

Comments

Asian Pacific American Community Newspaper Serving Sacramento and Yolo Counties - Volume 28, No. 1 Winter/January 2015

Fresno Chinatown v. high-speed rail

What is "historically relevant?"

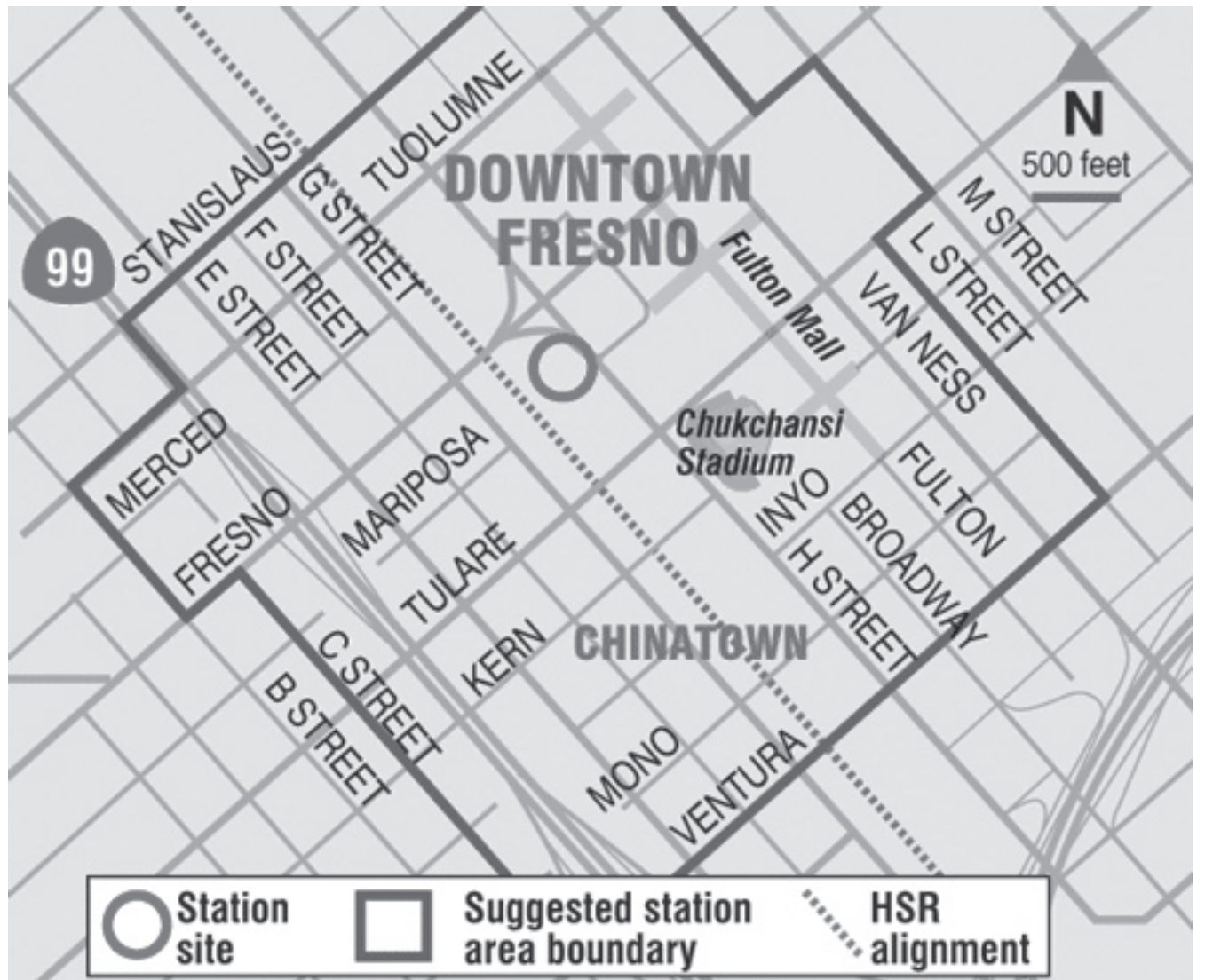
Governor Brown and other dignitaries at the high-speed rail road groundbreaking on January 6th in Fresno met with protests from a variety of constituencies. The Fresno Chinatown Revitalization Inc. says that the project will devastate the area where Chinatown once stood. As proof, they claim rail workers damaged a 1930s rear second-floor staircase, boarded up windows and doors and caused irreversible damage to the Haruji Ego Family Building at Tulare and G streets. Madera and Merced farm bureaus say the state rail agency is violating farmland settlements. More condemnations are slated to seize property rights for the project. Protestors held signs claiming that the high-speed rail's price tag is too high. Locals are skeptical that the series of underpasses planned for Fresno, Tulare and Ventura streets and a sound wall are enough.

The high speed rail project is one of California's largest public works projects ever.

Last September, workers demolishing the old Del Monte plant in downtown Fresno (east side of G Street between Kern and Tulare) uncovered an old industrial tunnel once used

Happy New Year INSIDE CURRENTS

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to move raisins under Tulare Street from one processing plant to another and a portal to the passageway. The tunnel, believed to have been built before 1906 by the Pacific Coast Seeded Raisin Co., was noted on early 20th century fire insurance maps. The plant on the north side of Tulare Street was demolished by 1948 and the tunnel was presumably abandoned.

The Chinatown Revitalization group believes that discovery of the passageway has historic significance and is skeptical over the rail authority's determination that the tunnel is not a historic resource. Chinatown advocates have long expressed fear that work on the bullet-train route between G Street and the Union Pacific Railroad's freight tracks would disrupt or destroy the network of underground tunnels which exist beneath the neighborhood and date back to the late 1800s as well as the interconnected basements that have been documented in the area.

Chinatown Revitalization board, says that the state's commitment and analysis of the historical value of the property is weak. "There hasn't been a lot of movement in our organization to actually trust the group representing high-speed rail," she said, describing how early rail consultants ignored Chinatown suggestions and concerns. Omachi believes the rail agency "is inadequately gauging the effect of construction on important Central Valley historical structures and artifacts." Parsons Brinckerhoff is the consulting firm now overseeing environmental work and the archeological survey for the rail authority.

Chinatown representatives hope to get permission to document the raisin tunnel, as well as the intersecting tunnel. "I'm not holding my breath to think it won't be on purpose or accidentally filled in," Omachi said. "But it needs to be documented." The rail authority says that the raisin passageway is old enough for inclusion on national and state historic registers,

Kathy Omachi, a member of the

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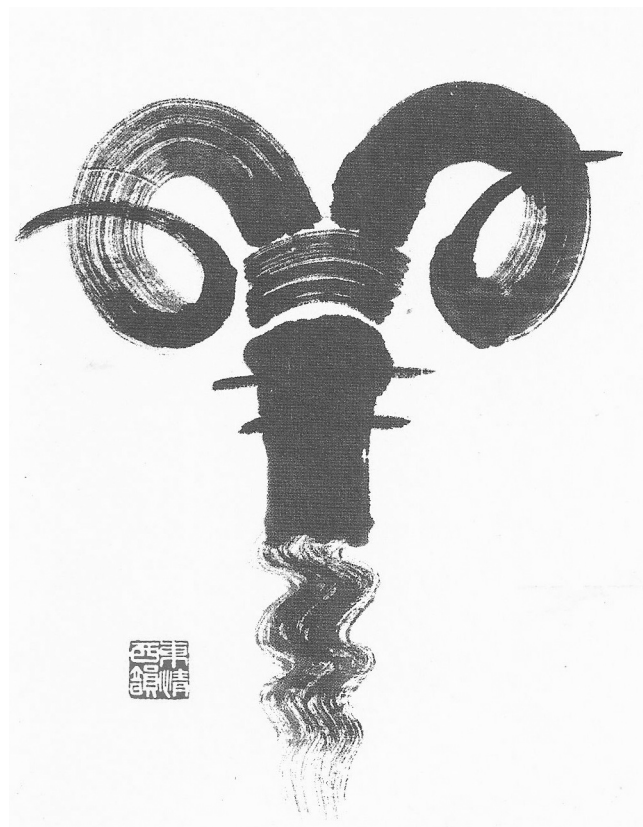
Sacramento's Lu-Mien Community celebrates Lunar New Year - February 28

Sacramento's vibrant Lu-Mien community will hold its annual Lunar New Year celebration at 5 pm on February 28th at Rice Bowl Restaurant, 2378 Florin Road, Sacramento, on the corner of Florin Road and 24th Street. The celebration will include a feast and traditional performances including dances, instrumental performances, and singing. Many elderly community members will be wearing their most elaborate traditional outfits while enjoying the



celebration with their friends and family. The younger Lu-Mien will find a chance to learn about their unique culture.

Sacramento is home to some 14,000 Lu-Mien, one of the largest Lu-Mien communities in the world outside of Southeast Asia and China. Like the more well-known Hmong, the Lu-Mien came to the United States because of their involvement in the Vietnam War. Their difficult adjustment to life in the United States has been eased by Lu-Mien Community Services (IMCS), a grassroots nonprofit agency founded in 1994 by community leaders. More information about IMCS can be found at www.unitediumien.org. For details on the community's upcoming New Year celebration, please contact Jack Saechao at 916/244-8010, or Veun L. Teun at 916/450-9144.



HAPPY NEW YEAR
Year of the Goat

Fresno Chinatown

Continued from Front Page

but lacks other factors for historic significance. They say "historical significance" requires an association with important events or with a historically important person, distinctive characteristics in the construction or the work of a master, or likely to yield important historical information

Omachi disagreed. "This shows the community that tunnels do exist in Chinatown, and this is an open tunnel, not one that's been filled in," she said. "This one is in our backyard, and it gives more face to the stories about the tunnels that we've heard exist here. It's part of our history, part of uniqueness of the area."

A dig in the Tulare and F Streets area located a possible tunnel with a wall, two columns with a void between the columns, and a possible hallway or fireplace. In other basement locations, historians have found walls with bricked up archways which appear to go across the road. Some basements have locked rooms with peek holes. It is generally believed that the tunnels and/or interconnected basements linked homes, businesses, gambling grottos and places of prostitution and were actively used passageways in Fresno's 19th century Chinatown.

The new high speed rail station is slated for the intersection of Mariposa and H streets, at the northern edge of the Greyhound bus terminal. The master plan encompasses a half-mile radius around the station. Courthouse Park, the six-block Fulton Corridor, Chukchansi Park, Chinatown, and the Kearney Palms shopping center are all in the study area.

Fresno Chinatown vignettes:

Lynn Ikeda has a fresh coat of paint on her confectionary shop, Kogetsu-Do, on F Street. Kogetsu-Do is the oldest business in Chinatown. "My parents brought me here ever since I was small, so I was raised inside the store," Ikeda says. "My grandparents started in 1915, so it's part of family history." She sells Japanese pastries, snow cones during the summer, ice cream and giftware.

Former Victory Café, next door at 914 F Street, is a brick building constructed circa 1900 and is now home to the Chinatown Revitalization group. The business opened in 1928 as the Sunrise Cafe. Ikeda said it was owned until Pearl Harbor by the Nakamoto family, who were interned along with other Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor and the outbreak of the war. Then it became the Victory Cafe, a common handle theme for many businesses as patriotism swelled and GIs went off to war in Europe and the South Pacific. The Victory Cafe had yet another life in the 1990s, when it became Westside Johnnies and served California cuisine under then owners John Evans and Ron Elms.

Dozens of buildings in Chinatown are eligible to be on a registry of historic buildings. Omachi is looking for the original classic-era signs from the district with plans to put them back in their rightful places. Found already is the Paris Cafe sign, which despite its name was a longtime place to go for chow mein and ginger beef. Still missing is the Mac's Garage sign. Chinatown Revitalization is seeking information about the whereabouts of other classic signs.

Underneath Fresno Chinatown is a labyrinth of tunnels, including a tunnel to downtown Fresno. Business owners in Chinatown knew they had connecting basements with mysteriously walled off doors and musty collection of old things.



Chinatown was once home to 11 different communities including the African American, Armenian, Basque, Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Portuguese, Mexican Americans, Germans from Volga Russia, Greek and Filipino communities.

Chinatown Revitalization can be reached at 559/201-8696, fresnochinatown@gmail.com or www.fresnochinatown.com

ABOUT CURRENTS

Currents is a free community newspaper published three times a year entirely by volunteers. Currents covers local and national issues and events affecting the Asian Pacific American communities of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect endorsement by the other organizations and are those of the authors or the Editorial Board. The Editor reserves the right to reject prospective materials or advertisements. Current is distributed by bulk mail and other outlets. Currents articles may be reprinted without specific permission, but the source "Currents" and author should be acknowledged. Next publication date: Summer/May 2015. Deadline: April 15, 2015. Circulation: 7,000. Editor: Pattie Fong. Distribution assisted by: The Sacramento Gazette (David Fong), Hach Yasumura, John Pamperin, Tim Fong/CSUS-Asian American Studies, UCD Asian American Studies and Alice Nishi (ret.). Most graphics are by Randall Ishida. Advertising rates: 3.5" X 2", \$50; 5" X 6", \$80; 10" X 6", \$200. Currents has no physical office, but donations, advertisements, addresses changes and other inquiries can be sent to Currents/Davis Asians for Racial Equality, PO Box 233, Davis 95617. Other inquiries can be emailed to pmfong@hotmail.com.

CURRENTS IS ON THE WEB AT www.apsea.org "other services"

Asian Pacific State Employees Association/APSEA



Navigating Leadership

As the culminating event of the APSEA 2014 Navigating Leadership Program (NLP), the November 13th Leadership Symposium showcased California's prominent integrative and innovative government programs from leading voices of our state's economy. These projects and programs holistically tapped the most expansive reaches of each agency or department's public benefit purpose as well as their collaborative workforce contributions, competency identification and development, and societal inclusion and outcomes. Pushing beyond the silos and hierarchy that define much of our world, when viewed panoramically, Integration and Innovation in Government creates a concrete vision of today. At the same time, it demonstrates clarity around the future California is moving towards by highlighting and featuring the "collective force of the best possible versions" of ourselves. Collectively, we're transitioning potential and possibility, across all endeavors, from ordinary to extraordinary. Where available, this summary provides links to each speaker's Agency Back Story video. The event-day videos will be made accessible when post-production activities are complete.

Sponsored and championed by the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA) and the University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy – Sacramento Campus (*the APSEA-USC Partnership*), the goal of the 2014 Navigating Leadership, Integration and Innovation in Government, Leadership Symposium was to clearly illustrate and articulate a comprehensive understanding of the public California economy by bringing a cadre of State Agency Secretaries, Department Directors, and thought leaders together to discuss how technological advancements are fueling their most innovative programs by highlighting the leadership skills that are necessary to thrive in the modern world. The result was a very thought provoking and fulfilling experience that increased the overall awareness and consciousness of the challenges faced by government leaders and more importantly the leadership skills and tactics they are implementing to address current and future needs. The lessons learned, moral and spiritual enrichment, motivation to challenge the status quo and building a better more connected world will be long-lasting for the speakers and participants alike. An event of this stature can only result from the advisory, oversight and support of many dedicated people with a shared-mission. The APSEA-USC partnership wishes to thank the year-long support of our State Leaders participating on the NLP Secretaries and Directors Advisory Board and speakers, our passionate and hard-working Event Host Committee, our staunch and steadfast Corporate Sponsors, our many loyal and committed Agency Training Sponsors and a broad range of onsite volunteers that committed their time and energy. **Note:** *The comprehensive 10-page summary report is available on APSEA's website at www.apsea.org/navigating-leadership-2014.*

The overwhelming sense of community, collaboration, and interdependence that was emanated during the symposium was nourished

by the unbridled commitment and enthusiasm of the APSEA-USC partnership and all the presenters sharing the passion and commitment that is their work with the "sell-out" audience of attendees from all branches of government within the State of California. All presenters were extremely accomplished executives that hold very challenging, demanding, and time consuming jobs. They were not present to fill an obligatory requirement or to check a box. They were part of the discourse because they are fervent public and private stewards that see greatness and tremendous opportunity in today's world and share an unwavering commitment to make tomorrow's world even better. A synopsis of each presentation is provided below in order of appearance. Conference Chair, Rebekah Christensen states: *"The NLP has been developed as a national blueprint for systemic change management in government that is designed to meet the real-time needs of our digital society far into the 21st Century. Rather than silos and hierarchy, the integrative-innovative premise of this Symposium allows speakers and attendees alike to experience the collaborative panoramic impact of California's 2 trillion dollar economy as a single collective economic force that represents the 8th largest economy in the world. This global collaborative approach is being scaled to serve society-at-large. Technology is being harnessed in whole new ways to fuel self-accountability and responsibility in state employment that will demonstrate real-time performance which reflects ever increasing levels of self-excellence – as individuals and teams – as departments and organizations – and as service providers and constituent consumers. This systemic approach integrates a seamless human-centric methodology where the constituent community can access divergent government services predicated on their specific needs. Segments of California's economy will initiate piloting this approach in 2015."*

The APSEA-USC partnership would like to extend a sincere thank you to all that attended this event as we consider our attendees pivotal in contributing to the outcome of the whole. We look forward to the expanding role that the NLP will serve in supporting the transformational change management needs of the State Government into the future; specifically as the NLP reaches out to serve, support and inspire the broader spectrum of our state's employment base to access and contribute "their best possible self" to the world. From this context, collectively - "we are the blueprint the country will follow!" We are pleased to share our "report card" for the results achieved, but more importantly we're excited to open the doors to the unlimited possibilities ahead! Please email any inquiries you might have to our Conference Chair Rebekah Christensen at rchristensen@orasystems.net or Co-Chair, Paul Danczyk at danczyk@price.usc.edu.

CalPERS Diversity Chief Receives Hero Award



Lindy Plaza cited for promoting Diversity & Inclusion

SACRAMENTO, CA – On November 13th, the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA) honored Lindy Plaza, Chief of CalPERS' Diversity Outreach Program, as the recipient of APSEA's 2014 Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Hero Award. Ms. Plaza was honored for her work to elevate diversity awareness in public employment.

Plaza, who pioneered the CalPERS Diversity Outreach Program in 2006, was recognized for creating a model program often used by other State departments in creation of their own diversity and inclusion programs.

In making this award to Plaza, "defining Hero" became the means through which Plaza's work was recognized. It was stated that a "Hero" melds the qualities of Courage, Selflessness, Humility, Patience and Caring. Lindy's career courageousness was, not in the absence of fear, but her triumph over it. She was selfless – placing the needs of others in front of her own and in doing so, her goal was served. There was humility in her approach as it expressed itself in her commitment to work and serve alongside those who shared her vision and those that received value from the outcomes achieved. She was patient – she knew that equal opportunity is not a destination – it is a journey of endurance. Lindy had the patience and wisdom to know that small outcomes over long distances of space and time shifts the culture of change that allows us to find harmony in the diversity we share. We who worked with Lindy felt her caring; the contributions she was willing to make to our many causes and efforts. She was a person committed to celebrating, contributing to and investing in the diversity of people, work, projects and ideas that give value and support to meaningful social change. Continued on Page 4

My Sister's House – Upcoming Conference on Human Trafficking

Not On Our Watch: Ending Human Trafficking Together
February 17th, CSUS

My Sister's House, a non-profit organization serving the needs of Asian and Pacific Islander and other underserved women and children impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking in Sacramento and the Central Valley, is organizing a conference on human trafficking. The conference will be on Tuesday, February 17th from 9 am until 2 pm in Ballrooms 1 and 2 of the University Union, on the campus of California State University, Sacramento. A light breakfast and lunch are included in the \$45 general registration fee.

The theme of the conference is "Not On Our Watch: Ending Human Trafficking Together." The focus is on improved collaboration to combat human trafficking. Conference speakers will address topics such as Sacramento's multi-system coordination efforts for commercially sexually exploited youth, human trafficking victimology, immigration relief for foreign-born survivors, and confidentiality and privilege issues affecting collaborative efforts between service providers, private attorneys and law enforcement.

Confirmed speakers include Cindy Liou, attorney and consultant; Judge Stacy Boulware Eurie, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court for Sacramento County; Sacramento Sheriff Detective John Sydow; Sacramento Police Detectives Derek Stigert and Kristi Morse; Stacey Ault Bell and Cailey Bronny of the Sexually Exploited Children & Teens Community Collaborative; Rissa Obcemea and Tatyana Delgado of the U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants; Griselda Trujillo, Esq. of Considine, Sorensen & Trujillo; Margaux Helm of WEAVE; and Andrew S. Huang of the Office of the U.S. Attorney, Northern District of California.

The conference will be open to everyone. In addition to local and regional law enforcement representatives, My Sister's House also hopes to attract local attorneys, service providers, community based organizations and concerned individuals so that they can better connect and collaborate in combating human trafficking.

My Sister's House is the first and only non-profit organization providing a culturally appropriate and responsive safe haven and community services for the most vulnerable members of the Asian and Pacific Islander population in the Central Valley. My Sister's House has been a leading partner of Sacramento's regional anti-human trafficking program since 2009.

The annual conference is funded in part by the US Department of Health and Human Services, as part of a regional anti-human trafficking program. My Sister's House works with Opening Doors, Inc. to implement the program in Sacramento and seven surrounding counties.

What is human trafficking, and who may be a victim? Human trafficking is a modern day form of slavery where a person uses force, fraud or coercion on another for the purpose of forced labor and/or sexual exploitation. Any person, of any gender, age, ethnicity, nationality or class, working in any industry, can be a victim of human trafficking.

For more information regarding the conference, including registration, sponsorship and exhibitor booth opportunities, contact L. "Rico" Ozaki, MSH Human Trafficking Specialist, ricoomsh@gmail.com (double O's in ricoomsh).

Lindy Plaza

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"Lindy has enthusiastically embraced the cause of diversity and inclusion. She is a true champion of a stronger, better workplace through the power of our differences as individuals," said Anne Stausboll, Chief Executive Officer. "Lindy truly exemplifies CalPERS' Diversity and Inclusion Statement: 'The combined experiences, perspectives, and talents of all employees and stakeholders strengthen our high performance work culture and organization. Our differences are our strengths.'"

Plaza was honored specifically for:

- Demonstrating leadership in the advancement of EEO and Diversity initiatives in state government
- Motivating and inspiring other State employees to champion EEO practices, principles and initiatives in State service.
- Maintaining the highest standard of professionalism through her personal integrity and positive outlook.

Plaza joined CalPERS in 1997. In addition to her role in diversity, she handled strategic communication projects for the pension fund's Office of Public Affairs. As a framework for understanding the breadth of contribution made by Plaza's work, CalPERS is the largest public pension fund in the U.S., with more than \$297 billion in assets. CalPERS administers health and retirement benefits on behalf of 3,064 public school, local agency and state employers. There are more than 1.6 million members in the CalPERS retirement system and more than 1.3 million members in its health plans.

APSEA extends its condolences to Lindy Plaza's family and her CalPERS family. Less than one month after receiving this award, Lindy passed away on December 12th in Sacramento. The significance of this award brought deep meaning and joy to Lindy and her family. We are honored and so grateful for having had Lindy in our social and professional lives.

32nd Annual Scholarship Awards

APPLICATION DUE BY 11:59 PM on Friday, February 27, 2015

What Scholarships are available? Scholarships are available for students who will be attending college/university in Fall 2015. In addition, several scholarships are designated for students who meet specific criteria, including students who have best served the Asian/Pacific Islander Community, low-income students, and vocational school students. If an insufficient number of qualified candidates apply for the specifically designated categories, the Foundation may expand the number of college/university scholarships granted, roll the funds over for next year's scholarships, or do a combination of both.

Applicants must:

- Reside in the Greater Sacramento Area
- Attend high school and be in their senior year of high school
- Or, attend a College/University or Vocational School/Community College in the 2015-16 academic year

How to apply?

- Submit a cover letter (state eligibility; un-weighted GPA; and to be considered for scholarships for low income families, include financial aid eligibility)
- Submit an application (download from www.apseafoundation.org)
- Submit a 250-word essay
- Submit the complete application package to: scholarship@apseafoundation.org
- All finalists must attend an in-person interview and will be asked to bring a high school transcript, student aid report or free application for federal student aid (if applicable), and a short biography about themselves.

Scholarship recipients must attend Awards Dinner scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

The Asian Pacific State Employees Association Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation, established in 1999, to support and advance the education and culture of the Asian/Pacific Islander Community through awarding educational scholarships, grants, and providing training.

Whitewashing - ongoing problem

Ghost in the Shell: Fans of the iconic 1995 animated Japanese sci-fi film Ghost in the Shell have been anticipating a live-action remake for years -- but now, instead of casting an Asian actress, Dreamworks has selected Scarlett Johansson for the lead role! The film revolves around Major Motoko Kusanagi, a member of a futuristic security force tasked with tracking a mysterious hacker.

The industry is already unfriendly to Asian actors without roles in major films being changed to exclude them. One recent survey found that in 2013, Asian characters made up only 4.4% of speaking roles in top-grossing Hollywood films.

An online petition to Dreamworks is at www.thepetitionsite.com/683/366/733/dreamworks-dont-whitewash-japanese-films

Fresh off the Boat: Fans of Eddie Huang's bestseller book need to check out the ABC's series "an all-new hilarious comedy about being a new family in America." The series, launching on February 10th, is described as "the '90s and 12 year old, hip-hop loving Eddie just moved to suburban Orlando from DC's Chinatown with his parents. It's culture shock for his immigrant family in this comedy about pursuing the American Dream." The series stars Randall Park, Constance Wu, Hudson Yang, Forrest Wheeler, and Ian Chen. Huang recently expressed concern that he is not writing for the series but promises to be a pervasive presence among the writers.

ACC Senior Services (ACC)

ACC Senior Services Makes a Move



ACC staff and volunteers at our new building

On January 5th, ACC Senior Services Center and ACC Senior Services Administration moved into a new facility. The building is located directly across the street from the old center located on the corner of Greenhaven Drive and Park City Drive.

The ACC Senior Services Center, originally known as ACC Park City, opened in June 2002. It was home to the Administration Offices, as well as all the programs and services, like ACC Rides Transportation Services, Respite, Lifelong Learning and Wellness Program, Bridge to Healthy Families and Utilities Assistance. Eventually, due to the growth in programs and staff, ACC Administration relocated to rented space in an office building on Greenhaven Drive.

In 2012 ACC purchased a 15,000 square foot building previously rented by the Merryhill Middle School. The single story building sits on 3.5 acres, including a soccer field, which may be developed in the future. In addition to the Administration suite and Senior Services Center suite, the new building comprises four classrooms, a computer lab, and a large community room, in addition to smaller conference rooms. A special feature of the new building is a demonstration kitchen and "welcome center."

The increase in space allows us to expand our class schedule. This year we will offer origami, gardening, music keyboards, tap dance, and more. The computer classes include Galaxy/Note or Android Tablets, Mac OS X, iPhone with iOS 8, Create a website, and a plethora of photo/video editing classes. We are also looking for more instructors, who may be volunteers or receive stipends. We are especially interested in people who can teach arts, cooking, crafts, dance, fitness, flower arranging, gardening, foreign languages, and computer technology. We are also open to suggestion! Pickleball, anyone? Sign up for a tour of our new campus (916) 393-9026 x326 or x330. Visit our website www.accsv.org.

Friendly Visitor Program



Become a Friendly Visitor and enrich the lives of caregivers and seniors!

ELIGIBILITY: At least 17 years of age, U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident, HS graduate

VOLUNTEER BENEFITS: Training opportunities, Monthly stipend and \$1493 Education Award (upon completion of 450 hours)

- Contribute 450 hours of volunteer service from Nov. 1, 2014 to Oct. 31, 2015.
- Engage seniors in arts & crafts, light exercises, and other social activities.
- Provide much needed rest to family caregivers.

For more information, contact Khonnie Lattasima at (916) 394-6399 X143 or volunteer@accsv.org

So You're a Trustee, Now What?

We will be covering the following areas in our presentation:

- Factors to consider in choosing a trustee
- Basic revocable trust structures: The "AB" Trust vs. "Power of Appointment" models
- The roles of the initial trustees and the successor trustees
- The role of professional fiduciaries
- The role of the successor trustee in special cases such as Special Needs Trusts and Charitable Trusts

Join Kent W. Meyer, Attorney, MBA, PhD, JD, LL.M. and Steve deGraaf, Charitable Financial Consultant, ChFC, CLPF to learn more.

**Wednesday, February 11th
3:00 - 4:30pm**

**ACC Greenhaven Terrace
1180 Corporate Way,
Sacramento, CA 95831**

To register please contact Mandy Hwang at (916) 394-6399 ext. 121 or email at mhwang@accsv.org

Are you Ready for Rising Rates?

Interest rate changes are notoriously difficult to predict, but given where interest rates sit today, there's not much question about what direction they may go next. Rising rates bring their own set of questions for investors, though. Questions like:

- What will happen to my fixed income investments when rates rise?
- Am I diversified enough?
- Is my portfolio allocated correctly?

Bring your questions to this workshop to learn more. Please join us on January 28th to hear Eric Momsen, CFP, CIMA Vice President, Senior Advisor Consultant for Franklin Templeton. He will provide an economic update for 2015 and what strategies to consider in this context.

**Wednesday, January 28th
3:00 - 4:30pm**

**ACC Senior Services
7334 Park City Drive,
Sacramento, CA 95831**

To register please contact Kimberly Feng at (916) 394-6399 ext. 141 or email at kfeng@accsv.org

Better Choices, Better Health® Workshop

Live a better life by managing your chronic health conditions

This series of six workshops was developed by Stanford University. Learn strategies to take control of your chronic conditions, lower your stress levels, and communicate better with your doctor. This workshop is also for caregivers of people with chronic conditions.

ACC Senior Services
7334 Park City Drive
Sacramento, CA 95831

Tuesdays, January 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, and 24, 9:00AM - 11:30AM

Free of charge. Pre-registration required.

For more information, please contact Anna Su at (916) 393-9026.



Folsom 12 year old bullied to suicide

Ronin Shimizu, 12 years old of Folsom, killed himself on December 3rd after enduring years of harassment, physical attacks, and anti-gay slurs from classmates. After being bullied and teased at Folsom Middle School and other Folsom Cordova schools, he enrolled last year in a home study program. After he left that school, reports of bullying continued. Some believe that he was bullied for being a male cheerleader. His extracurricular activities included the Upper Natomas Rowing Club, Folsom Middle School's drama club, Boy Scouts and the Folsom Middle School cheer squad

Ronin's family posted on social media:

The tragic loss of our son has and will forever change our life. The love and support that we received from family, friends and the Folsom community has been immeasurable and words cannot begin to express our gratitude through this most difficult grieving process. The people close to our family know exactly who Ronin was, but since the story of this tragedy has spread worldwide, we want to take a minute to let the world know who he was. Ronin was one of the most loving, compassionate, empathetic, artistic and funny kids to grace this earth. Ronin was a child who was not afraid to follow his heart, and we as his parents did everything in our power to allow him to pursue his passions, while protecting him from the minority that could not understand the specialness he possessed.

As you already know, Ronin loved to do Cheer, but he also loved art, fashion, being a Scout and most recently crew/rowing. It is true that because of his specialness, Ronin was a target of bullying by individuals that could not understand or accept his uniqueness. Ronin was not just a target of bullying because of his participation in cheer, but for him just being Ronin.

We as his parents always knew that he would make an impact on the world, we just thought it would be in something like fashion design or art related. We had no idea that God and Buddha had a more important role for him, and we as his parents will make it our mission in life to turn this tragedy into something positive and hopefully prevent another senseless tragedy. In closing, please remember that education in regards to bullying prevention does not only need to occur in our schools but also in the home.

A Celebration of Life for Ronin was held January 10th. The family asked that in lieu of flowers or a "koden" offering, donations be made to support Ronin's Anti-Bullying Memorial Fund at: <http://www.gofundme.com/ronin-shimizu>

Commentary from Ronin's Facebook:

D.W. wrote: My deepest condolences to the family of Ronin Shimizu, the 12-year-old boy who committed suicide after being bullied for being the first male cheerleader at his school. This news made me reflect on my experience as the first male cheerleader at Naperville North. I can still remember hearing others making fun of me, laughing at me. I use the word 'others' because the actions were not isolated to my classmates (who were generally supportive) or students from opposing schools (who were not), as you might imagine, but parents and teachers (who needed to grow up) as well. At 17, I was old enough to realize that I would receive this sort of backlash. However, my awareness, strong support network and supreme cockiness at that age were still tested when I was spat on and when I received an anonymous note threatening to pummel me. [The note, less so, because it was soooo poorly written.] Still, the backlash I received was likely benign in comparison to what Ronin received... and he was 12. Why should I, more importantly Ronin,

experience this in the first place? I would venture to guess that Ronin became a male cheerleader for many of the same reasons that I did. We are agnostic to gender, race and other societal constraints. We are ardent supporters of our friends, our schools. We are eternally optimistic to a point that is irrational, because it is that very irrational optimism that it necessary to persist through the tough times, so we can be there for the joyous ones. Isn't that worth celebrating rather than ridiculing? To Ronin: I am so sorry the world that you fervently supported could not return the favor when you needed it the most. To Ronin's bullies: please reflect on your actions in light of his intentions, knowing that Ronin hopes you learn from your mistakes, right your wrongs and achieve your full positive potential.

C.E.A. wrote: My daughter is in 8th grade and is a cheerleader. Today her squad wore blue shirts and a pretty blue ribbon with a small white flower in the center in their hair to school in honor of Ronin. My daughter is friends with a male cheerleader who is a freshman at a different school and we recently found out he is also cousins to one of her fellow squad members. This boy is extremely sweet and has been through a lot in his young life (he is a cancer survivor too!) Last year when his school's basketball team came to my daughters school to play a game, some students started making fun of him. My daughter overheard them and quickly put them in their place. Proud Mom moment! My heart goes out to Ronin's family and friends. Many prayers.

D-T.S. wrote: My heart is broken seeing your little Ronin's picture & hearing his story. I know all too well what it was like to be teased at his age. I was very sensitive by nature & it was so painful. I in turn was picked on for being part Asian. Kids just didn't understand someone being different in the area I grew up in at 12. I'm 39 now & I wish I could just hug Ronin & tell him it does get better. As a parent now I worry about my children & bullying. To Ronin's parents may his beautiful spirit & smile live on in your hearts. What a beautiful soul. Rest in peace sweetheart. ♥

Identifying and dealing with bullies

The Sacramento Countywide Bullying Prevention Project provides this list to identify a bully:

- Gets into physical or verbal fights
- Has friends who engage in bullying behaviors
- Is increasingly aggressive
- Has unexplained extra money or new belongings
- Blames others for their problems or doesn't accept responsibility for their actions
- Worries about his/her reputation or popularity



What if my child is a bully?

ParentFurther, a search institute resource for families (www.parentfurther.com) provides an overview on how to effectively respond:

Most parents and parenting professional agree that disagreements, arguments, and fallings-out between friends are all normal and part of life. We can't always protect our kids from pain and frustration. Behavior that crosses the line into bullying, however, is not normal. If you determine that there is a problem, it's best to let your child know the behavior is unacceptable and, if necessary, seek help from a professional such as a doctor or psychologist. In addition, here are some ideas to help address bullying behavior adapted from the Pacer Center (www.pacer.org).

Everyday steps for Addressing Bullying Behavior:

- Listen. Don't Judge. Talk with your child, and find out what's going on. Are her or his friends also bullying? Is your child struggling with an issue or perhaps a disability?
- Start by listening and not judging.
- Teach empathy, respect, and compassion. Try to understand your child's feelings and talk about what the victim might be experiencing. Is your child aware of the impact of the behavior?
- Draw Clear Boundaries. Make your expectations and the consequences for violating them clear. Let your child know that bullying is never acceptable and that the consequences, such as loss of privileges or a face-to-face apology to the victim will be enforced.
- Teach by example. Model nonviolent behavior, practice constructive resolution of difficult situations, and give positive feedback when you notice healthy choices.
- Show Love and Support. Offer and seek support for your child. Behavior change will take time. Give your child love and support, even if you are angry and upset, and seek out the help of others who can partner with you in your efforts to put a stop to the bullying.

Reprinted from www.parentfurther.com/high-risk-behaviors/bullying

Support the bullied victims

Talk with your child and their friends about bullying and how it affects everyone. Discuss standing up for one another and oneself and the value of "doing the right thing," making good decisions, demonstrating empathy and having a positive character. Actually practice (role play) with them how to react to the negative

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API cop killed in New York

New York Police Officer Wenjian “Joe” Liu, 32, was killed on December 20th while parked in a squad car with his partner Rafael Ramos in Brooklyn. The killer Ismaaiyl Brinsley walked up from behind in that Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood and shot them before either had a chance to draw their weapons. Brinsley was motivated by vengeance for the recent deaths of two Black American men - Eric Garner, who died in a chokehold on Staten Island, and Michael Brown, shot by the police in Ferguson Missouri. Liu’s funeral was held on January 4th to allow time for his relatives to come from China. Ramos’ services were held on December 27th. Liu’s services were a blend of New York Police Department tradition with Chinese and Buddhist customs.

New York Police Department Chaplain Robert Romano quoted a Buddhist proverb: “When you are born, you cry, and the world rejoices. When you die, you rejoice, and the world cries.” “Our hearts are broken, our eyes are filled with tears,” the monsignor said, as he offered prayers for Detective Liu, as well as Liu’s family and his fellow officers at the 84th Precinct in Brooklyn. “They are our heroes and they will be missed,” Romano said of Liu and Ramos.

Liu’s father, Wei Tang Liu, broke down during his emotional eulogy in Chinese, described the funeral as the “saddest day of his life.” “Wenjian, you are the best son, you are the best husband,” Wei Tang Liu said. “Also, you are also our police officer and our best friend.” “Today is the saddest day in my life. My only son has left me,” he said through a translator.

Liu’s longtime aspiration to become a police officer deepened after the September 11th terrorist attacks. He had been a police officer for seven years. “For a while, he was on the path to becoming an accountant,” Police Commissioner William Bratton said. “But 9/11 changed those plans, as it changed so many things for so many of us.” Liu’s family immigrated to the US when he was 12 years old.

Mayor Bill de Blasio described Liu as a family man who enjoy his time off going fishing, sharing his hauls with aunts, uncles and his family. In his high school years, Liu would stop playing basketball with his friends early to buy groceries and go home to cook his parents dinner. Liu knew his family worried about him joining the city’s police department, but reassured them every day after his tour. “At the end of every workday, he called his father to tell him and to tell the family he was safe and on his way home,” de Blasio said.

Ronin

Continued from Page 6

behavior by standing tall and speaking directly and clearly to the then-shocked bully. Explain that everyone has a choice - and it is necessary to think about the consequences that may follow.

The bullied victim, bystanders, parents or teachers all need to respond immediately, report all bullying behavior and insist upon appropriate consequences. At Ronin’s service, his 13 year old friend Haley Hill told the nearly 1000 friends and family present that Ronin had promised to design her wedding dress which now she will never get to see. She offered a quote from Mahatma Gandhi: “Be the change that you wish to see in the world. ... I plan to be the change and I hope you all will be, too.”

At the end of the service, Liu’s widow and wife for two months, Pei Xia Chen, clutched a stick of burning incense and a framed photo of her husband in uniform while six officers carried his flag-draped coffin on their shoulders. Tears mixed with the grief etched on her face as buglers played “America the Beautiful” and officers folded the NYPD flag that had lain across the coffin and handed it to her. She held it against her chest before getting into a black limo. She said that Wenjian took pride in the fact that he was a New York City police officer and he was her hero. “Even though he left us early, I believe that he is still with us,” she said. “His spirit will continue to look after us.”

Dozens of motorcycle cops led the procession to the “Police Arlington” section of the Cypress Hills Cemetery, winding past the Ramos home. Bystanders there held their hands over their hearts. The hearse carrying Liu’s body also stopped outside his home in Gravesend, while, according to Chinese tradition, relatives burned fake paper money for him in the afterlife and waved a large stick of burning incense.

Nationally 40 police officers were killed by firearms in 2014, a 56% jump from 32 in 2013. In 2012, 40 cops were killed and in 2011 73 were killed by guns. Since 2004, police officer deaths have averaged 55 each year.

Ferguson Missouri, API and national wake-up call

The deaths at police hands of Michael Brown and Eric Garner are wake-up calls for all Americans and APIs. We need to recognize that institutional racism along with persistent distrust of police officers and deep seeded anger resulting from generations of poverty persists. We are not a post-racial society and we need to actively struggle to advance equal treatment and equal opportunity. White privilege exists, API privilege exists. Wealth privilege should not dominate political outcomes. As Martin Luther King Jr. told us, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

Rose Bowl Parade –

Multi-cultural opportunities

Five Nisei World War II veterans rode the “Go for Broke” float in this year’s 126th annual New Year Day Rose Parade in Pasadena. The float was sponsored by the City of Alhambra and built by Go for Broke National Education Center volunteers. The forty-one foot long float featured a replica of the black granite Go for Broke statue sited in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles. In 1944 the US Army began to accept Japanese American enlistees coming from the WWII internment camps where Japanese Americans had been arrested and imprisoned as suspected foreign national enemies. Neither the Navy nor Air Force accepted Nisei enlistees. 14,000 Japanese American served in World War II to not only sacrifice for the country but to also prove their loyalty. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team is among the most highly decorated units in US military history with more than 9400 Purple Heart and 21 Medals of Honor bestowed on Japanese American veterans.

The Sikh community United Sikh Mission sponsored the “Sikh American Journey” float in the Rose Parade which was decorated to tell the story of the Sikh’s 125 years in the US. At the top of the float was a replica of the first gurdwara (temple) constructed in Stockton in 1912. The float included a railroad engine to represent the Sikhs who came to work on the railroads. The float also had a red tractor with peaches, grapes, almonds, cantaloupes and green fields highlighting the Sikhs engaged in agriculture. One side of the float featured photographs of prominent Sikhs. Riding the platform of the 55 foot float were a Sikh serviceman and three Sikh police officers, jobs that Sikhs are still fighting for because their turbans and beards are not allowed. Sitting on a park bench will be Sikh doctors, lawyers and Boy Scouts showing that turbaned Sikhs are neighbors and coworkers. The float is the latest public education effort by the Sikh community to show the broader community that Sikhs are part of the American mainstream. Since 9-11, Sikhs have been on the receiving end of racism and victims of misplaced anti-Muslim violence. The worst anti-Sikh assault was in 2012 when a white supremacist killed six Sikhs at a Wisconsin gurdwara before killing himself.



Locke Celebrates Its Centennial Year

By Stuart Walthall

The town of Locke, California will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding in 2015 with a series of events throughout the year. Locke is the only town in the United States built exclusively by the Chinese for the Chinese. The town was founded in 1915 by early Chinese immigrant laborers who came to this country seeking a better life. They were instrumental in reclaiming swamps into rich, arable farmland along the Sacramento River Delta. They made tremendous contributions to farming methods to spearhead California's leadership in agriculture. They worked the pear orchards and asparagus fields.

During its heyday from the 1920's to the 1940's Locke was an autonomous island of Chinese culture with a permanent population of about 600, including many families and seasonal farm laborers. At one time Locke had four restaurants, a half dozen markets, dry goods stores, five brothels, a post office, two slaughter houses, a flour mill, canneries, shipping wharves, an opera, speakeasies during Prohibition, and many gambling houses.

In 1970, Locke was added to the Registry of National Historic Places. In 1990, Locke was named as a National Historic Landmark by the US Department of the Interior.

The Locke celebration will include the publication of a Centennial commemorative book, indoor and outdoor events, public lectures, tours and a reunion of former residents held in conjunction with the Locke Asian Pacific Spring Festival in Locke on Saturday May 9th.

As 2015 ushers in the centennial of the founding of Locke, we thought it might be interesting to ask the readers of Currents: "Did you know?"

- Locke is the last remaining Chinatown in North America. All other Chinatowns are connected to or lay adjacent to an existing town or city.
- Although the current population of Locke is just 70, during the 1920s to 1940s Locke had a permanent population of 600, which swelled an additional 1000 during the harvest season. Add to that the folks who traveled to Locke in order to drink, gamble, and carouse and you have a bigger crowd than the total attendance of Locke's Asian Pacific Spring Festival!
- The Main Street structures of Locke are made entirely of wood. Plus, Locke used to have wooden sidewalks. Because of the constant risk of fire, a town resident was hired to walk the street at night and strike a slatted wooden box at an appointed hour in order to inform residents and business owners that everything was OK. The little wooden box was known as a Bok Bok, due to the sound it made when struck. The man with the box was known as the Bok Bok man.
- After the 1920s, the Star Theater on Main Street operated as an opium den.
- The founding of Locke was the result of a fire which occurred in Walnut Grove's Chinatown on October 6, 1915. At that time two rival Chinese immigrant groups - the Sze Yap and the Zhongsan (named after the counties in Canton, China from where they originated) - lived in less than peaceful coexistence.

- After the fire a group of Zhongsan merchants leased the land where Locke now stands (1/2 mile north of Walnut Grove). They leased the land from the Locke family, who had substantial land interests in the Delta. The merchants immediately hired carpenters to build residential and commercial structures. They then rented them out to other Chinese residents and businessmen.
- Nearly all of Locke's Main Street structures were built by Caucasians.
- In 1909 the Southern Pacific Railroad established a packing shed adjacent to where Locke now stands. The packing shed is now known as The Boathouse.
- To service the Southern Pacific workers, businessman Tin Sin Chan, along with two other merchants, constructed three buildings adjacent to the SP wharf.
- This tiny three-building burg was known as Lockeport (later shortened to Locke). The year was 1912.
- The oldest of these three original buildings was the residence of Tin Sin Chan, where he also operated a restaurant. The Locke Garden Restaurant is currently in operation in Tin Sin Chan's original home. The late Ruby King, daughter of Tin Sin Chan, was born in this structure. She passed away in 2013.
- There were at least five brothels operating in Locke.
- It is claimed that all of the prostitutes who worked in the Locke brothels were Caucasian.
- On the day of the 1915 Walnut Grove fire \$1,200 was stolen from a large Chinese business establishment. The late Ping Lee, son of Locke founder Lee Bing, claimed that the amount of stolen money was considerably higher. Practically the whole available force from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Dept. was called to Walnut Grove. The deputies, besides endeavoring to catch the thieves, were there to prevent any public disorder.
- In April of 2010 the residents of Locke, along with many others, gathered in the Locke Memorial Park to celebrate the life of Locke "Mom" Connie King- who had passed away 6 months earlier. Among those who attended and spoke at the service were Ruby King (daughter of Lockport founder Tin Sin Chan) and Ping Lee, son of Locke founder Lee Bing.



Ruby King, daughter of Locke founder Tin Sin Chan. Photo by Stuart Walthall

This memorable event marked the last time these two historic figures would cross paths.



Ping Lee, son of Locke founder Lee Bing, with Eva Chu. Photo by Stuart Walthall

- Eric Stanley Gardner, creator of the Perry Mason books and television series, discovered the Delta in his later years. He spent a great deal of time in Locke and developed personal relationships with the Connie King and Yuen Chong Market proprietors George Marr and Stanford King. Gardner's 1967 book entitled *Gypsy Days on the Delta* referenced "Godfather King" and George Marr.
- Locke founder Lee Bing was a cook for Alex Brown, founder of the Bank of Alex Brown. The two men became good friends and Lee Bing benefited greatly from their relationship.
- Alex Brown's two fireboats were called into commission to battle the flames of the 1915 Walnut Grove fire. At first the fierce north wind forced back the firefighters. But then the wind shifted and turned the fire back upon itself. As a result, streams of water from the fireboats were sufficient to down the flames. But not before Chinatown was consumed.
- Locke is frequently visited by groups of individuals who investigate paranormal activity.
- In 1935, Sacramento County Sheriffs raided an establishment in the "notorious Chinatown" of Locke. A cub reporter from the Sacramento Union Newspaper, invited by the sheriffs to cover the bust, helped himself to a couple of souvenirs: a beautiful gong and a large handheld brass symbol. In 2013, nearly eight decades after the two items were stolen, both artifacts were returned to the Locke Foundation by surviving family members of the scofflaw reporter.
- In the early 1900s Dr. Sun Yat Sen, founder of the Republic of China, made a number of trips to the Sacramento Delta, including Locke, to raise funds for the overthrow of the Qing dynasty.
- In the not too distant past, when the Locke septic tank reached its capacity, the untreated waste was pumped directly into the slough behind Locke.

The most frequently asked question by visitors to Locke? "Where is the toilet garden"
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Northern California JACL

Time of Remembrance Committee

The Northern California JACL Time of Remembrance (NCTOR) committee (Florin, Lodi, Placer County, and Sacramento chapters) and its educational partners, The California Museum, Elk Grove Unified School District, and the California State University Sacramento Library-Special Collections announces three exciting and inspiring events:

- 1) an eight-week student discovery program, January 26th to March 20th at The California Museum
- 2) a community-wide program and reception on Saturday, February 14th
- 3) Gambatte! "Legacy of an Enduring Spirit" exhibit of the works by Paul Kitagaki Jr. opening January 26th.

NCTOR plans these activities in remembrance of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which suspended due process and resulted in the unjust incarceration of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry into America's concentration centers during World War II.

"LEGACY OF AN ENDURING SPIRIT"
Saturday, February 14 • 1– 5 pm
The California Museum, 1020 O St., Sacramento

Learn the stories behind the photographs by Paul Kitagaki, Jr., Senior Photographer at The Sacramento Bee on Saturday, February 14th. Kitagaki has been searching since 2005 for the identities of Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans whose images of forced relocation in 1942 were captured by acclaimed documentary photographer Dorothea Lange and other War Relocation Authority photographers.

This special event features a multimedia presentation by Kitagaki whose work since 2005 has captured contemporary images of Japanese Americans and document their legacy of perseverance over their incarceration during WWII.

Tickets are \$20 per adult, \$15 for students, and free for students 17 and younger and include complimentary refreshments, Museum admission and parking. Proceeds will benefit the "Time of Remembrance" activities. Tickets for the Kitagaki program will be limited

Locke Centennial Year

Continued from Page 8

Come celebrate the centennial of the founding of Locke on Saturday May 9th on Main Street. The festivities start at 11 am and continue until 5 pm. It will be fun and meaningful time for you and the whole family.



to 225. For more information or to purchase tickets beginning January 5th, please visit: www.CaliforniaMuseum.org.in-focus and www.nctor.org.

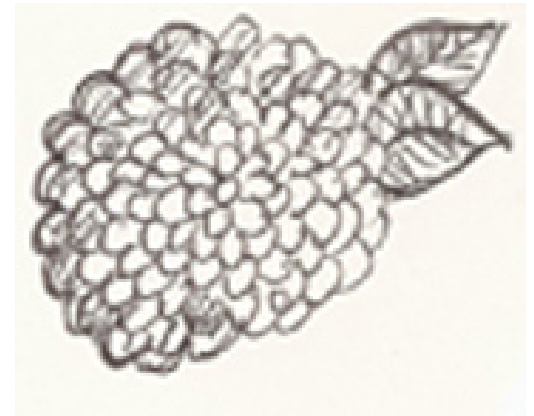
DISCOVERY PROGRAM: THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE
January 26th – March 20th
The California Museum

"Time of Remembrance Discovery Program: The Japanese American Experience," is a multi-media educational program where students learn about the Japanese American experience during World War II from those who lived it. The discovery program provides tours of the Museum's exhibit "Uprooted! Japanese Americans During WWII" led by a formerly incarcerated docent and volunteers. The guided school tour is in its 15th season. This powerful program includes a walk through a re-created incarceration camp barrack, viewing a replica guard tower and experiencing personal stories from the volunteers. For eight weeks, students from throughout Northern California will explore concepts such as citizenship, constitutionality, and redress.

For information or to schedule a student group, contact: www.CaliforniaMuseum.org (education link), email: reservations@californiamuseum.org

GAMBATTE! "Legacy of an Enduring Spirit"

Paul Kitagaki, Jr's exhibition of completed works will be on display at The California Museum from January 26th through late April. Kitagaki created a collection of portraits mirroring Dorothea Lange's work. Lange's photographs document the moment their lives changed forever; Kitagaki's images record their enduring spirit.



The Train to Crystal City

Author Jan Jarboe Russell's book *The Train to Crystal City* attempts to cast light on a POW exchange program, part of the larger WWII Japanese American internment experience. Located in Crystal City, Texas, this WWII camp housed Japanese, German and a few Italians, all for the purpose of having assets for a hostage exchange program which could happen at the end of the WWII.

The Japanese descent detainees at Crystal City had been kidnapped from cooperating Latin American countries, especially a large contingent from Peru. Many spoke no Japanese or English and had no connection at all to the US. Americans of German and Italian descent were arrested domestically, typically the principal detainee being a man with his wife and children following him, if they could ever locate him.

Crystal City operated until 1948, with its residents continuing to be policed and guarded for those three years after the war ended. Apparently at the end of the war, nobody knew where to send them. Some German American families were shipped to postwar Germany with no resources and no survival plan. Russell interviewed fifty surviving Crystal City prisoners. One unexpected outcome of the Crystal City prison is that the children formed lasting bonds, even having reunions and a newsletter to stay in touch.



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How to preserve the family tulou

Fujian tulou ("earthen structures") are a type of Chinese rural dwelling of the Hakka and Minnan in the southeastern Fujian province of China. Most were built in the 12th and 20th centuries. A tulou is usually a large, enclosed and fortified earth building, most commonly rectangular or circular in configuration but some are square or oval. The very thick load-bearing rammed earth walls supported between three and five stories of height. Tulous are multi-family structures with capacity ranging from a few dozen residents to more than 500. During the Cold War, American intelligence thought satellite images of tulous showed missile silos or nuclear complexes.

The smallest tulou is the Culin lou(翠林楼) in Nankeng township of Nanjing county with a diameter of 46 feet. It is a three story tulou built in 1617. Oldest tulou is the elliptic tulou Qiyun lou(齐云楼) in Shajian village of Hua An county and was built in 1371. The Chengqi lou tulou in Yongding county is round with a 205 foot diameter. The Shunyu lou(顺裕楼) tulou in Nanjing county has a 243 foot diameter and was built in 1933. It has four levels, outer walls that are 50 feet high and 5 feet thick, and 64 rooms around a circle with one main entrance and two side doors. The largest tulou is the Fusheng lou(福盛楼), built since 1968 and completed in 1981 with a diameter of 254 feet and located in Chendong village of Yongding county.



A total of 46 of the more spectacular Fujian tulou sites, including Chuxi tulou group, Tianluokeng tulou cluster, Hekeng tulou cluster, Gaobei tulou cluster, Dadi tulou cluster, Hongkeng tulou cluster, Yangxian lou, Huiyuan lou, Zhengfu lou and Hegui lou, have been inscribed in 2008 by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. This designation declares them as "exceptional examples of a building tradition and function exemplifying a particular type of communal living and defensive organization in a harmonious relationship with their environment". The prestige of the list encourages the protection and conservation of the site. A country may also receive financial assistance and expert advice from the World Heritage Committee to support preservation of the sites. Many tulous have been abandoned to Fujian's lush and aggressive tropical foliage moving in and swallowing them up. The World Heritage designation assures that some of these structures will be protected.

Tulous were built to ward off bandits. Villagers built walled strongholds and tulous as a means of defense. Many families banded together in a stronghold, and several strongholds or tulous joined hand in hand with sentinels constantly on guard. They used loud drums and gongs to signal any sign of approaching bandits or invaders. Due to the massive solidarity of tulou residents, usually they had a common family relationship, even large powerful bandit gangs with tens of thousands of men did not dare to attack inhabitants of a tulou. Smaller



interior buildings contain halls, storehouses, wells and living areas. The whole structure resembles a small fortified city.

The fortified outer structures are formed by compacting earth, mixed with stone, bamboo, wood and other readily available materials, to form walls up to 6 feet thick. Branches, strips of wood and bamboo chips are often laid in the wall as additional reinforcement. The result is a well-lit, well-ventilated, windproof and earthquake-proof building that is warm in winter and cool in summer. Tulous usually have only one main gate, guarded by 4–5-inch-thick wooden doors reinforced with an outer shell of iron plate. The top level of these earth buildings has gun holes for defensive purposes.

With rising incomes and expectations, residents especially young couples with children are abandoning the tulou way of life and opting for modern concrete homes with more privacy and modern amenities. Many tulous are becoming de facto senior citizens homes.

Some believe tulous will eventually become museums

Palo Alto based Global Heritage Fund initiated a tulou preservation project but could not find strong local partners. They hope to relaunch the project in the future.

In 2008 the 30 families who jointly own the Qingxing tulou near Tianzhong leased their tulou with a long term agreement to the Seattle based architecturally-interested Wu family. The Wu patriarch had during Mao's 1966 -1976 Cultural Revolution been sent as a teenager



to work in Tianzhong and had close ties with the family. The Wu family hope to keep the building alive by reusing it, making repairs and adding bathrooms to each floor. Their non-profit Friends of Tulou invite scholars and students to stay in the 50 guest rooms. The tulou has also been used for company retreats and theatrical performances.

The Wind Cloud tulou in Kanxia village has been a hotel for over a year. Bathrooms, hot water and even Wi-Fi have been added. Room rates range from \$15-20 a night.

The Fuyu tulou in Hongkeng village, 14 miles from Tianzhong has Stephen Lin, a sixth generation inhabitant, at the helm. This family tulou is 134 years old with 160 rooms. One wing with 19 rooms has been a hotel for 12 years. 50 other clan members occupy the rest of the structures.



Law students seek to right historic wrong

Hong Yen Chang attended Yale as part of the Chinese Educational Mission, a Chinese government program. He left the US, but then returned to study law at Columbia Law School graduating in 1868. He was admitted to practice law in New York. However since California law prohibited noncitizens from practicing law in the state, he was denied admission to the California State Bar. He otherwise had a distinguished career in banking and diplomacy.

King Hall UCD law students have sought support from the State Bar for a petition for the posthumous admission of Chang to the State Bar. Posthumous admissions resulting from similar discriminatory laws have precedent in Washington (Takuji Yamashita) and Pennsylvania (George B. Vahon). The students, under the mentorship of Professor Jack Chin, hope to file a petition to the California Supreme Court which is ultimately responsible for granting licenses to practice law.

CALENDAR

Continued from Back Page

Mar 14 Sat **CAPITAL meeting.** 830am breakfast, 9am meeting at Sacto Sheriff Central Station (65th & Florin, Sac).

Mar 16 Mon **ACC Senior Services "Poison Proof Your Home for Your Pets."** 11am-12pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Get to know the poisoning hazards that could be dwelling in your home and learn what to do in case your pet is poisoned. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Mar 19 Thu **ACC Senior Services "Planning Ahead for the Inevitable."** 1130am-1230pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). A 25-minute presentation on why everyone should pre-plan funeral arrangements. Eliminate stress and relieve your family of the burden, know all available choices, get what you want, ensure every detail is covered, and save money! Free lunch provided. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Mar 21 Sat **Pacific Rim Street Fest Crab Feed.** 430-6pm at Dante's Club (2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sac). \$50/person. No host cocktails. Info: Liza 916/896-8611.

Mar 26 Thu **ACC Senior Services "Tips for Choosing Cell Phone Service."** 2-3pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Learn what questions to ask when choosing a service, what you should know before you sign a contract and how to cut your cell phone costs. Bring a recent phone bill and we'll review it for FREE! Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Apr 2 Thu **Alzheimer's Association Annual Education Conference for Families and Healthcare Professionals.** 9am-4pm at Sacramento Convention Center (1400 J St, Sac). This full-day caregiver conference is designed to offer comprehensive educational opportunities for family caregivers and interested healthcare professionals involved in the care of persons with dementia. For info or to register: Denise Davis, 800/272-3900, denise.davis@alz.org

Apr 21 Tue **APSEA/APSEA Foundation Scholarship Dinner.** Info: www.apsea.org, www.apseafoundation.org

May 9 Sat **Locke Centennial Celebration.** 11am-5 pm on Main Street in the town of Locke featuring historical presentations, entertainment, and food, Free. Info: www.locke-foundation.org

May 9 Sat **CAPITAL Meeting.** 830am social, 9am meeting at Sacto Sheriff Central Station (65th & Florin, Sac).

May 14 Thu **OCA Dragon Boat Festival Celebration, 20th Anniversary Gala. 6-9pm at The Sheraton Grand (J & 13th Sts, Sac).** Honoring past chapter presidents: Dwanchen Hsu, Tom Bhe, Felix Chen, Rung Fong Hsu, Sam K. Ong, Linda Ng, Joyce Eng, Michael Head, David Low. \$90/person, \$40.student. Info: www.ocasacramento.org.

The **Dragon Boat Festival** began 2300 years ago to commemorate the life of Qu Yuan, a statesman and poet, who hated corruption but was surrounded by it. When he tried to introduce fair policies, his fellow ministers wouldn't hear of it. They plotted and told the king lies about Qu Yuan. Qu Yuan was sent away in disgrace, but remained loyal to the king. For sixty-seven years he lived in exile, writing beautiful poetry that told of his passion and love for his country. He became a hero admired and

loved by all the people. One day Qu Yuan heard that enemy troops had invaded the state of Chu and were storming the palace to overthrow the king. Rather than see his country conquered by the enemy, Wu Yuan decided to kill himself and threw himself in the Milo River. Fishermen unsuccessfully tried to save him. His body was never found. Not long after Qu Yuan's death a fisherman threw rice into the Milo River to appease the River God and ensure a good catch. A voice came out of the river, "I'm hungry." The fisherman caught nothing and went home. The next day, the same thing happened. He caught nothing and gave up. On the third day, the fisherman dumped a huge bag of rice into the river. The Spirit of Qu Yuan appeared in the river mist and said he was hungry. Qu Yuan told the fisherman that the hungry river dragon is faster and ate all the rice before Qu Yuan could get a kernel. The spirit asked the fisherman to wrap handfuls of rice in bamboo leaves, tie the packet with black, red, green and white rope because the colors would scare the dragon who also could not untie the rope. The spirit directed the fisherman to also throw loose rice in the river for the dragon. The fisherman followed these instructions. That day he pulled a huge haul of fish from the river. The anniversary of Qu Yuan's death is the Dragon Boat Festival, celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth month in the Lunar Calendar.

May 23 Sat **PACT Workshop for Adults: Lifetime Journey: Managing the Complexity of First/Birth Parents in Adoption.** 9am-1230pm in Oakland. Info: www.pactadopt.org

July 2-7 **PACT Family Camp**, a gathering of adoptive families with children of color. Tahoe City CA. In 2014 PACT Family camp had 9 first/birth parents and 35 adult adopted and fostered alums who served as mentors and educators. Of the 97 families participating, 33 families in attendance were formed through foster-adoption; 22 families had internationally adopted children and 40 adopted their children as infants domestically; 30% LGBTQ-headed families and 24% single parents. Info: PACT, An Adoption Alliance, 510/243-9460, info@pactadopt.org

Currents Passings

Chol So Lee, 61, died in San Francisco in December 3, 2014 of an untreated medical condition. Lee immigrated from Korea at age 12 and fell into a life on the streets and drugs. In 1973 he was convicted of a SF Chinatown murder based on bad identification evidence. Lee became the personne celebre for the first national pan Asian movement forming the Free Chol Soo Lee Defense Committee. The committee, with seed funding from the Presbyterian Church and community fundraising, worked with investigative reporter K.W. Lee to support Lee's bid for a second trial wherein he was acquitted by a SF jury in 1982. In 1983 a death penalty sentence from a subsequent prison crime was set aside, and that conviction was plea bargained for credit for time served



resulting with Lee's release after serving 10 years in prison. Services were held December 9th at the Yeolaifah Temple in San Bruno.

CAIR condemns Paris terrorist acts

SACRAMENTO, CA, 01/07/2015) - The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, today condemned a shooting attack on the offices of the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and repeated its defense of freedom of speech.

Twelve people were killed today in the attack by individuals reportedly shouting "God is great" in Arabic. While no one has claimed responsibility for the deadly attack, the magazine has been threatened and attacked in the past because of its derogatory references to Islam and its Prophet Muhammad. The perpetrators remain at large.

In a statement, CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad said: "We strongly condemn this brutal and cowardly attack and reiterate our repudiation of any such assault on freedom of speech, even speech that mocks faiths and religious figures. The proper response to such attacks on the freedoms we hold dear is not to vilify any faith, but instead to marginalize extremists of all backgrounds who seek to stifle freedom and to create or widen societal divisions.

"We offer sincere condolences to the families and loved ones of those killed or injured in this attack. We also call for the swift apprehension of the perpetrators, who should be punished to the full extent of the law."

France's Muslim leaders have similarly condemned the attack as "barbaric." "This extremely grave barbaric action is also an attack against democracy and the freedom of the press," said the French Muslim Council (CFCM) in a statement.

In 2006, CAIR rejected the sometimes violent response to Danish cartoons mocking the Prophet Muhammad. CAIR National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper wrote at that time: "Islamic traditions include a number of instances of the prophet having the opportunity to strike back at those who attacked him, but refraining from doing so."

CAIR-Sacramento condemned the shooting attack on the offices, Council of Sacramento Valley Islamic Organizations, and American Muslim Voice Sacramento Chapter publicly displayed outrage in a January 9th Sacramento Valley Muslim community peace rally for the murdered victims of Paris at the California State Capitol.

Update: The January 7th shooting suspects - brothers Said Kouachi and Cherif Kouachi, born in Paris and raised in orphanages and foster homes - were killed on January 9th in a police shoot out at a printing works outside Paris after efforts to negotiate with them failed. On that same day Amedy Coulibaly was killed when police stormed the kosher Hyper Cacher supermarket in Paris where he had taken hostages. Hayat Boumeddiene, girlfriend of Coulibaly, is still at large. Al Queda in Yemen claims responsibility for the Charlie Hebdo killings as a vengeance for the prophet, but has not endorsed the grocery store takeover. According to mainstream Islamic tradition, any physical depiction of the Prophet Muhammad - even respectful ones - is considered blasphemous.

CALENDAR

Jan 28 Wed **Tasty Japanese Food Bazaar Treats for your Super Bowl party.** Combo plates with teriyaki chicken and beef, maki sushi roll, age sushi, chow mein, steak sandwiches, curry rice, udon noodles, and ohagi sweet red bean with mocha rice. Mail your order with a check (Buddhist Church of Florin, PO Box 292006, Sac 95829) by January 28 and pick up on Sunday Feb 1 11am-1pm at 2735 Pritchard Road (off Florin Road), Sacramento. Info: 916/383-1831, florinbuddhist.org

Jan 31-Feb 1 **Cal Performances: Kodo, One Earth Tour: Mystery.** Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley. Info: 510/642-9988.ram. 7-9pm in Oakland.

Jan 31 Sat **CAPITAL Meeting.** 830am social, 9am meeting at Sacto Sheriff Central Station (65th & Florin, Sac). Presentations from Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, FBI, Sacramento PD Chief Sam Somers.

Jan 31 Sat **PACT Workshop: Ask Adoptees & Foster Alum – What Worked and What Didn't.** 9am-1230pm. Info: www.pactadopt.org.

Jan 31 Sat **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Program and Dinner and 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.** 5pm reception, 6pm dinner/program at Sheraton Hotel (1230 J St, Sac). Keynote: Kenneth B. Morris Jr. \$100/person. Info: www.mlkcelebrationsacramento.org

Jan 31 Sat **Book Talk with Prof. Hiroshi Motomura, author of "Immigration Outside of the Law."** 1-230pm at Chinese Historical Society of American (965 Clay St, SF). RSVP Eventbrite.

Feb 3 Tue **Alzheimer Assn film showing: "I'll be me,"** the Glen Campbell story. 5pm reception, 6pm movie at Crest Theater. Info: 916/447-2731, rbrainard@alz.org

Feb 3, March 2, April 7 **PACT Adult Adoptees of Color Programs.** 7-9pm in Oakland. Info: www.pactadopt.org

Feb 4 Wed **My Sister's House-Hoops for Healthy Dating.** Info: www.my-sisters-house.org.

Feb 5 Thu **ACC Senior Services Brain Fitness Workshop.** 1130am-1230pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This workshop will explore strategies for maintaining your healthy brain. Topics will include how nutrition, physical exercise, stress management, mental exercises, and social activity all contribute to keeping your brain fit. \$5. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Feb 6 Fri **ACC Senior Services "Heartsaver CPR & AED."** 1-4pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This is a hands-on course for adult CPR and AED use with a 2-year American Heart Association (AHA) certification. Minimum: 5 participants. Cost does not include \$15 materials fee to be paid to instructor. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required at least two days prior to class date. \$45. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Feb 6-28 Sat **My Sister's House Bridal Sale.** Fri 5-8pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun Noon-4pm at 455 Capitol Mall Complex (Sac.) Info: 916/930-0626, www.my-sisters-house.org

Feb 7 Sat **PACT Adoptive Parents of Circle Gathering.** 5-7pm in Oakland. Info: www.pactadopt.org

Feb 7 Sat **"There is a River: From Slavery to Ferguson,"** a tribute and teach-in in honor of Dr.

Vincent Harding. 9am-4pm at Pacific School of Religion (1798 Scenic Ave, Berkeley). \$11-15/person. RSVP: Eventbrite

Feb 7 Sat **Chinese New Year Celebration.** Noon-5pm at Hiram Johnson High School Auditorium (6819 14th Ave, Sac). Dragon dance, martial arts, cultural entertainment, exhibits, arts & crafts, food vendors, children's games. \$6/adults, \$1/children under 12. Info: www.cnyca.net, 916/601-7511

Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8 Wed **ACC Senior Services Family Caregiver Support Group.** 12-1pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Self-help group run by and for people with challenges/life changing situations involving caregiving for a loved one with memory decline, such as dementia/Alzheimer's disease, and mild cognitive impairment (MCI). Free. Info: Soojin Yoo, 916/393-9026 x326, syoo@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Feb 11 Wed **ACC Senior Services Estate Planning Workshop.** 3-430pm at ACC Greenhaven Terrace (1180 Corporate Way, Sac). So You're a Trustee, Now What? Kent W. Meyer, Attorney, MBA, PhD, JD LL.M and Steve deGraaf, Charitable Financial Consultant, ChFC, CLP, will cover the factors to consider in choosing a trustee, basic revocable trust structures, and roles of initial trustees, successor trustees, and professional fiduciaries. Free. To register: 916/394-6399 x141, kfeng@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Feb 12 Thu **My Sister's House – Men's Domestic Violence Call for Action Breakfast.** Info: www.my-sisters-house.org

Feb 14 Sat **"Legacy of an Enduring Spirit"** featuring photojournalist Paul Kitagaki Jr. Sponsored by Northern California Time of Remembrance Committee of Florin, Lodi, Placer County and Sacramento JAACL Chapters. 1pm presentation, 3pm reception at California Museum (1020 O St, Sac.) \$20/adults, \$15/college students. Info: Nancy Whiteside 916/508-6587, Christine Umeda 916/427-2841, NCTOR.org.

Feb 17 Thu **My Sister's House – Human Trafficking Conference.** 9am-2pm at CSUS University Union. \$45 registration includes light breakfast and lunch. Info: www.my-sisters-house.org

FEB 19 THU **LUNAR NEW YEAR, Year of the Sheep.** Legend has it that in ancient times, Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. Twelve came, and Buddha named a year after each one. He announced

that the people born in each animal's year would have some of that animal's personality. Those born in sheep years are often artistic, charming, sensitive, and sweet. If you are a sheep, you are gentle, loving, passionate and creative, you are best suited to marrying a rabbit, a pig or a horse, you might become a wonderful gardener, actor, or therapist. It is known as the most creative sign in the Chinese zodiac.

Feb 21-March 21 **Sat My Sister's House – Domestic Violence Advocate Training.** Info: www.my-sisters-house.org.

Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9 Thu **ACC Senior Services Free Phone & PG&E Bill Review Clinics.** 230-430pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Are you paying too much for phone service? Is your PG&E bill unusually high? Bring a recent phone bill (residential or wireless) or PG&E bill to see if we can save you money. Info: Susan Sarinas, 916/393-9026 x339, team@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Feb 26 Thu **ACC Senior Services "Senior Scams."** 230-4pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). In this workshop we will provide information on how to protect your assets and recognize scams, especially telephone scams. Learn how you can fight back and what you can do if you are a victim. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Feb 27 Fri **APSEA Foundation Scholarship application deadline.** Scholarships for high school seniors and college students. www.apseafoundation.org

Feb 28 Sat **Sacramento Lu-Mien Community Lunar New Year Celebration.** 5pm at Rice Bowl Restaurant (2378 Florin Rd, Sac). A feast, Lu-Mien cultural performances, traditional outfits. Info: Jack Saechao 916/244-8010, Veun L. Teun 916/450-9144

Mar 7 Sat **CAAMFeast Awards: Stories, Food & You.** One Kearny Club, SF. Honoring Masumoto Family, Danielle Chang and Tim Luym. Info: www.caamedia.org

Mar 12-22 **CAAMFest 2015.** API film fest with Bay Area venues. Info: www.caamedia.org

Mar 14 Sat **PACT Annual Spring Training Adoption Conference: The Experience of Adoption and Foster Care, Supporting Children's Feelings, Behaviors and Experience.** 830-5pm, Oakland. Keynote Speakers: Susan Leksander LMFT, FRegina Shields PhD, MFT. Register: info@pactadopt.org

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CRAB FEED MARCH 21, 2015

The Pacific Rim Street Festival Committee invites you to join us for a fun night and prizes at our first crab feed. Crab feed includes salad, bread, pasta, vegetables, crab, crab, and more crab, and an ice cream dessert.



DANTE'S CLUB 2330 FAIR OAKS BLVD. SACRAMENTO, CA 95825

\$50 per person – payable to "Pacific Rim Street Festival"

DOORS OPEN AT 4:30 P.M. and No Host Cocktails

DINNER SERVED BETWEEN 5:45 – 6 P.M.

CALL LIZA AT 916 896-8611 FOR TICKET INFORMATION... Tickets are going