

Comments

Asian Pacific American Community Newspaper Serving Sacramento and Yolo Counties - Volume 26, No. 1 Winter/January 2013

Newtown overshadows Chinese school stabbing same day December 14th

On December 14th a 20 year old Adam Lanza shot to death his mother and 20 children and 6 adults at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Connecticut, a Chinese man was stabbing 22 children and one elderly woman in China's central province of Henan.

Shortly before 8am on December 14th outside a primary school, 36 year old Min Yingjun first attacked an elderly woman and then stabbed arriving students. He was subdued by security guards who had been posted at the school. No deaths have been reported among the nine students taken to the hospital, but two badly injured children have been transferred to better-equipped hospitals outside the county. Chinese primary school pupils are generally 6 to 11 years old.

Across China following a spate of school

attacks in recent years security guards at schools have been commonplace. China has strict gun control laws and knives have been the common instrument in these attacks. NBC News estimates that in early 2010, a string of knife attacks against schoolchildren across China resulted in almost 20 deaths and the wounding of more than 50.

Most of the schoolyard attackers have been mentally disturbed men involved in personal disputes or unable to adjust to the rapid pace of social change in China. One of the worst incidents involved an unemployed middle aged doctor who killed eight children with a knife in March 2010 to vent his anger over a thwarted romantic relationship. The most recent attack against schoolchildren took place in August 2012 when a knife-armed man broke into a middle school in the southern city of Nanchang and stabbed two students before fleeing. These disturbed attackers underscore the weakness in the Chinese medical system to diagnose and treat psychiatric illness.

Another largely shadowed massacre happened December 11th in the Clackamas Town

Can India Make and Keep Promises to Protect Girls and Women?

Indian police charged six men with murder on Saturday December 28th, hours after a woman who was gang-raped and beaten on a bus in New Delhi nearly two weeks earlier died in a Singapore hospital. On December 16th, the woman and a male friend had been attacked on a New Delhi bus. Since the arrests and her death protests against sexual violence have raged across India. If convicted the six men now face the death penalty.

The victim "passed away peacefully" early Saturday at Mount Elizabeth hospital in Singapore with her family by her side. After 10 days at a hospital in New Delhi, the Indian capital, the woman was brought December 27th to Mount Elizabeth, which specializes in multi-organ transplants. She was in extremely critical condition with serious injuries to her body and brain, a lung infection, her organs were failing, and she had suffered a heart attack while in the New Delhi hospital.

The woman and a male friend were on a bus in New Delhi after watching a film on the evening of December 16th when they were attacked by six men who raped her. The men beat the couple and inserted an iron rod into the woman's body, resulting in severe organ damage. The woman and her friend were both stripped and thrown off the bus. After dying on December 28th, her body was returned to India the next day and cremated in a private service.

Protestors have been allowed to assemble at the Jantar Mantar grounds where mourners expressed their grief and demanded stronger protection for women and the death penalty for rape, which is now

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Center mall outside Portland Oregon where 22 year old Jacob Tyler Roberts was randomly shooting shoppers with his AR-15. Roberts' gun jammed and when he was confronted by a bystander 22 year old Nick Meli who has a concealed carry permit and was carrying his Glock, Meli shot and killed himself before shooting anyone else. Roberts' rampage resulted in the death of two innocents.

The ongoing debate in the US over gun violence focuses on 1999 Columbine, 2007 Virginia Tech, July 20, 2012 Aurora Colorado – whether gun control will stop these massacres or whether the arming of law abiding gun owners will stop the violence. The NRA recommends having armed guards at every school and teaching children gun basics. But, the common denominator whether US or China is that the mentally ill need effective and early intervention because the instrumentality of choice will vary according to what is available.

punishable by a maximum of life imprisonment. Women face daily harassment across India, ranging from catcalls on the streets, groping and touching in public transport to rape. The protestors demand an end to the lax attitudes of Indian police toward sexual crimes.

The Indian culture is criticized as being feudal and patriarchal where men are valued more than women. Protesters say that in the Indian culture daughters are killed before they are born and those who live are fed less, educated less and segregated from boys. The protests cite that the pervasive social attitude and mindset that allow men to rape and molest women and girls with impunity is shameful and must end.

The tragedy has forced India to confront the reality that sexually assaulted women are often blamed and humiliated for the crime, forcing them to keep quiet and discouraging them from reporting to authorities for fear of exposing their families to ridicule. Police often refuse to accept complaints from those who are courageous enough to report the rapes, and the rare prosecutions that reach courts drag on for years. The Indian attitudes toward rape are so entrenched that even politicians and opinion makers have suggested that women should not go out at night or wear clothes that might be seen provocative. On December 28th, Abhijit Mukherjee, a national lawmaker and the son of India's president, apologized for calling the protesters "highly dented and painted" women who go from discos to demonstrations.

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Southern Poverty Law Center fights discrimination

Current victories and cases being pursued by the Southern Poverty Law Center include:

SPLC filed a lawsuit accusing a New Jersey organization, Jews Offering New Alternatives for Healing (JONAH), of consumer fraud for offering a gay -to-straight conversion therapy service. The plaintiffs include four young men and two of their parents who were lured into JONAH's services through deceptive practices.

SPLC's lawsuit ends Florida's discriminatory tuition policy. A federal judge has blocked Florida's college tuition policy which required students to prove their parents' federal immigration status or pay more than triple tuition. The Florida Board of Education (community colleges) and Florida Board of Governors (state colleges and universities) have decided not to appeal the ruling.

SPLC filed a lawsuit against a Georgia forestry company Eller and Sons Trees Inc. for cheating their foreign guestworkers out of wages. A federal court ordered the company to pay \$11.8 million to 4,000 foreign guestworkers, the largest court award ever on behalf of guestworkers. The migrant workers came in from Mexico and Guatemala to plant pine seedlings in the Southeast under federal H-2B worker program. The orders will reimburse the guestworkers for travel and visa expenses incurred, work hours promised under the H-2B work contracts, the company's failure to maintain accurate records of hours worked, violations of minimum wage and overtime and other violations.

Huntington Beach strives to preserve Japanese American homestead

In November, the Orange County premiere of "Lil Tokyo Reporter" was the highlight of a Hilton Waterfront Beach Resort fundraiser for the Historic Wintersburg Preservation Task Force. The Task Force aims to protect a five acre parcel at the corner of Warner Avenue and Nichols Lane in Huntington Beach which includes the early 1900s house, barn and farm site of Charles Mitsuji and Yukiko Furuta, the 1910 Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Mission and clergy house and the 1934 Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church.

"Lil Tokyo Reporter" is the true story of journalist and activist Sei Fujii who fought for the civil rights of Japanese immigrants before and after World War II. Members of the cast and crew including director Jeffrey Gee Chin, cast member Eijiro Ozaki and lead actor Chris Tashima attended the premiere.

Event sponsors included the Huntington Beach Downtown Residents Association, The Hilton Waterfront Beach Resort, Huntington Beach automobile Dealers Association and the Historic Wintersburg Preservation Task Force, which is an adhoc committee of the Huntington Beach City Council

Can India Make and Keep Promises?

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Separately, authorities in Punjab state took action December 27th when an 18-year-old woman killed herself by drinking poison a month after she told police she was gang-raped. State authorities suspended one police officer and fired two others on accusations that they delayed investigating and taking action in the case. The three accused in the rape were arrested only on December 27th night, a month after the crime was reported in the city of Patiala. The woman had been raped November 13 and reported the attack to police November 27. It is alleged that the police harassed the girl, asked her embarrassing questions and took no action against the accused.

In another incident, in the eastern state of Chhattisgarh authorities suspended a police officer on accusations he refused to register a rape complaint from a woman who said she had been attacked by a driver.

Vietnam trial planned

Nguyen Quoc Quan of Elk Grove is scheduled to go on trial in Vietnam for plotting to overthrow the communist government.

Born in 1954, Quan was a high school math teacher in Kien Giang, Vietnam. He escaped from Vietnam on a fishing boat in 1981 ending up in the US where he earned a doctorate degree in mathematics from North Carolina State University.

On November 15, 2007 Quan entered Vietnam by bicycle through the Cambodian border. He was arrested on November 17, 2007 along with two other Viet Tan members in a southern suburb of Ho Chi Minh City. Viet Tan is the International Vietnamese Reform Party. Nguyen and the others were leading a democracy seminar and preparing a 2 page pro-democracy pamphlet "Non-Violent Struggle: The Approach To Overcome Dictatorship" when 20 security officers raided the house.

He was re-arrested April 17, 2012 at the airport in Ho Chi Minh City under his American name, Richard Nguyen.

Nguyen's case has drawn attention from human rights groups who accuse Vietnam of suppressing dissent and freedom of speech. Pleas have been made to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and US Ambassador David Shear to secure Nguyen's release.



HAPPY NEW YEAR
YEAR OF THE SNAKE

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: Spring/ May 2013. Deadline: April 15, 2013. Circulation: 7,000. Editor: Pattie Fong. Distribution assisted by: The Sacramento Gazette (David Fong), Hach Yasumura, Margie Momita, John Pamperin, Tim Fong/CSUS-Asian American Studies, UCD Asian American Studies and Alice Nishi. 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



Asian Pacific State Employees Association/ APSEA

“Navigating Leadership Challenges and EEO in a Changed World” Symposium a Huge Success!

What a successful outcome Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA) collectively created! On November 8, 2012, a full auditorium of over 200 attendees heard the insights and experience from an unprecedented number of agency Secretaries and department directors who are policy makers and managers from the highest levels of state government. The attendees were encouraged to explore opportunities to excel in leadership and gained valuable insight into Equal Employment Opportunity best practices.”

Selvi Stanislaus, Executive Officer, Franchise Tax Board and Event Emcee, talked of the “**power of one**” in her keynote opening. As we reach deeper and stretch higher to challenge ourselves, we find that we can lead from the best of who we are, right from where we stand in this “Changed World” of government as we serve constituents of the State of California and beyond.

Maeley Tom, President of the State Personnel Board, stated “**Know yourself, believe in yourself, be yourself, and add value to whatever you do!**” She felt it critical to add value to whatever you do – personally and to the job. She sees success in leadership as three-fold: luck, timing and opportunity and the importance of taking advantage of each as they arise. Do your homework and ask questions- what are the rewards, network and build relationships outside your job environment, stand up for yourself, speak-up, be a team player and don’t be afraid to admit you don’t know.

Commissioner Joseph Farrow from the Highway Patrol shared the ABCs of leadership that his dad had taught him as a child. The letter A stands for attitude. Joseph was brought up to understand the value of a positive attitude. The letter B stands for balance. His dad stressed the importance of maintaining a balance in your professional and personal life. And the letter C stands for consequences -his dad made Joseph aware that the decisions that he made had consequences, so he was



encouraged to choose wisely. The ABCs have served him well.

Howard Schwartz, Chief Deputy Director, Cal-HR shared his 10, 20, 30 leadership strategy. When presented with a problem, Howard asks 10 questions to gather the facts and then he waits 20 minutes before finally making a decision. The 30 in his leadership formula is to take 30 minutes each day to read.

Luncheon keynote speaker State Controller John Chiang stressed having a vision of what you want to do, what you want to be and to create an office where leaders and staff can realize their dreams. He saw it as important to pick great friends as they support you and reflect who you are. Chiang sees the skills and knowledge needed for the future are science, technology, communication, math, critical thinking and writing.

USC Interim Director of the Sol Price School of Public Policy Paul Danczyk spoke of “leading those you serve.” He posed two ideas to consider: “power vs. influence” and “what is customer service – moments of truth.” From the perspective of power he cited direct accountability for actions with the ability to respond with rewards or punishment. In contract, influence is a compelling force that is facilitative in nature and can be positional, personal

and relational. With respect to customer service, the key question” What are you solving for and for whom?”

Inspector General Robert Barton said “Always seek to make a positive difference rather than just exist in status quo.” He sees no boss as an island and quoted Harry S. Truman “You can accomplish anything in life, provided that you do not mind who gets the credit.” He stressed inclusivity and the importance of surrounding yourself with the best people and that many ideas grow better when transplanted in the minds of others. A key point he made was that ‘when employees quit bringing you their problems is the day you stop leading them.’”

“We can indeed say that from the perspective of our Keynotes, Honorees, Speakers, Steering Committee and Volunteer Support, these words were personified in the actions and deeds of all” said Rebekah Christensen, symposium co-chair. The symposium was produced in collaboration with the University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy (Sacramento), and partnered with numerous state, private sector, and state employee organizations.

Keynotes and Moderators: John Chiang, California State Controller; Maeley L. Tom, President, California State Personnel Board; Marty Morgenstern, Secretary, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency; Selvi Stanislaus, Executive Officer, California Franchise Tax Board (Event Emcee); Clark Kelso, Receiver, California Health Care Receivership; Howard L. Schwartz, Chief Deputy Director, Cal-HR (Moderator); James Kahue, APSEA, First Vice President (1975).

2012 Leadership Award Recipients: Leadership Individual Honoree: Howard Schwartz, Chief Deputy Director, Cal-HR; Leadership Agency Honoree: Office of the Inspector General, accepted by Robert Barton.

2012 EEO Hero Award Recipients: Individual EEO Honoree: Dave Jones, California Insurance Commissioner; EEO Agency Honoree: California Employment Development Department, accepted by Pam Harris, Director

Paradigms Roundtable Panel: Clark Kelso, Receiver, California Correctional Health Care Receivership; **Panelists:** Robert Barton, Inspector, Office of the Inspector General (Agency Leadership Award Competition Winner); Rebekah Christensen, CEO, ORA Systems, Inc.; Paul Danczyk, Director





APSEA's Holiday Party

As the year comes to an end, APSEA members found themselves celebrating yet another successful year at the Annual Holiday Mixer which was held on December 6th at Louie's Restaurant & Catering in Sacramento. The planning committee worked around the clock to make sure the event ran as smoothly as those in prior years.

The Holiday Mixer was well attended, as APSEA members, friends, and their families came together to share the holiday spirit with one another. Attendees were able to mingle, network, and of course, partake in the delicious Chinese food prepared by Louie's. To top it off, door prizes were also awarded to lucky winners whose names were drawn.

Special thanks goes to all those who attended. You are the reason for the success of the Holiday Mixer.

Navigating Leadership Challenges

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of Executive Education in Sacramento, USC Sol. Price School of Public Policy; Joseph Farrow, Commissioner, California Highway Patrol, Ron Hughes, Director, Office of Technology Services (OTech); Howard L. Schwartz, Chief Deputy Director, Cal-HR (Individual Award Competition Winner).

Secretaries Roundtable Panel: Panel Keynote and Moderator: Maeley Tom, President, State Personnel Board. Panelists: Anna Caballero, Secretary, State and Consumer Services, Mark Ghilarducci, Secretary, California Emergency Management; Peter Gravett, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, Martin Hoshino, Undersecretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Carlos Ramos, Secretary, California Technology Agency, Matt Rodriguez, Secretary, Cal EPA, Karen Ross, Secretary, Department of Food and Agriculture.

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training: Phyllis Cheng, Director, Department of Fair Employment and Housing

Legal Law Updates: Instructor, John Kennedy, Partner, Nossaman

EEO Best Practices Panel: Howard Schwartz, Chief Deputy Director, Cal-HR (Moderator); Panelists: Pam Harris, Director, Employment Development Department; Juney Lee, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Rehabilitation; Dave Jones, Insurance Commissioner, Department of Insurance, Joan Markoff, Chief Counsel, CalHR.

Both Joseph and Howard's leadership pointers were anecdotal and battle tested. Other members of the roundtable shared professional insights and personal stories of events that had changed their lives. After experiencing the symposium, I felt truly enriched. APSEA hit a home run with the quality and success of the leadership symposium.

Post Event Report: A complete report written by Rebekah Christensen, Event Co-Chair and APSEA Board Member, is available at APSEA website:



Asian Community Center (ACC)

ACC Bridge to Healthy Families - Are you prepared to be a caregiver?

By Susan Sarinas

“Many unprepared to care for elderly relatives, Sacramento County review finds.” That was the title of the article by Brad Branan published in the Sacramento Bee on October 24, 2012. The article drew attention to the results of the 2012 report released by the County of Sacramento Elder Death Review Team (EDRT). According to the article, “The recession has led more people to take responsibility for elderly relatives, and they’re often unaware of the difficulties involved...”

After reviewing many elder deaths, the team noted in their report a recurring pattern in which a family member ends up caring for an older adult whose physical and/or mental condition had declined and was no longer able to care for him or herself or be left alone. The family member usually did not have the knowledge or experience to deal with the demands of caring for a frail elder and the situation rapidly escalated out of control until 9-1-1 was called, but by then it was too late.

Included in the report, was a breakdown of the statistics collected on the elder and dependent cases reviewed in 2010-2011:

Reasons for Review by the EDRT

Suspected Negligence	60%
Suspected Gap in Service -	30%
Suspected Homicide	10%

Care Provider Relationship

Family	60%
Non-Family Paid	20%
Home Health Service	10%
Skilled Nursing Facility	10%

Place of Residence (prior to terminal event)

Home	90%
Skilled Nursing Facility	10%

Ethnicity

Caucasian	50%
African American	30%
Asian Pacific Islander	20%

Based on findings in their report, the EDRT updated their “Independent Living: Resource Guide.” See link: http://www.sacda.org/assets/pdf/ea/EDRT%20Brochure_Final.pdf. This helpful brochure lists various agencies that can provide assistance with medical, mental health, legal, financial issues, as well as other needs. One of resources mentioned in the brochure, Senior Nutrition Services, is our very own Meals on Wheels by ACC, which provides home-delivered meals and operates 23 café meal locations.

Although not mentioned in the brochure, ACC Park City also provides caregiver support services including: Social Day program on Mondays, Respite on Wednesdays and Fridays, Friendly Visitor/In-Home Respite, Transportation, Health and Wellness classes and Telephone Assistance. Three years ago, ACC recognized the growing need for support services for Asian Pacific Islanders caring for family members with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia. With the help of funding from a generous grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, ACC created the Bridge to Healthy Families Dementia Care Network (BHF).

The Network is a collaboration between ACC, UC Davis Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, and the Alzheimer’s Association. Some of the services the program offers include information and referral, cognitive and behavioral screening,



ACC Bridge to Healthy Families - A caretaker’s perspective on the Walk to End Alzheimer’s

By Raj Raj

This year’s Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s was special for me. My whole family was able to participate; three other family friends joined, and so did my mom, who has Alzheimer’s. With the help of a wheelchair borrowed from a friend, mom and I did the one mile walk, while everyone else did three miles. By the time we finished our one mile, the rest of the family had finished their three miles.

Ever since mom’s diagnosis, I have been bombarded with information about Alzheimer’s, from the doctors, the adult day programs that mom attends,

the Alzheimer’s Association, and friends from the Alzheimer’s Association support group. Mom’s disease has changed my life. My role has changed from daughter, to mother, and now full-time caregiver for my mom and with that comes a whole new bunch of responsibilities.

I’m amazed how every year the Walk brings new ideas and more awareness about Alzheimer’s. There are pills and patches to manage the symptoms of Alzheimer’s. There is talk about turmeric, coconut oil, and other herbal stuff. There’s no cure yet, but I’m hopeful that within my lifetime we can find how to rid the world of this disease.

support groups, educational workshops and literature. Recognizing the importance of educating caregivers and older adults, ACC, the UC Davis Clinical & Translational Science Center (CTSC), and the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA) co-sponsored two series of workshops in 2011 on “Understanding Aging and Memory Loss.”

As part of our Lifelong Learning and Wellness Programs, each quarter we offer numerous classes and workshops to educate and provide information and resources to caregivers. For example, on January 8, 2013, the Alzheimer’s Association will have a workshop at ACC on Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer’s Disease presented by Dustin Mac Farlane, Elder Law Attorney. On January 9 and 10, 2013, the Alzheimer’s Association will bring the Alzheimer’s Care Academy, two four-hour workshops for family caregivers, to ACC. These workshops will cover a range of topics, including Alzheimer’s disease, challenging behaviors, and special care needs. See the Calendar for more information.

Last year, with the help of an additional grant from The SCAN Foundation, ACC began a larger campaign effort to increase education and awareness of dementia and corresponding caregiving issues. The overall goal was to develop an engaged cadre of leaders and advocates. These leaders and advocates would promote information and resources at the grassroots level and would be spokespersons for the caregiving community at higher levels.

On March 28, 2012, we sent had five community leaders and/or caregivers to the Alzheimer’s Association Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. These five advocates received training on speaking with state legislators on the issues of funding elimination for the California Caregiver Resource Centers and benefit elimination for IHSS Domestic and Related Services. Each advocate met with one or two legislators to share their stories and to state the case for not eliminating funding or benefits. Both programs were eventually saved from any further cuts.

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Vice Admiral Harris discusses his Issei heritage

In his position as assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Vice Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. is often seen traveling with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as her military liaison, including spending several days last week at the United Nations General Assembly Meeting in New York City.

As someone who has served in every geographic combat command and in such critical operations as Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Odyssey Dawn in Libya, he is ably suited to take on the enormous responsibility that his current job entails.

It hasn't always been smooth sailing for Harris' steady climb up the military chain of command. His journey to the Pentagon had the humblest of beginnings.

The only son of a Navy chief petty officer and a Japanese postwar bride, he grew up on a small farm in rural Tennessee. Born in Japan a little more than a decade after World War II and moving to Tennessee at age 2 in 1958, Harris recalls feeling different from his Southern classmates — especially when it came time to eat the bento lunch prepared by his Japanese mother.

When he whined to her about the fact that he looked more Japanese than American, she responded in a way that he will never forget. "She went to a PTA meeting dressed in the only thing she brought from Japan — a full kimono, geta, obi, the whole thing," Harris adds respectfully, "She taught me to be proud of my ethnic heritage."

Not only was she a role model for her hapa son, but she also set the example for her three younger sisters, all of whom followed in his mother's footsteps by coming to America after marrying U.S. Navy men.

Harris says he learned "giri" (duty or obligation from his Issei mom, who grew up in the privileged Kobe neighborhood of Ashiya, only to have her family's property destroyed during the war. After surviving the devastation of wartime Japan, she married an American and experienced more hardship.

"She came to America after growing up in relative privilege to survive on a small Southern farm that had no running water or electricity," recalls her son. "It was a dramatic change for her, but for me it was the only upbringing I knew."

Once resettled in America, she adapted with grace and became a U.S. citizen in 1974. Before she passed away in 2008, she told him that the proudest thing she ever did as a citizen was to vote.

That sense of giri has been passed on to her son, whose personal decorations include two Distinguished Service Medals, three Defense Superior Service Medals, three Legions of Merit, and two Bronze Stars.

"I'm an American, first, foremost and always," says Harris, "but there will always be things my mother represented for which I am proud."

Harris remembers first hearing about the heroism of Japanese American soldiers when he saw the 1951 film "Go For Broke." "It gave me something to be proud of," Harris recalls. "They were in the military and they became heroes." It's a story that stayed with him as he went from the US Naval Academy to postgraduate studies at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, and Oxford University.

Still, when he first learned about the men who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion, and Military Intelligence



Service, he didn't realize that their families were being held in camps. When he learned those once little-known facts, it made their heroic contributions all the more significant.

It's a story he will be honored to share with others at the annual Evening of Aloha dinner on Oct. 13. "I've drawn a lot of strength from their story and I think all Americans can draw strength from them," he says. "It's a great story that unfortunately is not known broadly, and it should be taught in schools."

Harris cites organizations like the Go for Broke National Education Center, the Nisei Veterans Committee in Seattle, Japanese American Veterans Association, Japanese American Citizens League, Federal Asian Pacific American Council, Asian American Government Executives Network and Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors for furthering important work towards this end.

He notes that he was privileged last year to attend the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Washington, D.C. to honor the World War II veterans and looks forward to a rare trip to Los Angeles to pay tribute to them once again.

"Take all the things I've done in the military," he goes to say with humility. "It would never begin to compare with what those men went through. Just the fact that they and their families were booted out of their homes and then what they accomplished — that's huge."

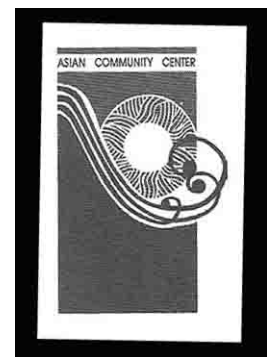
ACC Bridge to Healthy Families


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Three of these five advocates also participated in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's at the State Capitol on October 6, 2012. One advocate wrote a moving article about her experience at the Walk. That article is included on this page. We are grateful to The SCAN Foundation for providing us with the opportunity to develop these advocates into active spokespersons for caregiving issues. It is our hope that these caregivers can help us reach others who may have difficulty dealing with the pressures of caring for their elderly relatives. In the future, we plan to feature other caregiving stories.

If you are an overwhelmed caregiver, if you need more information or assistance in dealing with caregiving issues, contact ACC Bridge to Healthy Families, 916/393-9026 x336. For more information on classes, contact 916/393-9026 x325 or visit www.accsv.org.


Harris was a keynote speaker at the Go For Broke National Education Center's Evening of Aloha, held on October 13th, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.goforbroke.org/eveningofaloha.





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Contact Susan Sarinas, 916.393.9026, x339
or Soojin Yoo, x338 for more information.

West Virginia Mountaineers honor renowned journalist

by Derrick Lim, YeeBrew Productions, Sacramento

Nationally renowned investigative reporter, editor, and publisher Kyung Won (K.W.) Lee is receiving his alma mater's highest honor, induction into West Virginia University's (WVU) Academy of Distinguished Alumni on February 22, 2013 at the Erickson Alumni Center.

Each year since 1988, WVU and its 13 schools and colleges honor alumni "who have attained national or international distinction in their profession or discipline." Dean Maryanne Reed of the P.I. Reed School of Journalism nominated Lee. "I'm thrilled that the Alumni Association and others also recognized your incredible achievements. ... you are highly deserving of this award, a true legend in journalism, and a man who should make all West Virginians proud."

The West Virginia University honor brings Lee back to his journalistic roots in the United States where Lee had no role models or ethnic community outside his native Korea. His episodic career started in 1950 on the WVU campus as a journalism major. Lee then went on to get his Master's degree at the University of Illinois before embarking on a distinguished journalism career.

Lee just wasn't the first Asian immigrant to work for mainstream daily publications in the continental United States. Lee made headlines investigating and covering stories that earned him national recognition. Lee never lost sight of giving back to a community and career he is so passionate about.

Accomplished media colleagues like multi-Emmy award winning Perceptions producer Sandra Gin, formerly with KCRA-TV and now Houston Community College professor, respectfully considers Lee a "groundbreaker" and "dean of Asian American journalism." Lee "legitimized for all journalists not only the mission to discern the truth, but espoused having a healthy disrespect for authority and to be fearless at it."

Imagine a Korean immigrant born in Kaesong North Korea in 1928 and raised in South Korea. At the tender age of 14 in an all-Japanese high school in his hometown, Lee is constantly bullied by upper classmen. Desperate to escape the hazing, Lee voluntarily joins the Army Air Cadet Corps training as a one way scout plane radar crew for the impending Allied attack. At 16 Lee returns home to a liberated Korea after the United States ended the war with Japan with two atomic bombs.

Lee earned two college degrees in the United States and started reporting in the South during the late 1950's and early 1960's. Lee's vivid coverage at the Kingsport Times-News in Tennessee and Charleston Gazette in West Virginia when Jim Crow was still law brought to light to segregation, vote buying, and dire working conditions of Appalachian coal miners. The US Office of Economic Opportunity recognized Lee with its Urban Service Award for outstanding coverage of the poor.

While at the Sacramento Union for two decades, Lee found mismanagement and questionable use of public funds at the housing and redevelopment agency and state Capitol. Lee's relentless probing of Chol Soo Lee's mistaken identity conviction for a 1973 Chinatown gang killing sparked an international pan Asian movement that eventually led to Chol Soo Lee's freedom, sparing his life on San Quentin's death row.

The California Newspaper Publishers Association and National Headliners Club honored Lee. Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism honorably mentioned Lee for The Paul Tobenkin Memorial Award in 1979 "recognizing

outstanding achievements in reporting on racial or religious hatred, intolerance or discrimination in the United States." Lee received a special citation for "his comprehensive investigative coverage of the murder conviction of a young Korean immigrant, which led to a new trial and resulted in an increased awareness of the problems faced by Asian immigrants on the West Coast."

Lee's penchant for breaking news spread to the burgeoning southland's 1.5 knee high generation Korean American community as publisher of Koreatown Weekly. Lee became a road warrior on the 400 mile Interstate 5 corridor from Los Angeles to Sacramento from 1979 to 1984 ensuring the deadline for the first national English language Korean American newspaper. The national Asian American Journalists Association presented Lee with its inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987.

In 1990 Lee became the editor of The Korea Times English Edition in Los Angeles. He provided much needed insight and understanding to the rising tension between African Americans and Korean Americans. At the same time, Lee called out for dedicated efforts by both groups working the streets to facilitate racial harmony. This balanced coverage offset the tendency by major media outlets to only focus on the conflict and violence. The Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission commended Lee's efforts amidst the media onslaught on the 1992 Los Angeles riots by selecting Lee for the John Anson Ford Award.

Lee is the first Asian journalist to receive the Freedom Forum's Free Spirit Award in 1994. Based in Washington D.C., The Freedom Forum is a non-partisan foundation dedicated to free press, free speech, and free spirit. The Forum's focus on the Newseum, First Amendment, and newsroom diversity cast the spotlight on Lee again three years later by inducting him into the Journalism History Gallery at the Newseum in Arlington Virginia. In 2000, the Newseum profiled Lee in Crusaders, Scoundrels, Journalists: The Newseum's Most Intriguing Newspeople.

Amongst the mix of his professional endeavors, Lee finds time to lead the Korean American Journalists Association and serve on the editorial board of ColorLines Magazine. He continues to write for Currents, KoreAm Journal, and Korean Quarterly.

What is not so evident to the public is the sub text of Lee generously giving himself for decades to the community and asking for nothing in return. Widely sought for his leadership, truth be told passion, and inspirational stories, Lee is routinely the featured speaker at youth camps, internship programs, leadership and media workshops, symposiums, conferences, University of California campuses, and non-profit groups. No group or venue seems too small or too far for Lee. The Association for Asian American Studies honored Lee in 1994 with a National Award for Outstanding Service.

During the glory years of public affairs programming in Sacramento, Lee collaborated with Perceptions, a quarterly prime time television program on Asian Pacific Americans. The show distinguished itself from others by going into the field to get stories, having a community advisory group, and capturing three consecutive Emmys during its 1980's decade long run. Lee was critical to one of the Emmy awarded shows, A Question of Justice (1983), focusing on the Chol Soo Lee case. The Vanishing Heroes (1984) show which profiled the lives of bachelor Filipino farm workers, or "Manongs," in the Sacramento Delta is another show to which Lee provided sage wisdom. In 1995 KCRA-TV brought Lee onto staff

as a special projects consultant.

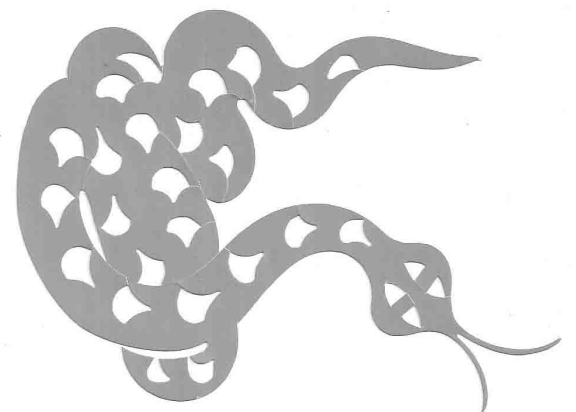
In 1997 the forward thinking Lee finally parted with 30 boxes of a pack rat's dream, 40 years of garage archives, to the University of California, Davis. Lee's archives are a bounty of articles, tapes, photos, newspapers, and hand written letters related to the Korean American experience and Chol Soo Lee case. The digitized documents are accessible to the public at <http://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt8n39p803/>. UC Davis received Lee's archival collection in part because it served as the epicenter of the Chol Soo Lee movement in the living room of Grace and Dr. Luke Kim.

Perhaps the ultimate tribute any community can bestow on an individual is the establishment of a center for leadership in his name. In 2003 the non-profit KW Lee Center for Leadership opened its doors in Los Angeles Koreatown. Focusing on youth, the Center provides training and education programs to develop future leaders.

Julie Ha, Editor-in-Chief of KoreAm, "an award-winning monthly magazine that covers and analyzes the news, culture, entertainment, sports, politics and people of Korean America," understands the importance of leadership and journalism. In an editor's note in its November 2011 edition, Ha speaks of Lee as "my longtime mentor and a big reason I find myself here, working for a Korean American magazine. He has mentees all across the country, of all ages and backgrounds, who have been inspired by him to expose, or right, injustices through journalism, activism, law and advocacy. Though I certainly view him in these heroic terms, what I also deeply appreciate about the man is that he 'tells it like it is,' as he's often advised his young journalism charges to do."

Reflecting on Lee's extraordinary 84 years including a 50 plus year marriage to Peggy Flowers, three children, six grandchildren, 20 year liver transplant, and surviving stomach cancer, I have to turn to K.W. for inspiration to find words. K.W. is always deft at turning a phrase to punctuate his thoughts. The inevitable catch phrases: "Isn't that incredible?" and "Can you imagine?" are a common refrain in his animated conversation.

Yes K.W., you are incredible. And getting to know you since 1984, yes, I can now imagine your life. You are true to West Virginia University's mountaineer spirit - "pioneering, passionate, innovative, tireless, and caring." Congratulations on your induction, my friend. And thank you for all you have given to the community.



HAPPY NEW YEAR
YEAR OF THE SNAKE

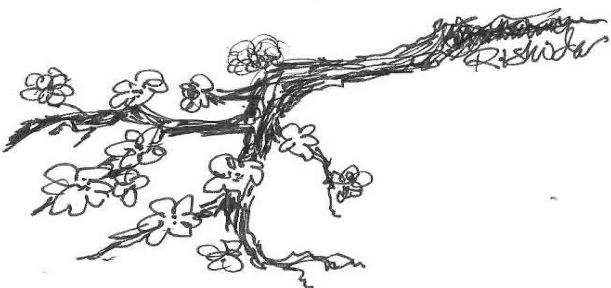
New Visas Help Fight Crime

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act passed in 2000 by Congress created new visas which recognize that victims who do not have legal status may be reluctant to come forward to report crimes and assist in investigations and prosecutions for fear of deportation. The "U-visa" enables law enforcement to encourage crime victims to cooperate without the risk of adverse immigration consequences. The "T-visa" creates a "T" nonimmigrant status to protect human trafficking victims.

The U visa applies to immigrants – documented and undocumented - who are victims of certain crimes and currently assisting law enforcement with the investigation and prosecution of the crimes or are likely to be helpful in future investigations. Direct victims and bystander victims who recant or change their statements about the crime are not eligible for this program. There is an annual limit of 10,000 visas granted each year, but if that cap is reached pending applications receive deferred action status. Convictions are not required. The U-visa provides four years of temporary status with eligibility to apply for permanent status after three years. Family members may obtain a derivative U-visa. The victim must have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse, possesses information about the criminal activity, and has been or likely will be helpful in the investigation. U-visa applications must include certification from law enforcement that the victim has been helpful. Qualifying crimes include abduction, abusive sexual conduct, blackmail, domestic violence, felonious assault, murder, obstruction of justice, perjury, prostitution, slave trade, and witness tampering.

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery in which traffickers lure or trick individuals with false promises of employment and a better life. Traffickers take advantage of poor, unemployed persons who lack access to social services. The T Nonimmigrant status protects victims of human trafficking by allowing them to remain in the US to assist in an investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes. To be eligible the victim of trafficking must be cooperative with reasonable requests for assistance from the law enforcement agency, would suffer extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm if removed from the US and should otherwise be admissible to the US (but some waivers are available). T-visa applicants should submit a declaration from law enforcement stating the agency's support for the application. Certain qualifying family member may be eligible for a "derivative T visa" when the applicant is under 21 years of age (spouse, children, parents and unmarried siblings under age 18) and 21 years of age and older (spouse and children).

It is recommended that applicants interested in these visas seek assistance to prepare their applications because the required information is technical.



Sacramento Asian/Pacific Islander Massage Parlor Forum

Wed., January 23, 2013

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Sacramento County Sheriff's Department
Central Station Community Meeting Room
7000 65th Street, Sacramento

An opportunity for API community leaders to meet with local law enforcement to discuss human trafficking of API women in local massage parlors and brothels.

Scheduled speakers include:

- ◆ California State Assemblymember Roger Dickinson
- ◆ Sacramento City Councilmember Darrell Fong
- ◆ Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones
- ◆ Elk Grove Police Department Captain Wayne Kitade
- ◆ Sacramento Police Deputy Chief Brian Louie

To reserve your seat or to list your organization as a sponsor, please call My Sister's House (916) 930-0626 or e-mail L. "Rico" Ozaki at ricoomsh@gmail.com.

This event was made possible by Grant Number 90ZV088 from the United States Department of Health & Human Services. The views expressed are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS.

Photo Credit: Sura Nualpradid

SPONSORS: My Sister's House, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs, Advocate, Opening Doors, National Council of Jewish Women and Assemblyman Roger Dickinson

For the Sake of the Children Poston documentary planned

The Poston Community Alliance is searching for former Poston internees who were mothers in camp and their descendants to interview for a documentary film "For the Sake of the Children." Poston also known as the Colorado River Relocation Center (April 1942-March 1946) was one of the two larger WWII internment camps to where Japanese Americans were involuntarily evacuated and detained during the war. Located in Arizona, Poston had a peak population of about 18,000 internees. During the war a total of 110,000 Japanese American detained in ten relocation camps or prisons dispersed across the western United States.

Information gathering sessions have been held in San Diego and Los Angeles. Others are planned for San Francisco, San Jose, Sacramento, Fresno and Orange County. For more information,

check www.flywall.com/poston-mothers or Marlene Shigekawa 510/290-1944, marshige@comcast.net.



Beyond the Battle Line: The Korean War and My Life

By Dr. Luke Kim, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Kim wrote this book to encourage more people to learn about the Korean War. His stories are exciting, poignant and personal. His writing style makes this book an easy read, hard to put down and a story ripe for a movie.

The autobiographical work by Dr. Luke Kim describes his life throughout the turbulent 20th and into 21st century in Korea, Japan and the United States. The book is modest in size, but rich in content. It can be divided into three periods: early life in Northernmost Korea until age 15; the second period in Seoul where he experienced the very destructive Korean War, during he lost his mother who was kidnapped by North Korean security agents, and we never heard from her, not any news about her ever since 1950, also he participated in the Hungnam evacuation; then his coming to America at age 26 in 1956.

Like "a small boat in the rough sea of 20th century Korea and beyond," in finishing my brief reflection on his tortuous life stories beset with constant struggles. Many contours of an epoch are compressed into Luke's personalized life story. It provides a delightful backstage tour of the tumultuous events of the twentieth-century Korea as they were lived through one courageous man, who later overcame the challenges of an immigrant life and turned those challenges into a success story of achievements and contributions.

An autobiography of a Korean American psychiatrist, whose life was filled with valiant struggle, courage, endurance, and achievement, love and compassion. Dr. Kim witnessed an epochal panorama of the rapid social/political changes in modern Korea including the Korean War. Later he made his U.S. immigrant life a success story by contributing to his profession and the mainstream society with dedication and passion.

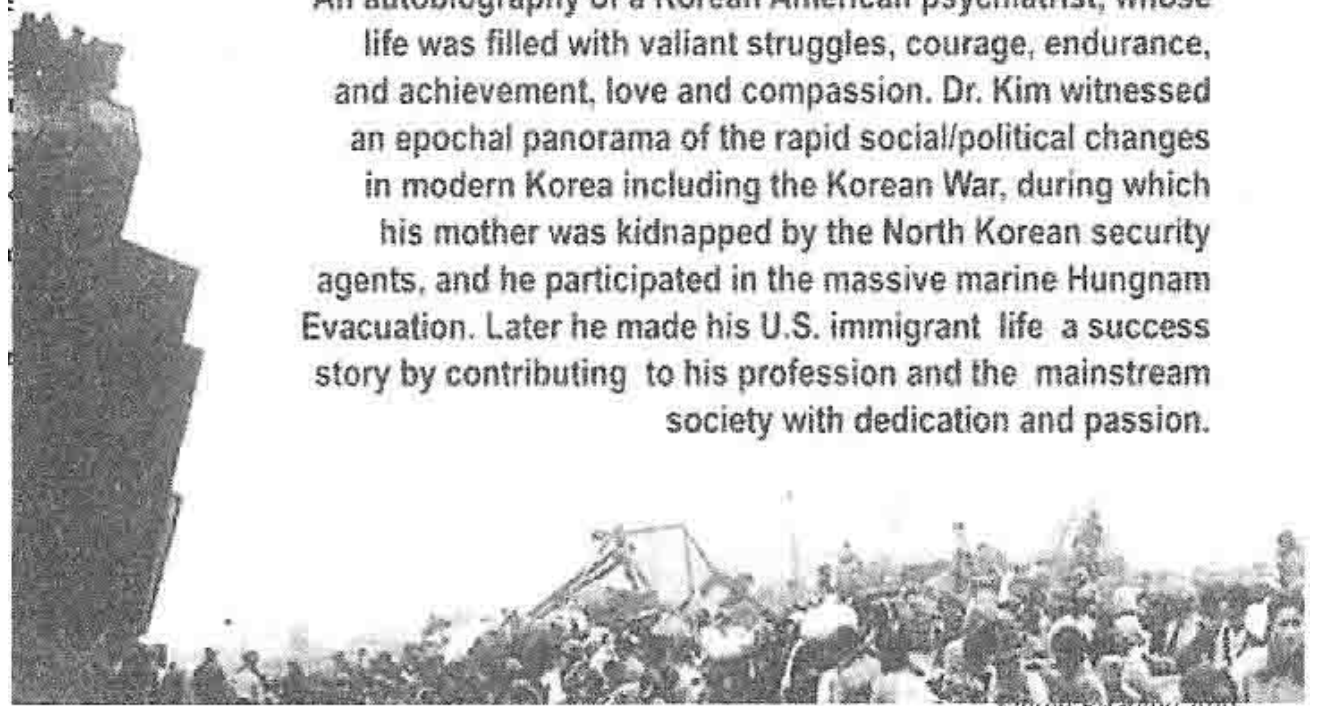


Beyond the BattleLine:

The Korean War and My Life

By Luke I.C. Kim

An autobiography of a Korean American psychiatrist, whose life was filled with valiant struggles, courage, endurance, and achievement, love and compassion. Dr. Kim witnessed an epochal panorama of the rapid social/political changes in modern Korea including the Korean War, during which his mother was kidnapped by the North Korean security agents, and he participated in the massive marine Hungnam Evacuation. Later he made his U.S. immigrant life a success story by contributing to his profession and the mainstream society with dedication and passion.



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

Last year President Obama signed into law a deferred action program to give law abiding undocumented immigrant youth an opportunity to defer any deportation action. The deferred action for childhood arrivals provides two years of relief from deportation subject to renewal, and those eligible may get authorization to work. While not as extensive as the DREAM ACT which Congress would not pass, the deferred action program is providing an important opportunity to these undocumented youth.

You may request consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals if you:

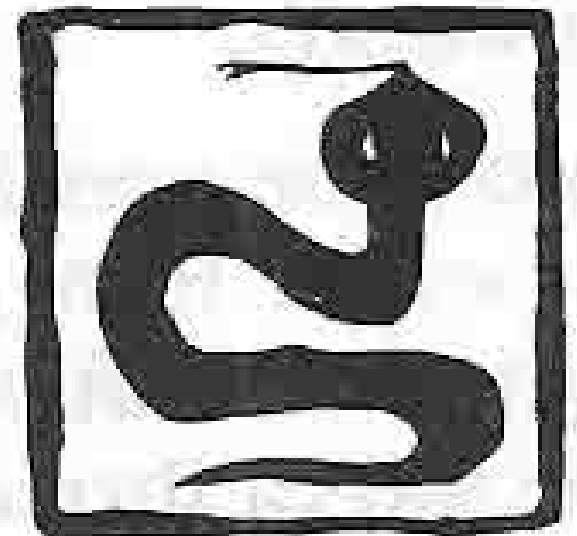
1. Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012
2. Came to the US before reaching your 16th birthday
3. Have continuously resided in the US since June 15, 2007, up to the present time
4. Were physically present in the US on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS.

5. Entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or your lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012

6. Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the US, and

7. Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

It is estimated that there are one million undocumented youth who have known only America as their home to stay, study and work. The UC system believes that a third of students who qualify for deferred action are Asian American or Pacific Islander.



HAPPY NEW YEAR
YEAR OF THE SNAKE



Interview with Professor Valverde

Author, *Transnationalizing Vietnam: Community, Culture, and Politics in the Diaspora*

We are here today with Professor Kieu-Linh Caroline Valverde, Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies at UC Davis, to discuss her newly published a book with Temple University Press, "Transnationalizing Vietnam: Community, Culture, and Politics in the Diaspora."

Thank you Current for speaking with me today.

Your book spans 20 years and took that same time to write. Can you tell us a bit about your history and ethnic background that makes this project unique?

I am a part of the first wave of refugee/immigrants that came to the US in 1975 from Viet Nam. Growing up during the Cold War and now living in the age of globalization, I have been witness to some astonishing worldwide transformations in the making and the resulting adaptation to these changes on the part of the Vietnamese diasporic community. My worldview is shaped by my early international experiences, including traveling through Europe, Asia, and Africa and living in regions such as Yemen. My personal experiences as a mixed-race Asian American woman with a Vietnamese, Spanish, and French mother and a Vietnamese and English father, helped me gain insight into complex societal relations.

What motivated you to write this book?

I grew up with very little information about Vietnamese diasporic communities. Even in college, the majority of written work focused on the white, liberal, American perspective of Viet Nam war experience, with little mention of those coming from this region, and certainly even less about those that left Viet Nam to form communities elsewhere. I felt a strong desire to contribute to the literature on Vietnamese Americans, so began my lifelong research on Vietnamese diasporic experiences.

Does your book give a different perspective to what we generally know of Vietnamese Americans, and how?

Vietnamese Americans are most often described as refugees without the resources or imagination to connect to their home country, and therefore destined to assimilate to the United States. My observations that span over 20 years reveal a very different reality. This reality includes dynamic transnational connections between Viet Nam and its diasporic population, starting from the day they left Viet Nam. My book documents the many influences back and forth in the areas of technology, culture, politics, and community. Hence, my book is a direct intervention into the narrow scholarship on overseas Vietnamese populations. I attempt to present the diverse experiences and lived realities of the vast number of overseas Vietnamese. It also serves to dispel the myth that Vietnamese Americans are of one mind and one community.

What dangers, if any, did you face, researching

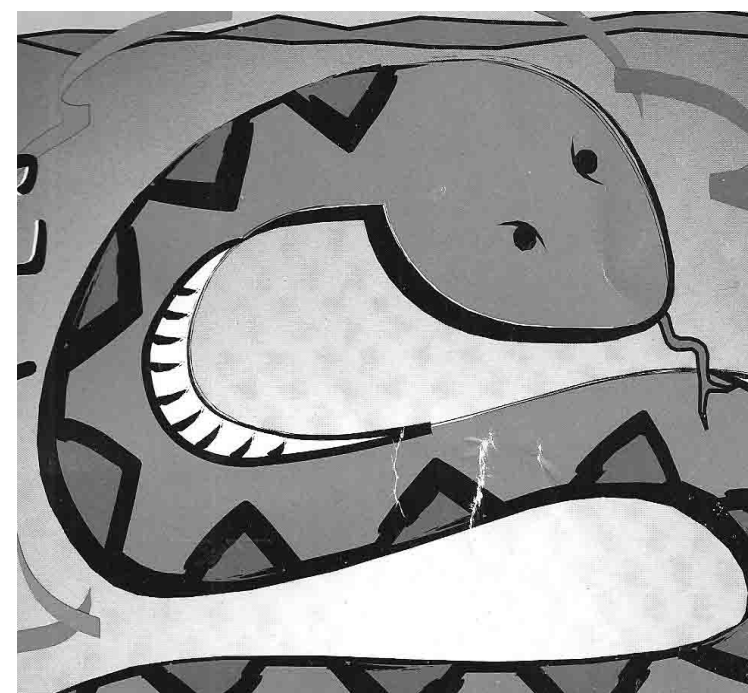
materials for your book?

That this study stands alone as a book-length project explicitly critical of both anticommunist red-baiting by the Vietnamese American community and human rights suppressions in Viet Nam speaks to the dangers inherent in the topic. My research took place in extremely politically volatile times—when anticommunist right-wing groups were gunning for Vietnamese American journalists on the basis of their dissident writings and when, with no diplomatic relations between the countries, travel to Viet Nam, especially for Vietnamese Americans, was exceedingly difficult and potentially dangerous. Meetings with ethnic leaders, government officials, and people with transnational connections in both countries occurred only after many years of careful trust-building endeavors. Though I was always careful to protect the identity of my informants, everyone involved knew that sharing ideas and information could be construed as treasonous.

But, this is not isolated or an issue of the past. On December 2, 2012, L.A. Times reported that the city of Garden Grove in southern California passed a resolution that would discourage Vietnamese delegations from entering its city. This signals that for some, animosities between anti-communist Vietnamese Americans and the Vietnamese government remains.

Are there any foreign policy goals behind writing this book?

Maybe because I was a trained political scientist, I do think about local and internal policy implications in all the research and writing I do. Or to put it differently, I hope my research will serve as impetus for important social change. My audience includes Vietnamese and Vietnamese Americans. I posit that by exposing the many ways in which Viet Nam has connected with its diasporic population, both sides can find more common grounds for open dialogue and establishing even more connections. It is not to erase the many issues inherent in both groups, but rather it offers a broader view of what makes up the Vietnamese and its overseas population. Recognizing the diversity helps forward a truer reality of Vietnamese American identity and experiences. Ultimately, I want those in Viet Nam and in diaspora to have the opportunity to continue their relationships or start new ones free of fear -- fear from reprisal, ostracization, persecution, incarceration, and even death.



HAPPY NEW YEAR
YEAR OF THE SNAKE

Calendar

Continued from Page 12

May 2 Thu **Alzheimer's Association Annual Education Conference**, 9am-4pm at Red Lion Hotel Woodlake Conference Center (500 Leisure Ln, Sac). Info: 916/930-9080, denise.davis@alzncal.org.

April 13-15 **Cambodian New Year, Chaul Chnam Thmey**

May 9 Thu **Asian Community Center 7th Annual Golf Tournament**. Teal Bend Golf Course. Info: Don Morishita 916/424-2953, Terisa Lee 916/394-6399 X141, tlee@accsv.org

May 11 Sat **CAPITAL Meeting**. 830am social, 9am meeting at Sacramento County Sheriff Central Station (7000 65th St, Sac).

Current Faces, New Places

May Ying Ly is the new executive director of the Southeast Asian Assistance Center in Sacramento. May was the founding director of Hmong Women's Heritage Association and as a professional interpreter and certified interpreter trainer.

Malala Yousafzai, shot in the head and neck on October 9 by the Taliban while returning home on a school bus, was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, UK for medical treatment. Kids for Peace (and adults too) sent 1000 peace cranes to Malala in the UK and to her classmates in Swat District, Pakistan to honor their courageous acts to promote education for women in their country.

Assemblymember Mariko Yamada, Rashid Ahmad, Muslim American Society-Social Services Foundation, Scott Syphax of KVIE's Studio Sacramento, and Maheen Ahmed and Feriel Chebouli, were honored for their contributions to the community at the Council of American Islamic Relations-Sacramento Valley's 10th Annual Banquet. **Ami Bera** of Elk Grove was sworn in to represent California's 7th Congressional District in the 113th U.S. Congress. A lifelong Californian and first generation American, Bera is a medical doctor and the only Indian American currently serving in Congress. He won his race against incumbent Dan Lungren with a 51.1% advantage.

K.W. Lee was joined by **Michelle Kwan** and **Professor Jyoti Namda** as honorees at the 2012 Los Angeles Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month. **Jerry Kanenaga**, **Lester Uchida** annually talk to Holmes Junior High School students (Davis) about their internment during WWII, including having to tie pet dogs up at the train station and leave them behind before the involuntary evacuation

Current Faces, Recent Passings

US Senator Daniel Inouye died December 17th. The first congressman from Hawaii after statehood was granted, elected senator in 1962 and served 9 consecutive terms, a Medal of Honor member of the lauded 442 during WWII.

Current Faces, Get Well

CSUS Professor Wayne Maeda, an author, a teacher, a family man, a community activist, and a regular visiting lecturer to UC Davis Asian American Studies – GET WELL SOON! Currents sends the community's best wishes.

Thank you for contributing to Currents:

George and Miyoko Yamadera

Joan and Yul Rhee

Language Classes

Korean (Fridays) and Sanskrit (Tuesdays) at I-House (Davis). I-House offers more than 20 language classes each week, including English. Free. Info: 530/753-5007, www.internationalhousedavis.org

April 13-15 Cambodian New Year, Chaul Chnam Thmey

Day 1 - Maha Songkran, derived from Sanskrit *Maha Sankranti*, is the name of the first day of the new year celebration. It is the ending of the year and the beginning of a new one. People dress up and light candles and burn incense sticks at shrines, where the members of each family pay homage to offer thanks for the Buddha's teachings by bowing, kneeling and prostrating themselves three times before his image. For good luck people wash their face with holy water in the morning, their chests at noon, and their feet in the evening before they go to bed.

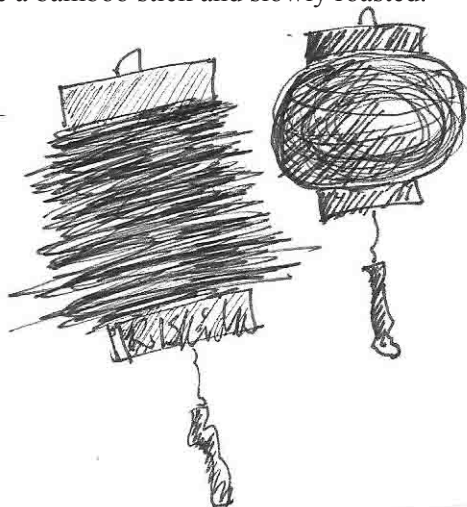
Day 2 - Virak Wanabat is the name of the second day of the new year celebration. People contribute charity to the less fortunate by helping the poor, servants, homeless, and low-income families. Families attend a dedication ceremony to their ancestors at the monastery.

Day 3 - T'ngai Leang Saka is the name of the third day of the new year celebration. Buddhists cleanse the Buddha statues and their elders with perfumed water. Bathing the Buddha images is the symbol that water will be needed for all kinds of plants and lives. It is also thought to be a kind deed that will bring longevity, good luck, happiness and prosperity in life. By bathing their grandparents and parents, children can obtain from them best wishes and good advice for the future.

New Year's customs

In temples, people erect a sand hillock on temple grounds. They mound up a big pointed hill of sand or dome in the center which represents sakyamuni satya, the stupa at Tavatimsa, where the Buddha's hair and diadem are buried. The big stupa is surrounded by four small ones, which represent the stupas of the Buddha's favorite disciples: Sariputta, Moggallana, Ananda, and Maha Kassapa. There is another tradition called Sraung Preah: pouring water or liquid plaster (a mixture of water with some chalk powder) on elder relative, or people (mostly the younger generation is responsible for pouring the water).

The Khmer New Year is also a time to prepare special dishes. One of these is a kralan: a cake made from steamed rice mixed with beans or peas, grated coconut and coconut milk. The mixture is stuffed inside a bamboo stick and slowly roasted.



Scams beware

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) cautions customers to be aware of a scam this holiday season. Several SMUD business customers have reported the scam attempt.

The scam is carried out by someone contacting SMUD customers by phone pretending to represent SMUD. The person threatens to shut off the electric power unless the customer pays a past-due bill immediately at a payment facility. Similar scams involving other companies have hit homeowners, too.

SMUD customer service representatives will never call a customer and ask for financial information over the telephone, nor direct them to a payment facility. If someone does, it is likely a scam. If a suspicious call is received, ask for a name, hang up and call SMUD.

The Yolo County District Attorney's Office warns of a similar scam but this person claims to be with your internet provider. The caller says that something is wrong with your computer or your internet service and in order to fix the problem the person needs your access numbers.

Don't fall for any of these scams aims at getting your personal information.

Charlie Chan

The Untold Story of the Honorable Detective and His Rendezvous with American History

By Yunte Huang (W.W. Norton publisher)

Charlie Chan, immortalized in six novels and 47 movies starting in the 1920s, was a popular American cultural figure, to the dismay of Asian Americans who detested his stereotyped speech, fortune cookie sayings and the white actors who played Chan in the movies.

In writing this book UC Santa Barbara Professor Yunte Huang had the goal to demonstrate that Charlie Chan "epitomized both the racist heritage and the creative genius of this nation's culture." Huang's research led him into the history of Hawaii, Chinese Americans and Hollywood, fictional detectives, American literature and the racial and xenophobia of the 1920s and 1930s.

Huang relates that Chan was popular in China and Asia in the 1930s because Chan showed a positive, smart, funny Chinese character at a time when the Chinese in China felt that the West looked down on them.

Huang believes that the Charlie Chan character could have been built on the real character of Chang Apana, a 5 foot tall, tough as nails, Chinese American detective in Honolulu. Chang Apana was born in 1871 and died in 1933. Huang says that Chang Apana's reputation as a fearless cop may have inspired the Charlie Chan character.

The other source of Charlie Chan's persona was Earl Derr Biggers, an Ohio born, Harvard education novelist who created Charlie Chan in the 1920s. It is unknown where Biggers got his inspiration - from a Chinese laundry sign, from some news item which Biggers claims he read about Chang Apana, or from a visit to Hawaii.

Nonetheless Huang argues that the racist "yellow face" casting of the Charlie Chan character is still an American art form of that period. He says that Chan and other racially drawn fictional characters (Stepin Fetchit, Aunt Jemima, Dr. Fu Manchu) all emerged out of white American creativity without total ignorance of other cultures in a blatantly racist era and indeed blossomed in spite of and because of racism.

Calendar

Jan 6 Sun **Florin's Mochi Madness V Workshop**, Mochi Treats, New Year's Potluck. A heart-thumping, taste-tempting, and fun Japanese American New Year's tradition awaits families, students, parents, and grandparents. 10am-2pm (mochi making 10am-noon) at the Florin Buddhist Church. RSVP Buddhist Church of Florin Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/florinbuddhist>; Florin JACL www.florinjacl.com

Jan 7-2pm Mon, Jan 10-2am Thu **PBS/KVIE-6 Mr. Cao Goes to Washington**. Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) presents this award-winning documentary by S. Leo Chiang. The film follows the unexpected journey of Representative Joseph Cao—the first Vietnamese American elected to the US Congress, the only non-white House Republican of the 111th Congress, and the only Republican to vote for President Obama's Health Care Reform Bill.

Jan 8 Tue **Asian Community Center Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's Disease**. 10-11:30am at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). An interactive program to learn about important legal and financial issues to consider, how to put plans in place and how to access legal and financial resources near you. Guest speaker: Dustin Mac Farlane, Elder Law Attorney. Free. Registration requested: 800/272-3900.

Jan 8 Tue **Asian Community Center Pain & Symptom Management**. 2-3pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). This educational PowerPoint and discussion will help identify pain in those who can report it and those who cannot and provide tools on how to manage pain caused by different sources. Common myths of pain medication and control of pain will be discussed. Presented by: Yolo Hospice. Free. Pre-registration required. Call: 916/393-9026.

Jan 8-9pm Tue, Jan 9-11pm, Jan 11-2am, Jan 15-9pm, Jan 16-11pm Jan 22-9pm, Jan 23-11pm. **KVIE-6 Abolitionists: American Experience** (Part One 1820-1838, Part Two 1838-1854, Part Three 1854-Emancipation and Victory.)

Jan 9 Wed and Jan 10 Thu **Asian Community Center Alzheimer's Care Academy for Family Caregivers**. 1-5pm and 9-1am at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). Trainer: Bonnie Bullwinkle, LCSW, Alzheimer's Association. Cost: \$10 per day. Info: 916/393-9026.

Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13 Wed **Asian Community Center Family Caregiver Support Group**. 12-1pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). This self-help group is 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: 916/393-9026, jhigashi@accsv.org

Jan 10, Thu **Asian Community Center "Senior Gems" Dementia Care**. Senior Gems is a guide to supporting family members with dementia. This family-centered video provides an overview of the impact of Alzheimer's and dementia, as well as techniques that make a difference. Learn more about the many aspects of dementia, including causes and effects, early warning signs, and care options. Presented by: Yolo Hospice. Free. Pre-registration required. Call: 916/393-9026.

Jan 10, Feb 14, Mar 14 Thu **Asian Community Center Free Phone Bill Review Clinic**. 2:30-4:30pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). Bring a recent phone bill (residential or wireless) and have it reviewed to save money! Info: Susan Sarinas, 916/393-9026 x339, team@accsv.org

Jan 10-830pm Thu, Jan 12-330pm **KVIE-6 California's Golden Parks: Manzanar**.

Jan 12 Sat **PACT Adoption Alliance: Extending**

the Adoption Narrative Beyond the Immediate Triad. 9am-1pm in Oakland. Extended family members and friend can forge relationships with adoptees which may be the most supportive and important relationships they have. Speakers: Robbin Rasbury PsyD, JFK University Marriage Family Therapy Program and Katie Wynen MSW, a Columbian adoptee who has worked with adoptees at Hyde School in CT. Info: 510/243-9460, www.pactadopt.org; info@pactadopt.org

Jan 15 Tue **Showing: "From the Community to the Classroom"** documentary produced by Jaan Murray-Garcia. The story of a partnership of youth and adults helped the Davis community confront racism. 6-830pm at Guild Theater (2828 35th St, Sac). RSVP Faye Kennedy 916/484-5025, fayek@springamail.com.

Jan 19 Sat **CAPITAL Meeting**. 830am social, 9am meeting at Sacramento County Sheriff Central Station (7000 65th St, Sac).

Jan 21 **32nd Annual March for the Dream**, the annual LKKJ Day march. Starting point - Sacramento City College. Info: www.marchforthedream.org

Jan 23 Sacramento Asian Pacific Islander Massage Parlor Forum. Sponsors: My Sister's House, APAPA, Advocate, Opening Doors, National Council of Jewish Women, Assemblyman Roger Dickinson. 530-730pm at Sacramento Sheriff's community room (7000 65th St, Sac). Info: 916/930-0626, Rico Ozaki ricoomsh@gmail.com.

Jan 28-Mar 22 **"Uprooted: Japanese American Experience"** at the California Museum. Volunteers needed as gallery guides, barrack/exhibit docents and presenters. Jan 17-18 10am - Orientation for volunteers. For 8 weeks more than 3,000 students from northern California will participate in educational programs at the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts. Through exhibits, artifacts and spoken words, students hear first-hand stories from volunteers who were or had family incarcerated in the camps or served in the military. To volunteer or schedule a field trip, contact: Shelly Heyes 916/654-5688, Shelly.Heyes@californiamuseum.org

Jan 24 Thu **Asian Community Center "Hospice Criteria"**. A presentation on the services provided that are reasonable and necessary for palliation and care of the terminally ill; demonstrating the need for the level of care being provided and meeting the Medicare conditions of Participation for Hospice; consistent and accurate data collection for quality assessment and improvement. Presented by Yolo Hospice. Free. Pre-registration required. Call: 916/393-9026.

Jan 24-830pm Thu, Jan 26-330pm **KVIE-6 California's Golden Parks: China Camp**.

Jan 27-1pm Sun, Jan 28-5am **KVIE-6 Searchlight Serenade: Big Bands in the WWII Japanese American Incarceration Camps**.

Feb 1 Fri **UC Davis Cal Aggie 2013 Alumni Awards Gala**. 530pm reception, 630pm dinner at San Jose City Hall Rotunda (200 E. Santa Clara St, San Jose). Honorees: Martin Yan '73 along with Bob and Jan Morrison, Jose Dianese, Janice Eberly, Barbara Jackson, John Bissell and Ann Pitzer. \$125/member, \$175/nonmember. Info: alumni.ucdavis.edu/alumniawards

Feb 10 **Lunar New Year**

Feb 12 **CAAM's Golden State Warriors Asian Community Night**. Center for Asian American Media is a community partner of the Golden State Warriors' Asian Community Night with Jeremy Lin on February 12 at the Oakland Arena. Tickets \$30-45. Special discounts for groups of 15+. A portion of each ticket sold will benefit AsianWeek Foundation's hepatitis B awareness program. Info: Golden State Warriors website.

Feb 16 Sat **Chinese New Year Celebration Assn's Spring Festival Celebration** for 2013 Year of the Dragon. with fanfare and pomp at its annual Spring Festival. Lion dance and martial arts, cultural dances and music, vendor booths, arts and crafts, Chinese food, children's games, storytelling, community organization exhibits. 11am-5pm at Scottish Rite Masonic Temple (6151 H St, Sac). Adults \$5 advance/\$6 at door; children 12 and under \$1. Info: www.cnyca.net, Vicki Beaton, 916-601-7511

Feb 16 Sat **Honor and Sacrifice: Nisei Patriots in the MIS**, Celebrating the 25th year anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Bill in 1988. Co-sponsors: Northern California Time of Remembrance with Florin, Lodi, Placer County JACL chapters. 1-3pm in the Secretary of State's Auditorium, reception follows. Showing of Roy Matsumoto's documentary "Honor and Sacrifice." Info: www.nctor.org, 916/427-2841

Feb 16 **Oakland Asian Cultural Center New Year Celebration**. 11am-430pm in Oakland Chinatown.

Feb 20 Wed **Asian Community Center "Take Charge of Your Phone Service"**. 330-430pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). Know about your phone service and SAVE money, AVOID telephone fraud, and GET the service that is best for you. Join us for a FREE workshop to find out what you should know when choosing or changing phone services. Bring a recent phone bill for a FREE review. Also find out about the PG&E Care Program that can save you up to 20% on your energy bills. Pre-registration required. Call: 916/393-9026.

Feb 21 Thu **Asian Resources 11th Annual Lunar New Year Dinner**. 530-9pm at Happy Garden Restaurant (5731 Stockton Blvd, Sac). Honorees: Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Hachiro Yasumura. \$75/person. Sponsorships available. Info: angeltham@asianresources.org, 916/454-1892, www.asianresources.org

Feb 23 Sat **Asian Community Center Crab Feed**. 6-9pm at Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation (9040 High Tech Ct, Elk Grove). All-You-Can-Eat. Garlic & ginger crab, fried rice, cabbage salad, appetizers, sherbet. \$60 per person. Info: Lucy Mendoza 916/394-6399 x121, lucym@aqccsv.org.

Mar 9 Sat **PACT Adoption Alliance: Adoption: A Lifelong Journey/How Many Families Does It Take To Make an Adoption?** 830am-5pm in Oakland. When an adoption takes place it affects a wide reaching collection of family members and loved ones. This conference will explore ways to honor individuals and their dynamic roles. Speaker Joyce Maguire Pavao EdD

(The Family of Adoption) and Brenda Romanchik MSW (Being a Birth Parent: Finding Our Place.) Info: 510/243-9460, www.pactadopt.org, info@pactadopt.org

Mar 9 Sat **CAPITAL Meeting**. 830am social, 9am meeting at Sacramento County Sheriff Central Station (7000 65th St, Sac).

Mar 20 Wed **Asian Community Center "National Do Not Call Registry"**. 3:30-4:30pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). Constantly bothered by calls from salespeople? Join us for a FREE workshop to learn about the National Do Not Call Registry and the rules that may reduce the number of sales calls you receive. If you are already registered and still getting calls, you will learn why you may still get calls and what you can do about it. Pre-registration required. Info: 916/393-9026.

Apr 6-May 4 Sat **My Sister's House Spring Shelter Advocate Training**. Info: 916/930-0626, info@my-sisters-house.org

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