

# Comments

Asian Pacific American Community Newspaper Serving Sacramento and Yolo Counties - Volume 28, No. 3 Fall/September 2015

## Supreme Court makes same-sex marriage a nationwide right

With a 5-4 vote on June 26th, the US Supreme Court ruled in Obergefell v. Hodges that the US Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage across the states. Specifically, this decision decided that the rights of same-sex couples married in 36 states must be recognized in the other states. Justice Kennedy, joined by Justices Ginsburg, Breyer, Sotomayor and Kagan, wrote "No longer may this liberty be denied. No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were."

Dissents came from Chief Justice Roberts with Justices Thomas, Scalia and Alito.

Justice Kennedy authored the Obergefell decision as well as other major Supreme Court gay rights decisions including: US v. Windsor (2013) supported federal benefits to married same sex couples; Hollingsworth v Perry (2013) upheld the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeal decision striking down California's Proposition 8; Lawrence v. Tenena (2003) struck down laws making gay sex a crime.

This latest decision is important to the API and other minority communities, whose gay members have not fully come "out" due to family and social pressures plus discrimination and personal safety issues. The Southern Poverty Law Center reported that in the first two months of 2015, at least seven transgender women of color were murdered in the US, from Miami to LA. The National Center for Transgender Equality believes that since 2013, nearly 30 transgender women, most of them black and Latin, have been slain with fists, knives, guns and hate.

On January 4th, two white transgender women riding a city bus in San Francisco hurried off the bus after being confronted by a man who accused them of pretending to be women. The man followed, pulled out a 3 1/2 inch steak knife and stabbed one of the women in the chest. The man was arrested, the women survived: "There's a near hysterical amount of hatred that can show up against transgender people at any moment" be it name calling, threats or acts of violence. "For transgender people, we're like in the pre-civil rights era."

Based on 14 years of FBI statistics, LGBT (lesbian bisexual gay transgender) are more than twice as likely to be attacked in a violent hate crime as black or Jews, and more than four times as likely to be attacked than Muslims. Among trans people, trans women are most targeted. Among trans women, women of color, according to SPLC, face the most violence. So many transgender people have been lost to this violence that every November 20, their loved ones and support around the world gather for the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Gay marriage is legal in Ireland, Britain, France, Spain, South Africa, Brazil, New Zealand, Netherland, Belgium, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Iceland, Argentina, Denmark, Uruguay, Luxembourg, Finland and Canada. Homosexuality is still illegal in many parts of Africa and Asia, Slovenia and Croatia.

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Start young

## Upstander Carnival planned

October 18<sup>th</sup>, Davis

At some time, every kid becomes a bystander- someone who witnesses bullying but doesn't get involved out of fear or lack of knowing what to do. They can be an UPSTANDER instead - the person who knows what's happening is wrong and does something to make things right. A passive bully is someone who watches another person getting bullied, does nothing about it, and thereby communicates to the bully that what he or she is doing is okay. It takes courage to speak up on someone's behalf.

The world witnessed adult UPSTANDERS on August 21st when three Fair Oaks-raised young men rushed, overwhelmed and hog tied a heavily armed gun man, 25 year old Moroccan Ayoub El-Khazzani, on that Amsterdam-Paris train. Alek Skarlatos (22), Spencer Stone (22) and Anthony Sadler (23) have been lauded around with world as heroes who saved hundreds of lives. They said that they jumped into action without any thought, "We just did what we had to do. You either run away or fight. We chose to fight and got lucky and didn't die." British citizen Chris Norman (62) joined the offensive even though he initially ducked for safety but then decided that the outcome was going to be bad, so he might as well die trying to stop the massacre.

The Davis Phoenix Coalition wants to build inclusive communities. Part of their mission is to address bullying which, if unchecked, can lead to lifelong difficulties and tragic results. On October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Coalition is hosting the Upstander Carnival for elementary aged children. The Carnival will feature familiar carnival games with the added element of learning to be an UPSTANDER and developing skills for dealing with these common and potentially devastating situations.

For more information, contact the Coalition at davisphoenixco@gmail.com or PO Box 1902, Davis 95617. Sponsors are welcome and donations are tax deductible. Volunteers are also needed for the carnival.

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## George Takei to Clarence Thomas: Denying our rights denies our dignity

:By George Takei

The recent case granting marriage equality across the United States – *Obergefell v. Hodges* – contains four separate dissents from the conservatives on the court. I was struck in particular by the dissent of Justice Clarence Thomas, who focused his argument on the notion that the Constitution does not grant liberty or dignity, but rather operates to restrain government from abridging it. To him, the role of the government is solely to let its citizens be, for in his view it cannot supply them any more liberty or dignity than that with which they are born.

This position led him to the rather startling conclusion that “human dignity cannot be taken away.” He first made an analogy to slavery, arguing that the government’s allowance of slavery did not strip anyone of their dignity. He then added to that this analogy:

“Those held in internment camps did not lose their dignity because the government confined them.”

As one of the survivors of the Japanese American internment, I feel compelled to respond.

I was only a child when soldiers with bayoneted rifles marched up our driveway in Los Angeles, banged on our door, and ordered us out. I remember my mothers’ tears as we gathered what little we could carry, and then were sent to live for many weeks in a single cramped horse stall at the Santa Anita racetracks. Our bank accounts were frozen, our businesses shuttered, and our homes with most of our belongings were left behind, all because we happened to look like the people who had bombed Pearl Harbor.

Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was issued on the premise that anyone of Japanese descent could not be trusted and was to be treated as an enemy, even those of us who were American citizens, born in this land. We were viewed not as individual people, but as a yellow menace to be dealt with, and harshly. The guns pointed at us at every point reminded us that if we so much as tried to stand up for our dignity, there would be violent consequences. The order and the ensuing confinement was an egregious violation of the Constitution and of due process as we were held, without trial and without charge, awaiting our fate.

A few months later, we were shipped off to the swamps of Arkansas, over a thousand miles away, by railcar. They placed in all one hundred twenty thousand of us inside barbed wire fences, machine guns pointed down at us from watch towers. We slept inside bug-infested barracks, ate in a noisy mess hall, and relieved ourselves in common latrines that had no walls between the stalls. We were denied adequate medicines, shelter and supplies. I remember as a child looking up toward a U.S. flag in the room, as we recited the Pledge of Allegiance, those ironic words echoing, “With liberty, and justice for all.”

For many, it was indeed a great loss of self-worth and respect, a terrible blow to the pride of the many parents who sought only to protect their children from coming to harm. Justice Thomas need have spent just one day with us in the mosquito-infested swamplands in that Arkansas heat, eating the slop served

from the kitchen, to understand that it was the government’s very intent to strip us of our dignity and our humanity. Whether it succeeded with all of us is another question: There was a guiding spirit of what we called “gaman”—to endure with fortitude, head held high—helping us get through those terrible years. At the end of it all, each internee was handed a bus ticket and twenty-five dollars, on which we were expected to rebuild our lives. Many never did.

To say that the government does not bestow or grant dignity does not mean it cannot succeed in stripping it away through the imposition of unequal laws and deprivation of due process. At the very least, the government must treat all its subjects with equal human dignity. To deny a group the rights and privileges of others, based solely on an immutable characteristic such as race – or as in *Obergefell*, sexual orientation – is to strip them of human dignity and of the liberty to live as others live.

It seems odd that Justice Thomas, as an African American, would be an opponent of marriage equality. His own current marriage, if he had sought to have it some fifty years ago, would have been illegal under then-existing anti-miscegenation laws. I cannot help but wonder if Justice Thomas would have felt any loss of dignity had the clerk’s office doors been shut in his face, simply because he was of a different race than his fiancée. It is a sad irony that he now enjoys the dignity of his marriage, equal in the eyes of the law to any others, while in the same breath proclaiming that the denial of marriage to LGBTs works no indignity.

MSNBC 7-1-2015

## Iu-Mien Community Services to Honor Vern Seng Saefong and The Stockton Blvd Partnership at Annual Banquet October 8

Iu-Mien Community Services (IMCS) will honor Vern Seng Saefong, President of the Elder Council and The Stockton Blvd Partnership at its annual banquet, “Honoring Our Journey,” from 6-9 pm Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at A&A Tasty Restaurant, 6601 Florin Road, Sacramento. Every year, we recognize two honorees who have demonstrated continuous support of our mission to assist the Iu-Mien community through culturally responsive programs and services. We hope you can join us this year for a night of celebration, cultural performances and networking.

Our vision is to create a thriving Iu-Mien community, to preserve its history, culture and language, and to promote education. Your support will continue to fund our Healthy Families Senior Program, ComMIENityLanguageProgram, S.A.E. Mien Youth Club, and other programs and services.

To become a sponsor or purchase a table, please send an email to [contact@unitediumien.org](mailto:contact@unitediumien.org) or call 916/383-3083. Individual tickets are available for \$50 each and may be purchased by emailing or calling the same contacts. To find out more about the services we offer or learn about the Iu-Mien Community, we invite you to visit our website at [www.unitediumien.org](http://www.unitediumien.org).





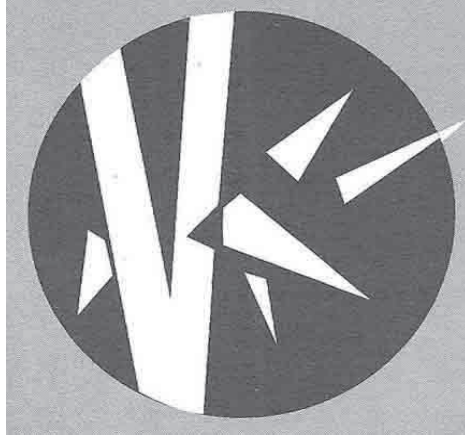
## APSEA Testifies at July Legislative Hearing

On behalf of the State Employee Civil Rights Coalition, APSEA testified at the July 8, 2015 Joint Legislative Informational Hearing "Incorporating Equal Employment Opportunity into State Civil Service Improvements."

"Achieving Equal Employment Opportunity requires strong commitment, leadership and creativity to change the State status quo" testified APSEA's Coalition representative Dean Lan. Among the Coalition's proposed legislative actions:

1. Require CalHR to adopt regulations to implement current legal compliance (AB124, 2005 statute) and require the Bureau of State Audits to conduct audits of departments for compliance with state and federal EEO mandates.
2. Assign the Government Operations Agency (GOA) Secretary for the responsibility for statewide EEO accountability and compliance.
3. Require the GOA Secretary to effectively implement a statewide Upward Mobility Program in all state departments.

For the rest of the recommendations, or if you have any questions, please contact Dean Lan at [dlan0000@gmail.com](mailto:dlan0000@gmail.com).



## ABOUT CURRENTS

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CURRENTS IS ON THE WEB AT [www.apsea.org](http://www.apsea.org) "other services"

# 紀念抗日戰爭暨二次世界大戰勝利七十週年

The commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day, WW II



**Date:** Saturday, September 12, 2015

**Time:** 1:30pm – 4:00pm

**Location:**

Florin Service Center  
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department  
7000 65th Street, Sacramento, CA 95823

**Activities:**

Honoring WWII VJ Veterans  
Historical Photo Exhibition  
VJ Movies




**Organized by:** Commemoration Committee of the WWII VJ Day

**Admission and Parking Free**


## Chinese American Council of Sacramento

**CACS 28th Anniversary**  
**Gold Mountain Celebration**  
**Friday, October 30, 2015**




The Chinese American Council of Sacramento

**Save the Date**



**Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye**  
*2015 Recipient of the Frank Fat Founder's Award*



**Sylvia Sun Minnick**  
*2015 Hall of Fame Honoree*

Join us for CACS 28th Anniversary  
**Gold Mountain Celebration**

Friday, October 30, 2015, 5:30-8:30pm

Asian Pearl Restaurant (Stockton Square Plaza)  
 6821 Stockton Blvd. #165, Sacramento 95823

RSVP to Joyce Eng at [jeng916@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeng916@sbcglobal.net) or  
 (916) 995-1186

Become a Member of CACS, one of the first Chinese-American organization in Sacramento, founded by the late restaurant entrepreneur Frank Sai Fat. Visit us at [www.cacsweb.org](http://www.cacsweb.org).

## What's In The Name of the CACS 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Gold Mountain Celebration?"

By Jim T. Chong

Board Member of CACS, and founder of Wok Star Production

This year marks the 28th year since the inception of the Chinese Association Council of Sacramento (CACCS). The organization was originally established to help develop and provide a voice within the API community specifically for Chinese Americans. The CACS was founded by Frank Fat and is dedicated "to building a stronger Chinese American presence through leadership in advocacy, civic, and cultural activities."

The Gold Mountain Celebration (GMC) celebrations the annual accomplishments of the organization and recognizes the elected officials and those that have significantly contributed to the various programs that the CACS provides. The annual event also serves as a fundraiser for the organization to support the local youth and also various other affiliate organizations that support the overall goodwill in the community ... specifically those that help educate and maintain the Chinese heritage, culture, and community. Some of the signature community service

contributions include supplemental supplies to various schools, "Operation Santa Claus" that provides toys to hundreds of children, and also other various scholarships that benefits the youth to name just a few.

Originally, like any organization, the CACS held their "Gala" annual event to highlight the landmark accomplishments that occurred during the year.

However, 10 years ago, the late Douglas Yee suggested (and was voted in) that the annual event be renamed to be called the "Gold Mountain Celebration" or "GMC" which earmarks a time in history that resulted in many Chinese migrating to the area.

Why "Gold Mountain"? Historically, Gold Mountain (or in Chinese "Gum Shan") is the name given to the western region in the United States where gold was discovered. In 1848 after gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada, thousands of Chinese from a place in China known as "Toisan in Guangdong" flooded the area along with others to look for work and gold

during what is known through history as the "Gold Rush". This period accounts for why the Chinese, with their work ethic, are so historically prominent when we refer to the Gold Rush and the history of the railroads in the United States.

As we enter into the 28<sup>th</sup> year of the CACS and as the "Gold Mountain Celebration" approaches, let's remember the significance of the term that arguably is a primary reason why we are able to be so significant in the history of the United States. Let's celebrate our freedom and the contribution we as Chinese are able to contribute to the land in which we live.



## ACC Senior Services (ACC)

### Better Choices, Better Health®

By Serena Van (VA/Americorps Service Coordinator)

According to the National Council on Aging, 80% of older adults have one chronic condition such as diabetes, arthritis, and congestive heart failure. Chronic conditions may affect not only an individual's physical well-being, but also mental well-being. Treating chronic conditions can be a complicated matter that involves the individual's physician, a caregiver and most importantly—the patient. The patient is actually the best person to understand his or her own symptoms and should be in control of managing his or her pain or treatment options.

To address the complexity of managing chronic conditions, a team of clinicians and researchers at Stanford School of Medicine developed the Better Choices, Better Health® workshop series. These six weeks of interactive classes are designed to give participants the confidence and skills to become active managers of their chronic conditions and lead a healthier lifestyle. For those who are already confident in their current state of health, the workshops allow further discussion regarding nutrition, fatigue management, and relaxation techniques. The classes also encourage individuals to talk to their physicians about their conditions and needs.

ACC Senior Services has offered the Better Choices, Better Health® series since 2009. Caregivers are encouraged to attend the workshops with their loved one as it will help both parties to understand and manage chronic conditions more effectively.

The next series begins on Friday, October 2, from 2:00-4:30 p.m. To register for this free workshop series, contact Anna Su at (916) 393-9026, ext. 330. For the complete schedule, visit the ACC website at [www.accsv.org](http://www.accsv.org).

### Everything You Need to Know About Being a Trustee

#### What You Don't Know Could Really Hurt You!

Most people feel honored when they are asked to serve as a trustee of a family trust; a trustee is the most pivotal and critical part of any trust. However, the role of the trustee and the importance of that role are virtually unknown to the average person. The trustee often has no idea about the extent of personal liability if he/she makes a mistake. This seminar will cover the ins and outs of what a trustee must do to perform his/her duties in a satisfactory manner. It is a must for those of you who have been named trustee of an estate. It will also be very helpful for individuals who have set up a trust or are considering one. The focus of this seminar will be how to prepare and how to plan in the event of a death, which is necessary to prevent potential liability.

The presentation will cover:

- 1) Understanding the process and laws
- 2) What are the first steps upon death
- 3) Taking legal ownership and managing the assets
- 4) Gathering, preparing and filing compliance documents
- 5) Beneficiary distributions
- 6) Adequate accounting

Welcome back Kent Meyer, Estate Planning Attorney with Meyer & Yee LLP. Mr. Meyer will be presenting this

topic with new updated information that you won't want to miss.

Wednesday, September 23, 2015  
4:00pm - 5:30pm

ACC Senior Services  
7334 Park City Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95831

To register, please contact Kimberly Feng at (916) 501-0321 or email [kfeng@accsv.org](mailto:kfeng@accsv.org).



Take a Stand to  
Prevent Falls

FALL PREVENTION  
AWARENESS WEEK  
SEPT. 22-29, 2015

Date: Friday, September 25, 2015  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
Place: ACC Senior Services  
7334 Park City Drive

Free fall risk fitness screening services and educational resources: Including multi-sensory balance assessment, medication screening, home modification consultation, blood pressure checks and more.

Contact : Christy Adams, (916) 734-9794

Hospital Co-Sponsor:

UC DAVIS  
MEDICAL CENTER



### Friendly Visitor Program



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

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

**VOLUNTEER BENEFITS:** Training opportunities, monthly stipend and \$1493 education award (upon completion of 450 hours).

- Contribute 450 hours of volunteer service from Nov. 1, 2015 to Oct. 31, 2016.
- Engage seniors in arts & crafts, light exercises, and other social activities.
- Provide much needed rest to family caregivers.

For more information, contact Khonnie Lattasima at (916) 394-6399 x 143 or [volunteer@accsv.org](mailto:volunteer@accsv.org).



# Donald Trump meet Wong Kim Ark, the Chinese American cook who is the father of 'birthright citizenship'

By Fred Barbash  
Editor of Morning Mix, Washington Post  
August 31, 2015

Wong Kim Ark in a photograph from a federal immigration investigation case conducted under the Chinese Exclusion Acts. (Department of Justice via National Archives)

It was the fall of 1895, and Wong Kim Ark was puzzled and alarmed as he bided his time on the steamship Coptic in San Francisco Bay which had returned him from a visit to China. His papers were in order. He had seen to that. The required statement, certification from white men that he was born in the U.S. and therefore a citizen, were in order. He had traveled to China for a visit and had little trouble being readmitted.

On this occasion, however, authorities denied him entry, returning him to the ship on which he had arrived, and from there to another ship, the Gaelic, and then to the Peking. For four months, the only certainty to Wong's life was the tides on San Francisco Bay where he awaited word of his fate.

What he could not have known was that he was about to become a "test case" brought by the United States government, egged on by a wave of anti-Chinese sentiment, in an effort to undermine the 14th Amendment "birthright" provision which made Wong a citizen in the first place as the plain and simple language of the amendment said that, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside."

## an-chor ba-by

Wikipedia: noun, offensive: used to refer to a child born to a noncitizen mother in a country which has birthright citizenship, especially when viewed as providing an advantage to family members seeking to secure citizenship or legal residency. In Canada, a similar term "passport baby" has been used for children born through so-called maternity or birth tourism. A related term "anchor child" referred to very young immigrants who will later sponsor immigration for family members who are still abroad, used in reference to Vietnamese boat people from about 1987.

Jus soli – right of the soil – the principle that a person's nationality at birth is determined by the territory within which s/he was born is observed by the US, Canada and about 28 other countries, mainly in the Americas.

Several candidates in the current presidential race have used "anchor babies" as a derogatory term in the immigration law reform debate. While their comments are primarily targeting Mexican immigrants, there is a booming Asian maternity tourism business through which wealthy Asian mothers travel to the US give birth to babies born as American citizens. A sophisticated maternity tourism industry has developed – in LA 14 maternity tourism business hotels were shut down by authorities in 2013. In 2015 the federal government conducted raids on what they consider to be 3 multimillion dollar birthing industry and federal charges are anticipated.

Citizenship Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment : all persons born ... in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are American citizens.

For the Chinese in America, this was the "exclusion era," a radical shift for the U.S., which for the most part, since its creation as a republic, had encouraged people to come to its shores. In the beginning, as America built its railroads, mined its gold and farmed the valleys of Northern California, the Chinese were welcomed as well in America. They streamed in by the thousands.

But as the Depression of 1873 took its toll on white working men, they began to look for scapegoats. Mob violence, arson, and overt racist derision swept through California, powered by slogan "the Chinese must go." Congress enacted the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, designed to put an end to the flow of Chinese into the U.S. But that was not enough for the building anti-Chinese wave.

Thousands of children had been born to Chinese in the U.S. and birthright citizenship was the next target, just as it is today for many Republicans, notably Donald Trump, in their campaign aimed at the children they call "anchor babies," whose parents enter the U.S. illegally just to make sure their children enjoy the benefits of citizenship. The U.S. is "the only place just about that's stupid enough" to do that, he has said, thus providing an incentive for illegal entry. Bills to do just what Trump is advocating have been around for years and have gone nowhere, and many, but not all, scholars believe such a change would need to confront the almost insurmountable task of amending the Constitution.

Young men like Wong were not called "anchor babies" by critics then, but rather "accidental citizens," said University of New Hampshire legal historian Lucy Salyer, "citizens by the accident of birth" as the dissenting justices in Wong Kim Ark's Supreme Court case would put it.

What he did not know was that "they were looking for some poor chump," Salyer told the Washington Post, to make an example of, at the nation's highest court. And that "chump" was Wong Kim Ark. So there it was, the intimidating-sounding case of *The United States vs. Wong Kim Ark*, a cook.

Yet he won.

And in the annals of civil rights in America, it was a "huge" case, said Salyer. The justice who wrote the opinion for the court's majority, was fully aware that its implications went far beyond the Chinese. As the justice who authored the majority opinion in *U.S. vs. Wong Kim Ark* wrote, "to hold that the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution excludes from citizenship the children, born in the United States, of citizens or subjects of other countries would be to deny citizenship to thousands of persons of English, Scotch, Irish, German, or other European parentage who have always been considered and treated as citizens of the United States." Had the decision gone the other way, Salyer said, instead of a nation of immigrants, America would have become "colonies of foreigners."

For all its importance, it never became a famous landmark. There is *Dred Scott* and there is *Plessy*, there is *Brown* and there is *Bakke* and *Loving*. But Wong Kim Ark draws a blank with most Americans.

His case is so little known that even his own great-granddaughter was only dimly

aware of its importance. Then, one day in 1998, having decided to research her family's history, the 20-year-old college student Alice Wong phoned the San Bruno regional office of the National Archives and Records Administration to say she was coming down to find out about her grandfather. When she arrived, she told the *SFWeekly* at the time, an archive employee who specialized in the history of the Chinese Exclusion Act, asked for her autograph and then introduced her to the entire staff. "This," he said, "is Wong Kim Ark's great-granddaughter."

They knew what that meant, but she didn't. "I was like, 'Oh my god, what have I gotten myself into,'" she told her interviewer, Lisa Davis. "I knew absolutely nothing about who the heck this guy was."

"I learned about Wong Kim Ark being a relative after my father died, at his funeral," Sandra Wong, his granddaughter said in a recently-released and powerful documentary about the 14th Amendment, aptly titled "14: Dred Scott, Wong Kim Ark & Vanessa Lopez", as she too examined Wong Kim Ark's documents at the archives. "You know, I became very interested but I knew nothing about it, my father never talked about it. And I had all these questions," she told the filmmakers, Portland-based Graham Street Productions, which provided excerpts to the Post.

Who "the heck" was Wong Kim Ark

Wong Kim Ark was born in 1873, into the increasingly hostile environment of the exclusion era, a time of unvarnished racism, that made no effort to hide behind euphemisms. In 1877, Erika Lee writes in her chapter in *Immigration Stories*, a congressional committee investigating Chinese immigration described the Chinese in America as an "indigestible mass in the community, distinct in language, pagan in religion," "inferior in mental and moral qualities," who therefore required exclusion "for the good of the public."

His father was a Chinatown merchant named Wong Si Ping; his mother was Wee Lee. By the time Wong was 9, however, thanks to hostility and the exclusion act, business for Chinese was on the verge of collapse, and the population of Chinese in America on the decline, from a high of about 101,000 to some 70,000. Wong Si Ping did what he had to do: He took his family, including young Wong Kim Ark, back to China.

But while his parents would remain in China, young Wong found his prospects for work in China limited, and returned to California in 1890, securing work as a cook in California's Sierra Mountains. Wong and other Chinese born in America lived and worked in a kind of twilight world, technically citizens, but citizens on a ledge, off of which they could easily be shoved. The tests would come whenever they risked visiting China, which they did in part to find wives and see relatives, and attempted to return, at which point they might be admitted or might be turned back.

The documentary, "14" captures this well. As archivist Marisa Louie, in the presence of Sandra Wong, sorts through thousands of files of men like her grandfather, she explains: "Any time anyone of Chinese descent left the U.S. during the exclusion period, they had to make some provision for themselves being able to get back into the U.S. So before they would leave, they would maybe go and get a

document like this that was a sworn affidavit of some witnesses, some non-Chinese witnesses, mind you, so some white witnesses, typically. And they would attach a photo to the document and it would say yes, we have known Wong Kim Ark, we know that he was born here, we know his parents and we swear that he's a legally born U.S. citizen."

The case law was clear. A California circuit precedent in 1884, in the case of Look Tin Sing, established "that both the fourteenth amendment and the common law of the land compelled the conclusion that Look was indeed a citizen." If Look Tin Sing was a citizen so was Wong Kim Ark. Birthright was their only route home as laws dating back to 1790 barred the naturalization of non-whites.

But there were no "immigration" officials as we know them today, but rather "collectors of customs," Salyer explained, "a very lucrative position that until the exclusion laws were passed, were mainly concerned with collecting" tariffs on imported goods. After exclusion, the "collectors" effectively made up their own laws, infused by their own bias.

Indeed, "John Wise, the collector who refused to admit Wong, described himself as a 'zealous opponent of Chinese immigration.'" writes University of Connecticut law professor Bethany Berger.

As Sandra Wong examined the documents describing the questions her grandfather was asked in the documentary, she read aloud from them.

"Okay, how old are you?" the collector asked.

'24 years old,' replied Wong

'Have you ever been to China before this time?'

'Yes,'" Wong Kim Ark answered. "Once before.'

'... What are you?'

'Cook.'

'Where were you born?'

'Sacramento Street. My father kept a store: 751 Sacramento Street. I was born upstairs, third floor.'

'Do you know any white men in San Francisco that know you were born here?'

'Yes,'" Wong replied. "Mr. Selenger. He knew me when I was little before I went to the country. Before I was ten."

Wong had made the round-trip once. While there, according to Berger, "Wong married a woman from a nearby village. Although the new couple conceived a son, Wong Yook Fun," Wong had returned to America by the time he was born and had been readmitted.

In 1894, as he prepared for a second trip, he was careful to secure the documents he understood were necessary to get back in, "a notarized affidavit with his photograph as a form of identification," noting that Wong was a "citizen of the United States, born in the City and County of San Francisco."

There was nothing sinister about Wong's second trip. While in China, writes Berger,

"he met his oldest son for the first time and conceived another, Wong Yook Thue."

But upon his return, Lee writes, he was asked "You are sure you were born here?" the official asked. "Yes," answered Wong. Nevertheless, he was returned to the Coptic.

Most immigrant communities in the U.S. had their own self-help organizations. Early Germans migrating to Pennsylvania in the 1700s had the German Society of Pennsylvania. Jewish emigrants from Imperial Russia had HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, for example. The Chinese had the "Six Companies," otherwise known as the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association in San Francisco.

The Six Companies, Berger writes, kept lawyers on retainer for just such occasions, among them Thomas Riordan of San Francisco. Riordan filed a petition for habeas corpus in response to which, Berger writes, "Judge William Morrow opined that having citizenship follow that of one's parents was 'undoubtedly more logical, reasonable, and satisfactory,' but the law of the circuit required him to uphold birthright citizenship. He declared Wong a citizen and ordered him released upon payment of a \$250 bond."

That merely gave the government its opening for an appeal.

Meanwhile, the government moved forward with its test case. In the brief U.S. Solicitor General Holmes Conrad filed, Berger writes in the *Cardozo Law Review*, Conrad conceded, that "the opinions of the Attorneys-General, the decisions of the Federal and State courts, and, up to 1885, the rulings of the State Department all concurred in the view that birth in the United States conferred citizenship."

But he argued that they were all wrong, in part, he explained, because it departed from the laws of other nations and for that matter of ancient Rome, where the citizenship of the child was bound not to the birthplace but to the blood of the parent. Besides, he argued "the exclusion laws showed that the U.S. did not want Chinese to be citizens anyway."

For Justice Horace Gray it was an open and shut case. The majority opinion was issued on March 28, 1898.

History and law, he wrote, "irresistibly lead us to these conclusions: the Fourteenth Amendment affirms the ancient and fundamental rule of citizenship by birth within the territory, in the allegiance and under the protection of the country, including all children here born of resident aliens .... The Amendment, in clear words and in manifest intent, includes the children born, within the territory of the United States, of all other persons, of whatever race or color, domiciled within the United States."

The dissent, written by Justice Melville Fuller and joined by John M. Harlan, challenged the premise that children like Wong Kim Ark were in fact, "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States at all. "They seem in the United States to have remained pilgrims and sojourners, as all their fathers were," he wrote.

"The true bond which connects the child with the body politic is not the matter of an inanimate piece of land,' they wrote, 'but the moral relations of his parentage. . . . The place of birth produces no change in the rule that children follow the condition of their fathers,

for it is not naturally the place of birth that gives rights, but extraction ... To what nation a person belongs is by the laws of all nations closely dependent on descent; it is almost an universal rule that the citizenship of the parents determines it — that of the father where children are lawful, and, where they are bastards, that of their mother, without regard to the place of their birth, and that must necessarily be recognized as the correct canon, since nationality is, in its essence, dependent on descent."

While this feudal principle was common in other countries, the dissenting argument was an extraordinary claim for the nation of immigrants, that the citizenship of the child followed "descent," a concept known as "jus sanguinis," or right of blood, rather than the soil on which the child was born, a principle known as "jus soli," or "right of the soil. And it never saw the light of day again at the Supreme Court.

The decision in *U.S. vs. Wong Kim Ark* drew little attention at the time, it merited just a single paragraph in the *New York Times*. Perhaps few cared. Or perhaps there was other, bigger, news that day like the official report of the supposed attack on the U.S. warship, "The *Maine*," which would become the justification for the U.S. to declare war on Spain.

What became of Wong Kim Ark

The decision, while a major precedent, did not materially improve the life of Chinese citizens living in the U.S. Despite the court's declaration, they were not treated like citizens until modern times, with the Chinese Exclusion Act and its extensions remaining in force until 1943, limiting immigration and denying naturalization to Chinese immigrants. They were, as one study in 1931 concluded, "American by birth, but not in fact." Indeed, "little Chinese immigration was permitted until the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 overhauled the U.S. immigration system and significantly expanded migration opportunities for non-European immigrants," according to the Migration Policy Center.

Eventually, Wong Kim Ark went back to China, never to return. There is no record of why. And it is said that he spoke little about his case in the years after. That may explain why his son, Yook Jim Wong, who did settle in America, had little memory of his father's story when asked about it by author and columnist William Wong.

"I didn't know it was that important," Wong quotes him as saying in "Yellow Journalist: Dispatches from Asia America." And he apparently passed only a fragment of the story to his daughter and granddaughter, which may explain why Alice Wong seemed so surprised to be greeted as a hero at the San Bruno office of the National Archives on that day in 1998 and why Sandra Wong could say "I knew nothing about it...."

Who was Wong Kim Ark? She knows now. "He was just a regular guy," Sandra Wong says in the documentary, after viewing all the documents. "He just wanted to do what he thought was right. He wanted to fight for what he thought was his right. And so you just do what you have to do."

## Hajj Season Travel Advisory

As Salaamu Alaykum (peace be with you)

The opportunity to participate in Hajj is both a blessing and privilege. If you are attending this year, we pray InshaAllah your Hajj is accepted, ask that you keep CAIR-SV in your duas (prayers of supplication), and recommend you read this e-mail about your rights while traveling. Hajj is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca and a mandatory religious duty for Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime. Hajj is performed from the 9<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> day of Dhu Al-Hijjah, the twelfth month of the Muslim lunar calendar (mid August 2015).

Unfortunately, we continue to receive complaints from American Muslims who experience profiling at airports as well as re-entry delays. Being aware of your civil rights as airline passengers will assist you in managing any situations that may arise during your trip.

**Before Leaving for Hajj** - When planning your Hajj travel be sure to check all Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Transport Security Administration's (TSA) regulations at the TSA website as well as the Customs and Border Patrol's (CBP) regulations on the CBP website.

**Before Coming Back to the US** - Please keep the following in mind if you plan to bring back any items:

- Check in any Zam Zam water bottles that you want to bring back. Airlines will not allow you to carry liquids in large quantities on the plane, so be sure to check in Zam Zam and any other liquids you are transporting. The well of Zamzam within the Masjid al-Haram in Mecca is, according to Islamic belief, a miraculously-generated source of water from God and its water often taken home for distribution among friends and relations.

- If you are bringing back dates, make sure they are processed and sufficiently dry. You should consider vacuum sealing your dates to ensure freshness and to minimize the likelihood of contamination.

- When packing, ensure that your clothes and shoes are clean from any soil. CBP has strict rules regarding the entry of soil, chemicals, etc. into the country.

- If you are bringing back currency (money, gold bars, etc.) worth more than \$10,000, you will need to declare it. Any and all items received or purchased, irrespective of value, must also be declared. A failure to declare may result in an interrogation and confiscation by the CBP. Please check the CBP website for more information on customs duty.

**Re-entry into the US** - In order to re-enter the US, travelers must go through two processes at US ports of entry, immigration and customs. CBP is a department within the DHS responsible for both aspects at the point of entry.

CBP officers are required to verify the identities of travelers upon their re-entry into the US. They must also ensure that travelers have not been engaged in illegal activity that poses a threat to national security. It is critical to present valid documentation in the form of a valid passport and/or proper immigration paperwork if you are seeking re-entry into the US. Remember, US citizens have the unqualified right to re-enter the country.

**If You Are Detained** - Travelers are only required to answer questions about their citizenship, the nature of their trip, and anything

they are bringing back to the US that they did not have with them when they left. You should immediately and politely object to any questions about your religion, politics, work, family or community by saying: "I wish to remain silent. My attorney will contact you."

If you have experienced invasive questioning on previous returns into the US, it is advised that you consult with our civil rights department or another attorney before your next trip. Please also see this CAIR travel advisory in regards to being detained while traveling.

CBP (US Customs and Border Protection) also has the authority to search all persons, baggage, and merchandise arriving into the US. For CBP's purposes, this includes the search of files on laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices. If your point of entry is California, the 9th Circuit requires that agents must have reasonable suspicion before they may search your electronics. Reasonable suspicion means that the agents have "specific and articulable facts demonstrating a reasonable likelihood that criminal activity is occurring." Needless to say, in the overwhelming majority of scenarios, agents are not able to meet this standard. If you do not want particular photos or files to be searched, it is best to upload them elsewhere and take them off the devices that you are traveling with.

If you have any concerns or questions, please complete this incident report form or call CAIR-SV Civil Rights Dept. at 916/441-6269. Remember our legal advice is always free and confidential.

## Ascend says Asians bypassed

Ascend, a group focused on Asian business issues, released a study in May which documented a glaring imbalance between the number of Asian technology workers in non-management jobs and the number in leadership positions in Silicon Valley. The report used 2013 data from Goggle, Yahoo!, Intel, HP and LinkedIn filed with US regulators.

These tech companies are usually criticized for low percentages of women, blacks and Hispanics in programming and engineering jobs. While Asians are well represented in these technology jobs, climbing up into chain of command has not been met with success or have been simply out of reach.

The report says that Asians held 27 percent of professional jobs, but only 14 percent of the executive positions. In comparison, whites held 62 percent of the professional jobs and 80 percent of the executive positions.

Asian women representation is even worse. There is only one Asian female executive for every 287 Asian women professionals in the five companies. The ratio for white female is better with one white female executive for every 123 white women in professional jobs. The ratio for white men was one executive for every 87 professional jobs.

The group thinks that the disparities is partly a result of cultural divide. The image embraced by corporate leadership is confident, outspoken individuals with unconventional ideas. On the other hand Asian are taught to be deferential and to believe that merit will be rewarded with promotions.

## Japanese American farmer featured in Fortune magazine

Farmer A.G. Kawamura has the distinguished honor to have been featured in Fortune magazine for raising fruit and vegetables. His distinction comes from farming 40 spare lots in the suburbs of Orange County. He is also celebrated for having served seven years as former Governor Schwarzenegger's Secretary of Food and Agriculture.

Kawamura farms in empty lots flanked by apartment buildings and banks, under electric power transmissions lines, on active and abandoned military land, abandoned golf courses. He leases land destined for development, works it and moves on just before ground breaking. 59 year old Kawamura is a third generation farmer whose family originally rented land because residential development made farm land too expensive to buy. His parents' and gr'ndparents' farming was interrupted by their internment during World War II and they were fortunate to still have a hay hauling business when they left camp. Most WWII internees lost everything.

Kawamura's innovation to farm urban acreage complements the current consumer interest in having locally grown food and the practical aspect of having fields less than 90 minutes away from the 20 million who live in LA, San Diego and San Bernardino.

With 75 full-time employees and up to 400 on harvest days, the Kawamuras work 1,000 acres among their 40 fields. None of these 1000 acres are the same land he farmed 30 years ago. Some fields abut residential areas and he knows "we have to be a good neighbor" with respect to creating dust, eye sores and bringing lunch truck traffic to those residential neighborhoods. He is composting and incorporating other organic techniques and would like to go fully organic and have a CSA, but it take three years to certify a field as being "organic" and some of his leases just aren't that long.





## Human Trafficking: What every parent should know

By Charlotte Chang, Human Trafficking Specialist, My Sister's House

Human Trafficking is modern-day slavery that involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Twelve to Fourteen is the average age that children in the United States first become victims of sex trafficking. However, very few children are even aware that sex trafficking occurs in the United States, let alone are taught how to protect themselves. A human trafficking victim can be anyone as there is no consistent profile. Victims have come from urban, suburban, and even rural communities in all 50 states so no community is immune from this issue. Traffickers target youth in schools, malls, and sometimes even within their extended family. Online chat rooms, fake employment agencies, and newspaper or internet ads are common lures as well. According to the United Nations, about 46% of victims know the person who recruits them into trafficking. A "recruiter" can be male or female, young or old and their job is to gain the trust of the person they are targeting to become a human trafficking victim. This is done by becoming the human trafficking target's friend and confidant, mentor figure, or even boyfriend. It is important to note that anyone under the age of 18 cannot consent to a commercial sex act—this is automatically human trafficking. You can protect your children by making sure:

- (1) They know that anyone can become a victim of human trafficking and that if they suddenly find themselves in a situation where someone has befriended them at a shopping mall, at school, etc and the situation seems to suddenly turn or the person asks them to meet them somewhere 'without telling your parents', they should get help immediately.
- (2) They are aware that human trafficking exists in the United States—not just in big cities but also in nice suburbs and rural areas
- (3) They are aware that nearly half of all victims know the person who lures them into trafficking
- (4) Sex trafficking happens to boys and girls
- (5) They are aware of the common locations where youth are targeted and they should always be alert.

If someone is in immediate danger, always call 9-1-1. They can also call the My Sister's House crisis line at **(916) 930-0626** which is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Outside our area, the National Human Trafficking Hotline number can be called at **1-888-3737-888**. This is a nation-wide, 24-hour, toll-free number.



My Sister's House

2251 Florin Road, Suite 108  
Sacramento, CA 95822

## Currents passings Dr. Luke I.C. Kim

Born April 22, 1930, died July 12, 2015 in Seal Beach, CA.

A resident of Davis from 1969 to 2006, Dr. Luke Kim served for three decades as chief psychiatrist and chief of research and staff development at the California Department of Corrections' California Medical Facility in Vacaville. During his tenure, he provided psychiatric treatment to inmates Charles Manson, Sirhan Sirhan, Juan Corona and Timothy Leary, among others. Additionally, he was a clinical professor of psychiatry at the UC Davis Medical School from 1973 to 2005.

Dr. Kim was actively involved in the American Psychiatric Association and founded the Association of Korean American Psychiatrists. Much of his career was focused on raising awareness of and promoting cultural psychiatry: understanding one's cultural background, customs and values in order to effectively diagnose and treat psychiatric disorders. He also published extensively on the mental health and psychiatric care of Asian American immigrants.

In 2006, he and his wife established the Luke and Grace Kim Endowed Professorship in Cultural Psychiatry at UC Davis Medical School in order to build on its nationally renowned training and research center for cultural psychiatry.

Born in Sinuiju, Korea. His youth was marked by turmoil, political strife and great personal loss as a result of events surrounding the Japanese occupation of Korea followed by the Korean War. His family escaped to South Korea in 1945 in order to flee the communist government that took over North Korea following World War II. His autobiography, *Beyond the Battle Line, The Korean War and My Life* was published in 2012.

Four years after receiving an M.D. from Seoul National University in 1956, Dr. Kim earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Arizona. He completed post-doctoral training in Arizona, New York and California.

Dr. Kim and his wife Grace actively and generously supported and provided leadership to API and Korean community activities in the Sacramento area, especially adoptee, musical and politics organizations. For years, they wrote and translated articles for this newspaper *Currents* into the Korean language as their contribution to inform, empower and integrate the Korean community into mainstream social and political activities. There was no progressive community activity that they were not involved in. Their endorsement was widely sought by all. Dr. Kim's kindness and compassion is memorable.

Contributions in Dr. Kim's honor are greatly appreciated to: The Luke and Grace Kim Endowed Professorship in Cultural Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, UC Davis Health System, 2230 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento 95817.

## Currents faces, new places

Daniel C. Kim, 46, of Sacramento was appointed by Governor Brown as Director of the Department of General Services. Kim has



been chief deputy director of operations at the California Department of Public Health since 2011. Prior to that assignment, he served as deputy director at the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance, budget and legislative affairs manager at the SF Dept of Human Resources and management consultant at Price Waterhouse, and a fiscal and policy analyst at the California Legislative Analyst's Office. He has a Masters of Public Policy from Harvard, JFK School of Government

Lona Grace Koch, 50, of Elk Grove was appointed by Governor Brown to be deputy director for finance and administration in the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Koch has served as special advisor to the director, program manager and deputy director of emergency operations, planning and training. She has also been chief of the California Dept of General Services Office of Strategic Planning, Policy and Research.

Davis Chinese School will begin Mandarin and Taiwanese (Hokkien) classes on Fridays at Davis High School. Fridays 9-7pm for Taiwanese and 7-9pm for Mandarin. To register, email [dcs@davischineseschool.org](mailto:dcs@davischineseschool.org), 530/219-0644, [www.davischineseschool.org](http://www.davischineseschool.org)

Professors Aijun Wang (surgery), Wenbin Deng (biochemistry), Tingrui Pan (biomedical engineering), along with Professors Richard Levenson and John Voss have received funding from the UCD Science Translation and Innovative Research program which funds proof-of-concept research and development work. The STAIR program identifies university-generated innovations with commercial potential.

Kin Sing Stephen "Sing" Lee, a postdoctoral researcher in the Bruce Hammock lab of the UCD Dept of Entomology won the NIH K99 Pathway to Independence Award for his work with neuropathic pain.

New Panda - Smithsonian National Zoological Park Conservation Biology Institute announced that giant panda Mei Xiang gave birth to two cubs on Aug. 22, 2015. Unfortunately, the smaller of the two cubs did not survive.

Peregrine Afterschool Classes (Davis) Sept 14-Dec 11 Chinese Institute for K-6th graders, Mondays, Thursdays 330-530pm. \$312 plus \$15 for materials. Mandarin, fine arts, music, cutlura], movement, academics. Info: [www.peregrineschool.org](http://www.peregrineschool.org)

Thong Hy Huynh Memorial Awards for 2015 presented by the Davis City Council – Alison Pease, Cecilia Escamilla, Manual Medeiros, Judith MacBrine, Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign, Team Davis, Emily Masiel, Ryan Nishikawa.

Kanishk Pandew, senior at Davis High, won first prize in Princeton University's Ten-Minute Play Contest.

## Mayoral Internship Program

Office of Sacramento's Mayor Kevin Johnson is recruiting Community Relations Interns which are unpaid one year commitments. Duties include general administrative tasks, responding to constituent calls, assisting on specific projects, attend meetings, outreaching to communities, photographing events. Interns must be able to work a minimum of 20 hours/week, have interest in city government and public service, have excellent customer service and communication skills, be proficient in Microsoft Office and social media, able to work in fast paced environments and have transportation. Bilingual skills in Spanish/English, graphic design and photography desired. Info: Jovan Agee at [jagee@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:jagee@cityofsacramento.org), 916/808-8828.

## Sac Police Commission Applications Open

The new Sacramento Community Police Commission (SCPC) is now accepting applications for potential commissioners. The application period is open until September 25th. Interested candidates can apply online. ([www.cityofsacramento.org](http://www.cityofsacramento.org))

Mayor Johnson and City Council established the SCPC to provide recommendations on bias-free policing and on the implementation, evaluation, and sustainability of efforts to strengthen community-police relations. The Commission was formed August 18, 2015.

There are 10 seats open. A description of the requirements for those seats can be found on the City's Boards and Commissions webpage. Some positions required a letter of support from an organization that fits the specific criteria (faith based, civil rights, business or philanthropic, minority advocacy, youth in poverty, homeless services) There are seats for persons from academia, a former police officer, someone nominated by Sacramento POA.

For additional information, contact Francine Tournour, Director of the Office of Public Safety Accountability, at [ftournour@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:ftournour@cityofsacramento.org) or 916-808-7345.

## UCD TRiO Scholars help underrepresented students

With the recent renewal of a \$1.2 million grant, the TRiO Scholars Program is helping 160 UCD students with support and services to help them stay in school, succeed and graduate. The program holds a 4 week summer component to get incoming freshmen ready for fall classes.

Funded by the US Dept. of Education, TRiO is one of several program to support vulnerable student populations including former foster youth, first generation college students and others underrepresented groups. These students are more often likely to have difficulty transitioning to the university environment and face significant financial pressures. Student in the program had an average household income of \$21,000 and 72 percent receive Pell grants which are federal aid for low income students.

Over the past four years TRiO students have had higher retention and graduation rates than similarly situated students who could not be included in the TRiO program.

## KDVS guilty of posting racist photo

UCD's radio station KDVS was recently criticized for posting an old photograph of lynched black people hanging from a tree. The photo was loaded onto the station's website by DJ Joaquin "Malefactor" Chavez who hosts a weekly radio show "Unspeakable Cults" featuring heavy metal music. Chavez is not a current UCD student. He has since removed the link and apologized "the images were chosen poorly and I failed to give them appropriate context. They have been removed."

This controversy comes on the heels of a series of racially offensive incidents on campus. In May a photo of the women's lacrosse team members dressed as stereotypical Chicanos circulated on social media. In January swastikas were painted on a Jewish fraternity. In May 2014 a "Cinco de Drinko" party was cancelled when complaints were lodged.

## USCIS, API language needs

Aug. 11 was the 15th anniversary of the presidential Executive Order 13166 that directs federal agencies to provide meaningful access to limited English proficiency (LEP) individuals. Marking the anniversary, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) multilingual outreach efforts was officially recognized. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) approved the USCIS Language Access Plan, and the Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Office will roll out all of the completed DHS Language Access Plans this fall.

The USCIS produces educational and outreach materials in multiple languages and publishes them to the Multilingual Resource Center which currently offers materials translated into 24 languages. USCIS uses translated materials, multilingual public engagements, and its National Customer Service Center uses a toll-free line and in-person appointments. It has held in-person and virtual engagements in Spanish, Arabic, Korean, Arabic, Vietnamese, and Chinese-Mandarin and hosted its first Cantonese session on August 19<sup>th</sup>, in partnership with several local community viewing parties across the country.

## Advanced placement grants

The US Department of Education has awarded \$28.4 million in Advanced Placement (AP) grants to 38 states, Washington, D.C., and the Virgin Islands. California received over \$10.5 million.

The grants are used to help pay for low-income students taking approved advanced placement tests administered by the College Board, the International Baccalaureate Organization and Cambridge International Examinations. By subsidizing test fees for low-income students, the program is intended to encourage students to take advanced placement tests and obtain college credit for high school courses, reducing the time and cost required to complete a postsecondary degree. Students should inquire about this program at their high schools.

## Is work-study for you?

Students looking for another way to help pay for college, federal Work-Study may be an option. Work-study is a way for students to earn money to pay for school through part-time on (and sometimes off) campus jobs. Work-study gives students an opportunity to gain valuable work experience while pursuing a college degree. However, not every school participates in the Federal Work-Study Program. Schools that do participate have a limited amount of funds they can award to eligible students. It is important for students to fill out the FAFSA as early as possible, as some schools award work-study funds on a first come, first served basis.

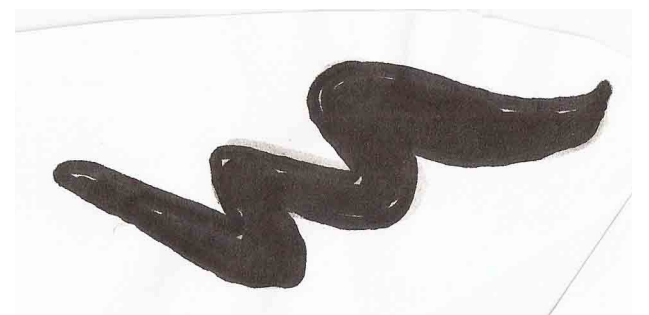
Here are eight things you should know about the Federal Work-Study Program:

- 1 A work-study award does not guarantee you a work-study job (students must apply and interview, like any other job; students should obtain guidance from the campus financial aid office).
- 2 Not all work-study jobs are on campus.
- 3 Work-study funds are not applied directly to your tuition/fees (the paychecks earned are meant for day-to-day expenses and insufficient to cover larger costs of tuition and housing).
- 4 Work-study jobs may be limited (check with your student employment office on campus).
- 5 Federal work-study is not guaranteed from year to year.
- 6 Pay may vary. Work-study earnings do not count against you when you complete the next year's FAFSA (but must be reported accurately).
- 7 Hours worked may vary (depending on the job and the employer).

For more information, see <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2015/08/8-things-you-should-know-about-federal-work-study-2/>

## DMV issuing licenses to undocumented

Since January, more than half of the new driver's licenses issued by California went to undocumented immigrants. DMV expects to issue nearly 1.5 million licenses to undocumented persons within the next three years. It is estimated that California has nearly 3 million undocumented residents, 40 percent to all such immigrants without status in the country. A dozen of states are issuing drivers licenses to undocumented residents, including Connecticut, Maryland and Colorado.



## Letters to the Editor

To Currents Editor:

I was re-reading an old issue of Currents. It is so evident that we need to come together as a nation. Asian Americans are not the only race that has issues. Some of the articles are so true.

The issue I was reading was a 2014 issue (last year's). The articles tell what life is about back in 2014 or even before that are still problems and concerns of today. We can't fix things of the past but it takes us today to set goals for our future to fix and work, and correct for when we pass it can be better tomorrow. Fix it today for tomorrow  
Reader (7-1-15)

It's the friends we meet along life's path ...who help us appreciate the journey! Thank you for all the hard work you do putting out the Currents newspaper! Enclosed is our contribution to help with the publishing costs.  
Joan and Yul Rhee  
5-13-2015

Thank you so much for your contribution and warm wishes!  
-Editor

### Walerga Assembly Center Rededicated

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, the Walerga Assembly Center Memorial was rededicated. In 1942 4,739 Japanese Americans from Sacramento and San Joaquin counties were forcibly detained in the Walerga Assembly Center prior to their removal to incarceration camps. Walerga was one of 15 temporary detention centers. After several months at these centers, the US government then shipped a total of 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast to 10 American style concentration camps in the interior deserts and swamps where they were incarcerated for an average of 2 ½ years.

The Walerga site was designated as California Registered Historical Landmark No. 934 on May 12, 1980 and the memorial was unveiled in February 1987.

The rededication celebration included a review of Walerga's history by UCD Professor Isao Fujimoto, Lessons for Today by CAIR-SV Executive Director Basim El-Karra, comments by Assemblymen Ken Cooley. Ancestor remembrance activities, Obon Dance by Sakura Minyo Doo Koo Kai, and Japanese lantern hanging ceremony were also on the program. The event was sponsored by the Sunrise Recreation and Park District, Assemblyman Cooley with the Florin and Sacramento JACLs.

Where is Walerga Park? Take I-80, exit at Madison Avenue, go east ½ mile. Turn north onto College Oak Drive, drive ½ mile north and then turn west onto Palm Avenue in the Foothill Farms neighborhood.

#### CSUS digitizes WWII documents

CSUS will be digitizing about historic documents telling the WWII story of 5,121 Japanese American internees taken from Sacramento. A \$40,000 grant from the National Park Service is funding this project. Once scanned, more than 10,000 documents will be posted on a CSUS sponsored website for public access. To donate documents, contact librarian Julie Thomas at 916/278-5240.

## CALENDAR

Continued from Page 12

**and Comedy Crab Feast.** 530pm at Sac. Asian Sports Foundation (9040 High Tech Ct, EG). \$65/early, \$70/person at door. Info: Farm Saephan farm@asianresources.org, 916/454-1892

Oct 11 Sun **Asian Pacific American Political Alliance (APAPA): Voters Education Forum.**

Oct 12 Mon **ACC Senior Services "Holiday Safety."** 11am-12:30pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). In all of the excitement, Halloween and Thanksgiving can be times of peril. Learn about fire hazards, decorating mishaps, auto burglaries and much more. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Oct 13 Tue **ACC Senior Services "Overview of HICAP, Basics of Medicare, and Medicare Fraud."** 10-11am at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This workshop will review the basics of Medicare Part A, B, C, D and will provide information regarding Open Enrollment. In addition, learn about forms of Medicare fraud; how to protect yourself from becoming a victim; and how to report suspected fraud. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Oct 14, Dec 9 Wed **ACC Family Caregiver**



**Support Group.** 12-1pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). The group's purpose is to provide emotional support, encouragement, and affirmation to caregivers of adult family members. Free. Info: Soojin Yoo, 916/393-9026 x326, syoo@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Oct 17-18 **Hiroshima** is playing at Yoshi's Jazz Club (510 Embarcadero West, Oakland). Info: 510/238-9200, www.yoshis.com/oakland

Oct 22 Thu **Charlie Chin Monologue on Chinese Railroad Worker**, sponsored by Association of Personal Historians. 630 pm at Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza (near Macy's downtown.) Free. Dessert and beverages. RSVP: lynnechoy@earthlink.net, 818/219-7572

Oct 22 Thu **Philippine National Day Assn: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala: Our Pride, Our Legacy, Our Future.** Honoring Mona Pasquil. 530pm reception, 630pm dinner/program at Falls Event Center (8280 Elk Grove Blvd, DG). \$75/person, \$50/student. Info: Charles Panadero, cpandero.pnda@gmail.com

Oct 24 Sat **My Sister's House Run for a Safe Haven.** 5K benefit. \$40/adults, \$25/under 21, \$15/12 and under. 8am registration, 830am kids half mile, 9am-5K run at William Land Park (3800 S.Land Park Dr, Sac). Info: Rosie Daus rosiedmsh@gmail.com, 916/930-0626

Oct 24 Sat **Locke Foundation's Delta Reunion Banquet.** 530 pm at Fortune House Seafood (1211 Broadway, Sac). \$45/ individuals, \$400/ table of 10 by Oct. 11. Pre-payment required. RSVP: Anita Lo, 519anita@comcast.net, 916/208-2949.

Oct 26 Mon **ACC Senior Services "Wills & Estate Planning."** 10-11am at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). During this presentation, the SLH advocate will outline the estate planning process and discuss myths and traps that many seniors encounter in planning their estates. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Oct 28 Wed **ACC Senior Services "Retirement and Beyond: How Do You Get There and What Do You Do Once You Are There?"** 2-3pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Come to this workshop to learn specifics for planning and saving for retirement, transitioning into retirement, and withdrawal strategies, if you are currently retired. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Oct 30 Fri **Chinese American Council of Sacramento: Annual Gold Mountain Celebration.** Honoring Chief Justice Tani Canil-Sakauye, Sylvia Sun Minnick. 530pm at Asian Pearl Restaurant (6821 Stockton Blvd, Sac). \$65/person. Info: Anna Luong aluong@sccsc@yahoo.com, 916//601-2795, Joyce Eng jeng916@sbcglobal.net

Nov 6 Fri **ACC Senior Services 28th Annual Craft and Bake Sale.** 9am-4pm at ACC Greenhaven Terrace (1180 Corporate Way, Sac). Come shop for beautifully crafted items and

delicious goodies! There will be baked goods, unique crafts, plants, food, and raffle prizes. Raffle tickets may be purchased at any ACC location. Info: 916/394-6399 x143 or volunteer@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Nov 20 Fri **Transgender Day of Remembrance.**

Nov 21 Sat **CAPITAL Meeting.** 830-11am at Sacramento Sheriff Central Station (7600 65th St, Sac). Info: Sonney Chong, sonney.chong@att.net

Dec 7 Mon **ACC Senior Services "Money Smart for Older Adults: Prevent Financial Exploitation."** 2:30-4:30pm at Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This workshop is designed to provide information and tips to help prevent common frauds, scams and other types of elder financial exploitation in our community. This workshop is partially supported by a grant from PG&E. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Dec 8 Tue **ACC Senior Services "Moving a Loved One with Memory Loss: Choices, Challenges and Considerations."** 1-2pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This workshop provides you with tools to help you decide whether it is time to move your loved one with Alzheimer's or related dementia from the home to a residential care facility. Free. Pre-registration requested. Call: 800/272-3900, ptardio@alz.org.

Dec 9 Wed **ACC Senior Services "Elder Mediation."** 1-2pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Are you struggling with the care of an elderly parent? Is there conflict between you and your siblings about issues regarding the care of your elderly parent? Find out how mediation can help. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

### PACT Trainings & Gatherings

Sept 12-May 14 Tween & Teen Club

Oct 16, Nov 3, Dec 2 7-9pm Adult Adoptees of Color Support Group

Oct 14 11am-1230pm Webinar: Becoming an Adoptive Parent – Handling the Wait

Nov 11 11am-1230pm: Ritualizing Adoption

Nov 14 PACT: Bay Regional Adoptive Family Gathering. 2-5pm at an East Bay location

Nov 30 930-11am Webinar: PACT National Orientation

Dec 5 5-7pm Adoptive Parents of Color Circle Gathering

Info: www.pactadopt.org

### Youtube viewing recommendation:

Go to www.youtube.com and search for "Song of Siberia Performance and Visual Imagery." It has moving music about the hardships of the Japanese men interned in Siberia after World War II. The performance was by local musicians from Davis and Sacramento, including soprano- Miwako Isano; pianist- Natsuki Fukasawa; and violinist- Igor Veligan. The music and lyrics were created by Haruko O. Sakakibara. The video shows the musical performance along with English subtitles and images in paintings and photos of the Japanese men interned in Siberia.

## CALENDAR

Sept 12 Sat **CAPITAL Meeting**. 830-11am at Sacramento Sheriff Central Station (7600 65th St, Sac). Guest: CSUS President Robert Helsen. Info: Sonney Chong, sonney.chong@att.net

Sept 12 Sat **Commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day, WWII**, sponsored by Commemoration Committee of the WWII VJ Day. 130-4pm at Florin Service Center, Sac. Sheriff's Dept, (7000 65<sup>th</sup> St, Sac). Honoring WWII VJ Veterans, historical photo exhibition, VJ movies. Free.

Sept 12 Sat **My Sister's House Volunteer Orientation and Domestic Violence Advocate Training**. 40 hours of training over 5 Saturdays. 930-530pm. Learn about: domestic violence and its history, API community+culture, community resources for victims and survivors, crisis line skill development, holistic, culturally competent approach to serving immigrant and refugee women. Info: volunteermsh@gmail.com 24/7 MULTILINGUAL HELPLINE: 916/428-3271.

Sept 12 Sat **American Muslim Voice Peace Convention: Hate Hurts American: Can We Turn the Tide of Hate into Love?** 430-10pm at CA Automobile Museum (2200 Front St, Sac). \$35/person, student+seniors/\$20. Speakers: Terry Holdbrooks, Jordan Richter, Komal Amad. Info: www.amuslimvoice.org

Sept 12 Sat **Asian Community Center Fundraiser**. Food & Wine Tasting, Music, Silent Auction & Raffle. 4-8pm at ACC Center (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). \$75/person. Info Kimberly Feng 916/393-9026

Sept 13 **ABAS 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Invitational**. 8am shotgun start at Turkey Creek Golf Club (Lincoln, CA). \$150/golfer. Info: golf@abaslawfoundation.org.

Sept 15, 18 **UOP McGeorge School of Law-Free Legal Help with US Citizenship**. 530-7pm. On Sept 15 at Sac. Food Bank & Family Services (2469 Rio Linda Blvd, Sac) and on Sept 18 at SFBFS (3333 Third Ave, Sac). RSVP required 916/340-6080.

Sept 16 Wed **Asian Resources: Link to Law Enforcement**. Information about careers in law enforcement. Series of 6 sessions. 6pm. Info: Farm Saephan, farm@asianresources.org, 916/454-1892

Sept 16-Nov 22 **Monstress**, one act play by Philip Kan Gotanda and Sean San Jose. Two tales about the rich history of Filipino American life in California. ACT'S Stand Theater, SF. Info: act-sf.org

Sept 17 Thu **Chinese for Affirmative Action 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Justice Banquet**. 6pm reception, 7pm dinner/stage program at Far East Restaurant (631 Grant Ave, SF) Honorees Emily Lee and Stella Lee Wong, Alliance of South Asians Taking Action, Black Alliance for Just Immigration. Keynote Jeff Chang. MC Richard Lui of MSNBC. \$200/person. Sponsorships. Info: COJ15@caasf.org, 415/274-6760 X303

Sept 19 Sat **CAIR-SW 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet "Strengthening Our Voices, Advancing Together."** 530pm at CSUS Ballroom (6000 J St, Sac). Keynote: Dalia Mogahed (Institute for Social Policy and Understanding). Special guests: Dr. Altaf Husain MSW, PhD (Howard University, Islamic Society of North America), Pastor Joy Johnson (Sacramento Area Congregations Together). Tickets \$50/person, table of 10 \$450, babysitting \$15. Info: 916/441-6269, info@sacval.cair.com. Tickets at cairsvbanquet.eventbrite.com

Sept 21 Mon **My Sister's House Free Divorce 101 Workshop**. 530-730pm at 577- Freeport Suite 48, Sac. Reserve a spot: 916/930-0626.

Sept 22 Tue **ACC Senior Services "Fall Prevention."** 1-2pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). In this workshop, you will learn how you can reduce the risk of falling in your home, improve your balance, increase your awareness of hazards outside of your home, and what to do if you fall. \$5. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Sept 23 Wed **ACC Senior Services "Fall Prevention 101."** 1-2pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Join certified FallProof™ balance and mobility specialist and evidence-based Stepping On Master Trainer, Kelly Ward, The Fall Prevention Lady, in this dynamic workshop and learn about factors that increase the risk of falling and what you can do to reduce that risk. \$6. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Sept 24 Thu **ACC Senior Services "Senior Scams – Just Say No!"** 2:30-4pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). In this workshop, we will provide information on how to protect your assets and recognize various types of scams, especially telephone scams. This workshop is partially supported by a grant from PG&E. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Sept 25 Fri **ACC Senior Services "Take a Stand Against to Prevent Falls."** 9am-12pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Free fall risk screening services and educational resources, including multi-sensory balance assessment, medication screening, home modification consultation, blood pressure checks, and more. Hospital co-sponsor: UC Davis Medical Center. Contact: Christy Adams, 916/734-9794.

Sept 26 Sat **Parkview Presbyterian Church's Annual Breakfast Buffet**. 8-11am at 727 T St, Sac. Free parking at 8<sup>th</sup> St. lot between S and T. \$15 donation. 6-10 \$6, 5 and under-free. Take out available, raffle prizes. Info: 916/433-4464

Sept 26 Sat **Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation Hiroshima 2015 "Another Night to Remember!"** 7pm at Crest Theater (1013 K St, Sac). \$50 lower section seats, \$40 upper section. Tickets: www.ticketfly.com or Crest Theater's box office. Info: www.sasfquest.org

Sept 27 **Sac. Chinese Culture Foundation: College and Scholarship Application and Career Planning**. 1pm at JLK High (6715 Gloria Dr, Sac). Free to SCFF members, \$5/non-members. Info: saccf@gmail.com, 916/672-2267

Sep 29 Tue **ACC Senior Services "Lighting for Safety."** 10am-12pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This workshop will demonstrate different ways to utilize lighting to better illuminate the environment at night while increasing your feeling of security. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Sep 30 Wed **ACC Senior Services "Renovating Your Home for Retirement."** 1-2pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Learn which renovation projects can accommodate the needs of seniors, can increase your home's resale value, and can improve your chances for a speedy, attractive offer when you decide to sell. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Sept 30 Wed **Opening Doors: Starting Your Own Business/Growing Existing One**. Workshops for West Sacramento residents and business owners. 530-730pm at WS City Hall. Info: leslie@openingdoorsinc.org, 916/492-2591 X213

Oct 1 Thu **ACC Senior Services "Senior Nutrition Issues: How Do I Get Mom to Eat?"** 1-2pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). In this FREE workshop, we will address nutrition concerns for seniors. We will discuss tips and techniques for getting seniors to eat (more), ideas for getting more vitamins and fiber into their diets, and how to make food and eating more appealing. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Oct 2-Nov 6 Wed **ACC Senior Services "Better Choices, Better Health® Workshop."** 2-4:30pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Learn strategies to take control of your chronic conditions, lower your stress levels, and communicate better with your doctor. These workshops are also recommended for caregivers. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Oct 3 Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Annual **Sacramento Aloha Festival**. 10am-6pm at Cal Expo (1600 Exposition Blvd, Sac). 930am opening ceremony. Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander entertainment, Education, health and community awareness exhibits, workshops, speakers, presentations, crafts, Keiki Korner-arts and crafts, Cultural Village, vendors, food and beverages. Booths available. Info: Sarah Fonseca, resources.sacalohafest@gmail.com, 916/486-6399

Oct 3 Sat **My Sister's House Annual High Tea**. 11am-1pm at Chinese Community Church (5600 Gilgunn Way, Sac). \$45/person. RSVP at www.my-sisters-house.org.

Oct 5 Mon **Invictus Foundation: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Champions Golf Classic**. 8am at Valley High Country Club (9595 Franklin Blvd, E.G.) Info: www.invictusfoundation.net, Norm De Young ndeyoung@yahoo.com, 916/230-3684

Oct 5 **CAAMFEST** Extended Submission Deadline. Festival March 10-20, 2006. Info: festival@caamedia.org

Oct 6 Tue **Asian American Journalist Assn: Chef's Showcase**. Cooking demonstrations, appetizers, wine and beer. Guest chefs: Billy Ngo (Kru Contemporary Japanese Cuisine & Fish Face), Kevin O'Connor (Saddle Rock). 6-730pm at Elliot Fouts Gallery (1831 P St Sac). \$50/person, \$25/student. Info: aaja\_sacramento@yahoo.com, www.aajasacramento.org

Oct 8 Thu **Iu-Mien Community Services Annual Banquet "Honoring Our Journey."** Honoring Vern Seng Saefong (Elder Council) and The Stockton Blvd Partnership. 6pm at A&A Tasty Restaurant (6601 Florin Road, Sac). \$50/person. Info: contact@unitediumien.org, 916/383-3083, www.unitediumien.org

Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10 Thu **ACC Senior Services Free Phone & PG&E Bill Review Clinics**. 2:30-4:30pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Are you paying too much for phone service? Is your PG&E bill unusually high? Bring a recent phone bill (residential or wireless) or PG&E bill to see if we can save you money. Info: Susan Sarinas, 916/393-9026 x339, team@accsv.org, www.accsv.org.

Oct 10 Sat **Asian Resources Inc 2<sup>nd</sup> Crab**

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