

Currents

Asian American Pacific Islander Community Newspaper Serving Sacramento and Yolo Counties-Volume 37, No. 3 Fall/October 2024

Do your part to protect democracy and our Constitution

Register to vote. Vote on or before November 5th.

October 7 - In California, county election officials will mail ballots to registered voters

October 21 - Deadline to register to vote or update your voter registration

November 5 - Vote in person at a polling place, or vote earlier at an early voting center. You can also register for the first time or update your registration information there and cast a provisional ballot (these ballots are counted after your registration is processed). Your mail in ballots must be postmarked on or before November 5th or deposited into an official ballot drop-off location by 8pm.

Civic responsibility

Elizabeth Jean "Busy" Philipps, actress, author, abortion rights advocate in an interview with Real Simple magazine (June 2024) on civic responsibility:

I think that so many people, myself

included, can fall for the trick of apathy, especially now. It feels so overwhelming. There are so many things, on top of the fact that we're just trying to parent our children, make sure they're safe, hopefully make sure our health needs are taken care of, or our friends' or our sisters' or our mothers' or whatever.

Then there's all this nasty rhetoric, and we're just inundated. It can really take me to a dark place, where I'm like, *It doesn't matter what I do. It doesn't matter what any of us do. It's just going to be terrible.* And I think, it's important to remember that's not true.

It's important what we do. It's the small things. It's paying attention to who is being elected to the school board, because those are the people who are banning books. It's paying attention to who your comptroller is. Or, how the districts are being drawn in your cities. All these things are super important - not just the presidential candidates. I'm continually trying to remember that myself and encourage other people to find ways to go small, to think, to be participatory in their own neighborhoods and communities. What's the saying? "You judge a society based on how they treat the most vulnerable among them."

We're doing the worst job right now. But just because a lot of people are doing a terrible job doesn't mean we can't try to make things different. It's not how I want to live, and it's not how I want to raise my children. I can't shut off the fact that we live in a society where everyone needs to be participatory. You cannot be singularly focused on yourself, and you have to be tolerant of other people's beliefs.

People's hearts and minds are changed by storytelling. They're changed by hearing

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4th at Capitol mural up

On May 15th, the Reclaim Sacramento Japantown group unveiled Karen Tsugawa's mural at the corner of Fourth St and Capitol Mall in Sacramento. The mural depicts historic Sacramento Japantown including the Sun Rise Laundry, Yorozu Co. and the ethnic enclave which had 4,000 Japanese, Black, Hispanic, Filipino, and Portuguese residents and 500 businesses. Sacramento government and developers called the area blighted and undesirable and used new redevelopment laws including eminent domain to erase Japantown from existence in favor of the "Capitol Mall" project

The West End was originally 244 downtown city blocks between the State Capitol and Sacramento River. The Sacramento Redevelopment Agency revised plan targeted 15 blocks which included all of Japantown. The Japanese American Redevelopment Study Association and Nisei Veterans of Foreign Wars represented by Black attorney Nathaniel Colley and Japanese American attorney Mamoru Sakuma represented the West End residents but they were ignored. Starting in January 1957 and by March 1961, all 310 parcels had been bulldozed and Japantown was gone.

Many volunteers and donors made Tsugawa's mural possible. The mural is on temporary construction fencing surrounding the former Sacramento Union (newspaper) block which had recently been bought from CALPERS by the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians.

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Civic responsibility

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experience, then it's very easy to shut down and not be empathetic. Storytelling engenders empathy and the idea - the correct idea - that we are more alike than we are different. I really believe that it ends up being beneficial for everyone."

Taylor Swift on September 10:

"Like many of you, I watched the debate tonight. If you haven't already, now is a great time to do your research on the issues at hand and the stances these candidates take on the topics that matter to you the most."

Do your own research

When researching candidates, consider who is fueling anti-AAPI and anti-immigrant hate and racism in the country or threatening American democracy:

Former President Donald Trump promises:

December 7, 2023 FOX News interview with Sean Hannity - Trump said "We love this guy (Hannity) He (Hannity) says, 'You're not going to be a dictator, are you?' I said: 'No, no, no, **other than day one.** We're closing the border, and we're drilling, drilling, drilling. After that, I'm not a dictator.'"

June 15, 2024 People's Convention in Detroit - Trump announced: "On day one, I will sign a new executive order to cut federal funding for any school pushing critical race theory, transgender insanity, and other inappropriate racial, sexual or political content onto the lives of our children. And I will not give penny to any school that has a vaccine mandate or a mask mandate. And I will keep men out of women's sports. And I will fully uphold our great Second Amendment. NRA endorsed me, gave me their full endorsement. Thank you to the NRA. We will protect innocent life, and we will restore a thing called free speech that's being taken away from us by these radical thugs." [An example of critical race theory is the study of Executive Order 9066, the government law which imprisoned 120,000 Japanese Americans on the lie of "military necessity."]

June 27, 2024 Televised debate with Biden and Trump - Trump claimed: "He (Biden) gets paid by China. He's a Manchurian candidate. He gets money from China."

July 26, 2024 Turning Point Action's The Believers Summit in West Palm Beach Florida - Trump said: "... Republicans must win. We have to win this election, most important election ever. We want a landslide that's too big to rig. If you want to save America, get your friends, get your family, get everyone you know and vote, early vote, absentee vote on Election Day. I don't care how, but you have to get out and vote. And again Christians get out and **vote just this time, you won't have to do it anymore. Four more years you know what - it'll be fixed.**

It'll be fine, you won't have to vote anymore, my beautiful Christians. I love you Christians. I'm a Christian. I love you. Get out, you got to get out and vote **in four years you don't have to vote again. We'll have it fixed so good you're not going to have to vote.**

September 10, 2024 Televised debate between Harris and Trump - Trump argued: "(W)e have millions of people pouring into our country from prisons and jails, from mental institutions and insane asylums. And they're coming in and they're taking jobs that are occupied right now by African Americans and Hispanics and also unions."

"She's a Marxist. Everybody knows she's a Marxist. Her father's a Marxist professor in economics. And he taught her well."

Immigrants and refugees "pouring into our country monthly where it's, I believe 21 million people, not the 15 that people say They're criminals ... common street criminals ... drug dealers and they're destroying our county. "

"What they have done to our country by allowing these millions and millions of people to come into our country. And look at what's happening to the towns all over the United States. And a lot of towns don't want to talk -- not going to be Aurora or Springfield. A lot of towns don't want to talk about it because they're so embarrassed by it. **In Springfield, they're eating the dogs. The people that came in. They're eating the cats. They're eating - they're eating the pets of the people** that live there. And this is what's happening in our country. [The Springfield Ohio police, mayor and city manager confirm that there are no credible reports or specific claims of animal abuse in Springfield.]

September 10, 2024 on X - Republican Vice President candidate JD Vance posted: "It's possible, of course, that all of these rumors will turn out to be false." But he added: "keep the cat memes flowing".

September 13, 2024 Trump campaign issued its statement: "President Trump will deport migrants who eat pets. Kamala Harris will send them to your town next. Make your choice, America."

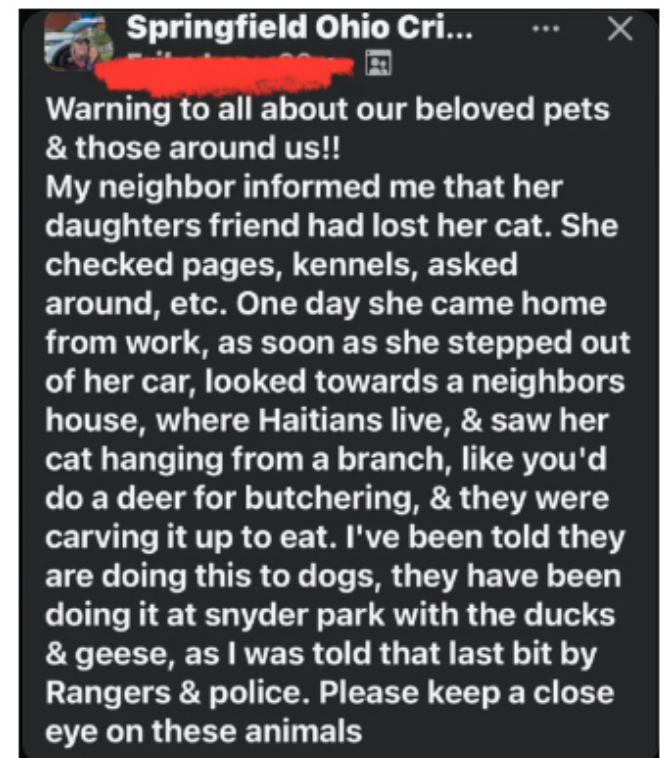
September 15, 2024 CNN - Republican Vice President candidate (Ohio Senator) JD Vance justified and continued to repeat the cat/dog eating claim and admitted it was made up: "If I have to create stories so that the American media actually pays attention to the suffering of the American people, then that's what I'm going to do." Vance said, "The evidence is the first-hand account of my constituents who are telling me this happened." ... "If I have to create stories so that the American media actually pays attention to the suffering of the American people, then that's what I'm going to do."

In the weeks following Trump's and Vance's repeated and amplified claims of cat/dog/pet eating in Springfield, Springfield has seen multiple bomb threats causing school closures, and growing fear within the immigrant

community including 33 different threats as of September 17 to city hall, public schools, universities, community centers - by phone and email - some from overseas, some domestically sourced. Hate groups like the Proud Boys have marched through the city, fliers from an Ku Klux Klan affiliate saying Haitians are "disease-ridden and filthy" have been distributed. The city cancelled its 20 year annual CultureFest event. An anti-immigrant march is scheduled for the end of September.

The cat/dog/pet eating rumor stems from three sources:

- (1) A social media post August 2023 by a man in Dayton Ohio who joked and suggested that the meat on a BBQ were cats, but this was never verified. The BBQ was in an apartment building where African immigrants lived and the BBQ itself may have belonged to a Haitian.
- (2) Allexis Telia Ferrell, 27 and a woman of color whose link to Haiti has not been proven, was arrested August 16th (or September 6) in Canton Ohio for killing and eating a cat. Referred to as a "lifelong Canton resident" in one article (not an immigrant), she is charged with animal cruelty.
- (3) Erika Lee's Facebook post.



Erika Lee herself never imagined that her post would ever get the traction that it did, and expressed regret in her interview with NBC at the harm that her post caused. "I'm not a racist," she said through heavy emotion, adding that her daughter is half Black and she herself is mixed race and a member of the LGBTQ community. "Everybody seems to be turning it into that, and that was not my intent." Lee said that she has pulled her daughter out of school and is now worried about her safety with so much attention on her family. She said she was also concerned for the safety of the Haitian community, which she did not intend to antagonize. "I feel for the Haitian community," she said. "If I was in the Haitians' position, I'd be terrified, too, worried that somebody's going to come after me because they think I'm hurting something that they love and that, again, that's not what I was trying to do."



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Do your own research

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Haitians immigration: In May 2021, the US expanded Haitian eligibility for a humanitarian program granting deportation relief and work permits to an estimated 150,000 Haitians already living in the U.S. who cannot safely return to their home. Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, are in the country legally under Temporary Protected Status. Springfield is the largest city in Clark County with a population of 60,000 with about 20,000 from Haiti. Canton Ohio is in Stark County.

Pope Francis on September 13: While he does not vote in the US elections, he urges voters to choose the "lesser evil."

The Heritage Foundation's Project 2025

The Heritage Foundation says: "The Left has spent millions fearmongering about Project 2025, because they're terrified of losing their power. And they should be. Project 2025 offers a menu of solutions to the border crisis, inflation, a stagnant economy, and rampant crime. It shows how we can take on China, fix our schools, and support families. But most importantly, it dismantles the unaccountable Deep State, taking power away from Leftist elites and giving it back to the American people."

"The actions of liberal politicians in Washington have created a desperate need and unique opportunity for conservatives to start undoing the damage the Left has wrought and build a better country for all Americans in 2025.

Project 2025 is organized on 4 pillars:

Pillar 1 - Policy Agenda - The Heritage Foundation's 900 page book written by 450 authors, "Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise," outlines how to dismantle the federal government, from the White House Office to the Department of Health and Human Services to the Intelligence Community - every federal agency is touched.

Pillar 2: Personnel - The Heritage Foundation is developing a resume bank of 10,000 people who will be understood and be loyal to the Heritage Foundation and to a conservative president. [Commitment to the US Constitution is never mentioned or required of these job applicants.]

"I think it all starts with the people," Rick Dearborn, Trump's former Deputy Chief of Staff, says, "Conservatives have never had a large number collected in one spot of conservative scholars and academics and policy experts that you could just pull off the shelf and say, 'Okay, if you're going to populate the Department of Defense, here are the five people that really understand the conservative philosophy on how to promote and protect our national security.'"

Pillar 3: Training - Presidential Administration

Academy proposes to train people for appointed, key political positions - "Our goal is to assemble an army of aligned, vetted, trained, and prepared conservatives to go to work on Day One to deconstruct the Administrative State," Dearborn explained. "You have to find people that know what they're doing, know where the bodies are buried, have their hands on the levers to actually push the programs that help make the agenda move," he said. "If you don't have that, you get stuck and you just start running around in a circle."

The Academy has 23 online classes, 30-90 minutes long. Higher level positions will have in person classes running 1-2 days. "This academy provides aspiring appointees with the insight, background knowledge, and expertise in governance to immediately begin rolling back destructive policy and advancing conservative ideas in the federal government." The Academy offers 4 certificates: Prepared to Serve (appointed service), Conservative Governance 101, The Administrative State and the Regulatory Process, Conservative Governance: Advancing Policy. "It is not enough for conservatives to win elections. If we are going to rescue the country from the grip of the radical Left, we need both a governing agenda and the right people in place, ready to carry this agenda out on day one of the next conservative administration." ProPublica (Aug 14, 2024) says the "videos coach future appointees on everything from the nuts and bolts of governing to how to outwit bureaucrats. There are strategies for avoiding embarrassing Freedom of Information Act disclosures and ensuring that conservative policies aren't struck down by "left-wing judges."

Pillar 4 - 180-day Transition Playbook is a roadmap to dismantle each federal agency. The Heritage Foundation writes: "Only through the implementation of specific action plans at each agency will the next conservative presidential Administration be successful." Pillar 4 also includes pre-drafted Executive Orders to equip a future conservative president on policy. "When you write an executive order, when you're working on a regulation, if you want to roll back a regulation, if you want to promote a program, if you want to work with outside government-affiliated groups, how does this work?" Dearborn asked. The appendix aims to answer these questions and give "some game plans that they can use so that they're not having to build them from scratch from day one."

Oct. 21, 2020 Trump's Heritage Foundation Executive Order

Former President Trump started implementing Project 2025 strategy in the waning days of his first presidency by signing his "Executive Order (EO) on Creating Schedule F In The Excepted Service" on October 21, 2020. The EO would have replaced career federal employees with political appointees, greatly expanding the then sitting president's power to fire career federal employees, replace them with loyal appointees, thus controlling every federal agency. The Executive Order reads:

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 3301, 3302, and 7511 of title 5, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. To effectively carry out the broad array of activities assigned to the executive branch under law, the President and his appointees must rely on men and women in the Federal service employed in positions of a confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character. Faithful execution of the law requires that the President have appropriate management oversight regarding this select cadre of professionals.

The Federal Government benefits from career professionals in positions that are not normally subject to change as a result of a Presidential transition but who discharge significant duties and exercise significant discretion in formulating and implementing executive branch policy and programs under the laws of the United States. The heads of executive departments and agencies (agencies) and the American people also entrust these career professionals with non-public information that must be kept confidential.

With the exception of attorneys in the Federal service who are appointed pursuant to Schedule A of the excepted service and members of the Senior Executive Service, appointments to these positions are generally made through the competitive service. Given the importance of the functions they discharge, employees in such positions must display appropriate temperament, acumen, impartiality, and sound judgment.

Due to these requirements, agencies should have a greater degree of appointment flexibility with respect to these employees than is afforded by the existing competitive service process.

Further, effective performance management of employees in confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating positions is of the utmost importance. Unfortunately, the Government's current performance management is inadequate, as recognized by Federal workers themselves. For instance, the 2016 Merit Principles Survey reveals that less than a quarter of Federal employees believe their agency addresses poor performers effectively.

Separating employees who cannot or will not meet required performance standards is important, and it is particularly important with regard to employees in confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating positions. High performance by such employees can meaningfully enhance agency operations, while poor performance can significantly hinder them. Senior agency officials report that poor performance by career employees in policy-relevant positions has resulted in long delays and substandard-quality work for important agency projects, such as drafting and issuing regulations.

Pursuant to my authority under section 3302(1) of title 5, United States Code, I find that conditions of good administration make necessary an exception to the competitive hiring rules and examinations for career positions in the Federal service of a confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character. These conditions include the need to provide agency heads with additional flexibility to assess prospective appointees without the limitations imposed by competitive service selection procedures. Placing these positions in the excepted service will mitigate undue limitations on their selection. This action will also give agencies greater ability and discretion to assess critical



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Trump's Heritage Foundation EO

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qualities in applicants to fill these positions, such as work ethic, judgment, and ability to meet the particular needs of the agency. These are all qualities individuals should have before wielding the authority inherent in their prospective positions, and agencies should be able to assess candidates without proceeding through complicated and elaborate competitive service processes or rating procedures that do not necessarily reflect their particular needs.

Conditions of good administration similarly make necessary excepting such positions from the adverse action procedures set forth in chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code. Chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code, requires agencies to comply with extensive procedures before taking adverse action against an employee. These requirements can make removing poorly performing employees difficult. Only a quarter of Federal supervisors are confident that they could remove a poor performer. Career employees in confidential, policy-determining,

policy-making, and policy-advocating positions wield significant influence over Government operations and effectiveness. Agencies need the flexibility to expeditiously remove poorly performing employees from these positions without facing extensive delays or litigation.

AAJA updated style guide

In August, the Asian American Journalists Association released its updated style guide which provides guidance to journalists on how to avoid harmful AAPI stereotypes and racially derogatory language.

“For example, it reminds journalists that ‘illegal’ can be used to describe an action, but applying it to an immigrant is inaccurate and dehumanizes the person described,” AAJA said. “The term ‘kamikaze drone’ is an inaccurate and insensitive way to describe an exploding unmanned aircraft. And, the 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese nationals detained in the U.S. during WWII were ‘incarcerated,’ not ‘interned.’”

AAJA has more than 1,500 members who help diversify newsrooms across the nation while also promoting accurate coverage of communities of color. This year AAJA is celebrating its 40th anniversary of advocating for AAPIs. More than 50 AAJA members collaborated over the past two years to produce this style guide which can be found at www.ajja.org (news & resources.)

low tow

Use caution with this term, which originated from the Chinese phrase meaning to “knock head,” referring to the act of bowing and prostrating one’s forehead to the ground to the emperor. While it literally means showing deference and deep respect, it can be used in a derogatory fashion and to reinforce stereotypes of Asians as meek and submissive.

See also: china doll; model minority

What voter suppression looks like

Voter suppression are efforts to add a barrier to voting, reducing ballot access and discouraging voting. Guns and verbal threats are tools of intimidation used where voting is taking place, where ballots are counted, and where election officials and workers live. Even Georgia's decision on September 20th to hand-count their November ballots spreads the lie that voting machines are inaccurate and confuse voters into thinking, "Why vote if the machines don't work, "They aren't going to count my ballot until after the decision is made!" or "Oh my God, it sounds confusing. I'm just not going to vote." The conservatives have already announced their conspiracy well before Election Day that they intend to claim that the November 5, 2024 election was stolen. Even before ballots have gone out to voters, some state election officials are promising to former President Trump that they will not to certify Election Day results. This Election Day is critical for the protecting democracy and the US Constitution.

The 15th Amendment of the US Constitution guarantees that "the right of citizens ... the vote shall not be denied or abridged ..."

In 2013 the US Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder* held that Section 4(b) of the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA) was unconstitutional because it identified jurisdictions covered by the VRA for "pre clearance" by reviewing voter registration and turnout from prior presidential election years and therefore was an "outdated" formula. The Voting Rights Act was adopted to protect the votes of previously disenfranchised communities with added scrutiny of voter registration and elections. VRA's Section 5 "pre clearance" requires certain jurisdictions (states, local political subdivisions) with a history of discrimination to submit any proposed changes in their voting procedures to the US Dept. of Justice or US District Court for the District of Columbia before it goes into effect to ensure that the change would not harm minority voters. The US Supreme Court's *Shelby* decision made Section 5 inoperable until Congress enacts a new coverage formula; to date Congress has failed to do.

"Since the *Shelby* decision, states have added at least 100 restrictive voting laws. Voters in almost half the country will face new voting restrictions this fall. And if the architects of the extremist Project 2025 agenda have their way, voting rights will be even further eviscerated. The Civil Rights Division of U.S. Department of Justice, which enforces civil provisions of the federal laws that protect the right to vote, would be eliminated. The FBI would be prohibited from combating the spread of misinformation and disinformation, which has given rise to election-related violence and harassment of election workers." Marc H. Morial, President/CEO National Urban League and former mayor of New Orleans, August 30, 2024.

The latest attempt by Congress to "fix" Section 4(b) is the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (HR 14) reintroduced in the Congress on September 19, 2023 and in the Senate on February 29, 2024 (S.4). John Lewis Act would require preclearance reviews nationwide of proposals to create at-large districts, change boundaries in places with large populations of minority voters, impose stricter documentation or ID requirements to vote, make it easier to purge minority voters from the rolls, or significantly reduce the opportunity to vote in minority communities.

Other provisions of the John Lewis Act include: Making Election Day a public holiday; expanding voter registration, including same-day and automatic registration; early voting and vote-by-mail options; requiring public announcement of voting changes at least 180 days before an election; enabling the federal government to dispatch observers to polling places with a noted pattern of discrimination; expanding restrictions on campaign spending by foreign nationals; banning partisan gerrymandering (fixing voting districts to benefit one party); make it a criminal offense to "corruptly hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from registering to vote or helping someone register to vote."

Under the John Lewis Act, 10 years of Preclearance monitoring would be occur if (1) 15 or more voting rights violations occurred in the state during the previous 25 years; (2) 10 or more violations occurred during the previous 25 years with at least 1 committed by the state itself; or (3) 3 or more violations occurred during the previous 25 years where the state administers the elections.

Since the *Shelby County* ruling, 29 states have passed 94 restrictive voting laws (Brennan Center, Pass the Lewis Act, March 8, 2024). These laws have been passed on the false claim of "widespread voter fraud" with the promise that these laws will "strengthen election integrity" - **to date no one has found any proof of significant voting irregularities. There is no evidence of voter fraud across the country.**

The Stanford study released in January 2024 by Justin Grimmer and Abhinav Ramaswamy of the Democracy and Polarization Lab found there was no evidence of voter fraud in Pennsylvania or other battleground states during the 2020 presidential election. The 85-page report examined claims from former President Donald Trump, his lawyers and allies about voter fraud during the 2020 presidential election. The authors say the claims did not provide evidence of fraud, illegality, or abnormality, meaning they found the claims are not based on fact:

"Even years after the 2020 election, Donald Trump continues to claim that fraudulent and illegal votes cost him the 2020 election. In this paper we provide the most comprehensive assessment of his empirical claims to date. All of the claims we evaluate fail to provide evidence of fraud or illegal voting. Trump's claims of fraud

or illegality are riddled with errors, hampered by misunderstandings about how to analyze official voter records, and filled with confusion about basic statistical techniques and concepts. Often, the claims are based on the casual impressions of what happens in a "normal" election based on little more than intuitions. Worse yet, several claims are simply misstated by Trump's legal team or Trump. As a result, sometimes the public claims do not even match the weak evidence in Trump's legal challenges. This paper provides a resource for assessing many of the most prevalent claims made about the 2020 election and a guide to anticipating potential objections in future elections."

After the *Shelby County* ruling:

Texas implemented a strict voter ID law 2023, which a federal court overturned because it was intentionally discriminatory. New laws include: Voting illegally is a crime punishable with up to 20 years in prison with fines (previously 1 year in prison). There will be fewer polling places because combined precincts can have up to 10,000 voters (before it was 5,000). Secretary of State can take over the Harris County elections office if there is "good cause to believe" that recurring problems exist; the Secretary of State could invalidate Harris County election results [Harris County is Texas' largest and most ethnically diverse county.] SB1 was argued in February before the Texas Supreme Court which if implement imposes new restrictions on mail voting, hampers voter assistance for the disabled and those with limited English, it curbs voter outreach activities, it puts election officials at risk of criminal prosecution for protecting voters from rogue poll watchers (forbids any action by the poll workers that would "obstruct" a poll watcher's observation), bans drive-thru voting, requires ballots be rejected based on error or omissions not material to the voter's eligibility (the voter ID requirement - providing a driver's license number or partial SSN - has caused Asian and Latino voter ballots to be more than 50% likely to be rejected), persons assisting disabled voters must swear under penalty of perjury that the voter claimed they are eligible for assistance. The SB1 court decision has not been handed down yet.

North Carolina - In person voters are required to provide photo ID. Voters requesting a mail-in ballot must include a copy of their photo ID. Mailed ballots received after November 5th won't be counted (eliminating the previous 3 day grace period for ballots postmarked by Election Day, a COVID-19 pandemic adjustment). Mail in ballots must be requested by October 29.

Nevada - Republican National Committee, Trump campaign and Nevada Republican Party filed a lawsuit challenging Nevada's mail-in ballot system which allowed ballots postmarked before the end of Election Day to be counted; this challenge was dismissed by a federal judge on July 17, 2024 because Nevada law was not unconstitutional, did not violate federal law, did not give Democrats an unfair electoral

Kansha History, Sunday October 13th

The Kansha History project will be discussing Nikkei Farm History documents of the War Relocation Authority (WRA) and the losses of Nikkei (Japanese American) farmers during World War II with a focus on Sacramento, Yolo and Sutter Counties. Many had invested their entire savings as well as their labor, skills, hopes, and dreams, into these farms, which they were forced to hand over. The losses in crops, structures, land, and housing were recorded by federal field agents. These records are a window into the family and community life of thousands of Japanese Americans. Today, volunteers are transcribing these records and making them searchable by descendants and the public.

Before World War II, Japanese American farmers were responsible for 40 percent of all vegetables grown in California, including nearly 100 percent of all tomatoes, celery, strawberries, and peppers. In California alone, it is estimated that over 7,000 farms encompassing 200,000 acres were sold or transferred under duress. (Farm Security Administration).

6000 of these farms in California were documented by WRA federal field agents. For the first time, 740 documents recording the forced transfer of crops and farm lands from Japanese farmers in the Sacramento Delta and Sutter County right before they were evacuated to WWII prisons in 1942 to White and other farmers will be presented and discussed. RSVP for the Sunday October 13th, 4-6pm presentation at Sacramento Buddhist Church at www.kanshahistory.org.

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Evac. Oper.: MORIOKA, Aline	Sub. Oper.: ANTHONY, Anne (Mrs)										
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Tenure: Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Part-owner <input type="checkbox"/> Mgr. <input type="checkbox"/> Tenant <input type="checkbox"/>	Tenure: Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Part-owner <input type="checkbox"/> Mgr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tenant <input type="checkbox"/>										
Size of tract: 20 No. tracts in farm: 1	No. evacuee tracts in farm: 2										
Acreage owned: 20 Leased: - Total: 20	Acreage owned: 20 Leased: 20 Total: 40										
Acreage in crops: 13 Age: 18 CS: US	Anticipated crop acreage: Age: CS: US										
Type of farm:				Type of farm:							
Crop	E.O.	S.O.	Crop	E.O.	S.O.	Crop	E.O.	S.O.	Crop	E.O.	S.O.
Artichokes			Garlic			Tomatoes			Plums		
Asparagus			Lettuce			Apples			Prunes		
Beans			Melons			Apricots			Nuts		
Cabbage			Onions			Figs			Other		
Cantaloups			Peas			Grapes					
Carrots			Peppers			Grapefruit					
Cauliflower			Rhubarb			Lemons		1			
Celery			Spinach			Oranges		12			
Cucumbers			Strawberries			Pears					
Structures: Dwlg./ Barns / Poultry hses. Grn.hses. Stores Other Shed-1 Pump houses-2											
Manager of farm & guardian											



Photo from Dorothea Lange WWII collection

Marysville's Chinese American Museum of Northern California - "Forgotten Chinatowns" exhibit opens

The Chinese American Museum of Northern California in Marysville opened its latest permanent exhibit on September 7th - "Forgotten Chinatowns of Northern California." Ten northern California Chinatowns were invited to contribute photos and narratives - Auburn, Fiddletown, Folsom, Hanford, Locke, Mendocino, Red Bluff, Sacramento, San Jose, Stockton. The project was funded in part with a \$4,950 grant from California Humanities. Historian David Lei told those attending the opening that there is plenty of research, even PhD level theses, opportunities in Chinese American history - there were over 200 Chinatowns in the US, records from SF Chinatown organizations like YMCA and Cameron House are being scanned, dig sites are available at the 70+ Chinatowns which had at least one Chinese cemetery, gold mining and railroad construction camps and associated graveyards abound with material, even railroad construction landslides are full of material to be found and written about.

Marysville is the last surviving Chinatown of the Gold Rush era. Brian Tom, the museum director is a third generation Marysville-an - his grandfather was a gold miner, his father a Chinese doctor and Tom an attorney has returned to share the history of his hometown.

CAMNC hours - First Saturday of the month, noon to 3pm at 303 First Street, Marysville 95901



What voter suppression looks like

Continued from Page 6

advantage and did not dilute Republican votes.

Louisiana - Voter registration drives must pre-register with the Secretary of State, proof of US citizenship is required when registering to vote, voter fraud is easier to prosecute (a woman was convicted of a misdemeanor for assisting two elderly voters who needed help marking their absentee ballots correctly), mail ballots must be witnessed to be counted and the witness can only verify one ballot of a voter who is not also an immediate family members; the board of elections can challenge (and not count) absentee ballots that are missing information; absentee ballot applications from older adults and people with disabilities will expire after 4 years.

Ohio - In June, Ohio announced its plan to purge 158,857 "inactive" voters from Ohio's voter rolls and critics said the plan disproportionately hurts minority voters. "What our politicians should be focusing on is expanding voting rights rather than trying to restrict them," said Bria Bennett, of the Ohio Organizing Collaborative. "It appears to me that this purge disproportionately targets voters of color, many of whom have long been disenfranchised from the political process, either because of discriminatory barriers that prevent them from exercising their power to vote or people's life circumstances that have prevented them from being able to fully participate in our democracy," said Ohio Unity Coalition Executive Director Pierrette Talley. Ohio's new voting laws: An Ohio driver's license, passport, or military ID is required to vote in person. It is a felony for anyone other than an election official or mail carrier to possess an absentee ballot (exception for a listed relative); ACLU Ohio has filed a lawsuit for a disabled person who wants her trusted caregiver to be able to deliver her ballot. Registering online requires an Ohio photo ID, but registering using a paper form does not. Requests for an absentee ballot must be mailed in at least 7 days before the election (previously there was a 3 day deadline); pre-stamped envelopes are no longer provided. Each county will have only one ballot drop-off location. Curbside voting used by people with disabilities and during the pandemic is no longer available. Early voting on Monday before Election Day has been eliminated (but voting between October 8 and November 3 is planned.)

Pennsylvania is one of 7 states that bars counting mail-in ballots until Election Day. In 2020, 27 states allow pre-canvassing (counting mail-in ballots early) plus 16 more states recently adopted early counting. Vote-by-mail ballots won't be counted unless it has a hand written date on the envelope; on September 13th, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court approved that requirement. Critics say that the dating requirement is inconsequential and that those otherwise valid ballots still deserve to be counted. In the April 2024 primary, 8,500 ballots (1.22% of those returned) lacked a signature or date, or was returned without the secrecy envelope; more than 4,400 of those ballots were rejected and not counted.

Wisconsin Supreme Court in July restored the state's ability to use ballot drop boxes, but use of drop boxes is not mandatory (2 years earlier during the pandemic, the conservative majority

of the court banned the receptacles.) Photo ID is required to vote. A voter can only drop off his/her own ballot; dropping off a spouse's ballot is not allowed (but assisting a voter who is disabled or hospitalized may be okay.)

North Carolina Supreme Court agreed that each voter must present valid photo ID before voting and that partisan gerrymandering (drawing voting boundaries to benefit a party) is a political question which will not be reviewed or changed by the court and the legislature has exclusion authority to draw maps to entrench their own power. The time to return mail-in ballots is shortened. Local election officials are required to reject ballots if the voter registered to vote on Election Day but fails to later verify their home address. Identification is required to vote by mail.

Kansas Supreme Court ruled on May 31st that voting is not a "fundamental right", but a "political right". The difference is that with a fundamental right, the government has to prove why it needs to pass new voting laws and restrictions. With a political right, the burden is on voters to prove that the proposed change unreasonably burdens and blocks them from voting. The law making it a felony to knowingly represent oneself as an election official is still disputed. It is a crime to collect more than 10 ballots. The law requiring strict signature matching for mail-in ballots is still undecided as to whether it complies with equal protection and due process rights

Georgia - In 2021 Georgia enacted a law so a single voter could bring unlimited challenges to other registered voters; this overwhelmed election officials. The majority of these challenges were unproved, but the effect discouraged voting. A new 2024 law makes it easier to prove these registration challenges. In the 2022 general election and run off, groups based outside of Georgia challenged the validity of 400,000 registered voters in Georgia; another 92,000 challenges were filed by Georgia based people. Georgia allowed mail-in voting for decades until the 2020 elections when the legislature made it harder to vote by mail. Counties can refuse to certify ballot results. Georgians have less time to request a mail-in ballot and must provide their driver's license or state ID with that request. There will be fewer ballot drop boxes. Election officials and non-profits cannot send unsolicited mail-in ballot applications.

Florida - SB 7050 which threatened to impose a \$50,000 fine for any noncitizens

assisting in voter registration was blocked by a federal court on May 15th because its citizenship requirement is unlawful discrimination violating the right to equal protection under law. Vote-by-mail requests must be made every year and must include ID and the ID must match ID previously submitted. Ballot drop boxes can be located only at the election's office and early voting sites, will be open only during early voting hours, will be closed 3 days before Election Day and must be monitored at all times. County election supervisors cannot receive private grants or donations. Persons "engaging in any activity with the intent to influence ... a voter" (giving food, water to those waiting, offering a chair) can be arrested.

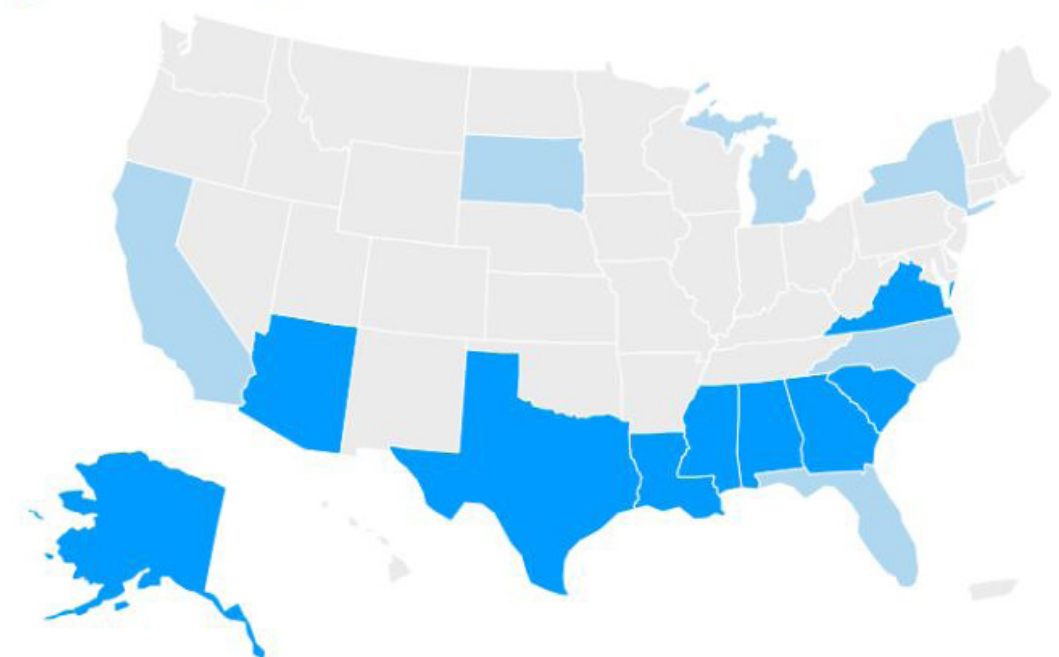
Alabama - SB1, which is in effect for the November election, makes it a felony for absentee ballot applications or ballots to be ordered or handled by a person other than the absentee voter. It is illegal to turn in someone else's absentee ballot, regardless to the voter being elderly or disabled. There is no early voting provision (Alabama, Mississippi and two other states don't allow early voting). In Alabama, absentee ballots are most often used by Black voters.

Arizona - Voters have less time - 3 days - to correct missing or mismatched signatures on their absentee ballot envelopes. In 2022 more than 75% of Arizona voters requested mail-in ballots and 90% in 2022 voted by mail. Citizenship must be proven with a driver's license, tribal ID number, birth certificate, passport or naturalization documents. In 2022, a judge ordered vigilante drop box watchers who were wearing masks and carrying guns to stand farther away.

Areas subject to voting law federal preclearance until 2013

Several states and some local jurisdictions were required to get their voting laws preapproved under the 1965 Voting Rights Act using a process called preclearance. The Supreme Court upended that process in 2013.

■ State covered ■ Some counties or townships within state covered



SOURCE U.S. Department of Justice

System to update voter rolls rejected

Florida, West Virginia, Missouri, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas (in 2023) and Virginia (2024) have withdrawn from the Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. (ERIC), a nonprofit nonpartisan organization created by state election officials in 2012 to help election officials maintain more accurate voter rolls and detect possible illegal voting. ERIC consolidates existing databases to identify dead voters and duplicate registrations, update voters' addresses, lawfully remove voters who've moved out of a jurisdiction, and reach out to eligible citizens with information on how to register to vote.

Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, District of Columbia are ERIC members. This membership reflect their states' election officials commitment to maintaining the most up to date voter rolls with whatever technology and resources are available.

Chinese social media

Chinese for Affirmative, a civil rights organization based in SF, has been monitoring Chinese-language disinformation since 2019. Through its PiYaoBa website, in a 12 month period more than 600 pieces of disinformation (June 10, 2023 to July 29, 2024) have been viewed 11.6 million times. 228 pieces of this disinformation about the 2024 election came through the WeChat, X, and YouTube platforms. Twitter/X has surpassed WeChat as the platform most used to spread the misinformation (48% X, 25% WeChat).

The misinformation narrates: former president Trump is god-like figure (especially after the assassination attempt) and only he can save the US, today's problems stem from his not being the current president; the left policies are destroying the country and bringing it closer to communism; Biden opened the border to allow undocumented immigrants to vote in the 2024 election; the left controls various world events and natural disasters and want to control everything; the 2020 election was stolen from Trump and widespread voter fraud, especially voting by noncitizens, may lead to another stolen election.

According to AsAmNews, the misinformation operations referred to as "Spamouflage" and "Dragonbridge" are originating from China, using thousands of social media, websites and forums to sway US political conversation especially about the 2024 elections.

Source: Chinese for Affirmative Action, "Conspiracy Theories, Lies and AI"

Letters to the editor

Currents mission: To study and interpret local and national trends and problems; To collect and disseminate useful civic and political data; and To model intelligent and courageous civic action. (adopted from the Tuskegee Civic Association, 1941)

LOCKE IS A HISTORIC GEM where people live, work and visit. The Summer/May 2024 edition of Currents caused outrage from two readers. Deborah Mendel believed that she had a right to have her letter to the editor published without a response. She requested that letters from the other readers be removed. She felt disrespected. Anita Lo criticized this editor for not using "good judgment" and suggested that "unprofessional misleading writings" be removed. Martha Esch wrote in: "Thank you for your good journalism. We Locke property owners need balanced and researched journalism like yours that includes the facts about the unusual governance and lack of valid elections of our tiny historic town. I hope you can expand your coverage - if not in your October issue - in the next issue."

HELLO "CURRENTS" - I am very happy to share the May 2024 issue of "Currents" with our board of directors at the AUBURN JOSS HOUSE.

The article truly informed the reader how we worked so diligently to keep this holiday relevant to today. And, your photos showed the highlights of us carrying on these traditions. Of course, the feast was complete with a whole roast pig, and a whole white poached chicken!

This was the first celebration in 100 years at the Auburn Chinese Cemetery... so be sure to join us again in 2025. And thanks for the side story on the JOSS HOUSE MUSEUM preparing to open for the summer. June 1, 2024 Saturday is when we invite in visitors. In the past, it was quite common to receive visitors from different states, even foreign countries. I love being a docent... May this article draw in others who want to join as JHM volunteers, docents, or board members!

Elizabeth X Wong

Green cards extended with I-90 form

Immigration Services announced this week it extended the life of green cards an additional one year to 36 months.

It's an acknowledgement that the agency is backlogged with processing renewal requests.

To get the extension, one must correctly file form I-90. After filing an I-90, the Immigration Service will issue a receipt which can be presented with an expired green card as evidence of one's continued eligibility to work.

And their green cards, can get a replacement by reaching out to the USCIS Contact Center.

Chinese social media's misinformation is ramping up; Example of Elon Musk's false reporting



如果不是马斯克买下了推特，美国人，将永远不会知道拜登政府，在制造毫无设防，让百万非法移民涌入的边境危机的同时，竟然通过空运，将33万非法移民，投送到美国不同的城市。让他们落地生根，获得身份，参与选举。33万人，什么概念？就是完全可以左右美国总统大选摇摆州选举结果的人数。这就是当下此刻，美国联邦政府正在做的事情。

美国的国土安全部，在拜登政府之下，完全是通过直接输入非法选民的方式，颠覆美国的选举格局，等于是改造美国的社会结构，等同于改变美国的社会制度。

如此邪恶，如此可恶...

[Translate post](#)



Elon Musk @elonmusk · Mar 5

Treason indeed! Ushering in vast numbers of illegals is why Secretary Mayorkas was impeached by the House.

They are importing voters. This is why groups on the far left fight so hard to stop voter ID requirements, under the absurd guise of protecting the right to ... [Show more](#)

4:28 PM · Mar 5, 2024 · 126.9K Views

Source: web.archive.org/web/20240729222115/https://x.com/Kunluntalk/status/1765142450946097446

Translation: If Musk hadn't bought Twitter, Americans would never have known that the Biden administration, while creating a border crisis that allowed millions of illegals to pour in, went so far as to airlift 330,000 illegals, and drop them off in different cities across America. What is the concept of 330,000 people? That's the number of people who could swing the outcome of the U.S. presidential election in swing states. That's what the U.S. federal government is doing at this very moment.

DEA Scam

The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is warning that scammers impersonating as DEA agents are extorting money and/or stealing personal identifiable information. DEA agents will never contact the public or medical professionals by phone to request money or gift cards or personal information including bank or credit card numbers. The DEA will notify people of legal action or investigations in person or by mail on official letterhead. Scammers will mask their caller-ID phone number with a legitimate DEA office number (it's called "spoofing"). If you received a call from someone claiming to be from the DEA, report the contact online at www.ic3.gov. If the caller insists on speaking with you immediately (remember, scammers always pressure the victim to act without thinking or consulting others), insist that you will call them back on a verified DEA phone number. Do not call any phone number they offer. These scammers also use fake letters sent by FAX, email or mail.

"Pig butchering" financial fraud

Financial "confidence" fraud run by Chinese crime syndicates out of Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries is being investigated by the UN and FBI. The UN says the operators are using an army of modern-day slaves, one of the largest human trafficking events in Asia in recent history, to operate this scam.

It's known as a "pig butchering" scam -- a confidence fraud in which victims are lured by scammers who are impersonating young women on the internet. The scammers then spend weeks building a relationship with their victim, introducing them to cryptocurrency and encouraging them to invest on a fake platform.

Beginning with a What's App message from a beautiful Chinese American woman "Jessica who lives in New York" (and who provides a photo of herself), "her" internet conversation develops into a close relationship with a 54 year old Chinese man in SF. They never really talk in person; it is all over the internet. She teaches him how to invest in cryptocurrency to pay for his elderly father's care, the profits are amazing. And, then one day he is locked out of his account, over \$1 M is gone as well as "Jessica," who ghosts him (disappears).

In 2020 reported losses connected to pig butchering scams amounted to \$907 million, according to the FBI. By November 2023 that number had shot up to \$2.9 billion for the year.

Lured to Thailand with promises of good paying white-collar IT jobs, thousands of people (men and women) from across the world are tricked and trafficked into criminal hubs in Myanmar whose 2021 military coup and deepening civil war has created a lucrative and ripe base for scam operations. The recruits fly into Bangkok Thailand where they are told the IT jobs are, they are picked up at the airport and driven for hours into Mae Sot, Myanmar

by the company driver. There they are held against their will and forced to steal millions in cryptocurrency. What appears to be a modern apartment compound, except for the 10 foot fence and guard tower, is housing these scam operations. The victim's passport is confiscated. He is forced to sign an employment contract, be killed or be thrown into a jail cell until he decides he has no other choice.

These pig butchering scam companies have built compounds - complete with housing, restaurants, grocery stores and even daycare centers - in special economic zones and casino towns which are loosely regulated. "Special economic zones, particularly in the Mekong, have become magnets for organized crime syndicates, at first for casinos, trafficking and related money laundering, and recently for online fraud," said Jeremy Douglas, Regional representative for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Southeast Asia. These scam companies use Thai telecommunication services.

The company managers give the victim a fake persona and teaches him how to scam - chatting with potential victims, earning their trust and building a relationship. The victim finds that 70-80 percent of the victims will fall for fake love. They are targeting Americans, Brits, Brazilians and Mexicans.

Top performing scammers are celebrated and rewarded. Poor performers are punished by being forced to do hundreds of squats and pushups, get beaten with electrical sticks and other punishment which amounts to torture. Some may be sold to other crime syndicates.

The UN estimates that up to 120,000 people could be held in compounds across Myanmar, with another 100,000 people held in Cambodia and elsewhere in conditions that amount to modern slavery. These pig butchering scam centers cropped up in 2021 and 2022 until the Cambodian government started to crack down on them.

A small team of NGO (non government organizations) is working with the Thai government and various embassies to help trafficked victims escape. In 18 months, they have helped more than 500 leave. Some are released after completing their contract without receiving any pay; others try to hire smugglers to get them out. Militias opposed to the junta is waging an offensive to stamp out scam centers, trying to recapture towns and returning gang members to China for prosecution.

The Thai government promises to stop scam operations from using Thai telecommunications services and identify corrupt civil servants aiding and protecting the traffickers or obstructing efforts to dismantle the operations.

Source: CNN, "Billion-dollar scam", by Teele Rebane, Ivan Watson, Tom Booth, Carlotta Dotto, Marco Chacon, Mark Oliver, December 27, 2023

Red flags for identifying fraud

Unsolicited calls or messages requesting money
An urgency to these requests - "you need pay money now!"

Being pressured to say "yes" to something you might not understand.

BUT BE WISE AND SAY "NO!"

Report these crimes immediately because doing so may preserve the evidence needed to track down and stop these criminals

Don't be embarrassed, don't feel vulnerable.

The scam is not an accident, but very skillfully organized scheme.

Don't blame the victim. Feel pride in their bravery to stand up to the fraudster.

Scammers we know, who are Chinese too

Derek Vincent Chu, 42, of Alamo was indicted by the US Attorney for running a \$39 million dollar Ponzi scheme involving 100-plus victims. Ponzi scheme scammers promise to invest your money to generate high returns, but use the funds of current investors to keep prior investors in the dark but happy; that is what Chu promised. He took money, tricked some into mortgaging their homes, he got others invested into cryptocurrency. He also solicited investments in the resale of professional basketball tickets at Oracle (Oakland), Staples (LA), and Chase (SF) arenas.

Chu was arrested May 2, 2023 and arraigned in federal court. The next status hearing court date is October 24, 2024, 830am, and those proceedings can be watched on the courtroom zoom (District Judge Trina Thompson, SF District Court Courtroom 9). The US Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California's website has the case information translated into Chinese and victim services are available. Many victim Chinese monolingual seniors and the US Attorney believes there are more victims who have not reported yet.

Civil lawsuits have been filed against Derek Chu and his father Felix Chu. The father was very popular in the Chinese community and trusted by many of the victims. He has not yet been indicted in the criminal case.

If you have been scammed:

Report it to the police or FBI (1-800-CALLFBI, Chinese translators are available)

Do not be ashamed to report the scam/fraud
Do not isolate yourself, there are people who can help

You can help stop the scammers from hurting others and there is power in knowing that you are not alone and that you can help protect other people

Holland Japanese Gakuen, Clarksburg

Clarksburg Japanese School is now a private home but was open to Holland Doshikai members attending the June 23rd reunion. The new owners (who have local roots) creatively remodeled leaving the basic structure intact - the stage is gone and the main room is now a large open living space with kitchen and large kitchen island, the 15 foot solid wood room divider panels have been repurposed as doors and walls, the floors and ceilings remain stained wood and were refinished.

Holland Doshikai

Greetings to members and future members of the Holland Doshikai (association, a group with same wishes). I am Stephen Hiromoto, current president of the organization. My thoughts towards continuing the Holland Doshikai is to promote fellowship amongst current and former residents of Clarksburg, as well as preserving their history. I am proposing we consider taking a new direction. Since the recent sale of the Holland Japanese Gakuen building to a private buyer, I feel as if we have lost connection to our past.

The Holland Doshikai organization was created by the earliest returnees to Clarksburg following their release from World War II internment. This group acted as a "welcoming committee" assisting families with finding housing and jobs. The Gakuen building was used as the center of operations for conducting these affairs. The Japanese returning to Clarksburg numbered far less than the huge number residing here before World War II. An effort to restart a language school and cultural center was attempted. Through the ensuing years the building was used less and less by the Holland Doshikai club. Maintenance and upkeep became an issue for the aging membership. By the 1990's, the building was leased out to various organizations or private families for their use. During the early 2000's an attempt to designate the building as a historical landmark and become eligible for relief funds failed. The Doshikai organization chose to terminate their 100-year lease and return the building to the



Tom Sakata Family (Fred Sakata Family created a lease of the property in 1925 for a term of 100 years to the Japanese Community to build and maintain the schoolhouse). Following the lease termination, the building remained vacant until it was sold to its current young Clarksburg family.

The Holland Doshikai is teaming up with the restoration of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse as a "Welcome to the Delta" interpretive center and museum. As a multifunctional structure welcoming visitors by highlighting the history and ethn makeup of Clarksburg. It will serve the community by offering school classrooms, meeting space for community organizations as well as a conference facility. Families with past ties to Clarksburg will have a place to visit and learn about how this region of Yolo County played a role in their own family history. A film "The Delta's Japanese Community: Brief History" (on YouTube), is an example of what will be included in the Japanese American exhibit. I look forward to the museum serving as a repository for family memorabilia. Imagine a meeting site where our members can learn about their own ancestral heritage and claim pride in having been a part of Clarksburg history.

The Holland Doshikai is expanding its membership by reaching out to families with a connection to Clarksburg, as well as to anyone interested in the Japanese American community of this area. The June 23rd picnic at Bruce Simmon's park/playground (next door to the Holland Gakuen School) brought together about 80 people who heard about the historic reclamation efforts which made Clarksburg farmable and the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse project.

For more information, contact Steve Hiromoto at stevehiromoto@hotmail.com or (916) 233-6725 text.

Kintsukuroi Movie

Nikkei and San Francisco native Kerwin Berk's latest film Kintsukuroi is a work of love. The almost all Nikkei (of Japanese ancestry) cast and crew were volunteers - they all knew the story of the Japanese incarceration during WWII and understood the importance of telling it; only two had professional acting experience. And, throughout production they brought in others nearly doubling the crew. Even the backdrops were volunteered - from El Dorado County's Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony to the Japanese American Museum of San Jose. Berk somehow borrowed military tanks for the Italian war scenes and vintage buses to transport Japanese Americans who opted to repatriate to Japan rather than endure incarceration in War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps. Berk depicted the story of isolation and stigma attached to No-No boys who refused the loyalty questions while the US government stripped them and their families of their civil rights. He showed the strife within the family over enlisting or not and whether to leave camp for education or work opportunities in the Midwest and east coast. The story of suicide in the WRA camps was told as well as the unjustified shooting death of James Wakasa while walking his dog inside the Topaz Utah WRA camp. He captured the anti Japanese hate which continued after VJ day when the Japanese American incarcerated and veterans returned, had no businesses or farms to return to and hotels and restaurants would not serve them. Local talent in the film include Jeff Ogata and Hach Yasumura; most of the cast and crew came from the Bay Area.

The first Sacramento showing was June 30th by the ABAS Foundation; the next local showing will be on Saturday **October 12th**, at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. A showing on Saturday **October 5th** at the Chabot Theater in Castro Valley will be a fundraiser for the Eden Township Japanese Community Center.

Hanami

by Jeffrey Reed + Jennifer Madden



Jeffrey Reed + Jennifer Madden, Hanami, polished and patinated stainless steel, glass, anodized aluminum, and LED lighting, 2024 (process photo).

Dedication Event

Robert T. Matsui Waterfront Park
450 Jibboom St., Sacramento, CA 95811
Wednesday, October 23, 2024
5:30pm-7:00pm



Scan QR and register today!



Anti AAPI hate continues

Councilmember Susan Zhuang (South Brooklyn, District 43) was ridiculed by her fellow NY Councilman Justin Brannan who called her “Susan Fang” and he brought a pair of mock teeth to a press conference. Zhuang was arrested biting a NY police officer while protesting the construction of a homeless shelter in her Brooklyn district. Zhuang says that she was assisting an elderly woman who had fallen under the barricade; the police concur that there was an elderly protestor on the ground.

AAPI San Diego police officer (name never released) on August 26, 2022 was hit and kicked by John Richards, 68 who yelled racial insults and that the officer should have been killed. Richards had been found lying on a sidewalk with his genitals exposed and under the influence of alcohol. While being transported to the hospital, Richards attacked the officer.. On June 5th Richards pled guilty to battery on a peace officer and admitted the hate crime allegation. He was immediately sentenced to one year of probation, 141 days in custody of which 60 must be served in an inpatient residential treatment program.

Thomas Nguyen, the first AAPI male contestant on ABC’s The Bachelorette (Season 21) lasted 5 weeks on the TV reality show after the first AAPI lead Jenn Tran did not pick him for future dates. After he left, he shared on Instagram that he received racist hate online: “Over the last 5 weeks I’ve gotten racial slurs, ‘go kill yourself,’ ‘I hope you die’ and every other hateful message in between based off a character you saw for 10 minutes over 5 weeks.”

New York Post apologized for falsely publishing “The shooter, identified as a Chinese man...” was involved in Trump’s July 13th Pennsylvania shooting. Within a few days, the article was updated to clarify that the shooter was “identified only as a white male.” The publication apologized for the mistake in an editor’s note at the bottom of the article. AAPI advocates say the New York Post error was dangerous and reckless reporting.

Harmeet Dhillon’s recitation of a Sikh prayer on Day 1 of the Republican National Convention (July 15th) quickly sparked racial hostility on social media: One described her Sikh prayer as being dedicated to a demonic spirit. Another said the RNC “did us and Christ dirty.” Finally, another called it “unacceptable and intolerable.” Dhillon is a member of the Republican National Committee representing California.

Seattle’s Chinese Information of Service Center filed a complaint with Seattle’s Office of Police Accountability on August 29, 2022 reporting that Seattle Police Officer Burton Hill and his wife Agnes Miggins (president of the HOA) aggressively pounded their neighbor Zhen Jin’s door and demand that she open the door. She and her elderly uncle opened the door and Hill called her “a dumb f*cking ch*nk” and a “c*nt” and threatened “you’re going to jail.”

Miggins told Jin that Hill is a police officer, carries a gun and added that Jin was going to jail. There had been complaints involving Miggins’ dog; Miggins accused Jin of leaving bones around and the two households filed restraining orders against each other. Miggins said Hill was intoxicated. The police department found that Hill violated department policy (unprofessionalism with his use of threats, profanity, racial epithet; racist and sexist remarks) and was terminated on May 2nd.

White middle-aged man walking his two little dogs in McLaren Park (SF) on June 17th, 830am, shouted to a Muslim group which had gathered in the park to celebrate Eid al-Adha and already had their prayer carpets and tarps on the grass: “Your religion is full of hate”; “You a-hole! You come from a f*cked-up country!”; “You are not welcome here, you c* suckers! You’re devils. You’re a devil!”; “I am going to put some pig grease here for you c*suckers!” (Muslims don’t eat pork); and more obscenities.

APIAVote (national get out the vote organization) and **America’s Voice** (pro immigrant advocacy organization) protested that the two House of Representatives hearings in May on the “Unprecedented Surge of Chinese illegal immigration” became a platform for hate stereotyping.

Alameda County off duty firefighter Benjamin Guild, 46, of Rocklin was off duty when he and Vath Touch crashed on the freeway near Lodi. Guild approached Touch calling him a “dumb ass Mexican. .. a f*cking Filipino.” Following the August 23rd accident, Guild’s rant included: “I don’t know what you are. Filipino? I don’t know what you are. What are you?” f*cking Filipino” - Guild was mad because he thought Touch was driving 60 mph in the fast lane and sped up when the firefighter tried to pass. “I’m not f*cking racist. I’m a firefighter,” “You’re going to be late for your f*cking \$10/hour job. b*tch.” As the argument continues and the man gets closer to Touch’s face, Touch tells him, “Don’t spit on me,” to which the man replies, “I’ll spit on you all f*cking day.” As Touch holds up his hand in front of him, the man slaps Touch’s hand, saying, “Get your hand out of my f*cking face.” The 20 year veteran firefighter has been placed on paid administrative leave for behavior not aligned with the department’s values and standards pending a department investigation. “I’m very sorry. That’s not me,” he later told CBS News Sacramento. “I had a bad day. That doesn’t represent my family.”

Pat Karaphat - September 17th around 4am Karaphat was walking home to his SF Tenderloin District apartment when he was punched 5 times by a tall, heavily built man who brandished a knife, repeatedly shouting “F*cking Asian,” “F*cking monkey,” but no homophobic slurs. The assailant did not demand money and did not try to rob Karaphat. Karaphat later went to the hospital, was diagnosed with a head injury and told to watch for concussion symptoms (persistent headaches, nausea dizziness, vision changes, confusion, loss of consciousness); he took 2 days off from his job at a dumpling restaurant. SFPD arrived

within 5 minutes and needs tips from the public (415/575-4444) to identify the assailant. Karaphat wants the man to go to jail and to be able to walk safely to “our homes in whatever neighborhood we live in.”

Nana Dim Sum’s opening celebration in Boulder Colorado was marred with a man disrupting young children performing a cultural dance with racial slurs and anti-Asian insults. It was September 2024; the man was later arrested in possession of a knife and charged with felony menacing and third-degree assault charges.

Timothy Stewart, former mayor of New Britain Connecticut recently posted on Facebook a racist remark. He was responding to another person’s comment on a post about Trump incorrectly claiming that Haitian immigrants in Ohio were eating house pets. “I have a few friends in Ohio, and they said that they are killing and eating geese ducks and cats. I said so far they are leaving the dogs alone.” Stewart replied, “Need to bring in some Asians for that,” with a laughing emoji.

Amy Wax, a University of Pennsylvania law professor, said in 2021 interview that the county would be better off with “fewer Asians and less immigration.” “It’s just harder to assimilate those people or to have confidence that our way of life will continue if we bring a lot of people in who are not familiar with it,” she said. In another appearance on Fox, she described India as a “sh**hole country” and singled out Brahmin women from India, stating that although they enjoy success in the US, they continue to “dump on America” despite their success. Brahmins are members of the highest caste in Hindu. She has also made disparaging remarks about the academic achievements of Black students and that “our country will be better off with more whites and fewer nonwhites.” In September, the university suspended Wax for one year for “flagrantly unprofessional conduct.” She will forfeit summer pay, lose her named chair at Penn, is required at public appearances to make a disclaimer that she does not speak for the university or law school, but did not lose her job or her tenure. Wax had appealed the sanctions imposed last year. The recent decision clarifies that academic freedom protected speech does not include racist remarks.

BAP Shri Swaminarayan Mandir temple at Mather (Sacramento) was vandalized on September 24-25 with spray painted Hinduphobic messages “Hindus go back” and cut water pipes. The incident is being investigated as a hate crime by the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department. Ten days earlier a similar incident happened at BAPS Mandir temple in New York.

Christopher T. Huynh, a gay West Covina police officer of Chinese descent (he interpreted for Cantonese speakers) filed a tentative settlement for his lawsuit against the city on June 4th. When his colleagues called him “Wuhan” in front of command staff and made derogatory remarks about food that Asians eat and Huynh’s sexual orientation. Huynh reported the offensive conduct and administration did nothing - the complaints “fell on deaf ears” and the administration did nothing to curtail the harassing conduct. The management retaliated against Huynh with unwarranted scrutiny,

Anti AAPI hate continues

Continued from Page 12

denying a pay increase and fired him for alleged dishonesty in relation to an on-duty car accident. The suit was filed in October 2022.

Savannah Gankiewicz, 28, of Oahu was crowned Miss USA in May 2024 replacing Noelia Voight who resigned for mental health reasons and to avoid the toxic work environment and sexual harassment within the organization. Miss Teen USA Uma Sofia Srivastava, 17, also stepped away from her title and the group. Gankiewicz who had been Miss Hawaii 2023 reported death threats and hate messages, bullying and harassment. She wants young women to know that you can be bullied and you can get hurt, but you stand up and you keep going and you keep using your voice.

Law focuses on hate on public transportation

Senate Bill 434 was signed by Governor Newsom which requires the top 10 public transportation operators to collect and disclose data on harassment incidents. Advocate groups including Stop AAPI Hate worked with Senator Dave Min to get this law to protect women, seniors, LGBTQ+ and other vulnerable communities who too often ride in fear or have left the public transit systems altogether."

DACAs as cops

SB 960 (effective 1/1/2023) makes applicants with federal work authorization eligible to become cops in California and this includes Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) beneficiaries. Before SB 960, the law required peace officers to be US citizens or lawful permanent residents. Law enforcement agencies have been slow at taking advantage of this larger applicant pool - in December 2023 UC Davis Police Department Police Chief Joe Farrow hired his first DACA officer Ernesto Moron. Los Angeles has hired 10 officers under SB 960. Colorado and Illinois have welcomed DACA cops onto their police forces for years.

Opponents claim that the citizenship requirement to legally possess a firearm is contrary to the new law. Proponents point out that DACA officers have the authority to possess a firearm for use in the performance of their official duties or other law enforcement purposes, on or off duty, and the federal Gun Control Act of 1968 has an exception when the firearm or ammunition is department issued.

Most law enforcement agencies are having trouble hiring cops. Farrow believes that SB 960 opens up the potential to recruit from the immigrant communities - "They are part of our community, they go to school here, they learn here, they teach here, so having undocumented police officers was the next step into completing the idea of (having a police force) representing our community." SB 960 author Senator Nancy Skinner wants to improve community-law enforcement relationship by increasing the visibility and representation of people from the neighborhoods. Other benefits of SB 960 is the larger, more diverse applicant pool will produce more multilingual candidates.



UC Collaborative exploring Violence against AAPI

Threshold, a program choreographed by Claudine Naganuma and SanSan Kwan, is part of a multifaceted project organized by the Anti-Asian Violence: Origins and Trajectories Research Initiative (AAVOT) and will be performed October 18-20 at the UCD Mondavi Center. The initiative is a collaborative effort among UC Davis, UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC Irvine that began in 2023.

The initiative has a number of components including: a course this fall in Asian American Studies on "Re-viewing Anti-Asian Violence"; a series of talks by Professors Kandice Chuh and Chandan Reddy and artists Elaine Chu and Marina Perez-Wong on anti-Asian violence in collaboration with UC Berkeley's Center for Race and Gender; a graduate student workshop at UCLA; a policy brief; a special issue of Amerasia Journal, a mini-exhibition in the lobby of the Mondavi Center that focuses on this topic; and Threshold, two dance performances, Unbound and Two Doors, choreographed by Claudine Naganuma and SanSan Kwan, which will explore the kinetics of violence and resistance.

During the height of COVID-19, a number of brutal videos and photographs circulated that supplement the statistics and reportage of anti-Asian incidents that escalated during the pandemic. Viewing the ceaseless image stream of crime scenes, victim mugshots, and portraits of grief on news streams and social media risks succumbing to a feeling of shock and alienation. Missing in these distanced encounters of violence are not only questions that fall outside the frame of these images, but also safe and empathetic spaces to process and learn about the context of these incidents, the care and intimacy to begin healing, and open-

ended prompts to talk about dark subjects and awkward scenarios.

In addition to making knowledge accessible and shared with a wider audience, the arts have been pivotal in disarming and enchanting, engaging and activating the viewer vis-a-vis movement and dialogue, photography and sculpture, film and video. The arts can imagine the future, help guide and illustrate next steps and/or reimagine possibilities.

For more information, <https://crg.berkeley.edu/research/research-initiatives/anti-asian-violence-origins-and-trajectories-research-initiative>

ABOUT CURRENTS

Currents is a free community newspaper published three times a year entirely by volunteers. Currents covers local and national issues and events affecting the Asian Pacific American communities of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect endorsement by the other organizations and are those of the authors or the Editorial Board. The Editor reserves the right to reject prospective materials or advertisements. Current is distributed by bulk mail and other outlets. Currents articles may be reprinted without specific permission, but the source "Currents" and author should be acknowledged. Next publication date: January/Winter 2025. Deadline: December 15, 2024. Circulation: 7,000. Editor: Pattie Fong. Distribution assisted by: The Sacramento Gazette (David Fong), Hach Yasumura, Tim Fong/CSUS-Asian American Studies, and UCD Asian American Studies. Many graphics are by Randall Ishida (dec). Advertising rates: 3.5" X 2", \$50; 5" X 6", \$80; 10" X 6", \$200. Currents has no physical office, but donations, advertisements, addresses changes and other inquiries can be sent to Currents/Davis Asians for Racial Equality, PO Box 4163, Davis 95617. Inquiries can be emailed to pmfong@hotmail.com

“No Muslim Ban Ever” Lawsuit

On May 14, 2024, in an unwavering assertion of people’s rights to find safety and a better life, US District Judge James Donato (Northern District of California, SF Division) has approved a major agreement that provides a clear visa reconsideration process, including waived application fees, to nearly 25,000 community members from Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen who were harmed by the Trump administration’s Muslim Ban.

As a result of former President Trump’s Muslim Ban, the policy denied thousands of people a fair chance at obtaining a visa and subsequently deprived them of opportunities for family reunification, jobs, and education. In 2018, community members who were unjustly denied their visas and immigration services groups like Pars Equality Center filed lawsuits to ensure the US government created a fair, efficient visa reconsideration process. Since then, the US government has dragged its feet, despite consistent rulings from the court confirming the State Department’s responsibility.

Last year, the federal judge went so far as to call the government’s handling of the lawsuits a “theater of the absurd.” In March, the judge consolidated the two cases, *Emami v. Nielsen* and *Pars Equality Center v. Blinken*, and granted them class-action status—calling out the government for being “careless and obstructive” and “wholly unjust,” and for “hobbl[ing] the fair administration of justice.”

“My family should have had its visas considered more than six years ago, but we’re living in limbo because the State Department refused to make things right,” said Maral Tabrizi. “My child turned six in February and has never met her grandparents because of these unfair denials. Starting from scratch in the application process would wipe out our savings. President Biden ended the Muslim Ban on his first day in office, and still former President Trump is threatening to bring it back. With this federal court ruling, we’re making it unmistakable that the harms remain, and that there’s a clear, unmistakable that the harms remain, and that there’s a clear, simple solution that lives up to the best of U.S. values: an efficient, transparent process that gives us the fair chance we were cruelly denied because of who we are.”

The agreement requires notice to all eligible class members on how to reapply for a visa and obtain a fee waiver for new nonimmigrant or immigrant visa applications. Class members can also request prioritization for consular interviews, and the US government must provide periodic reports to the court on the resolution of class member disputes, the number of fee waivers claimed, and, ultimately, the total number of visas issued and refused under this agreement.

Despite ending the Ban in 2021, tens of thousands have remained trapped in a black hole, missing out on more and more life events happening in their families across the world for the past seven years,” said Shabnam Lotfi, Lotfi

Legal LLC.

“It is a testament to our plaintiffs, community, and coalition who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment in the face of years of adversity and heartache, to repair those unconscionable harms and pursue lasting justice in this hard-fought case,” said Babak Yousefzadeh, Iranian American Bar Association.

“For too long, families have been unjustly separated because of discriminatory immigration policies. Despite the rescission of the Muslim Ban, the lingering effects continue to haunt countless individuals who have been trapped in this situation for far too long,” said Paris Etemadi Scott, Pars Equality Center. “This agreement offers a glimmer of hope, providing a clear pathway for visa reconsideration and offering much-needed relief.”

“Our class action victory was achieved through the relentless and fearless advocacy of community members harmed by the “Our class action victory was achieved through the relentless and fearless advocacy of community members harmed by the Muslim Ban,” said Zahra Billoo, executive director of CAIR San Francisco Bay Area and co-chair of the No Muslim Ban Ever coalition. “As we move forward to ensure every eligible community member gets their fair chance at travel and family unity, a powerful movement of people in the US and around the world are working to make sure this never happens again.”

The Emami plaintiffs are represented by Muslim Advocates, Lotfi Legal LLC, and Perkins Coie LLP, and the Pars Equality Center plaintiffs are represented by the Iranian American Bar Association, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus, CAIR California, the National Immigration Law Center, and Arnold & Porter. The No Muslim Ban Ever coalition is the largest grassroots campaign that worked to repeal the Trump administration’s Muslim and African Bans.

In the coming weeks, the No Muslim Ban Ever coalition and partner organizations will provide details on how eligible community members can get more information and apply for their visas.

“NO BAN” Act legislation

Muslim Advocates celebrate the reintroduction of the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants (“NO BAN”) Act. The bills, reintroduced by Representative Judy Chu (D-Calif.) and Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.), would close loopholes in immigration law to prevent future presidents from enacting another Muslim and Africa Ban or similar, discriminatory bans. Muslim Advocates has worked with members of Congress, impacted families, and partner organizations with the No Muslim Ban Ever coalition for years to support the bill.

Shelving China Initiative did not stop espionage investigations.

AAPIs take a hit. Be smart and actually physically meet the people reaching out to you.

The China Initiative, a Trump administration Department of Justice (DOJ) campaign, launched in 2018 to fight against intellectual property and economic espionage from China has re-surfaced. The China Initiative targeted predominantly Chinese American researchers and was condemned by academics and civil rights advocates for being racially biased. In 2022 the Biden administration abandoned the program. Espionage prosecutions pre-date the China Initiative - in 1999 UC Los Alamos scientist Wen Ho Lee was charged with improper handling of restricted information which resulted in one misdemeanor for mishandling sensitive documents; 58 other counts were dismissed. [Lee later sued the government and settled for \$1.65 million in legal expenses, to which five news organizations voluntarily contributed \$750,000).

Twenty Republican leaders say 160 people or organizations were indicted under the China Initiative and at least 45 led to convictions or guilty pleas.

The China Initiative has been re-born by the Republican-controlled Congress as one bill among 25 focused on controlling China’s influence in the US. Most “China Week” bills passed with bipartisan support; roll call votes reflect disputes. The Senate may act on these bills after the November 2024 election; some may get attached to the upcoming budget bill.

“25 China Week Bills”

September 9-12

In September, 25 bills were introduced in a single package vote, a procedure used to quickly pass “noncontroversial bills” in the House which require 2/3 vote of the members present and voting, to protect the US against military, economic, ideological and e-technological threats posed by People’s Republic of China (PRC). The Republicans claim that passing these bills now will provide the incoming president more tools to combat threats from China. Democrats claim that the Republicans passed these bills to show the American public that Republicans can actually pass legislation and are “protective” of the country but failed to include more important issues like outbound investments, the de minimis exception to forced labor laws (allows the import of cheap products and minerals from Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region China without the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act compliance), and fentanyl and precious minerals brought into the country. To the Chinese community, the portrayal of China as the preeminent threat to the US contributes to festering anti AAPI racist attitudes and violence

because many Americans cannot distinguish between Chinese Americans and Chinese foreign nationals/PRC.

The 25 bills passed by the House are:

BIOSECURE Act HR 8333 - Designates Chinese military company BGI Geromics and Chinese Communist Party (CCP) aligned biotechnology companies Wuxi AppTec and Wuxi Biologics as “foreign adversary biotechnology companies” and ineligible for certain federal contracts. This legislation focuses on protecting Americans’ genetic data and US firms from CCP backed biotechnology companies.

Countering CCP Drones Act HR 2864 - Places Chinese military drone company DJI on the FCC Covered List and is therefore not allowed to be operated in the US.

Decoupling from Foreign Adversarial Battery Dependence Act HR 8631 - Forbids US Homeland Security from buying batteries from 6 companies owned and operated in China: Gotion, BYD, CATL, Envision, EVE, and Hithium. Gotion and CATL are both CCP-aligned battery makers who use forced labor and are involved in ongoing genocide; they plan to build factories in the US.

Economic Espionage Prevention Act HR 8361 - Imposes sanctions on foreign entities involved in economic or industrial espionage or supporting foreign adversaries’ military and intelligence sectors. Requires the president to impose sanctions (property blocking, visa revocation, penalties) on entities engaged in stealing US trade secrets, violating export control law or providing critical components for foreign military use.

Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024 HR 9456 (roll call vote 269-149) - Amends the Defense Production Act to include the Secretary of Agriculture in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS) review of transactions involving agricultural land, agricultural biotechnology, or agricultural transportation, storage, and processing. CFIUS is directed to review USDA reports regarding reportable agricultural land transactions involving a foreign person from China, Russia, Iran, or North Korea.

DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act HR 1516 - (roll call vote 249-161) restricts DHS funding (including FEMA disaster funds) to institutions of higher education that maintain a Confucius Institute (Chinese cultural exchange programs) or similar PRC entity of concern.

End Chinese Dominance of Electric Vehicles in America Act HR 7980 - Adjusts IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) definition to prevent foreign entities of concern from investing and qualifying for the 30D electric vehicle tax credits. The IRA “Billionaire Loophole” allowed Chinese investors to get American tax dollars/tax credits by investing in American EV projects (like battery manufacturing).

Countering the PRC Malign Influence Fund Authorization Act HR 1157 - A \$325 million annually from 2023 to 2027 to counter the malign influence of the CCP and the PRC globally. “Malign influence” includes acts

to advance an alternative and repressive international order that bolsters the CCP and China’s hegemonic ambitions or undermine the national security, economic security, or sovereignty of the US or other countries.

Science and Technology Agreement Enhanced Congressional Notification Act HR 5425 - Requires the Dept. of State to notify Congress in advance of any science and technology agreements with China.

Protect America’s Innovation and Economic Security from CCP Act of 2024 – HR 1398 (roll call vote 237-180) - Reestablishes a CCP Initiative (CHINA INITIATIVE) within the US Department of Justice’s (DOJ) National Security Division to counter threats to the US from the PRC including state-sponsored espionage against US IP and academic institutions. The program is to identify and prosecute individuals engaged in trade secret theft, hacking, and economic espionage; identify cases under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act involving Chinese companies that compete with US businesses; and protect US critical infrastructure against external threats through foreign direct investment and supply chain compromises. The legislation requires the Attorney General to report annually to Congress. If passed into law, the CCP Initiative would sunset after six years, unless reauthorized.

Taiwan Conflict Deterrence Act HR 554 – Deters Chinese aggression toward Taiwan by mandating the Secretary of the Treasury to report on financial institutions and accounts connected to senior Chinese government officials.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) Certification Act HR 1103 – Requires the president to annually determine whether HKETOs should continue to operate in the US under the privileges provided by the International Organizations Immunities Act. If the president certifies to Congress that the HKETOs no longer merit these privileges, they must cease operations within 180 days. If the certification supports their continued operation, they may remain for another year unless Congress disapproves. The president may also revoke these privileges at any time, and federal entities may only partner with HKETOs if they are authorized to operate under this bill.

No WHO Pandemic Preparedness Treaty Without Senate Approval Act HR 1425 (roll call vote 219-199) - Mandates that all international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) must be treated as a treaty and require Senate ratification by a two-thirds majority. The bill cites concerns over WHO’s management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognizing the Importance of Trilateral Cooperation Among the United States, Japan and South Korea HR 1056 – This resolution commends South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio for restoring relations between their countries in 2023 after years of strained ties. This bill encourages continued collaboration among the three nations across various sectors and recognizes the shared democratic values and

alliances.

Pacific Partnership Act HR 7159 – Strengthens US engagement with the Pacific Islands through a comprehensive strategy promoting peace, security, prosperity, and respect for sovereignty in the region and coordinating those efforts.

Economic Espionage Prevention Act HR 8361 - Authorizes the President to impose visa and property-blocking sanctions on foreign adversary entities engaging in economic and industrial espionage (trade secrets, proprietary information owned by US citizens), providing material support or services to those entities, or violating US export control laws. “Foreign adversaries” is defined as China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, and the Maduro regime of Venezuela.

Removing Our Unsecured Technologies to Ensure Reliability and Security (ROUTERS) Act HR 7589 - US Dept. of Commerce shall study the national security risks posed by routers, modems and devices which are designed, developed, manufactured or supplied by China, Russia, Iran, North Korea.

Foreign Adversary Communications Transparency Act HR 820 - FCC is required to identify licensees with reportable ownership by Chinese, Russian, Iranian and North Korean governments or entities.

Securing Global Telecommunications Act HR 4741 - Secretary of State is to prepare a strategy for promoting secure telecommunications infrastructure outside of the US and report on Russian and Chinese efforts to influence policies which will be presented to the International Telecommunication Union. This bill extends US efforts to coordinate with and encourage global allies to replace Chinese-produced equipment and services with products from “trusted” companies.

Remote Access Security Act HR 8152 - Closes a loophole in Dept. of Commerce ability to control the export, re-export and in-country transfer of items subject to US export control. Access to these products through the cloud and internet has evaded Dept. of Commerce oversight.

To Amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act HR 7686 - Clarifies the definition of “foreign country” for purposes of malign foreign talent recruitment restriction, and for other purposes.

Maintaining American Superiority by Improving Export Control Transparency Act HR 6614 - Amends Export Control Reform Act (ECRA) to require quarterly reports to Congress on license applications, enforcement actions and other request for authorization for the export, re-export, release, and in-country transfer of items to entities on Commerce’s Entity and Military end-User lists.

To Amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 HR 6606 - Add the protection of trade secrets as a policy goal of the US export control program.

Export Control Enforcement and Enhancement Act HR 7151 - Amends ECRA to expedite the adding, removing or modifying of entities on

Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) challenged

Diversity - acknowledging differences in human identity

Equity - fair and just allocation of resources, access and opportunity so everyone can succeed

Inclusion - intentional effort to ensure equitable access and involvement in community and decision-making, creating environments where everyone feels welcomed, respected, supported and valued

The US Supreme Court abolished affirmative action programs in its June 29, 2023 decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* and *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill*. In the meanwhile DEI programs had been developing to expand opportunity without any focus on race. Conservatives continue file lawsuits against equity programs to intimidate corporate leaders and educational institutions. Former President Trump's rant "Make America Great Again (for White males)" spurs conservatives into believe that increasing opportunities for traditionally underprivileged communities is a bad thing and white privilege is a naturally occurring phenomenon.

DEI programs are under attack:

- Harvard and MIT, intimidated by conservative attacks, have back away from requiring **diversity statements** in their faculty hiring processes. The UC system was first, about 10 years ago, to require diversity statements believed to help build welcoming environments for a diverse student population. The statements were a tool to encourage commitment to improving opportunities for marginalized and underrepresented groups. Critics called diversity statements dogmatic, coercive, a modern-day loyalty oath (reference McCarthy-era communist witch hunts) having limited value and say that diversity in the recruitment applicant pool is where to focus.
- **Florida's** Senate Bill 266 (effective July 1, 2023) eliminated DEI programs, forbids fields of study (majors) involving race and gender studies, prohibits any expenditure on activities that promote DEI, and imposes a new general education requirement focusing on Western European civilization. On April 19, 2024, HB7 "Individual Freedom" became law and bans educators from teaching critical race theory because "it makes students feel guilty or shame about their race based on historical events." [This includes not teaching students about the 1921 Tulsa Race massacre aka Black Wall Street massacre (May 31- June 1). Greenwood, the second largest Black American community in the country, was burned to the ground by an angry white mob whose information was from false newspaper reports published by the Tulsa Tribune and Daily World claiming that Dick Rowland (a black shoe shiner) attempted to rape Sarah Page (white elevator operator). Rowland says he tripped and accidentally grabbed Page's arm, she screamed and hit

him with her purse. Page never filed any charges and never reported a sexual assault. The police relied on the newspaper articles to arrest Rowland, white mobs were eager to lynch him and when Rowland was not released to the mob, they vented their anger and over the course of 18 hours destroyed 35 city blocks of Greenwood, 1,256 homes were destroyed, 400 homes looted and 100-300 died. That is critical race theory.]

- The Manhattan and Goldwater Institutes have proposed model **state legislation** which would prohibit college from hiring DEI officers, training staff to identify and oppose systemic racism, requiring a commitment to diversity statements, following prior institutional commitments to social justice and allowing students to use their preferred pronouns. (The Plan to Dismantle DEI, Eric Kelderman, January 20, 2023).
- Bud Light/Ab InBev, Target and Kohl faced **customer and stockholder pushback** on LBGQT+ merchandizing campaigns in 2023. Netflix, Disney and Warner Brothers have eliminated high level DEI executive positions. Republican attorneys general from more than 20 states are suing or pressuring asset managers, individual companies and the Biden administration over various ESG-related matters. (ESG=environmental, social and governance, i.e. DEI in the investment context.) The Business Roundtable's declaration to "commit to deliver value to all" and other feel-good rhetoric was "mostly for show" and is being abandoned. The pressure to abandon DEI comes from when "Presidential candidates declare war on 'woke' corporations, and wealthy donors quietly funnel money into lawsuits and organized online campaigns against business and civil institutions." Fordham University School of Law Professor Atinuke Adediran adds, "You can be doing nothing and still get sued," (Fortune, The Trolling of Corporate America, Oct/Nov 2023).

California still has a commitment to DEI. Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-16-22 (September 13, 2022) directs all agencies and departments to develop or update the strategic plan to reflect the use of data analysis and inclusive practices to more effectively advance equity and to respond to identified disparities with changes to the organization's mission, vision, goals, data tools, policies, programs, operations, community engagement, tribal consultation policies and practices, and other actions as necessary to serve all Californians.

And local efforts, such as APSEA Foundation's DEI scholarships, are examples on how individuals and groups can promote DEI goals without the involvement of government or business just because it is the right thing to do and something we can do.



Racial stereotypes abound in our society, and our Asian American communities are just as guilty of buying into them as other groups. But if we get to know people from other racial backgrounds and develop meaningful relationships, then we can move beyond stereotypes. Of course, Diggy's dad will still be Diggy's dad though ...

Martin and Rich Lee are second-generation Korean American brothers. Martin is a retired elementary school teacher and the illustrator of the strip. Rich is a professor of psychology in Asian American studies at the University of Minnesota and writes the content. They are regular contributors to the online news service



What are Reparations? Asian Americans for Civils Right and Equality (AACRE) recently released a bilingual English-Chinese zine on reparations for Black communities and communities of color, which Chinese for Affirmative Action supported through translations and Chinese community outreach. This zine (a small circulation, self-published work) highlights the history and significance of Black communities in San Francisco and why supporting reparations is beneficial to everybody. If you'd like to grab a copy of the zine yourself, and perhaps, check out some more Asian American diaspora art and activism, come by Edge on the Square (800 Grant Ave, SF) to see the exhibit "Walking Stories" co-presented by AACRE. The free exhibit is open Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 am - 4pm.

California reparation update

Don Tamaki, the only non-Black member of the 9-member California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, says that conservative pundits on Fox News and January 6, 2021 Capital insurrection have helped people “realize the values of 1619 that propped up the institution of slavery and its after effects that still impact the nation today.”

In August 1619 a ship landed near Point Comfort, Virginia and brought to America the first 20 enslaved Africans who were sold to the colonists. 250 years of slavery followed in all 13 colonies. 12.5 million Africans were transported to the New World; 10.7 million survived the Middle Passage; 388,000 were brought to the US (3.6% of Africans transported to the New World.) The majority of African slaves were sent to Brazil and the Caribbean. The United States could not have developed economically without the availability of this slave labor force. Cheap labor, such as Chinese railroad workers, has always been critical for economic growth. Tamaki says that reparations is a justice issue and we need to educate ourselves and help push the needle of public opinion in support of reparations.

Arguments against reparations:

“California was never a slave state” (false, California’s Fugitive Slave Act of 1852 allowed slaveholders to reclaim escaped slaves and return them to the South and this law shows that California aided and abetted slavery.)

“It’s too late to do anything about the effects of slavery” (false, if every person and each generation has potential to have a better life, it is never too late to create opportunities to improve their situations)

“It’s a welfare handout for undeserving people” (false, when you consider the impact of generational wealth and how generation wealth is absent for most Black Americans. Add to that economic disadvantage and discrimination which still persists, there will never be a level playing field for Black Americans)

“Individual reparations compensation is too much, unaffordable, preposterous” (false, what is the real cost to society in not giving equal access to a good education, schools, health care, employment, environment without overt and implicit racism and trying to eliminate generational poverty?)

“Other groups have suffered” (false, compared to Black Americans, other groups didn’t/don’t have it so bad)

“Taxpayers should not be straddled for harms inflicted by people long dead” (false, It is time to stop kicking the can down the road. Levelling the playing field will not happen spontaneously or evolve on its own.)

California’s 2024 reparations legislation which has been signed into law:

Formally apologizing for slavery AB 3089 affirms California’s recognition of the harms caused

by chattel slavery and issues a formal apology, which will be memorialized with a plaque in the State Capitol.

Addressing food & medical deserts SB 1089 requires grocery stores and pharmacies to provide advance notice to the community and workers before closures, helping to address food deserts that disproportionately affect communities of color.

Strengthening protections against discrimination AB 1815 clarifies that “race” includes traits associated with race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles, providing stronger protections against discrimination.

California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act (combating maternal health disparities) AB 2319 requires hospitals to report compliance information and authorizes the Attorney General to enforce against hospitals that are out of compliance with existing law requiring perinatal health care workers to complete anti-bias trainings.

Increasing access to literature in prisons AB 1986 mandates the Office of the Inspector General to post and review the list of banned books in state prisons, promoting access to literature for incarcerated individuals.

Child Care Stabilization And Education AB 51 - Equitable funding of community childcare providers and create a just transition for community-based providers as California state preschool program is implemented.

California Kids Investment and Development Savings (KIDS) Program AB 2508 – Eligibility for the CalKIDS program - a college saving account - to include all foster youth in grades 1-12 who will receive an additional \$500 in their account.

Foster care payments AB 2906 – Foster children’s federal benefits shall not be used to pay any costs of the child’s care and supervision.

Localize Enforcement of Workplace Discrimination Cases SB 1340 - Local government may enforce local laws prohibiting discrimination in employment as long as the law is at least as protective as the Unruh Civil Rights Act.

“California Black-Serving Institutions” SB 1348 establishes the state designation of “California Black-Serving Institutions” to recognize higher education campuses that excel in providing resources and support to Black students.

Proposition 6 is on the November ballot to prohibit the state from not paying a fair wage for the work of prisoners.

Legislation which did not get a floor vote and failed during this legislative term:

SB 1403 would have created the California Freedmen Affairs Agency to oversee and administer reparations.

SB 1331 would have compensated families who had their property taken from them in racially motivated applications of eminent domain.

South Korea’s mental health crisis

Actor Lee Sun-kyun, 48, died of suicide on December 27th in a car near Waryong Park in central Seoul. In the movie Parasite (Oscar Best Picture in 2019) he played a wealthy entrepreneur whose family home was infiltrated by a poor family. He starred in dozens of films and TV shows. Since October the police was investigating Lee for drug use; he claimed that he did not know the drugs were sleeping pills or illegal and said that the woman was blackmailing him. His drug tests were negative or inconclusive. Lee was subjected to 3 rounds of questioning with the last session on the prior Saturday lasting 19 hours. After the accusations were made, Lee was dropped from a TV series or other commercial projects and his reputation was considerably damaged. Earlier in 2023, the government started a crackdown on drugs, including marijuana.

In Korea, the mental well-being of South Korean celebrities and public figures face significant pressure from the competitive and stressful Korean entertainment industry and any perceived transgression takes its toll:

December 2017 - Superstar Kim Jong-hyun took his own life at the age of 27.

November 2019 - K-pop singer Sull (band f(x)), 25, was found dead of an apparent suicide.

November 2019 - K-pop artist Goo Hara (girl band Kara,, 28, died and had been suffering from depression.

April 2023 - K-pop star Moon Bin (boy band Astro), died at the age of 25.

In South Korea, in 2021 the suicide rate was 26 out of every 100,000. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development says the suicide rate in Japan is 15.7 per 100,000 and in the US 14.1 per 100,000.

In September 2023, teachers held mass protests after a teacher committed suicide; her death was blamed on South Korea’s high-pressure education system and its burden on teachers. Between January 2018 to June 2023, 100 public school teachers took their own lives.

In politics, in 2009 former president Roh Moo-hyun took his own life amidst a bribery investigation that had tarnished his reputation.

The high suicide rate is attributed to: Social stigma - few seek help, public shame, entertainers are more sensitive to public views.

Intense online culture is imposing stricter moral standards on actors and singers.

Mental health is rarely discussed, its a taboo subject and a sign of weakness.

increasingly competition and stress in the culture and society. There is a lack of time to seek therapy.

Young people have an unemployment rate that is three times higher than the national average. Forty percent have stopped looking.

There is a massive housing crunch around Seoul. Crippling financial distress has exacerbated mental health.

Increasing alcohol use is degrading the mental health of South Koreans broadly.

Currents on your health

Stop Smoking!

Asian Smoker's Quitline

Sacramento community partners are promoting FREE help and special incentive offers to quit smoking with the Asian Smokers' Quitline (ASQ). ASQ is a free nationwide quitline whose Quit Coaches can speak Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Korean. ASQ has doubled their participants' chances of quitting successfully.

Since February 1, 2024, ASQ has offered a \$20 gift card for completing an intake call. ASQ already provides eligible callers a free two-week supply of nicotine patches which are mailed to the participant's home. Currently, ASQ is expanding the incentives so that friends or family calling to help someone quit are eligible for the reward as well.

Connect with ASQ in Chinese 1-800-838-8917 (or www.asq-chinese.org), Vietnamese 1-800-778-8440 (or www.asq-viet.org), or Korean 1-800-556-5564 (www.asq-korean.org) or check the website at www.asiansmokersquitline.org. For more help or questions, contact the Paul Hom Asian Clinic, the nation's oldest free student-run clinic which offers free primary care services and translation services. For more information, check www.paulhomasianclinic.org or call 916/542-2737). Health care provider and other community referrals can be made by email to asq@ucsd.edu, 858/300-1015. ASQ is funded by the US Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and since 2012 has served over 8,000 callers.

Cancer study

National Cancer Institute announced funding \$12.45 million on a project to focus on cancer etiology (the cause of the disease) in AAPIs. Researchers leading the study are from UCSF and UC Irvine and they hope to recruit 20,000 participants this year with the ultimate goal to have 50,000 involved. This is the first long-term study of AAPI cancer ever.

Study participants will be asked to give saliva samples and a commitment which could last several years. The project will involve remotely conducted interviews so travel will not be required. Some of the research issues raised are: Why are AAPI women who don't smoke susceptible to lung cancer?; Why is there a high rate of nasopharyngeal (head and neck) cancer in Chinese Americans?; Why is there a prevalence of liver cancer in Southeast Asian Americans?; Why is there a significant occurrence of gastric cancer in Korean and Japanese Americans?; Why are Filipino Americans getting thyroid cancer?; Why have AAPIs become the first racial/ethnic group for whom cancer is the leading cause of death?; Why is breast cancer increasing among young AAPI women?

The grant supports the creation of a national cohort (group of people in a study and observed over time), ASPIRE Asian American Prospective Research, which will be a network of partners across 20 academic institutions, 40 community organizations and 2 AAPI health

policy groups. Participants will be recruited from selected regions which comprise more than a third of the nation's AAPI populations: California (Bay Area, LA, Orange County, Sacramento), metropolitan New York including New Jersey, and the Philadelphia metropolitan area.

National Academies report health inequities

On June 26th National Academy of Medicine released its report: "Little Progress Has Been Made in Closing Racial and Ethnic Gaps in U.S. Health Care; Federal Government Should Act to Fix Structural Inequities." Victor J. Dzau, president of the National Academy of Medicine commented, "When the (National Academy of Medicine) released its landmark 'Unequal Treatment' report in 2002, we shed light on the fact that your race could determine the quality of the care you receive. Twenty years later, it is clear that our nation has not made enough progress. There are still major inequities inherent in the health care system. It is imperative that we achieve equitable health for all by committing to pursuing and implementing the goals and actions laid out in this new report."

The reports identifies several areas to address:

Goal 1: Generate accurate and timely data on inequities. The report urges several implementation actions — for example, at the federal level, the Office of Management and Budget should more aggressively enforce the administration-wide requirement for routine collection of race, ethnicity, tribal affiliation, and language data by all agencies overseeing federal health care and research programs.

Goal 2: Equip health care systems and expand effective and sustainable interventions. Among the recommended implementation actions, Congress should increase funding for effective health care delivery programs shown to improve access and quality and reduce health care inequities.

Goal 3: Invest in research and evidence generation to better identify and widely implement interventions that eliminate health care inequities. As one action to implement this goal, NIH and other federal and nonfederal research funders should expand funding for research aimed at addressing health care inequities, structural racism, and health-related social needs, and at exploring various approaches, strategies, and policies needed to eliminate health care inequities.

Goal 4: Ensure adequate resources to enforce existing laws and build systems of accountability that explicitly focus on eliminating health care inequities and advancing health equity. Many current laws and regulations have been underused, the report notes. For example, the Office for Civil Rights at HHS is under-resourced, limiting its efforts to enforce civil rights statutes and address the complaints it receives from

individuals. Moreover, several ACA (Obamacare) provisions that could significantly advance racial and ethnic equity in health care are enforced sporadically or not at all. To remedy this, Congress and HHS should ensure adequate resources are available to enable the office to enforce the ACA's prohibition on discrimination in covered health programs or activities.

Goal 5: Eliminate inequities in health care coverage, access, and quality. To implement this goal, Congress should establish a pathway to affordable, comprehensive health insurance for everyone, the report says. Congress should also establish a pathway to the adoption and implementation of Medicaid payment policies on par with Medicare.

UCD Health psychiatrist Ruth Shim, a member of the study's committee, the Kim Professor in Cultural Psychiatry and the medical school's associated dean of DEI education says the report's take away is "that health is not a zero-sum game. If we focus on improving the health outcomes for racial and ethnically minoritized individuals, that improves the health of everyone in the United States. As stated throughout the report: 'We are in this together.'"

Breast cancer cases spike among AAPI women

The National Institutes of Health reports a trend of breast cancer diagnoses in AAPI women to increase at a relatively faster rate compared to women of other racial and ethnic groups. From 2000 up until 2021, the rate of breast cancer diagnoses among AAPI women under 50 years old increased by 52%. In contrast, the rate for diagnoses among women of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds grew by 3% during that same period. See full story at www.AsAmNews.com.

COVID will strike twice a year

The coronavirus is expected to hit twice a year. The virus keeps evolving and it takes months for the new subvariants to spread and become dominant. Since the vaccines provides only short-lived immunity, many people will recover in the winter only to get COVID again in the summer. Fortunately the vaccines have been providing protection against hospitalization and death and the hospitals are no longer inundated even with high levels of coronavirus circulating nationwide. The second round of COVID is also attributed to fewer people masking, staying up to date on their vaccinations or even staying home when sick.

The latest subvariants have names like FLiRT, XEC, KP.3.1.1, FLuQE. So, do your part to help keep your family and community safe - wear masks, get vaccinated, and stay home when sick. And request Paxlovid within 5 days of symptoms (a prescription can be obtained on a video visit (\$49 Amazon) or online (\$29) with pick up at a local pharmacy or request delivery.

High-tech workers struggle with mental health

Chinese Immigrant Stories Podcast by Lena Li, June 12, 2024

On January 26, 2024, a Google engineer from China, Liren Chen, was accused of beating his wife to death at their Santa Clara home. The news shocked the Chinese community across the United States. This 27-year-old tech elite graduated from Tsinghua University, a top university in China. His wife, Xuanyi Yu, was also an alumna and worked as a software engineer at Google. According to reports, a friend of the couple visited their home the day before the incident and noticed that Liren Chen's mental state was worrying. Since his arrest, Chen has been hospitalized and has missed several court hearings, citing "still receiving treatment in the hospital."

Just one month later, a 37-year-old Indian American Silicon Valley engineer and startup founder named Anand Sujith Henry was suspected of murdering his wife and children before committing suicide, resulting in the tragic death of the entire family. The police discovered the bodies of the couple and their four-year-old twins in their home in San Mateo, along with a 9mm handgun and a loaded magazine.

These two cases of domestic violence bear striking similarities. Both suspects are new Asian immigrants, and both couples are

graduates of prestigious universities and are seen as tech elites. Lives that should have been filled with happiness and fulfillment were tragically cut short by these incidents. Beneath the seemingly glamorous and successful surface, what went wrong in the lives and mental states of "winners in life" like Chen and Henry? These successive tragedies have once again brought attention to the mental health issues among Asian male tech immigrants. Many people are beginning to realize that discussing mental health and seeking help seem to be particularly challenging within the Asian community.

Data shows that Asian Americans are 50% less likely to seek mental health services compared to other racial groups. Asian American men are even more reluctant than Asian American women to seek help for mental health issues. According to a report published by the American Public Health Association, Chinese immigrants who immigrated after the age of 20 are 1.5 to 3 times more likely to experience severe depression compared to those who immigrate before the age of 20.

Li interviewed two AAPI men employed in tech, one from Silicon Valley, the other from Seattle, with psychologist Stephanie Wong to explore this topic. The podcast (available in Mandarin) can be found on www.asamnews.com or youtube.

AsAmNews pushes for COVID death investigation

115 people died at Kei-Ai Los Angeles Health Care Center during the pandemic (May 2020-December 2022). California regulators cited the facility in November 2020 for not having a dedicated infection specialist and then cited the facility 3 more times over the following 10 weeks for COVID-safety violations. The 300 bed facility had more deaths than any other skilled nursing facility in the state. Other facilities with the highest COVID deaths was Rinaldi Convalescent (99 beds, 78 deaths) and Santa Anita Convalescent (391 beds, 76 deaths); all three are in LA County. Since 2016, Kei-Ai has been owned by ALAL LLC and is affiliated with Aspen Skilled Healthcare, Inc. with Pacifica owning the land. Aspen Skilled Healthcare owns 23 skilled nursing facilities in California. Kei-Ai had been originally owned by Japanese American non profit Keiro Senior Healthcare before selling it and 3 other senior care centers in 2016 for \$41 million to Pacifica. During the pandemic, it was one of 27 nursing homes in Los Angeles volunteering to receive COVID-19 patients from hospitals and other nursing facilities; these nursing homes were backing up overtaxed hospitals especially when ICU bed availability in Southern California hit zero in December 2020. Critics say that these for-profit companies volunteered their residents for an increased viral risk and exposure without consulting existing patients and doctors. Nearly a third of all COVID-19 deaths occurred at nursing homes. AsAmNews' investigation is ongoing.

"Stay or pay" contracts, a form of trafficking

Three Filipino immigrant nurses, represented by Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund and Murphy Anderson PLLC, settled with four healthcare companies to remove the "stay or pay" provision from their work contracts. Earlier in 2023, five Filipino immigrant nurses asked federal regulators to review their former employer's training payment agreements provisions (TRAPS) which required them to pay steep financial penalties when leaving the company before their contracts are completed; these employment contracts may have 3-4 year long and the penalty for leaving early can exceed \$50,000+ for various costs and fees. These contracts fees are not prorated so that leaving towards the end of the contract term will trigger the same penalty for leaving earlier. There are at least 10 such federal class action lawsuits dating back to 2019. The complaints typically rely on Fair Labor Standards Act and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, but the nurses are also suing under state law and other federal regulations.

Noncompetitive agreements bully immigrant workers into exploitive working conditions because they lack bargaining power. With thousands of vacant nursing home positions, foreign healthcare workers are in high demand and they are recruited with offers of "benefits" like free housing and longer

contracts. When these nurses resign and break their contracts, they often cite difficult working conditions, schedules, poor benefits, understaffing, lack of management support, lack of education about safety protocols.

The latest settlement involved Premier Members LLC and Priory Healthcare Group. The nurses' repayment agreement provisions included high reimbursement fees, threats of being sued for civil judgments for the debt, financial penalties and other repercussions like being reported to immigration to coerce them to complete the contract. The latest settlement agreement affects only those companies actually sued because federal regulators have not addressed this issue industry-wide.

In the past two years, over half of the cases were filed by Filipino nurses. Administrative complaints have been lodged with the National Labor Relations Board and one resolved forcing the staffing agency to give up the practice of demanding repayment.

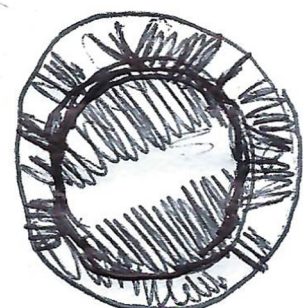
Nurses have sued to invalidate TRAPS by companies including CommuniCare Family of Companies, Infinity Care Partners LLC, National Health Corp., Avant Healthcare, RN Express Registry, Health Carousel, and Advanced Care Staffing LLC.

The salaries earned by these immigrant nurses may match what an average American nurses make but when calculating in the breach of contract penalty, they are making much less.

Recruiting grounds for immigrant nurses are Caribbean, Jamaica, and the Philippines. Filipino nurses are more desirable because they are trained in English and with American healthcare standards.

Source: Bloomberg Law, August 7, 2024

TRAPS have been common for truck driver, pilots and other health care employees. But international hospital staffing agencies have added the accumulated costs of immigration processing, temporary housing, and arbitration expenses to their employment contracts.



Everything Gone

By Sumiko Higaki

Everything the folks had worked so long and hard for would be gone: all our possessions, our household furniture, Daddy's cars, trucks, the expensive farming equipment accumulated over the years, Mary's piano and her beautiful new bicycle, Mama's new washing machine and our new refrigerator. What would happen to all of these? What would happen to our home? What was going to happen to us? These frantic thoughts must have run through our parents' minds as we gathered around the utility pole near our house that spring morning in 1942 and read the words on that sheet of paper that someone had posted there:

"Instructions to all persons of Japanese Ancestry living in the following areas. . . Yolo and Solano County . . . in the State of California will be removed . . ."

I knew the news was not good but, being only 12 at the time, I don't think I fully realized the impact that this moment would have on us. From then on, all normalcy was lost as our family tried to fathom and face everything that had to be done within the next 4-5 weeks in preparation for our departure. As we learned more about this forced removal of all of us who were of Japanese ancestry, we realized the enormity of this order and the very short time we had to make some very important decisions. If we could take only what we could carry, what do we do with everything else in our home and on the farm?

Many families had "fire" sales and word got around very quickly that there were some real bargains to be had. Some in the greater community took advantage of us and our plight by trying to buy things as cheaply as possible. One Japanese lady in town was so outraged by the paltry amount offered for her beautiful set of expensive china that, rather than sell it at that price, she stood there in front of the potential buyer and threw each piece on the pavement, shattering the whole set.

But thankfully, many honest, kind and generous neighbors and friends helped us. Daddy had bought a new DeSoto sedan the past autumn for \$925, and a neighbor purchased the car from us and matched the full price Daddy had paid. Our teacher, Mrs. Armstrong, a wonderful Christian lady offered to keep some of our things for us, and Daddy asked her to keep his new Kodak camera for him. After the war ended, when he went to see her, she returned the camera to him and, when Daddy tried to give her a small amount of money for her kindness, she would not take it. "No, Harry," she said. "I do not want rewards for helping a friend."

Immediately after Pearl Harbor, the Buddhist Church in town where my family worshipped closed its doors. Mrs. Armstrong invited my sisters and me to attend her church—the local Winters Presbyterian church—and my two sisters and I attended this church until the forced removal. The members of this church opened their hearts to us and made us feel welcome and wanted. At a time when we felt that even neighbors and "friends" saw us with disfavor, the warmth of this congregation left an indelible impression on me and my sisters. This was our introduction to Christianity and, over the years, all three of us became Christians even though Mrs. Armstrong never knew that

her kindness had opened the door for our conversion. I wish we could have let her know because she would have been so pleased.

My father could see the bright side of most situations, but I doubt that he saw any bright side to this situation. Yet he explained the coming "evacuation" to us children in a way that made it something to look forward to rather than something to be dreaded. He said, "We're going on a trip. . . it will be a vacation!" A vacation! Other than a few overnight trips to the beach for fishing and clamming, we had never been on a real vacation!

Our folks bought each of us a brand-new suitcase and Mama helped us pack our clothes and told us, "You can take anything else you want as long as you can carry your own suitcase after it's all packed." I wanted to take some of my books, but they were heavy, so I took only my two favorites, Black Beauty and Dog of Flanders.

My older sister Mary, a promising pianist at age 16, packed her favorite piano music. She took many of the classics she had learned and some "popular" music as well, like "Sleepy Lagoon" which was number one on the Hit Parade at the time. Her music teacher, Mr. Adams, had seen the promise Mary had shown in her piano and urged her, "Continue your piano study if at all possible." But would there be a piano where we were going?

Before the departure day finally came, we had packed and unpacked our suitcases many times over.

And so we prepared to leave. Everything we could not store, sell or take with us, we gave away, threw away, or left behind. I don't know what happened to the farming equipment or the household appliances, but I do remember someone buying Mary's piano. A woman came to the door and asked what we had to sell so Mama showed her some things including the piano. "I'll take that," the woman said and paid Mama \$25 dollars for Mary's beautiful piano. When her piano was sold, it must have been as though she had lost her best friend. The quiet in the house, especially in the evenings, was a silent reminder that Mary didn't have her beloved piano. Mama never had to remind Mary to practice; it was something she just loved to do! More often than not, my younger sister Mitzi and I fell asleep at night listening to Mary softly running her fingers over the piano keys in the adjoining living room.

Along with the excitement of our impending "vacation," my sisters and I felt sadness, too. Deep down, I think we all knew the "trip" was not a real vacation but something more serious and profound. We knew we couldn't take our dog Poochie or our cats, Boots and Silvertoes, and even though they were going to be cared for by a friend, leaving them would be hard. Our dog was very pregnant at the time, and I can still recall looking back and seeing Poochie standing in the middle of the country road, her usually wagging tail droopy and still, looking so forlorn as our car drove away. I really believe she knew we would not be coming back. Our friend later wrote to tell us, "Poochie has given birth to many healthy puppies and enjoys being a mom." But we never

saw Poochie or our cats again.

With everything gone—the piano, our pets, Daddy's record player—everything gone, we left our now empty home in late May, 1942. The apricots were almost ready for harvest, the fruit turning a beautiful pinkish color on the trees. Daddy and Mama had worked all year caring for their apricot, almond, peach and plum orchards, but they would not be here to see the harvest. The evening before we left, after dinner, Daddy had gone out alone for a walk through the apricot orchard near the house. I saw him stop and for a long time, he just stood there, looking up at the trees. He didn't say anything but I thought I knew what he was thinking, what he was feeling, because I felt it, too—not as acutely perhaps but I understood. As young as I was and even though he had tried to protect us from fearing the forced removal, I knew, as he did, that we were leaving the security of our home, our friends, our comfortable life. We did not know what lay ahead.

I sensed his heavy heart and knew that he was also mourning the loss of everything he and Mama had accomplished over 21 years of hard work. From nothing except faith in themselves and a determination to succeed, they had built a fulfilling life for themselves and their three daughters; a life filled with many friends, with thriving children and noisy pets, with music and books and satisfying work; a home where we were happy and felt safe and protected. Now, we were losing it all. What a sad time this must have been for my parents. Even now, my memory of that still figure in the orchard shadowed by the leaves and branches of the apricot trees brings an ache to my heart.

The next day, we finished packing our suitcases for good, locked up the empty house and said goodbye to our pets and to friends who had gathered at the house. Another good friend drove us with our suitcases to the station in Vacaville. My younger sister Mitzi could only drag her heavy suitcase, weighed down by its precious contents of things a young child just couldn't leave behind, so Daddy had to carry hers along with his own. Along with these two suitcases, he lugged his heavy case of Japanese music records. Even though he couldn't take his record player, he loved his music and he just couldn't bear to part with his record collection.

We and the other "evacuees" boarded the waiting train and as it began to move, we waved to those who had come to see us off.

Our "vacation" had started.

Mrs. Higaki wrote her essay as her contribution to the Collecting Nisei Stories project which inspired Nisei, younger generations and others to write their family stories about wartime incarceration and post-war resettlement. The authors developed their stories through intergenerational writing workshops facilitated by Brian Komei Dempster in Berkeley and San Jose between 2011-2013. Higaki's essay was written on October 14, 2012.



Mitzi Takimoto (younger sister) and Sumiko Higaki at the Historical Society of Winters Museum

“25 China Week Bills”

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the Entity List and requiring a license for the export of items on the Commerce Control List to embargoed countries or entities. The license process will include proof that the items will be used for their intended purpose.

Sanctions Lists Harmonization Act HR 5613

- Requires the Departments of Treasury, Commerce and Defense to notify each other within 30 days of placing a foreign individual or entity on sanction lists (blacklists).

Chinese Currency Accountability Act HR 510

- Requires the US to oppose, absent specific conditions, any increase in the weight of Chinese currency as used to determine the value of Special Drawing Rights (a currency support tool available to International Monetary Fund members).

Winters Lost Japantown monument

On May 4th, the Winters Lost Japantown monument was dedicated in Rotary Park in downtown Winters. The dedication program included Higaki's essay of her childhood memory of the Winters evacuation which was read by her granddaughters. Vasey Coman recited her school essay written as a teenager describing how after WWII ended a young Japanese mother and child were sheltered inside the family's downtown Winters store when a violent crowd surrounded the store and threatened to hurt them. Vasey's grandfather Jack Vasey locked both doors to the store and called Sheriff Monroe who arrived and escorted the woman and child safely home. Winters had a population of about 300 Japanese Americans before the war; only 15% returned after the war ended to Winters which had "Japs stay away" signs posted in many places, no one would offer housing or employment. On VJ day - August 14, 1945, most of Winters' Japantown was burned down while the rest of the community celebrated the end of the war.

Historical Society of Winters filmed the dedication ceremony which is available at <https://youtu.be/EwjL6mgTAYE>



Winters California August 1943, photo by Dorothea Lange, Oakland Museum collection



The monument features a panoramic photo etched in black marble taken in 1930 at Mrs. Nishida's funeral. In the background is the historic railroad trestle which still stands south of Winters' Rotary Park as well as Japantown's commercial buildings as they stood in 1930. The monument is placed so that the visitor faces the exact location of Winters' Japantown as it existed before the VJ day fires. Shown in this photo is Harumi Shimomura March who is actually in the photo, but as a young child. The monument project was totally privately financed through donations with the assistance of the Historical Society of Winters.



CHICAGO CAFE, 411 Main St, Woodland and its third generation owners Paul and Nancy Fong have been feted as operating the “oldest Chinese restaurant in California” and the United States, founded in 1903 by Fong’s grandparents. UCD Prof. Gabriel Jack Chin’s Asian Exclusion Research Project documented that the Woodland landmark is older than Butte Montana’s Pekin Noodle Parlor (1909/1911) and Sam Wo in San Francisco (1908).

The War Against Chinese Restaurants -

By Gabriel “Jack” Chin, UCD School of Law and John Ormonde

Abstract (Nov 28, 2020), Duke Law Journal, Vol. 67, No. 4, p. 681

Chinese restaurants are now a cultural fixture, as American as cherry pie. Startlingly, however, there was once a national movement to eliminate Chinese restaurants, using innovative legal methods to drive them out. Chinese restaurants were objectionable for two reasons. First, they threatened white women, who were subject to seduction by Chinese men, through intrinsic female weakness, or employment of nefarious techniques such as opium addiction. In addition, Chinese restaurants competed with “American” restaurants, thus threatening the livelihoods of white owners, cooks and servers; unions were the driving force behind the movement.

The effort was creative; Chicago used anti-Chinese zoning, Los Angeles restricted restaurant jobs to citizens, Boston authorities decreed Chinese restaurants would be denied licenses, the New York Police Department simply ordered whites out of Chinatown. Perhaps the most interesting technique was a law, endorsed by the American Federation of Labor for adoption in all jurisdictions, prohibiting white women from working in Asian restaurants. Most measures failed or were struck down. However, Asians still lost; the unions did not eliminate Chinese restaurants, but they achieved their more important goal, extending the federal policy of racial exclusion in immigration from Chinese to all Asians. The campaign is of more than historical interest. As current anti-immigration sentiments and efforts show, even today the idea that white Americans should have a privileged place in the economy, or that non-whites are culturally incongruous, persists among some.

The articles describes strategies attempted to undermine Chinese restaurants:

- Boycotts was a national union policy (Arizona, California, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Wyoming)
- Riots, threats and violence
- Litigation (Chinese restaurateur successfully sued in Cleveland to stop)picketing
- Regulation: White women’s labor laws banning white women from patronizing Chinese restaurants or working there were considered in Arizona, Iowa, Massachusetts, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, California (LA, SF), Pittsburgh, Canada (Saskatchewan)
- Exercise of “emergency” police authority in response to “exigent” circumstances
- Citizenship discrimination requiring citizenship for licensure or employment. Arizona’s law prohibiting business from employing more than 20% noncitizens.
- Restrictive zoning - Chicago adopted a law which denied construction permits for any Chinese owners in specific neighborhoods
- Licensing - Texas regulators stopped renewing licenses for Chinese restaurants. LA refused to license Chinese restaurants outside Chinatown because they disturb the peace. Palo Alto, Omaha MO, Moline IL, Minneapolis, Ma had policies to keep Chinese restaurants out of areas because they were considered “hazards” to keep out.
- Selective enforcement/scrutiny of misconduct in Chinese restaurants or of owners with criminal. Enforcement of special closing times for Chinese restaurants (Boston)
- Outlawing private booths allegedly favorable places of solicitation and for pimps and prostitutes

Article available at <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2948030>

Lo Mein Loophole: How U.S. Immigration Law Fueled A Chinese Restaurant Boom

By Maria Godoy, NPR, Feb 22, 2016

Americans craving kung pao chicken or a good lo mein for dinner have plenty of options: The U.S. is home to more than 40,000 Chinese restaurants.

One could think of this proliferation as a promise fulfilled — America as the great melting pot and land of opportunity for immigrants. Ironically, the legal forces that made this Chinese culinary profusion possible, beginning in the early 20th century, were born of altogether different sentiments: racism and xenophobia.

Anti-Chinese sentiment was rampant in America in the early 20th century — and had been since the latter half of the 19th century, when as many as 300,000 Chinese miners, farmers, railroad and factory workers came to the U.S. Many of these workers felt threatened by these laborers, who often worked for lower wages.

Amid mounting social tensions, the U.S. passed immigration laws that explicitly barred Chinese laborers from immigrating or becoming U.S. citizens, and made it extremely difficult for even legal residents to re-enter the U.S. after a visit home to China.

But, as MIT legal historian Heather Lee tells it, there was an important exception to these laws: Some Chinese business owners in the U.S. could get special merchant visas that allowed them to travel to China, and bring back employees. Only a few types of businesses qualified for this status. In 1915, a federal court added restaurants to that list. Voila! A restaurant boom was born.

“The number of Chinese restaurants in the U.S. doubles from 1910 to 1920, and doubles again from 1920 to 1930,” says Lee, referring to research done by economist Susan Carter. In New York City alone, Lee found that the number of Chinese eateries quadrupled between 1910 and 1920.

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Lo Mein Loophole

Continued from Page 22

Lee was digging through old immigration records in 2011, as part of her doctoral dissertation, when she discovered evidence that this legal change had fueled a rise in restaurants. She found a flood of applications from Chinese immigrants after 1915 seeking merchant status to start up restaurant businesses, along with applications from others brought over to work in these establishments.

Prior to the restaurant loophole, Lee says, most Chinese immigrants in America worked in laundries — they were excluded from better-paying options. But by 1930, they were more likely to be toiling in eating establishments. “The scale of it increases astronomically,” she says.

Many Chinese immigrants to the U.S. were men who had come alone: They were here to earn money to support families back home, not to settle down permanently. Once in the U.S., however, it was all but impossible for them to travel back to visit loved ones in China. After 1915, the visas that came with working in a restaurant became bridges to families and friends back in China, Lee says.

“It was really important for [these men] to be able to move back and forth, to get married and retire someday. That was the idea. These special visas were critically important,” Lee says.

Even so, getting a special merchant visa was far from easy, Lee explains. Only the major investors in a restaurant qualified — and it had to be a “high grade,” fancy eatery. These investors had to manage their restaurants full time for at least a year. During that time, they couldn’t do any menial work: no cooking, waiting tables or ringing up the cash register, she says.

Lee says Chinese immigrants found ingenious ways to get around these hurdles: They would pool their money to start luxury “chop suey palaces,” then each investor would take turns running the joint for a year or 18 months. Once they’d earned merchant status, the investors would use it to bring their relatives over to work in the restaurant.

Lee explains how it worked: “Your cousin, your uncle has helped you over and is giving you a job. He’s supposed to show you the ropes. Then you move up the hierarchy until you earn the money to be a partner in your own restaurant.”

Lee’s research focused on New York City (she’s writing a book about the rise of restaurants there in the 19th and early 20th centuries). But she says the immigration dynamics were similar in other urban centers with large Chinese communities, like Chicago and San Francisco.

In order to make these schemes work, Chinese restaurateurs also had to loop in the white vendors they worked with: Lee says Chinese immigrants had to have two white witnesses support their visa applications. In practice, she says, this turned into a quid pro quo situation: A small group of white vendors would secure the restaurants’ business, and in exchange, they’d vouch for the investors. “I found the same six vendors’ names over and

over again” on old immigration documents, she says.

“It’s quite a different story than [the usual explanation] about why Chinese were opening restaurants during that period,” Lee tells me.

That standard explanation points to a confluence of cultural forces. For one thing, as historian Yong Chen notes in *Chop Suey, USA*, Chinese food’s cheapness made it an affordable luxury and helped democratize the dining out experience.

The late hours observed by Chinese restaurants were also a draw — especially to bohemians, whose patronage lent these establishments a certain cachet. By 1910, “going out for chop suey made middle-class Americans feel pleasantly naughty,” write Lisa Stoffer and Michael Lesy in *Repast*, their history of dining out during that era.

Cultural historians also tell of the rise of “slumming parties” — groups of well-heeled suburbanites and out-of-towners in New York who’d pay for tours of Chinatown, where the supposed “depravity” of the place was the main attraction. And some point to New York Jews who shook off the old country and embraced Chinese food as a sign of their own modernity.

All of these factors played a role, Lee says, but they’re not the whole story. “While going to Chinese restaurants did play into an emerging worldview, what’s really under-recognized is the primary motivation for the Chinese,” Lee tells us.

That motivation was the same then as what still drives many immigrants in America today: to save, get ahead and send money to family back home.

Calendar

Continued from Page 24

benefiting My Sister’s House. 3-6pm at Elk’s Lodge (Riverside Blvd, Sac). Info: Christine Nguyen 770/668-6183

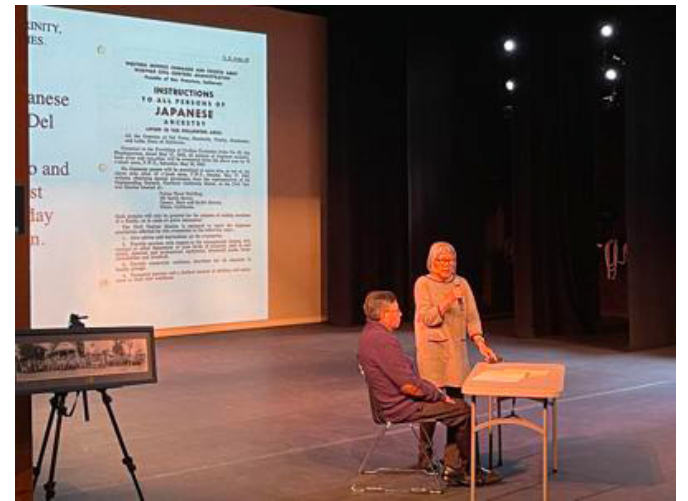
Oct 31 Thu **Stockton Blvd Community Development Corp: Safe Walk-a-Treat.** 4-6pm at Fruitridge Shopping Center (5721 Stockton Blvd, Sac). Info: Christine Nguyen 916/454-2469

Nov 3 Sun **Author Luncheon: Russell Low and “Three Coins, All American Crew, Avengers, Wildcats, Crickets, A Willow Tree and the Iron Road.”** Sponsored by Chinese American Council of Sacramento and Folsom History. 1130am-2pm at Lucky Jade Restaurant (7007 South Land Park Dr, Sac). \$45/person, \$350/table. Info: www.folsomhistory.events; Karen Yee 916/591-8181; yee911@aol.com

Nov 5 Tue VOTE! PROTECT DEMOCRACY AND YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

Nov 6 Wed **ACC Senior Services: Joong-Making Bootcamp with Lana Chong.** 2-4pm. \$60/ACC members, \$67/non members. Register at www.accsv.org

Nov 7 Thu **CSUS Distinguished Alumni Awards.** 530pm reception, 630pm dinner, 730pm program at CSUS Harper Alumni Center (6000 J St, Sac). \$100/person. Honoring Ron Brown, Detective Vu D Nguyen (posthumous), Robert Rivas, Marco Rodriguez, Noel Mora, Elizabeth Shattuck.



Yolo County’s Day of Remembrance of Executive Order 9066 on February 26th at Davis Veteran Memorial Theatre drew nearly 300 people to a showing of “And then they came for us” (filmmakers: Abby Ginzberg, Ken Schneider) and presentation by Floyd Shimomura. Sponsors for the events included: Davis Human Relations Commission, Davis Phoenix Coalition, UCD Asian American Studies and Davis Asians for Racial Equality.

Thanks for your donations:

Much appreciation goes to Ann Evans and David Thompson, and Jane Tamano for donations to defray Currents’ printing and postage expenses!

Nov 13 Wed **ACC Senior Services Open House.** 330-630pm at 7334 Park City Dr, Sac. Learn about upcoming classes and events, services, support, technology tips. Refreshments. Cooking demonstration by Robin Withrow-Wong, ACC Folk Guitar Club performance. Info: www.accsv.org

Nov 23 Sat **Buddhist Church of Sacramento 125th Anniversary Banquet and Celebration.** 5pm no host bar, 6pm program at SASF (9040 High Tech Ct, Elk Grove).

Nov 29-Dec 1 **Hmong New Year Festival, Celebrating the Richness of Our Hmong Culture.** Cal Expo (1600 Exposition Blvd, Sac). Sacramento Hmong New Year Inc is dedicated to the preservation of the Hmong culture and tradition, provide opportunities for youth through scholarship and cultural awareness and promote the general welfare of the Hmong community. Info: sacramento-hmong-new-year.com

Dec 7 Sat **Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA) Greater Sacramento Chapter Holiday Mixer.** 5-8pm at APAPA Headquarters (4000 Truxel Rd #3, Sac).

Dec 14 Sat **Halau Ka Waikahe Lani Malie and Halau Kahulaliwai - Holiday Hula Concert.** At Christ Community Church (5025 Manzanita Ave, Carmichael)

Calendar

Oct 1 Tue **Asian Bar Assn of Sacramento: 36th Annual Unity Bar Dinner.** 530pm at Doubletree Hotel (2001 Point West Way, Sac). Tickets: unitybar2024.eventbrite.com or My Tien Dean at sacramentounitybar@gmail.com

Oct 1 Tue **PACT Adult Adoptee and Former Foster Youth of Color Virtual Support group.** A space to explore and share experiences around international adoption, foster care, transracial/interracial adoption, search and reunion, birth/first family and other topics. Register at www.pactadopt.org

Oct 2 Wed **PACT Transracial Adoptive Parents Virtual Support Group** (PACT members only). Talk about transracial adoption, race and identity issues. Register: www.pactadopt.org

Oct 2 Wed **ACC Senior Services: Autumn Ikebana Flower Arrangement with Sensei Terry Herink.** 3-5pm. \$35/members, \$42/non members. Register at www.accsv.org

Oct 4 Fri **Asian Resources Inc, SETA and Work for California: State Career Fair.** 9am-12 noon at ARI (6270 Elder Creek Rd, Sac). Info: Agnes Luluga akenese@asianresources.org

Oct 5 Sat **Sixth Nikkei Angel Island Pilgrimage.** 1130am-330pm. Up to 85,000 Japanese immigrants who landed between 1910-1940 and even more Japanese forcibly removed from Hawaii during WWII were detained at Angel Island Immigration Station. Speaker David Mineta (Congressman Norm Mineta's grandson.) Family history consultations. Bon Odori dancing. Tour limited to 300. Ferries from Tiburon, SF. Buses from Sacramento, San Jose. Book transportation packages at www.nichibeifoundation.org.naip

Oct 5 Sat **Kintsukuroi movie**, a Eden Township Japanese Community Center fundraiser. 1pm at Chabot Theater (2853 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley). \$15/person presale, \$20/general at door, \$15/students+seniors at the door. Tickets: www.edenjapanesecc.org

Oct 8 Tue **PACT BIPOC Adoptive Parents of Teens and Young Adults Virtual Support Group.** A community talking about parenting adopted and foster teens and young adults of color. Register at www.pactadopt.org

Oct 9 Wed **AsAmNews fundraiser** - a night of hilarity/a conversation between comedienne Jiaoying Summers and ABC7/KABC anchor David Ono. 730pm at the Japanese American National Museum (100 N. Central Ave, LA). Tickets, \$25 - \$60/person. Tickets: www.asamnews.com

Oct 9 Wed **CSUS API Desi American in Leadership Speaker Series.** Speaker Richard Yao, President of CSU Channel Islands. 10-11am by Zoom or in person in Summit Room, 3/F, CSUS University Union (6000 J St, Sac). Other speakers on November 13, December 11. Info: apida.center@csus.edu

Oct 10 Thu **Organization of Chinese Americans: Town Hall Mental Health Forum - "Breaking Free from Anxiety."** 6-8pm at California Northstate University (9700 W. Taron Dr, Elk Grove). Register at <https://tinyurl.com/mh2024forum>

Oct 10 Thu **Iu Mien Community Service Inc: Annual Honoring Our Journey Banquet.** 530-8pm at A&A Tasty Restaurant (6601 Florin Rd, Sac). Info: senctern@gmail.com

Oct 12 Sat **Woodland's 35th Stroll Through History.** Open homes, neighborhood walking tours, bike tours, downtown events, landmark building tours. From 10am-2pm the Historic Train Depot (1120 Lincoln Ave, Wd) will feature Dorothea Lange's photographs documenting the forced relocation of Japanese Americans during WWII and their evacuation through the 1911 train depot to the Merced Assembly Center. The photos were recently donated by Floyd and Ruth Shimomura. Tickets: Free, except for Home Tour tickets (limited #) are \$30-35/person at EventBrite, Corner Drug (602 Main St, Wd) or Matthew Taylors Home (510 Main St, Wd). Info: strollthroughhistory.com

Oct 12 Sat **Kintsukuroi** movie presented by Buddhist Church of Sacramento and Ikeibi Film Co. 1-5pm at the church (2401 Riverside Blvd, Sac), 315pm Q+A with cast and crew. KINTSUKUROI follows members of the Ito family from their pre-war life in San Francisco's Japantown to the concentration camps of the American West to the battlefields of Europe and back to SF as they struggle to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. An excellent and most complete portrayal of the Japanese American WWII forced evacuation. Tickets \$25/general, \$20/students+seniors. Tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/Oct12-Movie>

Oct 12 Sat **39th Annual Nikkei Dogs - Florin JAACL Scholarship and Youth Programs Fundraiser.** Nikkei (Japanese style) all-beef hot dogs, teriyaki weinies over rice, veggie dogs, rice, cupcakes, drinks. Senbei Sacking, face painting, raffle, bingo. All you can eat! \$12/adults, 4-12yo \$6, 3+younger-free. 530-8pm at Buddhist Church of Florin (7235 Pritchard Rd, Sac). Tickets: Cindy Kakutani cindykakutani@gmail.com. Cupcake donations: Twila Tomita twilatomita@gmail.com

Oct 13 Sun **The Incredible History of Nikkei Farmers in the Delta by KanshaHistory.org.** Prior to WWII, hundreds of Nikkei farmers worked thousands of acres, raising a wide range of crops. The WRA documented the transfer of these farms right before Japanese Americans were forcibly evacuated during WWII. 4-6pm at Buddhist Church of Sacramento (2401 Riverside Blvd, Sac). RSVP www.kanshahistory.org. [Kansha History's Contra Costa County event on May 29th at the Ruth Bancroft Gardens, Walnut Creek had a standing room only audience.]

Oct 13 Sun **Sacramento JAACL's Letter Writing to our soldiers.** There are over 220,000 US military personnel stationed in foreign countries; 170,000 are on active duty. 10am-2pm at Sac JAACL (2124 10th St, Sac). Letter writing from home during the holidays is very special and moral boosting!

Oct 14 **Jan Ken Po Gakko Regular Registration deadline for Summer Session 2025** (June 30-July 18, 2025) - a 3 week Japanese American culture-themed program for children 5-12 years, Monday-Friday mornings. Parent participation (5 events) is built into the program. \$450/student, discount for siblings. Info: jankenpogakko.com

Oct 16 Wed **Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society and Sacramento Federal Bar Assn Chapter: "They Refused: Two Views on Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration"** featuring documentary "One Fighting Irishman" and graphic novel "We Hereby Refuse." Discussion moderated by

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Kara Ueda with filmmaker Sharon Yamato and author Frank Abe. 530-800pm at Kennedy Learning Center in the Matsui US Courthouse (501 I St Room 4-200, Sac). Free. Zoom available.

Oct 16 Wed **PACT Parents of Adopted Teens and Young Adults of Color** (PACT members only). Finding community to talk about parenting adopted and foster teens of color. Register: www.pactadopt.org

Oct 17 Thu **Iu Mien Community Service Inc: Annual Honoring Our Journey Banquet.** 530-8pm at A&A Tasty Restaurant (6601 Florin Rd, Sac). Info: senctern@gmail.com

Oct 17 Thu **Asian Community Center's Fall Gala.** 6pm at ACC Senior Services Campus (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). SOLD OUT.

Oct 17 Thu **PACT Adoption Orientation for Families of Color.** 4-530pm. Free, virtual event. Info: www.pactadopt.org

Oct 18-Oct 20 **Threshold and the Anti-Asian Violence: Origins and Trajectories Research Initiative - Exhibition and Performances** choreographed by Claudine Naganuma and SanSan Kwan. The performance serves as a gathering space that resists the fight and flight response to anti-Asian violence and begin the hard work of sitting with and taking in multiple embodied experiences while pondering the relationship between Asianness and violence in unforeseen and enlivening ways. Mondavi Center, UCD. Tickets: \$10/UCD student, \$53.50 UCD faculty/staff, \$58.50/general at tickets. mondaviarts.org.

Oct. 18 Fri **American Leadership Forum's Exemplary Leaders Awards Dinner.** Honoring: Lisa Cardoza (President American River College), Jim Tabuchi (President/CEO Sacramento Mandarins) and In Memory Aldo Pineschi -Consultant. 5pm registration, 6pm dinner/program at Hyatt Regency (1209 L St, Sac). RSVP by 10/4. Tickets: 2024alfeld.eventbrite.com

Oct 23 Wed **Hanami public art dedication at Robert Matsui Waterfront Park.** 530-7pm. Discussion by Jennifer Madden and Jeffrey Reed (Reed+Madden Designs) about their inspiration for the project. Register at Eventbrite: Hanami Dedication Registration Link

Oct 26 Sat **My Sister's House's Run for a Safe Haven.** 8-11am at William Land Park (Sac). 5K run/walk. Info: www.runforasafehaven.com

Oct 26 Sat **AsAmNews fundraiser: Common Ground conference.** 9am-4pm at UC Berkeley. Discussing controversial issues potentially dividing the AAPI community and finding areas of agreement, including criminal justice and anti-Asian hate, race in college admissions, tiger parenting. Registration: \$20/person, \$10/student; seafood banquet at Hong Kong East Ocean Seafood in Emeryville \$100/person. Register at asamnews.com/common-ground/Road.

Oct 26 Sat **Florin Athletic Club, Nisei Baseball, Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.** 5-8pm at Buddhist Church of Florin (7235 Pritchard Rd, sac). All You Can Eat Spaghetti, drinks, dessert, raffle. Wear a costume! \$25/person. Tickets: 916/838-7210.

Oct 26 Sat **Genevieve Shiroma: 70th and Retirement Party,**