

Currents

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Trump says Asians and Indians come from “hell-holes”

AAPI fight Trump bashing, fueling AAPI hate

On April 24, 2026, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) Grace Meng (NY-06), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus Ted Lieu (CA-36), Judy Chu (CA-28), Ami Bera (CA-06), Suhas Subramanyam (VA-10), Pramila Jayapal (WA-07), Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-08), and Shri Thanedar (MI-13) issued a joint statement condemning President Trump’s racist post against Indian and Chinese immigrants:

“We are deeply outraged by the racist and xenophobic post shared by President Trump referring to India and China as ‘hell-holes’ and calling immigrants from these countries ‘gangsters with laptops’ who have ‘stepped on our flag.’ At a time when hate incidents against South Asian communities are on the rise, and one in four Americans view Chinese Americans as a threat, this kind of rhetoric pours fuel on an already dangerous fire.

“This incident is part of a disturbing pattern of the President legitimizing bigotry. The Trump administration hired individuals who called to ‘normalize Indian hate’ and said to ‘never trust a Chinaman or Indian.’ Time and again, President Trump has demonstrated not only his disdain for our communities, but a fundamental rejection of America’s identity as a nation of immigrants.

“Those who become American by birthright are just as American as anyone else. As members of CAPAC, we unequivocally condemn these posts and call on President Trump to fulfill the most basic obligation of his office: to serve all Americans with dignity and respect, not just those he deems worthy.”

Chronology of Trump’s tirade:

January 20, 2025 Trump issues Executive Order 14160: Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship which says US citizenship shall be denied to a person born in the US: (1) when that person’s mother was unlawfully present in the United States and the father was not a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident at the time of said person’s birth, or (2) when that person’s mother’s presence in the United States at the time of said person’s birth was lawful but temporary (such as, but not limited to, visiting the United States under the auspices of the Visa Waiver Program or visiting on a student, work, or tourist visa) and the father was not a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident at the time of said person’s birth.

A class action lawsuit Trump v. Barbara was filed by three families on behalf of themselves and similarly situated individuals. The named parties are: Barbara, a Honduran asylum applicant whose baby was due October 2025; Susan, a Taiwanese citizen in the country on a student visa whose daughter was born in April 2025 (her child’s passport application was being processed at the time of the lawsuit); Mark is a Brazilian applicant for permanent residency and father of a son born in March 2025 (who initially received a US passport.) The class action lawsuit was brought by ACLU, ACLU New Hampshire/Maine/Massachusetts, Legal Defense Fund, Asian Law Caucus and Democracy Defenders Fund on behalf of children who would be denied citizenship under EO14160.

Four federal judges -John Coughenour (Washington), Deborah Boardman (Maryland), Leo Sorokin (Massachusetts), Joseph H. Laplante (New Hampshire)- ruled that EO 14160 was unconstitutional, blocking it from taking effect.

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Three separate appeals courts refused to unblock the orders of those four federal judges.

The US Supreme Court (SCOTUS) accepted the case for review.

April 1, 2026 - SCOTUS heard oral arguments over the constitutionality of EO 14160. Trump made history being the first sitting president to attend a SCOTUS hearing (he sat in the front row of the gallery) because he is an “activist” president or to intimidate the justices, particularly his appointees. He stayed to hear the government’s case, but left 13 minutes into ACLU’s National Legal Director Cecilia Wang’s presentation.

AMENDMENT XIV - SECTION 1.

ALL PERSONS BORN OR NATURALIZED IN THE UNITED STATES, AND SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION THEREOF, ARE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE STATE WHEREIN THEY RESIDE.

The birthright citizenship arguments:

Trump: Birthright citizenship should be limited to children of US citizens and green card holders; “subject to the jurisdiction thereof” excludes children of undocumented immigrants and temporary visitors*; limiting citizenship is needed to control illegal immigration. [**Editor: only foreign diplomats are not subject to the jurisdiction of US laws.*]

ACLU: Limiting birthright citizenship violates over a century of legal precedent; 14th Amendment ensured citizenship for all born in the US, including the undocumented; US Supreme Court already upheld birthright citizenship in US v. Wong Kim Ark (1898).

April 22, 2026, Trump posted on his Truth Social account that “certain” conservative justices on the Supreme Court had “gone weak, stupid, and bad.” He mentioned the birthright citizenship case.

April 23, 2026 – Trump re-posted on his own Truth Social account the four-page transcript and video

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AAPI fights Trump bashing

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of conservative commentator Michael Savage’s podcast which aired video clip which was recorded shortly after SCOTUS’ April 1st hearing. Savage claimed that immigrants misuse US laws by entering the country during the “ninth month of their pregnancy” to secure citizenship for their child.

Highlights of Savage’s transcript on Trump’s post:

- ... noticeable to me was that the person (ACLU attorney Cecillia Wang) bringing the arguments in favor of flooding America with illegal aliens to change the demographics forever was a Chinese American who looks to me like the classic ACLU attorney. Very smart, very evil, and very devious.
- A baby here becomes an instant citizen, and then they bring the entire family in from China or India or some other hellhole on the planet. You don’t have to go too far to see that. English is not spoken here anymore. That there’s almost no loyalty to this country amongst the immigrant class coming in today ...
- They’re not like the European Americans of today and their ancestors. The Irish integrated, the Italians integrated, the Polish integrated, the Lithuanians, the Romanians, the Russians. They all integrated and became Americans in the melting pot. The idea of the melting pot is long over. It is now just a cash in pot. We’ve gone from the melting pot to the chamber pot. (Editor: New York Times April 23, 2026: “In 2023, Asians made up about 7 percent of the national population. By some measures, immigrants from India and China and their descendants have been among the most successful groups in the United States, with high levels of education and income.”)
-you actually would not believe the extent of the fraud in this state (California). And a good portion of it is being conducted by immigrant front groups, all protected by ACLU, which is the most dangerous criminal organization in the history of America. They’ve done more damage to this nation that all the mafia families put together. In my humble opinion. Gangsters with laptops. They’ve robbed us blind, treated us like second class citizens, let the turd world triumph, stepped on our flag, et cetera.
- Earlier when I saw this going on and listened to the snake from the ACLU, Ms. Wang, attorney Wang, she speaks so eloquently. Supreme Court arguments are just legal tricksters. I wrote about fighting each other. Our nation is being overrun with Chinese coming here just to drop a baby on our shores to then bring in the entire family. How about some common sense in a bankrupt nation. ACLU attorney Wang is pushing to destroy our national identity, turn us into a colony of Chinese, but it’s not limited to China. It’s also India.
- They’re also abusing it. I used to be a great supporter of Indians in India until I opened my eyes up to what’s going on here. White men need not apply to jobs in the state of California. Never mind in high tech. I don’t care what your qualifications are. You’re not getting a job at High Tech in California. Your chances are nil. You have to be from India or China because almost all the internal mechanisms are set up to run by Indians and Chinese.
- I don’t see anyone giving you a cogent argument in favor of illegal immigrants dropping babies on the shore. Of course, you’re going get the racist who says it was okay with European Americans? Okay, fine. Yeah. I know all of the appointees are compromised only, there’s only a few hardcore conservative Americans on there, and the reason they do it is quite simple is because the legal profession is closed circuit.

On April 24, 2026, White House spokesman Kush Desai justified Trump’s posting of Savage’s racist podcast as Trump only “calling out the scam and unfettered birthright citizenship.”

Other facts to know:

- Effective January 24, 2020, US implemented policy to restrict entry for pregnant foreign women who intend to give birth in the country, i.e. birth tourism. Pregnant visitors are required to show that their trip is for legitimate tourism with a detailed travel itinerary, financial proof of sufficient funds to cover the trip, comprehensive travel insurance for potential medical needs.
- Under 22 CFR §41.31 and Foreign Affairs Manual (9 FAM 402.2-4(B) (4), US consular officers who think a pregnant woman’s main reason for visiting is to give birth in the US (birth tourism) must deny her B-1 (business visa) or B-2 (tourism visa).
- US Customs Border Patrol (CBP) has authority to thoroughly screen at

the port of entry by asking “Why are you traveling so late in pregnancy?” “Where will you stay and who will pay for medical care if needed?” CBP can deny entry and cancel a visa at any airport or border crossing.

- Lying when applying for a visa carries the risks of getting the visa denied or cancelled, a permanent banned from the US and other legal action.
- Each year at least 33,000 babies are born in the US to women on tourist visas. Some companies charge up to \$80,000 for packages that include hospital deposits, luxury housing and help with paperwork. In 2020, the Center for Immigration Studies which advocates for restricting immigration estimated that 20,000-26,000 babies are birth tourism babies, less than 1 percent of the babies born in the US.
- US, Canada, Mexico and 29 other countries have similar *jus soli* laws allowing citizenship by birth

Other outrage to Trump’s post came from:

Indian government wrote on X that re-posting the Savage podcast was “obviously uninformed, inappropriate and in poor taste”

Hindu American Foundation: “We are deeply disturbed by @POTUS sharing this hateful, racist screed targeting Indian and Chinese Americans...Endorsing such rants as the president of the United States will further stoke hatred and endanger our communities, at a time when xenophobia and racism are already at an all-time high.”

SCOTUS Birthright Decision Could Deal a Heavy Blow to Asians

A new study found that an end to universal birthright citizenship would disproportionately affect babies born to Asian parents

By Miriam Jordan, New York Times, April 1, 2026

If President Trump succeeds in eliminating universal birthright citizenship, there could be 6.4 million U.S.-born children without legal status by 2050, according to a new study.

In addition to affecting undocumented immigrants in the country,

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Talk Story Events

Staring into the Sun



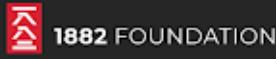
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Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA)

2026-27 APSEA board announced

APSEA is proud to announce the incoming leadership team for the 2026-27 term: Karen Lookingbill, President; Jacqui Nguyen, First Vice-President; Joy Gonzales-Cabatic, Second Vice-President; David Chima, Corresponding Secretary, and Johnny Tran, Treasurer. We are grateful for the dedication each of these leaders brings to APSEA and could not be more excited about the year ahead. APSEA continues to grow in membership, and with that growth comes even more career advancement opportunities and training programs for our members.

For more than five decades, APSEA has delivered leadership through training, networking, mentorship, and visibility for AAPI voices in state service, and that commitment has never been stronger. We look forward to all that is ahead!

Join APSEA Today. Contact apseamembership@gmail.com for membership information.

APSEA and APSEA Foundation scholarship gala – May 14th

Join APSEA and the APSEA Foundation at the Annual Scholarship Gala to honor our outstanding scholarship recipients and celebrate the next generation of Asian Pacific leaders in public service. This is a wonderful evening you will not want to miss!

Thursday, May 14, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.

Cafeteria 15L | 1116 15th Street, Sacramento, CA

Congratulations to this year's award recipients:

APSEA President's Award: California Department of Tax and Fee Administration

APSEA Member of the Year Award: Aman Thiara, California Department of Human Resources

APSEA Foundation's Community Leadership Award: Stephanie Tom, Deputy Treasurer, Office of CA State Treasurer

Register online at apseafoundation2026.eventbrite.com

For sponsorship opportunities and questions, contact denise.murata21@gmail.com



RECAP: 2026 State of Belonging Workforce Equity Symposium

APSEA hosted the 2026 State of Belonging: Workforce Equity Symposium, a two-day conference dedicated to advancing equity and fostering belonging across California's state workforce last May 6 & 7, 2026. This milestone event was co-sponsored by the California Department of Rehabilitation.

Distinguished speakers included CA State Treasurer Fiona Ma, GovOps (Government Operations) Secretary Nick Maduros, Deputy Treasurer Stephanie Tom, Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen, CDPH Director and Public Health Officer Dr. Erica Pan, CA Dept. of Public Health (DPH) Director Mary Watanabe, CA Lottery Director Harjinder K. Shergill-Chima, Dept. of Rehabilitation Director Kim Rutledge, CA Commissioner on Racial Equity and former GovOps Secretary and Senior Counselor to the Gov Amy Tong and Covered California Chief Deputy Executive Director Kathleen Webb.

Attendees engaged in workshops covering trauma-informed responses to harassment, belonging as a practice, operationalizing equity, generational diversity, neurodiversity at work, bystander intervention, and more. The Symposium concluded with the APSEA Symposium Awards, honoring outstanding contributions to equity, diversity, and inclusion in California state service. Congratulations to all awardees!



Kathleen Webb on “Belonging”

Creating and maintaining a workplace culture of “belonging” requires the attention and commitment of everyone, everyday, at every opportunity, according to Covered California's Kathleen Webb. It is an environment where everyone feels safe, fully welcomed, heard, noticed, truly valued and respected and no one is sitting quietly on the outside looking in. It is a place where people make the intentional everyday choice to bring everyone into the workplace dynamics. A “belonging” environment allows everyone to show up as their full selves and to thrive and succeed there. A “belonging” workplace is built through how we decide, who we listen to, how we treat each other and noticing who we reach out to first and wondering why.

Webb's presentation at the 2026 Symposium was entitled “Leaning into a Culture of Belonging, guiding everyday practices that help people feel noticed, respected and valued.” Where there is a “belonging” environment people are relaxed, communicate, and contribute to their fullest potential. A “belonging” workplace environment maximizes performance, retention, well-being and more. Everyone - individuals, team leaders, the organization - needs to think of what they can do now and tomorrow in their sphere of influence to contribute to a “belonging” environment.

The goal to have a “belonging” office is a shared responsibility which includes encouraging everyone to be curious and ask questions. Team leaders need to reach out to staff and ask how to make things better. Team leaders need to value and support mentoring programs. Some things can be easy and tangible, like installing a “kudo” board where even the smallest achievements are recognized; that acknowledgement helps staff to grow and builds self esteem. Even micro-kudos are important and should be generously handed out regularly to deserving staff at all levels. Webb adds, Take two minutes to meet the stranger sitting next to you and find what you have in common with each other. It works and contributes to being in a “belonging” community!

Editor: In April 2015, the Rago Auction house in New Jersey withdrew from auction 450 artifacts crafted by Japanese Americans during their WWII incarceration. The collection had been in the estate of the late-Alan Hendershott Eaton, a former Oregon state legislator, anti-war activist, historian and champion of folk art. When Eaton died in 1962, the collection was inherited and held for 35 years. Then the owner consigned the collection to Rago for sale. Most of the collection came from Wyoming's Heart Mountain Relocation Center.

The Art of War: How Japanese Internment Art Was Saved from Auction and Conserved for Posterity

By Debra Ichimura Gass

In the spirit of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) month, this article follows-up with the attempted Rago Arts auction of the Japanese American internment camp artifacts previously reported in Currents – May 2015 (Vol.28:2).

This article examines the attempted 2015 auction of more than 450 pieces of artwork created by Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II and analyzes the legal arguments that advocates mobilized to stop the sale. The core legal question is whether these artifacts—created under conditions of forced confinement—could lawfully be sold by a private collector, or whether they should be treated as cultural property belonging to the Japanese American community or the original artists’ descendants.

Traditional property law principles and the unique moral, historical, and cultural claims arising from the WWII incarceration camps are discussed below.

1. Replevin and the Question of Lawful Possession

One of the central legal arguments explored is replevin, a cause of action used to recover personal property wrongfully taken or wrongfully held. The Japanese American community and institutions such as the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, a former internment site, argued that the artwork was never lawfully alienated by the original artists. Many pieces were created in confinement, often given to camp staff, volunteers, or outsiders in exchange for basic goods or as gestures of goodwill. The article argues that such transfers occurred under conditions that undermine the voluntariness required for valid conveyance.

The article highlights that replevin claims would require showing that the current possessor—Rago Arts or the consignor—did not have good title. The provenance of many pieces was unclear or undocumented, raising questions about whether the consignor ever acquired lawful ownership. Because the artists were incarcerated and deprived of normal property rights, the article suggests that courts might view the original “gifts” as coerced or made under duress, weakening the chain of title.

2. Constructive Trust and Donor Intent

Another major legal argument centers on constructive trust, an equitable remedy imposed when property is held in a manner inconsistent with the intentions of the original owner. The original donor of the collection, who had amassed the artwork over decades, had expressed a desire that the pieces be preserved and not sold. The article argues that this expressed intent could support the imposition of a constructive trust, requiring the holder to transfer the artwork to an appropriate cultural institution.

The constructive trust theory is strengthened by the unique nature of the artifacts. Because they were created in confinement and represent a collective cultural trauma, courts might be more willing to impose equitable remedies to prevent commodification. Analogies involving Holocaust-era art, where courts have recognized heightened moral and historical considerations is explored.

3. Unjust Enrichment and the Ethics of Profit

Unjust enrichment as a potential legal theory. Allowing a private party to profit from artwork created under conditions of forced incarceration would constitute unjust enrichment because the value of the art derives from the suffering and resilience of the incarcerated community. The consignor, who did not create the art and may have acquired it under questionable circumstances, would be enriched at the expense of the artists and their descendants.

Because unjust enrichment claims are equitable and flexible, courts may consider broader moral and historical factors. The article suggests that a court might find it inequitable for a private party to profit from cultural artifacts produced under government-imposed duress.



Yoshinori Toso Himel holds an image of his mother working at a photolab in Chicago during World War II that will be auctioned by a New Jersey auction house, Rago Arts and Auctions. His wife Barbara Takei, holds her mom's cigarette holder made from string and her mom's military ID. They are fighting to keep the auction house from auctioning off a collection of artifacts, furniture and carvings made by Japanese Americans who spent World War II locked up in incarceration camps.

Photo: Paul Kitagaki Jr, courtesy the Sacramento Bee.

4. Cultural Property and Communal Ownership

Finally, whether the artwork should be treated as cultural property, akin to artifacts belonging to Indigenous nations or colonized peoples is discussed. The Japanese American community had a collective cultural interest in the artwork, which documents a period of mass civil rights violations. Although U.S. law does not explicitly classify Japanese American incarceration artifacts as cultural patrimony, the article suggests that courts could draw analogies to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and international norms governing cultural heritage.

Altogether, this private property conflict is a question of communal rights and historical justice. Even if courts were reluctant to adopt a full cultural property framework, the moral force of the argument influenced public pressure through social media campaigns and platforms that ultimately halted the auction.

5. Public Pressure as a Legal Adjunct

Finally, while not a formal legal argument, the article emphasizes that public pressure functioned as a quasi-legal mechanism. The threat of litigation based on replevin, constructive trust, and unjust enrichment—combined with widespread public condemnation—created a legal environment in which the Rago Arts auction house concluded that proceeding posed unacceptable reputational and legal risks.

Today, these artifacts can be viewed at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Los Angeles, currently under renovation, and to be reopened in Spring 2027, and the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC.

You can read or download the full 67-page Asian American Law Journal article for free through Berkeley Law's Scholarship Repository: <https://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1230&context=aalj>

ACC's Senior Escort Program: Keeping Seniors Active and Engaged in the Community



Recently, ACC was featured on Fox40 Studio Live to highlight its Senior Escort Program (SEP). What began as a collaborative effort among Sacramento community organizations, law enforcement, and civic leaders in response to anti-Asian hate incidents has grown into an essential service that combats social isolation while promoting physical and mental wellness.

Today, ACC's Senior Escort Program meets seniors where they are—connecting them with friendly volunteers for neighborhood walks, assistance with grocery shopping, and help navigating medical office buildings for appointments. These simple acts of companionship make a meaningful difference in helping older adults stay active, independent, and engaged in their community. Longtime "Super Volunteer" Julie Zumalt describes volunteering as "one of the best things she's ever done." Through SEP, Julie has met incredible seniors, heard meaningful life stories, and built lasting friendships. While the program helps seniors stay mobile and connected, volunteers benefit just as much from the relationships and sense of purpose they gain.

One of SEP's most active participants, Susan Kane, also shared her experience. As someone who appreciates extra motivation to get outside and stay active, Susan values having something to

look forward to. She enjoys meeting a wide range of volunteers and building connections across generations. Susan describes the program as "a blessing... I've walked with everyone from 8th-grade boys and their moms to retired community members. It's fantastic because I get to meet people from all walks of life, hear about what they do." As SEP's current state-funded grant approaches expiration, ACC is actively seeking additional funding to sustain this vital program and continue supporting seniors and volunteers in building meaningful community connections through the Senior Escort Program.

Help us keep seniors connected. If you in a position, or know of funding opportunities, sponsorships, or would like to make a personal donation, we invite you to reach out and support the future of ACC's Senior Escort Program. Connect with us at accsv.org or info@accsv.org



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Remembering “Toso” & The Impact of Advocacy

By Derrick Lim, All Rights Reserved

Yoshinori Harlan Toso Himel’s passing the day after Christmas was a tremendous loss. His professional legal career as a public servant with the U.S. Attorney’s Office and community service as a social justice activist in Sacramento spanned generations over three plus decades. I was one of the lives he touched outside his legal circles in the burgeoning days of professional non-profit formation, community service, professional development, education, and advocacy—a rising tide and communal chorus.

I was a public servant, albeit with the City of Sacramento as a staffer to then City Councilmember Heather Fargo, and later as a career city employee across multiple departments. In community service I was on the board of the Chinese American Council of Sacramento (CACS) immersed in historical, cultural, and advocacy projects.

In the mid 1990s contractors for the federal government broke ground on formerly occupied city property at the northeast corner of 5th and I streets to build a new federal courthouse. Shortly after his death in 2005 the U.S. Courthouse was named after the late Congressman and former Sacramento City Councilman Robert T. Matsui.

During the course of the courthouse construction Chinese artifacts were uncovered. This was not a surprise since Chinatown Mall, Sacramento Valley Station (the West Coast start of the Central Pacific Railroad route that was critical to the formation of the transcontinental railroad and largely built by physical labor of Chinese railroad workers), and before China Lake and China Slough were filled in, were across the street.

I immediately went to the CACS board for approval to formally request that the courthouse permanently display the artifacts in the building. I felt it was important to respect and contextualize the space since the physical footprint of Chinatown and other communities in the West End were completely eroded and displaced by redevelopment. I also believed it was important to shed light on the history and complexity of hallmark legal cases affecting the area and beyond that were litigated in various courts of law. And finally, not leaving anything to chance in a potential rabbit hole of churning government and political bureaucracy, I wanted to have a formal paper trail because I was not sure, or for that matter, had any confidence that the federal government intended to display the artifacts or include any context.

My box of hard copy files reminded me that I crafted strategy, wrote and signed letters, took pictures, and collaborated with architect and historian Philip P. Choy (exhibit curator and designer contracted by the general services administration), and high ranking federal officials from project conception to completion over the multi-year project.

I did not have a facilities background but I was pretty sure this concept and approach were rare, if not novel, for public (federal) buildings in Sacramento. More importantly, I also firmly believe now, more than I did then, that without the initial advocacy and leadership from the community from start to finish, the 600 square foot alcove in the courthouse rotunda would be an empty space today -symbolically and literally void of any meaning or collective memory.

The legacy and agency of our early ancestors, “Chinese Pioneers of Sacramento,” and parenthetically the complete dispersal and displacement of a vibrant well established multi-cultural West End neighborhood to redevelopment, would be invisible from the mosaic of the city’s civic center corridor and the capital city of California.

I instantly knew the Chinese artifact exhibit in the courthouse was a once-in-a-lifetime moment and a “YOLO” (You Only Live Once) moment. I wasn’t about to let the moment pass on my watch in my hometown where I was embedded in public and community service.

Several years after the groundbreaking on the cusp of substantial building completion, “Toso,” as he was known by many, approached me at a community function sponsored by CACS at New Canton restaurant. The date on the Member of the Year award I received was October 24, 1998. I did not know Toso personally but was familiar with his Asian Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento (ABAS) activities and social justice advocacy.

In his matter of fact approachable manner and distinctive

deliberative monotone fashion of speaking, Toso, a UC Davis King Hall alumnus, asked me if I would write an article for *Sacramento Lawyer* magazine. Of course I immediately said, “Yes.”

I said to myself, “Finally, someone with a deeper understanding of the significance of the site and the building.” It boosted my confidence immeasurably after years on the project in the final months leading up to the grand opening—the project was absolutely worth it.

The confidence spurred me to rekindle the village Cantonese dialect from my parents’ generation and Chinese school for the grand opening. I felt it was important for the anticipated hundreds in the audience to be culturally acknowledged and show respect for their project inspiration.

Sadly, too many years had passed since childhood and the two years of the same beginner class at the Confucius Church Chinese School in Chinatown. The bathroom mirror at home was just too tired to look at me -and hear me practice.

I continued to practice -in secret- with the patience and understanding of a family friend hoping the generational audience from Chinatown and my immigrant father and extended family would be surprised and appreciative of the ABC (American-born Chinese) sentiment.

As my answer to Toso settled in, I was beside myself having profound thoughts like “Holy S**t!”

It was a rare moment of personal celebration with a tinge of anxiety. I obviously was not an attorney, let alone a member of the Sacramento County Bar Association. I didn’t consider myself a writer either. I hadn’t even written a city council report yet. My only surprising published work was an essay “Journey Back to China a Poignant Tale of Family Love” in *Neighbors* (South) on November 28, 1996.

Neighbors was a local weekly independently operated publication of the *Sacramento Bee*. The essay was inspired by a CBS KHOU-11 Houston television segment *Home to China* that was produced by my cousin Sandra Gin (*Perceptions*, Emmy award-winning television public affairs) who also produced gripping and poignant segments at KCRA-3 Sacramento.

The confidence boost from Toso stoked the same fire in my belly and sense of purpose when I first proposed the idea for the artifact exhibit. It was the fuel to write “A Sesquicentennial Discovery” in *Sacramento Lawyer* magazine March 1999, to coincide with the April 10, 1999 courthouse grand opening.

Toso had the forethought and timing as then editor of *Sacramento Lawyer* to seize the moment with a commissioned essay from a primary source participant. He then juxtaposed a sidebar book review to the essay for added depth and perspective. Robert Berring reviewed *In Search of Equality: The Chinese Struggle Against Discrimination in Nineteenth-Century America* authored by Professor Charles J. McClain.

To this day I still consider the Chinese artifact exhibit at the federal courthouse and the article in *Sacramento Lawyer* among my proudest projects in the community.

Thank you again Toso for that incredible opportunity to write about the artifact exhibit in the new courthouse to a broader audience. The gracious gesture lent enormous validation to the project well beyond the legal community. Your (and Barbara’s) public service and social justice advocacy continue to have a profound impact on me.

Please join me in keeping Toso’s public and community service legacy alive by making a donation in his honor to the ABAS Law Foundation social justice award established in his name.

Concerned Supporters of ACC (CSACC) Still Waiting for Answers

By CSACC Committee

On September 16, 2025 concerned volunteers and donors of ACC Senior Services sent a letter with 27 signatures to ACC's Board Chair, Jean Shio-moto, outlining 18 concerns and 3 recommendations. These individuals explicitly stated that their motivation behind the correspondence was to express their "concerns regarding the current health and sustainability of ACC Senior Services and all of its facilities, programs, and subsidiary operations." The group urged ACC's Board "to take immediate steps to address what appears to be significant material weaknesses in ACC's governance, bylaws, and operational policies and procedures that existentially threaten the beloved organization's ability to operate responsibly while serving its mission and clients."

The concerns included: nearly \$14 million in losses disclosed in IRS 990 public filings from 2020 to 2023, overdue and underfunded capital expenditures and maintenance for ACC's facilities, inadequate segregation and management of donor restricted funds and endowments, inadequate employee management practices leading to unnecessary exposure to lawsuits in excess of \$2,300,000 with potential losses and legal fees of millions more, inadequate due diligence on a low-income housing project that led to major financial losses, actions and practices that may violate ACC's bylaws and articles of incorporation, actions and practices that may expose ACC and individual ACC's board members to liability, inadequate and disorganized document retention policies and practices, the reduction of ACC's care center from a 5-star facility to a 2-star facility, failure to recruit and retain a board with diversity in ethnicity, age, and experience, and failure to prioritize and expand fundraising from individuals and corporate sponsors.

The recommendations included: immediately commission a forensic audit firm specializing in nonprofit organizations to conduct an independent and comprehensive internal audit of systems, policies, procedures, and actions to identify material weaknesses in operations and governance that need to be addressed and determine if proper fiscal and decision-making controls and protocols are in place to prevent gross negligence, fraud, or malfeasance; engage an independent nonprofit counsel through a reputable entity with expertise on nonprofit best practices to review and recommend improvements to board training, governance and bylaw reforms, and board reorganization to be adopted by the ACC Board; and, establish an independent ad hoc committee of donors, local civic leaders, former ACC founders recommended by the undersigned to provide oversight.

Since then, two town halls have been convened - one by the Concerned Supporters of ACC (10/22/25) and the other by ACC (11/19/25). A "Community Conversation on the Future of ACC Senior Services" convened by Assemblywoman Stephanie Nguyen and Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy is planned for May 4th. ACC has published several responses to the community's concerns and addressed a few of the concerns and recommendations in CSACC's letter. Specifically, ACC clarified that while it was prevented from collecting donations due to failure to complete filing required by the state Attorney General, its non-profit status was never officially suspended. In addition, ACC's Care Center has since regained 2 of the 3 stars it had previously lost and is now a 4 star facility. ACC has also appointed 3 new board members and engaged professional help with governance and strategic planning.

The remainder of ACC's responses to the community's concerns have been vague, evasive, and in some instances conflated. As a result, community trust has been lost and CSACC continues to be concerned about what appears to be a lack of urgency to address material weaknesses in ACC's operations and governance including the lack of oversight, clear decision-making controls, and protocols to prevent gross negligence, fraud, or malfeasance. While CSACC is encouraged by management changes at Maple Tree Village aimed at addressing concerns of family members and residents, significant concerns persist with the quality and choice of meals and two recent state investigations that have substantiated complaints about pest infestation in food preparation areas. In the pursuit of transparency and accountability to ACC's volunteers and donors, CSACC again urges ACC to conduct a comprehensive forensic audit of operations and finances for years 2020 to 2026 to identify and rectify issues that may be an existential threat to the future of ACC and its facilities, operations, and programs. Members of CSACC and many others stand ready to support ACC once these concerns are addressed and trust is restored.

May 4, 2026 forum on ACC Senior Services

Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy and Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen hosted a forum attended by about 80 people on May 4th at the Elks Lodge in the Greenhaven area. Kennedy and Nguyen reported that they and their staffs have been inundated with concerns about the financial stability and operations of ACC Senior Services (ACCSV) and realized that community anxiety had reached such a level that they wanted to provide a venue to get concerns communicated and questions answered, whether at the forum or later. They realize that there was need to clear the air, address the community's anguish, get answers and help find a path go help ACCSV move forward.

Interim CEO Jill Hays summarized what changes have been made since her appointment in January 2026 to run the organization which has 300 staff members, three residential programs and a panoply of home and community-based programs supporting seniors. Hays has been with ACCSV for 4 years. ACCSV is moving forward with its annual events - the golf tournament, Ohana Walk and Hays says she was pleased that 700 people turned out for the Crab Feed, the first that she attended.

She reported that:

Maple Tree Village (MTV) is in a "different place today" and being revitalized. She carefully worded that in her eyes there is nothing wrong with MTV, it doesn't need stabilization, but has improved a lot and is "light years different." The shifting of staff and processes under a new executive director who started on April 27th is making a difference. A family council has been established to improve communication. Weekly pest control is scheduled and the county recently issued a green "compliance" placard for the kitchen. The cockroaches are being treated at the drains now and the last 2 inspections had "no findings" of infestation. MTV is nearly 90% full.

ACCSV Care Center (nursing home) has regained its 4th star high quality care rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Two stars were returned in the past 18 months. Staff is working to get the 5th star back which is the highest possible rating for nursing homes.

Greenhaven Terrace (GT) is stable with 91% occupancy and that campus is doing "fabulous" and stable. Hays says there are no plans to sell Greenhaven Terrace or any other ACCSV properties

20-year Capital Plan - An outside agency was hired to review all the buildings, identified what maintenance was needed and what is needed to bring systems up to code. They now have a 20-year capital plan to work with. She says there were no surprises identified during this process.

Kitchen – Hays reported that the kitchen has been the most difficult program to manage. "It's not perfect" and the kitchen staff needs "stabilization" (likely from turnover). She said that past reliance on qualifications as stated on applications has not worked. ACCSV is required to provide a variety of appropriate food, but they are now putting effort into stocking the kitchen with Asian food ingredients. Hays acknowledged that Asian food was always a high priority for ACC founders and ACCSV is committed to serving Asian inspired dishes. . Volunteers cannot work in the kitchens – everyone in the kitchen needs to be licensed/certified food workers. A new culinary manager has been hired.

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SCOTUS Birthright Decision Could Deal a Heavy Blow to Asians

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the authors say, that change would have a disproportionate effect on Asians who are in the country lawfully.

The Supreme Court is hearing arguments on Wednesday over Mr. Trump’s executive order to deny U.S. citizenship to children born in the country to undocumented immigrants and to those born to foreign nationals in the country lawfully on temporary visas. His plan, if upheld by the court, would reinterpret the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.

The largest number of people affected would be Hispanics, according to the study, which was conducted by Penn State scholars who research immigration. Latinos make up the largest undocumented group in the United States, and Hispanic babies would account for eight out of 10 people born in the country but not considered American citizens by 2050.

However, the biggest relative change in births of babies without citizenship would be among Asians, at 41 per 1,000 Asian immigrants. That compares with 17 births of children without citizenship per 1,000 undocumented Latinos, according to the authors of the study.

“For Latinos, we would see the most growth in absolute numbers of undocumented people,” said Jennifer Van Hook, a demographer who is a co-author of the study, which was based on analysis of census data and immigration records.

“But relative to the small size of the undocumented Asian population, we would see very high numbers of Asian children born in the U.S. without citizenship,” she said. “We would be creating an undocumented population of Asians out of thin air.”

Many of the children would be born to parents from countries such as India and China who are in the United States on student or work visas. Under Mr. Trump’s executive order, they would no longer be U.S. citizens.

About half the people in the country on temporary student and work visas eventually obtain legal permanent residency, which puts them on the path to American citizenship. If birthright citizenship is eliminated, their children would have no such path.

Most of them have been working and paying taxes in the United States for years and are in their prime childbearing years. And many have been waiting in a backlog for more than a decade to obtain permanent legal residency through their employer. Often, they have already had children born in the United States who have the full rights of citizenry.

“This executive order would generate mixed-status families for Asians, where parents are here legally waiting for green cards and would have children akin to undocumented,” said Nicole Kriesberg, who is an assistant professor of public policy at Penn State and an author of the study.

“The U.S. would be recruiting people for these visas and depriving their children of citizenship,” she said.

The United States is among at least 30 countries that automatically grant citizenship to anyone born within its borders. The beneficiaries include the children of foreign nationals in the country on temporary visas, millions of undocumented residents as well as so-called birth tourists, who travel to the United States while pregnant with the objective of having American babies.

Of the 51.3 million people in the United States in 2023 who were born in another country, nearly half were citizens, according to a report last year by the Migration Policy Institute. Another 19 percent were lawful permanent residents who could become naturalized citizens. And 5 percent were in the country on student, work or other temporary visas.

The remaining 27 percent, or about 13.7 million people, were undocumented.

Beyond significantly adding to the undocumented immigrant population, the end of birthright citizenship for many children could create an underclass of U.S.-born children that would stretch across generations, according to the institute’s report.

In a brief filed to the Supreme Court, 141 scholars said that research has demonstrated that Mr. Trump’s order would cause “great harm” to the

children and their families and communities, as well the U.S. economy. (The Penn State scholars are not part of this group.)

“If enforced, the order would dramatically expand the undocumented population of the U.S., destabilizing U.S. communities and labor markets,” they wrote.

Miriam Jordan is the NY Times’ national immigration correspondent

May 4, 2026 forum on ACCSS

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Financial transparency - 990 nonprofit tax reports and audits are all available to the public; some will be posted on the website. The current audit will be out in June. Baker Tilly has done ACCSS’s audits for the past decade. ACCSS has no plan to get a forensic audit because Hays has been told that a issue has to be identified and she knows of nothing specific to have an auditor look for. There is sufficient cash on hand to meet the current payroll needs.

Use of Registry for staffing - Instead of relying on the Registry (to hire temporary RNs and other health workers), ACCSS is building their own on-call list.

Evacuation training and emergency preparedness plan – ACCSS is planning to schedule evacuation training and have an emergency preparedness plan.

Wellness Park donations (\$60K-70K) have been placed in a restricted account earning interest until there is a business and program plan in place. The Wellness Park had been suggested for ACCSS’s backyard. More discussion and planning are needed – should it have a building, equipment, how will it be operated? That project is on hold.

Executive Search - Board president Jean Shiimoto told the group that the board just the prior week signed a contract with DSQ to do an executive search for the CEO position. She said that the consulting firm successfully found leadership candidates for the Japanese American National Museum and Denshi.

Is the executive staff local or living out of state? Hays reported that the new MTV executive director lives locally. No information was provided about the other top managers.

Assemblymember Nguyen asked the audience to identify ACCSS services that are loved and valued. The audience identified: Friendly staff, Meals on Wheels (which Supervisor Kennedy said ACCSS taking over MOW for Sacramento County was a godsend), transportation services, classes, bingo, senior classes, and attention given to AAPI community and multigenerational values.

ABOUT CURRENTS

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AAPL seniors causing deadly crashes

On March 27, 2026 at 743am, 76 year old Zhuo Ming Lu was trying to parallel park his SUV near the New Lung Ting Cafe (Pork Chop House) on Grant Avenue in SF, but he lost control of his vehicle which jumped the sidewalk, hit and killed 49 year old Cutberto Zamora-Martinez of San Joaquin County (who was installing flooring in a nearby apartment), injured another pedestrian who suffered non-life-threatening injuries, and crashed into a Chinatown building across the street. He was arrested for vehicular manslaughter and driving too fast.

Zamora’s death was the seventh pedestrian death in San Francisco in three months. The hit-and-run death in SoMa (South of Market Street) on the following Monday marked the city’s eighth pedestrian death in four months.

The crash occurred less than a week following the March 20, 2026 sentencing of 80-year-old Mary Fong Lau for the 2024 deaths of Diego Cardoso de Oliveira, his wife, Matilde Pinto, and their two children (2 month old, 1 year old) at a West Portal bus stop in SF. On Saturday March 16, 2024 midday, Lau was speeding 70mph in her Mercedes SUV, driving the wrong-way in a residential neighborhood when she jumped a curb and struck the victims standing at the bus stop.

Many believed Lau’s sentence of two years of formal probation, 200 hours of community service, \$67,400 in restitution fees, and her license suspension for three years was too lenient, as Lau managed to dodge jail time and house arrest. Lau had pled “no contest” to four felony counts of vehicular manslaughter, but will have to face relatives of the victims in the civil case, which was filed last year and can now move forward following the conclusion of the criminal case. In May 2025, a lawsuit was filed against Lau accusing her of transferring her real estate assets to avoid paying a future civil judgment.

When should one stop driving? Harvard Health Publishing says look for RED FLAGS: As people get older, driving skills may decline so slowly that it’s not obvious worrisome changes are happening. Even when mishaps and near-misses occur, there are so many possible contributors — especially other drivers — that it may not be clear that the older driver was at fault.

Red flags that might mean an older person is an unsafe driver include:

- concerned comments from family or friends
- reluctance of others to ride with them
- input from other drivers (why is everyone honking at me?) or traffic authorities (why am I getting all these traffic tickets?)
- getting lost on familiar roads
- consistently driving too slowly or too fast
- unexplained dents or scratches appearing on the car
- frequent accidents or near misses

SE Asian students confront mental health crisis by breaking silence

By Julia Veilleux

AsAmNews, August 12, 2025

As universities across the country transition back to pre-pandemic norms, a pressing mental health crisis weighs heavily on Southeast Asian students, one that remains largely overlooked by academic institutions and the broader mental health field.

Dr. Danielle Ung, a clinical psychologist and professor at Bastyr University, is leading a pioneering study that examines the compounded mental health toll experienced by Southeast Asian students during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The project, both data-driven and deeply personal, explores the intersection of racism, cultural stigma, and systemic neglect that has long impacted these students and which the pandemic only worsened.

“This study focuses on Southeast Asians for several reasons,” said Dr. Ung. “First, this population has been largely ignored in academic research, particularly regarding racism and discrimination.

Second, many Southeast Asians were misidentified or grouped together as ‘Chinese,’ which intensified the continued detrimental impact of these microaggressions that they already faced.

Third, Southeast Asian nations, historically, have limited resources and less access to affordable healthcare, making these students more vulnerable to poor health outcomes.”

A Crisis Deepened by Hate and Isolation

The COVID-19 pandemic unleashed not only a global health emergency but also a surge in anti-Asian hate crimes and xenophobic rhetoric—factors that disproportionately affected Southeast Asian students, particularly those studying in the U.S. away from home and family. Many were wrongfully associated with the virus due to racist assumptions and political language, such as the use of the phrase “Chinese virus,” further marginalizing an already vulnerable population.

Dr. Ung’s research coordinator, Savannah Stidhams, recalled the urgency they felt when launching the study.

“Early on in the COVID-19 pandemic, the APA (American Psychological Association) released a statement about the alarming rise in suicide rates among Southeast Asians,” she said.

Stidhams added that the heightened fear, isolation, and cultural displacement experienced by many international and first-generation Southeast Asian students led to serious mental health challenges—challenges that institutions were not adequately prepared to address.

Stigma, Silence, and Barriers to Care

Dr. Ung’s study examines both quantitative and qualitative data, capturing levels of stress, anxiety, depression, and PTSD while also highlighting the students’ lived experiences. The research reveals a consistent theme: while the need for mental health support is urgent, cultural stigma and a lack of culturally informed services prevent many from seeking help.

“Southeast Asian students often face systemic challenges—including mental health stigma, limited access to resources such as financial means for transportation and affordable care, and a lack of healthcare providers who share their cultural backgrounds,” said Dr. Ung. “This can make it incredibly difficult for students to access the help they need.”

Language barriers, unfamiliarity with Western mental health systems, and fear of being misunderstood all contribute to low engagement with available campus resources. Meanwhile, many mental health professionals are not trained in culturally responsive care that takes Southeast Asian experiences and values into account.

“In my culture, we believe that healing happens within communities,” Dr. Ung said. “It takes a village to make change, and I’m fortunate to have a strong support system that helps me process the emotional toll of this work.”

A Push for Institutional Change

But Dr. Ung’s team isn’t only identifying problems, they’re laying out solutions. The study aims to offer universities specific, actionable recommendations, from increasing culturally competent counseling services to building peer support networks and implementing stronger anti-discrimination policies on campuses.

“I hope that this research will spark meaningful conversations among academic and community allies,” said Dr. Ung. “More importantly, I hope it will lead to tangible changes in

SE Asian students confront mental health crisis

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how universities support Southeast Asian students. My ultimate goal is to ensure that these students don't feel invisible or unsupported in their academic environments."

For Dr. Ung and the rest of the team, this work is a call to action for higher education institutions to step up and recognize the needs of Southeast Asian students, not just during times of crisis, but in their ongoing efforts to promote student wellness and equity.

"It's not just about understanding the problem," said Stidhams. "It's about implementing solutions, whether that's through better policies, reducing access barriers to care, or creating healing spaces for students. I want this study to be a wake-up call for institutions to do better."

A Personal Mission

For Dr. Ung, the research is deeply root-

ed in her own experience. As a Southeast Asian woman who has encountered racism firsthand, she views this work not just as an academic pursuit, but as a personal responsibility.

"I've been on the receiving end of racism, and I understand how isolating it can be when you don't have the resources or support to cope," she said. "I want these students to know they are not alone, and I want universities to know they can do better."

Even while carrying the emotional weight of this work, Dr. Ung maintains hope and finds strength in her community, and sometimes, a little comfort in the small joys of life.

"Taro, Ube, and Matcha Bubble Tea are my go-to!" she shared. "A little sweetness goes a long way, especially when doing heavy work like this."

As the research continues, it aims to amplify the voices of a population too often left out of national conversations around mental health. For Dr. Ung and her team, it's not just about identifying a crisis—it's about building a path forward.

To learn more or connect with the SE Asian student mental health study, email Seafo-cus@uw.edu visit or follow the team on Instagram at [@CovidResearchStudy](https://www.instagram.com/CovidResearchStudy).

Nonsmoking Asian American and Latina women have higher rates of lung cancer. Why can't they get screened?

By Marin Wolf, Boston Globe, April 11, 2026

Asian American women are increasingly developing lung cancer without ever smoking — and without access to screening that could detect the disease at an earlier stage.

While rates of the disease have been decreasing in every other group, a 2023 study* found rates among nonsmoking Asian American women rose 2 percent annually between 2007 and 2018.

Because of strict federal guidelines that prioritize screening for longtime, heavy smokers, most health insurance providers won't pay for annual CT scans that could detect the often-silent disease early in certain nonsmokers and people with shorter smoking histories. Those screening rules are narrow and could keep patients from receiving care until it's too late, say many Boston-area researchers and advocates working to raise awareness about the risk disparities.

"Mothers are being taken away by this disease, and no one is talking about it," said Dr. Narjust Florez, an oncologist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute who specializes in lung cancer in women.

About 50 percent of all Asian American women diagnosed with lung cancer never smoked, and those percentages climb to about 80 among Chinese American and 86 among Indian American women. Hispanic women are also at increased risk, with about 40 percent of lung cancer cases occurring in never-smokers, compared to about 20 percent for white women and 14 percent for Black women.

Bettina Ko, a 68-year-old woman from Northborough, found her cancer by accident. For months, she had trouble seeing out of her left eye, a symptom of an autoimmune disease that can also affect the thymus gland in the chest. She got a chest CT scan through the Mass General

Brigham Cancer Institute early detection clinic to check her thymus, but instead found a little white cloud in her lung.

She had never smoked and had no lingering cough or pain, no family history of lung cancer, no reason to believe the nodule would be anything but benign. Another scan said otherwise.

It wasn't until Ko, whose family is from Taiwan, began treatment that she did the mental math. She was the fourth woman in her friend group — all of Asian descent, all nonsmokers — to be diagnosed with lung cancer. Two of her friends died from the disease. She was stunned when her doctor told her that nonsmoking Asian American women in particular have an elevated risk of lung cancer.

"I have been getting mammograms and colonoscopies, but nothing, at least that I'm aware of, for [lung] cancer screening," Ko said. "If we know that we are the population with a very high percentage [of lung cancer], maybe that would be something worthwhile to check, right?"

There are a number of theories as to why some people develop lung cancer despite never smoking cigarettes. Some research indicates that inhaling cooking oil vapors, especially without proper ventilation, can increase the risk of lung cancer. Exposure to poor air quality and certain jobs, such as mining and truck driving, are also associated with the disease.

Doctors aren't sure why Asian and Hispanic women who have never smoked develop lung cancer at higher rates compared to other populations. It could be a genetic variation that hasn't been identified yet, said Dr. Sucharita Kher, a Tufts Medicine pulmonologist who also runs the Tufts Asian Lung Clinic.

When these women do develop lung cancer, they are more likely to have a mutation known as EGFR, which doesn't cause the cancer, but does mean certain treatments are more effective than others, Kher said.

To qualify for annual low-dose CT scans, the gold standard for lung cancer screening, you must be between the ages of 50 and 80 and either currently smoke or have quit in the last 15 years. And you have to have smoked the equivalent of about a pack of cigarettes a day for 20 years, or else insurance won't cover your screening. Scans can cost up to \$400 out of pocket.

The eligibility criteria were slightly expanded in 2021, increasing the number of women and Black smokers who now qualify for testing.

The screening guidelines were developed in 2013 after a National Lung Screening Trial of more than 50,000 people showed that low-dose CT scans caught cancers in just over 1 percent of high-risk smokers, and reduced risk of cancer death by up to 20 percent when compared to standard chest X-rays.

A similar large-scale study on certain nonsmoking populations would likely be needed to justify the additional costs and risks of radiation exposure that would come with expanding screening guidelines, said Dr. Ruchi Hamal, an oncologist and hematologist at Lowell General Hospital Cancer Center.

Making matters worse, the US Preventive Services Task Force, the group of experts charged with issuing recommendations on health screenings, hasn't met in over a year amid the overhaul of US Department of Health and Human Services under Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Any potential discussions about lung cancer screening

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Nonsmoking Asian American and Latina women, lung cancer

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would have to wait until the group resumes its normal duties.

The US Preventive Services Task Force did not respond to requests for comment for this story.

There are some smaller studies evaluating the efficacy of screening in high-risk nonsmoking groups.

Dr. Elaine Shum, an oncologist who treats lung cancer at NYU Langone Health, is leading a study evaluating whether CT scans are as effective at detecting early lung cancer in nonsmoking Asian women as they are in heavy smokers. It only includes 1,000 people and is not randomized. But the results are promising: Scans detected cancer in 1.3 percent of participants, higher than the detection rate seen in high-risk smokers.

Replicating the National Lung Screening Trial would be expensive, time-consuming, and likely impossible because of massive cuts to federal research funding, Shum said. But potential new screening tools being investigated, such as blood tests, could change the research landscape.

In 2022, Taiwan launched an enhanced lung cancer screening program for nonsmoking patients with a family history of lung cancer. It has seen early success. About 85 percent of lung cancer cases found as part of the advanced screenings were detected at stage 0 or stage 1, making them much easier to treat successfully.

One of Ko’s friends found her lung cancer during a screening she had done in China in 2017. The friend, Lynn, who now lives in Seattle and asked to be identified only by her first name, regularly travels to China where she can select different preventive health tests from a self-pay menu that are cheaper than they would be in the US. The CT scan showed a small nodule, which Lynn and her doctors in the US and China then watched for years until it began to grow. Because she caught it early, Lynn was able to be cured of her cancer with only surgery.

There are downsides to unregulated screenings. Low-dose CT scans emit small amounts of radiation, which can contribute to the development of cancer in rare cases. They can also detect nodules that would have otherwise gone away on their own, leading to unnecessary biopsies and increased health anxiety.

Getting smokers to screen is already a difficult task. Only 15 percent of Massachusetts residents who qualify for annual lung cancer checks partake. The rates are lower for women than men, especially women of color. They’re also in stark contrast to other common cancer screenings. For example, about 64 percent of Massachusetts women in their 40s received mammograms, which screen for breast cancer, in 2022.

Medical centers across Massachusetts are trying to get more smokers to get annual scans. Kher at Tufts Medicine said the Asian Lung

Clinic is set up to increase access to diagnosis and treatment of lung conditions that are common in patients of Asian descent. Kher hosted an inaugural outreach event in Chinatown last summer, in partnership with the American Lung Association, to encourage residents who qualify for preventive lung cancer testing to get screened.

Increasing uptake of screening among heavy smokers could open the door for changing future guidelines to be more inclusive of other at-risk groups, said Dana-Farber’s Florez.

“The screening is there, but we’re not using it. And because we’re not using it, I think that may be one of the reasons” that guidelines haven’t expanded to include more people who are at heightened risk, Florez said.

Shame is a major barrier. Lung cancer is so heavily associated with smoking that it’s often seen as a moral failing, a preventable disease spurred by unhealthy habits.

Early in her career, Florez said, she treated a nonsmoking young woman with lung cancer that wasn’t detected until it had spread throughout her body. She died without telling anyone, except for her boyfriend and sister, that the disease originated in her lungs. Her obituary said she died of breast cancer.

Even Florez, who has spent her career trying to increase access to lung cancer resources for women, was shocked when her own mother, who had never smoked, was diagnosed with the disease in 2022. Florez’s mother has stage 4 cancer, meaning it spread to other parts of her body and is incurable.

Florez now has a family history of lung cancer. She cannot get screened unless she pays for the test out of pocket.

“It doesn’t matter if you are the mother of a lung cancer doctor. It doesn’t matter if you’re a lung cancer doctor,” Florez said. “There is no discrimination for this cancer.”

Marin Wolf can be reached at marin.wolf@globe.com.

*National Library of Medicine/National Center for Biotechnology Information <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>

Trends in Smoking-Specific Lung Cancer Incidence Rates Within a US Integrated Health System, 2007-2018, Abstract

Researchers Lori C Sakoda, Amy Alabaster, Eric T Sumner, Nancy P Gordon, Charles P Quesenberry Jr, Jeffrey B Velotta

Background: At least 10% of lung cancers arise in adults who have never used tobacco. Data remain inconclusive on whether lung cancer incidence has been increasing among adults who have never used tobacco.

Research question: How have age-adjusted incidence rates of lung cancer changed temporally, especially among adults who have never used tobacco?

Study design and methods: Trends in lung cancer

incidence were examined using linked chronic health record and cancer registry data on a dynamic cohort of adults ≥ 30 years of age at risk of incident lung cancer between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2018, from an integrated health-care system in northern California. Truncated age-adjusted lung cancer incidence rates and average annual percentage change (AAPC) in rates were estimated, overall and separately for adults who have ever and never used tobacco by age, sex, and race or ethnicity.

Results: The cohort included 3,751,348 adults (52.5% female, 48.0% non-Hispanic White, 63.1% have never used tobacco), among whom 18,627 (52.7% female, 68.6% non-Hispanic White, 15.4% have never used tobacco) received a diagnosis of lung cancer. The overall lung cancer incidence rate declined from 91.1 to 63.7 per 100,000 person-years between 2007 and 2009 and between 2016 and 2018 (AAPC, -3.9%; 95% CI, -4.2% to -3.6%). Among adults who have ever used tobacco, incidence rates declined overall from 167.0 to 113.4 per 100,000 person-years (AAPC, -4.2%; 95% CI, -4.4% to -3.9%) and, to varying degrees, within all age, sex, and racial or ethnic groups. Among adults who have never used tobacco, incidence rates were relatively constant, with 3-year-period estimates ranging from 19.9 to 22.6 per 100,000 person-years (AAPC, 0.9%; 95% CI, -0.3% to 2.1%). Incidence rates for adults who have never used tobacco seemed stable over time, within age, sex, and racial or ethnic groups, **except for those of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) origin (AAPC, 2.0%; 95% CI, 0.1%-3.9%), whose rates were about twice as high compared with their counterparts.**

Interpretation: These observed trends underscore the need to elucidate further the cause of lung cancer in adults who have never used tobacco, including why incidence is higher and rising in API adults who have never used tobacco.

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UCSF’s FANS (Female Asian Non-Smoker) study

The FANS study was launched in 2023 and is a research team collecting hundreds of DNA samples to understand possible genetic or environmental causes and lung cancer in AAPI women. Researchers also hope to address the issue of Asian Americans being underrepresented in medical studies, which limits the scope of data used to develop treatments.

For information, email fansstudy@ucsf.edu, 833/326-7883. You can join the FANS study by completing the survey on the fansstudy.ucsf.edu website. The study identifies study participants recently diagnosed with lung cancer through the California Cancer Registry. The study also wants participants who are not diagnosed with lung cancer. 80% of AAPI women with lung cancer have never smoked.

Boston Globe investigation on gambling

Boston Globe reporters Chris Serres and Danny McDonald with Mabel Chan, Esmey Jimenez and Jeremiah Manion authored a 3-part series covering the epidemic of gambling in Boston’s Chinatown. The series ran March 24-April 1, 2026 and is available in simplified Chinese on the bostonglobe.com website. Highlights of the series are captured in Serres’ interview on public radio.

NPR podcast about Boston Chinatown’s gambling, Aired March 31, 2026

Here & Now’s Scott Tong talks with The Boston Globe’s addiction reporter, Chris Serres, about the Globe’s in-depth, three-part series on gambling and its effects on the Asian community in and around Boston.

Scott Tong: Casinos and illegal gambling parlors in and around Boston are targeting the Asian community and fueling addiction. That’s according to a new investigation in the Boston Globe. Globe team talked to more than 100 current and former casino patrons and community advocates, casino workers, and addiction specialists. And it reviewed more than 600 casino lawsuits trying to recover money from gamblers. Chris Serres is one of the lead reporters on the team. He reports on addiction for the Boston Globe. Hi, Chris.

Chris Serres: Hi, Scott.

Tong: The main character in part one of your series is a man named Kim Chung Ma, an immigrant from Hong Kong. He first went to a Boston casino back in 2020, won a bunch of money. What happened next to him?

Serres: Yeah, so we met Kim Jong Ma at a senior housing complex south of Boston back in the spring of last year. And, you know, his story was that he looked really, really, really depressed. And my colleague and I started to talk to him and ask him what his situation was. And he confessed to us that he, what he really wanted to do was to be gambling. He just really wanted to be at a casino. And that started this whole conversation about what happened to him. And, you know, he won big. He won a jackpot at Encore Boston Harbor. And, he didn’t have a lot going on in his life. Pretty isolated, cut off from his family. And that opened a door that he just couldn’t shut. And, he spent much of the next several years in casinos. And as the investigation points out, the casinos have multiple different ways of ensnaring people.

In his case, he couldn’t drive. Older man, and they offered free shuttles. They offered him free gambling vouchers on those shuttles to the casinos. They had shuttle guides that would, provide loans for him.

So every time he tried to stop, he just got sucked back in to the point where he was contemplating suicide and ultimately separated from the love of his life.

Tong: Wow. In your piece, I was struck by something another Hong Kong immigrant said. Christina Chan, a playwright and producer, she told you, quote, you have to remember that for many first generation Asian immigrants, crossing the ocean and coming to this country is already a huge gamble. Stepping into a casino is just a minor extension of that. Did your reporting back that up?

Serres: I do think that there’s some truth to that idea that for these first generation immigrants, it is a huge gamble to come to this country and you come to a place where you might feel cut off. And if you’re in a place like Boston’s Chinatown neighborhood, which is very much cut off from the rest of mainstream society. You may not have family and friends.

The casinos are this gleaming place that offer you that sense of hope and opportunity. And plus, there’s free transportation to get there. There are loan officers willing to provide credit to you. There’s vouchers, there’s giveaways, and it’s exciting. And I just feel like what we found, and we talked to dozens of casino patrons in predominantly Asian neighborhoods around greater Boston is that allure is really difficult for them to resist.

Tong: Yes. Your team spoke to some public health experts who draw a parallel between this casino industry and the tobacco industry. What is that parallel?

Serres: Well, I think the parallel there is with menthol cigarettes, which up until a couple decades ago, the Big Tobacco was aggressively targeting African American communities and neighborhoods.

Just like the casinos are putting these big billboards in places like Boston’s Chinatown neighborhood, the big tobacco companies were running these advertisements promoting menthol cigarettes, another highly addictive product, highly dangerous product to African Americans. And, so, yeah, there’s a parallel there. And it took decades of community action for people to raise awareness around that and tighten regulation.

Tong: Chris, did you ask the casinos about these practices, whether they specifically target Asian communities?

Serres: I did. And, you know, it’s interesting. They’re pretty open about it. Some of the casino executives that we talked to just came right out and said, yeah, we think that this is an ideal market for us. It’s smart business. And, we also talked to some industry consultants that said quite up front, what I think is actually an untrue statement that Asians love to gamble. I think there is a certain segment of the population which is vulnerable to developing gambling disorders, but that doesn’t mean that they inherently like to gamble.

Tong: But, yeah, we gotta run.

Gamblers Anonymous – 12 step programs have been proven - in drug addiction as well with gamblers - to be an effective intervention program. Gamblers Anonymous (GA) is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from a gambling problem. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop gambling.

Step 1-We admitted we were powerless over gambling; that our lives had become unmanageable. Step 2 -Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to a normal way of thinking and living. Step 3 -Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of this Power on our own understanding. Step 4-Made a searching and fearless moral and financial inventory of ourselves. Step 5-Admitted to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. Step 6-Were entirely ready to have these defects of character removed. Step 7-Humbly asked God (of our understanding) to remove our shortcomings. Step 8-Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all. Step 9-Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others. Step 10-Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it. Step 11-Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our consciousness contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out. Step 12-Having made an effort to practice these principles in all our affairs, we tried to carry this message to other compulsive gamblers.

Buddhism – Recreational gambling is harmless. Habitual and addictive gambling are psychologically, socially and spiritually harmful because they are motivated by and reinforce delusion, avarice and the mistaken belief in good and bad ‘luck’. For the Buddha, it is being virtuous that makes one ‘lucky’, not having a winning streak.

Currents Places

Honouliuli Internment Camp

Honouliuli Internment Camp was Hawaii’s largest WWII incarceration camp, established in 1943 after the attack on Pearl Harbor (12/7/1941). Located on Oahu, it was designated as a National Monument in 2015 and National Historic Site in 2019, but the 123-acre property remained closed and inaccessible to the public. It was one of several internment camps in the Hawaiian Islands.

The National Park Service plans to open Honouliuli to limited public tours beginning this summer. The opening coincides with the 80th anniversary of the camp’s closure in 1946 and the Park Service is planning public programs and commemorative events, including once-a-month tours will begin at Hawaii’s Plantation Village, where visitors can learn about plantation-era life and the many immigrant communities that shaped the Islands before WWII. From there, visitors will board a shuttle to take them to the remote valley to see the remains of Honouliuli and hear its history.

Honouliuli was built in a gulch, intentionally hidden from view and surrounded by steep valley walls that cut it off from the surrounding landscape. The camp held more than 4,000 prisoners of war, mostly from Japan and Korea, as well as hundreds of civilians, most of whom were of Japanese descent.

Arrests of Japanese Americans in Hawaii began in the hours and days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when the military imposed martial law across Hawaii, placing curfews, patrolling streets, censoring news and mail, and fingerprinting everyone over 6 years old. Military authorities and FBI agents targeted influential leaders in the Japanese community, including teachers, priests, business owners and elected officials, often arriving at homes with guns and bayonets. The 2018 documentary “Voices Behind Barbed Wire: Stories from Hawaii” describes the arrests.

Within Honouliuli were wooden barracks, guard towers and mess halls, surrounded by barbed wire fencing. The location deep in a gulch trapped heat, earning it the nickname “Hell Valley” by those imprisoned there. When it closed in 1946, most of the buildings were torn down and removed, and vegetation took over, concealing the site and much of its history.

In the decades following World War II, Honouliuli’s existence was known, but its whereabouts were unclear. The late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye described the secrecy of the system in the 2012 documentary “The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawaii.” “It was developed by the military with no basis of constitutional law, and it was completely classified so it was not known to the public,” Inouye said. “A lot of people knew something was happening out Ewa side, but we had no idea where and how it was done,” Inouye said.

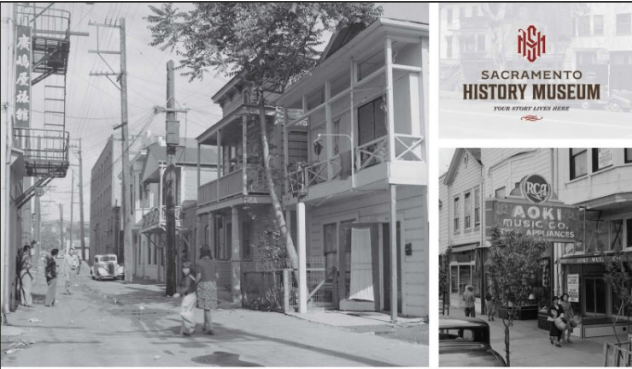
The discovery of Honouliuli came in 1998, when the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii received a call from a local TV station preparing to air “Schindler’s List,” asking where Honouliuli was located. No one knew so volunteers at the center launched a yearslong search. The site was rediscovered in 2002, its structures buried beneath dense foliage and nearly reclaimed by nature. What remained were fragments of the past: concrete foundations, water pipes, guard post locations, rock walls and scattered artifacts. As one travels deep into the gulch on a dirt road, the mountains close in and then only thing left to see is the sky above. It is a 3/4 mile downhill walk to the valley.

The Center stewarded the land and helped make it a national monument and to some it feels like sacred ground. The project is a collaboration between the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, the National Park Service, the University of Hawaii–West Oahu, and other partners. UH West Oahu plays a key role in public access because center to the site runs through its land.



Sacramento History Museum Japantown exhibit planned for Fall 2026

Asian Bar Association of Sacramento (ABAS) Law Foundation and Reclaim Sacramento Japantown want to create the first Japantown exhibit at the Sacramento History Museum in Old Sac (101 I St). In the exhibit, visitors will enter the neighborhood – an immersive experience of sound and light - and learn why its legacy still matters today. Japantown, once a thriving economic and cultural hub after the Japanese were released from their WWII incarceration and returned to Sacramento, only to be bulldozed in the name of downtown redevelopment for the creation of Capitol Mall.

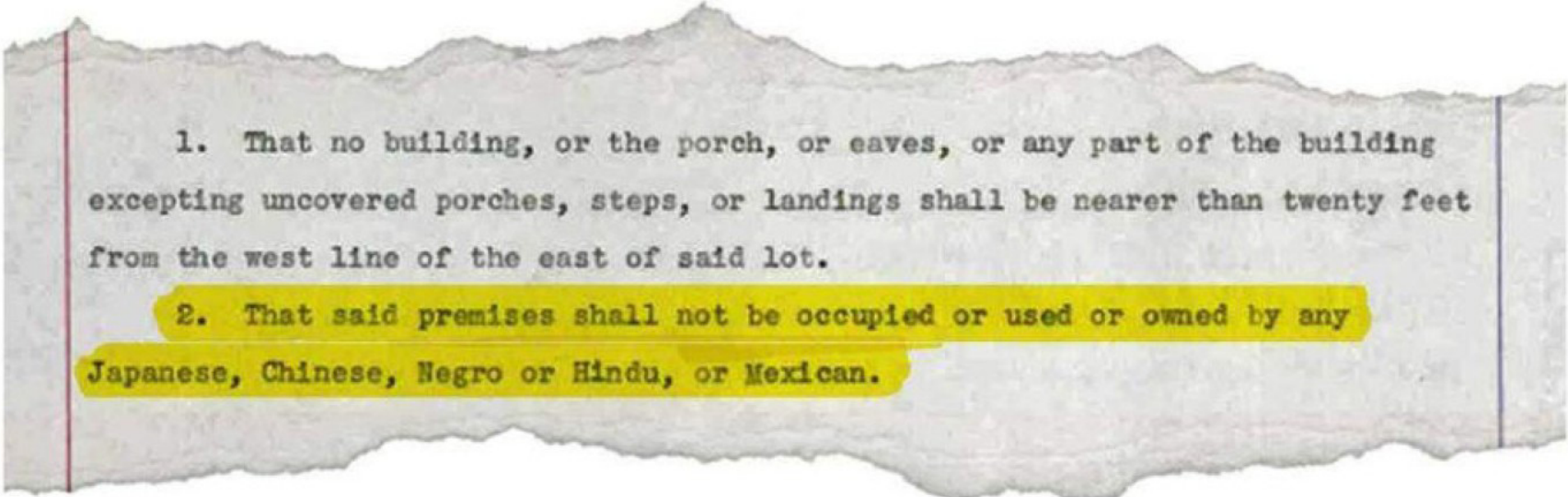


The groups are fundraising for this Fall 2026 exhibit. Donations of \$1000 or more will be acknowledged at the exhibit. Send donations payable to The ABAS Law Foundation (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit) at 555 University Ave Suite 235, Sacramento 95825.

Yolo County strips racist covenants from property records.

In March Yolo County Clerk-Recorder Jesse Salinas announced that 1,172 historic property records (covering 8,187 parcels across 58 subdivisions) have been identified and modified to remove discriminatory covenants, some dating back more than a century. While such covenants have been unenforceable for decades, AB 1466 (2021) requires that they be removed. The racial covenants restricted how property can be used and to whom it can be transferred, frequently used against people of color and in some counties against Jewish people.

The Yolo County Restrictive Covenant Modification Program used technology to identify the documents – they scanned all the documents and used AI to find key words. Over 70% of the parcels were located in West Sacramento. 1,112 parcels were in Davis, 872 in Woodland. 212 were in unincorporated Yolo County and 252 in Winters.



It is imperative to fight for DEI

By Annemarie Fischer

Almost immediately after his second inauguration, President Trump began launching attacks against Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. On day one, he rescinded Executive Order (EO) 13985, which required federal agencies to ensure the equitable delivery of government resources. That same day, he signed EO 14151, purging DEI related programs, policies, and people from the Federal Government. Chaos ensued, as federal employees and military officers were targeted for dismissal for being publicly pro-diversity.

On day two, President Trump signed EO 14173, rescinding President Johnson’s 1965 EO 11246, which required that federal contractors try to develop a workforce reflective of the community they served. By June of 2025, executive orders were weaponized to stifle history. Visitors to National Historic Sites were asked to report “any signs or other information that are negative about either past or living Americans.”

For years, “DEI” has suffered relentless hits to its reputation. People argue its effectiveness, complaining that DEI is all fluff; or that it is a waste of time that could be better spent on “more important work,” or that it “isn’t fair” to “other people.” Unfortunately, these complaints are sometimes true. Now, after years of negative press, DEI is damaged goods.

A 2024 study on organizational resistance to DEI initiatives concluded that a person’s situatedness within an organization impacted their level of support for DEI, and that their support changes with their situation. For example, people who like their coworkers are more likely to look favorably on DEI programs. Meanwhile, organizational leaders often resist DEI programs that seek to change the status quo, even if they publicly support them. Things typically look and feel fine from the top of the hierarchy, and leaders are often not inclined to change what is working well... for themselves. So, it tracks that some people resist change when there is “more important work” to do, or that someone who already feels excluded at work might perceive DEI as an unfair benefit for “other people.” But as people start new roles and find belonging at work, their opinions of DEI are likely to shift as well.

Expecting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives to remain static in how they are perceived when people’s perceptions continuously change over time is dangerous. The repercussions of deciding DEI was bad *sometimes* and therefore must be avoided at all costs are disastrous. Whereas President Johnson’s EO 11246 was a response to the absurdity of using taxpayer dollars to fund organizations that were not inclusive of the diverse taxpayer communities funding them, President Trump is, as of March 2026, targeting federal contractors for “cultural competence.” It’s not hard to imagine how quickly things can go awry when an employee doesn’t have the most basic understanding of the community they are serving. That is exactly what banning DEI looks like, however, as the Trump administration is now using the False Claims Act* to collect damages from organizations who embrace DEI and label them as “discriminatory.”

The 2026 Asian American Foundation Status Index reports that 44% of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) feel worried, and it’s no wonder. One in five AAPIs have been harassed or threatened because of race in the past 12 months. By a margin of over 20%, AAPIs are more likely than all US adults to see federal policies like tariffs and efforts to increase deportations as harmful to their communities. Generally, US adults perceive Asian Americans as near the top of the social ladder with the most money, education, and respected jobs. Yet 49% of US adults say AAPIs have little or no influence on US culture and 25% have no relationships with Asian Americans. That’s a problem.

According to the Status Index, AAPIs express more support for DEI programs than any other racial and ethnic group. At this moment in American history, when the AAPI experiences that shaped this country are being erased from its story, it is imperative to fight for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The battle for representation and the equitable allocation of resources is being waged in the courtroom, but it must be fueled by individuals. DEI will never be perfect because people are not perfect, but we can make both better if we fight.

Annie Fischer was invited to submit this commentary. She is also busy running for a seat on the Sacramento County Office of Education School Board (Area 3).

*False Claims Act (FCA) 31 USC §§3729-3733 was enacted in 1863 in response to defense contractor fraud during the American Civil War. It is the federal government’s primary litigation tool in combating fraud by people and companies against the government.

Currents films to watch

Rehearsal for an Encounter – Dahee Kim’s third film addressing transracial, transnational adoption is “about a very distinct moment in time. A time of preparation. A time to rehearse what you want to say to the woman who gave birth to you before the momentous meeting.” “I hope that my work gives space for adoptees to examine their own lives and experiences. In general I want to make work that people can leave and begin to ask questions. I never want to propose an answer or solution with my work. I try to make work that will leave people with wonder, to think beyond the frame.”

You’re So Lucky - Filmmaker Jonathan Moon created this film for non-adoptees. His adoption story: Grew up with his grandmother until age 6-7, was taken by his birth father to be enrolled on his family registry, a few years later his father left him at an orphanage, and at age 9 he was adopted by a family from Wisconsin. “You’re So Lucky” is a phrase that triggers in him “such a visceral and complex response;” it’s a most well-intentioned comment which provokes complex feelings. “I want to reclaim that phrase,” he said, “Was I lucky, or did I just learn to call survival a gift?”

The Volunteer by David Brodie – A documentary about Japanese American Vietnam War veteran Bruce Nakashima who enlisted, found it unnerving to be fighting people who looked like him and hated being called a “gook” by other soldiers. He and his Black American buddy LV Hendking were wounded and being medevacked to the hospital. L.V. held Bruce’s arm when the flight crew wanted to pitch Bruce out of the helicopter in flight along with Vietcong POWs with them. “No, not him. Bruce is my buddy.” Bruce resisted services until some 40 years later when he enrolled into the Agent Orange Registry. Then he could reach out through social media to reconnect with L.V. L.V.’s wife was astonished to find out that this “Bruce” whom L.V. often talked about was Japanese American; she always thought he was also black.

Along Comes Larry - The Larry Ramos Story. A documentary about Hawaii’s Larry Ramos, the first Filipino/Asian American to win a Grammy. A child prodigy with the ukulele, he broke racial barriers being the only non-white member of two of the biggest groups of the sixties – The new Christy Minstrels and The Association. The 30-minute documentary was released in 2025.



Two Days and One Suitcase – This film will be shown on May 16th by the Sacramento Adult Buddhist Assn, Sac Girls Scout Troop 569, BSA Troop 50B, 50G, 250 and the Dharma School. Author Helen Hannan Parra parallels current issues of racism and immigration and the incarceration of Japanese Americans. Free. 1pm at Sacramento Buddhist Church (2401 Riverside Blvd, Sac). Info: John Yoshikawa 916/320-2111.

From the Community to the Classroom (2009) by Clifford Garibay, Ryan Gonzales and Daniel Tkach is now available on YouTube. A film created by Davis High School students talking about race, Youth in Focus and Catalysts for Social Justice programs and other classes created to address racial conflict. In the 2023-24 school year, there were 12 hate-related vandalisms affecting Davis students; in 2024-2025 there were 15. As of April 10, 2026, there have been 17 incidents. Of these 44 acts, 19 have been anti-Black, 16 antisemitic, 3 anti-LGBTQIA and 3 involved sexual violence/misogyny.

Currents Faces, New Places

Bryn Imagire is the production designer for Pixar’s latest film “Hoppers” about a girl’s experiences with robotic beavers and real beavers. Imagire, daughter of Art and Gloria Imagire, grew up in Greenhaven (a Sacramento neighborhood), graduated from Kennedy High, attended American River College, received her bachelor’s from ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena. Following a stint with Dane Henas Design, she joined Pixar in 1996 working on “A Bug’s Life,” “Toy Story 2,” “The Incredibles,” “Ratatouille,” and “Up.” Now her artistic credit at the end of the Hoppers movie is in the front credits and in a bigger font!

Best Director Oscar director Ang Lee is filming “Gold Mountain” in Folsom and Sacramento. The 1850s San Francisco period film about two women running a marriage con on men in the chaos of Gold Rush-era California. Lee will be filming from mid May to late July. Extras are being hired: townspeople, railroad workers, horseback riders, blacksmiths, butchers, wagon drivers, coal miners and more. To apply, send four photos which have no logos, no visible tattoos, dyed hair or facial piercings with contact information by email to realitycasting23@gmail.com

Thong Hy Huynh Awards are recommended by the Davis Human Relations Commission to the Davis City Council annually to raise awareness about and honor community members whose actions exemplify the goals of diversity, community, social justice and equal rights. They were first presented in 1986, following the 1983 death of 17 year old Huynh in a racially motivated killing on the Davis High School campus. The 2026 honorees include Sharon Shoemaker (18 or older category) and ¿Un Cafecity? (community organization category). The recognition ceremony will be held on May 19th, 530pm at the Davis Community Chambers (23 Russell Blvd, Davis).

Justin Sun of Hong Kong in April filed a federal lawsuit against World Liberty Financial, Trump’s crypto digital currency company, alleging that the company unlawfully blocked his ability to sell his crypto tokens and that World Liberty threatened to burn his holdings. Sun, a billionaire crypto entrepreneur, is World Liberty’s largest investor. World Liberty bylaws state that 75% of revenue from WLFI token sales goes to the Trumps. World Liberty in April proposed to restrict early investors, like Sun, from selling their tokens until 2030, a year after Trump leaves office.

Dr. Ruihong Zhang was honored by Congressman Mike Thompson as the 2026 Yolo County Climate Crisis Champion. Her research developed UCD’s Renewable Energy Anaerobic Digester which converts 20 to 50 tons of waste into renewable energy and biofertilizers every day.

Paul Lau, SMUD Chief Executive Officer and General Manager is retiring after almost 45 years at SMUD. He started as a CSUS electrical engineering student intern, hired on as an assistant electrical engineer (1984), was chief grid strategist and operations officer, and worked his way up becoming CEO in October 2020. During Lau’s tenure, SMUD’s rates have consistently been among the lowest in California. On average,

SMUC rates are more than 50% lower than those of its neighboring investor-owned utility (PGE).

Currents passings

Yoshinori Harlan Toso Himel died on December 26, 2025. Born in Waynesboro PA on Sept 2, 1945. Toto was active in Sacramento’s legal community, a founding member of the Asian Bar Assn of Sacramento and active member of the Tule Lake Committee. Donations to “Yoshinori H.T. Himel Social Justice Award” with ABAS Law Foundation is encouraged.

Grant Noda was born on May 4, 1922 in Turlock and died in Davis on December 5, 2025 (103 years old). During WWII, he was incarcerated at Amache Colorado for four days before volunteering to work the sugar beet harvest. He was a conscientious objector and didn’t have to answer the WWII loyalty questionnaire because he wasn’t in an internment camp. An opportunity arose for him to attend Earlham College (a Quaker college) in Indiana. He met and married Grace after the war and worked as a research scientist at UC Berkeley. He and Grace (who died in 2018) moved to Davis where he managed a UCD botany department lab until retirement. Then Grant became real estate mogul and provided many young men property management-related (painting!) jobs. He financed Grace’s passion for music related and progressive social activist philanthropy, especially for the new UCD recital hall.

Currents Crime Blotter

Katie Hong, 16, was found August 7, 2026 after being missing since July 25th from her Fremont home. She left a note about running away to meet people she met online and whom she knew only by their screen names and never gave their full names. She abandoned her cellphone in nearby Irvington Community Park. The unused portion of the \$70,000 GoFundMe account to find her will go to nonprofits searching for missing children. To date, the Fremont Police has not released additional information about the case.

ONLINE SAFETY TIPS

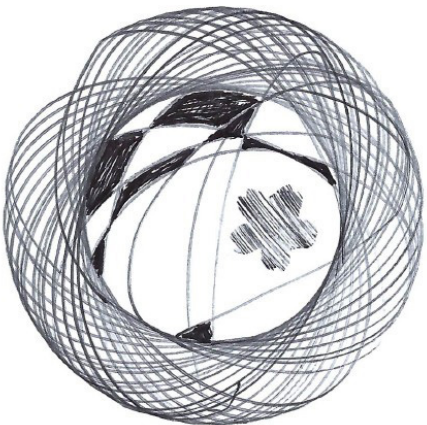
With Katie’s case in mind, here are 10 tips for teens and parents on safely meeting someone from the Internet. These tips were posted in Tri City Voice, written by Panashe Matemba-Mutasa, August 12, 2025

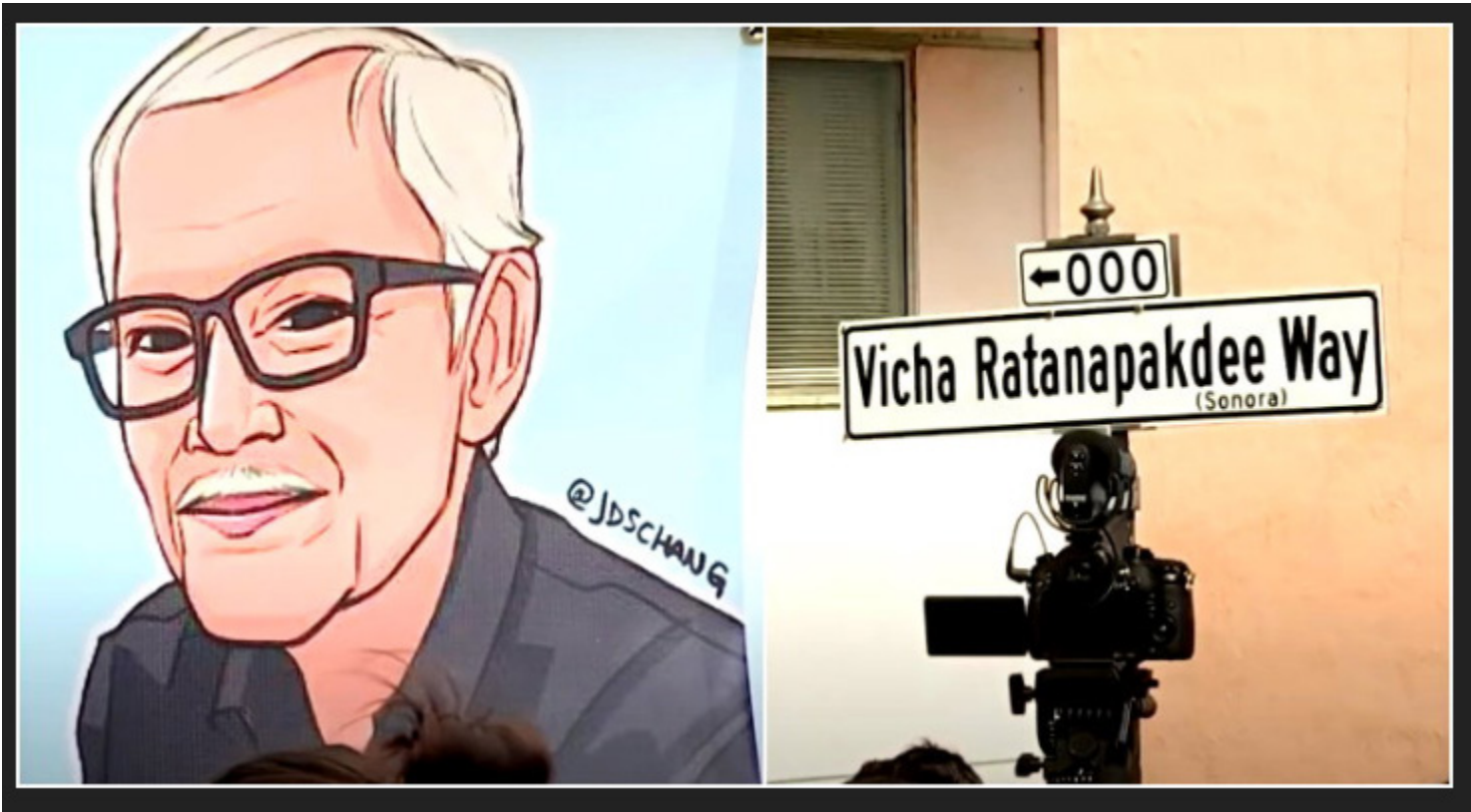
1. Never agree to meet someone until you know their real name, age and other verifiable details. Ask to video chat first
2. Verify their identity first and confirm through mutual connections if possible.
3. Tell a trusted adult
4. Always inform a parent or guardian about who you’re meeting, where and when. Share all communication you’ve had with the person.
5. Meet in a public place
6. Choose a busy, well-lit location like a coffee shop, library or mall, never a private home,

park or secluded spot.

7. Bring a friend or adult
8. Never go alone. Having someone with you adds a layer of security and accountability.
9. Keep your phone on you
10. Maintain access to your phone at all times. Avoid situations where you’re asked to leave it behind.
11. Arrange your own transportation
12. Don’t rely on the person you’re meeting for a ride. Have a way to leave quickly if needed.
13. Trust your gut
14. If something feels off, whether it’s their behavior online or in person, it’s okay to cancel or leave.
15. Limit personal information
16. Don’t share your address, school name, daily routines or family details with someone you don’t know well.
17. Set clear boundaries
18. Be firm about what you’re comfortable with, and don’t let anyone pressure you into breaking them.
19. Know how to get help fast
20. Keep emergency numbers handy and identify safe places nearby in case you need assistance.

Kevin Nishita, a retired 56 year old police officer who had worked in law enforcement in the Oakland Housing Authority, Hayward, San Jose and Colma, was killed on November 24, 2021 while working security for Star Protection and KRON-TV in Oakland by killers who were trying to steal the TV crew’s equipment. On April 7, 2026, Laron Gilbert, 31, was sentenced to 30 years to life on his guilty plea to first-degree murder; Gilbert had been extradited from Missouri in January 2024. Shadihia Mitchell, 29, and Hershel Hale, 28, pled no contest to robbery and were each sentenced to 25 years in prison. Nishita’s widow Virginia told the court at sentencing that it was Kevin’s day off (Thanksgiving Eve) and he was called into work and never came home; she promises to fight all future parole considerations. Alameda County DA Ursula Jones Dickson noted that it was unusual for a defendant to plead guilty to first-degree murder.





Vicha Ratanapakdee, 84, from Thailand was killed on January 28, 2021 in San Francisco. The jury deliberated for 6 hours before finding Antoine Watson, now 25, guilty of involuntary manslaughter and assault with intent to cause great bodily injury, both felonies. Watson was sentenced on March 26, 2026 to 8 years in prison with 5 years of credit for being in jail awaiting trial and was granted probation with the remaining 3 years prison sentence suspended.

Ratanapakdee’s daughter Monthanus was disappointed because she felt the sentence did not reflect the seriousness of her father’s killing during the COVID-19 pandemic with its heightened anti-AAPI hate. Ratanapakdee taking his usual morning walk in his quiet SF neighborhood when Watson charged across the street and knocked him to the ground. Ratanapakdee never regained consciousness and died two days later. The attack was captured on a neighbor’s security camera. Ratanapakdee became the lightning rod during the Stop AAPI Hate movement. Watson claimed he was in a haze of confusion and anger and did not know that Ratanapakdee was Asian or older. His public defender told the court that her client had remorse and compassion for the victim’s family. In 2022, a San Francisco street was re-named to honor Ratanapakdee.

Esparto Fireworks Explosion. In April 2026, five people were arraigned in Yolo County Superior Court on 7 counts of second-degree murder for the July 1, 2025 “Oakdale Incident.” Those indicted by the grand jury on murder charges are Samuel Elmo Machado (45, Esparto, former Yolo County Sheriff’s Office lieutenant who owned the property inherited by his wife); Kenneth Chee (48, SF, owner of Devastating Pyrotechnics who was arrested while on vacation with his family at Disney World, Orlando Florida), Douglas Michael Tollefsen (55, Rio Linda, owner of For the Streets Pyro); Jack Lee (65, SF) and Gary Young Chan Jr (43, Bay Area).

Also charged with related crimes are Ronald John Botelho III (Crescent City, owner of Big Bully and Bad Dad Fireworks), Tammy Kiku Machado (46, Esparto, a former Yolo County Sheriff’s Office employee who inherited the land with her sister), Craig Allen Cutright (61, Esparto, founder of Black-Star Fireworks); and Ronald Botelho III, (30, Del Norte County.)

The 7 employees who died in the blast where over one million pounds of explosives were being stored were Christopher Goltiao Bocog (45, SF), Neil Justin Li (41, SF), Joel Jeremias Melendez (28, Sacramento), Carlos Javier Rodriguez-Mora (43, San Andreas), Jesus Manaces Ramos (18, San Pablo), Jhony Ernesto Ramos (22, San Pablo), and Angel Mathew Voller (18, Stockton).

Prosecutors say that the fireworks activity had expanded from having in 2015 13 fireworks storage containers to 50 in 2025, and also utilized a 5,000 square foot warehouse on the property. The investigation has spread around the state and country and more arrests are anticipated.



Beware of immigration legal fraud

Immigrant rights advocates and the California attorney general are warning of rising scams by immigration consultant businesses in the Sacramento area targetting immigrants. These businesses are being accused of being engaged in “unauthorized practice of federal immigration law” and failing to state in their advertising that they are not attorneys. Some of these consultants charge more than immigration attorney rates. The four county Sacramento region has about 78 immigration consultants. They can translate and submit forms for their clients, but if the case is botched, the immigrants could be vulnerable to deportation. The business is supposed to be currently registered with the CA Secretary of State and have a \$100,000 surety bond.

Problems may arise with flaws in paperwork being filed with the federal government. In one case a client received a green card (permanent residency granted) but was told to pay \$5,000 before the green card would be released to them. Another client paid hundreds to file paperwork but found that there was no records of any forms being filed.

“Immigrant communities are experiencing fear and uncertainty as a response to President Trump’s inhumane and destructive immigration agenda,” the attorney general’s office said in a written statement provided to Abridged, a service of PBS KVIE which launched in September 2025. The attorney general’s office could not confirm or deny if it is pursuing legal action against any immigration consultants. The Sacramento District Attorney’s Office says it is not pursuing any cases related to notario fraud or immigration fraud. A pair of lawyers called the Immigrant Rights Defense Council has filed lawsuits against three firms of misrepresenting themselves as lawyers.

How can we celebrate America’s 250th birthday when our democracy is being dismantled?

PROTECT YOUR VOTE

Democracy is government by the people, exercised either directly by voting or through elected representatives.

Make sure your vote is not rejected under new Trump-era restrictions.

Protect your ballot – by doing everything right.

Trump’s attacks on your right to vote is accelerating. Remember his promise on July 23, 2024 to Turning Point Action supporters that if elected, “You won’t have to vote anymore, my beautiful Christians.”

Mail your ballot back well before election day June 2nd

- OR vote in person OR deliver your ballot to a polling place
- When the elections office RECEIVES your ballot is most important; depositing it in a mailbox before or by election day does not guarantee your ballot will be postmarked or received in time
- USPS services are being manipulated by Trump – Now USPS will postmark mail *with the date it is processed at a regional sorting location*, not when it is dropped into a USPS mailbox
- USPS is reducing picking up mail as an “efficiency” measure - this could delay your ballot
- Follow all the instructions (sign and date the envelope, properly identify anyone assisting the voter)
- Mail-in voting has been used dating back to the Civil War. States have spent millions of taxpayer dollars investigating alleged voter fraud since Trump’s claim that the 2020 election was “stolen” and a “big lie” and found virtually nothing. It’s been used widely in some states for decades and in most of the country since the COVID-19 pandemic. VoteAmerica says, “There is no good-faith reason to limit vote-by-mail access, reject ballots without postmarks, or refuse to count ballots that arrive after Election Day. If the administration moves forward with these proposals, they will effectively disenfranchise older voters, rural voters, and military voters.”

The Elections Clause of the US Constitution (Article I, Section 4, Clause 1) says “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, *shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof*; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.” Trump wants his federal government to control elections to solidify his power.

The Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 is dead. The VRA is a landmark law, which President Lyndon Johnson signed, that outlawed discriminatory voting practices and significantly increased voter registration among Black Americans. The VRA outlawed Jim Crow laws – barriers which kept Black Americans from voting with state/local laws which required passing literacy tests, paying poll taxes, owning property, restricting where and when voters could register and vote (like locking the elections office door when a potential Black voter approaches). VRA outlawed gerrymandering voting districts (manipulating electoral borders to favor certain outcomes) which divided and diluted the impact of Blacks voting in blocks. The VRA had a preclearance clause which required those jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to get federal approval before changing their voting laws. Preclearance was imposed on those places where there was a test or device which restricted voter registration and voting and those jurisdictions where less than 50 percent of eligible voters were registered to vote or voted in the November 1964 presidential election. The VRA allowed individuals to sue when voting practices denied equal political opportunity based on race. The VRA increased voter registration in the Black and other minority communities by making registering and voting more assessable and transparent.

Voting rights have been attacked by:

June 25, 2013 Shelby County v. Holder, the US Supreme Court (SCOTUS) held that it is unconstitutional to use the coverage formula which relied on November 1968 census data to determine which jurisdiction are subject to the preclearance requirement. The court DID NOT rule that preclearance was unconstitutional. To date, Congress has failed to fix the preclearance formula. The original states with preclearance requirements were Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Virginia and certain political subdivisions in Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho and North Carolina also had to comply with preclearance.

December 4, 2025 League of United Latin American Citizens v. Abbott. SCOTUS approved a new congressional map for Texas to use in its 2026 mid-term elections that heavily favored Republicans. Texas adopted the map after Trump ordered Texas Governor Greg Abbott in June 2025 to create five more Republican congressional seats for Trump to control. The federal District Court found the redistricting map was racial gerrymandering. SCOTUS disagreed ruling that the District Court “failed to *honor* the presumption of *legislative good faith* by construing ambiguous direct and circumstantial evidence against the legislature.” (translation: political/partisan gerrymandering should be presumed to okay).

April 29, 2026 Louisiana v. Callais. The 2020 US Census assigned six congressional seats to Louisiana. That census found that one-third of the population was Black. After the 2020 census, the Republican Party approved congressional district maps creating five districts with white majorities and one with a black majority. Black voters sued. As directed by a court, in 2024 Louisiana adopted a map with two majority minority districts and was allowed to use that map in one election. A not-black-voter group sued. SCOTUS ruled in April that partisan gerrymandering and incumbent protection justifies drawing election maps unless it is demonstrated that the state intentionally redistricted to diminish the opportunity for minority voters. SCOTUS wrote that the VRA’s antidiscrimination protections are no longer relevant. Louisiana has to redraw the map. In Louisiana, early voting has already started and their US senate race, which is not affected, will proceed. Governor Jeff Landry has suspended the House primaries which was scheduled for May 16th to get the congressional district maps redrawn. (Ripple effect: Tennessee passed on May 7, 2026 new congressional district map which carves up a majority-Black district in Memphis. Alabama and South Carolina are expected to enter the redistricting war to dilute Black voting power.)

SAVE America Act is not law yet. On April 10, 2025, Congress passed i(220-208.) Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act would require proof of US citizenship to register to vote and mandate photo identification at the time of voting. The bill is now in the Senate. The SAVE Act could disenfranchise (take away the vote of millions because an estimated 21 million Americans do not have readily available proof of citizenship and the requirement may affect more lower-income individuals and those who have changed their names (like married women). Trump says the act is essential for preventing voter fraud and ensuring election integrity. The Act also preempts state voter registration processes (like online, postcard, DMV voter registration, voter registration drives), mandates frequent voter purges and requires eligible photo identification when both requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Southern Poverty Law Center (Montgomery Alabama, SPLC) was indicted by Trump’s Dept of Justice on 11 counts of fraud and money-laundering. On May 7, 2026, SPLC pled not guilty and a tentative trial date was scheduled for October 5. In the 1980s but since discontinued, SPLC recruited and paid individuals inside white supremacist and extremist groups for information. SPLC since 1971 has promoted civil rights and combatted hate groups through legal advocacy and public interest litigation. DOJ alleged that those payments were made to enrich those groups and defrauded SPLC’s donors.

LockePRDA – The Star Theater update

For years, people had been talking about preserving The Star Theater in Locke. Locke is the last remaining rural Chinatown in the US, built in 1915 by Chinese for Chinese as a safe haven and community of their own. Many Chinatowns were either burned down during the intense period of anti-Chinese hate, fell in disrepair through neglect, or destroyed by natural disasters.

February 3, 1969: Sacramento Union article by Steve Spence reflects that sentiment about “saving” Locke:

The hand-painted sign over the entrance to the Star Theater reads “Welcome.” It was painted in red about 50 years ago and now is a vague rust color.

An elderly Chinese man, smoking the short end of a cigar and dressed in a windbreaker and stocking cap, is hoping someone will buy the theater and bring back some of the past. No one will and he knows it.

May 11, 2024: Pattie Fong (Currents’ editor) sat in front of The Star Theater with her sister selling items from cleaning out family homes (sale proceeds went to Locke Foundation) and wonders: Why isn’t anyone doing anything to save this building? She asks trusted community members and is told: “The owner won’t sell it.” “The owner does not return our calls.” “We are working on ‘it.’” To the question: Who is the owner? When was the last communication? There was no answer.

July/August 2024: Fong goes to the Sacramento County Assessors Office and gets the contact information on who has been paying property taxes and writes to them.

September 2024: Craig Schwab calls, saying he is glad that someone is interested in the property which was inherited by his stepdaughters. Fong suggests that they just donate the property to a non-profit organization and take a tax deduction.

September 13, 2024: Fong invites interested parties to tour of the theater; about 20 show up. After the tour, a small group meets with Schwab who sets forth what he wants from a sale of the building.

September 14, 2024: Fong reports to the Locke Foundation that the theater is for sale, what Schwab says he wants and encourages the foundation to buy it

October 24, 2024: At LockePRDA’s (Locke Prior Residents, Descendants, Ascendants) board meeting, Douglas Hsia resigns as the treasurer. Fong is voted in to replace him. Corliss Lee is president, Carol Lee is secretary, Fong is now treasurer.

December 2025: LockePRDA makes an offer to buy the building for \$80,000.02.

December 4, 2025: Fong donates \$100,000 to LockePRDA to buy the theater.

January 4, 2026: Fong informs the Locke Foundation of LockePRDA’s offer to buy the theater and encourages the Locke Foundation to make a counter-offer to buy it themselves.

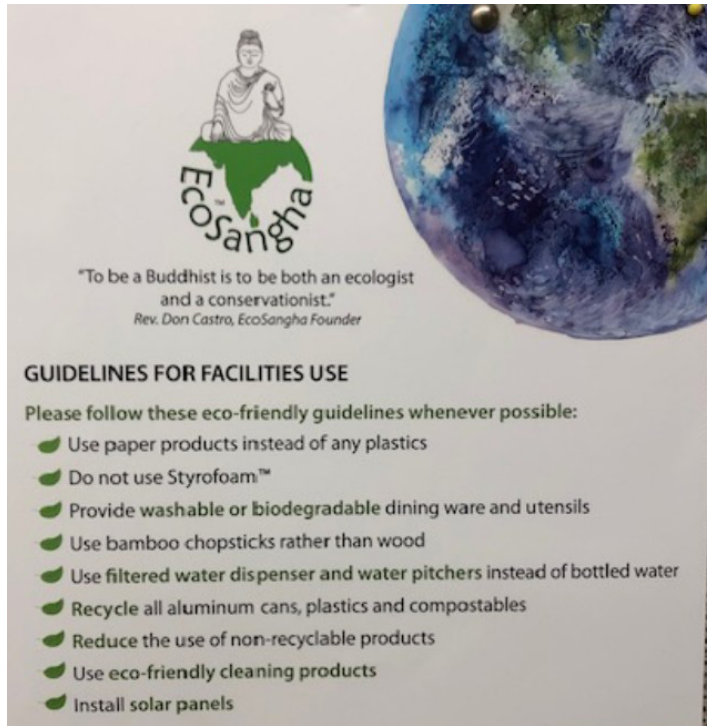
January 12, 2026: Locke Management Corporation Association votes not to exercise its right of “first refusal,” that is, to buy the property itself.

January 30, 2026: Since there is no interest by others in buying the building, LockePRDA proceeds with the sale and sends \$80,000.02 to the escrow company

May 1, 2026: Escrow is still pending.

Since December 2025 to the present, LockePRDA has invited many architects and structural engineers to inspect the building and submit proposals for this restoration project. LockePRDA has also started to apply for grants.

To keep up-to-date on this project, send a request to be placed on the email list to lockeprda@gmail.com. Donations are welcome. LockePRDA is a 501(c)(3) charity.



Lithium/EV battery warnings

Electric vehicle battery fires have become more common. These fires are extremely hot and the smoke is toxic. “Thermal Runaway” = when the battery cell temperature rises uncontrollably at a rate greater than 20 degree centigrade per minute, climaxing at 300 degrees which results in ejection of gas, shrapnel and/or particulates (violent cell venting), extremely high temperatures, smoke and fire. Runoff water used to cool the fire is contaminated. Firefighters use protective breathing equipment; people nearby need to shelter in place, close windows.

Safety tips:

Only use the original manufacturers’ chargers, batteries and replacements

Charge only until the battery is full, then disconnect

Do not leave charging batteries unattended, including for the day or weekend

Keep batteries away from heat, cold and flammable items while charging and storing

Discard distressed batteries (those that are swollen, dented or otherwise damaged) at a drop-off site — not in your garbage can

These fires can occur spontaneously while charging, so when there is fire, smoke, gas and sparks, evacuate immediately and call 9-1-1.

Truck driver licenses still in jeopardy

More than 20,000 immigrant truck drivers were able to keep their commercial driver’s licenses temporarily in California according to a tentative ruling February 25, 2026 in Alameda County Superior Court. Trump ordered the US Dept of Transportation (US DOT) to push California DMV to rescind these licenses, which belong to many asylum seekers and other immigrants with temporary legal status; the federal government had found alleged clerical issues regarding the expiration dates on their licenses. The California DMV complied and sent letters to more than 20,000 drivers last fall, telling them that their California licenses would expire in the next 60 days.

Gotshal & Manges LLP, Asian Law Caucus, Sikh Coalition and Jakara Movement sued on behalf of truckers saying that the state didn’t follow the proper process for rescinding their licenses. DMV extended the expiration date to March 6, 2026. The plaintiffs, who are unnamed in the lawsuit, include two school bus drivers and three commercial drivers. Many of their licenses were set to expire in 2027 or later.

US DOT said in January that it will withhold \$160 million in federal highway funds from California as punishment for extending the expiration date.

By April 2026, DMV was to present a plan to the court by which the truckers could retain their licenses and DMV could satisfy US DOT. To date there has not been any update on the case. There are about 700,000 drivers in California with commercial driving licenses, which are required to operate everything from big rigs to school buses.

In February US DOT created a rule preventing states from issuing or renewing licenses to certain immigrants, which will affect many of those 20,000 California truck drivers. Two major unions, the AFL-CIO and the American Federation of Teachers, and Public Citizen, are suing the federal government to stop that rule from taking effect in May 2026.

Attorney General Bonta is also suing US DOT over its threat to withhold \$160 million in funding. Bonta is wants the federal government to stop issuing orders that the state cannot issue trucking licenses in the future..

Many immigrant drivers are members of the Sikh community and have invested deeply in their own rigs. Not having a license will halt their ability to earn a living. The national truck driver shortage is already affecting supply chains. The high price of gasoline/diesel from Trump’s Iran war is deeply cutting into truckers’ ability to support their families.

Many of these commercial licenses were issued under AB 60 (2015) which enables undocumented residents to get a driver’s license if they can prove their identity and California residency, as well as satisfying DMV licensing requirements.

Another DMV issue brewing

California DMV is preparing to share detailed information about driver’s license holders because it fears that the Dept of Homeland Security may refuse to accept California licenses and IDs at airports. The Real ID Act of 2005 requires data sharing and issued standardized requirements for accepting state IDs at federal facilities like airports, nuclear power plants, and US government facilities.

California would share data which shows whether a person has a Social Security number and therefore could be used to identify people in the country without authorization. The data would be shared with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), a nonprofit organization, which operates a State-to-State Verification system which allows DMVs and contractors to verify if someone has more than one license issued in their name. In the future, databases like the Association’s could be used to allow people to keep mobile licenses on their cellphones or to do an online age verification to limit internet access to certain mature content or access by chatbot. Anticipating that federal immigration officials will try to access that data to identify who might be deportable has many worried.

AAMVA assures additional safeguards to prevent such searches and to prevent access by the Border Patrol and ICE. With Trump’s aggressive campaign against immigrants, those assurances cannot be guaranteed. “Once this data is uploaded to AAMVA, it’s out of California’s control, no matter what California wants, no matter what protests we may make,” according to SF civil liberties group The Identity Project.

In the meanwhile, California cannot share the data until the legislature funds DMV to process the data. The legislature might try to amend existing laws to include that social security numbers obtained by DMV cannot be shared for any purpose other than to address unpaid taxes, parking tickets or child support issues.

Calendar Continued from Page 20

gence Service. Speaker Christine Sato-Yamazaki. Presentations at 11am and 3pm at Nisei War Memorial Community Center (1515 4th St, Sac). Registration required: <https://nvnvets.org/>

June 13 Sat **Northern California 14th Soy and Tofu Festival**, a fundraiser for the Nichi Bei Foundation. Location: St. Mary’s Cathedral (1111 Gough St, SF). Soy and tofu vendors, free samples, craft artisans, live performances, youth art contest, raffle, cooking demonstrations. Info: soyandtofufest.org, 415/673-1009

June 19, 1982 VINCENT CHIN was beaten to death with a baseball bat in Detroit by Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz, both laid off autoworkers blaming Asians for their unemployment. They entered manslaughter pleas. The judge granted probation with orders to pay \$3,700 fines with no jail time because he claimed these light consequences for murder were appropriate given their “backgrounds.” The AAPI community protested the outcome.

June 19-21 **KAAN 2026 Conference Resilience and Reckoning** (Korean Adoptee Adoptive Parent Network). Renaissance Denver Hotel and Conference Center (Denver CO.) <https://kaan-2026>

June 20 Sat **Creative Space: Aloha Saturday**. 10am-3pm at Elk Grove Old Town Plaza (9615 Railroad St, EG).

June 23 **Sacramento JACL fieldtrip to “I Am An American” Nisei Soldier Experience and Military Intelligence service (MIS) Exhibit** in SF Presidio. \$65/person includes transportation, lunch, snacks and water. Bus pickup at sac. Buddhist Church. Reservations: <https://form.jotform.com/261058005551045> or send check to Sac JACL, PO Box 22098, Sacramento 95822

June 29, **Nichi Bei Day with the Athletics**. 640pm A’s vs the LA Dodgers. Info: nichibeifoundation.org/athletics

June 30 Tues **My Sister’s House: Preventing Violence Together: Partnership, Prevention, Progress & Protection**. 9am-5pm. For young adults (18-24), community leaders, advocates and community members to focus on creating safer, stronger communities through connection, education and action. Event partners: 3 Strands Global Foundation Sac Regional Family Justice Center, WEAVE, hosted by Aggie Square. Register at <https://shorturl.at/vEG9S>

July 11 Sat **ABAS Law Foundation Speaker Series: The Two Kids That Blow Sh*t Up** by Carla

Ching. Special tribute to Yoshinori Toso Himel. 130pm reception, 2pm matinee at Capital Stage (2215 J St, Sac). Info: abaslawfoundation.org

July 11-12 **Buddhist Church of Sacramento Obon Weekend**. Dance practice - weeks of June 26 and July 6. July 11 – 5pm food begins, 7pm Bon Odori dancing. July 12 – 930am Obon/Hatsubon Service honoring loved ones who have passed. (2401 Riverside Blvd, Sac)

July 13-17 **Quock Mui Foundation: K-16 Summer Teacher Institute: Exploring Asian American History on the Monterey Peninsula**. Funded by the Robert Ho Foundation and Stanford’s Asian American Art Initiative. Field Trips, fellowship with local teachers, expert guest speakers, collaborative lesson planning, community symposium, educator lesson share, \$1000 stipend. Info: quockmuifoundation.org

July 18 Sat **Creative Space: Aloha@Arden Fair**.

Aug 8-9 **Buddhist Church of Sacramento 80th Annual Bazaar and 1st Annual Night Market**. Traditional favorite foods, cultural programs. Night Market – street food, live DJ, music headliner. (2401 Riverside Blvd, Sac)

Sept 26-27 **Nichi Bei Day with the Giants**. LA Dodgers game. Info: nichibeifoundation.org

Calendar

Thru May 31 **Book club: They Called Us Enemy** by George Takei, Steven Scott and Justin Elsing-er. A shared community reading program across three states, libraries in Sacramento, LA, Seattle, Kings County, Multnomah County, Long Beach - 190 libraries total. Sacramento Public Library is hosting five book discussions (May 9, 16, 20, 23), screenings of To Be Takei (May 13, 14, 17), UBG Strings quartet concert (May 21), children activities (May 9, 23)-some in person, some by ZOOM. Virtual author talk with Takei will be livestreamed on May 31 2pm thru ZOOM. Info: www.saclibrary.org

Thru Aug 31 **“I Am An American: The Nisei Soldier Experience”** – a traveling exhibit debuting at the Miliary Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center (Presidio of SF). The history of second-generation Americans of Japanese ancestry (Nisei) who demonstrated their loyalty during WWII by enlisting in the US Army, against the backdrop of fear and racial tension that inspired thousands to volunteer from Hawaii (100th Infantry Battalion) and from the mainland (442nd Regimental Combat Team) while their families were incarcerated in 10 Wartime Relocation Authority incarceration camps just because they were Japanese. \$15/person, free to veterans/children 12&under/NJAHS members. Monday, Tuesday, Friday Saturday, Sunday 12pm-5pm. The exhibit will travel to 11 venues across the country

Thru Sept. 16 **Before and After Braceros Exhibit.** Thurs-Sun 1-5pm at Winters Museum (13 Russell St, Winters). . *[Editor: The Bracero program resulted from EO9066’s removal of Japanese from the West Coast and the resulting farm labor shortage during WWII.]*

May 3, 1983 THONG HY HUYNH was stabbed by classmate James Pierman and died on the Davis High School campus. Pierman was tried as an adult, convicted of voluntary manslaughter, and sentenced to 6 years in prison.

May 7-10 **CAAMFest 2026.** CAAMFest is 44 years old! (SF Japantown.) May 7 Opening Night Gala at Asian Art Museum. Info: CAAMedia.org

May 8-9 **Oakland Ballet Company’s Angel Island.** With Del Sol Quartet and Volti singers an inspiring interpretation of Angel Island by composer Huang Ruo. 730pm (Friday) and 230pm (Sat) at Herbst Theatre (401 Van Ness, SF). AIISF’s Cage Built of Jade exhibit will be on display. Tickets: \$56-125 at City Box Office.

May 9 Sat **Locke Foundation: Asian Pacific Spring Festival.** 11am-4pm in Locke. Lion dance, Martial arts, Taiko drums, Dance, Music, Bush painting, Arts and Crafts, Food. Free admission and parking.

May 9 Sat **Angel Island Hands on History.** 11am-330pm at Angel Island Immigration Station. Make art – this time, buttons - while learning about the history of Angel Island. Special guided tours. Free event, entry included in museum admission fee.

May 9-10 **Monterey Peninsula’s Chinese Fishing Village Communities’ Walk of Remembrance** featuring historical contributions and experiences of Monterey Bay’s Chinese fishing commu-

nities and their descendants. Sponsors: Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, Hopkins Marine Station, City of Pacific Grove, Stanford University, Quock Mui Foundation. Panel with descendants, Pacific Grove Museum’s expanded Chinese Fishing Village exhibit with artist Michael Croft, presentations by Tuck Lee and Don Kohrs on “The Great Chinese American Fisherman.” Free. Register on Eventbrite.

May 12 **Angel Island: Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month.** 9-945am on ZOOM. Delve into the stories of AAPI immigrants who passed through the Angel Island Immigration Station from 1910-1940. Registration required. Teachers with classrooms welcome. <https://ports.parks.ca.gov/about/.faqs>

May 13 Wed 1882 Foundation screening of 3 documentaries – Hanford, Woodland and Locke. 530-8pm Cruess Hall, UCD. Panel discussion with Prof. Jack Chin. Co-sponsored by UCD Asian American Studies, Dept of Cinema and Digital Media, Pan-Asian Youth Coalition. Free. Reserve a spot at Eventbrite. Info: jamesxiao@1882Foundation.org

May 14 Thu **APSEA Annual Scholarship Gala,** honoring local high school scholarship recipients and awarding Leadership Award to Stephanie Tom, Member of the Year Award to Aman Thirara, President’s Award to CA Dept of Tax and Fee Administration. 6pm at Cafeteria 15L (1116 15th St, Sac). Tickets \$65-75/person at apseafoundation2026.eventbrite.com.

May 14 Thu **Still Standing Guard: A Tribute to the 442nd RCT, Placer County’s Silent Heroes “Go For Broke”.** 7pm at Loomis Veterans Memorial Hall (5945 Horseshoe Bar Rd, Loomis). Sponsored by American Legion Post 775. Brave Nisei soldiers of Placer County will be honored with archival newsreels and personal vignettes. \$10 donation.

May 16 Sat **Tiburon AAPI Heritage Festival 2026.** 1-4pm at Zelinsky Park (1505 Tiburon Blvd, Tiburon.) Food, performances, kid friendly activities. Free.

May 16 Sat **Movie: Two Days and One Suitcase** sponsored by the Sacramento Adult Buddhist Assn, Sac Girls Scout Troop 569, BSA Troops 50B, 50G, 250 and the Dharma School. Author Helen Hannan Parra parallels current issues of racism and immigration and the incarceration of Japanese Americans in a way that children can understand. Free. 1pm at Sacramento Buddhist Church (2401 Riverside Blvd, Sac). Info: John Yoshikawa 916/320-2111.

May 16 Sat **Sacramento JACL Japan Day.** 10am-3pm at Nisei War Memorial Community Center (1515 4th S, Sac). Bento to go (order by May 11). Mochi making demonstration, Japanese Folk Tales, Furoshiki Tying, Origami, Japanese card making. Info: sacjaclinfo@yahoo.com

May 17 Sun **Creative Space-Asian Pacific Cultural Village: Asian Pacific Culture Fest.** 10am-4pm at District56 (8230 Civic Center Dr, Elk Grove). Vendors, Performances, Artists, Community Organizations.

May 20 Wed **Like Friends, Like Foes** by Andrew B. Russell, a conversation on Nikkei history in Nevada and redress, with Fumiko Shimada. 6-8pm

at California Museum (1020 O St, Sac). Free. Tickets at friendsfoes.eventbrite.com.

May 20 Wed **APSEA Career Development Program: Using Your Everyday Skills to Boost Your Career.** Noon-1pm. Guest : Elk Grove Vice Mayor Darren Suen. Free for APSEA and ACSED members, and Dept of Rehabilitation employees. Others pay \$5.60. Register at <https://www.acsedonline.org/may-workshop-2026nmd>

May 23 Sat **Iu Mien American 50th Anniversary Celebration.** 9am-5pm at Hiram Johnson High School (6879 14th Ave, Sac.) Cultural performances showcasing Iu Mien heritage, traditional food and music, sports and family-friendly activities. A celebration of 50 years of Iu Mien history, culture and resilience in the US. Main organizer: Iu Mien Friendship Network.

May 30 Sat **Angel Island– Diablo Valley College Symphonic Band.** Program: Butterfly Lovers violin concerto; A Tribute to Yellow Pearl (1970’s AAPI activist folk music trio), Jangma by Joon Oh (DVC



student composer). 12pm at Angel Island Immigration Station. Free with museum admission.

May 30 Sat **Davis Cherry Blossom Festival.** 11am-8pm at Russell Field, UC Davis (Russell Blvd X California Ave, Davis). Cultural performances, local bands and activities for the whole family. Taiko performances. Info: davischerryblossomfestival.weebly.com

May 31 Sun **Book event: Staring into the Sun** with Madelyn Postman. 1230pm unveiling plaque at the Locke Chinese Schoolhouse; 1pm Talk Story at The Pearl (Main St, Locke.) Stories from a Chinese American Family 1895-2015 including Postman’s great grandfather Joe Shoong and the National Dollar Stores/USA (formerly China Toggery and Sang Lee Dry Goods.) Presented by Locke Foundation and 1882 Foundation. RSVP: jamesxiao@1882foundation.org

June 4 Thu **Chinese for Affirmative Action’s 57th Anniversary Celebration of Justice.** Honorees: Allan E. Low, Asian Refugees United, Patricia M. Fong. 630pm at Yank Sing Rincon Atrium (101 Spear St, SF). Info: caasf.org

June 6 Sat **“I Am An American: The Nisei Soldier Experience Traveling Exhibit” in Sacramento!** Stories and artifacts of Japanese American WWII soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 422nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelli-