# Currents

Asian American Pacific Islander Community Newspaper Serving Sacramento and Yolo Counties-Vol. 39, No. 3 Fall/October 2026




**March 28, 1898** US v. Wong Kim Ark - US Supreme Court (6-2) ruled that a child born in the US is a citizen under the 14th Amendment (1868). The 14th Amendment exists only because Black Americans fought to establish citizenship, the right to vote, and equal protection under the law for all born, naturalized and formerly enslaved.

**June 26, 2026** Chinese Historical Society of America and Chinese for Affirmative Action unveiled a new mural "I am an American" at the corner of Grant and Sacramento in SF Chinatown. Mural artists are Elaine Chu, Norman "Vogue" Chuck, and Marina Perez-Wong.

**June 30, 2026** US Supreme Court (6-3) ruled in Trump v. Barbara that Trump's executive order (EO 14160) revoking automatic citzenship to US born children of undocumented immigrants or people on temporary visas violated the 14th Amendment and was therefore unconstitutional.

BRONZE PLANNED: Sculptor Alicia Ponzio is working on a life size bust of Wong Kim Ark, to be installed in SF Chinatown. A GoFundMe page is soliciting donations for this project. https://gofund.me/35665c0ac. See the plaster model on Page 2.

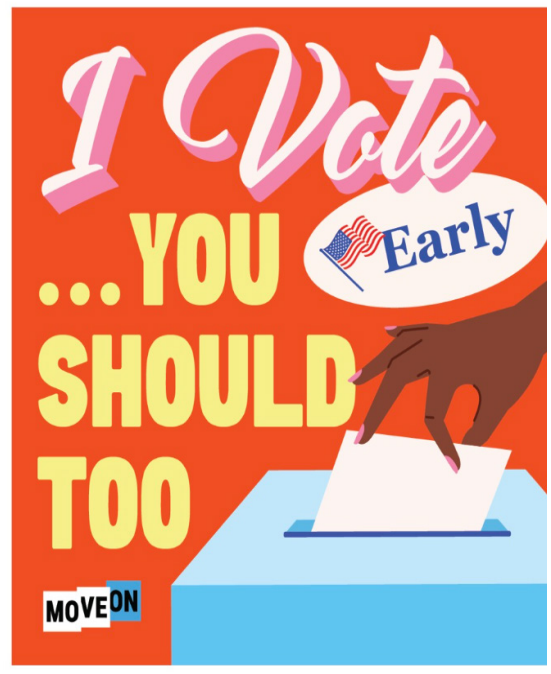
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Currents is online at www.apsea.org

VOTE TUESDAY NOV 3

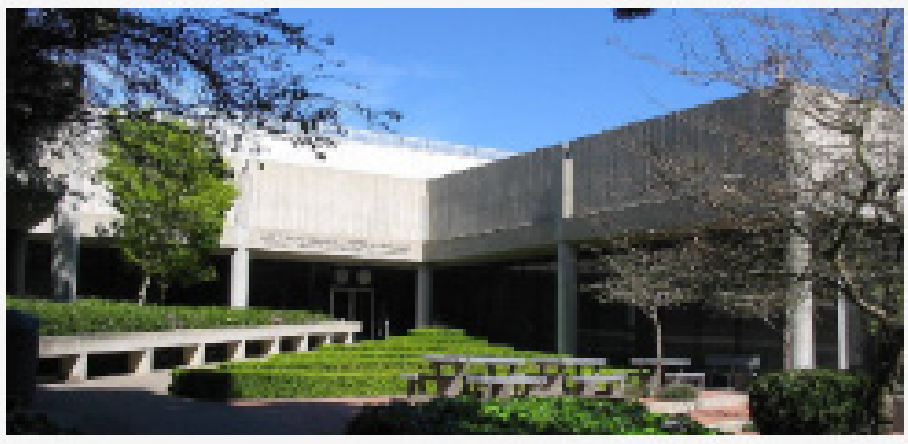
ICE, National Guard, a"National Security" emergency will not stop us from voting!




## San Bruno/SF National Archive threatened

A plan to erase our AAPI history by making historic documents unavailable.

*Write to Bradford P Wilson and pressure him to change that decision. Wilson was confirmed by the US Senate on August 7, 2026 as Archivist of the United States, so he can easily un-do this drastic decision made by a predecessor.*



*Bradford P. Wilson, Archivist of the United States*
*National Archives and Records Administration*
*8601 Adelphi Road*
*College Park, MD 20740-6001*
*Email: ArchivistOfTheUnitedStates@nara.gov*

An internal agency email dated June 23, 2026 to National Archives staff outlined National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) decision to shutter federal records centers in Chicago and San Francisco/San Bruno and move records out of its current facility in Seattle, sending those records to "other locations" and to "a suitable replacement facility." NARA's explanation: cutting costs and reducing its real estate portfolio while "(t)his decision is an opportunity for NARA to maintain our core mission and functions while improving efficiency as historic records become digital and effectiveness. … in a way that strengthens our agency for the work to come." The shuttering these facilities would happen over the next 2-3 years, but the move could start as early as August 2026. The Seattle office could close in October 1, 2026. NARA failed to provide advance notice, public hearings or any public review. This decision by the Trump administration is in line with Trump's pledge to white-wash American history, erase ethnic minorities' place in American history, and further the right wing's "cultural silencing." The San Bruno and Chicago facilities are two of thirteen Archives Regional Offices scattered across the country.

The San Bruno facility holds thousands of records documenting immigration, naval, geological and tribal records dating as far back as the 1850s. The collection has 100,000 cubic feet of permanent records; many of the original documents are physically fragile. The San Bruno records document major chapters of western US history, including Alcatraz prison files, Angel Island immigration records, Chinese Exclusion Act documents, WWII records, and materials related to Native American communities. The San Bruno site holds federal records from Northern and Central California, Nevada (except Clark County), Hawaii, American Samoa and

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# San Bruno/SF National Archive threatened

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the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The records are irreplaceable and cannot be easily digitized or relocated.

Heather Hostler, executive director of California Indian Legal Services says, “Once the first box leaves San Bruno, we risk losing control of and access to records that remain essential to our communities.”

On August 24th, Congressman Kevin Mullin told Archive supporters demonstrating at the 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno facility, “Closing this facility would dismantle access to our region’s past with a single shortsighted decision. Losing these archives would be a devastation loss to our community.”

Since the leaked email, Representatives Mullin, Judy Chu and Jesus Chuy Garcia have introduced legislation “National Archives Protection Act” HR 10131 which would require congressional approval before any National Archive office can be permanently closed.

Save Our National Archives (SONA) has formed to protect local access to the archive records. Anna Eng, a UC Berkeley lecturer adds: “In these files are precious family heirlooms, photographs, wedding certificates, detailed maps of home villages, materials too delicate and brittle to be scanned or transported,” Eng said. She said moving those records away from the communities whose histories they document could make personal discoveries of family history more difficult for future generations. “To remove these materials from the communities and regional history from which they emerge would be to deny descendants and future generations access to these stories,” Eng said.

The Chicago Archive houses more than 140,000 cubic feet of irreplaceable permanent records from 85 federal agencies across Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The collection documents the entire history of the Great Lakes region and its people—from records of momentous and historically significant events to routine paperwork that some citizens need to access in order to prove citizenship, obtain Medicare, receive other government benefits, and beyond. The records held in Chicago capture moments in history like the murder of Fred Hampton (Black Panther Party leader), Kent State Shooting, Al Capone’s tax evasion case and registers of Midwestern men drafted to the Civil War. It also holds indispensable records for Midwestern Tribal communities, providing essential information to tribes about their land, finances and history.

NARA has not issued any plan to guarantee access to historians, lawyers, genealogists, journalists, scientists and citizens after these proposed closures.

The Archives records are not meaningless stacks of paper to be shipped off and forgotten. They are OUR records and contain the history of the people of each region. The National Archives vision statement claims “The National Archives serves all Americans as a trusted repository of knowledge that inspires civic engagement and encourages the discovery of our nation’s stories.“ This shutdown erodes the public’s trust in NARA as a federal agency. NARA must be held answerable and accountable to the American people.

## What to do:

Email or write to Bradford P. Wilson, Archivist of the United States National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Email: ArchivistOfTheUnitedStates@nara.gov

Tell our US congressional representatives and senators that the Archives must be saved, that you know about the intended closure, how it doesn’t align with NARA’s stated mission and that you are concerned.

Tell our state leadership (governor, assemblymembers, senators) to act on this issue

## More about the Seattle Archives

The building in Seattle housing NARA was built as a US Navy warehouse in 1946 and has housed the Pacific Northwest Archive since 1963. NARA claims that due to the age and condition of the building it does not suit the agency’s needs.

In 2019, NARA identified the Seattle office as one of 12 “high-value assets” to sell with the plan to move its documents and holdings of Pacific Northwest history to Riverside CA (Perris) and Kansas City Missouri – and sell the property. Local tribes, repositories, state and federal lawmakers, state attorney general, and Washington’s State Secretary of State Kim Wyman — along with news outlets across the Pacific Northwest and a court injunction — urged the federal government to reverse its decision to sell NARA Seattle. On April 8, 2021, the Office of Management and Budget withdrew its approval to close and sell the Seattle facility.

In March 2024, the General Services Administration (GSA) received $9 million to design a new NARA facility in Puget Sound. GSA regional chief architect Ryan Kennedy in 2024 told a reporter that the new facility will have distinctive design, be functional but also engage the public. GSA planned to award the design contract in Summer 2026.

## Kansha volunteers to the rescue, digitizing

After NARA’s memo leaked, Kansha History volunteers jumped into action. The targeted centers contain extensive and unique information related to West Coast history and are of special importance to Japanese Americans and many others whose experiences and stories have not been heard. Nineteen Kansha History volunteers stepped forward to immediately start digitizing Nikkei records in the Bay Area and Seattle during the 2026 summer. Densho, Paul Tamura and Julie Kanazawa coordinated the archival volunteers from the Seattle Nikkei community. For years, Kansha History volunteers have been digitizing WWII War Relocation Authority and other federal documents related to the WWII removal of Japanese Americans from the West Coast and the loss of their family farms to make those documents more assessible.

To help the Kansha History Project, www.kanshahistory.org, you can volunteer to input data from the National Archives or libraries and (2) give Kansha permission to use your family farm card which humanizes Kansha’s presentation of historic materials in their education outreach programs.



Plaster Model of Wong Kim Ark Portrait (half scale)-Alicia N. Ponzio 2026
Donate on gofundme towards this bronze for the SF Chinatown site.

Asian Community Center Senior Services

# ACC Care Center Earns Coveted 5-Star Rating

# Raising the Bar for Senior Care in Sacramento

ACC Senior Services' Care Center in Sacramento's Pocket neighborhood has earned the highest possible Overall 5-Star Rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, recognizing the facility's performance in health inspections, staffing and quality measures.

For Sacramento-area AAPI families seeking culturally welcoming care options for older loved ones, the rating offers an important independent measure of the care provided at ACC Care Center, which has served the community for 39 years.

"This recognition is a wonderful celebration for our entire ACC Senior Services community—our residents, families, dedicated Care Center team, and neighbors throughout greater Sacramento," said Jill Hays, interim president and CEO of ACC Senior Services. "It reflects the compassion, skill, and commitment our employees bring to each resident every day."



The achievement follows a 4-Star CMS rating earned just five months earlier, reflecting what ACC leaders describe as sustained improvements in clinical quality, resident safety, staffing and person-centered care.

"We are incredibly proud of our entire Care Center Team and grateful for the trust our residents and families place in us every day," said Heidi Wheeler, administrator of ACC Care Center.

CMS's Five-Star Quality Rating System is designed to help families compare nursing homes when making care decisions. The system evaluates facilities in three areas: health inspections, staffing levels and quality measures. A 5-Star overall rating indicates performance well above average among skilled nursing facilities. [CMS' Five-Star Quality Rating System]

"Achieving five stars represents more than a rating," said Kristy Moore, director of nursing at ACC Care Center. "It reflects the trust we build, the lives we touch, and the excellent care we deliver every day."

ACC Senior Services is a Sacramento-based, community nonprofit that provides senior housing, skilled nursing, rehabilitation and other services intended to support independence, wellness and connection. For more than five decades, the organization has served older adults and families throughout the greater Sacramento region, including many in the area's diverse AAPI communities.

Asian Community Center Senior Services

7334 Park City Drive, Sacramento CA 95831

916/394-6339, info@accsv.org

www.accsv.org

# Section 106 public input being axed - action needed

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is advancing a sweeping and damaging proposal to rewrite the regulations for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). If implemented, these new rules would dramatically diminish NHPA's effectiveness which currently has legal protections for historic and cultural places, that is, a required public notification and input process. The changes also propose to exclude significant cultural landscape features/resources from any review (places and entities which are not buildings, like the Grand Canyon, waterfalls, historic trees, possibly graveyards) and therefore could be changed without any public input.

Since the enactment of NHPA 60 years ago, Section 106 has been the foundational requirement for federal agencies to "take into account" the effects of their actions on historic properties and places, encouraging public participation and comment in the process, empowering state and local governments and Tribal communities to have a voice in the process, and often improving the project and enhancing the outcome. ACHP is an independent federal agency with 24 designated members and a staff of 24 based in Washington DC.

These new regulations will lead to more delays and more litigation as federal agencies and applicants try to navigate compliance without the well-known and well-used community consultation process, which often leads to negotiated win-win outcomes. The preservation community and partners across the country are mobilizing to fight these harmful changes.

What can you do: Write to your governor, congressional representatives, send comments to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Travis Voyles, Vice Chairman (Chair position is vacant and would be a Trump appointee)

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F St NW Suite 308
Washington DC 20001 Email: achp@achp.gov

## ABOUT CURRENTS

Currents is a free community newspaper published three times a year entirely by volunteers. Currents covers local and national issues and events affecting the AAPI communities of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Opinions expressed do not belong to APSEA or any other organizations participating in the newspaper and are those of the author or the Editorial Board only. The Editor reserves the right to reject prospective materials or advertisements. Currents is distributed by bulk mail and through other outlets. Currents articles may be reprinted without specific permission, but "Currents" and the author should be acknowledged. Next publication date: January/Winter 2027. Deadline: December 15, 2026. Circulation: 7,500. Editor: Pattie Fong. Distribution assisted by: The Sacramento Gazette (David Fong), Hach Yasumura, Randy Lum, Kenneth Lum, UCD Asian American Studies and Oto's Market. Many graphics are by Randall Ishida (dec.)

Advertising rates: 3.5" X 2" $50; 5" X 6" $80; 10" X 6" $200. Currents has no physical office but donations, ads, address changes, Letters to the Editor and other inquiries can be sent to PO Box 4163, Davis CA 95617 or to pmfong@hotmail.com

Mailing list updates: Currents started as a collaboration of several Sacramento-based community organizations who pooled their membership lists for the paper. All mailing list updates should be sent to pmfong@hotmail.com.

***Currents' mission**: Tuskegee University's Professor Charles Gomillion led the Tuskegee Civic Association, established in 1941, to win major court battles to protect voter rights. TCA's mission statement reflects its sense of civic responsibility and social justice: The study and interpretation of local and national trends and problems; the collection and dissemination of useful civic and political data; and intelligent and courageous civic action. Currents has adopted these very worthy goals.*

# Census Bureau's BAD 2030 plans

US Census Bureau rule **FDMS Docket number USBC-2026-0628** posted on September 10, 2026 would exclude millions from the population count, end the collection of data on race, ethnicity and sexual orientation, include a citizenship question and the time for public comment has been shortened.

The Bureau proposes to count only US citizens and lawful permanent residents and exclude refugees, asylees, and Temporary Protected Status people. The US Constitution says congressional representatives are determined by counting the whole number of persons in each state regardless to their citizenship or immigration status. Trump says people living in the US unlawfully are not "persons" and "lack of a sufficient tie and allegiance to the US." The Bureau is also trying to re-define "usual residence" to exclude some immigrants who are legally in the US on a temporary basis because their lawful status is "less durable and indefinite" than that of a green cardholder/permanent resident or US citizen.

The Bureau also propose to eliminate questions about race, ethnicity or sexual orientation in the 2030 questionnaire. Trump says that information solicited is of a "sensitive nature of the topic and its questions" and there is a "reduced need for or usefulness of this information." This demographic data has been collected by the Census since 1790 (236 years).

The Bureau also wants a shorter collection period, i.e. January 3, 2030 to April 1, 2030. The 2020 census period (due to the chaos of Trump's first term) was extended to October 15, 2020.

The Bureau wants to include a citizenship legal status question on its short form questionnaire which will discourage people without legal status from participating in the Census altogether.

ALL THESE CHANGES will chill participation in the Census and leave entire households unaccounted for.

In addition, the public comment period has been shortened (public comment is usually allowed for 90 days) and comments are due by **October 13, 2026.** Submit your arguments against these proposed changes to:

Online: www.regulations.gov

Mail: 4600 Silver Hill Road, Designation ADDEMO/FRN, Washington DC 20746

# Call out for Sacramento Jtown material

Reclaim Sacramento Japantown is looking for photos and footage from families and community members from Sacramento's Japantown before and after WWII. These would potentially be part of the immersive experience at a new exhibit which will be installed at the Sacramento History Museum (Old Sac) in October 2026 through May 2027.

Please submit your photos and footage here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfx-4Zv1_ajy9Lqjyuk_A_K_drvUnLpESG-2f9sxZmfJXGPKg/viewform

# LockePRDA Update – The Star Theater



LockePRDA is a 501(c )(3) on a mission to preserve and share Chinese American history. In December 2025, LockePRDA made an offer to buy The Star Theater at 13939 River Road in Locke, the last remaining rural Chinese town in the US. The Star Theater is the iconic 1918 Chinese theater which over the years evolved from being a venue for Cantonese Chinese opera, B+W movies, boarding house, and then brothel. The Main Street level was a gambling hall, then it became commercial storage space used by other Locke businesses. Decades of neglect have left the three story building in dire condition – the tin roofing panels regularly fly off, holes in the walls allows pigeons in to roost rent-free, collapsing walls has caused the Main Street façade to bulge (but this is the photo opportunity sought by tourists!)

The purchase price was $80,000.02. Escrow closed on August 13, 2026 (8 months later) after resolving the prior owners' probate paperwork, confirming that they were current on local management fees and that a $35,000 lien/mortgage has been paid off.

LockePRDA has been submitting proposals for grants to restore the building into a community center and looking for major donors for what will be a $3-4 million project over the next 3-4 years. In August, the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded LockePRDA a $5,000 seed grant.

Another foundation required a public facing internet presence, and so, VOILA, The Star Theater now has her own website: www.star-theater-locke-ca.org. It took six weeks for the website's Search Engine Optimization (SEOs) to be "found" by search engine robots; the website now appears in most internet searches (but, sorry, the PayPal donation button still doesn't work.)

LockePRDA presented The Star Theater restoration project at the 2026 National Asian and Pacific Islander American Historic Preservation Forum held in Denver between September 10-13, 2026. The conference was inspirational, drawing 250 attendees from NY, Tennessee, Chicago, Hawai'i, Washington, Mississippi and the panel presenters represented all AAPI ethnic groups sharing the "how-do-you's" of their physical building projects, films, community programs and other activities all preserving and sharing AAPI history and culture.

For the building, LockePRDA has moved forward getting a geotechnical survey done (soil survey), having as-built plans done, and hiring Jon Brody Structural Engineers (SF) for the structural engineering work.

Jeff Kan Lee, who is a grandson of Locke founding father Lee Bing, grew up in Locke and had a 45 year photojournalism career with the Santa Rosa Press Democrat. He now spends time with La Voz Bilingual Newspaper (Spanish and English) and recently joined the LockePRDA board. Corliss Lee resigned in August for health reasons. Thank you to Corliss for her years of leadership with LockePRDA.

The next step is to hire an architect to develop plans.

To make a tax-deductible donation for this restoration project, send checks payable to Locke Prior Residents Descendants Ascendants (LockePRDA) to 13939 River Road, Locke CA 95690. For more information, email to lockeprda@gmail.com.




One of the As Built Plans. Can you see the diagonal bracing? See the uneven floors?

# Densho denounced call to incarcerate Chinese Americans

Densho unequivocally condemns recent statements made on the podcast Timcast IRL suggesting that Chinese Americans should be incarcerated in the event of a war between China and the U.S. Densho is a digital archive and public history organization with a mission to preserve and share history of the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans to promote equity and justice today.

On August 14, 2026, co-host Ian Crossland said if Chinese forces landed in North America, "we should intern all the Chinese Americans we can find," concluding, "it kind of seems like we should." He made these comments in a discussion about immigration and citizenship, criticizing "birth tourism" and immigrants today not "assimilating" the way earlier generations did.

Later in the conversation, Crossland appeared to walk back his statement, but continued to question the loyalty of Chinese Americans: "I don't want to implicate all Chinese Americans because that's horrific…I don't want them interned if there was some conflict between the Chinese, but how can you tell? How can you tell who's who? How can you tell where their allegiances are? And how do you know if their allegiances will or won't flip if the tide of war starts to change?"

Podcast guest Kevin Smith then raised the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans as a direct comparison. Rather than objecting to race-based incarceration on principle, he questioned whether it would be logistically possible.

The wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans is not a historical model whose present-day feasibility should be debated. It was a grave constitutional and historic injustice with long-lasting consequences. The U.S. government later acknowledged that the incarceration was not justified by military necessity, but resulted from "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership."

The comments on Timcast IRL draw upon longstanding anti-Chinese, anti-Asian, and anti-immigrant attitudes, dating back to the 1800s. This rhetoric promotes stereotypes of Asian Americans as unassimilable foreigners, as part of an indistinguishable monolith, and for whom citizenship is conditional. These ideas have fueled racial violence and discriminatory policies, including the Page Act of 1875 and the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The history of Japanese Americans illustrates how fear does not suspend constitutional rights equally for everyone. Instead, racialized communities are made to bear the consequences. Conversations like these are dangerous, as they have the potential to influence public discourse and sway uninformed listeners. This particular podcast has an audience of 2.77 million subscribers on YouTube.

History shows us that mass injustice begins with language that casts an entire community as dangerous, makes collective suspicion appear reasonable, and gradually moves previously unthinkable actions into public debate and policy. Densho stands with Chinese American communities, immigrant communities, and all people targeted by racism, discrimination, and unjust detention. Stewarding the history of the WWII of Japanese Americans carries a responsibility to confront injustices today as well as concerning echoes of the past, including deeply misguided rhetoric. When talk of race-based incarceration is tossed lightly into conversation, it is important to remember the heavy weight these words hold.

# Meta settlement, will it make a difference?

Four families from Texas filed the lawsuit on behalf of their deceased children – Livi Castro 13, Riv Kelleher 14, Nathaniel Chambers 17 and Dawson Holden 18 – who died by suicide between July 2024 through September 2025. The lawsuit claims that each experienced social media addiction, severe sleep deprivation, depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation after years of using the social platforms.

Meta in August 2026 agreed to settle the case -- paying up to $17.1 billion and changing daily time limits (2 hrs limit), mandatory breaks (after 15, 60 and 90 minutes of continuous use), night-time access blocks (midnight to 6am), hiding "like" counts, adding a "school mode" (will mute notifications during school hours), establishing stronger parental controls and performing an independent auditing to assure that the safety features work.

The $17.1 billion is only a fraction of the $200 billion Meta earned in revenue last year. The pay out will be over the next 10 years. Meta says the settlement needs be an industry-wide solution, which has not been forthcoming from government. Meta will pay 70% of the settlement only if YouTube and TikTok pay the remaining 30% to the states and commit to similar safety changes to their apps. Meta, YouTube, TikTok and Snap face thousands of more similar US lawsuits brought by families, individuals, school districts and attorneys general.

Meta and YouTube lost the first of those cases to go to trial in February, being ordered to pay $6 million to the young woman who brought the suit. TikTok and Snap settled before the case went to trial. Two more lawsuits that were slated to go to trial this summer, one federal and one in California state court, were settled for undisclosed sums. Meta lost a separate suit brought by the attorney general of New Mexico and in that case Meta was ordered to pay nearly $1 billion to the state for allowing child sexual exploitation on its platforms.

# What does social media addiction look like?

Compulsive Checking: A constant urge to check social media feeds, often leading to neglect of other responsibilities.

Mood Changes: Increased irritability or distress when separated from devices, indicating a dependency on social media for emotional stability.

Secrecy: Teens may hide their social media use or become secretive about their online activities.

Sleep Disruption: Loss of sleep due to late-night scrolling or anxiety about online interactions.

Isolation: A tendency to withdraw from real-life interactions and relationships, preferring online engagement.

Neglect of Responsibilities: Difficulty in managing schoolwork, chores, or family time due to excessive social media use.

Loss of Control: Inability to cut back on social media use despite negative consequences.

Increased Anxiety: Feelings of anxiety or distress when not using social media.

Comparison Issues: Constantly comparing oneself to others, leading to low self-esteem.

Withdrawal Symptoms: Experiencing unpleasant feelings when attempting to reduce social media use.

# Raise Your Voice — Breaking the Silence: Suicide and the Mental Health Burden Facing AAPI Youth

By Poojajeet Khaira MD and Mary Shen MD, MSc., July 10, 2025

Suicide is now the leading cause of death among Asian American youth aged 15-24, marking a deeply concerning trend in one of the nation's most rapidly expanding populations. From 2000 to 2019, the Asian American population grew by 81%, while the Pacific Islander population rose by 61%. During this same time period, suicide rates among Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) male youth climbed by 72%, and among female youth, the increase was an alarming 125%. These spikes peaked around 2019-2020, as AAPI youth faced the compounding effects of rising anti-Asian sentiment, academic and familial pressures, and limited access to culturally responsive mental health care.

In addition to the psychological toll caused by discrimination and violence, AAPI youth also face systemic barriers that hinder their access to adequate mental health care. Challenges such as language barriers, underfunding of mental health research and a lack of culturally relevant resources contribute to the disparity in mental health outcomes for this population. AAPI communities are diverse, encompassing a wide range of ethnicities, languages and cultural backgrounds, which further complicates the provision of effective care and support.

Cultural factors also play a significant role in the mental health struggles of AAPI youth. The "model minority" stereotype, which pressures individuals to excel academically and professionally, can exacerbate feelings of isolation and inadequacy. Additionally, the stigma surrounding mental health in many AAPI cultures prevents open conversations about mental illness and discourages young people from seeking help. This stigma, compounded by intergenerational conflicts where traditional beliefs clash with modern mental health perspectives, creates a perfect storm for mental health crises to go unnoticed or untreated.

Furthermore, many AAPI youth face familial resistance to mental health services, with parents often declining mental health interventions for their children. This reluctance highlights the urgent need for tailored suicide prevention efforts that address both the unique cultural dynamics of AAPI families and the lack of mental health resources within these communities.

Dr. Khaira discussed how clinicians can support AAPI youth in a conversation with Dr. Krysti Lan Chi Vo, Chair of the Assembly M/UR Committee and Assembly Representative for the Caucus of Asian American Psychiatrists. They sat down to discuss the cultural nuances of treating at-risk youth for a special limited series titled "Breaking the Silence: Addressing Youth Suicide." Dr. Khaira shared what culturally responsive care could look like: "This is going to be different for every patient but seeing them for everything that they are, not just their symptoms. For the AAPI population, many of them are immigrants, they might be first generation or second generation, so understanding that it is a part of their story, understanding family expectations, cultural beliefs about mental health, and also recognizing that they might have faced racism or xenophobia or generational trauma. Noticing that and talking with the patient about how that could have affected their story and how they're presenting today."

To combat the AAPI youth suicide crisis, it is essential to raise awareness about the mental health struggles faced by AAPI youth and work toward destigmatizing mental illness within these communities. Creating accessible, culturally competent mental health services, providing educational resources, and fostering open conversations about mental well-being can help prevent further loss of young lives. Dr. Khaira said that clinicians can start as early as medical school. "You have to start locally to make a change happen," she said. "Even in my own personal career when I've been passionate about something, the feedback I've gotten is, 'what have you done at your hospital about it?' And I think I really have used that to just make decisions for myself and guide what I do. And that is something I hope people take away when listening [to the podcast]."

The "Breaking the Silence: Addressing Youth Suicide" series will premiere this summer on APA's renowned Medical Mind podcast as part of the APA Moore Equity in Mental Health Initiative. Each episode will feature a dynamic speaker pairing drawn from APA's membership. Through storytelling, expert insights, and practical guidance, this series seeks to empower listeners with the tools and understanding needed to make a meaningful impact in combating youth suicide — one conversation at a time.

# Was Nepal's disaster caused by Chinese construction?

The August 26, 2026 floods destroyed the Gyirong Port on the China-Nepal border and struck settlements along a 45 mile stretch of the Trishuli River corridor in Nepal. As of late September, the disaster has killed more than 1,451 people with 5,745 still missing in Nepal; 43 died and 519 are missing in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China (TAR).

Scientists believe the melting of permafrost from climate warming (caused by burning coal, oil and gas) led to the instability of the glacier of the Langtang Lirung massif (mountain mass) which sheared off and fell into the valley below with the force of a large earthquake. The glacier dammed up the valley until it exploded in a torrent of water, ice, mud and rock that became an inland tsunami. A group of Nepali journalists - Nepal Correspondence - claim that the massive flash flood was linked to an avalanche caused by Chinese construction activity in the Himalayas. They say that Chinese construction in glacial areas along the China-Nepal border had damaged the sensitive ecosystem and contributed to recurring avalanches triggering flash floods.

Nepal Correspondence claim that Chinese "Xiaokang Border Village Programme" contributed to the ecological disaster and that avalanches were now occurring annually along the China-Nepal border. Since 2017, China has built 628 Xiaokang ("well-off" villages) along India's borders with TAR, and most are along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in northeastern states; 90% are in Arunachal Pradesh (Land of the Rising Sun) which is a northeastern Indian state. India says many of these settlements are in contested areas. "Xiaokang" was a term promoted by Deng Xiaoping as an economic goal to create a moderately prosperous society in China by 2020. These settlements include houses, infrastructure and public service facilities which enrich the border area while also creating a strong border-defense presence, increase the Han people population (loyal to the Chinese Communist Party), and displace Tibetans. India says these villages violate the spirit of the 2005 agreement between India and China in which both countries promised to safeguard the due interests of their populations, but instead China is intentionally expanding its presence. India feels threatened.

Gyirong in Shigatse County is famous for its mild climate and abundant vegetation, unusual for the Tibetan plateau. In 1945, there were 26 temples and monasteries in the area. Gyirong is a major China-Nepal border crossing and became a port of entry in 1961, opening up to international users in December 2014. The avalance destroyed Gyirong Port's hulking five story border checkpoint facility. To get to the area from Lhasa is a eight hour trip. The closest airport Dingri is six hours away. Gyirong's altitude is at 6,000 feet.

China's hydropower projects in TAR include the Totuo Hydropower Project (4 dams and five separate power stations) across the Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon River, the deepest canyon in the world. The Tutuo project will be the world's largest hydropower facility producing 70 gigawatts of electricity. China broke ground on that project in 2024 despite threats posed by the project – the region is prone to earthquakes, loose terrain leads to landslides, construction would flood and displace local villages, local snow leopards and Bengal tigers may be endangered, and sacred sites would be flooded. Furthermore, harnessing the Yarlung Tsangpo River means that China would control water which otherwise would flow downstream into India and Bangladesh.

# Right wing book bans affect AAPIs

National Banned Book Week, October 4-10

Banned Books Week launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge of challenges to books in libraries, bookstores and schools. The week highlights the value of free and open access to information.

In 2023, the American Library Association recorded 4,240 unique book titles that were targeted for removal or restriction in schools and libraries across the U.S., compared with the previous record of 2,571 unique titles in 2022. Data shows that about 47% of the titles targeted were by or about the LGBTQ community and/or people of color.

Book banners say that they are targeting literature which teaches children to hate their country, each other and/or themselves. What is it that these self-appointed guardians of public morality try to keep you for understanding or feeling? What is wrong with a book challenging, confusing, validating or inspiring you to see another point of view? Why are they so scared that you might think differently?

Illinois in 2023 adopted a law prohibiting libraries from banning books. California followed with a law prohibiting school boards from banning books, instructional materials or curricula categorized as inclusive or diverse. PEN America, a free-speech organization, says that in 2023 123 bills were proposed in state legislatures that would limit access to certain books and/or criminalize educators. These attacks not only undermine efforts to engage in proactive dialogues about diversity, equity, and inclusion, but they also pose a threat to our democratic values as a country according to Advancing Justice-AAJC which firmly supports an education that fosters equity and tells the histories and lived experiences of historically marginalized communities. Florida and Texas are the epicenters of the book ban movement.

AAPI books deemed "objectional material" and banned in certain states:

Samira Ahmed's "Internment", "Hollow Fires" (issues of race, Islamophobia, oppression, politics)
Grace Lin "A Big Mooncake for Little Star" (little girl upset when all moon cakes had been eaten)
Hena Khan "Under My Hijab" (young girls admiring women who wear hijabs)
Karen Chinn – "Sam and the Lucky Money" (young boy's experience with money and cultural identity)
Jama Kim Rattigan – "Dumpling Soup" (celebrating family and cultural heritage through food)
Kelly Yang – "Front Desk" series (young girl navigating life as a Chinese immigrant), "Parachutes"
Jiang Ji-li – "Red Kite, Blue Kite" (mentions the Cultural Revolution, Chinese history and culture)
Minfong Ho – "Hush! A Thai Lullaby" (Asian culture)
Kai Cheng Thom – "From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea" (LBGTQ+)
Reem Faruqi – "Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story" (Islamic themes)
Cynthia Chin-Lee – "Amelia to Zora: Twenty-Six Women Who Changed the World" (activism, gender, sexism)
Lyla Lee – Mindy Kim series (racism)
Anh Do – WeirDo series (racism)
Susan Tan – Cilla Lee-Jenkins series (racism)
Saadia Faruzi and Laura Shovan – "A Place at the Table" (religious minorities, Islamic, Jewish themes)
Trung Le Nguyen – "The Magic Fish" (LGBTQ+)
Saeed Aisha – "Amal Unbound" (religious minorities, Islamic theme)
Gene Luen Yang – "American Born Chinese" (race, racism, public urination)
Jen Wang – "The Prince and the Dressmaker" (LGBTQ+, sexism, gender)
Malala Yousafzai – "Malala: My Story of Standing Up for Girls' Rights" and "Malala's Magic Pencil"
Adiba Jaigirdar – "The Henna Wars" (LGBTQ+, abuse)
Arundhati Roy – "The God of Small Things" (inter-caste romance, communism)
Malinda Lo – "Last Night at the Telegraph Club" (LGBQT+, communism), "Ash" and "A Line in the Dark"
Lyla Lee – "I'll Be the One" (LBGQT+, bisexuality)
Julia Otsuka – "When The Emperor Was Divine" (Japanese American incarceration)

What can you do? Purchase or donate books to schools and libraries. Attend school board meetings. Join advocacy groups.

# Trump's ban on reporters is also censorship

**September 18, 2026**, Trump banned CNN, MS Now, and Politico from the White House because of their "fake news." The White House Correspondence Association (WHCA) called out Trump's latest attack on the press as a violation of the First Amendment, "The American people, through a free and independent press, must be able to scrutinize those elected to power, regardless of whether government officials view it favorably. That's why courts have repeatedly held that once the White House provides access to journalists, it cannot deny that access arbitrarily or based on the content of their reporting." However, WHCA failed to call for a total press boycott of Trump which would have been the most appropriate response. On September 24, 2026, US District Judge Timothy Kelly (a Trump appointee) ordered Trump to immediately restore those press credentials.

## Trump's previous attacks on the press:

**November 2018** – In Trump's first term, he pulled CNN correspondent Jim Acosta's press credential because Acosta refused to yield the microphone at a press conference. US District Judge Kelly on November 16, 2018 found that Acosta's Due Process Rights (Fifth Amendment) had been violated because he was not given a meaningful opportunity to challenge having his credentials revoked. The White house reinstated Acosta's credentials but estabished new rules limiting questions from reporters.

**February 11, 2025** - Trump barred Associated Press (AP) reporters from the White House after AP refused to adopt Trump's name change of the Gulf of Mexico to the "Gulf of America." (Executive Order 14172). Trump called AP an organization of "radical left lunatics." Trump's animus against AP actually started earlier when AP refused to give him photo rights to the 2024 bloodied fist-raised "fight, fight, fight" Butler PA assassination attempt picture. Trump allies have also criticized AP for its AP Stylebook (founded in 1953 as a media industry dictionary of terminoloty) because its updates emphasize inclusive language which Trump supporters deem "biased." On April 8, 2025, US District Judge Trevor McFadden (Trump appointee) ordered Trump to give AP "full access" to White House press briefings while the AP's lawsuit continued. McFadden found that Trump was punishing AP for its speech (viewpoint-based retaliation) in violation of the First Amendment. McFadden's orders were not effective because Trump resisted by redefining within its discretion "restricted spaces" to keep AP out of Oval Office and Air Force One press briefings.

# Aviator Restaurant – ROUND 2

*Editor: In November 2023, a Change.org petition "Save Aviators" was signed by 4,300 supporters, after Aviator restaurant owner Cheung-Sang Chik (Chik) was advised by Sacramento County that his lease since 1999 (24 yrs) for the Sacramento Executive Airport space would not be renewed. To support their position to force Chik to compete with other vendors, the County initiated a survey announcing that they welcomed new proposals for the space. Their survey, conducted from November 17 to December 26, 2023, had the introduction: "Hello everyone! Our lease agreement with Aviators is coming to an end in January. As a result, the SCDA [Sacramento County Department of Airports] will be inviting proposals and/or qualifications from interested parties, including the current operation [Cheung-Sang Chik], to continue operating the restaurant or reimagine it entirely. We would love to hear your thoughts on Aviators! What do you like about it – the food, the service, or the ambiance? What would you change about it if anything?"*

*This upbeat language clearly demonstrated the County's desire to remove Chik from the airport, to put his lease out to bid, and hoping that an upscale, theme type restaurant would out bid him. The 4,300 signatures and even the County's survey showed overwhelming support with over 75% (7,000 survey responses) stating clearly that Aviators was perfect and to not change anything. This broad community outcry from the AAPI community and longtime Sacramentans forced the Department of Airports to withdraw the open bidding and negotiate exclusively with Chik in February 2024.*

*After 12 months of negotiations, Chik was granted a new five-year lease which began March 9, 2025 and would end March 30, 2030. The Aviator never closed during this period of turmoil and lease negotiation. Chik felt that a lease ending in 2030 was good because by then he might consider retirement, leaving a legacy of 30 years in business.*

*Now, ROUND TWO, the County has succeeded and got its way under the pretense that necessary building repairs cannot be expedited - Aviator is closed down for an overly extended period leaving Chik and his employees lingering with re-opening uncertain. The August departure of Stephen Clark, Deputy Director of Commercial Development, Sacramento County Dept. of Airports (he got a new job with Albany County NY Airport Authority) leaves even more opportunity for the County to stall around and allow Aviator to languish into oblivion…*

# Will Aviator's Restaurant return? Future uncertain for beloved Sacramento eatery

By Madison Smalstig, Sacramento Bee, July 14, 2026

A cosmetic kitchen floor repair at Aviator's Restaurant was supposed to take a few weeks. Six months later, the longtime Sacramento Executive Airport institution remains closed after crews uncovered crumbling concrete, corroded rebar, asbestos and mold.

The discovery left Sacramento County facing a potentially major structural repair and restaurant owner Cheung-Sang Chik wondering when — or whether — he would return to the airport restaurant he opened 25 years ago.

"I want this legacy finished in this restaurant with my customers," Chik said, adding he is not thinking about leaving the airport.

Chik, however, remains concerned with how long the repairs could stretch.

The Sacramento County Department of Airports estimates Aviator's could remain closed for about two years, though officials said the timeline could change after engineers determine the full extent of the damage.

Despite the uncertain timeline and cost, Chik and county officials said last week that they remain committed to reopening Aviator's.

"The budget is whatever it takes to get it back open," Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy said last week during a community meeting about the restaurant repairs.

## The damage uncovered

Contractors discovered the extent of the deterioration in January after removing tile and black mastic from Aviator's kitchen floor.

More than 21 feet of continuous rust on rebar was in front of the coolers. At least nine other areas of visible corrosion were identified, according to a county inspection, and inspectors documented additional areas where damage could exist beneath the surface. The concrete surrounding portions of the rebar is flaking.

"I was shocked," Chik said.

Other tests throughout the kitchen confirmed mold in four locations and asbestos in the black flooring mastic.

The county is estimating repairs could take two years.

A more comprehensive structural investigation to determine the extent of the damage — and the budget and timeline for repairs — cannot safely be conducted until temporary floor supports are installed in August, said Stephen Clark, deputy director of airport commercial development.

Clark said the supports are needed because equipment used in the investigation is too heavy and difficult to maneuver safely on the deteriorated floor.

Before the structural investigation can begin, cooktops, refrigerators and a walk-in freezer have to be removed, and the mold and asbestos have to be remediated.

Engineers are considering several preliminary repair options, according to a February email from a structural engineer involved in the project. Those include replacing the deteriorated slab, fortifying it with fiber-reinforced polymer or removing damaged concrete and corroded rebar and replacing them with new materials.

Although the damage appears to be contained to the kitchen, Clark said, crews may need to tear up additional portions of the floor to safely rebuild.

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# Will Aviator's Restaurant return?

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## A longtime fixture at Executive Airport

Aviator's Restaurant has served diner-style food at Executive Airport since Chik opened it in 2000.

The longtime local favorite offers eggs and French toast for breakfast and burgers, pasta and patty melts for lunch. Customers can watch planes take off and land through floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the airport tarmac while dining beneath suspended model airplanes.

The restaurant's wood-paneled walls and ceilings and aviation-themed decor are important to longtime customers, who asked county officials whether Aviator's would retain its familiar and nostalgic feel after repairs.

"Is it going to have the same kind of character it had previously?" one attendee asked.

More than 80 people, many of whom Chik identified as longtime customers, attended the gathering (July 8, 2026) at Belle Cooledge Library, less than 2 miles from Sacramento Executive Airport. The city of Sacramento owns the airport and leases it to Sacramento County. The county's airports are financed through an enterprise fund rather than the county general fund.

Kennedy, whose district includes the airport, said the turnout demonstrated Aviator's importance to the community. He also said he received "about 3000 postcards" after Sacramento County declined in 2023 to renew Aviator's lease, instead offering a month-to-month agreement while accepting bids for the space. County officials described the move as a routine administrative procedure.

The lease was renewed in March 2025 after an outpouring of community support, including a Change.org petition that drew more than 4,300 signatures. The five-year lease is set to expire in 2030.

During lease negotiations, the county said it would refurbish the floors, which Chik said began to feel uneven about three years ago.

## History of leaks

The structural damage was discovered after years of water leaking through the restaurant floor into the basement below, according to Chik, county officials and records obtained by The Sacramento Bee.

Kennedy said the county "had no reason to believe" the floors would be as bad as they were.

"I think that all of us now, with hindsight, would go into a project thinking it could," he said, referring to the floor's construction and its location beneath a commercial kitchen. The 4½-inch concrete slab was built under 1950s construction standards that allowed rebar to be placed closer to the surface, Kennedy said. That made the steel reinforcement more vulnerable to water intrusion and corrosion beneath a kitchen where water was regularly present.

Chik said leaks started nearly one year after Aviator's Restaurant opened. The drips would develop on the days he pressure washed the kitchen floor, so about 2003 he switched to wet-mopping once a week, he said.

Still, Chik said county officials continued to raise concerns about water leaking into the basement.

The leaks, Airport Manager Ron Ogle said in an internal email in late 2024, "have gone on for so long."

In a November 2024 "moisture assessment," the county safety office documented about 10 buckets collecting water on the basement floor. Cracks and staining were visible on the ceiling. Inside Aviator's kitchen, the report noted minor grout and tile cracking, food waste and debris in three of six floor drains, one drain without a cover and water draining from a refrigerator, ice machine and soda fountain machine.

The report said the "water impacted and damaged building materials" had to be repaired to comply with Cal-OSHA standards.

The Department of General Services noted that the ongoing basement leaks were "likely due to a combination of failing floor drain plumbing and tenant activities directly above the basement area," according to the report.

County records show that concerns about the leaks increasingly focused on Chik's cleaning practices, leaking equipment and the condition of floor drains. Chik disputed some of the findings and said he stopped pressure washing the kitchen floor years earlier.

## Inspections every six weeks

Airport inspections conducted in July, August and October last year also repeatedly documented concerns about floor drain covers. Chik maintained that the drains were "properly installed" and some had a double screen.

County airport spokesperson Lindsay Myers said the number of inspections rose in 2025 to bring Sacramento Executive Airport closer to inspection practices at Sacramento International Airport, where walk-throughs happen every six weeks.

Chik said the increased inspections were excessive and amounted to harassment.

The rise in inspections, earlier uncertainty over Aviator's lease and open-ended construction timeline lead Chik to worry about his future at Sacramento Executive Airport, he said. Still, Chik said he remains committed to staying through the end of his lease and hopes to eventually celebrate his retirement with his customers.

Clark and Kennedy said the county wants Aviator's Restaurant to reopen, though they would not provide details about ongoing lease negotiations. The Department of Airports has waived rent for the past seven months and is coordinating the repairs.

Clark said he has no interest in assigning blame for the floor deterioration, adding that it was due to "a combination of factors." "Our interest," he said, "is getting it open safely as quickly as possible."



# Currents faces

**Sacramento Bee and Nehemiah Leaders Program's 2026 Top 60 Change Makers** include these AAPIs: Joy Gonzales-Cabatic, Jag Nagendra, Yating Campbell, Lisa Hafoka, Simon Yeh, Toni Hoang, Lauren Oto, Maryann Lansangan and others. They were honored for their leadership, service and commitment to making a meaningful difference throughout the Sacramento region.

**SF Tien Lung Dragons West Coast 9-Man volleyball team** made it to the Gold Semi Finals in Montreal September 5-7. The 42nd National American Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament (NACIVT, established 1944) – 3 days of competition at Palais des congres de Montreal - included 136 men's teams, 104 women's teams, 3000+ players and 4000 spectators. From the SF Bay Area, there were 16 men teams and 13 women teams at the event. Chinese 9-man volley ball is a fast-paced street sport born in North American Chinatowns during the 1930s with nine players on each side. It began as pickup games by southern Chinese (Toishan) - restaurant workers, launderers and others - to play during smoke breaks. "Traditionally, it's been played outside on concrete because, historically, Chinese were not allowed into the YMCA's or in the gyms, so they did what they can. They set up laundry nets. They put a bunch of t-shirts in balls, and they just played wherever," said Tony Chan (Chicago). The sport grew at a time when anti-Chinese sentiment and laws forced restaurant workers and laundrymen to socialize exclusively amongst themselves. "[Chinese immigrants] were being treated as 'other.' They were working very difficult jobs, many, many hours. They ended up in things like laundry business and restaurant work," said Ursula Liang. "Those guys were putting up with so much that they needed an emotional and physical release."



NACIVT rules: Players must be of Asian descent (whole or part) with origins in an approved country (China, HK, Taiwan, Vietnam, Philippines, Japan, Korea+), at all times 6 of 9 players must be of Chinese descent (5-100%, 6th at least 50%), court is bigger 66X33 ft, net is 7 feet 8.5 inches high (regulation: 7 feet 11 5/8 inches). Players do not rotate. Liang's film, 9-Man, is "an absorbing documentary" according to the New York Times and available for rent or purchase on the internet.

# Yin Family tied to suspected Chinese spy Christine Fang gave $4.4 million to Newsom, other California politicians

By Josh Boswell, CBS News, September 21, 2026

A California family gave over $4.4 million in political donations to Governor Gavin Newsom, Kamala Harris and other leading California politicians. And now, that family's alleged past links to infamous suspected honeypot spy Fang Fang, also known as Christine Fang, and other Chinese government officials have thrust them into an ongoing debate over foreign influence in American politics.

The Yin family (based in Vacaville and Sacramento) made millions running McDonald's franchises in the Golden State — and became prolific donors to politicians, according to state and federal campaign records. Newly released FBI files about Fang describe the family patriarch Chei Chen Yin, commonly known by his initials "C.C.", as a one-time professional associate of Fang through an organization he founded.

And national security experts tasked with protecting U.S. institutions from infiltration by the Chinese government say they have documented alleged interactions between C.C. Yin's brother, Henry Yin, and the foreign influence wing of the Chinese government, the United Front.

Interactions between wealthy business leaders with direct ties to China have come under heavier scrutiny in recent years, as a series of scandals have erupted over alleged Chinese influence agents gaining access to elected officials from small town mayors to members of Congress and the governor of New York. Those relationships have often been facilitated with political donations.

Jacqueline Deal, a board member of State Armor, a company that helps lawmakers detect foreign influence operations, told CBS News that the Chinese government has a "broad-reaching, coordinated strategy for dominance that relies on shaping U.S. policy so that over time we get weaker and [China] gets stronger."

She said she suspects political donations are being used to help "disincentivize these leaders from noticing Chinese Communist Party political interference." There is no evidence the Yins have been co-opted in this way.

C.C. Yin told CBS News: "I love America, and I strongly condemn any effort by any foreign government to interfere in American politics or undermine our democracy." Henry Yin did not respond to requests for comment.

**Yin family donated millions to political causes**

C.C. Yin, 89, is known in Northern California for his philanthropy and rags-to-riches story of a Chinese immigrant arriving to the U.S. in the 1960s with just $100 and building a successful franchise business.

He and his brother Henry Yin founded and ran an organization called Asian Pacific American Public Affairs, or APAPA, organizing support for favored political candidates and helping place interns and advisers in the offices of local, state and federal officials, according to APAPA's website.

C.C. Yin told CBS News he started APAPA to help "young people and community members develop leadership skills, understand how government works, vote, serve their communities, and participate in our democracy."

"When this country gives us opportunity, we have a responsibility to give back," he said.

Some of the Yins' giving has come in the form of large political donations.

The family has donated nearly $3 million to state-level California political causes and an additional $1,455,027 to federal campaigns, directly and through C.C. Yin's McDonald's franchise business, according to state and Federal Election Commission records.

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# Yin Family tied to suspected Chinese spy Fang

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This includes $364,817 in donations to past campaigns supporting Gavin Newsom, $80,000 to his 2019 inauguration committee and $50,000 to a nonprofit at Newsom's direction.

The Yins as individuals and C.C. Yin's McDonald's franchise also gave California Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis' campaigns $221,700 between 2018 and 2025, state records show. Former Vice President Kamala Harris' campaigns received $214,300 between 2019 and 2024, and former state Treasurer John Chiang's campaigns received $115,680.

**Links to suspected spy Fang Fang**

FBI files declassified by the White House in August point to a previous close working relationship between C.C. Yin and suspected Chinese spy Fang "Christine" Fang, who had a sexual relationship with disgraced former California congressman Eric Swalwell before fleeing to China in 2015.

The files include Swalwell's interviews with the FBI in 2015 and 2016, in which he identified Fang as his "point of contact" for APAPA. In one interview Swalwell said a top APAPA official directed him to Fang, according to the files. That official's name is redacted in the report, but two sources familiar with its content told CBS News it is C.C. Yin.

Fang appeared alongside C.C. Yin and Henry Yin at a 15-person APAPA event, in a photo posted on Facebook in 2013 by a City of Cupertino official.

APAPA president Kris Concepcion told CBS News that "current leadership is not aware of Fang Fang ever holding an official role with the national organization."

"Our understanding is that she was associated with a local chapter that is no longer operational," he said. "Like hundreds, or even thousands, of other community members who attend public events, being photographed with APAPA members does not mean she was an officer, board member, employee or representative of APAPA."

No evidence has emerged that Henry Yin or C.C. Yin knew about Fang's alleged espionage during her involvement in APAPA.

**Chinese government meetings**

After noticing APAPA's connection with Fang Fang, Deal dug into the background of Henry Yin, who previously served as national board chair of APAPA and is currently a board member.

She found a string of Chinese media reports of his attendance at 10 events in China hosted by officials from the Chinese government and its foreign influence wing, the United Front, since 2013. The United Front published Chinese-language write-ups of Henry Yin's reported meetings in 2015 and 2023.

Henry Yin has described his efforts as "networking." Deal said his relationship with China "seems to be one of open cooperation."

One article said Yin traveled to Baoshan in Yunnan province in June 2015 and held talks with the Municipal Party Committee United Front Work Department, reaching "a consensus on further strengthening contacts." It described Yin as their "designated contact person for California–China economic, trade, scientific and technological interaction".

Another 2013 article by a Chinese government office described a meeting between Yin and a Chinese government official in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province, saying that he had been offered a position there with the title "Overseas Talent Recruitment Adviser for Sichuan Province." There is no evidence Yin accepted that offer, which was made during a friendlier time in U.S.-China relations.

A United Front statement from 2023 said a delegation of "Chinese Entrepreneurs from Silicon Valley" including Henry Yin, visited his hometown of Chengdu and "built a new bridge for investment cooperation between Chengdu and Silicon Valley."

Henry Yin told the East Bay Times in 2016, while he was serving on the California Commission for Economic Development, that his goal was to further business relations between China and the U.S., as part of his decades as a trans-national entrepreneur.

"I've done a lot of networking, and these days I'm glad to see these networks deliver results," he told the newspaper.

Neither Henry Yin nor his brother have been accused by U.S. law enforcement of working as a foreign agent or acting against American interests.

Foreign Policy Research Institute fellow and University of Miami professor June Teufel Dreyer told CBS News that, although political donations and advisory roles are patterns of influence used by the United Front, those actions and traveling to China for diplomacy and business trips could be entirely innocent.

"There's really nothing wrong with successful Chinese entrepreneurs wanting to help out the economies of the country they originally came from," Dreyer said, but added: "We should get rid of the idea that there's such a thing as a truly private business in China. They are all controlled at some level by the government."

Cheryl Yu, a fellow at foreign affairs think tank The Jamestown Foundation, told CBS News that the Chinese government attempts to exert influence on well-connected Americans, regardless of those individuals' intentions.

"This is how the United Front works. They build these friendly, long-term relationships, then at some point they make requests," she said.

The U.S. government has allegedly engaged in its own influence attempts against China, including a clandestine social media campaign to turn public opinion in China against President Xi Jinping's government, a 2024 Reuters report claimed.

Concepcion said his organization has "no relationship with the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party, or the United Front," and that "personal travel, relationships, employment histories, and views" of members "should not be attributed to APAPA."

**Top political contacts**

The Yins' foreign and domestic connections have at times placed them at the nexus of Chinese diplomacy and American politics.

C.C. Yin was credited with helping arrange Newsom's 2023 trip to China according to a story co-authored by his organization in New York-based Taiwanese newspaper the World Journal.

The newspaper article said that C.C. Yin began negotiating the visit "after being entrusted by the governor's office" to "formally [convey] Governor Newsom's desire to visit China to Consul General Zhang Jianmin."

His brother Henry Yin accompanied the governor as an adviser on the October 2023 visit, where Newsom met Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Journal reported.

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# Yin Family tied to suspected Chinese spy Fang

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Henry Yin has also been photographed with Newsom at APAPA events, which he shared on Facebook.

Newsom's spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment. The governor is among those expected to seek the 2028 Democratic nomination for president.

Henry Yin also acted as an adviser to California congressman Ro Khanna, who is similarly talked about as a potential Democratic 2028 presidential candidate and is currently the ranking member of the House Select Committee on the CCP, established with the purpose of monitoring Chinese government influence in U.S. politics. Henry Yin and C.C. Yin have personally donated $15,800 to Ro Khanna's congressional campaigns since 2017.

Khanna's spokesperson has since given statements about Henry Yin's relationship with the influential lawmaker that conflict with Khanna's own social media posts.

A 2019 Facebook post by Khanna included a photo of Henry Yin presenting the congressman with a birthday cake, with the caption announcing that "Henry will serve as my Senior Advisor on Foreign Trade and Economic Development." In a 2020 post he referred to Henry Yin as a "good friend."

Until this month, Yin listed on his LinkedIn page a current role as "Sr. Advisor to US House of Rep [Ro] Khanna," beginning in 2019. The page has since been deleted.

Khanna appeared alongside Henry in February this year at a Sunnyvale, California event run by APAPA-affiliated PAC, Asian Americans for Good Government. Both Henry Yin and C.C. Yin have been listed as board members of the PAC, according to archives of its website.

Earlier this month, his spokesperson told the New York Post that Henry Yin "has never held a formal role with the Congressman." In a subsequent statement to CBS News, Khanna's communications director Sarah Drory said that Henry Yin "served for a year as one of dozens of volunteer leaders."

Drory added in the statement that "APAPA has been a decades-long organization to empower Asian Americans and it's an ugly anti-Asian smear to suggest ties" to the Chinese government.

*Background: Christine Fang "Fang Fang" was suspected of being involved in a political intelligence operation in the US between 2011 and 2015 under the direction of China's main civilian spy agency. She built ties with local and national politicians while living in California, claimed to have family ties to the Chinese Communist Party, volunteered and interned as a student for political events and fundraisers throughout the Bay Area, and used her sexuality on politicians. She enrolled at CSU East Bay in 2011. In 2015, Fang left the US and has been barred re-entry.*

*EDITOR: This attention could be a replay of the 1996 US campaign finance controversy "Chinagate," which haunted the Clinton administration, chilled relations between American political parties and the Chinese American community, and tainted politicians who returned donations from Chinese agents. US law forbids non-American citizens or non-permanent residents from giving money to US politicians and parties.*

**Hui Ka Yun,** a property residential developer tycoon who used his Evergrande company's billions to buy a soccer club (Guangzhou Evergrande football club) and fund medical research at Harvard. At its peak in 2017, Hui's wealth was thought to have been $45.3 billion. But by October 2023, Bloomberg estimates his net worth was $979 million. China Evergrande Group, founded in 1996 and dissolved in 2024, was the second largest property developer in China. It suddenly collapsed in 2021 sparking the ongoing Chinese property sector crisis. It sold apartments to upper and middle income earners and prospective home owners pre-paid for their not-finished homes. The company was incorporated in the Cayman Islands. The company filed for bankruptcy in the US in 2023. In 2024, the company was wound up by the High Court of Hong Kong .because there was no viable restructuring plan. Trading of China Evergrande, China Evergrande New Energy Vehicle Group and Evergrande Property Services stock was halted.

In 2026, Hui plead guilty to charges of financial fraud, corruption, embezzlement, and corporate bribery and on August 20, 2026 was sentenced to life in prison and ordered to pay a fine of 15.8 billion yuan ($2.35 billion US). China's property bust led to the collapse of Evergrande which left hundreds of unfinished real estate projects across China including Evergrande Cultural Tourism City (multiple buildings abandoned after construction halted), Yunhu Shangyuan Estate (unfinished homes), and Ocean Flower Island (large scale development which remains incomplete). It is unknown if anyone else will be prosecuted for Evergrande's fraud.

# Chinese nationals abusing California surrogacy laws

**Guojun Xuan, 65, and Silvia Zhang, 38 -** Their palatial Arcadia home ($3.2M, 17,000 sq ft) was raided in July 2025 and authorities took 21 kids, mostly surrogate-born and under the age of 3, into protective custody. Six children were found in the care of their family and friends. As of May 2026, the original 21 kids remain in foster care.

The tip off was their 2 month old son who was taken to the hospital with injuries which medical staff suspected were due to child abuse. The unmarried couple is being investigated by state and federal authorities. From June 2025-January 2026, at least five more surrogate- born babies were born in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Georgia. Xuan and Zhang are fighting for custody of children across four states and suing some surrogates claiming breach of contract. Zhang opened and operated Mark Surrogacy Investment LLC, the couple also controlled the Future Spring Surrogacy, and they recruited surrogates over Facebook. The surrogates were paid $45,000 to $70,000 plus pregnancy related expenses. They told surrogates that they had one child and wanted one more.

Xuan and Zhang used their Arcadia and office addresses. Xuan's many properties included one business property with an illegal casino and illegal cannabis and psilocybin operation with firearms involved.

Zhang was married to an older man who was 68 when she was 27 and then lived in Pomona. That marriage ended in 2021 and her ex-husband accused of her of elder fraud and trickery (she sold the home when he was in Taiwan and pocketed the money.)

Zhang had worked as a realtor in New York selling 162 properties often through shell companies linked to Xuan and in cash. Soon after her divorce, Zhang and Xuan visited HRC Fertility, one of Southern California's largest fertility chains.

In their Arcadia home, there were at least six nannies. Nanny Chunmei Li is being sought by the police for questioning about the 2 month old baby's injuries. The FBI were on notice as early as 2023 regarding the Xuan-Zhang surrogacy arrangements. California is considered one of the most surrogacy-friendly states; gestational surrogacy - a woman is hired to give birth for another person/couple who become the legal parents after birth - is legal.

The Arcadia home was set up like a school. Xuan and Zhang were booked on felony child endangerment/neglect and released on $500,000 bail. There is no law against hiring multiple surrogate mothers at a time. As of early 2026, formal charges have not been filed. Xuan supplied the sperm in 2021; they used anonymous egg donors.

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# Chinese nationals abusing California surrogacy laws

Continued from Page 13

Xuan was born in Zhuji China, held positions in the Urumqi Municipal People's Congress, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region People's Congress and should have been barred from US residency based on his affiliations. He has a real estate portfolio linked to more than 50 limited-liability corporations and owns the Arcadia mansion. He has bene president of the US-Xinjiang Chamber of Commerce. Xuan's commercial complex Pacific Place in El Monte had been raided five times before 2024 and authorities found evidence of an illegal casino, methamphetamine, marijuana, psilocybin mushroom farms, counterfeit currency and weapons. Haoren "Dragon" Ma, a felon, says Xuan transferred ownership of his companies to conceal ownership, frustrate enforcement and allow Ma to continue his gambling and narcotic operations. No criminal charges related to gambling or drugs have been filed against Xuan.

Xuan's Yudao Investment real estate company in El Monte and Arcadia has a class action complaint in LA County Superior Court over wages and overtime. He settled a wrongful termination, battery and assault case with employee in early 2025 with a confidentiality clause.

A 2024 report by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine found that the international "rent-a-womb" industry in the United States is "disproportionately fueled by Chinese nationals (41.7 percent), with France (9.2 percent) and Spain (8.5 percent) as the next highest nationalities represented. Of the foreign nationals, the purchasing parents were most likely to be Asian men over the age of 42.

The investigation is ongoing. People with information relevant to this case should contact the Arcadia Police 626/574-5168.

**Xu Bo,** 48, a Chinese online gaming billionaire had ambitions to father over 100 and maybe up to 300 children (according to an ex-girlfriend) through surrogacy in the US and create a family dynasty to inherit his wealth. He was seeking to have at least "20-50 high quality sons" to manage his Guangzhou Duoyi Network empire. Foreign nationals pursuing surrogacy in the US benefit from automatic US citizenship (birthright citizenship.) Xu is patterning himself after wealthy individuals like Telegram founder Pavel Durov who claims over 100 children in multiple countries. Billionaire Tesla owner Elon Mosk has fathered 14 children across multiple countries but not through surrogacy. They hope to secure their legacies and create family dynasties. Xu's Douyu Network claimed on social media that the number count in the US is over 100.

In mid-2023, Xu sought legal parental status for at least four unborn children carried by American surrogates at the time. Xu told US District Judge Amy Pellman that his goal was to have about 20 high quality sons born in the US who would eventually run Xu's businesses. Pellman rejected Xu's petition for parentage leaving the unborn children's legal status unclear; at the time of hearing he was in the process of fathering at least eight more with surrogates.

Xu admitted having not met some of his US children because of work commitments. He hired nannies in California to look after the babies while passports, visas and other documents are arranged. Several of Xu's children are living with nannies in Irvine. Within elite Chinese circles, having many foreign born children is a strategy to anchor future heirs abroad, diversity family assets and realm of influence without China's laws hindering their plans.

Also in China, CEO Wang Huiwu (Sichuan-based XJ International Holdings) has fathered 10 daughters through US surrogacy contracts. Wang hopes that his girls will partner with influential global personalities. He intentionally used egg donors who are fashion models, a finance PhD holder and musician; egg donors receive $6,000 - $7,500.

A California surrogate agency owner Joy Millan said that a Chinese father once requested four surrogates at the same time. She agreed to one but later learned that the client arranged for additional carriers from other agencies.

Surrogate agencies receive $40,000 - $50,000 per case, which is separate from payments to the surrogate. A child can cost close to $200,000. Some Chinese parents can complete the surrogate process without entering the US – i.e. sending genetic material abroad, managing the IVF and pregnancy through agents, having someone pick up newborns from the hospital and hiring nannies to care for the baby while documents and travel are arranged.

China's one child policy ended in 2015 and increased to 3 children in 2021. Surrogacy is banned in China because it commodifies impoverished women. Children born as US citizens are outside China's penalty framework. As China's restrictions eased, a distinct group of ultra-rich Chinese parents emerged wanting very large lineages claiming Elon Mosk as their role model.

# Currents places

**National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places** list raises awareness about the threats facing some of the nation's greatest treasures. Over its 40 years, the annual list has named 380 sites and helps those sites attract attention and galvanize preservation efforts. The 2026 endangered list includes two California AAPI sites:

- **Tule Lake Segregation Center (Modoc County, CA)** - Thirty-seven acres have National Monument designation but the 1,100 acre primary site is unprotected. Of the 10 concentration camps housing 125,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during their WWII removal, Tule Lake became the sole prison camp where 331 prisoners died because they protested the denial of their US Constitutional rights. The Tule Lake Committee is leading the fight against the Federal Aviation Authority and Modoc County who want to fence off a rural airfield occupying 359 of those acres.
- **Angel Island Immigration Station (Tiburon CA)** was built to enforce exclusionary immigration laws, detained more than 300,000 immigrants primarily from Asia and was known for lengthy interrogations (months to years), invasive medical exam and family separations. Between 1910 and 1940, approximately 1M people were processed there. When the immigration station closed in 1940, the site was used to detain 700 Japanese Americans from Hawai'i and California and served as a POW processing facility. Angel Island is where more than 200 poems carved into the detention barrack walls by Chinese detainees provide a rare first person testimony of their experiences and emotions and the carvings are credited with saving the buildings from demolition in the early 1970s. Angel Island was on the 11 Most Endangered list in 1999. Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation partnered with California State Parks to restore the barracks and hospital as a historic site.

**Sindad Voyage mural on Dwight Way in Berkeley** highlighting the immigrant struggle was defaced during the summer. Mural artist Mokhtar Paki posted in August 2026, "Sinbad Voyage had been vandalized … STAY WITH IMMIGRANTS!" He immigrated to the US in 1983 after fleeing Iran. The mural was painted in 2023. He described the mural as his "love letter to Berkeley and was based by Paki's 2016 painting "when the refugee crisis in Europe erupted into the news headlines."




The defaced "Sinbad Voyage" mural on Dwight Way in Berkeley. *Scanner Insider*

# Restoring a Legacy: The Nisei War Memorial Community Center

In November 2024, the Sacramento Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) made a historic commitment to undertake a Capitol Project to restore the Nisei War Memorial Community Center at 1515 4th Street in Sacramento.

For Sacramento's Japanese American community, the building represents far more than bricks and mortar. It is a place rooted in the history, resilience, and determination of Japanese Americans who returned home after World War II (WWII) and continued to face prejudice and discrimination.

## A Legacy Born from Adversity

When Japanese American WWII veterans returned home, many were not welcomed into local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Posts because of lingering racism and prejudice. Determined to create a place where they could gather and support one another, the veterans formed their own organization, VFW Post 8985.

Initially, meetings were held at the Buddhist Church. Eventually, the veterans sought a hall of their own. When they lacked sufficient funds to purchase a building, Sacramento JACL stepped forward and purchased the property with them.

The building soon became an important gathering place for VFW Post 8985, Boy Scout Troop 250, the Ladies Auxiliary, and many other community organizations. For generations, it provided a home for meetings, celebrations, activities, and community connections.

## A Building in Need of Help

In October 2024, Sacramento JACL learned that the building's roof had been leaking for more than 20 years. The roof was only one of many problems facing the aging facility, making it clear that significant work was needed to preserve this important piece of Sacramento's Japanese American history.




Sacramento JACL accepted the challenge.

Fundraising began in March 2025 with the sale of plaques for a Memorial Plaque Wall. The community responded enthusiastically, and by June 2025, Sacramento JACL had raised enough to begin repairing the roof.

With the roof addressed, attention turned to the floors, ceilings, lighting, and HVAC system. As the scope of the project grew and fundraising slowed, Sacramento JACL began seeking grants and other financial assistance.

Vice President Debbie Eto reached out to Sheldon Arakaki, newly elected National Board President of the JACL. He encouraged Sacramento JACL to apply for a grant from the Japanese American Community Foundation, noting that the maximum award was $50,000.

They applied—and in November 2025, Sacramento JACL received the full $50,000 grant.

## A Community Comes Together

The grant provided critical support for the restoration. Funds helped repair and restore two bathrooms, replace four broken fire doors, and create new window coverings for the facility.

The restoration became a true community effort. Sacramento City Councilmember Phil Pluckebaum, whose district includes the building, recognized the importance of preserving the historic facility and provided valuable contacts and support. Bill Burg of Preservation Sacramento also offered assistance and guidance.

Together, community members, organizations, supporters, and volunteers demonstrated what is possible when people come together to protect an important part of their shared history.

## A New Chapter

In August 2026, Sacramento JACL hosted an "In Gratitude" event at the Center. For many attendees, it was their first opportunity to see the building following its extensive repairs and improvements.

The reaction was overwhelming. Attendees described the restored facility as "breathtaking" and "beautiful," with one person saying, "I can't believe it's the same building."

The comments reflected not only the building's physical transformation, but also the pride of a community that had come together to preserve a place of deep historical significance.

The Nisei War Memorial Community Center stands as a testament to the perseverance of the Japanese American veterans who created VFW Post 8985, the vision of Sacramento JACL, and the generosity of those committed to preserving this history for future generations.

Sacramento JACL extends its deepest gratitude to the Japanese American Community Foundation for its extraordinary generosity and support. The $50,000 grant made an important difference in bringing this historic building back to life.

The restoration is more than a renovation. It is a commitment to remember the past, honor those who came before us, and ensure that the Nisei War Memorial Community Center continues to serve the Sacramento community for generations to come.

**Torrance Monument -** The Sacramento JACL is currently fundraising for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration Monument to be built in Torrance, CA. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact sacjaclinfo@yahoo.com

# Currents places

## Japanese cemetery in Colma FTB status reinstated!

After years of delinquency, the Japanese Benevolent Society of California (Jikeikai) is working to bring itself back into good standing with the State of California and IRS. The California Cemetery and Funeral Bureau (Dept of Consumer Affairs) revoked its license on May 7, 2026. The California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) suspended their corporate status due to years of delinquent tax filings but it was reinstated on August 10, 2026. The Funeral Bureau had denied the group's request to stay its revocation based on the then existing FTB suspension. The Funeral Bureau added that Jikeikai lost its certificate of authority in 2008 after failing to employ a licensed cemetery manager. Jikeikai is also working to restore its 501(c )(13) status.

Jikeikai, a nonprofit based in SF's Japantown, oversees the cemetery located in Colma, south of SF. The cemetery, founded in 1901 with a grant from the Japanese Emperor Meiji, is the resting place for more than 5,000 in graves and niches.

The Jikeikai, founded in 1901, opened the two-acre Japanese Cemetery in 1903, after San Francisco passed a law forbidding new burials within the city limits. In 1906, the Japanese government granted funding to the non-denominational cemetery where Japanese citizens could have plots to be buried. The remains of three sailors from the Kanrin Maru, the ship that brought the first Japanese Embassy to the U.S., are in this cemetery, along with other notable Japanese and Japanese Americans in Northern California.

The Jikeikai's issues began in February 2019 when president Eddie Moriguchi fell ill and later passed in September 2020. Dean Hedani took over during the Covid-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, management of the cemetery floundered with online board meetings and board members who were aging and/or had limited technical skills. Hedani died in 2023 and executive director Keiko Fujimoto had health concerns. Governance of the cemetery "fell through the cracks" according to Don Tamaki, their pro bono attorney.

The suspension meant that the cemetery could not sell new plots and niches. But the bulk of recent internments have been for people who already owned plots or niches. Since the cemetery's endowment was frozen, Tamaki says the Jikeikai operated with donations and never touched the interest from the endowment fund.

Current board president Victor Iwamura only learned of the mounting issues in 2025 when he worked on the 2025 Memorial Day Service. When he officially assumed the president role in January 2026, all 21 board represntatives were queried and only four agreed to remain on the board. Of the other directors and staff, some had died, others had poor health or were over 100 years old.

The annual cemetery clean up was done on May 16, 2026 and Memorial Day service held on May 25th. A town hall meeting was held on June 30, 2026 at the SF Konko Church and on ZOOM to encourage continuing support for the cemetery. Updated information can be found at www.japanesecemetery.org.

Source: Nichi Bei News, May 14-27, 2026

## Where's Oakland's "I Am An American" sign?




**Japanese Owned Grocery Store, Oakland**
**California, March 30, 1942**

Dorothea Lange
Film negative
Gift of Paul S. Taylor
5 in x 4 in
A67.137.42015.1
© The Dorothea Lange Collection, the Oakland Museum of California.

*Owner is U.C. graduate, born in California. I asked him 'who put up that sign?' He said 'a sign painter but I paid for it, the day after Pearl Harbor.*
— Dorothea Lange Field Notes

The travelling "I am An American" exhibit is now en-route to the Capitol Modern (Hawaii State Art Museum) in Honolulu Hawaii (November 7, 2026 – March 13, 2027). The exhibit curators – National Veterans Network, National Museum of the US Army and The Army Historical Foundation - searched without success for the original "I Am An American" sign which was commissioned and installed by Tatsuro Matsuda on his family store – Wanto Co. – at 401-403 Eighth and Franklin Streets in Oakland. The sign went up the day after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It was Matsuda's public statement of loyalty as a Japanese American while anti Japanese hate was rampant in the US.

Do you know where the original sign is? It must be somewhere in the East Bay, in someone's garage, in a basement, or a backyard. If you know where it is, contact: Christine Sato-Yamazaki, christine@nvnvets.org. The exhibit curators want it preserved for future generations to see and experience.

# Currents films to watch

**Return to the Soil** At the start of World War II, thousands of Japanese American families were forced to abandon their homes, farms, and businesses and placed in incarceration camps across the U.S. Return to the Soil explores the profound impact on farm families and discovers how subsequent generations survived, including some who returned to farming and are thriving today. Family histories featured: Torrance, Clarksburg, Fresno, including successful stewardships which allowed returning Japanese Americans to regain and continue farming their land. A KVIE produced film by Michael Sanford, is available on PBS KVIE.

**Bluff City Chinese** – award winning documentary of the experience of the earliest Chinese immigrants in Memphis, directed by Thandi (Anna) Cai and featuring Emmy (Emerald) Dunn. Chinese laborers were recruited to the south to replace newly freed slaves. After they paid off their contracts, the Chinese started small businesses in black communities - a story too long left out of the record.

**The Chinese of Napa Valley** documentary is based on John McCormick's book (written for his Harvard masters degree), filmed by Jeff Hamilton (a Silicon Valley retiree who learned filmmaking by Youtube) and produced by the Napa County Historical Society. Chinese immigrants planted vineyards, dug underground wine cellars and helped to process grapes for wine. Then, they slowly drifted away. Only one bunk house and the wine caverns are left. McCormick was mad that the Chinese contributions was never mentioned while he grew up in Napa; it needed to be written and shared. So he did it himself. He adds that the Chinese experience in Napa was rare because they were not driven out by force and violence.

# ICE arrests of Asian Americans in California increased by more than 1,000%

By Mathew Miranda, Sacramento Bee, August 14, 2026

Immigration arrests of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California increased more than tenfold in the first year of President Donald Trump's second term, according to a new analysis by the USC Equity Research Institute. The analysis found that the AAPI Californians were involved in one of every 10 arrests by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in 2025. That represented a 1,109% increase from the year prior and was significantly higher than the 386% jump in overall ICE arrests in the state.

Cities across California experienced repeated high-profile immigration operations last year by ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, better known as Border Patrol. Immigration enforcement operations have become more targeted and less publicized in 2026, but remain more prevalent than in years past.

"We are seeing these arrests instill fear among community members and causing families to scramble and panic to find their loved ones," said Timmy Lu, the director of AAPIs for Civic Empowerment Education Fund, at a Wednesday afternoon briefing.

California is home to more than 7.2 million Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, which is about 30% of the nation's total AAPI population. Nearly 3,000 AAPI individuals in the state were arrested by ICE in 2025.

The AAPI communities that experienced the largest increases in ICE arrests were from India, China, Vietnam, Armenia and Laos.

Other findings from the analysis focused on the criminal history of those arrested. About 56% of the AAPI Californians arrested by ICE had no criminal record, up from 19% in 2024, according to the data.

The Trump administration, despite its rhetoric to pursue the "worst of the worst," has fueled its increase in arrests, detentions and deportations with enforcement against people without criminal records and those following the legal pathway.

More than 70% of people in immigration detention centers don't have criminal convictions, according to the latest available data by Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse.

"We're seeing pickups happening in front of their homes, on the way to work, at work, at their check-ins in the courthouse," said CaseyAnn Carbonell, the immigration and deportation defense campaign director with Stockton-based nonprofit, Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities.

The analysis was based on individual arrest records between January 2024 and March 2026 reported by ICE and processed through UC Berkeley's Deportation Data Project.

The tally is an undercount of the total immigration arrests under Trump as it only included ICE. Other federal agencies, including Border Patrol, have conducted deportations in the state.

References: USC Equity Research Institute; UC Berkeley Deportation Data Project

# Facebook reaction

Sacramento Bee posted this article on Facebook and received anti-AAPI immigrant comments not unlike the anti-Chinese sentiments of the 1870's and the US DOJ China Initiative persecutions of 1980's and the anti-Japanese curses of WWII. Even Asian-surnamed individuals pushed anti-AAPI hate, ignoring that everyone except the Native Americans came to America for opportunities which were not available in their native countries:

Dan Liu - Illegals aren't "Asian American". There are actual mainland China CCP (Chinese Communist Party) spies in the community if I'm being honest and people gaming the system. Plenty of ppl (people) overstaying causing problems and just not respecting the values of America that need to go.

James Paquin - They arrest people that break the law. That includes Russians, Italians, Africans, Middle East folks. Color doesn't matter. Obeying the laws is what matters.

Michael Taps Taporco - ICE ice Baby

Alex Ouyang – While we at it let's deport all the colonizers too, America is for the native Americans.

Mega Lee - I'm Asian, and glad to deport people who are here illegally. There's rules to this. I've traveled the world, you need a visa and leave when it expires. You do not get any assistance from their government to be a bum in their country

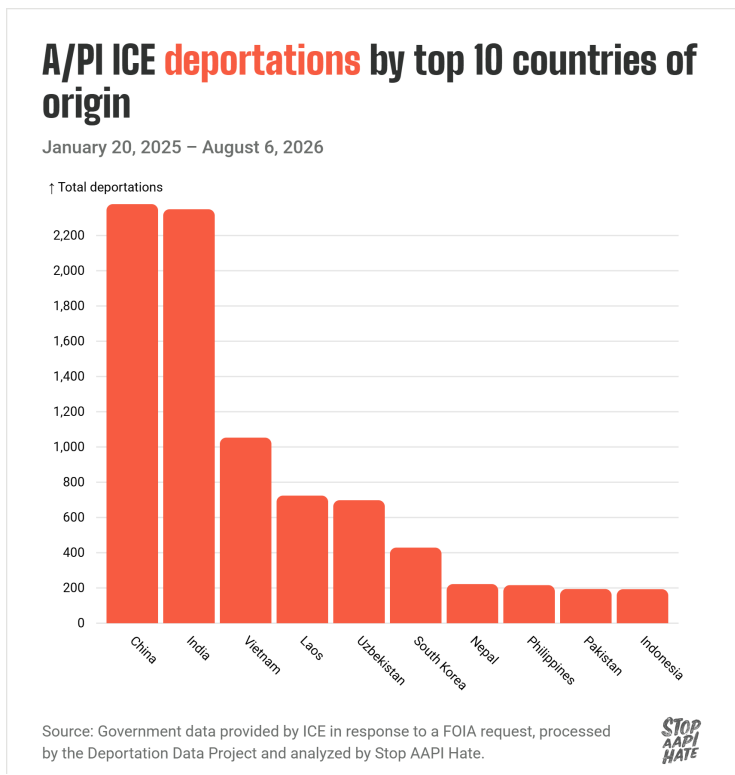
Harold Lin - Illegal Asians and Asian Americans, big difference. Change your headline.

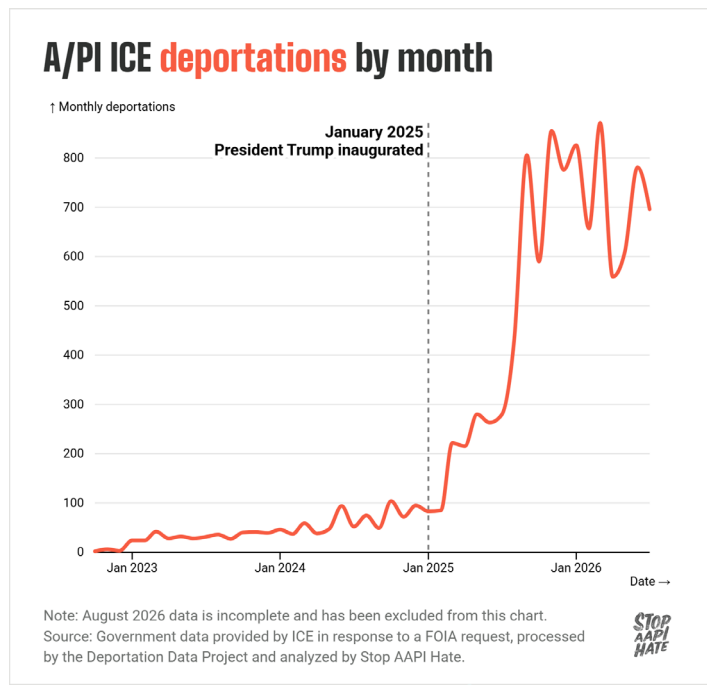
Azon Taneco- Not Asian Ameicans, just Asian if being arrested living in America illegally.

## STOP AAPI HATE: ICE TRACKER

Stop AAPI Hate has launched an Asian and Pacific Islander ICE Tracker website at https://apiicetracker.org. The ICE Tracker monitors Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests, detentions, and deportations impacting Asian and Pacific Islander communities under Trump. This public data tool turns federal immigration enforcement data (provided by the Deportation Data Project) into clear, interactive dashboards to easily track trends, disaggregate

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# Stop AAPI Hate: ICE Tracker

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disaggregate data by age, gender, and country of origin, and explore data by state to gain a deeper understanding of ICE's impact on AAPI communities.

Key findings from the tracker analysis:

- ICE activity involving Asian people has surged under the second Trump administration, with rises that are far steeper than rises overall. Compared to the previous administration, Asian arrests rose 436% (vs. 219% overall), detentions rose 512% (vs. 280% overall), and deportations rose 1,103% (vs. 356% overall.)
- Among Pacific Islanders, ICE arrests have increased by 25%, detentions by 34%, and deportations by 33%.
- People from India and China make up the largest shares of Asian arrests, at 29% and 25%, respectively.
- People from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands make up the largest shares of Pacific Islander arrests, at 47% and 29%, respectively.
- California, Texas, and New York make up the largest shares of Asian arrests (25%, 13%, and 9%, respectively), while Arkansas, Hawai'i, and Guam make up the largest shares of Pacific Islander arrests (25%, 16%, and 14%, respectively.)

AAPI Hate's blog post September 2026 "How Asians and Pacific Islanders Are Bing Impacted by ICE, What the Data Reveals" can be accessed on https://stopaapihate.org

# Asian American Liberation Network Immigration Toolkit for Sacramento region

The Asian American Liberation Network (AALN) has developed a Immigration Toolkit to help people navigate the uncertainty under the current administration and the complexity of immigration laws, having community-rooted, culturally competent resources is more important than ever. Immigrants, undocumented people, and mixed-status families often don't know where to go for help, who is trustworthy, what rights they have, or how to avoid fraud or misinformation. The Toolkit provides a centralized directory of immigration-related services, resources, and support organizations within the Sacramento region. It offers rapid response services, legal aid and immigration services, integration support, and referrals in multiple languages. The toolkit was intentionally built on a website so that the AALN can continuously update it. With this toolkit, organizations, communities, and families can prepare for and respond more effectively to urgent or crisis situations.

If you have an emergency or need to prepare for one, look into the resources under EMERGENCY RESPONSE & PREPARATION. If immigration enforcement is active at your site, use the CRISIS MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET provided in this toolkit so you can document information for the next steps.

For other services including representation, legal & application assistance, referrals and integration support, see GENERAL IMMIGRATION SERVICES. We also provide resources for students and their families under STUDENT SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE SERVICES. For additional information, guides, printables, and contacts, see RESOURCES (INDIRECT SUPPORT).

Topics covered in the Toolkit are: Emergency Response & Preparation, General Immigration Services, Student Support & Assistance Services, Resources (Indirect Support), Crisis Management Worksheet, Social Media Accounts, ILRC Red Cards (immigrants rights card).

# Views of Amache, Colorado WWII prison



Camp Amache aka Granada War Relocation Center in southeastern Colorado is one of ten concentration camps where 125,000 Japanese Americans were forcibly relocated during WWII because the US government wrongly accused them of being disloyal and claimed their relocation was a "military necessity". The camp is 1.3 miles from a small farming community of Granada; this location is unique among the WWII camps which were usually in very remote desolate locations. Amache formally became part of the National Park Service in 2024. The original site included 10,000 acres, 640 acres of which were used for residential community and administrative buildings and during the war 10,000 people lived there, many from southwest Los Angeles, Central Valley (including northern Yolo County) and the northern coast of California.

The Japanese successfully farmed the acreage which surrounded the town of Granada and had enough surplus produce to ship vegetables to other concentration camps. Enterprising Japanese were allowed to establish the Granada Fish Market in town which was so successful that they exported fish brought in from Los Angeles (the train station was in Granada) to other concentration camps. Colorado Governor Ralph Carr openly welcomed Japanese to his state, but lost his reelection bid because the anti-Japanese hysteria. The community of Granada was not fully welcoming – while Japanese were given passes to go into town and Granada residents went into Amache to watch movies, the Granada merchants charged Japanese higher prices for goods and Japanese were not allowed in certain parks. Granada did have the Newman Drug Store and its soda fountain was popular with Japanese families.

"Amache" is the Japanese version of "Ameohtse'e " (means walking woman) who was the daughter of the Cheyenne Peace Chief Ochinee. She survived the Sand Creek massacre of 1864 because she was held hostage and prevented from warning the tribe of the attack. The Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes had entered into a treaty to winter camp along Sand Creek and flew an American flag and white flag of truce, yet on November 29, 1864 at sunrise, the US Army attacked the peaceful camp of mostly women, children and elders. Six hundred soldiers led by Colonel John Chivington on the orders of Governor John Evans entered their encampment and brutally massacred 230 Indians. The unprovoked slaughter was encouraged by Evans's proclamation in August 1864 that authorized the killing of all "hostile" Indians. Evans was removed as Territorial Governor by President Andrew Johnson. Chivington was allowed to return to civilian life. Neither were punished for that is considered one of the worst massacres in US history. Both denied responsibility even when congressional and military inquiries found Chivington responsible. Ameohtse'e received 640 acres as reparations for the slaughter which she used to expand her family's Cattle ranch with her husband John Prowers. Most of the tribe never received their land grants. The land during WWII was seized by eminent domain by the US government to establish the WWII concentration camp.

Amache site is in relatively good shape because even though the original buildings are gone, the barrack foundations are visible and intact. The Park Service built a replica barrack, recreation hall, and guard tower. A historical water tower and cemetery still remained. Each barrack was subdi-

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# Views of Amache, Colorado WWII prison

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vided into six one-room family living spaces with red brick floors. Climbing the iconic water tower is the only way to view the vastness of the camp – one cannot stand in one place to see them all because there are always more barracks over the horizon.

Granada High School social science teacher John Hopper wanted to include Amache into his American history lesson plan. He ran into push back but persisted. Now 35 years later, he is now principal and high school students (class size is about 15-18 kids) can take an elective class to learn how to be docents and volunteer for the Amache Museum in Granada to which Japanese community has generously donated historically relevant items and is housed in a building donated by a local bank. The umbrella organization - Amache Preservation Society - has sponsored the renovation of the cemetery, established the museum and research center, restored landmarks, and its students travel Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma to talk about the Amache camp. Some students have traveled to Japan where they lived with host families to learn about the Japanese culture.



Granada High Prnicipal John Hopper at the Amache Museum



Newman Drug Store (left), Granada FIsh Store (middle with fish bone graphic)

*Four hours east of Denver, this pilgrimage to Amache was arranged by Asian Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHIP) for their bienniel conference. The conference was held in Denver September 10-13.*



Replica barrack family room with brick floor and wood stove

# Calendar

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Oct 18 Sun **Celebration of Life – Yoshinori Harlan "Toso" Himel.** 130pm at UC Davis School of Law, King Hall. Free, no gifts. Reception after the program.

Nov 1 thru Jan 31, 2027 **Asian Resources: Connecting our Community to Health Coverage and Covered California.** Appointments available at ARI's South Sac Office 916/454-1892, Oak Park Office 916/324-6202, Citrus Heights Office 916/745-4313.

Nov 3 Tue **ELECTION DAY**. A huge voter turnout for these midterm elections sends a clear message that American democracy is stronger than those people who intend to dismantle it.

Nov 14 Sat **Test screening: The 100th, Seeds of Aloha** documentary by Carl Williams. 1pm at Sacramento Buddhist Church (2401 Riverside Blvd, Sac). A feature length educational documentary about the 100th Infantry Battalion from Hawai'i "The Purple Heart Battalion" who fought to liberate Italy and France. Free. Register at https://forms.gle/DQwRXiSAAkTnizVK9. Info: Carl Williams, 916/233-8069, cwilliams@intl-aero.net or John Yoshikawa, 916/320-2111, spyron@aol.com

Nov 14 Sat **Asian Resources: Volunteer to Transform ARI's Backyard into Community Space.** 9am-12pm at ARI (6270 Elder Creek Rd, Sac). Planting vegetation and fruit trees, mulching, soil preparation, watering, garden care, general beautification. Info: 916/454-1892, akenese@asianrources.org

Nov 21 Sat **16th Oldies-But-Goodies Dance** hosted by the Adult Buddhist Association (ABA). Disc Jockey "Dr. Don" Kazama playing music from the 50's, 60's and 70's. 7-10pm at Buddhist Church of Sacramento (2401 Riverside Blvd, Sac). $20/ABA members, $25/nonmembers. ABA Family Membership is $10. Veterans – free, but must register. Pupus and hosted refreshments. Tickets: Grace Hatano 916/451-7520, bghat1@sbcglobal.net; Stephen Kashiwada 916/213-7427, slkash@aol.com

Nov 27-29 **21st Annual Sacramento Hmong New Year – "Shaping Our Future: Imagining the Next Generation of Hmong Culture, Community, and Leadership."** 9am to 6pm at Cal Expo (1600 Exposition Blvd, Sac). Free. Sacramento Hmong New Year, Inc. is a non-profit cultural hub which connects the Hmong community with local businesses, civic organizations, and the broader public to build mutual respect, shared experiences, and a future where the Hmong heritage thrives. This annual festival is more than an event — it is a cultural landmark, an economic engine, and a homecoming for tens of thousands of families across the nation. The Hmong are an ethnic group from Southeast Asia whose story stretches across mountains, oceans, and generations. After the Vietnam War, many resettled in the United States, where today over 330,000 Hmong Americans (115,000 in California) continue to build, lead, and thrive. Program: Miss Hmong California, Hmong Dance Competition, Hmong Idol, Fashion Designer Contest, Volleyball/Soccer/Golf/Cornhole Tournaments, Scholarship Program, Cover Art Contest, Pokemon Event. Info: www@sacramentohmongnewyear.com

Jan 29, 2027 Fri **Asian Resources: 2027 Community Lunar New Year Celebration, Year of the First Goat.** Info: www.asianresources.org

**Feb 6, 2027 Sat Lunar New Year, Year of the Goat (Sheep, Ram). Feb 6-19 Spring Festival Period, 15 days). Feb 20 Lantern Festival**.

# CALENDAR

Now thru 2026 Oakland Museum exhibit: **BeHere 1942: A New Lens on the Japanese American Incarceration** by Masaki Fujihata. Fujihata transformed historic Dorothea Lange and Russell Lee photographs to allow visitors to move into the past and be "there" when 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forcibly relocated from their West Coast homes and businesses into WWII incarceration camps. Wed-Sun 11am-5pm (Fridays 5-9pm) at Oakland Museum (1000 Oak St, Oakland). Admission $25/adults, $22/seniors, $18/youth-students-educators, etc. First Sundays+ NARM reciprocal members/Free.

Now thru the end of 2026 **1883 Clarksburg School and Holland Doshi Kai Roots and Resilience exhibit**. Celebrating pre-war farming families in Clarksburg and their stories drawn from the archives of the Holland Doshi Kai and family collections. Saturdays and Sundays 11am-3pm at the newly restored 1883 Schoolhouse (36446 Riverview Dr, Clarksburg)




Saturdays in October **Chinese Museum in Fiddletown**. A complete major interior restoration of the Chew Kee Store Museum has been completed. Over the years, the earthen interior walls developed large cracks causing historic newspaper "wallpaper" to separate from the surface. The newspapers were removed and treated, skilled plasterers used clay to fill cracks and the treated newspapers will be reapplied. The restoration was funded by the Herbert and Inez Yee Foundation. Saturdays in October, noon to 4pm in Fiddletown.

Oct 3 Sat **Kansha History Project: 1,200 San Joaquin Valley Nikkei Farmers WWII data**. Kansha History volunteers transcribed 1,200 farm records by which families can search their farm origins before being uprooted by EO9066. Guest speaker John Nishio (Fresno native, Jerome Rohwer Committee). Free. 2-4pm at Fresno Betsuin (2690 E. Alluvial Ave, Fresno). RSVP: bit/ly/FresnoKansha

Oct 3 Sat **AsAmNews Common Grounds Conference and Bad Ass Asian Awards Dinner.** 9am-430pm Conference ($5/person) at SF City College-Chinatown/North Beach (628 Washington St, SF). Reception and Bad Ass Asian Awards Dinner ($200/person). 5pm at Far East Restaurant (631 Grant Ave, SF). Honorees Helen Zia, Emil de Guzman, Barnali Ghosh and Anirvan Chatterjee, Andrew Chau. Info: https://givebutter.com/common-ground-conference-awards-dinner-2026

Oct 3 Sat **Nichi Bei Foundation: 7th Annual Nikkei Angel Island Pilgrimage.** 85,000 persons of Japanese descent landed on Angel Island between 1910 to 1940. 1130am-330pm on Angel Island. Program: SFSU Provost Amy Sueyoshi, Bon Odori, California Genealogical Society, Iwa Daiko, California Genealogical Society. Nichi Bei Foundation bus and ferry packages available from Sacramento, San Jose, SF Ferry and Tiburon. Info: www.nichibeifoundation.org/naip.

Oct 4 Sun **Parkview Church fundraiser for Sacramento's Iu Mien Community Services Mission.** Silent auction of tea+kettle gift baskets. Bidding begins at 1130am/closes at 12noon at Parkview Presbyterian Church (727 T St, Sac). Must be present to win.

Oct 4-10 **Banned Book Week 2026: "Let Books Be, Protect the Freedom to Read"** by American Library Assn and Banned Books Week Coalition. Banned Book Week launched in 1982

Oct 5-ongoing Mondays **Asian Resources: Padel Club** starts Oct. 5 and has two sessions, 5-6pm and 6-7pm at ARI (6270 Elder Creek Rd, Sac). Invented in 1969 by Enrique Corcuera in Acapulco MX for family and friends, padel combines tennis and squash in a fun, easy-to-learn game that promotes fitness, connection and mental wellness. Free equipment to first 15 participants to arrive. Limited spots. Info: 916/454-1892, BeProudYouth@asianresources.org

Oct 7 Wed **Asian American Unity Coalition – Unity Summit Sacramento.** 9am-6pm at CSUS University Union Ballroom (6000 J St, Sac). Free. Agenda: Cost of Living and Affordability, Access to healthcare and public benefits, immigration and protection of civil rights, mental health, identity and belonging, political representation and voting rights. Register: Eventbrite aauc.us/summit

Oct 10 Sat **My Sister's House: Run for a Safe Haven.** 8am registration, 830am Kids ½ mile race, 9am 5K run/walk at William Land Park (Freeport Blvd, Sacramento). Info: www.my-sisters-house.org

Oct 10 Sat **SASF Teens Create Dreams Show**. 6pm at Luther Burbank High Performing Arts Theater (3500 Florin Rd, Sac). A musical talent competition showcasing the final 16 out of 78 entries. A fun and supportive environment. Tickets: adults $15, students $10, group discount available. Info: sasfrentals@gmail.com

Oct 10-Dec 6 **The Great Elephant Migration.** 30 life-ize elephant sculptures exhibit is a global fundraising adventure to amplify knowledge and inspire humans to share space on earth with other beings. FREE in Downtown Livermore. Sponsored by the Livermore Valley Arts and Three Thirty-Three Arts. Each elephant is modeled after a real animal in southern India's Nilgiri Hills. Created by 200 indigenous artisans of the Coexistence Collective using lantana camara, an invasive weed that crowds elephants out of forests. Harvesting the weed is restoring their habitat. The sculptures are being sold as a fundraiser for the Collective. Info about The Real Elephant Collective (Betta Karumba, Paniya, Kattunayakun and Soliga): www.thegreatelephantmigration.org. Info about the exhibit: www.livermorearts.org

Oct 13 Tue **"Telling New Nikkei Stories" –** a conversation with Tamiko Nimura and Jennifer Morita, sponsored by the Sac. Buddhist Women's Assn. and Sac. Adult Buddhist Assn. 6pm at Buddhist Church of Sacramento (2401 Riverside Blvd, Sac). Nimura published her Nisei father's memoir "A Place for What We Lose." Morita's mystery novel is "Ghosts of Waikiki." Register by 10/11 at https://forms.gle/1uE9jdroJTDdzBAk9

Oct 13 Tue **Sacramento Bee/Nehemiah Leaders Programs 60 Change Makers Gala.** 530pm reception, 630pm program at Sheraton Grand Hotel (1230 J St, Sac). $73.47/person. Tickets: sacramentochangemakers.com

Oct 17 Sat **Asian Resources: Young Medical Explorer Day** for curious kids to learn about doctors, nurses, physician assistants and scientists. 930am registration, 10am-2pm activities with lunch at AR Headquarters (6270 Elder Creek Rd, Sac). Register: 916/454-1892, BeProudYouth@asianresources.org

Oct 17 Sat **Great Leap Presents: Manzanar Baseball Project – Grand Opening Doubleheader.** 930am-530pm at Manzanar National Historic Site (5001 Highway 395, Independence CA.) North vs South All-Star Game with 1940's uniforms/equipment, music, performing arts, art installation, guest speakers. Live streaming on YouTube (www.mzbbp.org). Viewing party at 18th Street Arts Center, Santa Monica. Free. Donations and volunteers welcome. Three ticket limit. Register: www.greatleap.org . Send donations payable to "Great Leap/MBP" to 120 N. Judge John Aiso St A, LA 90012.

Oct 17 Sat **Florin JACL Scholarship and Youth Program Fundraiser – Nikkei Dogs**. Grilled and teriyaki hot dogs, chili, rice, cupcakes, drinks. 530-830pm at Buddhist Church of Florin (7235 Pritchard Rd, Sac). All you can eat - Adults $12, 4-12 $6, under3 free. Order tickets by Oct 9. Info: Karan Yamamoto karenyamamoto@bcglobal.net, Rick Uno rickuno54@gmail.com. Cupcake donations – Twila Tomita twilatomita@gmail.com

Oct 17 Sat **NO KINGS DAY.**

Oct 18 Sun **Sacramento JACL Talks – Inaugural Talk** featuring Bill Wong and Elaine Koyama. Sac JACL is starting this monthly program to invite authors, artists, chefs, community leaders, musicians to share with the community. 3pm at Nisei War Memorial Community Center (1515 4th St, Sac). Free.

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