

# Currents

Asian Pacific American Community Newspaper Serving Sacramento and Yolo Counties - Volume 27, No. 1 Winter/January 2014



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Asian Community Center (ACC)-5+  
Chinese Amer. Council of Sac-9

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR

YEAR  
OF THE  
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## Comfort Women Memorials Challenged

In December 2013, three members of Japan's House of Representatives called on the Glendale City Council to remove a statue honoring comfort women. Mio Sugita (Hyogo Prefecture), Yuzuru Nishida (Chiba) and Hiromu Nakamaru (Hiroshima) are all members of the Japanese Restoration Party, a one year old conservative political party. They came to California to complain that the statue installed in July 2013 created controversy in Japan and hurts Japan's honor. The politicians also called on the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to re-write the official historical record about the comfort women system and asked their colleagues to retract an apology made in the 1990s.

The Glendale City Council approved the memorial honoring those young girls and women who were used as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II. The \$30,000 monument installed in Glendale's Central Park was funded by the Korean American Forum of California. The memorial, a statue of a girl seated next to an empty chair, is a replica of a monument installed across the street from the Japanese Embassy in Seoul.

Historians believe that as many as 200,000 girls and women in Korea, China, Philippines and other occupied countries were forced into Japanese military brothels. Many Japanese and Japanese Americans dispute the comfort women claim and have spoken against the Glendale and similar memorials across the country. They argue that so called comfort women is a manufactured story, the women volunteered to provide sex services, they were willingly sold by their parents for money to help support their families, were coerced into the sex trade by Korean pimps and the number of victims is inflated. In May 2013, the mayor of Osaka, Japan's second largest city, claimed that use of comfort women was necessary for military discipline and provided rest for the troops. Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda claims that no Korean women were ever forced into sexual slavery during the war. Memorials in New Jersey, New York and Singapore faced similar organized opposition by individuals and the Japanese government. Another California monument was placed in the AR Galleria Shopping Center in Garden Grove in December 2012.

Eighty-six year old Ok-seon Lee was in California when the Glendale memorial was unveiled. She was abused for three years beginning at age 14 until the end of the war. "The comfort station where we were taken was not a place for human beings to live. It was a slaughterhouse. I'm telling you, it was killing people."

In 1993 certain Japanese officials issued an apology for the treatment of the women recognizing that they suffered immeasurable pain and incurable physical and psychological wounds. Many advocates want an official government apology, claiming that the Kono statement (a private apology by an individual) is not good enough.

There have been federal lawsuits (2001), an international tribunal on crimes against women during World War II (2000), and government resolutions (2007 and ongoing). There has also been claims that after World War II, the Japanese government recruited, and forced thousands, into prostitution for the benefit of American GI's.

A similar memorial placed in New Jersey was vandalized in the past year with a political statement referencing the ongoing territorial dispute between Korea and Japan over the Dokdo Islands (Japan calls the territory Takeshima.)

## Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA) Holiday Mixer

APSEA's annual holiday mixer was held on December 10, 2013. The mixer was well attended by APSEA members, friends, and their family. Everyone had a great time celebrating the holiday season with joyous conversation and holiday cheers. Special thanks goes to all those who attended.



APSEA President Jeff Uyeda



The 2013-2014 APSEA Board L-R Senior Advisor Dean Lan, Corresponding Secretary Alicia Wong, Senior Advisor Helen Fong, Treasurer Sandy Jang, First Vice President Linda Ng, President Jeff Uyeda, Recording Secretary Rebekah Christensen, Immediate Past President Oliver Chu, Second Vice President Grace Koch. Not Pictured: Senior Advisor Dan Tokutomi.



## Why o why

By Randall Ishida

I took a walk one day. A man came up to me and yelled "neeh ho meha" ... or something to that effect. I felt he was saying something derogatory. I thought it takes all kinds and was offended. Found out from my friend, Liz, and reliable source of Chinese values and customs that the man was telling me "hello" or "good afternoon" in Chinese. Laughing out loud I thought just because I looked Asian he assumed I was Chinese. What a crazy world we live in. There IS a difference you know.

Well some folks don't know the difference between Chinese, Japanese or Asian for that matter. They should go back to school & learn their geography. You know, just because a person looks a certain way one shouldn't assume anything. But WHY O why is what I don't understand. If one understands the whole Asia or Asian concept then they can understand the various countries based in Asia.

Some folks say they are "white". I'm sorry - white is only a color not a nationality. Come on now ... there is more to it than you know, because that's why.

## ABOUT CURRENTS

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## Welcome to the Year of the Horse in the year 4711

(2014,2002,1990,1978,1966,1954,1942)

Additionally it is a Wooden Horse year so if your lucky element is Fire, then this year will be especially good because wood feeds fire. According to the Chinese Zodiac and websites below, if you were born during the year of the horse, you will be financially independent, you are trustworthy & loyal to the end, lucky, energetic, intelligent, physically strong, & you enjoy peaceful places. You like the company of others & you give to charities.

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## Asian Pacific State Employees Association/APSEA

### APSEA and USC Sol Price announce Navigating Leadership 2014

**Overview:** In 2014, the APSEA-USC Sol Price (Sac Campus) sponsored Navigating Leadership program is moving into its third year of robust operation. Since its debut in 2012, it has experienced exponential acceleration in leading a pragmatic *change management solution* for state government in California. **Its top-down, bottom-up and across the middle approach is redefining the term leadership in a virtual society.** A key goal that the many facets of the Navigating Leadership program address is not only keeping up with the advancement of technology that moves decades in years, but more importantly the transition of employee (human) skillsets that must function with integrity, proficiency and accountability **“in real-time”** in a transparent world. The “real-time” nature of our world requires the finely honed skills of organic accountability, agility, collaboration, integration and innovation. Navigating Leadership’s systemic platform embraces the dynamic assimilation of these skills through a holistic approach that supports all levels of government in its service to society.

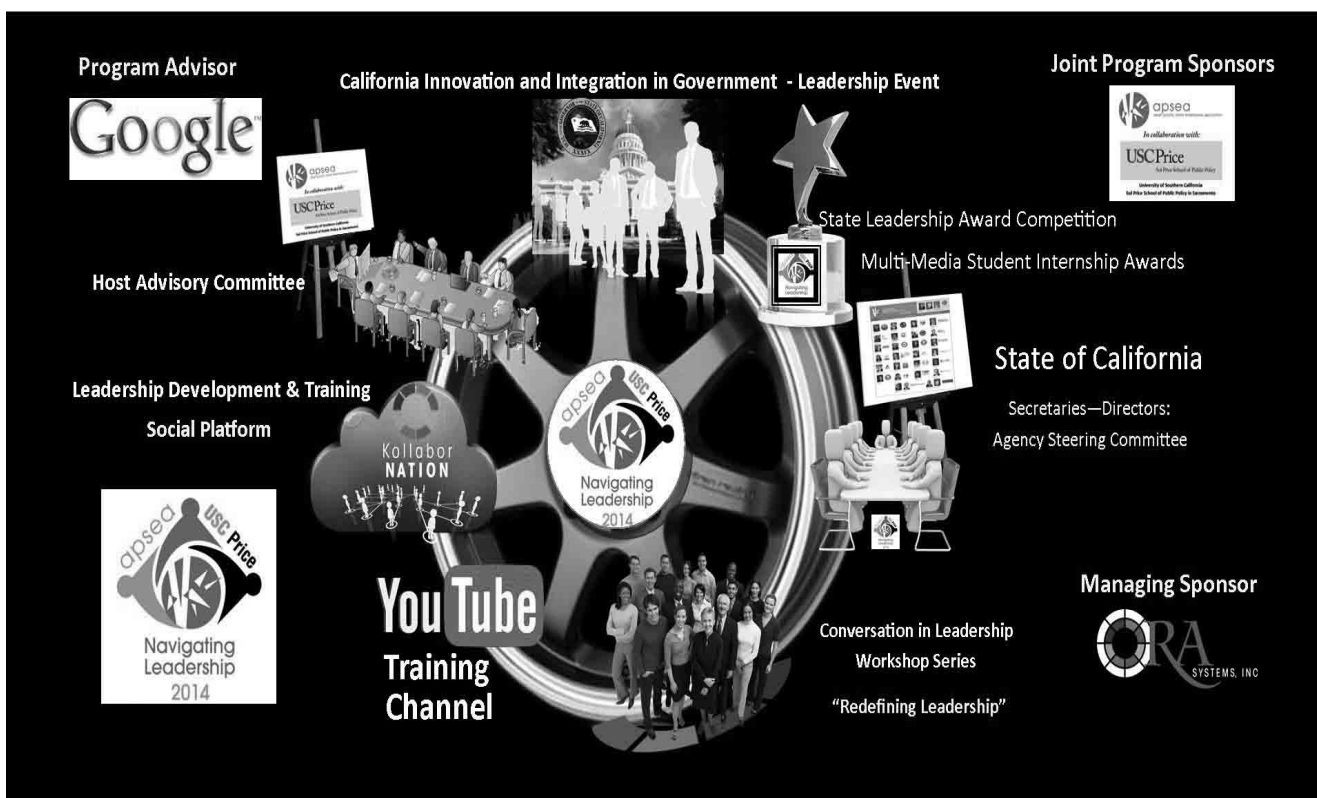
**2014 Navigating Leadership:** The 2014 Navigating Leadership is designed as a fully integrated dynamic program, consisting of 7 independent programs/functions that embrace the comprehensive goals and objectives observed by the leadership of the State of California. These goals serve government employees at every level. The program’s advancing maturity is pioneering a blueprint in “real-time” virtual management that not just the state of California, but the country can follow. For 2014, Google has signed on to participate in a key advisory role to enhance YouTube Training, Social Media and innovative human/technological systems management for the Navigating Leadership Program as it serves state government.

- **Navigating Leadership Awards Competition:** (June – November 2014) Navigating Leadership will once again feature a statewide innovative leadership awards competition honoring innovation at the agency/ department and individual level in state government. Added to this year’s competition will be an award for a rising star that demonstrates the skill to accelerate the collaborative environment essential to support serving and thriving in today’s virtual society.
  - **University Internship Competition:** Lastly, Navigating Leadership will be offering internships to University-based integrative video production teams to feature the compelling stories that stand at the core of mission and vision of agencies and departments in State Government. These videos are created to propel employment interest into state government as it continues to expand innovative thresholds in today’s virtual society. These videos will be judged for awards by an independent review committee.
- **Navigating Leadership Agency Steering Committee:** (March – November 2014) New this year, an Agency Secretaries and Department Directors Advisory Committee will serve in a key advisory for the 2014 Program.
- **Navigating Leadership - Conversations in Leadership Workshops 2014: Redefining Leadership.** (March/April – November 2014) Navigating Leadership will continue its quarterly workshops first initiated in



speakers will turn upside down the traditional roles and functions of leadership in state government.

- **Technology and Leadership:** (June 24, 2014) A panel of State Chief Information Officers (CIOs) and Google will present the leading edge of the technology horizon as it impacts the “re-defined role” of leadership in state government. A key focus will integrate not just technology but also the shifts in human systems that must occur to lead and thrive in a real-time world.
- **Leadership – Breaking the Barriers: Living at Unlimited Possibility:** (September 23, 2014) This two-person team is powerful, empowering and ground-breaking in reflecting back to all attending that the boundaries that limit each of us are self-imposed. Their stories will compel, ignite and challenge the best in all of us to rise to new levels of awareness and leadership within ourselves and our world – personally and professionally.
- **YouTube Training – Social Media:** (Ongoing) The Navigating Leadership YouTube station will be expanding to feature not just the training videos of Conversations in Leadership, but a plethora of training opportunities that will explore the paradigm shifts in leadership that will fuel growth and innovation in a world without walls. We promise pragmatic in the context of “Awesomeness” as we reach out through all social media outlets.
- **Real-Time Social Platform:** For people, businesses and organizations alike, in the works is a real-time social platform that is unlike anything that’s come before. This social platform will premier in Spring-Summer 2014 and will turn upside down our ability to take self-responsibility for defining our personal and professional “identity blueprint”, charting a course and mapping our progress in “real-time” in an environment that’s not just innovative but indescribably FUN!
- **Navigating Leadership Host Steering Committee:** (November 2013 – November 2014) The host steering committee for Continued on Page 6

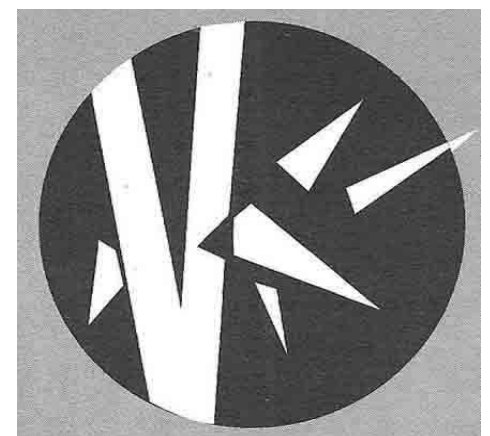


#### 2014 Navigating Leadership Operational Overview:

- **2014 Symposium:** As a one-day event, **Innovation and Integration in Government** (November 2014) will feature the foremost integrative and innovative programs of the agencies and key departments on the Governor’s Cabinet in California. The format of this event will feature a “Ted-Talk type theme” that collectively will provide a panoramic view of the innovation leading state government in the State of California.

2013. These will again be held at the USC Sol Price – Sacramento, CA Campus. Each workshop, structured as equal parts of presentation and conversation, will feature different perspectives of **“Redefining Leadership”** to be inclusive of leading from our “personal best” from where we stand in the organization – from “mail room to agency secretary.” Preliminary overviews and dates for these events follow:

- **Redefining Leadership: Top-Down, Bottom-up, Across the Middle:** (March or April 2014) A panel of







## A Conversation with DMV Director Jean Shiomoto

By Lorna M. Fong

SACRAMENTO -- In a crowded coffee house in the Greenhaven-Pocket area of south Sacramento, I met with Jean Shiomoto, who was recently appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve as the director of the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). "I was honored and humbled to get the call," recalls Jean. "As a female and Japanese American, I understand the significance of the appointment."

The DMV is viewed as the face of state government. California residents have more direct contact with the DMV than any other single state department. Each year, the DMV handles nearly 28 million customer transactions for driver license and vehicle registration renewals.

In addition, the DMV issues identification cards for non-drivers, maintains driving records, tracks ownership of vehicles and vessels, promotes driver safety, licenses car dealers, driver and traffic schools, investigates auto and identify-related fraud, and collects revenue. The department has approximately 8,200 employees in 234 offices throughout California, and has an annual operational budget of nearly \$1 billion.

She credits retired DMV Director George Valverde in preparing, guiding and mentoring her for five months before his retirement. "We went everywhere together," Jean fondly recalls. "On my second day as Chief Deputy Director, I had to give a speech at a press conference in George's absence. He trusted me and I knew that I was capable of doing the job."

The speech she gave on April 2, 2012, was to celebrate the collaborative partnership between the DMV and Donate Life California. They were celebrating 9 million organ and tissue donors on the registry, added through drivers' license registrations. This April 2014, the collaboration is on track to have 11 million donors on the registry – the largest registry in the country.

Since Jean was the acting director for a year since Valverde's retirement, she admitted that her interest was peaked at the possibilities of becoming the DMV director. Jean explained, "I was leading the department as Chief Deputy and Acting Director, I was motivated by knowing that I could and was proactively working to promote the mission, vision and goals of the department with our control agencies, our external partners, stakeholders and our employees. As director, I want to continue the strategic vision for the department as well as continue performance measurement and encouraging DMV staff to excel as leaders."

When Jean speaks about the DMV, her face lights up and one can clearly see and feel the passion and commitment she has for the department, its mission and goals. One of her priorities as director is to convert the department forms and letters to lay language – to make them easier to read and understand for the general public. Jean explained, "People don't understand what 'financial responsibility' means. We know it means 'insurance'. We need to use language our customers understand."

She also wants to put more services online for customers. While these projects sound overwhelming to us, she said that are very doable. "Today's DMV customers expect a superior online experience that is simple to use and easy to understand. Customers are embracing today's technology and using mobile devices to access information, make purchases, and connect with social networks. The DMV will continue to redefine the customer experience by offering convenient, innovative, and virtual service options," Jean explained.

Jean talked of the recent publicity associated with the project to modernize the computer system that manages the driver license and vehicle registration process. "An independent assessment is underway on the project, and the recommendations will guide the DMV on the next steps for completing the modernization effort. It's important to note that the modernization project to revamp the front end of the driver license system has been completed, and is fully functional and operational in all DMV field offices," explained Jean.

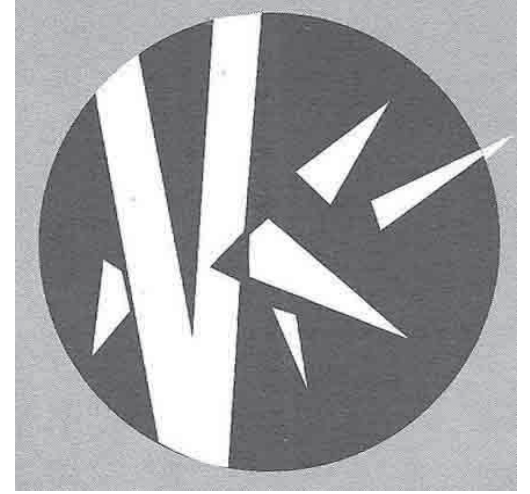
One of the major projects for the DMV is the implementation of a program for driver licenses for undocumented immigrants, as a result of the passage of Assembly Bill 60 (Chapter 524, Statutes of 2013, Alejo). "We estimate that 1.4 million customers will come through our doors over a three-year period. It's a lot of work but we are confident we can handle it," Jean said.

California is leading the way in autonomous vehicles. For the past year, the DMV has been developing testing regulations as mandated by Senate Bill 1298. The regulations include requirements for testing vehicles, insurance, reporting and registration. In addition to the recently-released testing regulations for public comment, the DMV is working on regulations that will cover the public operation of self-driving cars in California by January 2015.

Jean spoke of the commitment demonstrated by the staff of the department. She also talked about the department's culture and sense of family. "The environment of DMV is inviting to state employees," she said. "The DMV is a family, not a lot of people know that. We are more than drivers' licenses and vehicle registrations. The people at the DMV are inviting; they rally around each other. Our camaraderie is paramount." In addition, DMV supports March of Dimes, United Way, and other charitable giving organizations.

She describes herself as a hard worker and dedicated employee. She credits her strong work ethic from her upbringing. She grew up on an 80-acre pear ranch on Grand Island on the Steamboat Slough, near Courtland, California. Her father's family was from Courtland. During World War II, her father, Charlie Fujii, was an Army sergeant who trained recruits of the infamous 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Her mother's family (the Uda's) were from Loomis and Perkins, California. Both the Fujii's and the Uda's were interned at the Amache (Granada) Relocation Center, Colorado. After the war, the Uda's moved to Idaho, and the Fujii's returned to Courtland. She is a graduate of Delta High School in Clarksburg. After her father's death, her family moved to the Greenhaven area in south Sacramento.

She received her bachelor's degree from California State University, Sacramento, in business administration with a concentration in accounting. "During my senior year in high school, I decided I wanted to be an accountant. I figured that businesses would need skilled staff and it would be relatively easy to find a job when I graduated from college," Jean recalls. Her daughter, Denise, currently attends California State University, Fullerton, is following



in Jean's footsteps, also majoring in business administration, but with a concentration in marketing.

Jean began her state career as an auditor at the Department of Developmental Services in 1980. When she started working for the state, she wanted to apply herself, learn from others, establish herself as an accountant, and achieve a management position. Her passion for analysis moved her from accounting, audits, and validation of journal entries, to the design and specification of financial systems to solve fiscal problems. This is where she found what would turn out to be her life-long and career-changing passion – a passion she has held throughout her state service.

During her 34 years in state government, Jean has served in multiple positions at the California Department of General Services from 1980 to 1988, including fiscal systems manager, systems development analyst and auditor. After eight years at the California Department of General Services and the Franchise Tax Board, she has worked for the DMV, in a number of increasingly responsible positions. These include systems development manager, cost accounting manager, controller, advisor to the director and chief deputy director, chief financial officer, deputy director, and chief of operations (DMV's equivalent to Chief Deputy Director).

While the DMV is strongly linked to community and charitable projects, Jean has made community involvement a personal priority, as well. For the last six years, Jean has served on the board of directors of Asian Community Center of Sacramento Valley (ACC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with an operating budget of \$18 million. The ACC is open to people of all ages who can benefit from the programs and services that help older residents. Core programs and services include the ACC Nursing Home, ACC Senior Services, ACC Greenhaven Terrace Independent Living, and Meals on Wheels by ACC. She is completing her second year as the President of the board. During her tenure on the board, Jean has served as chair of the Audit Committee, Board Development Committee, Executive Committee and has actively supported all ACC fundraisers.

"I'm beginning my second year as board president and final year on the board. As President, I want to continue to promote and enhance the array of services offered by ACC Senior Services. The ACC is on track to open 24 assisted living units at Greenhaven Terrace in 2014, which further enhances ACC's mission of providing for a continuum of care. ACC's capital campaign is well underway and this year, we will be reaching out into the community to share the strategic vision of ACC, our accomplishments, and our commitments to develop and meet the changing needs of the community," Jean explained.

She began by volunteering on the ACC finance committee, a year before she joined the board of directors. When asked what about ACC attracted her, she said, "It was time for me to give back to the community. I am thankful for what I have, and for the services ACC provides. When my mom was ill, we scrambled to locate services to support mom. The ACC nursing home was just getting started -- there was no rides program or respite program. If my mom

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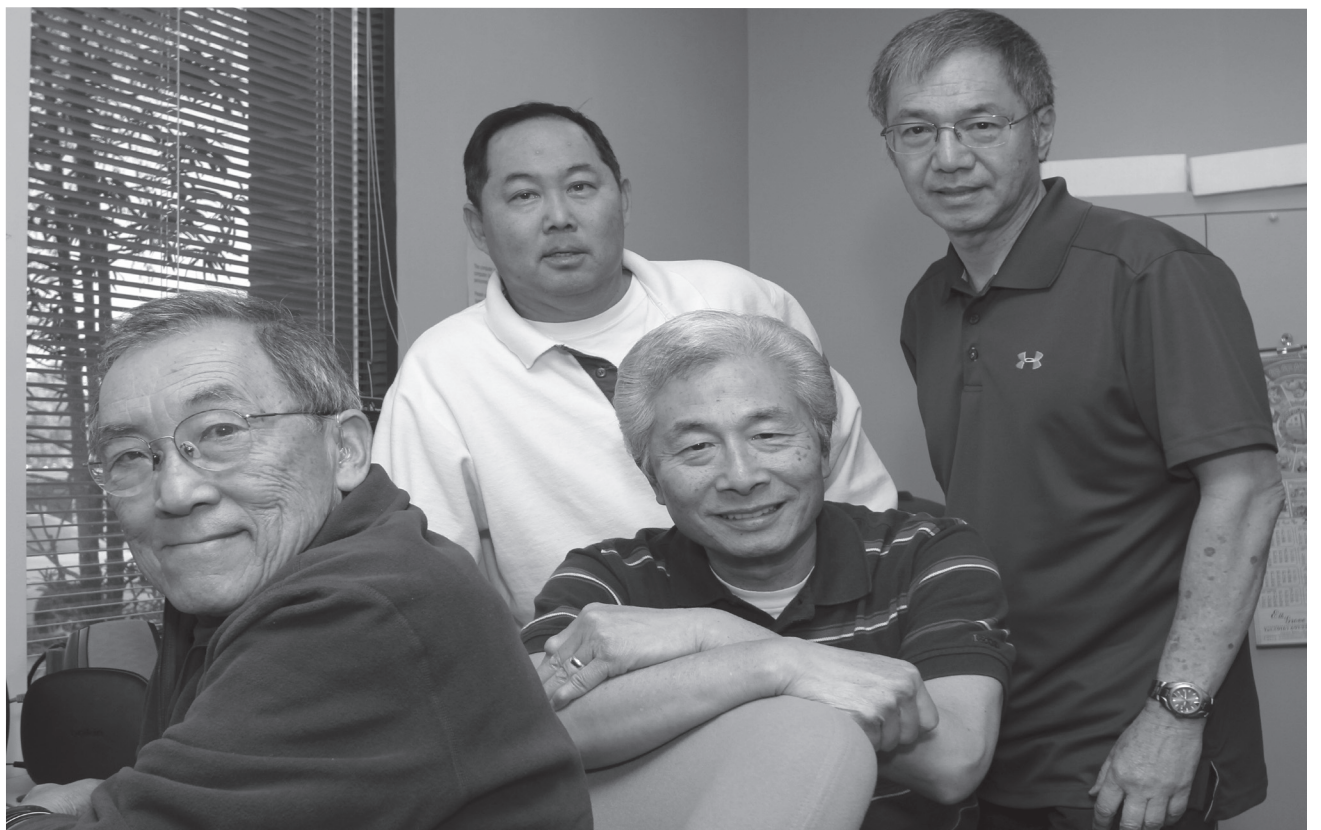
## Asian Community Center (ACC)

### New AmeriCorps volunteer at ACC

Born and raised in Clarksburg, CA, Lisa Kozlowski has lived all over the US. She is from a military family: her father served, she served and her son most recently served. She is a volunteer in the California State Military Reserves and was recently awarded the California Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service. Over the years, Lisa has volunteered with many nonprofits, including the VA, Blue Star Moms, Leukemia Lymphoma Society, and the Alzheimer's Association. She is also a mother of two and grandmother of three.

Currently, Lisa is a *Strength to Serve* AmeriCorps member with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Because ACC Senior Services Center is one of the partner organizations in this endeavor, she will spend one day a week at ACC. Her focus will be to co-ordinate and deliver Healthy Living workshops in the VA and community, provide health coaching, help to secure health resources in the VA and community, recruit and coordinate volunteers to support program activities, and strengthen community partnerships.

The next series of Healthy Living workshops (Chronic Disease Self-Management Program) will begin on Wednesday, March 5, and end on Wednesday, April 9, and will be held at ACC Senior Services Administration Office. For more information or to register, contact Anna Su at (916) 393-9026 x330.



L-R Computer Instructors Art Imagire, Heman Lee, Leonard Lew, and Jeff Jong.

### Help others – help yourself!

A recent Home Instead national survey, found that 52% of older adults volunteer and devote an average of 15 hours per month. Among the reasons most mentioned for volunteering were: “help others and give back, set an example for younger generations, make a difference in their community, provide assistance to causes they care about, for socialization and emotional fulfillment.”

Have you ever considered volunteering? Do you have a skill or ability that you would like to share with others? Studies have shown that there are numerous emotional health and physical benefits to volunteering. Sharing your skills and experience can give you a sense of purpose. It provides an opportunity to socialize and make new friends. It can help to reduce the stress from chronic conditions and decrease feelings of isolation and depression. It can help lower mortality rate. Learning new skills can even increase functional abilities.

At ACC Senior Services Center, we depend heavily on our volunteers for help with a variety of activities: Respite assistance, ACC Rides escorts

and drivers, office support, language interpretation, teaching classes, etc. Our volunteers come from all walks of life and volunteer for a multitude of reasons. Among our dedicated volunteers, we have an exceptional group of computer technology and photography/video instructors. They have a tremendous amount of computer and photography experience and share a desire to help other seniors become computer savvy.

Leonard Lew has been teaching computer classes for over 10 years, ever since the Lifelong Learning Program first began at ACC. He is a retired Federal manager, who started his Federal career developing computer systems for the U.S. Air Force. After personal computers were introduced to the workplace, he used PCs for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations and accessing the Internet. After retiring, Leonard earned certifications in computer maintenance and networks. He decided to volunteer after he saw a flyer at the ACC Nursing Home. He felt it was a perfect way to help and thank ACC for the services his in-laws received. According to Leonard, “Teaching gives me a way to help others make better use of their computers.”

A retired Aerojet engineer, Art Imagire designed and operated computer-controlled equipment to test Aerojet's rocket engines. He has been an active participant of ACC, since the 70's. Art is self-taught and has been actively studying computers and applications. When the opportunity to participate in the Computer Lifelong Learning Program, he joined and has been helping others to learn computers. According to Art, “It is very gratifying to see students learn how to use all the various computer hardware and software.”

After college, with a BS degree in Computer Science, Heman Lee worked at local computer stores. He took a position in the Bay Area as a Support Engineer installing PC Networks for Sears Business Systems Center. Later, Heman became Systems Engineer and Network Administrator for a number of companies, such as The Sharper Image and Birkenstock. Ever since college, he has been active in volunteering at local community centers, teaching tennis, working with “after school programs” and youth organization such as the boy scouts. According to Heman, “I love

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**acc**

SENIOR SERVICES



### Healthy Living

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.



**Wednesdays: March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, and 9**  
**1:00 PM - 3:30 PM**

**ACC Senior Services - Administration Office**  
**7311 Greenhaven Dr., Ste. 187**  
**Sacramento, CA 95831**

**Free of charge. Pre-registration required.**

For more information, please contact Anna Su at ACC Senior Services Center, (916) 393-9026, Ext. 330, 7375 Park City Drive, Sacramento, CA 95831.





## DMV Director Jean Shiomoto

Continued from Page 4

were alive today, she would be using ACC services.”

Donna Yee, Ph.D., ACC's Chief Executive Officer commented, "Jean's visionary leadership and innovative ideas have resulted in enhancements in ACC fundraising efforts, increasing our bottom line. We are proud and honored to have Jean guide the ACC into our next major capital campaign to establish an assisted living program. Her passion and commitment to ACC will no doubt parallel her longstanding career at the DMV. The ACC congratulates Jean on her appointment."

When asked how she balances her work life and her home life, Jean quickly responded, "I have a very supportive and understanding husband and family. Their support has been the key to my success at DMV." Her husband, David, recently retired from the Franchise Tax Board. "I dedicate the time required to do my job, but I also find time to enjoy a nice dinner with family and friends. I like to try out new restaurants, travel, and bake," she added. She handles job pressures in the same way she speaks; deliberately, handling one issue at a time. She relaxes with her nightly walks with David and two sibling dogs, Puddles and Trouble, a basset hound and a Bichon Frise mix.

Jean is also an active member of the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA), a statewide organization that advocates for members' interests and works with the community to promote career opportunities, cultural awareness, supports young adults in career advancements through the APSEA Foundation by sponsoring scholarships, supporting other Asian Pacific community-based organizations, hosting training conferences, and networking activities.

Jean joined APSEA over ten years ago, serving on the scholarship committee even before she joined the organization. "There were about 80 applications the first year I was on the Scholarship Committee. The students all had great ideas of what they want to do. However, when we ask who was their role model, the students become more emotional -- they talk about their parents, their upbringing, that they will be the first person in their family to attend college. You understand what the scholarship will do for them. Each student's story is moving -- you can see their dedication and commitment."

She continues to serve on the scholarship committee each year and finds APSEA membership very rewarding. Through APSEA's workshops, leadership seminars, and networking events, she has met other APIs in state service. "I am grateful for APSEA in providing opportunities for members to network and meet APIs from other state agencies, to exchange ideas on solving common problems. To obtain a different perspective from that of your department is invaluable in seeing how organizations are run," Jean explained.

Jeff Uyeda, APSEA president commented on Jean's appointment: "The DMV director is one of the highest offices in state government. Jean's appointment is a terrific professional achievement, but in a larger sense it provides an exceptional professional role model for ambitious Asian Pacific Islanders that they too -- with intelligence, hard work, and sacrifice can make it to the top levels of a large state department."

Jean encourages state employees to join organizations like APSEA and to become involved. She explained further, "Volunteer to be on a committee or to become an officer; this will enhance your leadership and management skills. Promote the mission and vision of your department. Be willing to take on challenges, be collaborative, and be visionary. Always network when presented the opportunity." Her 'call to action' to other employees is part of her mantra and her personal core values that she has followed throughout her career with the state.

Jean suggests to younger state employees to consider setting time frames on how long to stay at

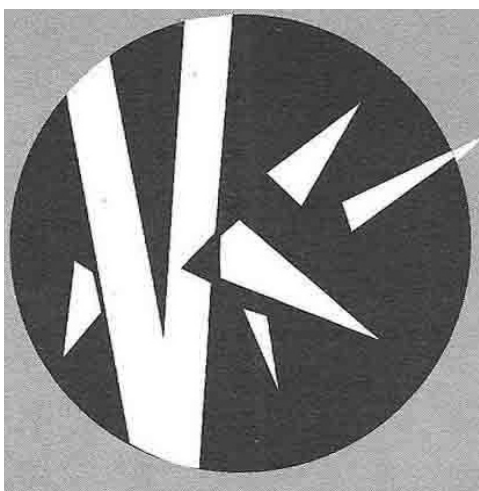


each position. "Move on after three or four years," she explained. "Do something different. When you get comfortable in a job, it's time to move on." She credits a mentor for this approach, which has proven key to her successes at DMV. She also suggests that employees should find guidance from others. "Find a good mentor who will push you, because without the 'push', you won't want to get out of your comfort zone." As she puts, "You get complacent in one job after a few years. You need to push yourself and strive for new challenges. That's the way to be successful." She said that while she had been passed over for promotional opportunities, she used these rejections to motivate her to continue to excel, work hard, and exceed management expectations.

Her final suggestion to state employees is to look at each job and manager as an opportunity for learning and growth. Jean said, "You can't pick your manager; you can learn from every manager -- even the ones who are tougher to work for."

Over the years, Jean has demonstrated her passion, dedication, and commitment to the DMV, her family, and the greater community. Her contributions to all continue, and she has been and will continue to be a leader and asset to all -- the DMV is in good hands.

*Lorna M. Fong is a retired state employee and lifetime ASPEA member.*



## Navigating Leadership 2014

Continued from Page 3

Navigating Leadership 2014 is comprised of an uncommon group of volunteers (Government and Private Sector) that come together to design, build, manage and guide the direction of all Navigating Leadership Activities. If you are interested in serving as a member of a sub-committee and you are compelled to contribute your best, please email our program chair, Rebekah Christensen at rebekahchristensen@gmail.com.

**Programmatic Background Information: (2012-2013)** To better understand the context of Navigating Leadership's 2014 platform, it's important to understand the foundation, e.g., the "building blocks" that took us to today.

**2012 Navigating Leadership:** Through the involvement of 31 state leadership and constitutional members, 8 Agency Secretaries, numerous department directors and the involvement of 51 unique departments in state government, this year-long effort culminated in a one-day symposium. The depth of planning resulted in generating Navigating Leadership's inaugural panoramic view of state government that spanned the breadth of 8 agencies from the perspective of opportunities found in the context of challenge and change. Likewise, a fully integrated view of tools and approaches and best practices in EEO was provided. The program's operating framework mirrored the integration of the virtual accelerating society government serves.

**2013 Navigating Leadership:** The Conversations in Leadership Series was designed to explore that Leadership is less about "power" and more about influence. It is a calling for each of us to stand up and contribute our personal best. It's about becoming the person we were meant to be, of breaking down the barriers that limit us; it's about challenging our fears to take the next step and the one after that. It is less where we are in the hierarchy and more about disposition, choice, action and follow-through in the area of our strengths. It has less to do with how others define us and more to do with the perspective from which we view ourselves, our life and equally how we take action from where we stand. A certainty of a virtual society is that each of us can become more visible -- meaning that the acceleration of technology will create transparent playing fields where we can be seen for the contributions we make. To "frame" each Conversation in Leadership, the workshop featured the "back story" of those presenting; e.g., their background and journey, insights and philosophies (their driving motivational force to serve), their approach to leadership, their challenges and opportunities, etc. With this snapshot in place these collaborative forums opened for the interaction of all attending. Comprehensive training videos are provided on APSEA's YouTube Station.

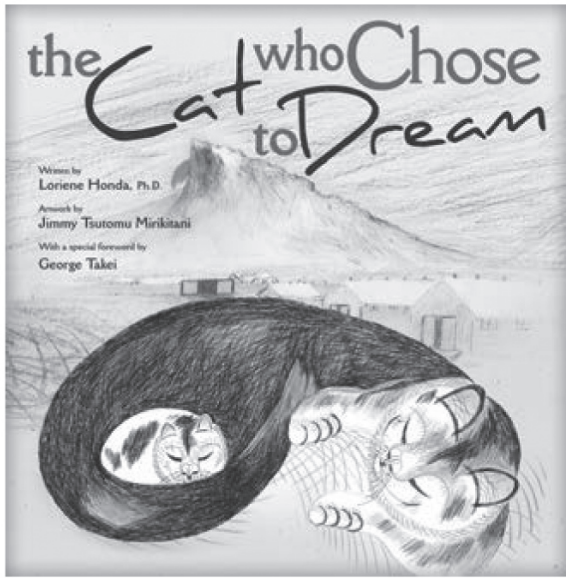
**For More Information:** To view the numerous live links referenced in this article, or to obtain more information on Navigating Leadership 2014, go to [www.apsea.org](http://www.apsea.org) or contact Rebekah Christensen, Chair, at [rebekahjchristensen@gmail.com](mailto:rebekahjchristensen@gmail.com).



## The Cat Who Chose to Dream Hearing The Silent

### Plea

By Derrick Lim, YeeBrew Productions



Author: Lorlene Honda, Ph.D.  
 Artist: Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani  
 Foreword: George Takei  
 Publisher: Martin Pearl Publishing  
 Cover Price: \$17.99

Release Date: January 30, 2014

Topics: Japanese American Internment/Prison Camps, Incarceration, Ways to Cope with Trauma

**Description of Book:** *The Cat Who Chose to Dream* shares the story of a cat's choice to be incarcerated at a World War II prison camp as a gesture of loving support to the Japanese American family to whom he belongs. We witness through the cat's eyes the devastating condition of the camp, as well as the sense of injustice he feels seeing his family go through this demoralizing experience. Young readers also share in the cat's triumph over feelings of hopelessness and anger, as they witness the cat's use of breathing and visualization exercises that help transport his creative mind to a place in his heart where he no longer feels encumbered and restrained, but self-empowered and free.

Through the beautiful artwork of Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani, and the inclusion of therapeutic relaxation and visualization techniques, Child Psychologist Lorlene Honda demonstrates how the imaginative mind can prove to be one's most powerful tool in surpassing adversity.

**About the Author:** Lorlene Honda, whose own father was held at the Manzanar "Relocation" Center as a young teenager, is a child and adolescent psychologist who received her training and education at Harvard University and Columbia University. For over 12 years, she has worked first as a clinician and later as Clinical Director of Child Haven, a family mental health agency specializing in the care and treatment of children who suffer from the effects of physical abuse and neglect. In much of her work with traumatized children, Dr. Honda uses art as a way of helping children gain some safe distance from the painful impact of their haunting memories and as a tool with which they can finally heal. Dr. Honda has a private practice in Davis, where she resides with her husband and their three children.

**About the Artwork:** Artist Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani was born in Sacramento, California in 1920 and raised in Hiroshima, Japan. He began making art when he was only 6 years old, and studied with renowned artists Gyokudo Kawai and Buzan Kimura. During WWII, his art career was forcibly interrupted and he was incarcerated at the Tule Lake Segregation Center in northern California for nearly four years. After the war, he made his way to New York City to resume his career in art. In 2001, filmmaker Linda Hattendorf found him living homeless on a street corner in Soho. Her award-winning documentary, "The Cats of Mirikitani," (2006) brought attention to his story and his art. Mirikitani died in 2012.

To order books, contact Martin Pearl Publishing, [www.MartinPearl.com](http://www.MartinPearl.com), [marketing@MartinPearl.com](mailto:marketing@MartinPearl.com)

A new generation of students and community heard the compelling story of the silent plea of innocence from former death row inmate Chol Soo Lee and veteran activists who were the foundation of a pioneering pan-Asian movement that freed Lee 30 years ago.

Over 100 students and members of the community at Kardia United Methodist Church in Los Angeles on December 7, 2013 listened intently to Chol Soo Lee movement organizers: Tom Byun (Korea Times LA journalist), Warren Furutani (social justice activist), Grace Kim (Davis high school teacher), Chol Soo Lee (death row inmate convicted of San Francisco Chinatown gang murder), K.W. Lee (Sacramento Union investigative journalist), Mike Suzuki (law school student), and Jai Lee Wong (community activist), as UC Davis Professor Richard Kim moderated.

The Chol Soo Lee case is an episodic drama of failed justice, mistaken identity, and selfless determination. Lee, a Korean immigrant, and at the time of the 1973 Yip Yee Tak San Francisco Chinatown gang murder, was short in height with a full mustache. He did not remotely fit the physical description of the alleged murderer, or streetwise notion that Chinatown gangs did not involve non-Chinese in their affairs. Yet Lee was described as Chinese in court records and ultimately convicted of the murder by white tourist eyewitness testimony.

It wasn't until the persistence of Lee's third generation Japanese American friend, Ranko Yamada, who persuaded Sacramento Union investigative journalist, K.W. Lee, to look into the matter that the situation took a dramatic turn. K.W. Lee's 1978 award winning investigative stories legitimated the assertion that something was terribly wrong with the Tak Chinatown gang murder case. The articles motivated a small group of Koreans to meet in the Davis living room of Grace and Dr. Luke Kim to start a Chol Soo Lee defense committee, which quickly lead to a pan-Asian movement of other defense committees across the nation and abroad.

Lee's Chinatown gang murder conviction was overturned in 1983 after four years of organizing, legal work, and tireless fundraising. The irony was justice was not served because Lee was not able to credibly fight his second murder conviction. The (self-defense) killing of Morrison Needham, an Aryan Brotherhood prison inmate, occurred while Lee was serving time at Deuel Vocational Institute for the Tak murder. Lee appeared to be an easy mark to rivaling ethnic gangs at Deuel because of his small stature and scant presence of other Asian inmates. The exhausted volunteer pan-Asian movement did not have the energy to take on another protracted legal defense or another significant fundraising campaign to pay for it.

Once out of prison, Lee and dwindling defense committee members struggled to adjust to each other. Both were equally unprepared and overwhelmed by their new roles. Lee also made bad choices that made him a repeat offender. The situation proved no match for defense committee members unaccustomed to the darker side of gritty street life or daunting challenges of social work issues facing an ex-offender.

The forum's title, *Hearing The Silent Plea*, draws inspiration from Lee's poem, *A Silent Plea*, in *Amerasia Journal*, 31:3, Fall 2005. The poem reveals a somber time for Lee as he reflected on his ten years in prison for a Chinatown gang murder he did not commit.

*Hearing The Silent Plea* coincided with the release of *Amerasia Journal*, 39:3, Fall 2013, *Freedom For Chol Soo Lee*. Lee was determined

to thank defense committee members for years of selfless support to overturn his wrongful conviction. The journal commentaries speak to the significance of the Chol Soo Lee case, the movement, and the meaningful impact both had on the lives of key defense committee members.

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center, UC Davis Department of Asian American Studies, K.W. Lee Center for Leadership, and Young Oak Kim Center for Korean American Studies at UC Riverside hosted the forum.

The forum was co-sponsored by Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles, Asian American Studies Graduate Student Association, and the Asian and Pacific Islander Undergraduate Association.

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center's Korea Times-Hankook Ilbo Endowed Chair in Korean American Studies and Law, and the Yugi Ichioka and Emma Gee Endowment in Social Justice and Immigration Studies provided generous support.

Past forums at UC Davis (September 25, 1997 and February 22, 2006), UCLA School of Law (April 7, 2007), and San Francisco State University (March 14, 2008) show that interest and support for Lee's arduous legal plight and the historic movement that freed him are still strong.

Digital archives are growing. Lee's memoir is in progress.

Chol Soo Lee's anguished plea and its answer now have a stronger voice above the din for future generations to hear and build upon.

*Derrick Lim, an alumnus of the UCLA Asian American Studies program, wrote his thesis on the Chol Soo Lee movement.*

## Help others – help yourself!

Continued from Page 5

sharing my vast experience and knowledge with others."

Jeff Jong worked for a local television station as a production designer and cameraman for several years. Moving on to information technology, he wrote computer programs and systems, and managed various other projects. Renewing his interest in the visual arts, he took photography and film college courses and, after retiring from state service, received his second degree in Film Studies (film history, theory, and production) from CSUS. His interest with ACC began as a volunteer for the Respite Program and later as an instructor for ACC's ESL off-site program. According to Jeff, "I enjoy supporting ACC's commitment to Lifelong Learning and Wellness by teaching and contributing photographs and videos for ACC."

Volunteering is a great way to help others, as well as yourself! ACC Senior Services Center needs more volunteer instructors in many areas -- fitness, arts, culture, dance, and especially computer technology. We also need office assistants, interpreters, and ACC Rides escorts and drivers. Learn more at a Volunteer Orientation, held every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at ACC Senior Services Administration. For more information, contact Khonnie Lattasima, Volunteer Manager, at 916/394-6399, Ext. 143, [volunteer@accsv.org](mailto:volunteer@accsv.org) or visit our website at [www.accsv.org](http://www.accsv.org).





## Confucius Institute on dumplings and Year of the Horse

The UC Davis Confucius Institute has launched a series of hands on workshops on the making of dumplings. The next scheduled dumpling taking sessions are on Fridays, January 24, February 7, 21, and March 7 from 6-8pm at the Food Innovation Laboratory, Sensory Building of the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science on the UC Davis campus. The sessions are free. Register with Sheena Link at 530/754-1236, selink@ucdavis.edu

The Confucius Institute is also celebrating the Year of the Horse with free food samplings, cultural activities, and performances. Register for your chance to win awesome prizes like gift certificates, VIP entry to Confucius Institute workshops, UC Davis swag, and more! This event is free and open to the public. Admission to the event is by invitation and the activities will be on Friday January 31st, 1130am to 1pm in the Griffin Lounge, Memorial Union (1st floor), UC Davis. Request your free invitation from Sheena Link, Confucius Institute at UC Davis, 530/754-1236, selink@ucdavis.edu.



L-R Tillie Fong, Eileen Leung, Professor Floyd Shimomura, Marilyn Yong, Elizaabeth Xiu Wong

## 23 food things only Chinese American kids would understand

The Huffington Post  
By Renee Jacques  
Posted 12-12-2013

The Chinese culture in the United States has a very unique food scene, and if you're a kid who has grown up in a Chinese household, you know that things were kind of different for you growing up. Most families incorporate American traditions with longstanding Chinese ones to create a very interesting hybrid of customs.

However, there are some strong Chinese traditions that withstand. If you grew up in the U.S. with Chinese parents, you know that going out to banquet dinners is an experience only a seasoned Chinese-American could understand. And you know that you really just can't be a picky eater if you want to gain any respect from your elders. For goodness sake, there are chicken feet on the table. Here are the 23 food things that only Chinese American kids would understand.

1. Baos make the best snack ever. Specifically baos (steamed buns with meat or vegetable filling) packed with char siu (Chinese roasted barbecue pork).



2. Or you could just snack on some char siu all on its own. In fact, you could probably eat a whole carton if nobody stops you...

3. The best sweet indulgence is an egg tart. You may know them as "dan tats." Whatever you call them, these pastries filled with egg custard are baked to a creamy perfection.

4. Dim sum never ever ends. The fun doesn't stop at this Chinese lunch until your family has grabbed every steamer basket full of every kind of dumplings



ever.

5. You've had your tenth cup of tea already. And don't forget: You always pour it for everyone else at the table before you pour it for yourself.

6. Knowing how to use chopsticks is essential to earn family approval. From the moment you are able to talk, you should also know how to use chopsticks perfectly. No excuses.

7. You can't stop staring at the crazy fish tanks in the restaurant. Yes, the lobster and eel you are eating right now were just in those tanks an hour ago...

8. You always have to sit at the kid's table at the restaurant. Don't worry, you'll have more fun there... and you'll get more food!

9. When you grow up, you know to bring your own Tsing Tao beer to dinner. It's BYOB at these restaurants.

10. It is very important to learn how to navigate the Lazy Susan. Once the waiter brings the plate to the Lazy Susan, all hands are on deck. If you aren't fast, you may have to wait a long time before that food hits your plate.

11. You always put red rice vinegar in your cream corn soup. If you don't, you're just doing it all wrong.

12. This is the best taco in the whole world. Forget about Mexican tacos. You know that juicy Peking duck wrapped in a fluffy bun "taco shell" and doused with duck sauce is way better.

13. You get nervous when the whole fish arrives... Because someone is going to eat the eye.

14. If you're a vegetarian, this bean curd roll is

your best friend. You gobble these up like your life depended on it. After all -- aside from rice -- there's not much else you can eat on the menu.

15. Someone always feels the need to order the sweet and sour pork... And you then feel the need to roll your eyes (even though you'll definitely take a bite).

16. Bok choy is always an acceptable replacement for any green vegetable. Have fun with your Brussels sprouts and kale, we'll take this delicious cabbage over those any day. Check out the recipe for this "Garlic Ginger Bok Choy" from Elana's Pantry.

17. Orange slices make the best palate cleanser. There's nothing more refreshing than a few fresh slices after a big dinner.

18. If someone in your family just gave birth, she may have been told to eat pig's feet soup. The Chinese believe pig's feet soup warms the body from the inside out and that the iron and calcium from the pig's feet mixed with the vinegar helps to purify a new mother's blood.

19. White rice serves as the main starch for most of your meals. This is eaten instead of pasta, bread or any other carb. Always.

20. Oyster sauce can be used on anything. You definitely know the simple pleasure of eating white rice and oyster sauce.

21. Your grandmother knows how to make the best jook. No food ever goes to waste. In fact, your grandma used the Thanksgiving turkey to make the most delicious congee or jook (rice porridge).





## Chinese American Council of Sacramento (CACCS)-Gold Mountain Celebration

By Honey Lum and Karun Yee

On October 4, 2013, CACS awarded Dr. Donna Yee, Chief Executive Officer, and the Asian Community Center - Senior Services of Sacramento the Frank Fat Founders Award for their contribution to enriching the lives of many who have benefitted from participating in their services and programs which are designed to promote healthy-living and balanced life. Over 250 people attended the event at the Happy Garden Restaurant to also induct Mr. Philip P. Choy, retired architect, community activist and renowned historian of Chinese American Studies to the CACS' Hall of Fame. He is the author of San Francisco Chinatown: Guide to Its History and Architecture (2012), Canton Footprints: Sacramento Chinese Legacy (2007) and The Coming Man: 19th Century Perceptions of the Chinese (1994). In July 2013, CACS will host a trip to San Francisco Chinatown to enjoy a lecture given by Mr. Choy.

The funds raised by CACS for this event and other activities throughout the year, help to promote and fund projects for youth and educational development: 1) Cares for Kids where CACS has purchased and supplied various elementary schools located in disadvantaged and low-performing schools

### Kids would understand



22. If it's September, you're eating mooncakes. These cakes are traditionally eaten during the Mid-Autumn Festival. They are stuffed with fillings that include five kernels: lotus seed paste, sweet bean paste, jujube paste and egg yolk. They are imprinted with the Chinese symbols for "longevity" and "harmony." [These were made with lotus seed.]

23. When someone thinks Chinese food is the same thing as takeout, you just shake your head. They have a lot of learning to do. General Tso's chicken and beef and broccoli are NOT real Chinese dishes, thank you very much.

Check the Huffington Post website for the original article and all the yummy food shots.



with supplies for students and teachers, and 2) Operation Santa Claus where CACS partners with the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center (Center) to purchase gifts and toys to children of disadvantaged families who otherwise cannot afford to buy those themselves. The CACS thanks the following who contributed at the Gold Mountain Celebration (GMC) to support these and other programs: Frank Fats Family & Restaurants, Asian Community Center, Cache Creek Casino Resort, Hefner, Stark & Marois, LLP, APAPA, APSEA, Asian Resources, CAPITAL, County Supervisor Jimmie Yee, General Produce Company, OCA Sacramento, Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation, SCCSC, and Law Offices of Jerry Chong & Alice Wong.

### CACS Operation Santa Claus 2013

The CACS celebrates the holiday season with our annual gift giving presentation in conjunction with the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center. Every year we have raised funds to enable our volunteers to shop for those children in disadvantaged areas and present a holiday program with Santa Claus. This year we identified 88 families in need. The John Still Middle School multipurpose room was the site of our festivities on Friday, December 13, 2013.

The process started in November with a kick off-orientation breakfast at Aviator's restaurant for our volunteers who chose their families. The following schools were represented: AM Winn, Caroline Wenzel, Earl Warren, John Bidwell, John Still Elementary, Nicholas, Woodbine, and Ann's program. Along with our program, family portraits were taken, snacks and activities were provided – a big thank you to the Service Center staff for coordinating this part of the day's activities. Of course the star of our show was Santa Claus - alias Franc Martinez.

We couldn't do this without our dedicated volunteer shoppers and CACS helpers: June and Ashlee Fong, Joyce and Bill Tom, Wendy Okuda, Pearl Chang and John Cho, Susan Kwong, Deanne Yabumoto-Ng, Joan Hirose, Kim and Pete Rabbon, Janet, Doug, Jennifer and Stephanie Louie, Cindy Won-Nakata, Ping Pamela Liu, Rui Ren Erickson, Christine Fong, Cynthia Kubo, Helen and Mike Fong, Boni Chan (of Concord, CA), Franc Martinez, Cathy Wei and Steve Peterson, Honey Lum, Merlayna Yee Chin and Frank Chin, Mary Hughes, Charlie Moy, Brenda and Brian Fong, Joyce and Alex Eng, and Karun Yee.



Annie Leong and Karun Yee coordinated this project between the two organizations. This annual event reminds us the special purpose of sharing and giving, from the heart to family and friends, is what the holiday season is about. We are so blessed to have the opportunity to give back to our Sacramento community. Your generous contributions are welcome; please send any monetary donation to CACS - Care for Kids or Operation Santa Claus – Attention: Karun Yee, P.O. 22583, Sacramento 95822. Please visit us on the web at [www.cacsweb.org](http://www.cacsweb.org). Please contact Karun Yee at (916) 591-8181 for information about CACS. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer to help at planning or attending our events.

### Calendar of Events for 2014 - CACS

March 23 - Membership Appreciation Luncheon - Holiday Villa – 12-noon

April 6 - Author/Lecture - Happy Garden - 12 noon

May 18 - Pacific Rim Street Festival

July 12 - Trip to San Francisco/Lecture - Philip Choy

August 2014 - Care for Kids

October 3 - Gold Mountain Celebration - Happy Garden Restaurant

December - Operation Santa Claus





## The Railway Man

Tortured by the Japanese in WW2, what happened when a former POW met his chief tormentor again 50 years later

By Lee Rimmer

Posted on 10 Oct 2012

Eric Lomax, who died on Monday aged 93, was starved, viciously beaten and tortured as a prisoner of the Japanese during WW2. Fifty years later, he was to meet his chief tormentor again.

An account of his story published in the Reader's Digest in 1994 generated such interest that, a year later, he published his own memoir called *The Railway Man*.

Eric Lomax was born in Edinburgh on 30 May 1919. Just before the outbreak of World War 2 in 1939, aged 19, he joined the Royal Corps of Signals. Commissioned in December 1940, he was posted to Malaya in 1941, but his unit was soon in full retreat to Singapore, where he was captured by the Japanese in February 1942. With thousands of his fellow prisoners, he undertook a forced march to Changi Prison, and was then transported 1,200 miles to Kanchanaburi, Thailand, and forced to work on the notorious Burma-Siam Railway.

By day, the prisoners laboured in temperatures exceeding 38°C. By night, they slept on wooden planks in dismal bamboo huts. Nearly all the men were depleted from malnutrition and disease, and they were dying by the score.

To obtain war news, Lomax and a few other prisoners had secretly built a radio receiver from scrap materials they collected. They concealed it in a coffee tin and huddled around it at night. Lomax also drew a map of the area around the railway to aid in possible escape attempts, gaining information from truck drivers, new prisoners, and Japanese maps whenever he had access to camp offices. He hid his map in the latrine. The radio went undetected for a few months until one morning when the Japanese conducted a surprise search of the huts. It was discovered under the bunk of another prisoner, whose immediate punishment was to swing a 270lb sledgehammer onto a block of wood for hours at a time.

A few weeks later, Lomax and 4 of his radio 'co-conspirators' were ordered to gather their belongings to move to another camp in Kanchanaburi. Lomax ducked into the latrine and grabbed the map. When they arrived at the new camp, the prisoners were thrown to the ground and their meagre possessions ransacked. A guard found Lomax's map and they were ordered to stand at attention all day in the scorching sun, without food or water. Finally, that night, one of the prisoners was ordered to raise his arms above his head. A soldier swung the wooden handle of a pickaxe down across the man's back, knocking him to the ground. Other guards joined in, beating and kicking the man until he appeared lifeless. Another prisoner was similarly beaten. Lomax was next. Within seconds he was slammed to the ground, and his mouth filled with blood. He felt boot heels on the back of his head, crunching his face into the gravel. He heard the crack of his own bones. The beating went on until he lost consciousness.

When Lomax woke the next morning, his body was numb. The other four men were sprawled nearby, groaning. They lay under the fierce sun for two days before fellow POWs were sent to carry them to the camp hospital, where a Dutch doctor treated them as best he could. Lomax was in the worst condition. His nose, arms, right hip and several ribs were broken. Bruises covered his body. "You men suffered the most horrendous beatings I have ever witnessed," the doctor said. "I counted 900 blows over six hours."

Two weeks after the beatings, with his arms

encased in splints and bandages, Lomax was driven to the Japanese military-police headquarters in Kanchanaburi. There, he was locked in a 5ft cage that soon became full of red ants, mosquitoes and his own filth.

Eventually, he was brought before a shaven-headed NCO, "his face full of violence" and an "almost delicate" interpreter, Takashi Nagase, for interrogation. In fluent English, Nagase accused Lomax of 'anti-Japanese activities' and stated that he would be 'killed shortly'. Lomax remembered it as, "a flat neutral piece of information... I had just been sentenced to death by a man my own age who seemed completely indifferent to my fate. I had no reason to doubt him."

Nagase said to Lomax, "We know you were involved in building and operating the radio – your friends confessed to your part in it. Now tell us: Who else was involved?" Lomax refused to tell them. They wanted to know why Lomax had secret map of the area around the railway, and where he had got the information to draw it. Unsurprisingly, his explanation that he was a railway enthusiast who had simply mapped it for pleasure on his own devices did not convince them.

The interrogation went on for hours, then days. Nagase was always on hand as interpreter. Eventually the military policemen began to slap Lomax, and then deliver repeated blows to his face as his silence continued. When the policemen stalked out of the room momentarily, Nagase whispered to Lomax, "If you confess, they'll stop beating you." But Lomax remained defiant.

On the 5th day of interrogation, Lomax was accused of being a spy – a crime punishable by death. When Nagase told him he had to sign a confession, Lomax again refused. Lomax was dragged out to the banks of the River Kwai and was laid on his back on a bench. One of his broken arms was pulled behind his back, the other across his chest, and he was tied down. He was in agony.

"Are you ready to talk?" Nagase asked. Lomax shook his head.

A towel was put over his mouth and nose. Then one of the guards picked up a long rubber hose, turned a faucet on full force, and directed the stream onto the towel. The water soaked through, blocking Lomax's mouth and nose. He gagged and frantically gasped for breath as water filled his throat. His stomach began to swell. He was drowning on dry land. When the towel was finally removed and Lomax had recovered from his delirium, he still refused to confess and name his confederates. The water torture began once more. At times, Lomax ended up crying out for his mother, unaware that she had died soon after his capture.

The interrogation and torture finally stopped after more than a week. The Japanese had brought Lomax as close to death as possible, yet he showed no signs of giving in. Nagase informed Lomax that he was being transferred out of the camp. Expressing empathy with the prisoner, Nagase said, "Keep your chin up."

It had no effect on Lomax, who was consumed with hatred for Nagase. In Lomax's mind, Nagase personified all the atrocities committed by the Japanese. His was the voice that Lomax heard hour after hour, when the torture began and ended. During the interrogations, Lomax memorized every feature of Nagase's face: the dark eyes, the small nose, the broad forehead. He wanted to remember him, and someday find him and make him pay.

Lomax was tried in a court in Bangkok for his 'crimes' and sentenced him to 5 years' hard labour. He was sent to a disease-ridden prison in Singapore and twice feigned injury in order to be sent to hospital. He stayed there until the war ended,

when his suffering appeared to be over.

When Lomax finally returned home to Britain, he learned that his mother had died three years before, and his father had remarried. He was relieved to find, however, that his fiancée had waited for him. They married three weeks after his arrival, and Lomax's life seemed to settle into a comfortable routine. He retired from the army in 1948, worked abroad for some years and later got a job teaching personnel management at Strathelyde University in Glasgow. He also became the father of two girls.

But his wartime past wouldn't leave him. The fractured bones in his right arm and wrist never set properly, making it painful for him to write. He also had frequent nightmares in which he would see Nagase's face and hear his voice. He refused to talk about the war, reasoning that nobody would understand. He would lose his temper over trivial matters, such as bureaucratic requests for personal information. When his wife asked him what was wrong, Lomax remained tight-lipped and sullen. Finally the marriage ended.

In 1983, at the age of 64, Lomax married Patricia Wallace, a 46-year-old nurse. Patti understood that her husband's angry outbursts were related to his wartime experiences and assumed things would get better with time. Unfortunately, matters grew worse and the flashbacks continued. He even once refused to take a seat in a restaurant because a Japanese couple was eating nearby. At his wife's urging, Lomax contacted the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, and began treatments with a psychiatrist, talking about his experiences as a POW. But, he remained darkly obsessed with his torturers, especially the interpreter. He located and wrote other British survivors of Kanchanaburi, requesting information about the camp officials. Nothing came of his efforts. Then, in October 1989, a friend gave Lomax a newspaper clipping about the publication of *Crosses and Tigers*, a book by Takashi Nagase.

To Lomax's amazement, the article explained how "the author has flashbacks of the Japanese military police in Kanchanaburi torturing a POW accused of possessing a map. One of their methods was to pour large amounts of water down his throat." The article spoke of Nagase's remorse over Japanese atrocities and his public acts of atonement to the victims.

Lomax got a copy of Nagase's book and found it very painful to read, especially the details of his interrogation and torture. His wife suggested that he write to Nagase. Lomax refused, but gave her grudging permission to send a letter on her own.

"I have just finished reading your book," Patti wrote. "My husband is the man you describe being tortured so terribly". She went on to say he had lived with many unanswered questions all these years and ended with a request: "if you are willing, perhaps you would correspond with my husband?"

Patti Lomax was moved to tears by Nagase's reply. "I have suffered tremendous guilt all these years," he wrote. "I have often prayed I would meet your husband again and be able to seek forgiveness for what I assisted in."

Convinced of Nagase's sincerity, Patti suggested to her husband that he should write himself. While Lomax was extremely reluctant to contact the very object of his hatred, Patti gently suggested, "Maybe it's time to step out of the darkness."

Eventually Lomax agreed that Nagase's remorse must be genuine and replied with a note, "Perhaps a meeting would be good for us. They agreed to meet at the World War 2 museum in Kanchanaburi on 26 March 1993 – almost 50 years after their first encounter.

Continued on Page 11



## The Railway Man

Continued from Page 10

Lomax travelled to the Far East with Patti. On the day of the meeting, he nervously paced about the museum's terrace. Then he saw a slight Japanese man walking towards him. The face was much older, but still instantly recognisable. The former interpreter identified Lomax just as quickly. When Nagase reached Lomax, he bowed deeply. "I am so very sorry," he said softly. "I would like..." His voice cracked, and he began to cry. On instinct, Lomax put out his hand, and Nagase clasped it tightly. They sat together in silence on a nearby bench. Finally Lomax spoke, "Do you remember what you told me when we last met?"

"No, I don't," Nagase replied.

"You said, 'Keep your chin up.'" Lomax paused, then smiled.

The tension began to vanish. Over the next three days, the men talked about their lives since the war. Their rapport grew easier with time.

The day before they were to part, the two men sat across from each other in silence. Then Lomax handed Nagase a letter he had written the night before. "I think you'd like to have this," he said.

Nagase unfolded the page and read the words, "Although I can't forget the ill treatment at Kanchanaburi, taking into account your change of heart, your apologies, the work you are doing, please accept my total forgiveness."

Nagase looked up and grasped Lomax's hand. Both men had tears in their eyes.

"I've learned that hate is a useless battle," Lomax said, "and it has to end sometime."

The two men went on to become firm friends, and their remarkable story of reconciliation has been turned into a film, starring Colin Firth as Eric Lomax, with Nicole Kidman playing his wife. Sadly, Mr Lomax will not now see the film's release – The Railway Man – in 2014.

## Bus 44-Award Winning True Short Film

"Bus 44" (2001) was the first Chinese short film to win an award in the history of Venice Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival. "Bus 44" was the first-ever Chinese short film to be selected for the Cannes Film Festival Directors' Fortnight.

Based on a true story, Bus 44 takes place on the outskirts of a small town, a bus driver (Gong) and her passengers encounter highway robbers.

"Bus 44" carries a universal theme that travels across all boundaries and societies, trespassing the dark side and bright side of human behavior.

However, it is most applicable to the Chinese society, where "doing nothing" or wu wei is an important concept that enforces bystanders not to get involved and is one of the aspects of Chinese character least understandable from both Western and generally human (non-Han) point of view.

Check out this very moving film at <http://www.youtube.com/embed/CK4TUP0VKLY?feature=youtu.be>



Happy New Year - Year of the Horse

## New clinic provides immunization counseling to area parents

UC Davis Children's Hospital opened a new clinic in January to provide information and counseling to parents who are considering choosing not to immunize their children.

The Immunization Information Clinic will open Tuesday mornings in the Glassrock Building, 2521 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento.

The clinic was created in response to the new state law, effective January 1, 2014, which requires parents to get a medical practitioner's signature to enroll their children in school without immunizing them.

Dean Blumberg, chief of pediatric infectious diseases at UC Davis, started the clinic to assist parents without a primary care provider or those with a health provider who refuses to sign the form.

"Parents are making an important decision for their loved ones, and we want to offer them resources and let them know about the risks and benefits," said Blumberg, who will be staffing the clinic along with pediatric nurse practitioner Lisa Ashley. "Having this dialogue with parents is valuable, even if the parent still opts to not immunize."

According to the California Department of Public Health, the number of kindergarten students in the state who are not vaccinated due to a personal belief exemption has increased annually over the past decade.

To make an appointment, contact 916/734-3112. Appointments must be scheduled in advance. The cost of a visit will be \$25 per child, and health insurance will not be billed.

## LGBT orgs to march in 2014 Tet Parade in Orange County

The Vietnamese American Federation of Southern California voted to allow LGBT organizations to march in the 2014 Tet Festival in Westminster, the same parade such groups were banned from last year and had been demonized in previous years. The vote comes after an earlier vote banning the organizations from this year's festival. However, a re-vote was scheduled following a meeting moderated by Westminster Mayor Tri Ta and Councilmember Sergio Contreras between members of the federation and Viet Rainbow of Orange County (VROC), a non-profit organization working towards equity and unity in the Vietnamese diaspora.

"I think the outcome was great," said Phong Ly, former president of UVSA (Union of Vietnamese Students Association of Southern California, the group that holds the largest Tet festival in the country) and president of Phan Boi Chan Youth Association. "Some people have called it a victory, but I don't think it's a victory for one group or individual. It a victory, a big step forward for our community that we can open our hearts to love."

The final vote was 51 votes for inclusion versus 36 against, with 10 abstaining. Earlier in 2013, the federation voted 21-47-7, excluding LGBT groups. In 2012, the federation voted unanimously to ban the groups from marching, drawing protests from LGBT allies. Before 2012, the City of Westminster organized the event.

## Social Media

By Randadll Ishida

BFF WBU IDK .....these are some "clean" terminology in today's social media. Communicating with friends and the media or whoever is the trend of today's technology through iPhones iPads PCs email and what-not. It is amazing how information is transposed from one end to the other and sometimes in the end run can be distorted. Many of these devices didn't exist during our parents and grandparents times...even more so about some years ago. The Chinese working on the rail roads couldn't contact a friend to meet them for lunch. All of these devices would've been considered contraband during WW2 when the Japanese-Americans were forced into concentration relocation camps. One had to write a letter to communicate with an out-of-towner. There was no guarantee that it would reach if in a timely manner. The acronyms that people come up these days is still mystery to all. You would think one makes them up as they go along. Yet this is a way to communicate to get the word out.

BFF (best friend forever) WBU (what aBout you) IDK (I don't know) .....in this case IMC (I'm confused) .....here Is another IOL (laughing out loud) .....so in a nutshell that is how one communicates these days.

## Campus Climate Committee to combat hate crimes

Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez (D-Los Angeles) on January 8<sup>th</sup> announced the creation of the Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate, which will investigate issues pertaining to student welfare on college campuses. Assemblymember Shirley N. Weber (D-San Diego), who worked as a professor and department chair at San Diego State University for 40 years, will chair the Committee.

"Over these past few years we have seen too many incidents on California college campuses perpetrated by people with malicious intent to harm or demean others," said Speaker Pérez. "We need to act vigorously to ensure that our campuses are welcoming to all and reflective of the rich diversity of this great state. I have faith that Dr. Weber and the Select Committee on Campus Climate will work hard to examine the environment at California colleges and universities, so that we can learn how to prevent these terrible incidences from occurring again."

The Select Committee on Campus Climate will evaluate system-wide and campus-wide policies and practices for responding to student harassment and hate crimes and determine what needs to be done to improve campus climate for California students. The date of the first subcommittee meeting is to be announced.

The announcement follows the charging of four white students with hate-crime harassment of a black student at San Jose State. Allegedly they blockaded the door to his dorm room, forced a collar around his neck, made a point of displaying the Confederate flag and referred to him as "three-fifths," a reference to the Constitutional provision (since amended) counting slaves as three-fifths of a person for the purposes of representation.

"It's clear from this particularly disturbing incident – one that harkens back to uglier times in our nation's history – that we still have a lot of work to do to ensure California's college campuses are safe and welcoming educational environments for every student," Dr. Weber said. "My committee colleagues and I will be holding hearings over the next year to explore the current campus climate for students throughout in CSU, UC and Community College systems and consider what policy changes are necessary to improve it."



## Calendar

Jan 24 Fri **Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce (SACC) 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation and Awards Dinner.** 530pm registration, 630pm program at Hyatt Regency Hotel (1209 L St, Sac). \$150-175/individual. Info: Alisa Alcantar aalcantar@sacasiancc.org

Jan 24, Feb 7, 21, March 7, 21 Fri **UC Davis Confucius Institute Dumpling Workshops.** 6-8pm at Food Innovation Lab, Sensory Building, Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science, UC Davis. Free. Registration required. Info: Sheena Link selink@ucdavis.edu, 530/754-1236

Jan 24 Fri **DHHS/DBHS's "Stopping Stigma in Sacramento: A Panel Discussion about Mental Illness."** 830-10am at Oak Park Community Center (3415 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Sac.) Panelists: Sac. Supervisor Don Nottoli, Sac County Office of Education Cheryl Raney, Sac. Native American Health Center Albert Titman Sr., UCD Health System Dr. Hendry Ton, Stop Stigma student Katie Williams. RSVP Raj Dhanda raj.dhanda@edelman.com.

Jan 28 Tue **Community Housing and Services Coalition Meeting,** a partnership of SMUD and Sac County Adult and Aging Commission. 930-11am at Sac. Sheriff's South Area Office Community Room (7000 65<sup>th</sup> St, Sac). Speaker: Tommy Turk of SMUD on keeping utility bills affordable, free home energy audits and no costs energy programs for eligible customers. Info: Cindy Gabriel/SMUD 916/732-6189, Alex Eng/Commission 916/424-1374.

Jan 30 **Fred Korematsu Day.** Born Jan 30, 1919, died March 30, 2005, Korematsu refused to go into the internment camps as ordered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt under Executive Order 9066. Korematsu refused because he was an American citizen and he felt that EO 9066 was illegal. His conviction was overturned when new evidence showed that there was no military necessity for the internment of 140,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans during WWII. He is considered the Rosa Parks of the Asian American community. Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proclaimed the first commemoration day in 2011.

Jan 31 **Application Deadline for Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment (CAPE) 14<sup>th</sup> Annual CAPE New Writers Fellowship.** 10 Fellows will receive \$1000 each and training from industry professionals. Sponsored by NBC Universal and Warner Bros. Info: info@capeusa.org

Feb 1 Sat **Muslin American Society (MAS) Community & Youth Center's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet "Time for Our New Home."** 5pm at Wackford Community & Aquatic Center (9014 Bruceville Rd, Elk Grove). Guest speaker Sh. Abedraouf Khawaldeh. Comedian Preacher Moss. \$20/adults, \$15/youth, \$5/children. Info: mcyc.elkgrove@gmail.com, 916/684-6292.

Feb 4 – **Sundance Documentary Fund application deadline.** Documentary filmmakers can apply for development, production and post-production grant awards \$10,000-\$50,000. Info: dfp@sundance.org.

Feb 6 Thu **Asian Resources Inc. 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Lunar Dinner.** 530pm social, 6pm program at Happy Garden Restaurant (5731 Stockton Blvd, Sac). \$75/person. Info: Thyan Pham 916/454-1892, thyan@asianresources.org

Feb 6 Thu **ACC Senior Services "POLST – Physician's Order for Life Sustaining Treatment."** 6-7pm at ACC Senior Services Center (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). Cynthia Wolff, RN, Director of Access & Outreach for Yolo Hospice, will be available to answer your questions about your loved ones who are facing the end of life. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org

Feb 11 Tue **ACC Senior Services Lunar New Year Potluck.** Noon-130pm. \$10/person or bring a dish to share. Info: www.accsv.org

Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9, May 7 Wed **ACC Senior Services Family Caregiver Support Group.** 12-1pm at ACC Senior Services Center (7375 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: Judie Higashi, RN, 916/393-9026 x336, jhigashi@accsv.org

Feb 13, Mar 13, Apr 10, May 8 Thu **ACC Senior Services Free Phone Bill Review.** 230-430pm at ACC Senior Services Center (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). Are you paying too much for phone service? Bring a recent phone bill (residential or wireless) to see if we can save you money! Info: Soojin Yoo, 916/393-9026 x338, team2@accsv.org

Feb 15 **What Adopted Children (and their parents) Need to Know,** a PACT series. Feb 15 for families with adoptees 2-5, April 5 6-9 year olds, May 17 tweens. Info: education@pactadopt.org.

Feb 18 Tue **My Sister's House Human Trafficking in Greater Sacramento.** University Union Ballroom, CSUS. Info on detecting, investigating and ending trafficking. Info: Rico Ozaki ricoomsh@gmail.com, 916/930-0626.

Feb 20 Thu **ACC Senior Services "Conversations About Dementia."** 230-4pm at ACC Senior Services Center (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). This workshop will offer tips on how to have honest and caring conversations with family members about common difficult conversations. Presenter: Bonnie Chow, Family Care Associate, Alzheimer's Association. Free. Pre-registration requested. Call: 800/272-3900, ptardio@alz.org.

Feb 22 Sat **Asian Community Center 6th Annual Crab Feed.** 6pm at SASF (9040 High Tech Ct, Elk Grove). \$60/person. Info: Lucy Mendoza 916/394-6399 X121, lucym@accsv.org

Feb 25 Tue **API Night at Sleep Train Arena – Sacramento Kings vs. Houston Rockets.** Tickets \$20-52. Info: Michael Ramos 916/928-3634, mramos@kings.com

Feb 27 Thu **ACC Senior Services "Senior Scams – Just Say No!"** 2:30-3:30pm at ACC Senior Services Center (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). Get the latest information on the different types of senior scams in our community and what you can do to avoid them. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org.

March 1-2 **Camellia Society of Sacramento 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Camellia Show.** 10am-6pm at the Memorial Auditorium (J St, Sac). Free. Matsuyama Sister City will be participating. Ikenobo Flower Arrangement School will be displaying ikebana flower arrangements.

Mar 5, 12, 19, 26, Apr 2, 9 Wed **ACC Senior Services "Healthy Living."** 1-330pm at ACC Senior Services Administration Office (7311 Greenhaven Dr, Ste. 187, Sac). Learn strategies to take control of your chronic conditions, lower your stress levels, and communicate better with your doctor. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org.

Mar 6 Thu **ACC Senior Services "Advance Health Care Directive."** 6-7pm at ACC Senior Services Center (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). Cynthia Wolff, RN, Director of Access & Outreach for Yolo Hospice, will help guide you through the process of creating an Advance Health Care Directive.

Mar 8 Sat **PACT an adoption alliance's The Heart of Adoption is Love workshop.** 830am-5pm, Oakland. Scholarships available. Information on preparing to adopt, attachment, international and transracial adoption, school and school-age adoption issues, older child placement, foster adoption, adolescent adoption issues, open adoption, family constellations, mental health and support presented by adult adoptees, birth parents and adoption

professionals. Info: education@pactadopt.org

Mar 8 Sat **Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) CAAMFeast: Stories, Food & You.** Honoring Asian American culinary achievements featuring Chef Martin Yan, Chocolatier Wendy Lieu (Socola Chocolates.) Venue: One Kearny Club (23 Geary St, SF.) Tickets \$175/early bird. Sponsorships available. Info: Vicki Shu vshu@caamedia.org, 415/863-0814 X123.

Mar 22 Sat **CAPITAL Meeting.** 830am at Sac. Sheriff's South Area Office Community Room (7000 65<sup>th</sup> St, Sac).

Mar 23 Sun **CACS Membership Appreciation Lunch.** Noon at Holiday Villa (7007 South Land Park, Sac). Info: www.cacsweb.org

Mar 27 Thu **ACC Senior Services "Identity Theft."** 230-330pm at ACC Senior Services Center (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). Learn how to protect your personal information and avoid becoming a victim of identity theft. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org.

April 6 Sun **CACS Author/Lecture.** Noon at Happy Garden Restaurant (5731 Stockton Blvd, Sac). Info: www.cacsweb.org

May 3 Sat **OCA Sacramento Dragon Boat Festival Celebration.** 530pm reception, 7-9pm gala at California Museum (1020 O St, Sac). Honoring My Sister's House, Full Circle Project/AAPI Ambassadors at CSUS. \$85/non-member, \$75/member, \$40/student. Sponsorships available. Info: Jinky Dolar jinky.dolar@crossingstv.com, 916/203-3707, Linda Ng lngjmh@sbcglobal.net, 916/996-3770.

May 8 Thu **ACC 8th Annual Golf Tournament. Teal Bend Golf Course.** Info: Don Morishita 916/424-2953, Lucy Mendoza 916/3994-6399, lmendoza@accsv.org

May 17 Sat **CAPITAL Meeting.** 830am at Sac. Sheriff's South Area Office Community Room (7000 65<sup>th</sup> St, Sac).

May 18 Sun **PACIFIC RIM STREET FEST.** The Planning Committee is looking for Asian Arts and Craft talent, food vendors, community outreach and sponsorship venues, volunteers and fresh ideas. Meetings are second Thursdays of each month. Info: Laurie Hensley, PO Box 22973 Sacramento 95822, 916/443-6223.

July 3-8 **PACT Family Camp,** a gathering of adoptive families with children of color. Granlibakken Conference Center, Tahoe City. Scholarships available. Info: Deanna Matthews 510/243-9460.

July 12 Sat **CACS Trip to San Francisco and Lecture by Philip Choy.** Info: www.cacsweb.org

July 19 Sat **CAPITAL Meeting.** 830am at Sac. Sheriff's South Area Office Community Room (7000 65<sup>th</sup> St, Sac).



Happy New Year - Year of the Horse

## Food for thought

By Randall Ishida

An Asian dude was eating at Subway ... a white jock in L&L Hawaiian BBQ ... & a black lady scarfing on sushi from Nugget. If we appreciate other peoples' food, then why not get along? Now everyone eats Mexican.