletter; Delta Explorer, Summer 2009, with permission of author Deborah Mendel who updated the article with recent information.

Freeway shootings

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Prosecutors Association (“NAPIPA”) denounces Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price’s recent e-mail addressed “[t]o the Chinese communities,” and invites D.A. Price to meet with NAPIPA to discuss the e-mail and how we can work together to ensure justice for all communities.

In that email, she alleged that “vocal members of the local Chinese community and media” were misinformed and spreading misinformation about the murder of 23-month-old Jasper Wu, who was killed in the crossfire of a gang shootout on the highway in Oakland, California. NAPIPA calls on D.A. Price to apologize and take responsibility for the misleading and condescending statements she made in her e-mail. We urge District Attorney Price to be transparent with the public, especially crime victims and their families, and to vigorously prosecute violent criminals, including those who commit crimes against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (“AAPI”) community.

While it is unclear to whom D.A. Price sent this e-mail or who it intended to address, the salutation is “[t]o the Chinese communities.” This purposeful othering of people of Chinese descent, coupled with a vague allegation that “certain vocal members of the local Chinese community and media” were misleading the public, are divisive and particularly dangerous coming from the top prosecutor in a county made up of over 33% AAPI residents. Additionally, D.A. Price made no mention of who she was accusing, nor does she state how they were misleading the public.

Instead of expressing sympathy for Jasper Wu’s family, D.A. Price condescendingly commented that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty and that “[s]ome people don’t know about the basic principles of constitutional law that govern our office and the justice system.” Again, it is unclear who she was referencing or why. Based on prior statements in the e-mail, she was insinuating that she did not believe the Chinese community was aware of the very basic tenets of the American criminal justice system. The members of NAPIPA, comprised mostly of federal, state, and local prosecutors, are intimately familiar with all aspects of criminal law, including the basic principles of constitutional law as well as the prosecution of gang homicides and gun enhancements.

In the e-mail, D.A. Price attempted to show an alliance with the AAPI community by claiming her office was “currently working on a partnership with the Asian Law Caucus to support AAPI victims of violence.” However, when ABC reporter Dan Noyes asked the executive director of the Asian Law Caucus about this claim, she said that their meeting was merely introductory, had nothing to do with Jasper Wu, and that she was “very confused about this.”

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Freeway shootings

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Without explanation, D.A. Price ended her e-mail “[t]o the Chinese communities” with a comment about “the need to root out racism in our criminal justice system, starting in [her] office.” While we applaud D.A. Price’s goal to eliminate racism in our criminal justice system and in her office, it is again unclear why racism, or race, is relevant when discussing a 23-month-old’s brutal murder.

In addition to correcting her misleading statements and apologizing for her condescending email, NAPIPA calls on D.A. Price to prosecute defendants with transparency to restore public faith in the criminal justice system in Alameda County. While we fully understand that not all the information in an active case can be discussed with the public, the California Constitution, Article I, section 28(b) states that victims should be “treated with fairness and respect,” “to reasonably confer with the prosecuting agency,” including “to be notified of and informed before any pretrial disposition of the case.”

We expect your office to meet with Jasper Wu’s family and attorney, if requested, and to provide a Mandarin interpreter when doing so.

NAPIPA implores D.A. Price to vigorously prosecute violent crimes, including those with AAPI victims, like Jasper Wu. His family, through their attorney Norbert Chu said, “The family of Jasper Wu appreciates all the support from NAPIPA. It is their most fervent desire that Jasper’s case is prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

While D.A. Price states that her office has not yet “removed” the sentencing enhancements “charged by [her] predecessor,” her statements and actions indicate it is only a matter of time before she does so. In her memo to her office in March 2023, she wrote that barring “extraordinary circumstances,” the penalty for most crimes in Alameda County will be restricted to probation or the lowest-level prison term. Per her memo, “[t]his directive reduces reliance on sentencing enhancements and allegations as an effort to bring balance back to sentencing and to reduce recidivism.”

Furthermore, in the e-mail addressing the murder of Jasper Wu, she mentioned supporting AAPI victims of violence in ways that “open up broader possibilities for healing and non-carceral forms of accountability.” Noncarceral means non-custodial. It is astounding that the top law enforcement official in Alameda County mentioned “non-carceral” alternatives while she discussed the murder of a 23-month-old baby.

NAPIPA stands by victims of violent crime, including Jasper Wu’s family. We will continue to advocate for fairness, equality, and justice. We encourage D.A. Price to do the same.

Below is DA Price’s response to NAPIPA, dated April 7, 2023:
Mr. (Alexander) Adams (NAPIPA Nor Cal Chapter President), you are mistaken and misinformed. The email you reference did not come from me. It was sent by Ms. Elaine Peng to her set of friends and colleagues. She asked if she could share some information from our office which was sent to Supervisor Lena Tam, and I authorized her to do so. I will forward your response to Ms. Peng. Feel free to reach out to her directly as she is copied on this message, along with Supervisor Tam and her staffer.

The portion of Ms. Peng’s email that refers to “non-carceral forms of accountability” refers to a request that our office consider supporting a proposed program by a local non-profit organization for addressing anti-Asian violence. That program and the description of it has absolutely no connection to the Jasper Wu case, and the local non-profit organization is not involved in any way in the prosecution of the Jasper Wu case.

I deeply regret that Ms. Peng’s effort to create a dialogue with her colleagues led your organization to publicly denounce me without ever speaking to her or I. If you would like to meet with Ms. Peng and I, and she is willing to speak with your group, I would be happy to accompany her.

Thank you for your interest in our conversation.

- NAPIPA’s comments about DA Price’s response.
- Price did not apologize or address her commitment to seeking justice for Jasper Wu or his family.
 - Price denied sending the March 28, 2023 email and attributed it to Ms. Elaine Peng. Elaine Peng is president of Mental Health Association for Chinese Communities, and a member of Price’s newly formed DA Mental Health Commission.
 - Price’s email has a date stamp of March 28, 2023 at 4pm and was sent from Price’s Alameda County email address with her digital signature
 - Price’s offer of a meeting could not take place before the preliminary hearing scheduled for the defendants accused of murdering Jasper Wu. The preliminary hearing proceeded without special circumstances charges so they cannot get a life without the possibility of parole sentence or the death sentence. A preliminary hearing whittles down what charges will proceed to jury trial.

Editor’s comment: Price spoke to the press regarding her decision to not charge special circumstances in Jasper’s case: “For the folks who have lost loved ones in this community, both the family of Jasper Wu as well as the family of anyone who has lost a loved one, we take that very seriously, and I’m very compassionate for the victims. ... The amount of grief and pain that one experiences when you lose a loved one is not anything that I would wish on anybody.” Price claims that she has to follow the law, and that

the legislature has been “very clear around the use of enhancements in special circumstances and how a district attorney’s office is expected to apply those.”

California law says that “special circumstances murder” is a category of murder that involves certain aggravating factors which increases the severity of the crime and subject the defendant to harsher penalties. These aggravating factors are enumerated in Penal Code Section 190.2(a) and distinguishes a special circumstances murder from a typical murder case. Under 190.2(a) special circumstances relevant to the prosecution of defendants for Jasper’s and Eliyanah Crisostomo’s (see below) shootings are: intentional discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle, intentionally shooting at another person(s) with the intent to inflict death; killing the victim while an active participant in a criminal street gang and to further the gang’s activities. These applicability of special circumstances is determined by a jury only if the district attorney chooses to charge them.

Monitoring DA Price’s decisions



in other freeway shooting cases:

APRIL 8, 2023. Eliyanah Crisostomo, 5, was shot and killed on I-880 (Fremont) at 645pm enroute to a birthday dinner when a Sureno gang pulled up along side to her father’s van and thought that her father who was driving was a Norteno gang member. The occupants of the red Honda Accord flashed hand gang signs at them; then, Kristo Ayala (25, Pleasanton) shot into the vehicle killing Eliyanah who sat in the third row seat with her brother.

Fifteen minutes earlier, the same red Honda Accord had pulled along side a mn in Fremont, demanded that the man identify his gang affiliation to them and even though he heard bullets flying around him he was not hurt. Cameras in Fremont identified the car which was later spotted in Santa Cruz. After a pursuit on Highway 17, at 932pm Ayala with Humberto Anaya Valderrama (29, Fremont), Emmanuel Sarango (27, Fremont) were arrested.

DA Price determined that relevant gun and gang enhancements would not be filed

AAJA guidance to mainstream media on covering AAPI community violence

The Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) issued the following guidance to mainstream media in January to promote accurate coverage of AAPI community news, especially the January mass shootings. AAJA is a professional membership association founded in 1981. Since its founding, AAJA has been at the forefront of change in the journalism industry, advocating for accurate, comprehensive and fair coverage of the AAPI community, the development of AAPI representation and leadership in journalism, and nurturing a network of AAPI journalists globally. The Guidance was authored by Yi-Shen Loo and is summarized here:

AAJA's Guidance on Covering Violence in Asian American communities, following multiple mass shootings in California.

- AAJA recommends that newsrooms cover this tragedy with empathy, while centering community stories, and with the awareness of the tremendous stress and anxiety that the Asian American community has undergone over the last three years.
- Double-check names, pronunciations, and covering communities different from your own.
- Avoid using gratuitous graphic imagery or videos of violence without thoughtful consideration of the value it adds to the story and coverage as it may traumatize or retraumatize Asian Americans.
- Be specific and descriptive when referring to violence and harassment aimed at Asians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Rather than using euphemisms like "anti-Asian sentiment" or "anti-Asian hate," assess whether it is more accurate to use terms like "anti-Asian racism," "anti-Asian bias," "anti-Asian rhetoric," or "anti-Asian violence." Recognize that "hate crime" is a legal term that has limitations. Regardless of a crime or incident's classification, motive, or intention, the impact on the community should be reported.
- Avoid assumptions, insinuations and relying on unverified sources. Institutional sources must be verified. Newsrooms need to consider: What is the relevance of your story to this shooting? What is the necessary context? What sources or resources are you using to inform your reporting, and are they verifiable or credible? Does this source's assertion/judgment fully tell the story or inadvertently neglect other important factors of the full story?
- Diversify your sources by interviewing and quoting AAPI experts who can legitimately speak on behalf of the community. Build relationships within the communities on which you are reporting. Question the proximity of your source with the geography and communities featured in your story. AAJA Studio, a speakers bureau, includes AAPI researchers, experts and thought leaders with expertise in civil rights, hate crimes, AAPI history, racial justice and community-building work, racial profiling and discrimination, and is not an exhaustive



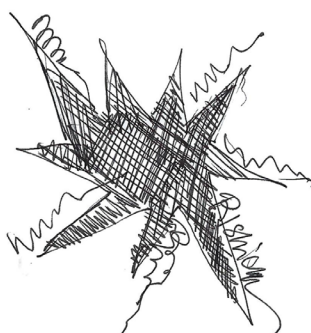
Half Moon Bay crime scene

list of experts. We encourage reaching out to AAPI studies professors and scholars as well.

- Acknowledge and attribute credit to community media sources, and support the work of in-language and community media.
- We encourage contextualization and that reporters center community experiences and victims' and survivors' stories.
- We urge newsrooms to cover the violence in the context of the recent rise in attacks on Asian Americans and heightened fear among AAPI communities across the country.
- We urge newsrooms to empower and support their AAPI journalists and colleagues, while not relying on them completely to be total experts on AAPI communities. We encourage newsrooms to provide AAPI journalists with the necessary mental wellness support as our community faces increased anti-Asian violence and sentiment.

Update on Half Moon Bay:

Chunli Zhao, the 67 year shooter in the January 23rd Half Moon Bay killings told reporters that his acts were a culmination of being bullied at work, working too many long hours, having his work complaints ignored and, finally, being told by his employer that he had to pay a \$100 fork-lift repair from a collision he says was caused by a co-worker operating a bulldozer. Remember that soon after the shootings, Zhao voluntary without being asked to went to the local sheriff's department parking lot to surrender himself peacefully.

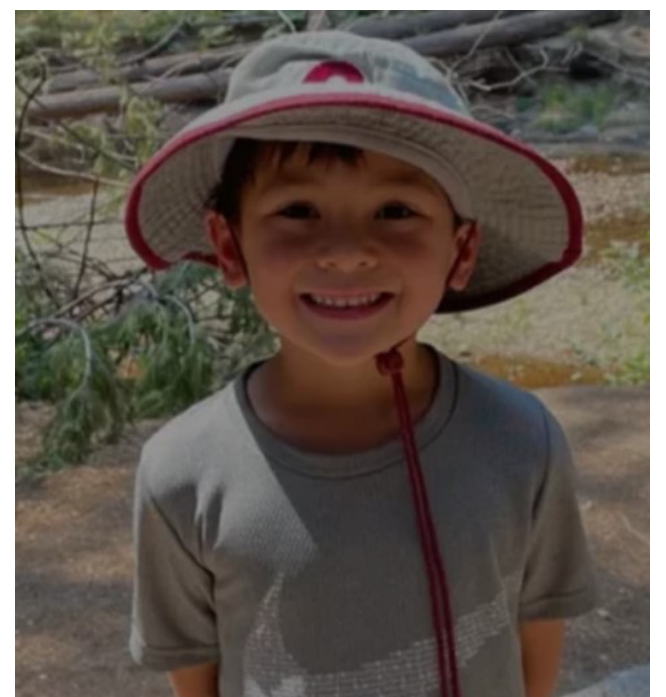


Freeway shootings

Continued from Page 13

against Ayala, Valderrama and Sarango. Price's March 8, 2023 Interim Final Special Directive states:

This directive reduces reliance on sentencing enhancements and allegations as an effort to bring balance back to sentencing and reduce recidivism. Generally, prosecutors shall not file or require defendants plead to sentence enhancements or other sentencing allegations. Exceptions may be allowed on a case-by-case basis in cases involving the most vulnerable victims and in specified



extraordinary circumstances.

JULY 14, 2023. Asa Luo, 8, was shot on I-580 around 630pm near Harrison and Grand Avenue in Oakland while a passenger in his family car. Two other vehicles were shooting at each other and he was struck by a stray bullet. He is paralyzed from the neck down. As of August 4, no arrest has been made in this case yet.

Should AAPIs follow NAACP’s lead?

NAACP Travel Advisory for the State of Florida

(May 21, 2023)

Under its current Governor, the State of Florida has engaged in an all-out attack on Black Americans, accurate Black history, voting rights, members of the LGBTQ+community, immigrants, women’s reproductive rights, and free speech, while simultaneously embracing a culture of fear, bullying, and intimidation by public officials. In his effort to rewrite American history to exclude the voices, contributions of African Americans and the challenges they overcame despite the systemic racism that African Americans have faced since first arriving in this country, Governor DeSantis has signed various controversial anti-civil rights measures into law; including the Combatting Violence, Disorder and Looting and Law Enforcement Protection Act Florida HB 1, Stop Wrongs against Our Kids and Employees Act (“Stop W.O.K.E. Act”) Florida HB 7, Constitutional Carry Act Florida House HB 543, Florida Senate Bill 266, and Florida Senate Bill 7066.

Under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis, the State of Florida has criminalized protests, restricted the ability of educators to teach African-American history, and engaged in a blatant war against diversity and inclusion. On a seeming quest to silence African-American voices, the Governor and the State of Florida have shown that African Americans are not welcome in the State of Florida. Due to this sustained, blatant, relentless and systemic attack on democracy and civil rights, the NAACP hereby issues a travel advisory to African Americans, and other people of color regarding the hostility

towards African Americans in Florida.

Please be advised that Florida is openly hostile toward African Americans, people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals. Before traveling to Florida, please understand that the State of Florida devalues and marginalizes the contributions of and the challenges faced by African Americans and other minorities.

If you decide to travel to Florida:

Please be advised that Florida public schools will not teach your children accurate African-American history, which includes a history of enslavement, segregation, racial injustice, and systemic racism.

Please be advised that the State of Florida does not value diversity, equity, and inclusion in Florida schools, colleges, and universities.

Please be advised that the State of Florida does not welcome the contributions of African Americans and people of color.

Please be advised that individuals may carry concealed firearms without permits in Florida.

Please be advised that there is a stand-your-ground law in Florida.

If you do decide to travel to Florida, please exercise extreme care in all parts of the state. Be aware of your surroundings.

If you do decide to go to the State of Florida, please be aware of the open hostility towards African Americans and people of color.

If you do decide to go to the State of Florida, please advocate for legislation that supports diversity in all aspects of education.

If you do decide to go to the State of Florida, please advocate for the right to peacefully assemble and protest any unjust laws or actions by the State.

If you do decide to go to the State of Florida, please advocate for the protection of African-American’s right to vote.

We urge all, including those who travel to the State of Florida, to join the NAACP in our fight against the unjust attack on civil liberties, principles of diversity and inclusion, the right to vote, and the right to assemble in peaceful protest.

If you are a resident of Florida, we ask you to join us in our advocacy efforts to defeat the regressive policies of this Governor and this state legislature. Our greatest asset is the voice of the millions who speak up every day to protect our democracy and our civil rights.

This advisory will remain in effect until further notice.

Currents faces

Dr. Shouan Pan is Yuba Community College District’s new chancellor. The district covers 8 counties. Pan had been chancellor of Seattle Community Colleges for 6 years. Before Seattle, he was president of Mesa Community College (Mesa AZ), also provost Broward College-South Campus (Florida), executive dean of instruction and student services at Florida State College (Jacksonville), dean of student life at Community College of Philadelphia, assistant professor educational psychology and recruitment and retention administrator at Northern Arizona University.

Rose Zhang, 20, of Irvine announced turning professional in golf in May. The Stanford all-American golfer had been considered top-ranked amateur in the world for the last two and half years.

Mary Liu of Davis was recognized as the Woman of the Year - California Assembly District 9 in March for Women’s History Month. According to an APAPA press release, she and her husband, Harris, are lifelong entrepreneurs and successful franchisees in Sacramento, Solano and Yolo counties. “Immigrants from mainland China and Taiwan, her parents, CC and Regina Yin, opened their first McDonald’s in Oakland. Three decades later, the family’s empire has expanded to three

counties, including more than 21 restaurants. Their team members donate over 18,000 meals a year to local shelters supporting families in need.”

Annie Wu Henry worked Senator John Fetterman’s TikTok social media producer and recently joined the AAPI Victory Fund as its new creative director. In that job she will work with community groups to create content, manage campaigns, boost voter engagement and highlight the PAC’s endorsed candidates. AAPI Victory Fund CEO Brad Jenkins says Henry’s portfolio of work reflects rare innovative political content. A native Pennsylvanian, adopted from China at 13 months, she fully realized what it meant to be Asian when as a college freshman someone told her to go back to where camp she came from. She started as a government major, but then turned to journalism with political science, sociology and anthropology at Lehigh University. She feels that story telling and connecting with other people is what makes the world go round. Wu Henry also worked with the Working Families Party and Philadelphia mayor candidate Helen Gym.

Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink (1927-2002) will be honored in 2024 by the US Mint with a quarter issued with her image. Mink is the first woman of color to serve in Congress. She will be shown wearing a lei that represents

her home state of Hawai’I and holding a Title IX document which was Mink’s major legislative achievement. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational institutions which receive federal funding. Other 2024 American Women Quarters program quarters will honor Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, Celia Cruz and Zitkala-Sa.

Jayde Wong of Lion Dance ME (SF) is the first female to win a Global Lion Dance competition in Malaysia.



Current places

Hong Kong Islander Restaurant at 5675 Freeport Blvd has been closed since April 14 after a fire destroyed half the building and damaged the rest. According to owners Kandy and Conrad Lau and Teresa and Pei Lei, they had another fire in October which left a burn scar but didn't penetrate the building. Video from April 14th fire showed someone in a black hooded sweatshirt, pants, shoes and backpack in the area where the fire started. In mid-May, the Sacramento Bee questioned the Sacramento Fire Department's investigation as to why the incident was considered "closed" with "fire cause - undetermined" when the surveillance video shows a person setting the fire. The fire department changed its report to state that the fire had been intentionally set. In the meanwhile the 390 seat dining room, 200 seat private dining room remains close

Columbia Park, City of Torrance - Last April, the Torrance City Council approved a WWII camp wall monument to honor those forcefully removed as a result of E.O. 9066. The memorial will have 12 reflective black granite memorial walls in an open path taking visitors through stories of the 10 War Relocation Authority camps and INS and DOJ camps. Approximately 160,000 names will be inscribed listing Japanese Americans arrested and held as well as German, Italian and Japanese Peruvian prisoners held at each site (those detained in multiple camps will be listed several times.) Designed by Gregg Maedo with plans by Roger Yanagita, a \$5 million California Natural Resources Agency grant will be augmented through fundraising with an additional \$2.5 million to develop the educational display with QR codes and audio tours. Donations can be made at wwiicampwall.org/donate. The monument is the vision of Torrance resident Dr. Kanji Sahara who was detained in the Tuna Canyon Detention Stations (Tujunga) where approximately 2000 German, Italian, Peruvian Japanese were forcibly held.

Japanese American Heritage Center (Monterey)

- Currently open only during Monterey JACL's monthly special events and by appointment, a small museum located in the JACL Hall in historic downtown Monterey is dedicated to the Monterey Japanese American community. The museum opened right before the pandemic hit and was closed during the shutdown. Curator Tim Thomas, previously associated with the defunct Monterey Maritime Museum, added to an exhibit originally started by local school teachers which included a letter welcoming Japanese Americans back to the city after WWI is signed by community members including writer John Steinbeck. Thomas added artifacts from the Japanese American fishing industry and abalone fishing history and the diving gear and mallets of late Roy Hattori, the only Nisei abalone diver in Monterey to the display. Hattori discovered a white abalone (rare, slow to propagate, added in 2001 to the Endangered Species Act list) and took it to local marine shell expert Andrew Sorensen who sent it to the Smithsonian which gratuitously named the new species "Haliotic sorenseni" totally ignoring Hattori's key role in the discovery. Info: Tim Thomas timsardine@yahoo.com. JACL Hall is located at, 424 Adams St, Monterey. Info: 831/648-8830, <https://jaclmonterey.org> [Monterey Japanese Americans were incarcerated during WWII at the Salinas Assembly Center and later in the Poston Arizona concentration camp.]

Gam Saan Trail, Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

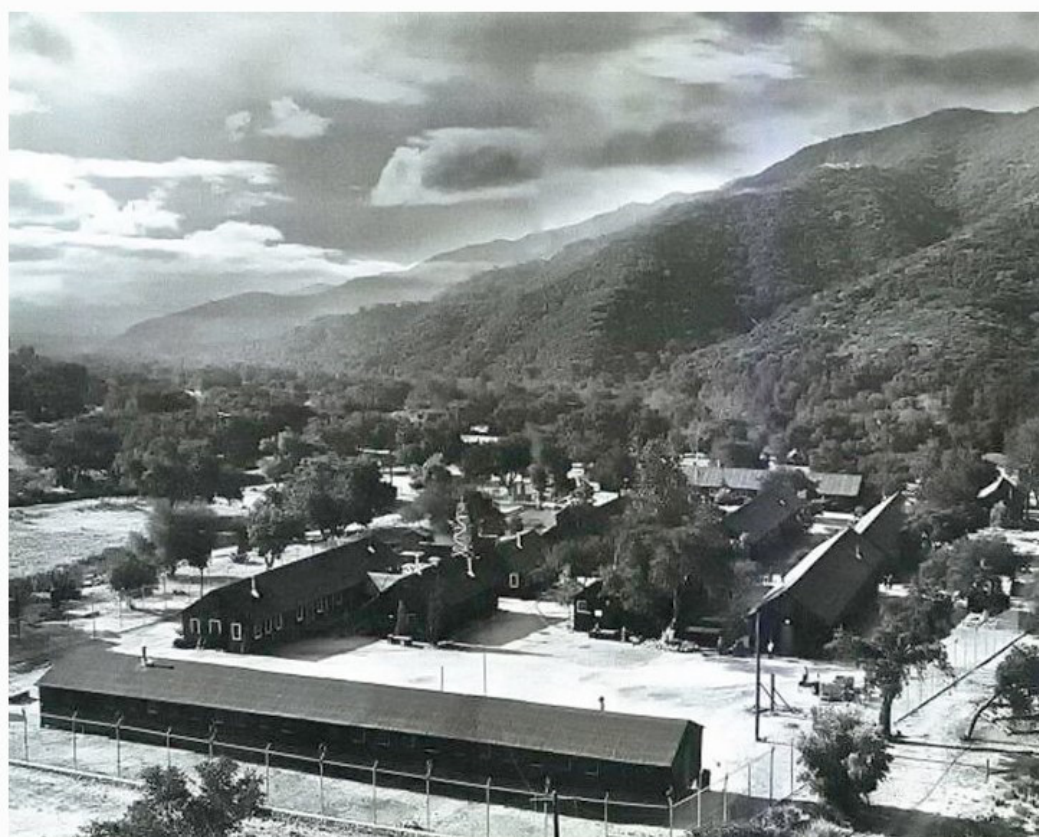
The Gam Saan Trail was opened on February 11, 2022 by a celebration including a blessing by Buddhist monk Venerable Ru Hsian, Locke Foundation, Chinese American Council of Sacramento, American River Conservancy, Chinese Benevolent Assn of Stockton, Gold Discovery Parks Assn, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs and the California State Parks with lions from the Eastern Ways Martial Arts group.



The 2.5 mile trail connects Hennigsen Lotus Park (Lotus, CA) with Marshall Gold Discovery state Historic Park (Coloma). "Gam Saan" means Gold Mountain in Cantonese, the historic reference to the California gold fields by Chinese forty-niners and miners. The naming of the trail is part of the State Parks' reexamining Our Past Initiative - taking stock of and critically re-examining its past, looking at contested place names, monuments, and interpretation of the state park system.

Through historic research, and a historical report completed in 1991 for a real estate sale in the area, it was revealed that a Chinese miner by the name of Toy Kee purchased a few acres near the project area in 1875 for a \$55 gold coin. A few years later in 1881, the Lin Hing and Man Lee Companies purchased additional acreage and operated businesses, stores, a bank, and mining companies in the area from the 1870s through the early 1900s.

The lands purchased by these Chinese individuals served a greater purpose. Combined with the American River's west flowing waters and a hillside facing towards the setting sun, the "feng shui" landscape elements important for directing the spirits of those that have passed was found. Many of the Chinese in early California feared that when they died, their spirits would not rest until their remains were buried in a proper grave in China. The property between Coloma and Lotus historically purchased by Chinese miners served to provide a path for the spirits, while temporarily holding the mortal remains of the deceased until they



Tuna Canyon Detention Station Photo by M.H. Scott, Officer in Charge, Tuna Canyon Detention Station. Courtesy of David Scott and the Little Landers Historical Society



Gam Saan Trail

Continued from Page 20

could be exhumed, packaged and sent home to China.

Once this historical land use was understood and shared with the local Chinese American communities, State Parks worked with the Locke Foundation and its partners to complete the Gam Saan Trail to honor everyone who contributed to the rich fabric of California's history.

The trail sign says: News of the California Gold Discovery started in Coloma and reached as far as China. Tens of thousands of Chinese were inspired to come here to seek their fortune and began calling California, Gam Saan. Although subjected to severe racism, through their perseverance and ability to adapt to change, Chinese people continue to make contributions to the rich and diverse fabric of America. In honor of those seeking Gold Mountain, this trail segment is named the Gam Saan Trail."

In February 2023, APIAPA-Davis Chapter, Locke Foundation, Chinese Benevolent Assn., APAPA Delta Chapter visited the trail to complete Ching Ming Festival activities - visiting and sweeping ancestral tombs. They swept and trimmed the trail but kept to its curvilinear design which ensure the exhumed graves safety which is also protected by thick oak woodland, poison oak and blackberry bushes which keeps the exhumed graves protected and keeps people on the trail. The official address of the trail is 950 Lotus Road in Lotus, CA.

State Railroad Museum - Sierra Scene exhibit

On June 21st, State Railroad Museum dedicated a new exhibit "Sierra Scene" recognizing the contributions of Chinese railroad workers. The exhibit was dedicated to the late Dr. Herbert Yee who died in 2021 after having served on the museum's board for 30 years and promoting for years Chinese American history and contributions in California.

10,000-12,000 Chinese workers made up 90% of the West Coast transcontinental railroad workforce. Chinese had been identified as a cheap source of labor for this infrastructure project. They were recruited to build building tunnels through the Sierra Nevada mountains using only rudimentary hand tools and dynamite. Their work on this railroad

infrastructure is still used today - "If you go on Amtrak today, you're going in and through places where Chinese railroad workers dug tunnels, places where they built huge trellises where there were gaps in the land," says Ty Smith, museum director. The new displays complements the "Chinese Railroad Work Experience" exhibit installed in 2019 for the 150th anniversary of the railroad's completion. The new pieces show just what these men faced. The labor was dangerous and tough, using manual tools like "star drills." "It's just a matter of holding up this big hunk of metal up to the side of a granite base and then having people hit it as hard as they can over and over again, and sometimes they were measuring progress in inches a day," Smith said.

This new exhibit is a piece of deliberate effort to make-up for conspicuous omissions at earlier railroad celebrations:

1869 Promontory Point photo of railroad workers gathered at the Golden Spike completion did not include any Chinese railroad workers. Promontory Point in Utah is where the Central Pacific Railroad was connected with Union Pacific Railroad.

1969 Promontory Point celebration of the 100th year anniversary - US Secretary of Transportation John Vopes said, "Who else but Americans could drill 10 tunnels in mountains 30 feet deep in snow? Who else but Americans could chisel through miles of solid granite? Who else but Americans could have laid 10 miles of track in 12 hours?" What Volpes failed to recognize that it was the Chinese workforce who did all that tunneling and mountain work. At that same celebration Chinese American historian Philip Choy was prevented from speaking even though he was on the program.

1976 Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station opened, the first museum facility.

1981 Railroad History Museum opened

2019 "Chinese Railroad Workers Experience" exhibit debuted at the 150th anniversary celebration

How Chinese railroad workers were treated:

- Chinese railroad workers received wages of \$27 and then \$30 a month, minus the cost of food and board. Irish railroad workers were paid \$35 per month, with board provided. Workers lived in canvas camps alongside the grade.

- Approximately 1,200 Chinese railroad workers died while building the Transcontinental Railroad. Over a thousand Chinese had their bones shipped back to China to be buried.

Chinese Railroad Workers History Center

On May 11th, the Chinese Railroad Workers History Center opened at 653 Kearny St in San Francisco. It opened 154 years to the date that the Golden Spike was driven in to complete the first transcontinental railroad. "The Chinese workers were never honored. They were never allowed to be citizens of the United States. They were excluded," said Connie Young Yu, whose great grandfather was a railroad worker. "They were denied rights of citizenship. It took years of struggle. The Chinese Exclusion Act lasted for 61 years. It was not repealed until 1943."

Reparations Task Force

The California Reparations Task Force's full report (1080 pages) is available on the Attorney General's website. The Task Force recommended reparations based on the United Nations Principles on Reparation, which requires:

- (1) **Restitution** to restore victims to their original situation
- (2) **Compensation** for any economically assessable damage (physical or mental harm, lost opportunities and earnings, material damages, moral damage, the costs of services needed to heal)
- (3) **Rehabilitation** including medical and psychological care, legal and social services to restore dignity and social status; full rehabilitation should not be postponed and not limited to available government resources.
- (4) **Satisfaction** requires adopting policies guaranteeing a halt to continuing violations, public disclosure of verified truths, search for those who are missing, official declarations, public apologies and tributes showing acceptance of responsibility and intending to restore the victims' dignity, reputation and rights, sanctions against responsible persons.
- (5) **Guarantees** that the violations will not repeat with effective civilian control of the military, assurances that civilian and military proceedings will comply with international standards of due process, fairness and impartiality, an independent judicial system in place, and broad community education of human rights, international humanitarian law, codes of conduct, and the ethical norms for law enforcement, military forces and public services.

Historic apology

Attorney General Rob Bonta makes historic apology acknowledging complicity of California Attorney General’s Office in the incarceration and dispossession of Japanese Americans during WWII

Today, the California Attorney General’s Office publicly acknowledges and apologizes to Americans of Japanese ancestry for the Office’s role in the unjust deprivation of Japanese Americans’ civil rights and civil liberties during World War II. As the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 recognizes, “a grave injustice” was done to citizens and residents of Japanese ancestry and the relocation and incarceration of these civilians was “motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.”

In 1942, California Attorney General Earl Warren testified before Congress in support of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans. In his testimony, Attorney General Warren assailed the loyalty of Japanese Americans, using unfounded speculation characterized as “evidence” to justify not only the arbitrary incarceration of some 120,000 Japanese Americans—including children—but also the use of the California Alien Land Law to take possession of agricultural land owned by Japanese merican families. The California Alien Land Law of 1913 prohibited Asian immigrants from purchasing or leasing land, until 1952 when the California Supreme Court held the law violated the Fourteenth Amendment.

During and immediately after World War II, this Office instituted over 70 escheat actions (seizing lands to return to “rightful” owner)

under the Alien Land Law to seize land owned by families of Japanese descent. In 1943, California Attorney General Robert Kenny created an “alien land unit” within the Office, which filed escheat cases against Japanese American families that were locked away in War Relocation Authority camps. In 1945, the Attorney General’s Office received a \$200,000 grant from the Legislature to investigate and prosecute more Alien Land Law cases as Japanese Americans began to return to California to find their homes had been burned down. As the California Supreme Court ultimately recognized in 1952, the “real purpose” of the Alien Land Law “was the elimination of competition by [foreign-born] Japanese in farming California land” and the basis for the legislation was “race undesirability.”

In 1944, this Office joined the states of Washington and Oregon in submitting an amicus brief in the US Supreme Court in the Korematsu v. United States case, supporting the imprisonment of Fred Korematsu despite the lack of any evidence that he posed a security threat. The amicus brief argued, “it was reasonable for the military commander to meet the danger threatened from the unidentified disloyal members of the group by excluding the group as a whole” because the military lacked “an adequate test of loyalty.” We recognize today that this was unequivocally incorrect.

During times when some seek to fan the flames of xenophobia, hate, and intolerance, it

is not enough to simply refrain from throwing stones. As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: “A time comes when silence is betrayal.” The modern revival of Alien Land Laws in several states and the resurgence of anti-Asian hate across our country present such a moment. In the past, this Office used legal tools to deprive a generation of Japanese Californians of their liberty and financial security. But, just as Earl Warren came to recognize it was wrong to advocate for Executive Order 9066, the California Attorney General’s Office can and must share with the country its regret and error in utilizing the Alien Land Law as an instrument of racial discrimination.

As Attorney General of California, I am committed to defending the civil rights and civil liberties of all citizens and residents of California. This includes confronting past errors at a time when racism, fear, and xenophobia once again threatens to assault the fundamental freedoms and rights we all share. With deep regret for the actions of this Office that contributed to the suffering of Japanese Americans during that era, I offer this sincere apology and re-commit this Office to the equal protection of the life, liberty, and property of all Americans.

Released August 10, 2023

Current videos/shows to catch

Steph Rue is a Sacramento artist whose video “**Making Hanji (Korean mulberry paper)**” (view on Youtube) was sponsored by the SF Asian Art Museum. Under a grant from the City of Sacramento Office of Arts and Culture, Rue held four Hanji making workshops in Sacramento over the summer. From September 2-30, she will have work on display at the Korean American Artist Collective’s (KAAC) Han Exhibition in the Culture House (700 Delaware Ave SW, Washington DC). KAAC fundraisers have benefited the Black Lives Matter movement, voter registration and honored those killed in the Atlanta spa massacre and ongoing anti-AAPI hate crimes.

“**The United States vs Takashi Hoshizaki.**” (Youtube) Hoshizaki was 18 years old and incarcerated in Pomona Assembly Center (LA County Fair) and later in the Heart Mountain prison camp (Wyoming). When Japanese Americans held in the WWII prisons were originally classified as 4-C “alien enemies” and ineligible to serve. After a year of war the draft age was reduced to 18 and extended to 65 and Japanese Americans were reclassified as 1-A. In 1944 Hoshizaki was ordered to report for his physical and be inducted into the US military. Takashi decided that until he was given his civil rights back and released from the camp, he would not agree to be drafted. He and 63 others from Heart Mountain resisted; altogether there were 300 Japanese American draft resisters from 8 of 10 WWII prisons. Hoshizaki



opted for the court trial with Judge Kennedy presiding (instead of a jury trial), was convicted and sentenced him to 3 years which he served in McNeil Island federal penitentiary, a small island in Washington state. He says that prison was no different from being in camp expect he missed his family. He was released in 1946, even though he was eligible for parole 16 months earlier but delayed because camp directors asked parole boards not to release him. In 1947 he was pardoned by President Truman. He was drafted for the Korean War and did serve because at the time his civil liberties had been

restored. Takashi will turn 98 in October. Info: Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages, info@jampilgrimages.com (view on Youtube)

Densho: Japanese Canadian Internment Field School. A photo essay by Densho’s communications and public engagement director Natasha Varner shares images and some of what she learned during a two-week immersive learning experience about Japanese Canadian internment history this past summer. The field school included a bus tour through



Densho: Japanese Canadian Internment Field School

Continued from Page 22

interior British Columbia hosted by the Nikkei National Museum and then a seminar at University of Victoria through the Past Wrongs, Future Choices program.

Much like in the US, Japanese Canadian internment didn't materialize overnight. It was the culmination of decades of anti-Asian racism that included everything from discriminatory laws to violent mob attacks, most notably Vancouver's 1907 "race riot." Although both Issei and Nisei were denied the right to vote in Canada, many had become naturalized British subjects so that by the time of the Pearl Harbor attacks, three quarters of the Nikkei population was either naturalized or native-born Canadians. But that status did not protect them from egregious acts of state violence.

After Pearl Harbor and a December 1941 Japanese attack on British territory in Hong Kong, Canada's federal cabinet used the War Measures Act of 1914 to enact a series of policies, many of which were inspired by BC politicians under the leadership of Ian Alistair Mackenzie, an open white supremacist and anti-Japanese cabinet minister from British Columbia. As long as the War Measures Act was in effect, the drastic measures could not be legally challenged.

Beginning in January 1942, Nikkei men within a 100-mile radius of the coast of British Columbia between the ages of 18 and 45 were rounded up and sent to forced labor camps – euphemistically called "road camps" – where they had to engage in grueling highway construction. BC politicians – particularly Ian Mackenzie – didn't stop there. They continued to advocate for the removal of all Japanese Canadians and on February 26, 1942 their vision came to pass in the form of an Executive Order closely modeled off of EO9066.

Within a matter of weeks, the forced removal of all Nikkei residents of British Columbia began. Japanese Canadian women, children, and the men who had not already been forced into labor camps were given as little as 24 hours notice to pack their belongings and leave their homes. Many were then forced to live in overcrowded squalor in a massive fairgrounds-

turned-detention facility – Hastings Park – in Vancouver.

They were then funneled to different types of camps depending on their circumstances: Around 12,000 were sent to internment camps in interior BC, many of which were situated in repurposed ghost towns or on lands leased from farmers. Some families were able to reunite by "volunteering" to work on sugar beet farms in Alberta and Manitoba. And those with enough savings on hand and the right connections were permitted to establish "self-supporting" camps or relocate to live with family in eastern Canada.

Their trials didn't end there. Beginning in 1943, Japanese Canadians were systematically dispossessed of their property by the Canadian government. Homes, farms, businesses, and other possessions were sold (including fishing boats) – often at a fraction of their value. The funds were then placed in government-managed accounts and doled out in tightly restricted monthly stipends which internees had to use to pay for basic necessities in the camps. This scheme – which Ian Mackenzie also masterminded and advocated for – served to deter Japanese Canadians from ever returning to the West Coast and provided jobs and housing for white Canadians, particularly veterans. As Masumi Izumi writes in the Densho Encyclopedia, "The Canadian government systematically deprived Japanese Canadians of their property, and effectively made them pay for their own incarceration."

In December 1944, the Canadian government made all internees fill out a repatriation form. Like the highly divisive and misguided "loyalty questionnaire" in the US, this form was both confusingly worded and immensely consequential. It presented Japanese Canadians with two undesirable options aimed at ensuring their permanent removal from the West Coast: immediate relocation to east of the Rockies or postwar "repatriation" to Japan (in reality, this was a deportation to a foreign, war-ravaged land for most respondents).

The anguishing decisions about how to respond to this form were made under such

extreme duress that they can barely be called decisions at all. And yet they had immediate and long-lasting consequences for the lives of Japanese Canadians. Many of the 10,000 who had chosen "repatriation" attempted to revoke their repatriation applications when Japan surrendered in August 1945. They were at first denied and then, under mounting public pressure, permitted to maintain their Canadian citizenship.

Ultimately around 4,000 Japanese Canadians were deported and stripped of their citizenship under this system. Thousands of others were "dispersed" East of the Rockies in a deliberate attempt to prevent their return to the West Coast and to isolate Japanese Canadians from their communities. This is known colloquially as the "second uprooting." The exclusion orders were finally lifted in 1949, but the impacts of years of uprootings, dispossession, deportation, and dispersal left lasting wounds. The 1970s saw a cultural resurgence and a redress movement much like that in the US. A month after the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was signed, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney signed a redress bill that included a formal apology as well as \$21,000 to survivors, recovery of Canadian citizenship to those who had been deported, and educational funds.

These are just the broad strokes of a long and complicated history. Within this overview are thousands of stories of heartbreak, of hopelessness, of resilience, and of resistance. I hope to take all that I learned during my time in BC to help bring some of those stories to Densho's audiences, but I want to do this with extreme sensitivity to ongoing conversations among Japanese Canadians about who is telling this story and how it is told.

As I reflect back on the bus tour and look ahead to the role that Densho might play in sharing this story, I'm humbled and enormously grateful to the community of people I was able to learn from and alongside during the field school. At times, I've found myself comparing what I know of Japanese American incarceration history to what I learned on this trip but ultimately I think that's an impossible calculation – the Japanese Canadian wartime experience wasn't better or worse than the Japanese American experience, it was simply different. Both constituted large scale violations of human rights and, as with other dark parts of our history, the question we ask shouldn't be who had it worse, but rather: what responsibility do we all have in making sure that nothing like this ever happens again?

View the entire photo essay at Densho's ("to pass on to the next generation") website at <https://densho.org>

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 stacked and available to others, send an email to pmfong@hotmail.com. Thanks.

Scared while white: Hysteria about People of Color due to paranoid fear of retribution

By Reggie Jackson
Milwaukee Independent, May 14, 2018

There appears to be a nearly daily occurrence, somewhere in the country, where white people are calling the cops on people of color who are doing absolutely nothing – other than going about their daily lives.

What is driving this hysteria among white people, that they feel the need to call 911 when people of color are simply occupying a space that white people feel they should not be in? And how is it that the police keep responding to these non-threatening behaviors as if innocent people are a threat?

In September of 2016, I wrote about the Bad Dude Syndrome, looking at the consistent portrayal of black men as automatically suspect in the hearts and minds of many white people. It was readily apparent to me that this phenomenon has spread nationwide to include males and females, of a variety of non-white groups.

The latest incident occurred at a Nordstrom Rack store in Brentwood, Missouri when three black teens were accosted by the police after several employees followed them around the store and eventually called the police. An elderly customer at the store called them “punks” and asked them, “Are your parents proud of you for what you do?”

An employee called police, claiming the teens had shoplifted just a short while later. The three black teens were shopping for prom and graduation clothing. They had purchased items and were returning to their car when police surrounded them. The store manager also escorted the elderly white woman out to the parking lot to her car. The Nordstrom corporate office apologized for the incident and the President of the company flew to St. Louis to apologize in person.

This incident adds on to a long list of people of color who have had recent encounters with police around the country, for doing very normal things that do not arouse suspicion when white people do them.

A group of five black women recently had the cops called because they were taking too long to finish a round of golf. The women were golfing at a Pennsylvania’s Grandview Golf Club and were told by staff that they were moving along too slowly. They were only on the second hole when approached by a former county commissioner who twice asked them to leave, and threatened to cancel their memberships over their slow pace of play.

After finishing nine holes, three of the women left. The two women who remained were about to start on the back nine when the club’s owner, and another employee, accused them of taking too long of a break. The golfers were notified that police had been called. One of the women, Myneca Ojo, ironically is the

director of Diversity and Inclusion at a state agency.

Fortunately, the officers who arrived handled the situation well, determining almost immediately that it was in no way a “police matter.” The chief of the department said “there was no need for us to be there and we left.” The group of golfers playing behind the women said that they in no way impeded their progress. One of these golfers, Damen Carter-Mann told a local paper, “Not one time did we catch up with those ladies.” He described their demeanor as nice and professional.

A black woman in Alabama was arrested by three white police officers, who threw her on the ground at a Waffle House restaurant in Saraland, Alabama in April. The officers threatened to break the arm of Chikesia Clemons and also placed a hand on her throat and exposed her breasts in the incident. When she asked the police what they were doing one of the officers replied, “About to break your arm, that’s what I’m about to do” during the video which was posted on social media.

According to the mother of Clemons, the incident started when their party asked for plastic utensils and was told by a waitress that they would have to pay 50 cents extra. When they refused, their order was cancelled and the police were called. Police claim the women were “drunk and disorderly.”

A black Yale graduate student took a nap in her dorm’s common room and a white student called police. The white student walked in on Lolade Siyonbola sleeping in the common room and told her, “You’re not supposed to be sleeping in here. I’m going to call the police.” When police arrived she showed them that she did indeed belong there by opening her dorm room door. Despite this the police officers demanded to see her identification to “make sure you belong here.”

Also in April, a 49-year-old Hispanic man, Jose Arreola, had an off duty police officer pull a gun on him after purchasing a roll of Mentos in Buena Park, California. As Arreola was paying the cashier for his purchase, a man behind him pulled a gun and told him that he was a police officer. The surveillance video captured the incident. Arreola told the officer that he had just paid for the candy and the officer, while pointing the gun at him, told him to put the Mentos back and leave the store. The cashier told the officer that the customer had paid for the candy and the officer apologized for his mistake.

Three black women were recently detained on April 30 by police after leaving a Rialto, California Airbnb, when a neighbor called police, assuming they were burglars. Seven police cars arrived on the scene as they were removing their belongings from the Airbnb rental. The elderly white woman who called police claim she did so because the women did not wave or smile at her. The three black women were traveling with a white friend, yet

This hysteria is neither justified nor good for anyone except those who benefit from the status quo. (Ed.)

the neighbor only mentioned the three black women as suspicious. The women explained to police that they were renting the Airbnb, but the officers refused to believe them. The women were detained for between 20 and 45 minutes according to their attorney. One of the women noticed the woman watching them and had joked with her friend that the woman would call the police on them.

A pair of Native American brothers on a college tour had the police called on them when a white woman claimed they made her “nervous.” The two brothers had driven seven hours to be a part of the tour of their dream school, Colorado State University. When they arrived a little late for the tour, the parent of a white student on called the police. The woman claimed the student’s behavior was odd and that they were wearing “black clothing.” Campus police officers pulled 19-year-old Thomas Kanewakeron Gray and 17-year-old Lloyd Skanahwati Gray out of the tour. They were questioned as the tour continued without them.

On the now released 911 call the woman told the dispatcher, “They’re not – definitely not – part of the tour.” She claimed their behavior was odd and that they are wearing dark clothing with “weird symbolism or wording on it.” She claimed to question them to ascertain if they were prospective students. She concluded that they were lying when she asked them what they planned to study at the school and one of them started to laugh. She claimed, “I think they’re Hispanic, I believe... One of them for sure. He said he’s from Mexico.”

Just last month I wrote The Starbucks Arrest, Dontre Hamilton’s Death, and Sitting in Public While Black, an essay about the two black men who made themselves suspicious by sitting in a Starbucks store waiting on a colleague. This pattern of white people calling police on suspicious people of color is nothing new.

Blacks call it Walking-While-Black.

At any given moment black people can be approached by police simply because some white person finds their behavior threatening. Just their mere presence is all it takes for someone to call 911.

I always thought 911 was for emergencies. I cannot see how two men sitting in Starbucks, or five women golfing, or three women packing articles in a car, or a man purchasing Mentos, or students in line for a college tour, or teenagers shopping for prom, justifies an emergency dispatcher being called.

At some point Americans will recognize that racial profiling is not just something police departments do.

A group of black students at the
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Hysteria

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University of Florida were violently pushed off the stage as they celebrated “too boisterously” at their graduation in early May. A North Carolina Pizza In refused to accept a coupon from a black customer in Rocky Mountain, North Carolina recently, only to have his white roommate go to the same location and use the exact same coupon without question a short time later. The list of innocuous incidents that are clear signs of racial profiling is extensive.

Historically speaking, whites have had the power to determine the threat level of non-white people for most of American history. Native Americans, who were attempting to prevent whites from stealing their land, were treated as “hostile savage” and killed by the millions. We celebrated this genocide by making so-called “Cowboys and Indians” movies which always glorified the white Cowboys. It was an important part of the narrative of America’s founding and expansion of the “Manifest Destiny” ideal.

This 19th-century doctrine asserts that the theft of Native lands, and the genocide of its population in the so-called Indian Wars, was both justified and inevitably. In fact, it was seen as part of God’s plan.

John L. O’Sullivan is credited with creating the concept in an 1839 article where he predicted a “divine destiny” for the country. In 1845 he coined the phrase Manifest Destiny in an essay called Annexation. He called on the United States to annex the Republic of Texas, because it was “our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions.”

It was plain and simple American imperialism. Although many condemned it, including Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses Grant, the policy became one of the foundational legacies to justify American expansion into the lands out West. The ideal was also used as a way to justify the 1840’s war with Mexico.

America has lived in a state of paranoia for far too long. The nation’s white population has long been educated to believe that enemies lurk around every corner. We have consistently created people and groups to fear.

The residents of Mexico were considered enemies and were killed by the thousands as America “won” the war with Mexico in 1848. That act of aggression allowed the nation to expand its boundaries to include the current states of California, Nevada, Utah, most of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, parts of Texas that were annexed earlier, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Wyoming. Mexico lost one-third of its original territory from its 1821 independence from Spain.

Africans, who were enslaved by the tens

of millions for 246 years, were always seen as a threat to whites. Slave owner and Founding Father Thomas Jefferson addressed this fear in a letter to James Monroe in 1793. Speaking about the West Indies he wrote,

“I become daily more & more convinced that all the West India islands will remain in the hands of the people of colour, & a total expulsion of the whites sooner or later take place. It is high time we should foresee the bloody scenes which... our children certainly, & possibly ourselves (South of Potomac) have to wade through, & try to avert them.”

Jefferson spoke of how this would play out by saying, “Indeed I tremble for my planet, when I reflect that Nature is inflexible: that her response to our abuse cannot sleep forever.”

This is the fear that is ever present in whites. The constant fear of retribution for past “abuses” as Jefferson called them. This fear is what led to decades of lynchings, when whites flexed their muscles and showed black people how powerless they were. During the era of slavery, the slave patrols were created to protect whites from their fears by controlling the movement and activities of black people.

Those slave patrols evolved to become our modern police departments.

There has been consistent mistreatment of people of color by authority figures throughout American history. During World War II, thousands of Japanese-American citizens were placed in internment camps due to the fear of the “Yellow Peril.” Despite the fact that Italians and Germans were also an enemy in the war, no such fear led to Italian-Americans and German-Americans being placed in internment camps.

America has lived in a state of paranoia for far too long. The nation’s white population has long been educated to believe that enemies lurk around every corner. We have consistently created people and groups to fear.

A fear of Muslims preceded the 9/11 attacks. The first Muslims to arrive in America were Africans on slaving ships. Islamophobia is a fundamental principle dictating the banning of people from Muslim countries by President Donald Trump. As a nation we have vilified Muslims for generations because of their “strange” beliefs.

I recall seeing dozens of movies while I was growing up that portrayed Muslims and all Arabs as terrorists. A racist white man murdered six people at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek in 2012. It was a supposedly safe suburban community, and the massacre happened during Sunday worship service. The gunman, Wade Michael Page, had thought that the dark skinned people with ethnic ties to the Indian Subcontinent were Muslims.

Knowing that the police force is at their beck and call is why white people have 911 on speed dial to deal with their constant fear of people of color, who they perceive are suspicious or threatening. The police are ready

to protect and serve at a moment’s notice when whites are afraid. Police response times in Milwaukee are twice as long on the north side of town as compared to the south side of town.

Local black people joke that if they want an immediate responses by the police, simply call and say a white person is in danger, especially a white woman. This is not borne out of paranoia on the part of blacks, but simply out of a long history of paying attention. We will continue to hear similar stories and see viral videos of these types of encounters moving forward.

The tragic irony of the Waffle House event is that a white man was in the act of murdering a group of innocent black customers, while in a separate Waffle House at the time a black woman was being body slammed by police for requesting plastic utensils. The viral video posted to social media on May 5 showed a white police officer choking 22-year-old Anthony Wall. After taking his 16-year-old sister to prom, Wall stopped at a Waffle House in Warsaw, North Carolina. He found himself in a verbal altercation with staff who called police. The responding officer can be seen choking Wall as he pushes him against a window at the restaurant. He was eventually slammed to the ground by the officer.

This is life in America for people of color. It is time that the white public wakes up and recognizes these stories are not made up stories. These are the daily lived experiences of people of color. We should be and are the ones who have a reason to be afraid.

2023 Manifestations of White Hysteria

Bomb Threats/domestic terrorism - Davis CA - September 26, September 25, September 21, August 28 , August 25 August 21 bomb threats to the Davis library. Many of the threats also targeted/named many Davis schools, DJUSD district office, 2 homes of school employees and the library management and staff. These threats followed the August 20th Moms for Liberty Yolo County’s “Forum on Fair and Safe Sports for Girls” which was shut down when the anti-trans speaker declined to follow the library code of conduct and the meeting became unruly. The Moms for Liberty group denies any association or responsibility for the threats which were communicated to national media and law enforcement. [Hysteria over gender issues and inability to accept one own’s child gender identity.]

Book Bans/censorship - Florida public schools have banned 1400 books in the last year. Texas - over 600 books banned. Utah - over 200 books banned. Missouri - over 300 books banned (compare this to California with 1-10 books affected.) [Hysteria and censureship over gender identity and race, plus fear and embarrassment of being blamed for historic racism, discrimination and White Privilege as depicted in critical race theory material].

Land Acquisition Prohibitions - Florida’s SB 264 bans foreign principals from China, Russia, Iran, Continued on Page 26

Hysteria

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North Korea, Syria, Venezuela and Cuba from purchasing agricultural land or any property within 10 miles of a military installation or critical infrastructure (residential property bought by Chinese foreign principals lawfully present in the US is exempt). Montana, Virginia, North Dakota restrict ability of Chinese nationals to buy property. [Hysteria of the same type during the 1880’s anti-Chinese riots and China Initiative witch hunt prosecutions.]

Gender Disclosure - California - Escondido Unified School District, Chino Valley Unified School District, Rocklin Unified School District, Dry Creek Joint Elementary School - all adopted policies requiring educators to tell parents if their child discloses a non conforming gender preference. Ludlow, Massachusetts, likewise. Maryland: On August 14th, a federal appeals court ruled that parents cannot challenge a school district policy against telling parents if their child identify as transgender or gender nonconforming [Hysteria over gender issues and mandatory “out-ing” of that child to parents; embarrassment on parents for failing to have a healthy communication relationship with their child]] AG Bonta has filed a lawsuit against the Chino policy.

Attacks on Librarians - Across the country, librarians are being verbally cursed, threatened, and physically assaulted by both zealous ultra-conservative “advocates,” homeless persons and mentally ill patrons. Their personal emails are being broadcasted and on fire with hateful

messages, their programs are being censored or cancelled under pressure by politicians or supervisors who cave to a verbal few, they are being accused of grooming children for pedophiles, they are getting bomb threats, their home addresses are being posted (“doxxing” is revealing online personal information - real names, addresses, phone numbers, etc without permission). Librarians have been threatened with arrest for providing “harmful” books to children in Indiana, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri.

Anti Affirmative Action Litigation - Edward Blum who facilitated the anti-affirmative action in college admissions lawsuits against University of Texas and Harvard/University of North Carolina, is now suing Fearless Fund claiming racial discrimination. Fearless Fund, based in Atlanta, is a venture capital firm which provides grants to Black women business entrepreneurs; Blum claims that “Black only” is unfair to white people. Blum is also suing 2 corporate law firms alleging that their fellowship programs to recruit students of color, LGBTQ+ and students with disabilities are unfair and wants these programs shut down. Blum claims that he was approached by white female business owners who were ineligible for Fearless Fund grants and felt it was unfair. In the university affirmative action lawsuits, he recruited his Chinese plaintiffs. [Hysteria: White people fear losing their White Privilege to people of color and the conservatives have a broad agenda to dismantle all public or private sector equal opportunity programs.]

When a drug lab is next door

- Clues of a methamphetamine lab:
- Unusual odors (ether, ammonia, acetone, or other chemicals)
 - Excessive amounts of trash, particularly chemical containers, coffee filters or pieces of cloth with red stains, and duct tape rolls
 - Curtains always drawn or windows covered with aluminum foil or blackened on residences, garages, sheds, or other structures
 - Evidence of chemical waste or dumping
 - Frequent visitors, particularly at unusual times
 - Extensive security measures or attempts to ensure privacy (no trespassing or beware of dog signs, fences, large trees or shrubs)
 - Secretive or unfriendly occupants

Additional clues of a honey/hash cannabis oil lab:

- Marijuana or strong smells of marijuana
- Many empty butane canisters

On February 9, 2023 a rental home on 22nd Avenue in San Francisco’s Sunset District exploded. Neighbors recalled seeing large industrial equipment like stainless steel sinks being delivered and occasionally they smelled marijuana. Neighbors did not see the large cylindrical gas tanks or blue chemical barrels which were in the fire rubble. Firefighters found large tanks which are used to extract and concentrate hash oil from marijuana using carbon dioxide, butane, or propane. Hash oil

or cannabis oil is an oleoresin obtained by the extraction of cannabis or hashish and is usually consumed by smoking, vaporizing or eating; the chemical extraction of hash oil is illegal in California. In 2019, 2/3 of the nation’s hash oil explosions happened in California.

The butane in honey oil production is an odorless gas but highly volatile. In 2019, California declared butane to be a controlled substance which only licensed marijuana processors can buy in bulk. Households can buy small butane canisters but those purchases are limited by county ordinance - in Sacramento, 600ml can be purchased in a single transaction or in any given month.

The chemicals used to produce methamphetamine are also extremely hazardous and highly volatile, and pose health risks (intoxication, dizziness, nausea, disorientation, lack of coordination, pulmonary edema, serious respiratory problems, severe chemical burns, and damage to internal organs, skin burns, potentially fatal poisoning, internal chemical burns, damage to organ function, and harm to neurological and immunologic functioning.)

On February 9th, Rita Price (51, AAPI, formerly a kitchen designer) died when her house exploded. Rita was disabled from a stroke and wheel chair bound. Her husband Darron Price (53) has been arrested for murder, drug manufacturing, elderly abuse and child endangerment. Rita’s Thai caregiver Lisa was

Letters to the editor

CURRENTS, you never cease to amaze me with your efforts to keep the APIA community up to date on the most critical issues impacting the community. It deserves a much wider circulation! With admiration and gratitude.
Maeley Tom

THANKS again for assuring distribution of CURRENTS, Hach. This is a terrific issue and should be read in its entirety. Please share a shout out to Currents and the team for their years-long consistent efforts to get news accurately gathered and disseminated. Thank you. Donna L Yee

I WANTED to express my sincere gratitude for featuring the Red Bluff Chew events in your newsletter this month. We were in Sacramento this past weekend for my Auntie Barbara’s funeral and we saw your newsletter at one of the stores downtown. It helped us purchase some artifacts for our upcoming exhibition. Also, Bill Foey was ecstatic to see his book featured! Most of his relatives live in Sacramento.

I appreciate the effort and dedication that you and your team have put into newsletter and all that you do for the community at large.

Again, thank you so much.
Jessica Chew

I WAS DELIGHTED to see your review of the book Seeking White Buffalo by William Wong Foey. Bill and his brother Russ have been friends of mine for many years.

Bill not only is a good writer, I believe this is about his eighth book, he is also an artist in the medium of water color.

They were born and raised in the Red Bluff area, which I’m very sure hasn’t been always a friendly place for non-whites. A great example of that is that his Fathers’ first wife died in childbirth, the hospital wouldn’t admit her because she was Chinese! I’ve always admired the brothers’ courage to stay there and endure.

Bill recently told me this year they had a Lunar New Year parade and celebration. Headed by a young Chinese woman who lives there with her family.

Hopefully some others will travel there this next year and support the festivities!

Thank you.
Penny Redman, China Town Enterprises, Sac.



badly burned in the explosion which leveled the house and damaged neighbors’ homes. Rita’s three children were not home at the time.

Lisa reported that she had just started the clothes dryer when the house exploded. Lisa had worked for the Price family for five years and loved her job. “The truth is that he (Price) told me that he was working as a contractor...and that’s all I know. I just want to do my job the best. I always keep it simple, polite. I didn’t ask. I didn’t want to bother anyone.”

Report suspicious circumstances which could be drug manufacturing to law enforcement immediately.

Internet fraud

Internet fraud scammers steal billions from victims, businesses, and the community. Whether the fraud involves person at your door, letter, phone call, email or text message, social media, pop-up windows on your devices (cellphone, computer), or while internet shopping, **RECOGNIZE IT AS FRAUD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND STOP THE TRANSACTION BEFORE ANY MONEY LEAVES YOUR ACCOUNT.** It is not rude to end the conversation or delete the message. Legitimate businesses will follow up with you later.

You can spot INTERNET FRAUD by:

Spelling errors in the text message or suspicious email addresses.
Ex: Sorry to bother do you order onAMAZO N? Thanks.

Website address **does not match their business name** or has a slight spelling variation to mimic a legitimate site.
Ex: "Final Notice: You Are Our August Winner iPad Pro" from noreply@costco.con - It should be "costco.com"

Place your cursor (hover) over the internet address to **see the sender's actual identity.**
Ex: "Mutual of Omaha info" is from "office@zooerwin.com"
"Notification76267" came from "rezaulkarimreza575796@gmail.com"

You do not do business or have an account with that company.

The message is **unsolicited or unexpected.** You do not know who they are and have never met or interacted with them in real life.

Scammers are clever in **rushing and pressuring** you to send money before you can think clearly or consult with a trusted person.

Scammers ask you to **"confirm" your address** "for a delivery" or update your account information to **trick you into giving them** personal information. "Smishing" is a text message to get you to reveal passwords, passphrases, usernames, account information.

The government will only contact you through the mail, they do not use free email addresses (like gmail.com), and they will not call you to discuss your benefits or accounts.

You are not owed a **refund.** You did not get **overpaid** "by mistake."

"Customer or tech support representatives" say that **your device has a virus** and want to sell you security software or fix the "problem" for a fee. They direct you to a website or have you open an attachment which downloads malware (malicious software) into your device. They ask for passwords and credit card information in order to steal your identity or access your accounts, control your device remotely, or "fix" your device when it is not even broken.

Scammers want you to call **their** phone number or click on **their** internet link in the message. You should only **call a reliable number** found on a real bill, from an official company website, or on the back of your credit card to ask if there is a problem.

Legitimate computer "error messages" will not display telephone numbers or internet links, or offer "free" apps to fix the "error."

Do not use public charging stations and do not insert into your computer any thumb drives which you did not order. These can transfer malware onto your device. Avoid using public Wi-Fi networks which are never secure.

Scammers threaten to have you arrested, freeze your account, disconnect your service, file a lawsuit against you, or have you deported if you do not send money to them.

Scammer "grandchildren" or "relatives" claim they are in jail, hurt, or have been robbed and need money. These actors cry and beg you not to tell others and rush you to send money before you can confirm their situation with a trusted relative. They will ask for money again. Ask



the scammer trick questions about other family members whose names they will not know. Some families set up a secret code word to confirm who they are. With artificial intelligence (AI), even conversations with these "relatives" can be fake. "Vishing" is a scam by phone.


Romance scammers shower you with compliments and gifts to gain your trust and then want to meet you in person, but you need to send them travel money. Scammers also ask for money to help them out of a financial problem. Scammers may have researched your social media and ask you to mortgage your home for them. The scammer really does not want to meet you, your family and friends in person. **Never send money to someone you never met in person.**

Scammers want you to send them money in **gift cards, prepaid debit cards**, or through third party payment applications (PayPal, cryptocurrency, MoneyGram, Western Union) and they will ask for the gift card number immediately.

Scammers will send you or deposit into your account money to prove that **"You are already a winner!"** of a grand prize/lottery/sweepstakes. Or, they will offer an "once in a lifetime investment opportunity." After their deposit appears in your account, they will direct you to send money to cover "handling fees" and "taxes." When their check bounces, the deposit disappears. Banks need time to verify a fake check.

Scammers may use an internet address coming from a **foreign country.** "Phishing" is fraud by email.
Ex: "yvlscholarship@www.gptel.ru" is from Russia;
"info@dietenjoyorigin.com.es" is from Spain

Scammers steal mail to get your credit cards and checks. "Check washing" is chemically erasing and rewriting your check to be cashed by another person for more money. Scammers will also sell your information or counterfeit your checks. Consider paying your bills by online transfers.

When shopping online, confirm that you are on the company's real website. Scam websites will take your order and money, but you will not get your purchase. The extra **"s" in "https"** and **lock symbol**  means the website is more secure.

Scammers may have part of your account number or social security number and try to trick you into giving them more personal information.

Caller ID and 800-numbers are not 100% reliable. **Fake caller ID is "spoofing."** Scam messages may include realistic-looking business or government logos. "Phishing" is fake email appearing to come from reputable companies.

Offer to call the scammers back later. They will either argue against that or hang up on you.

Banks will not ask you to send money by Zelle back to your own account to reverse a fraud. Call your bank on a reliable phone number and report the incident.

Only transfer money using peer-to-peer applications (Zelle, Venmo, Cash App, Goggle Pay) to people and businesses you know and trust.

Shopping for **"great deals" on social media** and sending money through a payment app may end up with you losing money and never getting the tickets or items you ordered.

Practice a **"hang-up" speech** so that telling the scammer to go away is easy.

This brochure is a publication of the Yolo County District Attorney's Office.
Jeff W. Reisig, Yolo County District Attorney

Calendar

Oct 1 Sun **Mid Autumn Festival**, sponsored by Asian Resources Inc, OCA, Parkwest Casino, NorCA Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce. 9-noon at 6270 Elder Creek Rd, Sac.

Oct 5 Thu **Densho: Our Voices Will Not Be Silenced**, a critical conversation about whitewashing, book bans, censorship and attempts to sanitize America’s past, art and virtual fundraiser. Conversation between Maggie Tokuda-Hall (“Love in the Library”) and Densho Executive Director Naomi Kawamura. Performance by Tomo Nakayama, poetry by traci kato-kiriyama. Hosted by Erin Shigaki and Brady Wakayama. Free. 530-630pm PT . Register at <https://densho.org/voices/>

Oct 7 Sat **Chinese Community Church Fall Festival in a Box**. Complete dinner for pick up at \$25/meal. Menu: half Chinese BBQ chicken, Chinese chicken salad, chicken chow mien, lumpias, almond jello. Pre-order by 9/22 at cccsac.net/give. Info: 916/508-1922

Oct 7 Sat **Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony 3rd Annual Pilgrimage**. Wakamatsu Farm is the first permanent Japanese settlement in North America established in 1869. 11am-530pm at 348 Highway 49, Coloma. Talk by Prof. John Van Sant, tours, exhibits, Family History Consultations, Bon Odori dancing, taiko. Nichi Bei Foundation is organizing bus and bento packages from San Jose, SF, East Bay and Sacramento. Info: www.nichibei.org/wakamatsu-pilgrimage.

Oct 8, 9, 10 **Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra (CATS) Auditions for *Snow Falling on Cedars*** by David Guterson. CATS needs 13 male and female actors to portray 44 roles (7 principal roles), AAPI and non AAPI ages late 20’s to 70s. CATS performances scheduled for April 19-May 18, 2024 at the Nevada Theatre, Nevada City. Info: 530/273-6362, www.catsweb.org, info@catsweb.org

Snow Falling on Cedars takes place on San Pedro Island, north of Puget Sound, in the state of Washington. It is a place so isolated that no one who lives there can afford to make enemies. San Pedro is home to salmon fishermen and strawberry farmers and also home to many Japanese-Americans. In 1954 a local fisherman is found suspiciously drowned, and a Japanese- American is charged with his murder. Snow Falling on Cedars opens in the courtroom trial of Kabuo Miyamoto.

In the course of the ensuing trial, it becomes clear that what is at stake is more than a man’s guilt. For on San Pedro, memory grows as thickly as cedar trees and the fields of ripe strawberries—memories of a charmed love affair between a white boy and the Japanese girl who grew up to become Kabuo’s wife; memories of land desired, paid for, and lost. Above all, San Pedro is haunted by the memory of what happened to its Japanese residents during World War II, when an entire community was sent into exile while its neighbors watched.

Oct 10 Tue **OCA: World Mental Health Day: Understanding Mood Disorders**. 6-8pm at California Northstate University (Rancho Cordova). Free parking. Light refreshments. Register: <https://tinyurl.com/mh2023forum>

Oct 11 Wed **PACT Webinar: Adopted Preschoolers (2-5)**. 11am-1230pm. Prerecorded webinar followed with a live conversation and Q&A. Info: www.pactadopt.org

Oct 13 Fri **Iu Mien Community’s Annual Honoring Our Journey Banquet**. 530-8pm at A&A Tasty Restaurant (6501 Florin Rd, Sac). \$75/ person. Info: NaiSioNSS2134@gmail.com or Stacystacymsh@gmail.com

Oct 13 Fri **Tarbiya Institute: Muhammad, The Timeless Sage**. 6-10pm at DoubleTree by Hilton (2001 Point West Way, Sac.) Featuring scholars Sheikh Hassan Elwan, Imam Dawud Walid, and Imam Azeez, who will share their insights, beautiful recitations by Qari Zakaria el Mekkaoui, and captivating performances from Nasheed group Ahbab Al-Habib. \$55/person, \$60/at door. Info: sacval@cair.com

Oct 13-14 **Poston Community Alliance Pilgrimage**. Program to be held at Blue Water Casino and other sites near Parker, Arizona. Tour of three former concentration camps, maps identifying barracks and apartments, Poston Monument, Camp I school sites. Keynote: USC Prof. Duncan Ryuken Williams. Limit 250. Fee \$245/adult, \$145/children. Info: www.postonpreservation.org

Oct 14 Sat **Florin JACL: Nikkei Dogs** scholarship and youth programs fundraiser. \$12/adults, \$6/ ages 4-12, Free/3 and under. Menu: grilled hot dogs, teriyaki hot dogs, chili, rice, cupcakes, cold drinks. Activities: Senbei stacking, face painting, raffle, bingo, prizes. 530-8pm at Buddhist Church of Florin (7235 Pritchard Rd, Sac). Donated cupcakes welcome-contact Twila Tomita, twilatomita@gmail.com. Order tickets: CindyKakutani@gmail.com

Oct 18 Wed **APSEA/ACSED Virtual Career Development Program “The Verdict is in! Embracing Your Differences for Career Advancement.”** Speaker Nick Maduros, Executive Director, Dept. of Tax and Fee Administration. Overview by Sacramento Superior Court Judge Andi Mudryk. Noon-1pm. Free to APSEA and ACSED members and employees of the Dept. of Rehabilitation. Others pay a \$5.60 fee. Register at <https://www.acsedonline.org/oct-workshop-2023>.

Oct 19 Wed **PACT: Adoption Orientation for People of Color**. 4-530pm. Pact’s Adoption Social Worker, Katie Wynen, is providing a FREE, virtual orientation to learn about the adoption process and placement program with Pact. Pact supports expectant/birth parents who are specifically seeking adoptive parents of color to adopt their baby. Participants will learn about Pact’s ethical and child-centered approach to adoption placement. Info: www.pactadopt.org

Oct 21 Sat **CAPITAL Meeting**. 10-noon at ARI headquarters (6270 Elder Creek Rd, Sac). Light refreshments.

Oct 26-29 **Crystal City Pilgrimage: Reaching Across Barbed Wire Fences, America’s Last WWII Concentration Camp**. (Crystal City closed in 1948) Program includes renaming a street to “Aiko and Sachiko Street” to honor two Japanese Peruvian girls - Aiko Oyakawa and Sachiko Tanabe -who drowned in the camp pool when they were 10 and unveiling of the Swimming Pool Memorial Monument created by Kazumu Julio Cesar Naganuma, a Japanese Peruvian kidnapped and imprisoned in Crystal City whose public art works is found in SF Japantown, Alameda’s historic Japantown markers and the “Enemy Alien Files” traveling exhibit. Registration fee \$375. Info: info@crystalcitypilgrimage.org

Oct 22 Sun **Helen and Joe Chew Foundation and KIXE PBS “I am an American” film screening, speaker discussion and Chongyang Festival**. Free. 2-4pm at State Theater (333 Oak St, Red Bluff). Tickets required. Info: www.redbluffchew.org

Oct 28 Fri **2nd Annual Golden Harvest Parade and Festival**. 9am-530pm on Capitol Mall (West steps of the Capitol, Sac.) 1130am parade (9th/N). Free. Webinars. See Page 7.

Oct 28 **My Sister’s House 20th Annual Run for a Safe Haven 2023**. 830am at William Land Park (Sutterville Rd and Freeport Blvd, Sac). Kids race (1/2 mile), 5K race. Register: <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/78210/run-for-a-safe-haven-runwalk-2023>

Nov 2 Thu **Unity Bar of Yolo County Awards Gala**. Keynote: Justice Kelli Evans. 530-830pm at El Macero Country Club (44571 Clubhouse Dr, El Macero). \$75/person. Tickets at YoloUnityAwardsGala.eventbrite.com

Nov 4 Sat **CAIR-SV/CC 19th Annual Banquet** (Council on American Islamic Relations). 530pm at Double Tree Hotel (2001 Point West Way, Sac). Keynote: Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz (Author, activist, Malcolm X’s daughter). Tickets: bit.ly/cairsvccbanquet2023.

Nov 5 Sun **Locke Foundation Oral History Project and Locke PRDA: Voices: Chinese Women of the Delta Fundraiser Luncheon**. Proceed to support a new documentary film. 1230-4pm at Lucky Jade Restaurant (7007 South Land Park Dr, Sac). \$70/person. Info: HoneyLum916/261-2118 lfohplum@gmail.com; Locke Prior Residents, Descendants and Ascendants, Carol Lee 916/716-4012, chinasilk88@gmail.com, LockePRDA@gmail.com

Nov 7 Tue **VOTE! because your voice counts and voting is your contribution to making this a better society for everyone**. You can register to vote online at <https://registertovote.ca.gov>. You can also register to vote and actually vote on Election Day. The only difference is your vote will not be counted until your registration is processed!

Nov 11 Sat **Helen and Joe Chew Foundation’s Veterans Day, Recognizing Chinese American WWII vets of Red Bluff**. Unveiling of Memorial Wall highlighting all 15 of Red Bluff’s own Veteran sons. Congressional Gold Medal installation at Oak Hill. Guest speaker Ed Gor. Locations: Veterans Memorial Hall (735 Oak St, Red Bluff), Oak Hill Cemetery-”Chinese Section” (1 Cemetery Lane, Red Bluff). Info: www.redbluffchew.org

Nov 18 **US Iu Mien Friendship Network Fundraising Banquet**. 3pm, 6pm dinner at A&A Tasty Restaurant (6601 Florin Rd, Sac). Raffles, gifts, giveaways, live music by Sacramento Silver Band. Regular table \$400, VIP table \$450. Info: Theresa Rother 916/716-7296; Mai Saechou 916/769-9595, Kaopoo Saefong 916/837-2582; Tommy Saepanh 916/505-6545, Kae Orn Tzeo 916/879-2753; Ying Yoon Saechao 510/690-5562; Yoonkouei Chao 530/713-6313

Nov 19 Sun **Movie: “An Open Door: Holocaust Haven in the Philippines.”** A feature-length documentary by Noel M. Izon telling the uplifting story of how a small Asian nation was able to save 1,200 Jews as they fled the pogroms of Nazi Germany. Reception and Q & A. 3-6pm at Crest Theater (1013 K St, Sac). Info: Barry Broad 916/205-4275; Derek Ledda 916/205-4185; Jessica Braveman Birch 916/932-6956

Nov 24-25 **Sacramento Hmong New Year Festival**. Cal Expo (Sac). Pageant, Dance, Idol, Hip-Hop Dance, Scholarships, Sports, Vendors. Info: shny@sacramentohtmongnewyear.com