

Currents

Asian Pacific American Community Newspaper Serving Sacramento and Yolo Counties - Volume 26, No. 2 Summer/May 2013

California Board apologizes for WWII firing of Nikkei state employees

By Andy Noguchi

Tear-choked stories of past injustice moved the California State Personnel Board to unanimously vote to apologize for its 1942 firing of 265 employees of Japanese ancestry at its January 10, 2013 meeting in Sacramento.

The plight of these employees, unjustly labeled “disloyal” and then shipped off to America’s World War II concentration camps, was championed by the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA), guided by the efforts of Lorna Fong, a recently retired State worker.

This apology followed the 1982 passage of Assembly Bill 2710 by Assembly Member Patrick Johnston which offered \$5,000 in redress payments to each of 88 state employees who formally appealed

their firing. An apology wasn’t included in the original legislation.

Fong testified that one of the few surviving state workers is Sally Taketa, age 94 of Sacramento. Taketa was a junior clerk at the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Social Welfare who had dropped out of college to help support her family. When state officials came to fire Taketa in 1942, co-worker friends “hid her under a desk and helped her escape out of a back door.”

“I’m happy. Finally! It’s important that recognition is made to those of us who were fired,” Taketa told Fong and Miko Sawamura, National JACL Vice President of General Operations, in an interview. Sally Taketa was unable to attend the meeting due to a broken hip.

Revealing the depth of her feelings to securing this apology, Fong emotionally shared how she took up this cause. Fong’s mother was one of thousands incarcerated in the Tule Lake concentration camp and Lorna volunteered for the annual Tule Lake Pilgrimage. She saw an old newspaper headline saying “200 Japs Fired” and decided something just had to be done to right this wrong.

State Personnel Board Vice President Kimiko Burton felt the misery of loyal Americans unjustly accused. As she dabbed tears in her eyes with tissue during the emotional testimony, she told how she and her family members in Hawaii had only recently learned of similar concentration camps there.

Board member Richard Costigan remarked that he served on the board of the California Museum just a few blocks down the street which features an “Uprooted” exhibit about the Japanese American experience. The award-winning exhibit and tours co-sponsored with local Lodi, Placer County, Sacramento, and Florin JACL Chapters draw 3,000 – 4,000 Northern California students each year, according to the California Museum.

Sawamura, also a representative of the Sacramento JACL Chapter, testified about the turbulent period and resistance by Japanese Americans. In 1942, the Sacramento JACL actively organized support for the State employees. The State Personnel Board of the time criticized the JACL for holding meetings “at the home of an “enemy alien.” Racist US. laws then barred Issei immigrants from becoming citizens.

Florin JACL Civil Rights Co-Chair Fumie Shimada commented after the meeting on the importance of this long-overdue apology in a modern period of 9/11 backlash against Muslim, Sikh, Arab, and South Asian American communities. “We can’t just think of the past. We have to learn the lessons of the past to help us today,” said Shimada.

In her remarks, Fong especially credited

INSIDE CURRENTS
AsianPacificStateEmployeesAssn
(APSEA) -3-4
AsianCommunityCenter(ACC)-5

Maeley Tom, current Board member, for invaluable support and assistance on the apology resolution. Tom served as Board President during 2012, rotating out for the new 2013 year.

As a follow-up to the State Personnel Board action, on February 19, 2013, California State Assemblyman Richard Pan expects to introduce a resolution, sponsored by the JACL, for an apology on the 71st anniversary of the Executive Order 9066 which incarcerated Japanese Americans during WWII.

Others testifying at the meeting included: Jeff Uyeda of APSEA; David Unruhe, Governor of the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific JACL District – NCWNP; and Andy Noguchi, NCWNP Civil Rights Co-Chair.

Letters of support came from: California State Assembly Member Mariko Yamada, Berkeley JACL, Watsonville – Santa Cruz JACL, Contra Costa JACL, Sacramento JACL, Pacific Southwest JACL, NCWNP JACL, National JACL, APSEA, and the California Dept of Human Resources.

Currents on the web
You can now find
Currents on the
APSEA website!
Go to www.apsea.org
and click on the
“other services” tab
where you will find
Currents. If you
want to opt out of the
hard copy, send an
email to pmfong@hotmail.com.
Thanks.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 324
Sacramento California

or current resident

Asian Pacific State Employees Assn.
P.O. Box 22909
Sacramento California 95822

Americans will remain united in face of Boston terror developments

Representatives of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, today joined other leaders from the national and Washington-area Muslim community at a news conference in Washington, D.C., to state that Americans will remain united in the face of developments in the April 15th Boston Marathon bombings that include the naming of suspects who are reportedly Muslim.

In his statement at the National Press Club news conference, CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad said:

“Americans are united today in condemning terrorism and in the conviction that those responsible for the terrorist attacks in Boston must face justice. This cowardly attack achieved nothing more than the murders of an eight-year-old-boy and two women. As God tells us in the Quran, if you murder one person, it is as if you murdered all of humanity.

“While we are outraged at the terrorists, we have been inspired by the unity of Americans of all backgrounds. We are a resilient people. Now that we know the identity of the perpetrators, this unity is ever more important.

“We will show the terrorists that their plan to sow division and distrust has failed. People of goodwill are not afraid. America will stay united. We will not turn on each other in the acts of false vengeance we have witnessed after other tragedies in the past.

American Muslims thank law enforcement for their diligent efforts to protect all our nation's citizens. We send our sincere condolences to the loved ones of the MIT police officer killed this morning and our prayers are with the law enforcement official who was wounded.”

Community Safety

Having received reports of sporadic attacks that range from verbal harassment to violence against Muslims in the past couple of days, we are obliged to ask our Mosques and community members to stay alert - particularly during Friday prayer. The majority of our fellow Americans have united as one, refusing to let terror divide us, but unfortunately there are those who will exploit the situation to extend the individual culpability of the bombers to collective guilt against their entire faith community.

Muslim individuals and institutions are being asked to review advice on security procedures in CAIR's “Community Security and Safety

Tips

Please also be sure to report any incidents in the Sacramento Valley to CAIR by calling 916/441-6269.

Immediate Steps to Protect Your Mosque or Other House of Worship

CAIR has developed these “Community Security and Safety Tips” to better equip you and your community with the immediate steps necessary to safeguard your Mosque or Islamic institution against violence or vandalism. In pursuing better security, it is important to remember that these steps are only a starting point and that you should plan for the long-term by seeking the expertise of security professionals in the public or private sector.

Mosque & Houses of Worship Security & Safety Tips:

Report Threats: Immediately document and report all threats, suspicious activities, packages or persons to the police. Do not make any attempts to confront threatening persons or touch suspicious packages.

Post Emergency Contact Information and Floor Plans in Public Places:

Post emergency phone numbers (911), including numbers of local police and fire departments, the bomb squad (if permitted), poison control, and religious community points of contact.

Post floor plans and evacuation routes, including the location of an evacuation site.

Know Your Local Emergency Responders: Make an appointment to have someone from your local police department tour your center and make suggestions on improving mosque security. At that meeting, request additional police patrols in the vicinity of your center, with special attention to nighttime hours and during prayers. Keep local law enforcement informed about any upcoming events.

Limit and Observe Access: Limit the number of public access points (in compliance with fire codes) and be sure that doors are solid-core and equipped with dead bolts. Post observers at entrance points to monitor all those entering.

Install Alarms and Cameras: Install fire (smoke and heat) and security alarm systems that are connected to local police and fire departments. Make sure all access points are observed by security cameras that have remote off-site backup.

Keep Outside Areas Clean and Visible: Remove potential fire hazards, such as trash and debris and trim shrubs and vines to reduce areas of concealment.

Install perimeter floodlights to cover the outside grounds and parking lot. Also ensure that all interior spaces visible from the outside are well lit.

Plan for the Long-Term: Establish a security committee to work with local law enforcement with the goal of developing long-term security plans, threat assessments, crisis plans, trainings, and drills. Annually hold safety trainings and evacuation drills for all staff, volunteers, and attendees.

Get Help: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), along with most local law enforcement agencies, provides tools and resources to support enhanced community engagement, infrastructure protection and the development of threat assessments and emergency response plans. These services are offered free of charge to all mosques and places of worship. For more information, contact: Community Partnerships: DHS Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships, which seeks to enhance participation between faith-based and community organizations in agency programs. Phone: 202-646-3487, Email: infobcei@dhs.gov

Infrastructure Protection: DHS National Infrastructure Coordinating Center, with protective security advisors in all 50 states, provides free infrastructure assessments, analysis, and information

Honda challenged in 2014

On April 2nd, Ro Khanna, 36, announced that he was going to challenge Rep. Mike Honda for Honda's Silicon Valley congressional seat. This will be a historic faceoff between Asian American democratic candidates in the 17th Congressional District which is the continental US' first Asian American majority district.

Khanna of Fremont is of Indian American descent and will be challenging Honda of San Jose, 71, who is of Japanese American ancestry. Honda has served in public office since 1996 (state assembly, county supervisor, congress since 2000.) Khanna served in the Obama administration as deputy assistant secretary of commerce (2009-2011) and now works in the valley's largest law firm and teaches economics at Stanford and law at Santa Clara University.

Khanna is attempting to repeat last year's political upset where Eric Swalwell, then 31 and a democrat, unseated 20 term incumbent democrat Congressman Pete Stark. Some observers say that Stark's public gaffes was part of his un-doing and that Honda is unlikely to repeat those missteps. In that campaign year Khanna had decided not to take on Stark despite raising \$1.2 in political contributions in the last quarter of 2011. Khanna already has on board veteran Obama campaign operatives for his race. Obama and house minority leader Nancy Pelosi has already endorsed Honda for reelection.

Honda's campaign says its polling data shows Honda receiving support from 57 percent of likely voters, compared to 5 percent for Khanna, and that Khanna is unknown to 86 percent of the voters. Khanna's donors come from the tech-sector and Indo-American community while Honda has been a hero to labor and progressives.

Khanna previously ran against Rep. Tom Lantos, D-San Mateo, in 2004's partisan primary and won only 20 percent of the vote. In the new “top-two” primary system where voters in the primary can vote across party lines, Khanna needs to only finish second behind Honda in June to challenge Honda in the November 2014 general election.



about possible threats. Phone: 202-282-9201 or Email: nicc@hq.dhs.gov

Training Courses: DHS Homeland Security Information Network, made up of a growing network of communities, provides risk mitigation training courses. Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/hsin> Email: hsin.outreach@hq.dhs.gov

CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

Asian Pacific State Employees Association/APSEA

Navigating Leadership - 2013 workshops Redefining the role of leadership in a virtual society Workshop series: May 7, 8, August 6, November 13

By: Rebekah Christensen, Co-Chair – Navigating Leadership

What began with a pioneering event for APSEA in November 2012 is rapidly transitioning into “a movement” that is expanding into the Capitol corridor region. Beyond generating a 24-7 culture in a world community, our society’s warp speed technological advancement into a virtual society has far-reaching implications. It has and will continue to reimagine and redefine historical business structures - transforming leadership paradigms that shift how government serves its constituent community.

The Navigating Leadership Team leads from APSEA’s board; Rebekah Christensen, Dean Lan, Dan Tokutomi and APSEA’s collaborative partner - Paul Danczyk, Director of Executive Education, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy (Sac Campus) have found the acceleration following the November 2012 event exciting and rewarding. In the context of planning the 2013 Navigating Leadership Series, “the team” has been following up with Agency Secretaries to seek advisory to expand the Navigating Leadership brand into interactive training modules that will be conducted inside numerous state agencies and departments.

The feedback we’re hearing is that the APSEA – USC collaboration is viewed as a unique catalyst in its focus on integrating all agencies into a panoramic understanding of government as it “mimics/mirrors” the virtual society we all connect to. Also under discussion is a more formalized operating structure for the Navigating Leadership

brand, but all agree, this is a “conversation in progress.” In the context of this rapid momentum and planning, an over-arching advisory board of State Leadership (both public and private) is coming into realization, with the composition reflecting all strata of involvement.

This forward planning for the Navigating Leadership (*in a Changed World*) brand is occurring in tandem with our **2013 Navigating Leadership Series – Conversations in Leadership**, to be held at the USC Sol Price Sacramento Center offices at 18th and I Streets from 5:30 – 8:00 PM on May 7, May 8, August 6 and November 13. These events are FREE (when Early Bird Registration requirements are met) to APSEA members (which is an incredible reason to join!) Non-members are cordially invited to attend at a nominal fee, but since joining APSEA is more cost-effective, we have found that membership is on the rise! **For comprehensive information, connect to www.apsea.org.**

So...Let’s ask ourselves the question, is everyone a leader? Yes or No? When leadership is traditionally defined as “someone with a position, in charge of a group of people in an organization”, the answer would be “no”. But when we shift our perception of leadership to align with the social world of today, it opens up an entirely new perspective and paradigm of leadership for everyone. Increasingly, those tasked with leadership see it as an interdependent 360 degree proposition – “*where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.*” In some of us leadership is inherent to our nature, and in others it is situational to our circumstances.

But... all of us carry the responsibility to exercise our personal leadership—based upon our own strengths and skills.

The Conversations...

Reinforcing the emerging cultural shift in the leadership paradigm, **the Conversations in Leadership Series** (now underway) **is 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 how we define and see 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 can create transparent playing fields where we can be seen for the contributions we make.*”

Conversations in Leadership Speaker Line-up:

The impressive line-up of leaders instructing the Navigating Leadership 2013 – Conversations in Leadership Series 2013 embodies the relevant characteristics at the forefront of informing this all-encompassing transition of the leadership paradigm underway in our “Changed World” of government and society. Everyone has a “backstory” that is both unique and compelling and in hearing the stories of others it causes us to see and reflect on how deeply they define and guide our own paths of leadership in life. Each presenting leader is driven by deeply rooted philosophies that were premised from childhood forward, that have stood the test of time, maturing across their life experience to guide their mission and purpose, their career objectives in leadership and service and in the context of mentoring (by example and deed) those they lead and serve beside. We guarantee becoming involved with the rapid movement of Navigating Leadership (covering all levels of education, collaboration and outreach) is synonymous with action! If reading about Navigating Leadership feels like “a calling” that is compelling your involvement as an attendee or in an advisory or sponsorship capacity, please contact Rebekah Christensen at rebekahjchristensen@gmail.com

2013 Educational Series



APSEA annual scholarship dinner, April 23rd

Seven young people from local high schools received APSEA Foundation scholarships at the annual APSEA Scholarship Dinner held on April 23, 2013. The event was emceed by Tina Macuha, a hostess on Good Day Sacramento. Judge Russell Hom swore in the incoming boards of APSEA and APSEA Foundation. Juney Lee, Chief Deputy Director, Dept of Rehabilitation received the APSEA President’s Award. Rebekah Christensen was recognized with the APSEA’s Member Award.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Lauren Fong, West Campus High School (APSEA scholarship)

Yangzhi Deng, C.K. McClatchy High School (APSEA Foundation)

Ryan Selfaison, Vanden High School (APSEA/APSEA Foundation Past Presidents)

Gregory Fong, C.K. McClatchy High School (Dean Lan/APSEA Foundation)

Wes Okuhara, C.K. McClatchy High School (SEIU Local 1000)

Mika Ishisaka, C.K. McClatchy High School (Verizon)

Mimi Wong, John F. Kennedy High School (Woo Family)

APSEA Foundation Officers

Susie Wong, President

Herbert Chan, Vice President

Brandon Louie, Secretary

William Liu, Treasurer

Randy Kajioka, Board Member

Michael Liang, Board Member

Janelle Poon, Board Member

APSEA Executive Board

Jeff Uyeda, President

Linda Ng, 1st Vice President

Grace Koch, 2nd Vice President

Rebekah Christensen, Recording Secretary

Sandy Jang, Treasurer

Pew's social media study pushes all the wrong buttons

By Julia Y. Huang
March 27, 2013

Most Americans like to poke fun of just how tech savvy Asian-Americans are. The stereotypical assumption is often accurate when it comes to finding the coolest social app or digital designer.

Experienced business travelers know that if you want to find the latest generation gadget, go to Seoul or Hong Kong or Tokyo. This fact, however, seems to be lost on the well-respected Pew Research Center.

How else can you explain their latest work, "The State of Social Media Users," which remarkably excludes Asian Americans from the study? The February 2013 report of social media users has either forgot about Asian Americans, lumped them in with their white counterparts or refused to score them. Why would Pew publish a comparison of social media users that doesn't track Asian Americans? Perhaps it might be that Asians' social media habits score so high against other races that it might not be an interesting or alarming comparison.

Why wouldn't Pew want to compare Asians to the other minority groups? Demographic research shows the rapid growth of Asian Americans – an increase of 46 percent between the 2000 and 2010 Census. And even though Asian Americans comprise a smaller part of the population than other groups, their growth rate is four times that of the general population. So why wouldn't Pew want to compare Asians to the other minority groups?

It's not the first time policy makers, the mainstream media, advertisers, think tanks or influential research groups have forgotten about Asian Americans. Sadly, it probably won't be the last.

The studies that ignore the rise of Asian Americans and the Asian impact on American culture not only deprive Asians a seat at the table, but it denies our society as a whole valuable information.

Dismissing Asian Americans when it comes to social media is a particularly bad idea. According to the most recent Nielsen Social Media Report, Asian Americans are the most likely group to have visited a social network, interacted with social media advertising and made purchases through social media. So why are we ignoring the leaders' habits?

There are far greater consequences for those minorities left behind in studies like Pew's latest. Government and non-profit funding for social, health and economic programs use these studies to make grant decisions. While national organizations like Pew marginalize Asian Americans in their studies, critical research is left to smaller, regional groups and universities that don't have the same clout. If an audience isn't counted, it doesn't get any attention, funding or support for pressing issues. Consequently, myths about Asian Americans as the "model minority" prevail. In the U.S., the common perception holds that Asians are harder working, more educated, higher earning and more successful than other ethnic groups.

Stereotypes like this, however positive they may seem, are detrimental in that they gloss over the serious problems facing Asian-Americans. Pew's refusal to include Asians in their social media study creates an over-hyped distraction that diverts attention from the threats and problems facing Asian Americans.

Every ethnic group has unique and inherent problems that should not be overlooked by false narratives. For example, black Americans have diabetes at nearly twice the rate of whites and nearly half the Hispanic population considers access to affordable health care a "very serious" problem. The successful Asian stereotype also means less than 1-in-3 Asian American children receive mental health

care treatment when parents determine there's a need, but fear the stigma attached to seeking treatment.

Are Asian Americans perceived as non-existent, unimportant or maybe just honorary Caucasian? The problems facing researchers in counting smaller groups is understandably an inconvenience. Asian Americans are frequently undercounted because of linguistic and cultural barriers -- the result of grouping together dozens of peoples from diverse ancestries that sometimes share little more than

a common region of the world. But the invisibility created by being left out also creates countless problems. Health needs are not met. Funds for social services are unfairly distributed. Politicians

"Illegal immigrant" no more

April 2, 2013

By Paul Colford, AP Director of Media Relations

AP (Associated Press) Stylebook today is making some changes in how we describe people living in a country illegally. Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Kathleen Carroll explains the thinking behind the decision: The Stylebook no longer sanctions the term "illegal immigrant" or the use of "illegal" to describe a person. Instead, it tells users that "illegal" should describe only an action, such as living in or immigrating to a country illegally.

Why did we make the change?

The discussions on this topic have been wide-ranging and include many people from many walks of life. (Earlier, they led us to reject descriptions such as "undocumented," despite ardent support from some quarters, because it is not precise. A person may have plenty of documents, just not the ones required for legal residence.) Those discussions continued even after AP affirmed "illegal immigrant" as the best use, for two reasons. A number of people felt that "illegal immigrant" was the best choice at the time. They also believed the always-evolving English language might soon yield a different choice and we should stay in the conversation. Also, we had in other areas been ridding the Stylebook of labels.

The new section on mental health issues argues for using credibly sourced diagnoses instead of labels. Saying someone was "diagnosed with schizophrenia" instead of schizophrenic, for example. And that discussion about labeling people, instead of behavior, led us back to "illegal immigrant" again.

We concluded that to be consistent, we needed to change our guidance. So we have.

Is this the best way to describe someone in a country without permission? We believe that it is for now. We also believe more evolution is likely down the road.

Will the new guidance make it harder for writers? Perhaps just a bit at first. But while labels may be more facile, they are not accurate. I suspect now we will hear from some language lovers who will find other labels in the AP Stylebook. We welcome that engagement. Get in touch at stylebook@ap.org or, if you are an AP Stylebook Online subscriber, through the "Ask the Editor" page.

Change is a part of AP Style because the English language is constantly evolving, enriched by new words, phrases and uses. Our goal always is to use the most precise and accurate words so that the meaning is clear to any reader anywhere.

The updated entry is being added immediately to the AP Stylebook Online and Manual de Estilo Online de la AP, the new Spanish-language Stylebook. It also will appear in the new print edition and Stylebook Mobile, coming out later in the spring.

and policy makers ignore the problems they don't even know exist. Entrepreneurs, particularly social entrepreneurs, miss opportunities to generate business, jobs and tax revenues.

Studies that omit key groups are a waste of time and lack credibility because their conclusions are based on only part of the picture. It seems to me, Pew should want to study the social media habits of those leading the digital revolution.

Julia Y. Huang is CEO of interTrend Communications - a national advertising agency connecting FORTUNE 500 companies with Asian American audiences.

It reads as follows:

illegal immigration: Entering or residing in a country in violation of civil or criminal law. Except in direct quotes essential to the story, use illegal only to refer to an action, not a person: illegal immigration, but not illegal immigrant. Acceptable variations include living in or entering a country

illegally or without legal permission. Except in direct quotations, do not use the terms illegal alien, an illegal, illegals or undocumented. Do not describe people as violating immigration laws without attribution. Specify wherever possible how someone entered the country illegally and from where.

Crossed the border? Overstayed a visa? What nationality?

People who were brought into the country as children should not be described as having immigrated illegally. For people granted a temporary right to remain in the U.S. under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, use temporary resident status, with details on the program lower in the story.

AP dropped the I-word!

Tell the New York Times to do the same

By Arturo Carmona, Presente.org

Huge news for immigrant rights: after decades of work and years of intense pressure from our community, including our friends at the Applied Research Center and Define American, The Associated Press has finally changed its hardline stance on using the term "illegal immigrants." Wow.

This a major win for how our nation thinks about immigrants and our communities. Words matter. This helps lay the foundation for a more just society.

But here's the thing: right now, The New York Times (NYT) is still dragging its feet on adopting new guidelines. If we push hard now, we can get this newspaper of record to stop calling people "illegal."

Tell the NYT to stop calling people "illegal"

They said we couldn't get immigrant-basher Lou Dobbs off the air, but together, we did it. They said Dreamers would never gain protected status, but together, we made it happen. They said it wasn't possible to get the AP to "drop the I-word," but today, they have. Now, we must act again.

Tell the NYT to stop calling people "illegal".

Let's take this victory, charge forward, and make calling people "illegal" a thing of the past. Thanks and adelante!

Asian Community Center (ACC)

ACC Bridge to Healthy Families: Filial Piety

By Susan Sarinas

According to the Random House dictionary, “filial piety in Confucianism is the important virtue and primary duty of respect, obedience, and care for one’s parents and elderly family members.” While filial piety is central to Confucian philosophy and the Chinese culture, most Asian cultures also share a strong belief in the importance of honoring your parents and ancestors. However, these traditional family values can often prevent Asian American caregivers from asking for help. They feel that it is their duty to shoulder the burden of caring for their aging parent or loved one.

I remember that my mother cared for my bed-ridden grandmother at home until the day grandma died at the age of 100. I could see the physical toll it took on my mom, along with the stress, anxiety, and anger at siblings and other family members who would not lend a hand. Yet, she would never think of putting my grandmother in a nursing home or hiring a caregiver.

Are you a caregiver struggling with the weight of filial piety? At ACC Bridge to Healthy Families (BHF) we provide support to families caring for a family member with Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia. We offer information and referral to resources, cognitive and behavioral screening, support groups, respite care, workshops and literature. Check the calendar for some upcoming caregiver workshops.

In addition, caregivers, who join the BHF program, will be able to apply for our new Caregiver Fund Scholarship. This scholarship is funded by a grant from the SCAN Health Plan. It is open to low income seniors, age 60 and above, with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease. The funds may be used to defray the costs of caregiving needs.

For more information or assistance in dealing with caregiving issues, contact ACC Bridge to Healthy Families (BHF), Judie Higashi, Community Nurse Specialist, 916/393.9026 x336, jhigashi@accsv.org or visit www.accsv.org.

Seeking Help

By Brigitte Ringle, BHF Caregiver

There was a time when I would have avoided seeking help, let alone go somewhere called the “Asian” Community Center for help. It sounded strangely anachronistic in this age

of “social and cultural integration.” Haven’t we all assimilated already? And, yet, the tradition of “gaman” (fortitude) is still very strong. That in itself isn’t such a bad thing. In a way, it is a tremendous asset. We all marvel at stories of individuals who overcame amazing adversities and became positive role models. Don’t we just love our heroes? It nearly drove me into the maw of depression.

Without a doubt, dementia is a frightening, confounding experience for someone suffering through it. Imagine for a moment the frustration of not remembering the name of your loved one, or the street where you’ve lived for decades on end! Then, imagine the effects on the family, especially the caregiver, usually the spouse or, often, the grown children, feeling the past slip away along with any remembrance of happier days. Let us not forget the very young children who become unwitting caregivers. Add to this mix the yoke of “Tradition.”

Pride was a bitter pill to swallow, and

the shadow of my father still very long. But, the tireless volunteers and staff at the ACC Drop-in Respite helped that pill go down without bitterness. Their sensitivity to the needs of all nationalities shines through in the faces of their charges and caregivers. I cannot thank them enough nor give enough. Please, support them.

There are only four kinds of people in the world—those who have been caregivers, those who currently are caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers.

--Rosalyn Carter, 1997



ACC Drop-In Respite & Caregiver Cooperative

Providing peace of mind by keeping frail elders safe in an enriching environment

**Wednesdays & Fridays 9 am - 2 pm
ACC Park City**

7375 Park City Dr., Sacramento, 95831

ACC provides a nutritious meal, snack, exercise, creative activities and a setting for socialization.

Suggested Donation: \$30 per day

Staff and volunteers speak: Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi, Tagalog, Japanese, Vietnamese, Hmong, Amharic, and more.

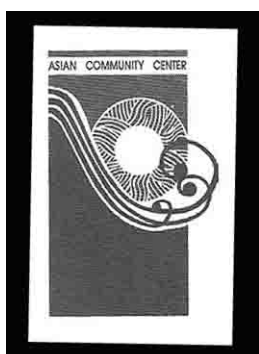
Contact for more information

Linda Revilla (916) 3693-9026 x323

Anna Su (916) 393-9026 x330

www.accsv.org

Partially supported by funds from AAAA



Forgotten Aviator: The Adventures of Royal Leonard

By Barry S. Martin

The *Forgotten Aviator: The Adventures of Royal Leonard* recounts the extraordinary story of a little-known American aviator who made a profound impact on modern Chinese history. Royal worked for the Manchurian warlord who captured Nationalist Chinese Dictator Chiang Kai-shek, then served as Chiang Kai-shek's personal pilot, and in 1936 provided Communist Political Commissar Chou En-lai his first airplane ride.

Before flying the war-torn skies of China, Royal had survived as a Rocky Mountain mail pilot, and flown a Gee-Bee "Widow Maker" in the 1935 Bendix Race. He pioneered the use of celestial navigation on American airlines. But his aggressiveness as an Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) officer fighting for his fellow pilots' safety in mail planes made him anathema to TWA management and they let him go.

During the Sino-Japanese War (1935-1941), Leonard was Johnny on the Spot. He barely escaped Japanese fighters during Bloody Saturday at Shanghai in August 1937. Shortly before the infamous Rape of Nanking, his plane was the last civilian air liner to depart the city. He flew through a typhoon in Hong Kong harbor. No wonder Ernest Hemingway's wife Martha Gellhorn called Royal "My hero" after long flights over China and Burma.

In November 1941, Madame Chiang Kai-shek and her American aviation advisor, Colonel Claire Chennault, sent Leonard to Burbank, California to bring Lockheed Hudson bombers back to China for the Flying Tigers, but the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor aborted the project. So Royal traveled to Washington, D.C. and briefed Brig. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, head of the War Department Far Eastern Plans Division, on the Chinese aviation situation. He also provided details about Chinese landing fields to Colonel Jimmy Doolittle for his Tokyo Raid.

Royal returned to the Orient and, dodged Japanese fighters for China National Aviation Corporation (CNAC) on "The Skyway to Hell" over the Hump, the Himalayan mountain ridge between northeastern India and southwestern China. He was chosen for a test flight on a day no other plane crossed the Hump due to hundred mile-per-hour winds and horrendous icing conditions and proved the practicability of using two-stage superchargers.

A trumped-up mail smuggling prosecution, however, ended Leonard's exciting war-time service in the Far East despite the loyalty and support of China's leaders. He died in a Glendale, California hospital bed in 1962 at the age of 57.

"If Royal's story were told in a novel," says former Air America pilot and author Felix Smith, "nobody would believe it all could have happened to one man."

Forgotten Aviator has been well-received in aviation history circles. Author Martin signed his book at the two Smithsonian Aviation Museums in Washington, D.C. and at the Museum of Flight in Seattle in 2012.

Historian Dan Ford, the leading expert on the Flying Tigers, concluded in a *Smithsonian Air & Space Magazine* review, "...*Forgotten Aviator* is a fascinating biography".

For more information about this biography, see www.bmartinauthor.com or contact the author at bmartin.author@gmail.com

Reading about Nisei Soldiers

By Roger Daniels

In the midst of the current media rediscovery of the heroism of Nisei soldiers during World War II it is important to remember that many Nisei soldiers were very badly treated by the Army. While reading Linda Tamura's fine new book, *Nisei Soldiers Break Their Silence* (2012), her notes directed me to an important earlier book, Shirley Castelnovo, *Soldiers of Conscience* (2008) which had been under my radar. The two books are very different in scope: Tamura tells, in large part with deft oral history, of all the Nisei soldiers in World War II from her home town of Hood River, Oregon while Castelnovo relates on a broad canvas the stories of Nisei who resisted army regulations or military service itself, and manages to say a few words about Iraq War resister Ehren Watada.

As is well-known, during World War I the Army had accepted volunteers of Japanese origin and drafted Japanese American citizens. When the draft was reintroduced in the fall of 1940, with provisions inserted by Congress forbidding racial discrimination, the Army assigned volunteers and draftees of Japanese ancestry to regular Army units for training.

By November 1941 Selective Service records show 3,188 young Japanese American citizens had been drafted; while others had enlisted or entered federal service via National Guard units. Soon after Pearl Harbor draft boards throughout the United States placed Nisei in category IV-4, unaccepted for physical or mental deficiencies; in September 1942 a selective service directive placed all undrafted Nisei registrants in category IV-3, previously reserved for enemy aliens, and thus ineligible for military service. By that time perhaps half of those who had been drafted in the United States, were no longer in the army, having been discharged or placed in the enlisted reserve. A very different state of affairs existed in war-torn Hawaii, as Franklin Odo has described in his *No Sword to Bury* (2004).

What happened to the thousand or so Nisei who remained in the army in the United States? Most went through basic training like other draftees, but were placed in one of two segregated units, and assigned to menial tasks, sometimes under guard. When the Army, in early 1943, changed its policy and allowed Japanese Americans to enlist for training in what became the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, about half of the Nisei in the labor units were transferred to either the 442 or the MIS Language School in Minnesota.

The shocking story of the mistreatment suffered by those the Army kept in the special labor units, many of whom were Kibei (US born largely educated in Japan), is revealed in the Tamura and Castelnovo books. Some were convicted of mutiny and sent to federal prisons. Others were kept in the special labor units, and, despite having clean military records, were given so-called blue discharges which denied them the veterans' benefits to which their service entitled them. It is a story that needs to be read about and remembered.

Letters to editor

I work with special needs students, however no matter what the need is ALL and every student is special in their own way.

As River City high school (West Sacramento) graduates prepare begin their final journey to walk on that stage to receive their high school diploma I think of the letter that five students compile at the end in the 1985 movie "Breakfast Club" and reflect upon the movie itself.

We were once high school students just like the current class 2013 whatever we did wrong "was wrong". I've come to know several todays graduating seniors since their freshmen years and lived with their continuous planks, excuses and crazy antics the last four years. I laugh and put myself in their feet some many moons ago. Yes, believe me I did crazy things in my days too and been there.

By reading the letter and seeing the movie of the *Breakfast Club*, some things that have been done in high school can't be changed. It is the future that we must look upon. We cannot give them labels of what one would perceive them to be: a brain, athlete, basket case, princess, and a criminal. Because that is not who they really are. We all have one of these qualities within ourselves, if not all. It is just what we see on the outside. Once graduating their true inside selves become to take place as reality sets in.

The end letter in the movie is as follows:

"Dear Mr. Vernon (principal), we accept the fact that we had to sacrifice a whole Saturday in detention for whatever it was we did wrong. What we did WAS wrong, but we think you're crazy to make us write an essay telling you who we think we are. You see us as you want to see us... In the simplest terms and the most convenient definitions. But what we found out is that each one of us is ... a brain... and an athlete ...and a basket case ... a princess ... and a criminal..."

Does that answer your question?

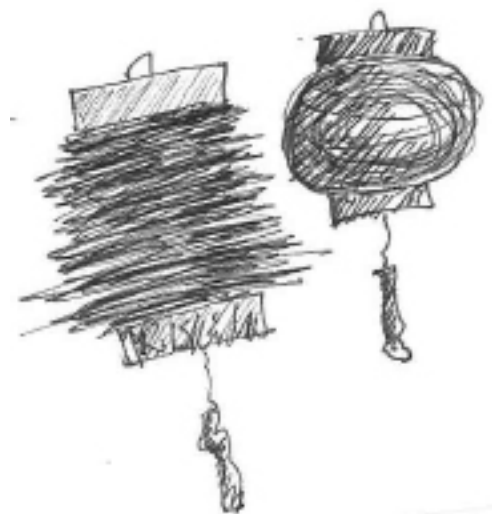
Sincerely yours, the Breakfast Club. "

.....once they become young adults they too will reflect the high school days. Yes, every student is special each in their own way. Class of 2013 - best of luck.

Randall Ishida
Educator / Paraeducator Specialist
River City High School

Dear "Currents" Editor

Sirs – you guys still can't get a hint. Your Winter/January 2013 issue has wonderful photographs. Yet you continue to NOT put captions with the photos. Yes, a picture is worth a thousand words but if there is no reason or rhyme of the photo and the text around the photo is reason to question what the photo is about. It would be nice to recognize the people in the picture. One seems to play a guessing game to see if the text surrounding the photo is even related to the text or one another. It makes the reader confused. "I'm-at-a-lost"



The Cats of Mirikitani Davis-ite's therapeutic children book

Documentary filmmaker Linda Hattendorf befriended then-80 year old Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani after the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center attack. Her film about Mirikitani's life and art, "The Cats of Mirikitani," won many film festival awards.

Mirikitani born in Sacramento in 1920, grew up in Hiroshima and returned to the US at age 19 to pursue an art career and to escape growing militarism in Japan. He spent much of WWII in the Tule Lake internment camp and after the war lived the rest of his life on the East Coast, working as a cook, often homeless, always working on his art. "Make art, not war" was Mirikitani's motto and his art told his story with bleak drawings of internment camps, angry depictions of exploding atomic bombs, and always cats.

Davis psychologist Lorie Honda found Mirikitani's story extraordinary and inspiring. Combined with her own experiences, she saw lessons to share. Her father Lawrence Honda spent four years during WWII in the Manzanar internment camp yet remained a most kind and gentle person. Her father's friend Ralph Lazo of Mexican/Irish descent had insisted on going to Manzanar with his Japanese American classmates from Los Angeles; his role as a bystander witnessing injustices inflicted on Japanese Americans during WWII became the subject of the 2004 film "Stand Up for Justice" Honda herself is a child psychologist who for 15 years has worked with neglected, abused and traumatized children. Using Mirikitani's work, she wants to share a lesson about transcending trauma by learning from other people who survived it. Honda says that having a witness is a big part of therapy because a witness validates that what happened is and was wrong.

Honda has titled her book "The Cat Who Chose to Dream." She says that the idea of a dream is very powerful ... even if you're shackled, you can still soar in your dreams. And with the cat, Mirikitani's dream was a way of processing what happened. In her book, Honda's cat will be Lazo the witness of what happened in the internment camps.

Honda contacted Mirikitani and he gave Honda permission to use his artwork for a children's book. Honda expects the book will be released later this year through the Dixon-based Martin Pearl Publishing company. Honda is now fundraising to print enough copies of her book to donate to area schools and child abuse treatment centers.

Unfortunately Mirikitani died last year and will never see the book. Honda believes that the book will not only be Mirikitani's story but also a book that will make a difference in the lives of children, perhaps even providing a therapeutic purpose. She hopes that it will generate interesting discussion.

To donate, contact Honda at 530/400-7298, lorienehonda@gmail.com, www.lorienehonda.com. Mirikitani and his art can be viewed at www.thecatsofmirikitani.com.

My Sister's House works to end human trafficking in Sacramento

In recent years, massage parlors have proliferated in the Sacramento area. Some of the massage parlors are legitimate businesses. Yet others operate as commercial fronts for brothels often utilizing Asian women. The illegitimate massage parlors claim to offer services typically found in legitimate massage parlors and spas. However, they also provide commercial sex for customers. The persons providing "massage services" may be victims of sex trafficking and/or labor trafficking. Many members of our community are concerned about what may be happening in these establishments.

On January 23rd, My Sister's House partnered with Asian and Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) to host the Sacramento Asian and Pacific Islander Massage Parlor Forum. Asian and Pacific Islander leaders, other concerned citizens and local organizations packed the Community Room of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Central Station. The topic of discussion: "Illegitimate massage parlors in our community."

My Sister's House Board member Sharon Ito moderated a panel consisting of Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones, Elk Grove Police Department Captain Wayne Kitade, Sacramento Police Deputy Chief Brian Louie, California Assemblymember Roger Dickinson and Sacramento City Councilmember Darrell Fong. The law enforcement representatives spoke about what each agency is doing to address human trafficking within its jurisdiction. The full house on a rainy night reflected our community's growing concern that law enforcement and our local and state officials should do more to address the troubling growth of massage parlors that condone human trafficking.

Two weeks later, My Sister's House held another full house anti-human trafficking event. On February 8th, approximately 200 people attended our human trafficking Conference "Protecting Our Children" at California State University, Sacramento. Conference speakers included Kay Buck, Executive Director of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking in Southern California; Special Agent Jennifer Alderete and Victim Witness Coordinator Renata Del Moral of the San Francisco Office of Homeland Security Investigations; Chris Stambaugh, Executive Director of The GRACE Network and representatives of local service agencies. Attendees learned the signs that a youth may be a victim of child sex trafficking, and resources available to youth human trafficking victims. Teav Mam, one of the 2012 Sacramento County District 4 Local Hero of Human Services Honorees, spoke about her efforts here and abroad to assist Cambodian sex trafficking survivors in rebuilding their lives.

If you are interested in assisting My Sister's House with its human trafficking program, please contact My Sister's House @ 916-930-0626 or ricoomsh@gmail.com.

MSH: 10 years of shelter and crisis line phone calls

This year My Sister's House celebrates its 10th anniversary of operating its shelter and crisis line. My Sister's House is the only domestic violence shelter providing culturally appropriate shelter

and services for Asian/Pacific Islander population in California's Central Valley. Since 2003, My Sister's House has provided over 18,000 bed nights to victims of domestic violence and their children and responded to over 6,500 calls for help and information. The bed nights of shelter and safety largely occurred through My Sister's House 6 bed shelter, or Safe Haven. In 2013, My Sister's House opened up a 6 bed transitional house.

Much thanks to all those that have donated and supported My Sister's House work and services, My Sister's House staff members that every day sought to assist clients in need, and to My Sister's House Board of Directors and Friends who provided the leadership, commitment and vision. Finally, much admiration to all the survivors who thrived at My Sister's House and who gave meaning and inspiration to all those involved.

To mark the 10 years, past shelter clients, staff, and board members gathered together for an international dinner. A highlight of the evening was a video of thanks composed by past shelter residents.

TRUST Act

Allows counties to opt out of ICE program

Assembly Bill 1081 would give local governments the right to opt out of the controversial Secure Communities program (S-Comm). The ICE Secure Communities program aims to deport criminal and non-criminal aliens alike. San Francisco ranks in the top 38 counties nationwide deporting "non-criminal aliens."

Critics of the S-Comm program claim that seven in ten Californians deported under S-Comm had committed no crime or were picked up for minor offenses like traffic violations. The program ruins trust between immigrant communities and the police. The bill lets local government have a say and restore some balance in the current national immigrant hysteria.

TRUST - Transparency and Responsibility Using State Tools Act - is sponsored by Assemblymembers Tom Ammiano, Gill Cedillo, Bill Monning and Senator Leland Yee. The legislation has the support of over 50 organizations and a slew of elected local officials.

S-Comm identifies fingerprints of persons booked at county jails against federal and international databases. Some counties have requested to opt out of S-Comm only to have ICE refused to honor their request.

The TRUST Act is a bill that seeks to limit harmful deportations of aspiring citizens triggered by trivial or discriminatory arrests, and aims to rebuild community confidence in local law enforcement.

On April 26th, the Assembly Public Safety Committee approved the TRUST Act.

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

Hypertension frequency varies widely among Asian American subgroups

Investigators have documented substantial heterogeneity in the prevalence of high blood pressure among Asian American subgroups. The data, released at the American College of Cardiology annual meeting in March, also show that the Filipino subgroup has the highest rates of hypertension, followed by the Japanese subgroup.

"Our results suggest that susceptible populations like the Filipino and Japanese subgroups may warrant early and aggressive intervention in blood pressure reduction to help decrease cardiovascular risk," Powell Jose, MD, Research Physician at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute. "Physicians should attempt to better understand cultural differences and barriers that may influence diet and health behaviors in Asian American subgroups. Nutrition and lifestyle counseling must be offered to these higher risk populations to help control hypertension in addition to medical therapy, when indicated."

Dr. Jose and his colleagues used electronic health records to compare the rates of hypertension for several Asian American subgroups with other racial/ethnic groups. Their analysis included 242,790 patients who were enrolled in a large, mixed-payer, outpatient health maintenance organization in the San Francisco Bay Area, and who were identified through self-report or by their name to be Asian American (Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, or Vietnamese), Hispanics, non-Hispanic blacks, or non-Hispanic whites. All study participants had made at least two primary care visits to their provider from 2008-2010.

Asian Americans are a rapidly growing minority population in the US, and their numbers are expected to grow to nearly 34 million by 2050, Dr. Jose noted. Higher rates of coronary heart disease have been reported for some Asian American subgroups, especially Asian Indians and Asian Filipinos.

Knowledge of cardiovascular risk factors among Asian American subgroups is inadequate, he said. For example, hypertension is a major coronary risk factor, but hypertension rates among Asian American subgroups are unknown, which is primarily because of underrepresentation or aggregation of Asian American subgroups in epidemiologic studies. Individuals in the present analysis were deemed hypertensive if their blood pressure was 140/90 mm Hg or higher during two separate non-emergent office visits or if they had an ICD-9 coding for hypertension, or reported using any anti-hypertensive medication.

Results showed that hypertension rates controlled for age and sex were lower for aggregated Asian Americans (34.9%) compared to non-Hispanic whites (38.9%). However, when disaggregated by Asian American subgroups, Filipinos had markedly higher hypertension rates (51.9%) than non-Hispanic whites. In addition, adjusted hypertension rates were lower among most Asian American subgroups including Chinese (29.8%), Koreans (30.7%), Vietnamese (30.8%), and Asian Indians (36.9%) than non-Hispanic whites. The Japanese subgroup had hypertension rates (38.2%) that were similar to non-Hispanic whites. Further analysis revealed that Filipinos and Japanese were the only high-risk Asian American subgroups for hypertension compared with whites. The study found no significant gender differences in racial/ethnic patterns of hypertension rates.

Dr. Jose cautioned that the study was confined to a single geographic area with small

sample sizes in some Asian American subgroups, thereby limiting the generalizability of the results. In addition, because of the study's cross-sectional design, the researchers were not able to look for potential causal relationships.

Finally, the investigators were unable to control for some socioeconomic variables such as education and income, behavioral variables such as diet, and clinical variables such as medication adherence, all of which may influence prevalence rates. Dr. Jose added, however, that the study's internal validity is bolstered by the relative homogeneity in economic status of the study population as evidenced by the fact that all patients were insured and had access to health care.

American Cancer Society Join the CPS-3 study

This year, the American Cancer Society (ACS) invites the public to join the movement to create a world with less cancer and more birthdays by enrolling in their latest research study called Cancer Prevention Study-3 (CPS-3). This is the third major study sponsored by ACS with the first research CPS-1 starting in 1959 which eventually linked smoking to cancer, and the second study CPS-2 starting in 1982 which studied cancer, nutrition, obesity and overall wellness. CPS-2 will soon be wrapping up.

ACS Epidemiology Research Program wants 300,000 diverse participants from across the country to participate. The study is open to anyone in the US and Puerto Rico who is willing to commit to a long-term study which means completing periodic follow up surveys at home for the next 20-30 years, is between 30 and 65 years old, and has never been diagnosed with cancer (not including basal or squamous cell skin cancer). ACS will be enrolling volunteers through the end of 2013.

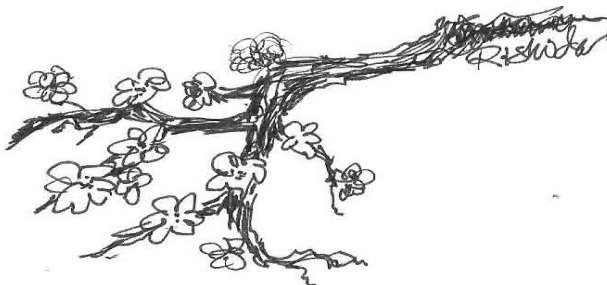
Through this study ACS wants to better understand lifestyle, behavioral environmental, genetic factors which cause or prevent cancer.

To enroll in this historic research project involves two steps. One step takes place at a local enrollment event, where you will be asked to read and sign an informed consent form, complete a brief written survey, provide a waist circumference measurement and a small blood sample (similar to a doctor's visit - 7 teaspoons total). The blood sample will be taken by a certified, trained phlebotomist.

The other step takes place at home, where you will complete a more detailed survey. This survey will ask for information on your lifestyle, behavioral, and other factors related to your health.

Then periodically over the next 20-30 years, you will receive a survey at home to update that information.

Join "The Official Sponsor of Birthdays" ACS's fight against cancer and sign up for the study. For more information, check www.cp3@cancer.org or call 1-888-604-5888.



One of my darkest days

April 22, 2013

As we mourn the tragedy in Boston, we can't forget what happened on the floor of the Senate last week -- and I need your help.

Last Wednesday was one of my darkest days in the Senate. A minority of senators ignored 90% of Americans -- the hard-working men and women who are looking to us to help keep their families and their children safe -- and instead caved under the pressure of a small but powerful gun lobby, by filibustering a bipartisan compromise on expanding background checks.

I am heartbroken.

How do we just shrug our shoulders and accept this level of senseless violence, when we can take concrete steps to minimize the loss of innocent lives -- right now? How do gun lobbyists, and the senators in their pockets, flat out lie and suggest that reform would lead to a national gun registry, when the bill explicitly states that is prohibited?

How do 90% of the Republican Senators in Congress vote against something that 90% of the American people -- and 85% of gun owners -- support?

Click here to urge the 45 Senators -- 41 Republicans and four Democrats who voted against 90% of the American people last Wednesday -- to reconsider their vote and stand with the American people in support of commonsense gun violence prevention measures.

This isn't the first time we've seen senators do the bidding of a few powerful, money-backed special interest groups at the expense of the majority of American families -- but this is an all-time low.

It's downright shameful that these senators express their condolences for victims' families, yet choose not to stand up to the NRA when given a clear opportunity to prevent another tragedy like Newtown.

Three days after Newtown, Senator Mitch McConnell took to the Senate floor and said, "There's literally nothing we wouldn't do for our kids." But then yesterday, he turned around and voted against one of the simplest and most commonsense measures to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill.

How hypocritical.

I am more committed to this fight than ever, and I am never giving up. I know you won't either. Together, we will continue to support candidates who will stand up against the NRA and with America's children and families.

Click here to urge the 45 Senators -- 41 Republicans and four Democrats who voted against 90% of the American people last Wednesday -- to reconsider their vote and stand with the American people in support of commonsense gun violence prevention measures.

Thanks for standing strong with me.
In friendship,

Barbara Boxer
US Senate

“Angry Little Asian Girl” to debut on Mnet

Lela Lee’s online cult comic strip about Asian American rage is coming to Mnet (cable) this summer. Lee, a LA based artist raised in the San Gabriel Valley, has used her humorous outlet as a primal scream, a blast of defiance. Her main character Kim epitomizes the shout-out “It’s not easy being a girl, stuck with mean parents, a dumb boyfriend and annoying friends... (Kim) has the freedom of being able to say just what you need to say.”

Lee claims to have been raised by ultra-strict parents, the youngest of four daughters in a “Korean American household who were constantly pushed to achieve and “be somebody.” Lee now in her late 30’s has produced seven comic books and a broad line of merchandise.

The original and main character Kim is one short-tempered little girl, set gets mad a lot and has the mouth of a sailor. She finds fault with everything and everyone. She came into the world when Lee was a sophomore at UC Berkeley and Lee needed a release from pressure from her parents’ expectations/demands for a top career. Lee started drawing, a favorite escape.

The drawings became a short video “Angry Little Asian Girl, the first day of school” which was later shelved. After graduating in 1997 with a degree in rhetoric, Lee tried acting and landed roles in “Shopping for Fangs,” “Felicity,” “Friends,” and “Scrubs” (surgical intern). Then her mother assigned her to work at the family’s dry cleaning business in Covina where the chemicals, customers, pressure to “succeed”, her more off-then-on relationship with her mother and boredom compelled Lee to resurrect Kim, this time on butcher paper and Magic Marker pens.

Lee joined up with a cinematographer and “Angry Little Asian Girl, 5 Angry Episodes” screened at an American Cinema Tech event in 1998. They got great reviews from the press and public which inspired Lee to make Angry Little Asian Girls teeshirts which she first forced onto friends and later sold from her apartment and car.

Lee’s work has been featured in Spike and Mike’s Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation. She launched a website and urged readers to share their angry stories. “There’s something about anger and women not being allowed to express it ... that compels them to finally do something about it.”

Expanding her market met with rejections from mainstream media- Lee heard often that her work was “too racially charged” and “Asians didn’t represent a strong consumer market when it came to ratings.” But Mnet, an Asian American channel which attracts post college, young professionals signed on for two seasons of “Angry Little Asian Girl” and the program is expected to debut in June. Since comedian Margaret Cho will be the voice of Mother Lee, the program will be a success.



David Phan’s Suicide Sparks Grief, Anger and Call for Justice

By Terry K Park

January 3, 2013

After their son took his own life on November 29th, David Phan’s family received two boxes. One box, sent by Bennion Junior High, was filled with generic pamphlets on how to deal with suicide-related grief. The other box, given by current and former classmates, contained over 600 letters expressing their support and sorrow for the loss of their child. These letters, according to family advocate Steven Ha, paint a portrait of a 14-year-old who, despite being a victim of bullying himself, protected other victims of bullying. At a December 20th briefing for local Asian American activists at the offices of the Refugee and Immigrant Center - Asian Association of Utah, Ha read out loud one such letter from a former classmate:

“Dear Phan family. Your son David is a life saver. I’m going to miss him...This kid is amazing, has a great personality...I’ve never met someone who could make me smile when I’m deeply sad. He saved my sister’s life. She was going to kill herself, but you [David] talked her out of it. If it wasn’t for him, I wouldn’t have a sister because of him, your son...I will not forget you [David]. I am letting balloons go in the air to honor you. I’m so lucky to have met him. He always made everyone smile...If someone was sad, he’d ask if they need a hug. He was the hero of the school. If only I was still there, I would’ve made sure this wouldn’t have happened.”

Tragically, it did. And now a Vietnamese American family grieves for the loss of their son and seeks answers. The answers given by Granite School District spokesperson Ben Horsely in the immediate wake of David’s suicide were not only insufficient, but struck the Phan family and supporters as defensive, insensitive, and even illegal. “David,” said Horsely, faced “significant personal challenges on multiple fronts” for which he supposedly received support for from a guidance counselor. And despite a report of bullying several years ago, “[David] never reported any further bullying concerns and, on the contrary, reported that things were going well.”

In response to these statements, the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah sent a letter to Granite School District Superintendent Martin W. Bates (made public in The Salt Lake Tribune), charging that Horsely “released confidential and protected information about David in violation of federal and state law, as well as making false and misleading statements and insinuations about David and his family.” The letter continues, “Most troubling to David’s parents and to us is that this pattern of wrongful behavior appears to be crafted to deflect questions about any potential responsibility from the District and to try to cast blame and suspicion on David and his family.” The school and the school district have been asked to cease and desist from commenting further on David and his family.

Clearly, things were not “going well” for David. And as more social media chatter and newspaper articles came out, it became clear that there was a crucial dimension to the bullying that caused much anxiety for Bennion and the Granite School District -- David was gay.

As reported in The Salt Lake Tribune, while David’s family lovingly supported him when he came out as gay, David shielded his parents from the “horror and negative experiences” he faced at Bennion. The desire to protect the parents from knowing that one is being bullied is quite common, according to Dr. Amanda Di Bartolomeo, clinical psychologist at George Mason University, who has worked with students in similar situations. But what’s uncommon and inexcusable is that no one from Bennion alerted the Phan family about any “personal

challenges,” whether bullying or non-bullying related.

Unquestionably, Bennion’s chain of command failed to provide David the support he needed and wanted. It has also failed many of its other students, as indicated in many of the letters from current and former classmates addressed to the Phan family. So what, exactly, was the tipping point for David?

As reported in The Salt Lake Tribune, on the day David committed suicide, Bennion alerted his mother, Phuong Tran, to let her know that her son had been suspended. When Tran rushed to the school, she was told by the principal that the reason for David’s suspension was because they found a condom in his backpack. When asked why a condom should justify suspension, she was told that they would discuss it further the following Tuesday.

Apparently, Bennion exists in a universe where the search of an APIA student’s body and personal property is warranted, and where a condom on campus is seen as a sign of criminal behavior rather than mature responsibility (not to mention that many public schools freely give out condoms to students to encourage safe sex practices). Whereas David’s Vietnamese family unconditionally embraced him when he came out as gay, Bennion and Granite turned its back on David as he endured anti-gay bullying -- and used the condom to punitively construct David’s sexuality as a threat to the school.

Many Asian Americans around the country turned to social media to express a range of responses -- shock, anger, sadness -- in response to David’s suicide, the reports of anti-gay bullying, and the statements issued by Bennion Junior High and the Granite School District. Pahole Sookkasikon, a PhD student in American Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and an organizer in the Thai American community, posted on his Facebook wall, “I am outraged for David Phan. His suicide could have been prevented...It may get better in the future, but what about it being better NOW.”

Dennis Chin, member of the Gay Asian Pacific Islander Men of New York (GAPIMNY), posted on his Facebook wall, “Really triggering for me. Been thinking a lot about what the right response to this would look like. And how deep our wounds run, and persist, despite ‘getting better.’ And...how I even made it here alive...”

Local groups in Utah, led by Ha, are already in the process of coordinating a response. Ha, a member of Utah’s small but growing 8,000 plus Vietnamese American community, as well as first vice-chairman of the Utah Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce, is leading a coalition of local Asian American and LGBT civil liberties organizations, namely the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) and the Utah Pride Center, to pursue a path of legislative changes through the Utah State Senate to combat bullying, as well as legal redress for the Phan family. To that end, according to Ha, the Phan family currently has several options to pursue multiple complaints and lawsuits. Complaints will be filed by the ACLU to the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and the US Department of Education. The Phan family has also accepted pro-bono services from the Salt Lake City firm of Ford and Huff, who will assist in deciding if national law firms may be more suitable. A separate suit for defamation and wrongful death is being considered as well. Ha hopes that national API organizations and individuals will support these legislative and legal efforts to prevent more tragedies like David’s suicide from happening again.

Continued on Page 11

24 attend Hmong conference in Fresno

Twenty four Sacramento students attended the 16th Annual Hmong National Development Conference held in Fresno on April 5-7. The students came from Burbank, Johnson, Kennedy and McClatchy high schools. The theme of the conference was the "Journey Forward, The Next Chapter of the Hmong Americans."

The students participated in eight youth development workshops focusing on art, civic participation, business, college preparation and technology development.

Lea Vue, a student at McClatchy, shared what she enjoyed from the conference. "It was a good opportunity to be there. No (Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD)) students would have been there without HALO. It would have been better if more McClatchy students went."

Jaimandy Vang, another McClatchy student added, "HNDC is fun, it's like a wonderful place. It was good, I met new people and I learned a lot about my own culture. I learned how to help the Hmong people in our community."

Funding for student participation was provided by the Health and Life Organization (HALO) in conjunction with the ASSETs Access Grant.

Charter Yang, president of the Board of Directors at HALO, met with the SCUSD students and answered a variety of questions about education, volunteerism and developing multicultural relationships. "It was truly a blessing and an honor to have met those young bright minds. If anything at all, I wanted to inspire the students to dream, to set goals, and to challenge themselves to work hard for them. High school can be such a difficult time for students, and I wanted them to know that life will get better if they are willing to dream and learn to make the necessary sacrifices to achieve those dreams."

Lea Vue recounts the group conversation with Mr. Yang. "Charter was very open-minded. What inspired me was him telling us about his experiences, especially his advice like networking with people, getting to know others from the outside, and getting out of our comfort zone. Also, he helped us get information about volunteering. His stories motivated me to become more than what I am and to become bigger."

Choua Yang, program manager at the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center who partners with Luther Burbank and Kennedy high schools chaperoned students to the conference. "It was my first HNDC and exciting to have experienced it with my very own ASSETs students from all four schools... I hope to one day look back and know that my time was invested in developing future Hmong leaders." Choua Yang said.

According to the 2010 US Census over 40,000 people with Hmong heritage are under the age of 18 in California, making youth development and leadership a large contributing factor to empowering this sector of society.

Conference attendees were addressed by Mee Moua, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C., and Seema Patel, senior adviser for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders.

The conference theme "Journey Forward: The Next Chapter of Hmong Americans" expected to bridge a generational gap between the young, who struggle to balance ethnic tradition with American values, and the old, who still hang on to a war-torn past. "We're marking the closing of the refugee period," said Seng Vang, the conference co-chairman. "We've been here almost 40 years. It's time to move on and focus" on what the community needs now. At the top of the list is encouraging community

organizations and elders to support Hmong youth, Vang said. About 44% of the Hmong living in the U.S. are under 18, according to 2010 Census.

Many community agencies focus on helping refugees or the elderly, but not on creating programs for youths who need educational and emotional support for success, Vang said.

Other areas of concern include finding solutions for the group's high poverty rate, at 25% compared to 11% of the general U.S. population, the Census Bureau said. Mental and physical health disparities, housing, employment and education was also discussed at workshops.

Source: www.sccsc.wordpress.com, Fresno Bee April 1, 2013 (BoNhia Lee)

Infinity & Chashu Ramen, an indie film by and about Asian Americans - May 5

By Ben Arikawai

Sacramento screening of Infinity & Chashu Ramen, an independent film shot almost entirely in San Francisco's Japantown has been scheduled for May 5th at the Crest Theatre on K St. The Sacramento screenings will be held in partnership with the Northern California District Council of the


Buddhist Churches of America.

The cast is almost entirely Asian American and all the major roles are played by Asian Americans. It is not a martial arts film and most of us play regular people that could be just as well be Caucasian American, but with an ethnic twist. Somehow, in my fifties, I was cast in a minor role in Infinity, which is a story unto itself.

Hiroshi Kashiwagi at 90 is one of the stars. Hiroshi is an actor, playwright and poet. He was born in Loomis and sent to the camps during World War II when he was in his late teens. In the camps, he was a renunciant; renouncing his US citizenship rather than answering the loyalty questionnaire. For years after the war, people he knew before the war would cross the street rather than greet him. I think that this is Hiroshi's second starring role in a feature length movie; he was featured with Mako in Hito Hata. He had a small part in the Michael Douglas film "Black Rain."

Featured along with Kashiwagi is Wendy Woo in her first feature film. Ms. Woo recently graduated from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

There is a 2:00 pm reception catered by Megami's prior to the first screening, which is at 4:00. The director and some of the actors and crew will be at the reception. (Hiroshi said that he will be coming to the show.) The second screening is at 6:45. The reception is \$30, which includes a ticket to a show. The screenings are \$10. Osaka Ya (2215 10th St, Sacramento) is a retail outlet for tickets. Tickets are also available from the Sacramento and Florin Buddhist Churches (or any Northern California Buddhist Church) or tickets.com (service charges will apply). The film's website is: www.Infinityandchashuramen.com

SAVE THE DATE
Please Join The
Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus
At The

2013 Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Gala
To Celebrate the Accomplishments of Asian Pacific Islander Americans
And To Benefit The New Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Foundation
A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization (EIN: 46-189727)

May 13, 2013
Sacramento Convention Center
5:30 PM Cocktail Reception * 6:30 PM Dinner Program & Awards

Sponsorship Levels

Gala Chair	\$25,000
Platinum	\$10,000
Gold	\$5,000
Silver	\$2,500
Bronze	\$1,000
Community	\$750

Individual Ticket
\$100

TO RSVP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
apilef@gmail.com

Calendar

Continued from Page 12

June 27-30 **CAIR-California 9th Annual Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP). Empowering the Youth of Today to Become the Leaders of Tomorrow.** A four-day intensive political immersion and leadership building retreat in Sacramento will provide an in-depth understanding of the legislative process, as well as hands-on training in the areas of civic engagement and media advocacy. For high school juniors and seniors. Application deadline-May 10. Info: 916/ 441-6269, info@sacval.cair.com

July 3-7 **Pact's 11th Annual Family Camp**, Tahoe City. Pact Family Camp brings together adopted children of color and their families from around the country to share their experiences, learn from experts and each other, and enjoy each other's company. Info: Pact, An Adoption Alliance, 4179 Piedmont Ave. # 101, Oakland 94611, Deanna Matthews 510/243-9460

July 12 Fri **Angel Island Bus Trip by Chinese American Council of Sacramento.** \$65 includes bus, ferry, tour, tram and lunch. Info: Brenda Fong 916/391-0511, bjfong1950@yahoo.com

July 13-14 **Kimochi Old Timer's Fun Basketball Tournament.** JCCCNC gym in SF Japantown. Norman Owyong the first Chinese person to try out for the NBA SF Warriors will be honored during the tournament.

July 18 Thu **My Sister's House Art with a Heart Night.** 530-730pm at Gallery 21 Ten and Sacramento Art Complex (2110 K St, Sac). An art, wine and nibbles event. Info: 916/930-0626, info@my-sisters-house.org

July 20 Sat **CAPITAL general meeting.** 830am breakfast, 9am meeting at Sacramento County Sheriff's Department (7000 65th St, Sac).

July 25 Thu **Doing Business in Japan Seminar.** Calasian Chamber of Commerce. Info: Gordon Hinkle 916/446-7883, www.calasiancc.org

August 3 Sat **My Sister's House Rummage Sale.** Info: 916/930-0626, info@my-sisters-house.org

Aug 8 Thu **Asian Community Center "Maximizing Your Memory."** 2:30-4pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr. Sac). This informative and interactive program will focus on how to tell the difference between normal age-related memory loss and dementia. Participants will also learn tips and strategies for improving memory. Presented by Bonnie Chow, Family Care Advocate, Alzheimer's Association. Free. Pre-registration required. Call: 916/393-9026.

August 8 Thu **Consulate Series (Japan)**. Calasian Chamber of Commerce. Info: Gordon Hinkle 916/446-7883, www.calasiancc.org

Aug 24 Sun **Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation Annual Benefit Dinner Show featuring Taikoproject.** Taikoproject is the first American taiko group to win the Tokyo International Taiko Contest (2005). They appeared in the Mitsubishi Eclipse commercial (2005), performed at the 2009 Academy Awards, and 2011 Grammy Awards. 5pm cocktails, 5-645 box dinners, 7pm open theater seating at 9040 High Tech Ct, Elk Grove. \$20/advance, \$25/door. Proceeds for Phase 2 building expansion. Info: www.sasfquest.org, Karen Cotton 916/739-1616.

Aug 8 Thu **Asian Community Center "Maximizing Your Memory."** 2:30-4pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr. Sac). This informative and interactive program will focus on how to tell the difference between normal age-related memory loss and dementia. Participants will also learn tips and strategies for improving memory. Presented by Bonnie Chow, Family Care Advocate, Alzheimer's

Association. Free. Pre-registration required. Call: 916/393-9026.

Current Faces, New Places

Hyun Choi "Hank" Conger will be backup catcher for the Angels #16 in spring training. Born Seattle, raised in Huntington Beach, major league debut 2010.

Asst. Prof. Ken Loh, UCD Dept of Civil and Environmental Engineering and **Asst. Prof. Lois Yan**, UCD Dept of Entomology, along with two other UCD colleagues, earned the prestigious Faculty Early Career Development awards (CAREER awards) from the National Science Foundation funding projects of junior faculty usually a five year research program and outreach and education to local schools. Loh's \$400,000 award is for his work on thin, multi-functional structural coating made from carbon nanotubes. Yan's \$600,000 to study the importance of timing in interactions between plants, animals and their environment, specifically studying the monarch butterfly and milkweed.

Sujatha Moni, CSUS professor of women's studies, received the 2012-2013 Outstanding Teacher Award for the College of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Studies.

Corrine Yee Joe received an Honorable Mention recognition for the Sacramento County 2012 Heroes of Human Services award.

Teav Mam received a 2012 Sacramento County District 4 Local Hero of Human Service Honor. She spoke at My Sister's House/APAPA's January 23rd forum on human trafficking about assisting Cambodian sex trafficking survivors in rebuilding their lives.

UC Berkeley Japanese American Alumni Association in April planted the Japanese Cherry Tree Grove on the West Circle of the Berkeley campus.

Professor Kieu-Linh Caroline Valverde was granted tenure in March. Valverde is on the Asian American studies faculty at UC Davis.

Current Faces, Recent Passings

Prof. Jori "Jerry" Kaneko, 88. UCD professor of veterinary medicine (clinical pathology, Davis City Councilmember, active in the democratic party, a member of the Davis Odd Fellow Lodge. Born in Stockton, raised in French Camp, interned during WWII at Gila River Reservation, US Army veteran. Died January 12th.

Prof. Roger "Terry" Turner, 74. Born Ohio, grew up Cincinnati, moved to Davis in 1963. A Davis social justice advocate, Woodland Community College (WCC) professor of art and humanities. Active Davis Religious Community of Sanctuary, West Yolo Democratic Club, Friends of Rutilio Grande; delivered Currents to WCC for years. Died April 15th.

Prof. Wayne Maeda, 65. Born Dayton Ohio. CSUS professor of Asian American studies for 40 years and a founding faculty member for CSUS ethnic studies department. He also taught at UCD and Sacramento City College. He curated exhibits and wrote books about Japanese American history. Died February 27.

David Phan, from Page 9

However, Esther Kim, a queer Korean American organizer living in Salt Lake City (and a product of the Granite School District), would like to see other forms of mobilization that provide effective resources to local APIA and queer youth of color. As Kim wrote on a Facebook thread about David's death, "The API community in Utah is hella heteronormative and it makes me uneasy as a queer API person to see a desire to do this work in such a reactionary, savior-esque way. Queer folks of color existed and were marginalized before David Phan and we will continue to exist after the dust settles. This work requires a real commitment from allied communities to get into it and not just folks who are looking to benefit off of a tragedy."

In a separate interview, Kim added, "It's really frustrating to live in Utah and then have connections to national organizations on the coasts. But the practices of these national organizations are really space-specific. They work at the places where they're at because they have a specific kind of infrastructure to support them. So when you try to apply those kinds of models here, they don't work. I know queer API people who are doing marriage equality in San Francisco. I understand why they're doing that, but for me, that is not important in Utah."

Emilio Manuel Camu, president of the Asian American Student Association of the University of Utah, had this to say: "As a student that graduated from the Granite School District, I've witnessed and been a victim of the neglect by the administration whenever bullying was discussed...They continue to blame the victim and the family and try to uphold their status as a wonderful and safe space for students to learn." Camu added, "If any place is a strict believer of the Model Minority Myth of Asian Americans, it's Utah...As long as they do well in class, they're noticed, but that's about it. I think it's a little different in Utah because a lot of the AA students I've worked with think they're the only AAs because we have such a small community that they can't reach out for support, because the 'support' they're given is deemed sufficient and their 'problem' is neglected."

For his work as president of the AASA, Camu said, "We've received plenty of complaints from counselors about hosting our annual Asian American High School Conference because we talk about issues of gender, sex, racism within the Asian American community. It's not something they feel comfortable discussing, and even some of the administrators at the U [nickname for the University of Utah] have discouraged us from talking about being AA [and] queer."

Unsurprisingly, Utah school districts have a long pattern of aggressive discrimination of organized queer students. I remember in 1995 when the formation of a Gay-Straight Alliance club at a high school I attended, East High School, prompted the Salt Lake City School District to shut down all non-curricular clubs, a move that led the ACLU of Utah to file two lawsuits on behalf of students. It also prompted the formation of a different club at another high school I attended, West High School -- SAFE, or Students Against Fags Everywhere. In October 2000, the Salt Lake City School District reinstated all nonacademic clubs, including East's GSA, and the ACLU dropped its litigation.

Since then, despite its status as the headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Salt Lake City has surprised many by coming to be known as a gay-friendly city, culminating in its selection by The Advocate as "the gayest town in America" (based on an active gay nightlife and anti-discrimination protections for gay and transgender people, adopted by the LDS Church in November 2009). That said, the Salt Lake metropolitan area has miles to go to address bullying of youth, queer youth, queer youth of color, and APIA youth.

Calendar

May 6 Mon **2013 APA Heritage Awards Ceremony.** Honoring achievements in the performing arts. 530pm ceremony at SF Jazz Center (201 Franklin St, SF), reception at SF City Hall (free with ticket). Info: www.apasf.org

May 7, 8, Aug 6, Nov 13 **APSEA's 2013 Navigating Leadership Series – Conversations in Leadership.** 530-8pm at USC Sol Price Sacramento Center (18th X I St, Sac). Free to APSEA members, nominal fee for non-members. Info: www.apsea.org.

May 8, Jun 12, Jul 10, Aug 14 Wed **Asian Community Center Family Caregiver Support Group.** 12-1pm at ACC Park City (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.

May 9 Thu **Asian Bar Assn of Sacramento (ABAS) Foundation's 11th Annual Wine and Food Tasting Event.** 6-830pm at Pavilions (Fairs Oaks Blvd, Sac). Fundraiser for scholarship gifting. \$40/person. Info: www.abaslawfoundation.org, Brian Lim winetasting@abaslawfoundation.org

May 9 Thu **Asian Community Center 7th Annual Golf Tournament.** Teal Bend Golf Course (7200 Garden Highway). Join us for a fun day of golf followed by a Hawaiian BBQ lunch. Info: Don Morishita, 916/266-3889, Terisa Lee, 916/394-6399 ext141, tle@accsv.org.

May 9, Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 8 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 we can review it to see if we can save you money! Info: Susan Sarinas, 916/393-9026 x339, team@accsv.org.

May 9 Thu **Asian Community Center "Meaningful Days & Dealing with Problem Behaviors."** 6-7pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). To create meaningful days, you must know who your loved one has been and what they valued. Introvert or extrovert? A planner or a doer? A follower or a leader? Do you know their work history, social history, leisure background? Presented by Pam O'Leary, MSW and Community Liaison with Yolo Hospice. Free. Pre-registration required. Call: 916/393-9026.

May 10-12 **Al Maghrib Institute's Sacramento Chapter: Behind the Scenes.** An in depth study of the spiritual practices of the best generations. Taught by Shaykh Omar Suleiman at Masjid Annur (6990 65th St, Sac). Enroll at www.almaghrib.org/sacramento. Info: ameer.wedad@almaghrib.org

May 10 Fri **Jake Shimabukuro: Life on 4 Strings.** Honolulu born ukulele virtuoso. 9pm on KVIE-6

May 10 Fri **Independent Lens: Seeking Asian Female.** Documentary on white baby boomers obsessed with Asian women and seeking mail order brides. 11pm on KVIE-6.

May 11 Sat **"WALK with the DOC" and brings kids, friends and dogs.** Walk leader Assemblyman Dr. Richard Pan. Walk with a Doc is a Free walking program for anyone who is interested in taking steps to improve their heart health. Each walk is hosted by a friendly local physician. In addition to the numerous health benefits you'll enjoy just by walking, you'll also get the chance to talk with the doc while you walk. 2 loops of the park (1.6 miles). 8am registration, 830am walk at McKinley Park (McKinleyX33rd St, Sac). Info: Evette Tsang 916/719-5087.

May 11 Sat **CAPITAL general meeting.** 830am breakfast, 9am meeting at Sacramento County Sheriff's Department (7000 65th St, Sac).

May 11 Sat **Asian Pacific Spring Festival.** 11am-4pm on Main Street, Locke. Free.

May 11 Sat **CAAM: "The Crumbles"** showings for one day only. Director Akira Boch won the Verizon Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature at CAAM's 30th SF International Asian American Film Festival, is returning for a full day of screenings at the Roxie Theater in SF. Ticket on the Roxie Theatre website. Info: jchu@caamedia.org

May 12-21 **China Trade Mission Trip** sponsored by Calasian Chamber of Commerce. Info: Gordon Hinkle 916/446-7883, www.calasiancc.org

May 13 Mon **Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Foundation's Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Gala.** Sacramento Convention Center. \$100/person. Celebrating the historic accomplishments of California's Asian & Pacific Islander Americans and the Asian & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus. The mission of APILC Foundation is to promote and support the history, culture, and heritage of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. APILC Foundation aims to increase and maintain civic engagement and participation of Asian Pacific Islander Americans in California. Info: apilcf@gmail.com

May 16 Thu **PACT Workshops for Pre-Adoptive Parents-Family of Color Adoption Orientation.**

630-830pm. **Free orientation by PACT Adoption Specialists,** Malaika Parker & Katie Wynen, to learn about the adoption process through PACT and PACT's work with expectant mothers who particularly want families with at least one African American and/or Latino parent to adopt their baby. Info: 510/243.9460, www.pactadopt.org, info@pactadopt.org

May 18 Sat **My Sister's House – Know Your Rights Legal Clinic for Afghani/Iraqi/Iranian/Russian women.** 10am-noon. Info: 916/930-05626

May 18 Sat **9th Annual Asian Pacific Heritage Street Celebration.** Faces of Asia Cultural Procession, Arts and Crafts World Market. Free. 11am-6pm at Larkin between Grove and Ellis, SF.

May 19 Sun **PACIFIC RIM STREET FEST.** "SHOES" is the theme. Old Sacramento. Info: www.pacificrimstreetfest.com

May 20 Mon **My Sister's House Gala "Believe ... in a better life."** A Broadway style show performed by local talent. \$50/show only, \$100/show+reception. Emcee: WS mayor Christopher Cabaldon. The cast: Assemblymember Richard Pan, Mark Allen/Good Day Sacramento Team, Steve Winlock, Callista Wengler, Scott Syphax, Garry Maisel, Michelle Bouchard, Stuart Eldridge, Clemon Charles, David Lowe, Laura Niznik, Randy Reynoso, Michael Sestak, Dennis Mangers, former Assemblymember Lloyd Levin, Katherine Maestas, Chet Hewitt, Kevin Fat. Jennifer Ablog, Allen Warren, Rick Heron, Joaquin McPeak, Erica Manuel, Peter Nairn, WS Councilmember Oscar Villegas, Maeley Tom and Tia Ewing. 530pm reception, 7pm show at Crest Theatre. Info: www.my-sisters-house.org.

May 25 Sat **"Sahaya – Going Beyond,"** a 20 minute documentary with filmmaker Andy Lauer plus performances by Ritika Johal, Khurshid Dastur, Devayani Varma, Rachana Patel+friends, Jayanth+Sundar. Info: Koen Van Rompay, koen@sahaya.org, 530/756-9074

May 25, June 10-13 **JACL Bridging Communities High School Leadership Program, Tule Lake Concentration Camp** visit for high school students. Tuition \$100; scholarships available. Info: Jessica Kyo jkyo@jacl.org, JACL Regional Director Patty Wada 415/345-1075, jacl-ncwnpro@msn.com

May 28 Tue **Asian Community Center "When is It**

Time to Consider Assisted Living?" 10:30am-12pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). Learn what assisted living is and isn't. Presented by Shirley Turnbull, Seniors in Transition. Free. Pre-registration required. Call: 916/393-9026.

May 30 Thu **Asian Community Center "Understanding Memory Loss, Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia: The Basics."** 2:30-4pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). Topics will include: warning signs, differences between dementia and Alzheimer's disease, diagnosis and progression, steps for successful caregiving and tools for accessing community Resources. Presented by Bonnie Chow, Family Care Advocate, Alzheimer's Association. Free. Pre-registration required. Call: 916/393-9026.

June 3 Thu **Chinese for Affirmative Action Celebration of Justice Celebration.** 6pm reception, 7pm dinner at Empress of China (Grant Ave, SF). Info: John Fong jfong@caasf.org, 415/274-6760 X315.

June 6 Thu **Asian Community Center "Telephone Use in Emergencies."** 2:30-3:30pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). In this **FREE** workshop, we will provide some things for you to think about in the event of an emergency. In addition, we will review some basic Safety Tips for Natural Gas and Electricity. Bring a recent phone or PG&E bill for a **FREE** review. Pre-registration required. Call: 916/393-9026.

June 6 Thu **Consulate Series [Singapore].** Calasian Chamber of Commerce. Info: Gordon Hinkle 916/446-7883, www.calasian.org

June 8 Sat **My Sister's House Know Your Rights Workshop.** Info: 916/930-0626, info@my-sisters-house.org

June 14 Fri **Sacramento Juneteenth Festival,** celebrating 150 years of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gospel Under Stars. 7-9pm at William Land Park, Sac. Info: Gary Simon 916/808-7777, gsimon@cityofsacramento.com

June 15 Sat **Freedom Mile Run, Parade, Festival in the Park, Jazzy Evening Affair/Talent Show .** 8am run, 11am parade, noon-6pm festival, 730pm Jazzy Evening Affair. Info: Gary Simon 916/808-7777, gsimon@cityofsacramento.com. Plus, June 16 Juneteenth Golf Tournament.

June 22 Sat **"Join Us for a walk with a Doc!" and bring children, friends and dogs too.** Walk leader Assemblymember Dr. Richard Pan. 2.2 mile walk along the levees with a Doc is a Free walking program for anyone who is interested in taking steps to improve their heart health. Each walk is hosted by a friendly local physician. In addition to the numerous health benefits you'll enjoy just by walking, you'll also get the chance to talk with the doc while you walk. 8am registration, 830am walk at Garcia Bend Park in the Pocket, Sac. Info: Evette Tsang 916/719-5087.

Jun 25 Tue **Asian Community Center "Family Communication."** 10:30am-12pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). Keep siblings and parents talking about long term care options for loved-ones. Presented by Shirley Turnbull, Seniors in Transition. Free. Pre-registration required. Call: 916/393-9026.

Jun 27 Thu **Asian Community Center "Fight It: A Senior Citizen's Guide to Protection from Identity Theft and Financial Abuse."** 11am-12pm at ACC Park City (7375 Park City Dr, Sac). The workshop will address the following topics: 1) Financial Abuse and Fraud: What is it and how to protect yourself, 2) Identity Theft: How to avoid it, 3) Legal Rights and What to do if You Are Victimized. Presented by Victims of Crime Resource Center staff, McGeorge School of Law. Free. Pre-registration required. Call: 916/393-9026.