

# Currents

Asian Pacific Islander Community Newspaper Serving Sacramento and Yolo Counties - Volume 32, No. 1 Winter/January 2019

## January-Human Trafficking Awareness Month **INSIDE CURRENTS**

APSEA - 3-4

ACC SENIOR SERVICES - 5

Happy New Year - February 5  
Lunar New Year, Year of the Pig

Human trafficking is an estimated \$150 billion a year global industry. Trafficking - modern day slavery includes compelling or coercing the person to provide labor or services or to engage in commercial sex acts - is one of the most profitable criminal activities just behind drug trafficking and currency counterfeiting. According to the California Dept. of Health and Human Services, more than 100,000 American children are involved. The International Labor Organization estimates that 40.3 million people are victims of human trafficking worldwide. Other studies estimate that 25% of trafficking victims are children and 75% women and girls.

Labor trafficking involves enticement of men and women into forced labor by the promise of good wages in the US. California is

one of the top three states with the most human trafficking. California is also identified as having three of the top 13 hubs for child sex trafficking in the US (FBI) - San Diego County, Los Angeles Continued on Page 9.



## Chinese American Heritage Foundation's "Harmony Through Union" Float

Chinese American Heritage Foundation's (CAHF) Rose Parade float "Harmony through Union" now has the reputation of being THAT FLOAT that stalled during the parade and delayed two floats and three marching bands. The float was evacuated when transmission fluid leaked onto a hot exhaust pipe and billowed smoke. The 95 foot \$300,000 float is part of CAHF yearlong campaign to commemorate the Chinese workers' contribution to the building of the Transcontinental Railroad. When the last spike was driven into the ground at Promontory Utah on May 10, 1869 Chinese laborers constituted 90 percent of the Central Pacific workforce. It is said that the western expansion of the US would not have happened but for the Transcontinental Railroad and that project would not have been completed without Chinese labor.

Mexican railroad workers joined Chinese on the float. CAHF is the first Chinese American non-profit organization to sponsor a Rose Parade float since the Tournament of Roses began in Pasadena in 1890. "Union Pacific is honored to partner with the Chinese American Heritage Foundation as this year's Golden Spike sponsor of the Rose Parade float," says Scott Moore, Union Pacific's senior vice president of Corporate Relations and chief administrative officer. "The railroad linked the country and formed our nation's backbone, building communities along the way and uniting a nation. Chinese laborers and immigrants were instrumental in the work necessary to achieve the monumental task of completing the Transcontinental Railroad."

The float featured Jupiter and UP No. 119, the two historic engines that met from East to West at Promontory Point 150 years ago, moving toward one another as they progressed down the parade route. Then at a dramatic moment when the two trains met, fireworks were supposed to burst into the blue Pasadena skies, celebrating the triumph of the Continued on Page 2

CAHF, based on Boston, sponsored the float with the Union Pacific Railroad to educate viewers and volunteers about the historical significance of the Transcontinental Railroad and the contributions of immigrant workers. Descendants of Irish, African, German and

or current resident

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

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

## “Harmony Through Union” Float

Continued from Front Page

American spirit! But because of the mechanical failure, that finale did not happen. While the breakdown disappointed CAHF and angered the sponsors whose floats didn't get TV time (and are demanding restitution), the incident did bring more attention to the CAHF project.

CAHF is sponsoring “We Built America,” a yearlong program of special events and educational curriculum, focusing on the contributions of immigrants to the development of the United States through their work on the Transcontinental Railroad. The railroad linked the east and west coasts of America, providing infrastructure that united the nation geographically, economically, historically, and symbolically following the divisive Civil War.

President Lincoln used the Transcontinental Railroad project as a way to bring the country together, with former Confederate soldiers working alongside former slaves, and immigrants of Irish, German, and Greek descent working in concert with Chinese laborers. In 1862 Congress approved the funding. The project took six years to complete. The perseverant and tenacious workforce was composed of over 14,000 Chinese railroad workers, with 80% of those on the Central Pacific Railroad construction crew hailing originally from the Pearl River Delta in China.

Chinese came to America hoping to get rich in the Forty-niner gold rush, and when they failed to achieve this dream and the scramble for gold had ended, many Chinese immigrants remained in California to perform other jobs. Some worked in the silver mines, while others worked as cooks and domestic servants in such cities as San Francisco. When work on the Transcontinental Railroad began, neither Union Pacific nor Central Pacific wanted to hire these Chinese immigrants. This was due to the pervasive racist prejudice of the time.

By the mid 1860s, however, the leaders of Central Pacific had realized that it was difficult to recruit railroad workers and keep them on the job. Central Pacific's part of the project included laying track over the Sierra Nevada mountains, which rose to elevations of over 14,000 feet and were very treacherous. The company needed thousands of laborers and had only been able to find hundreds. In addition, the Irish workers hired were requesting higher wages. Since Central Pacific's portion of the railroad began in Sacramento and there was already a relatively large Chinese population in the northern part of the state, the company began to recruit Chinese laborers. These workers were willing to lay tracks in dangerous areas for extremely low pay and were also viewed as peaceful and submissive. They proved themselves to be efficient laborers, and the generally balanced diets they followed made them healthier than their Irish coworkers. By the time the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads met in Utah in 1869, Central Pacific had also recruited thousands of additional workers directly from China.

Although working on the railroad was a risky job for all laborers, Chinese workers faced more challenges than their white counterparts did. The Chinese were subject to suspicion and racial slurs from other workers. They were also subject to certain company policies that their non-Chinese colleagues did not have to face.

For example, Central Pacific offered higher pay to its white workers and provided them with meals and shelter; meanwhile, Chinese laborers received lower wages and were expected to find their own food and tents. Chinese workers often had to live in the underground tunnels they were constructing, and more than one thousand died in accidents and avalanches while laboring in the mountains.

Without the work of these immigrants, the Transcontinental Railroad might have never been built. In turn, the West would have remained difficult to settle and might not have become as developed and populated as it is today. Despite their hard work, the Chinese experienced discrimination for generations after the completion of the railroad. California laws prevented them from being allowed to testify as witnesses in court, voting, and becoming naturalized citizens. Chinese schoolchildren were subject to segregation. In 1882, the federal government passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned new Chinese workers from entering the United States and prevented Chinese immigrants who were already in the country from becoming citizens. This law remained in effect until 1943.

On May 10, 1869, the golden spike was hammered in at Promontory, Utah where the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad were connected with those of the Central Pacific Railroad. At the golden spike and subsequent celebrations, the Chinese contribution to the construction project was largely ignored. Hopefully at the Transcontinental Railroad Sesquicentennial Anniversary (150th) celebration scheduled for May 10, 2019 in Promontory, the importance of the Chinese workforce is properly acknowledged.

## The Era's Largest Labor Strike

By Chris Fuchs (NBC Asian America, June 21, 2017)

It happened somewhere between mile 92 and 119.

The Chinese railroad workers were grading and digging tunnels across a stretch of the Sierras when they decided to lay down their tools. It was the end of June 1867 and snow still covered the mountain tops.

The men, many of them from Canton in southern China, had demands: They wanted pay equal to whites, shorter workdays, and better conditions for building the country's first transcontinental railroad.

So they put them to their employer, the Central Pacific Railroad, and a strike was on.

“This project, the railroad, going through the mountains was the largest engineering project in the country at the time,” Hilton Obenzinger, associate director of the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project at Stanford University, told NBC News.

“And this work stoppage was the largest labor action in the country at that time,” he added.

This month marks the 150th anniversary of the historic eight-day strike, which began on June 25. It ended after Central Pacific director Charles Crocker choked off food, supplies, and transportation to thousands of Chinese laborers who lived in camps where they worked.

While the railroad made no concessions, Obenzinger said the action helped counter the image that the Chinese were docile and wouldn't fight for their rights.

“They learned that the Chinese could not be taken for granted,” he said.

“Everybody knows Chinese worked on the railroad, there's a paragraph in every textbook. But that's about all they know — and that's what we're trying to correct.”

Chinese laborers made up a majority of the Central Pacific workforce that built out the transcontinental railroad east from California. The rails they laid eventually met track set down by the Union Pacific, which worked westward.

On May 10, 1869, the golden spike was hammered in at Promontory, Utah.

Hiring Chinese began as an experiment after a January 1865 advertisement seeking 5,000 laborers netted only a few hundred, Obenzinger said. Those who took the jobs did so for a time, eventually heading to the Nevada silver mines for better wages and the prospect of striking it rich, he noted.

Facing a labor shortage, Crocker suggested recruiting Chinese, a group that earlier had worked on the California Central Railroad and the San Jose Railroad, according to the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project. They also had history as strike breakers when Irish masons walked off the job, Obenzinger added.

But Crocker's plan hit opposition amid anti-Chinese sentiment, stemming from the California Gold Rush, that gripped the state. Among those against it was construction superintendent James Strobridge.

“He didn't think they were strong enough,” Obenzinger said.

Strobridge also worried the whites wouldn't work alongside the Chinese, according to Obenzinger.

But Strobridge yielded and the Central Pacific tested out 50 Chinese workers in 1865, Obenzinger said. They were among the 50,000 to 60,000 Chinese living in California that year, hailing from Sacramento, San Francisco, and the gold-mining towns of the Sierra Nevada, according to Obenzinger.

The experiment was a success, the railroad hired additional groups of 50, but the Chinese labor pool in California soon ran out, Obenzinger said. So the Central Pacific arranged with labor contractors to bring workers directly from China, he said. They arrived by boat beginning in July 1865.

Two years later, between 80 and 90 percent of the Central Pacific workforce was Chinese; the rest was of European American descent, mostly Irish, Obenzinger said. Some 8,000 Chinese focused on building the tunnels while another 3,000 laid track. Continued on Page 6

## Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA)

### APSEA - The History

The Asian State Employees Association (ASEA) was founded in 1975 by a small group of Asian and Pacific Islanders employed in California State government who wanted to protect Asian Pacific people from racial and gender discrimination and to improve the hiring and promotional opportunities for Asian and Pacific Islanders. Several years later, the organization changed its name to the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA) to include Pacific Islanders in state government who experienced discrimination and/or employment problems.

The founding members identified and discussed the many problems Asian and Pacific Islander men and women in State government encountered such as negative stereotyping, racial and gender harassment, and discrimination in hiring and promotions as well as how our communities were struggling to be properly recognized, respected, and served. They used their own time and money to identify problems and solutions for helping Asian and Pacific Islander men and women have equal opportunities to work, promote, and serve our citizens and communities through our state government system.

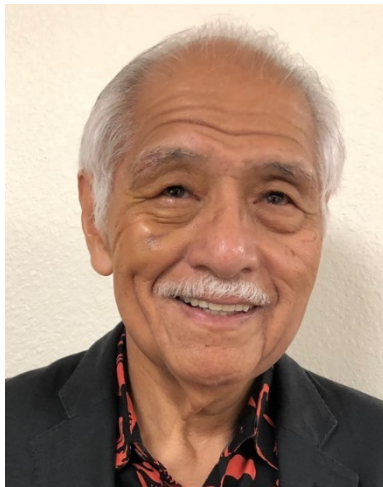
The founding members came from State departments such as Health, Corrections & Youth Authority, Social Services, Franchise Tax, etc. and from various job classifications from clerical, staff and associate analysts, and supervisory up to CEA's. Some of the early founding members include the following: Dick Lew, Al Owyong, Amy Kanemoto, Barbara Lee, Ben Hom, Dean Lan, and Jim Kahue who served as APSEA's first President in 1975.

APSEA is one of several statewide, non-profit and non-political organizations that advocates for their members' interests and works with the community to promote career opportunities and cultural awareness. APSEA supports our communities and members by testifying before legislative committees and hearings on issues relating to APSEA members, hosting training workshops, networking with other advocacy groups, establishing a scholarship program to help young persons advance their educational opportunities, and supporting other Asian Pacific Islander community-based organizations.

Special thanks and recognition to Governor Jerry Brown for his vision and leadership in 1975 and again in 2012 to change state government to better serve California's diverse communities and citizens by having a workforce comprised of ethnic minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. He has accomplished change through his appointments, leadership, and support of state advocate groups like the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA), Association of California State Employees with Disabilities (ACSED), Black Advocates in State Service (BASS), and CAFÉ de California (Chicano Advocates for Equity, CAFÉ). These groups are organized to help their members fulfill their dream of achievement, opportunities, and equality.

APSEA's success and accomplishments are due in part to the effort of our founding members and our many dedicated members and supporters who volunteer and work tirelessly to ensure Asian and Pacific Islanders have opportunities to advance their careers and achieve greater outcomes. For their efforts, we are truly grateful and proud. Thank you for all that you do!

### Member Spotlight – Jim Kahue



We are pleased to present Jim Kahue as this edition's member spotlight. As mentioned earlier, Jim co-founded APSEA and served as our first President in 1975. Jim worked at various California State Government agencies from 1963 until 1993 when he retired from California state service. During that time, Jim held various administrative positions in three different state departments. Health, Mental Health, and Developmental Services. After retiring from State Service, Jim moved to Hawaii where he works with an advocacy group specializing in hiring people of all genders and races who are blind or have a disability. In short, he has dedicated his entire life to doing something worthwhile.

We posed a few questions to Jim to learn more about him and what it means to be an APSEA member.

#### **Q: Jim can you tell us a little bit more about the brainchild and the story behind starting APSEA**

A: The founding members of APSEA identified and discussed the many problems Asian and Pacific Islander (API) men and women in State government experienced, and how our communities were struggling to be properly recognized, respected, and served. This handful of diverse API state employees, who experienced or were aware of the discrimination and stereotypes that hindered us from being, hired, trained, and promoted in state employment, were committed to changing the employment environment and leadership. We organized and started APSEA to advocate, defend, and promote API's right for everyone to fully understand and follow civil rights laws disallowing discrimination and harassment based on race, gender, disability, et. al and equal rights for all citizens and persons living in our state and country. The spark was the ability of the founding members to stay focused, faithful, and helpful with each other so that we can accomplish what we



started.

#### **Q: Can you share some of the challenges you faced when you started APSEA and how you overcame them?**

A: Finding enough Asian and Pacific Islanders persons who experienced any type of discrimination (i.e. ethnic, gender, age, disability, etc.), who experienced frustration or anger with state agencies and their co-workers and/or supervisors/managers who caused or allowed this type of discrimination and harassment to continue because of their own biases, pleasure, or benefit; and who were willing to share their stories and to right/fight to correct the wrong by forming and joining an organization like APSEA.

Searching, researching, and compiling accurate data about the State API population, demographics, and workforce so we could organize statewide to help API state or local government employees address problems of discrimination, harassment, and lack of equal opportunities.

Finding and training willing and committed API and non-API volunteers to be startup leaders and committee members to handle planning, job fairs, elections, accounting, legal & political advisors, recruitment, public relations, scholarships, etc. for APSEA.

Assuring API persons that they will not be punished (e.g. reassignment, being passed over for promotions, terminated, etc.) for joining APSEA, disclosing any discrimination situations, or advocating for API rights in state employment.

#### **Q: Thanks to efforts by organizations like APSEA things have come a long way. What more can we as members do to keep this flame going**

A: Never lose sight and/or give up our goals and mission to work to protect, promote, and preserve our API people, community, and cultures with the dedication and pride that we are afforded. Help share our dreams, ideas, skills, values, and successes with each other and with other groups, i.e. people, states, countries so we all can live in a safer and better world.

#### **Q: What are the few things that you would like to share with our APSEA members from your experience?**

A: I am proud to have been APSEA's first

Continued on Page 4

## APSEA

Continued from Page 3

President and part of the founding API member's efforts to organize, promote, guide, strengthen, and help API's and other groups organize and unite ourselves by organizing and moving towards common but significant goals: freedom, protection from harm, equality, and shared opportunities for everyone to be successful and happy in our lives wherever we reside.

### Q: Now that you have retired what are your hobbies?

A: I never retired! After retiring from California State Government in 1994, I worked the last 24 years for a company that hires persons of all races and genders who are blind or disabled. I hope and dream that I will never stop being an advocate for something worthwhile.

---

*Jim you are truly inspirational. The flame that you have lit will continue to shine light for the API community for years and years to come.*

## Career Development Program Recap

APSEA prides itself on our leadership workshops, career development sessions, networking opportunities, and a membership that includes some of the most distinguished members in state government. Our Career Development Program (CDP) Brown Bag Workshop series focuses on a wide array of professional development topics. Senior leaders from within state government share their experiences and expertise during these one-hour talks.

This year's CDP sessions started off with a presentation from Director Joe Xavier of Department of Rehabilitation. His session was titled "Leadership Lessons from the Heart". Joe inspired the audience to embrace leadership in its truest sense and offered practical tips for becoming a better leader.

The next session was presented by Distinguished veteran leader of State Service and former Director of the Department of Technology, Carlos Ramos. Carlos spoke about the administration change and how we can prepare for new opportunities that come with change and transition.

We capped off the year with a presentation from Marko Mijic, Acting Deputy Secretary at the California Health and Human Service Agency. Marko talked about how we can build a culture of innovation in government.

Did you miss out on attending one or more of these events? We've got you covered. APSEA members can login to the APSEA website to watch and listen to a recording of these past sessions.

Mark your calendar! Our CDP Brown Bag Workshop series starts back up this month. Our next session is scheduled for January 22nd and features a presentation from Suzanne Ambrose, Executive Office for the five-member State Personnel Board. Suzanne's presentation focuses

on State Leadership – The role and responsibility of the Career Executive Assignment (CEA). More exciting sessions are scheduled for 2019...please stay tuned.

## APSEA Supports Local Causes

My Sister's House was established to serve Asian and Pacific Islander and other underserved women and children impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking by providing a culturally appropriate and responsive safe haven, job training, and community services. My Sister's House Run for a Safe Haven has been a primary fundraiser for My Sister's House for many years. APSEA supported the organization by participating in this year's

run and donating to the organization.

## Become a Member Today

Complete a membership application form and indicate which type of membership you are registering for. Forms can be found at <http://apsea.org/membership/>

### Mail your completed and signed form to:

APSEA  
P.O. Box 22909  
Sacramento, CA 95822

For more information, please call (916) 962-6309 or email [apseamembership@gmail.com](mailto:apseamembership@gmail.com)



Pictured above, APSEA members and friends who attended the 2018 My Sister's House Run for a Safe Haven.

## Tule Lake, Judge gags case

Neither the Tule Lake Committee (TLC), City of Tulelake nor Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma are currently able to publicly comment on the Tulelake Municipal Airport sale after the US District Court judge in November sealed the case information and stayed the case for 180 days to give the parties time to explore other options.

This summer, TLC filed a lawsuit against the City of Tulelake challenging the lack of due process in the city's sale of the 358-acre Tulelake airport to the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma. The airport, which is mainly used by local farmers for crop dusting, was constructed on land formerly occupied by the World War II Tule Lake War Relocation Authority/Segregation Center.

When TLC learned this summer that the city planned to sell the airport to the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma for \$17,500, the TLC counter-offered to purchase the property for \$40,000, more than double the tribe's offer. In August, the Tulelake City Council sold the airport land to the Modoc Tribe, a sale was supported by local farmers and residents and approved by the FAA. Both the TLC and the Klamath Tribe, which has a separate water rights lawsuit, were only given three minutes to try to convince the council

otherwise before the City Council voted.

The federally recognized Modoc Tribe says it "intends to keep and operate this as a public airport with the hope of fostering economic development." In the 1880's Kintpuash, a leader of the Modoc Tribe who is also known as Modoc chief Captain Jack, led a band of Modocs to return to their ancestral homes in California. The resulting Modoc Wars - the Modoc Tribe was pitted against the US military - lasted from 1872 to 1873 and after their defeat, Kintpuash, with three other Modoc leaders, were hung and the remaining tribal members were forcibly relocated to Oklahoma.

In 1909, the surviving Modocs in Oklahoma were given permission to return to Oregon and California, splitting the group. Those who remained in Oklahoma are federally recognized as the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma, and those who relocated to Oregon became the Modoc/Klamath Tribes of Oregon. The tribe has been purchasing various property sites in California near the former Tule Lake WWII camp, near Newell CA, and 800 acres north of the Lava Beds National Monument.



## ACC SENIOR SERVICES

### Electric Vehicles for Everyone (EVE)

ACC Senior Services is working with Self-Help for the Elderly (SHE) to increase public awareness and adoption of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) in low-income and disadvantaged communities. The project known as Electric Vehicles for Everyone (EVE) began in November 2018 and ends June 2019.

Our first EVE event was a Carnival held at the ACC Campus on December 21, 2018. During the Carnival, we played a Bingo-like game, using a wheel-of-fortune. Each spin of the wheel provided information on the basics and benefits of electric vehicles. Winners then played Plinko for a assortment of prizes, including Walmart and Target gift cards. In keeping with the Carnival theme, free hot dogs and popcorn were provided to participants. We also had the opportunity to see a Nissan Leaf and speak with the owners, Donna and Titus Toyama.

For more information about EVE, contact Sophy Pho at (916) 393-9026.



### Join Legacy Corps for Veteran and Military Families

Discover how much you gain by helping seniors!



**Contact:**

Kim Fujiwara, ACC Volunteer Coordinator  
(916) 503-5183, kfujiwara@accsv.org

As a Legacy Corps member, you will

- Build rewarding relationships with older adults and caregivers from veteran families.
- Receive 20 hours of initial training, as well as monthly training opportunities, a monthly stipend, and an education award of \$1,621. The award is transferable to children and grandchildren.
- Serve 10-12 hours per week for one year starting November 2018, providing companionship care to older adults. (No personal care, lifting, or medication reminders.)

Priority is given to veterans and family members of veterans.

Legacy Corps is an AmeriCorps National program, funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service and administered by Arizona State University.

### HELP SENIORS BECOME JOB READY GET NO-COST HELP FOR YOUR 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT OR GOVERNMENT AGENCY

The NAPCA Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) places low-income seniors in on-the-job training assignments at your organization at no cost to you. You provide the training and supervision, we provide the pay and administrative support. While job training at your organization, the participants will help you to provide services and programs to your community.

Current Host Agencies include non-profits such as the Sacramento Food Bank, the American Red Cross, and My Sister's House and government agencies such as the California Department of Consumer Affairs and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.



ACC Senior Services is the Sacramento project site for NAPCA SCSEP. For more information, email SCSEP@accsv.org, call (916) 503-5390 or visit www.accsv.org

### Happy New Year! - From ACC Programs



ACC Programs Staff Annual Retreat - November 2018

## The Era's Largest Labor Strike Continued from Page 2

By contrast, the Union Pacific had no Chinese and was overwhelmingly Irish, according to Obenzinger.

Disparities between Chinese and white workers set the stage for the June 1867 work stoppage. The Chinese had seen a pay increase from \$31 to \$35 per month by Spring 1867, but it fell short of the \$40 monthly salaries whites were pulling in, Obenzinger said.

They were also toiling longer hours, often under dangerous conditions, whipped or restrained if they left to seek employment elsewhere. And unlike whites, the Chinese had to foot the bill for their lodging, food, and tools, according to the project.

When the strike went down on June 25, 1867, some 5,000 Chinese were at work between the California towns of Cisco and Truckee, just west of the Nevada border.

As far as job actions go, this one came with little drama.

"They went to their camp and they sat," Obenzinger said. "Crocker was amazed. He reported that if there had been that number of white laborers on strike, it would've been impossible to control them."

But Crocker was also concerned.

"They felt if they did concede, the Chinese would be bossing them," Obenzinger added.

The strike was also cutting into profits. Both the Central Pacific and Union Pacific were paid through government subsidies by how many miles of track they laid down, according to the project. Speed translated into dollars, and the workers knew this.

Reports at the time suggested the Union Pacific may have orchestrated the job action to disrupt the Central Pacific's momentum, though Obenzinger said there was no evidence of this.

As the standoff wore on, an idea was floated to bring in recently freed slaves as strike breakers, according to the project. Crocker, meanwhile, took the step of cutting off all food and supplies to the Chinese laborers, hoping that starvation would force them back to work.

It did.

"Charles Crocker, superintendent of the Central Pacific Railroad, who returned last night from the work at Summit and Truckee River, reports that with exception of one or two gangs, all the Chinamen have resumed work," reads a July 3, 1867 article in the Daily Alta California. "No increase of pay, except increase made before the strike or decrease in time, has been allowed them."

In the months after the golden spike was driven, Chinese workers hired by other railroads staged a few smaller job actions over not being paid, according to the project.

Chinese were also sent elsewhere across the country to build new lines. In some states, such as Washington and Texas, Chinese encountered hostility, according to the project. [The Chinese faced violence during the Tacoma riot of 1885.]

The 1867 strike was one of a number of actions taken by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, who have a long history of being active in the labor movement, according to executive director Alvina Yeh of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, a national labor organization.

Yeh pointed to Filipino and Japanese sugar plantation workers striking in Hawaii, as well as labor actions by Chinese garment workers in San Francisco and New York City, all of them happening in the 19th and 20th centuries.

"I think that our community continues to fight in many different kinds of cases for better wages and a safer workplace," Yeh told NBC News.

In the end, the Chinese never got pay parity with the Irish while building the transcontinental railroad, Obenzinger said. But their strike a century and a half ago was not necessarily in vain. Obenzinger said they believe the Chinese, to some degree, eventually won many of their demands.

"There's some evidence that the abusive treatment was lightened up...it was thought that they were able to make progress," he said.

Yeh said failed strikes have also benefitted advances in the overall labor movement.

"No matter what, even if strikes are ultimately unsuccessful, I think it tells an important story about how workers continue to be exploited in the country for profit and how they continue to organize," she said.

"This project, the railroad, going through the mountains was the largest engineering project in the country at the time. And this work stoppage was the largest labor action in the country at that time."

Unanswered questions remain about the 1867 labor action. Obenzinger said they are working with Irish American historians to learn, for instance, whether any Irish stood in solidarity with the Chinese. The Irish, after all, were known as a group that fought fiercely for their rights, taking unscrupulous employers to task.

That Stanford University has undertaken this project also holds significance.

Leland Stanford, a wealthy former California governor who ran under an anti-Chinese immigrant platform, was also president of the Central Pacific. The railroad made Stanford even richer, and to honor their son who died of typhoid fever, the Stanfords later founded the school that bears their name.

Some Chinese even worked on early construction of the university's foundations, Obenzinger said.

"Whereas he [Stanford] spoke out against the Chinese, in a lot of instances he spoke very highly of the Chinese," Obenzinger said. "It was a mixed bag."

As the first transcontinental railroad prepares to mark 150 years since its completion in 1869, Stanford researchers are still working to unearth more details about the lives of the

Chinese who accomplished one of the greatest American engineering feats of the 19th century.

Part of that includes taking oral histories from descendants of Chinese railroad workers, Obenzinger said, in an effort to learn what they know of their ancestors and what happened to their families.

"Everybody knows Chinese worked on the railroad, there's a paragraph in every textbook," Obenzinger said. "But that's about all they know — and that's what we're trying to correct."



## 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: October/Fall 2019. Deadline: September 15, 2019. Circulation: 7,000. Editor: Pattie Fong. Distribution assisted by: The Sacramento Gazette (David Fong), Hach Yasumura, John Pamperin, Tim Fong/CSUS-Asian American Studies, and UCD Asian American Studies. Many 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 4163, Davis 95617. Inquiries can be emailed to [pmfong@hotmail.com](mailto:pmfong@hotmail.com)

Read Currents  
online at  
[www.apsea.org](http://www.apsea.org), "Other  
Services."

## Trump Moves to Deport Vietnam War Refugees

Trump targets API community

The White House again wants to expel certain groups of protected immigrants, a reversal after backing away from the policy months ago.

By Charles Dunst and Krishnadev Calamur [The Atlantic, Dec 12, 2018]

The Trump administration is resuming its efforts to deport certain protected Vietnamese immigrants who have lived in the United States for decades—many of them having fled the country during the Vietnam War.

This is the latest move in the president's long record of prioritizing harsh immigration and asylum restrictions, and one that's sure to raise eyebrows—the White House had hesitantly backed off the plan in August before reversing course. In essence, the administration has now decided that Vietnamese immigrants who arrived in the country before the establishment of diplomatic ties between the United States and Vietnam are subject to standard immigration law—meaning they are all eligible for deportation.

The new stance mirrors White House efforts to clamp down on immigration writ large, a frequent complaint of the president on the campaign trail and one he links to a litany of ills in the United States.

The administration last year began pursuing the deportation of many long-term immigrants from Vietnam, Cambodia, and other countries who the administration alleges are “violent criminal aliens.” But Washington and Hanoi have a unique 2008 agreement that specifically bars the deportation of Vietnamese people who arrived in the United States before July 12, 1995—the date the two former foes reestablished diplomatic relations following the Vietnam War.

The White House unilaterally reinterpreted the agreement in the spring of 2017 to exempt people convicted of crimes from its protections, allowing the administration to send back a small number of pre-1995 Vietnamese immigrants, a policy it retreated from this past August. Last week, however, James Thrower, a spokesperson for the US embassy in Hanoi, said the American government was again reversing course.

Washington now believes that the 2008 agreement fails to protect pre-1995 Vietnamese immigrants from deportation, Thrower told The Atlantic. This would apply to such migrants who are either undocumented or have committed crimes, and this interpretation would not apply to those who have become American citizens.

“The United States and Vietnam signed a bilateral agreement on removals in 2008 that establishes procedures for deporting Vietnamese citizens who arrived in the United States after July 12, 1995, and are subject to final orders of removal,” Thrower said. “While the procedures associated with this specific agreement do not apply to Vietnamese citizens who arrived in the United States before July 12, 1995, it does not explicitly preclude the removal of pre-1995 cases.”

The about-turn came as a State Department spokesperson confirmed that the

Department of Homeland Security had met with representatives of the Vietnamese embassy in Washington, DC, but declined to provide details of when the talks took place or what was discussed.

Katie Waldman, a spokeswoman for DHS said: “We have 5,000 convicted criminal aliens from Vietnam with final orders of removal—these are non-citizens who during previous administrations were arrested, convicted, and ultimately ordered removed by a federal immigration judge. It's a priority of this administration to remove criminal aliens to their home country.”

Spokespeople for the Vietnamese embassy did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

But the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, a Washington, DC, advocacy group, said in a statement that the purpose of the meeting was to change the 2008 agreement. That deal had initially been set to last for five years, and was to be automatically extended every three years unless either party opted out. Under those rules, it was set to renew next month. Since 1998, final removal orders have been issued for more than 9,000 Vietnamese nationals.

When it first decided to reinterpret the 2008 deal, Donald Trump's administration argued that only pre-1995 arrivals with criminal convictions were exempt from the agreement's protection and eligible for deportation. Vietnam initially conceded and accepted some of those immigrants before stiffening its resistance; about a dozen Vietnamese immigrants ended up being deported from the United States. The August decision to change course, reported to a California court in October, appeared to put such moves at least temporarily on ice, but the latest shift leaves the fate of a larger number of Vietnamese immigrants in doubt. Now all pre-1995 arrivals are exempt from the 2008 agreement's protection.

Many pre-1995 arrivals, all of whom were previously protected under the 2008 agreement by both the administrations of Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, were refugees from the Vietnam War. Some are the children of those who once allied with American and South Vietnamese forces, an attribute that renders them undesirable to the current regime in Hanoi, which imputes anti-regime beliefs to the children of those who opposed North Vietnam. This anti-Communist constituency includes minorities such as the children of the American-allied Montagnards, who are persecuted in Vietnam for both their ethnicity and Christian religion.

The Trump administration's move reflects an entirely new reading of the agreement, according to Ted Osius, who served as the United States ambassador to Vietnam from December 2014 through November 2017. Osius said that while he was in office, the 2008 agreement was accepted by all involved parties as banning the deportation of all pre-1995 Vietnamese immigrants.

“We understood that the agreement barred the deportation of pre-1995 Vietnamese. Both governments—and the Vietnamese-American community—interpreted it that way,”

Osius told The Atlantic in an email. The State Department, he added, had explained this to both the White House and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

News of the Trump administration's renewed hard line quickly made the rounds on Vietnamese American social media, with advocacy groups warning of potentially increased deportations.

“Forty-three years ago, a lot of the Southeast Asian communities and Vietnamese communities fled their countries and their homeland due to the war, which the U.S. was involved in, fleeing for their safety and the safety of their families,” said Kevin Lam, the organizing director of the Asian American Resource Workshop, an advocacy group. “The U.S. would do well to remember that.”

## And it doesn't stop there: Trump cuts refugee entries

Another Blow Against Refugees

The Trump administration is cutting to a record low the maximum number of refugees the U.S. will accept next year.

By Krishnadev Calamur [The Atlantic, Sept. 17, 2018]

The Trump administration has reduced the maximum number of refugees it will accept in the next fiscal year from 45,000 to 30,000, the lowest level since the current refugee-resettlement program went into effect more than three decades ago.

“The improved refugee policy of this administration serves the national interest of the United States, and helps those in need all around the world,” U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a brief statement Monday. He did not take questions.

Humanitarian groups that work with refugees in the United States criticized the decision. “It's awful,” Mark Hetfield, the president and CEO of HIAS, the global Jewish nonprofit that protects refugees, told me. “It's a total abdication of American leadership.” He said the Trump administration's decision would have a chilling effect for refugees worldwide because “other countries don't have to do more when we're doing less.”

Canada may soon outpace the U.S. in refugee admissions.

Pompeo added that the decision was being made because of the backlog of asylum seekers currently in the United States, conflating for the first time two separate systems that have existed side by side. Indeed, an asylum seeker whose case is rejected by an immigration court will ultimately be deported. Refugees are those asylum seekers whose cases have been approved.

“Asylum is an obligation under international law—to give people asylum,” Hetfield said. “Refugee resettlement is Continued on Page 8

## Trump cuts refugee entries

Continued from Page 7

a humanitarian tool that's used to share responsibility with countries of first asylum that are hosting many times the number of asylum seekers that we're hosting. It's total distortion and no other administration has pulled that maneuver."

The maximum number of refugees admitted into the U.S.—the so-called refugee ceiling—is the maximum number of refugees admitted into the country; it is not necessarily the number of refugees actually resettled in the United States. For instance, for the current fiscal year, which ends September 30, the refugee ceiling was 45,000, but the U.S. has so far admitted 18,214 people. This is not unusual. The US admitted far fewer people than the cap in the years following the attacks of September 11, 2001. (Fiscal year 2019 begins October 1.)

The 30,000 figure is the lowest refugee cap announced since President Ronald Reagan signed the Refugee Act in 1980. It beat the record set by the Trump administration last year of a ceiling of 45,000 refugees. U.S. presidents have, on average, set a ceiling of 95,000 refugees for a fiscal year.

News reports ahead of Monday's announcement suggested that Pompeo and James Mattis, the defense secretary, had advocated for keeping the refugee ceiling at the present level of 45,000. Stephen Miller, Trump's senior adviser who supports decreasing immigration, and John Kelly, the White House chief of staff, are reported to have urged a lower number. It appears they prevailed.

The numbers are indicative of the Trump administration's approach to refugees. As a presidential candidate, Donald Trump criticized the U.S. intake of refugees and appointed skeptics of immigration and U.S. refugee policy to top positions. One of his first acts as president was to order a ban on travel from several Muslim countries (though the vast majority of the world's Muslims can still enter the U.S.) and a freeze on refugee resettlement. Additionally, the Department of Homeland Security has separated families on the southern border with Mexico and made seeking asylum there more difficult.

The decision coincides with the world's worst humanitarian crisis. More than 68 million people have been displaced by conflict around the world, according to the United Nations. Refugees who have fled their country to escape war and persecution number 25.4 million, the UN data say. A small fraction of these refugees—less than 1 percent—are resettled overseas in countries such as the U.S., Canada, and Australia, as well as across Europe. These refugees typically cannot return to their home country.

## Thank you

Thanks to Grace Kim her ongoing support and donation for Currents. Currents is published 3 times a year. For each edition, the printing expense is \$800+ and the postage expense is \$1100. All donations are greatly appreciated.

## Democratic Rep. Hank Johnson compares Trump to Hitler in NAACP speech

By Dartunorro Clark [NBC News, Jan. 3, 2019]

*The Georgia lawmaker, who was speaking at an event commemorating the anniversary of the Emancipation proclamation, later tried to clarify his remarks.*

Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Ga., repeatedly likened President Donald Trump to Hitler in a speech, citing what he said were similarities in their rise to power and calling the president an "authoritarian anti-immigrant racist strongman."

"(Hitler) rode a wave of nationalism and anti-Semitism to power. Replace anti-Semitism with 'all Latinos crossing our borders are rapists, drug dealers and murderers,' does that sound familiar?" Johnson said Tuesday during a keynote address at an event hosted by the Atlanta chapter of the NAACP.

Johnson invoked Trump's response to the deadly 2017 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, his Muslim ban, immigration policies and his open embrace of nationalism. He added that both Hitler and Trump were charismatic orators who played on the fears of the people to maintain power.

"Hitler was accepting of violence towards the achievement of political objectives; Trump encouraged violence against protesters at his rallies. And his messaging about Charlottesville that there was bad people on both sides sent a powerful message of approval to the far right racists in America," Johnson said.

"Americans, particularly black Americans, can't afford to make that same mistake about the harm that could be done by a man named Hitler or a man named Trump," he said.

## What America taught the Nazis

In the 1930s, the Germans were fascinated by the United States, the global leader in codified racism.

Hitler's American Model: the United States and the Making of Nazi Race Law by James Q. Whitman (Publisher: Princeton)

Nazism triumphed in Germany during the high era of Jim Crow laws in the United States. Did the American regime of racial oppression in any way inspire the Nazis? The unsettling answer is yes. In *Hitler's American Model*, James Whitman presents a detailed investigation of the American impact on the notorious Nuremberg Laws, the centerpiece anti-Jewish legislation of the Nazi regime. Contrary to those who have insisted that there was no meaningful connection between American and German racial repression, Whitman demonstrates that the Nazis took a real, sustained, significant, and revealing interest in American race policies.

Just eight days after the Reich Citizenship Law, the Law on the Protection of German Blood and German Honor, and the Reich Flag Law were formally proclaimed by Adolf Hitler, 45 Nazi

Johnson, who has been a frequent critic of Trump, made the remarks to a black congregation at Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta during the NAACP's celebration of the 156th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Johnson's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

He clarified his remarks to The Atlanta-Journal Constitution on Wednesday, saying: "I wanted to make the point that our democracy is under severe threat, that freedom is threatened, and that if we are not vigilant we can allow tyranny to set in. I made the point that this threat to democracy is a trend across the world, and we can't let this happen in our country."

Republican National Committee chairwoman Ronna McDaniel criticized Johnson's remarks in a tweet on Thursday, calling them "disgusting."

Trump has repeatedly been accused of emboldening white nationalists and neo-Nazis, particularly after the deadly Charlottesville rally and after 11 worshipers were slaughtered at a Pittsburgh synagogue in October.

Trump, however, has defined his brand of nationalism as shorthand for American patriotism.

"It means I love the country, it means I'm fighting for the country," he told Fox News in October. "I'm proud of this country and I call that nationalism. I call it being a nationalist and I don't see any other connotation than that."

The White House did not have an immediate response.

lawyers sailed for New York under the auspices of the Association of National philosophy Socialist German Jurists. The trip was a reward for the lawyers, who had codified the Reich's race-based laws. The announced purpose of the visit was to gain "special insight into the workings of American legal and economic life through study and lectures," and the leader of the group was Ludwig Fischer, who five years later would preside as the governor of the Warsaw District over the brutalities to occur in that ghetto. The group was welcomed by the local New York bar association.

Whitman, a professor at Yale Law School, wanted to know how the United States, a country grounded in such liberal principles as individual rights and the rule of law, could have produced legal ideas and practices "that seemed intriguing and attractive to Nazis." In exploring this apparent incongruity, his short book raises important questions about law, about political decisions that affect the scope of civic membership, and about the malleability of Enlightenment values.



## Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Continued from Front Page.  
County and the SF Bay Area. The Sacramento area is ranked #6 in the country for human trafficking with many victims being Filipino children (UN Office on Drugs and Crime.)

In the past year, Empower Yolo, the community organization providing outreach and services to sexual assault and domestic violence victims in Yolo County, saw 36 human trafficking survivors including two labor trafficked and 34 sex trafficked. In May 2018, the most recent trafficking sting in Sacramento netted the arrest of 12.

The common trait of trafficking victims is that they are vulnerable which the criminal exploits. With labor trafficking victims, they are promised good jobs if they promise repay a loan and then they are isolated -physically and psychologically - from their families and even their countries, financially dependent on the abuser and their passports and papers are forcefully withheld to further control them. Sexually trafficked victims frequently meet their abusers through social media, feel neglected by their own families, and are promised of love, drugs, clothes and a new life.

With funding from the Sacramento County Probation Department, UCD researchers

Dawn Blacker and Brandi Liles have developed and lead a Parenting Skills Group designed for parents and caregivers reunifying with children who have been commercially sexually exploited. The group is a six week course combining education with support.

The first two sessions offer "psychoeducation" including information about sexual exploitation, coping strategies, trauma and what triggers trauma in both the exploited youth and their caregivers. Sessions 3-5 focus on behavioral parenting strategies for key problems like running away and internet safety. The last session, participants learn about vicarious trauma and secondary traumatic stress that affect parents and detract from their being able to be effective parents and supportive caregivers. Secondary traumatic stress is emotional duress that comes from hearing firsthand about the experiences of another. This stress can lead to chronic exhaustion (compassion fatigue), hopelessness and becoming numb to stories of trauma (and therefore being unable to empathize with the victim). Vicarious trauma is accumulated stress from exposure to the pain of another - this trauma is more serious, causing people to question their innermost beliefs about life, the goodness of people, the world and can cause deep depression.

The curriculum includes mindfulness and self-care because parents and caregivers need to manage their emotions. By sharing their experience, parents learn about trauma triggers (a visual or audio stimulus which triggers the post-traumatic stress brain playback) and how to help these victims feel less isolated.

## Upcoming programs

Jan 15 6-8pm Documentary and panel: "California's Forgotten Children-Let Their Voices Be Heard" at Yolo County Office of Education (1280 Santa Anita Ct, Woodland)

Jan 15 830am-330pm at CSUS Ballroom (6000 J St, Sacramento) My Sister's House 11th Annual Conference: Human Trafficking and the Drug Connections.

Jan 23 6-8pm Human Trafficking Community Forum at Woodland Community and Senior Center (2001 East St, Woodland), sponsored by the Woodland Police, Empower Yolo, Dignity Health, PROTECT, Yolo County District Attorney's Office

## Harvard Affirmative Action Challenged

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) filed an amicus brief along with 35 other organizations and higher education faculty members in defense of the affirmative action program at Harvard University.

The lawsuit filed June 15, 2018 by "Students for Fair Admissions" claims that Asian Americans applicants who apply to Harvard face the lowest acceptance rates and Harvard is discriminating against them. "Students for Fair Admissions" argue that Harvard routinely assigns lower scores to Asian American in subjective categories measuring attributes like likeability, courage, kindness, and this practice places them at disadvantage compared to white students. "Students for Fair Admissions" was founded by legal strategist Edward Blum who also spearheaded the Abigail Fisher (a white female) affirmative action lawsuit against University of Texas (UT). In 2016 the US Supreme Court upheld UT's affirmative action program as constitutional. Abigail Fisher is identified as an "executive" in the "Students for Fair Admissions" group according to tax filings.

The AALDEF brief supports Harvard's program and advocates for affirmative action programs which recognizes both its role in correcting historic discrimination against Asian Americans, and its power as a tool to promote diversity and equity for all those, including Asian Americans, who face systemic discrimination.

The lawsuit against Harvard will likely greatly impact affirmative action policies nationwide. The amicus brief touches upon several key points including the inherent flaws of equating test scores with merit, the ethnic diversity and varied experiences with discrimination faced by the Asian American

community, and the need for race-conscious admissions to lift up all communities of color. Fighting discrimination against Asian Americans requires people to better see and understand race. Ignoring race will only perpetuate and worsen status quo discrimination against all communities of color.

In the Harvard lawsuit, a study conducted by Duke University economist Peter Arcidiacono found that if Harvard relied only on academic scores, more than half of its admitted students would have been Asian American over the past six years. In those years, Asian Americans were 22 percent of the admitted.

Harvard produced its own study conducted by David Card, an economist at UC Berkeley, who found no evidence of discrimination and the effect of being Asian American was "statistically indistinguishable from zero."

Closing arguments on November 2nd ended the fifteen day trial in federal court in Boston. There is no timeline for US District Court Judge Allison Burroughs' decision. Both sides plan to appeal the ruling - whichever way it is decided - to the US Supreme Court. According to Theodore Shaw, director of the Center for Civil Rights at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, conservators have solidified power on the court with the recent appointment of extremely conservative justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh and "It has a greater chance (to end or further limit the use of race in college admissions) because the court has changed." API community observers are distressed that Chinese American plaintiffs in this case have been used as a wedge by the conservatives.

## NorCal Rapist faces 40 counts

On January 7th, Roy Charles Waller, 59, was arraigned on an amended criminal complaint in Sacramento County Superior Court charging him for rapes in six counties including Yolo, Solano, Sacramento, Butte, Sonoma and Contra Costa. Twenty-eight counts were added, six of which address the 2000 abduction and sexual assault in Davis where the defendant is accused of entering the victim's Alvarado Avenue apartment, overpowering her, forcing her to drive with him around Davis. Now facing 40 criminal counts incorporated crimes against seven victims, Waller faces a life sentence if convicted. The rapes occurred over a 15 year period (1991-2006). A resident of Benicia and a longtime UC Berkeley employee, the NorCal Rapist was identified in part through a composite sketch developed with details from a Sacramento victim and DNA identification made using commercial DNA data banks.

It is still unclear whether the other two Yolo County cases - 1997 sexual assaults of two other women in Davis and 1996 home invasion burglary in Woodland - can also be filed in the Sacramento case. Waller victimized mostly Asian women who were 18-39 years old. Of the ten known victims, at least seven are Asian American.

Support our brave API victims during these prosecutions. Waller's next court date in Sacramento is March 8th.

## Current Faces, New Places

**Dave Tamayo**, elected President to SMUD Board of Directors. Tamayo was elected to the SMUD Board in 2014, representing Ward 6 (Meadowview, Oak Park, Parkway, Airport and Valley Hi.)

**Sitra T.** is My Sister's House Shelter Manager and Deputy Director who received from the South Asian Bar Assn the 2018 Unity Bar Community Service Award

**Michelle Huey**, My Sister's House Sexual Assault Prevention Specialist reaching out to sexual assault survivors at UC Davis and Yolo County received the Florin JACL - Sacramento Valley Chapter Youth Leadership Award for 2018.

**Sonya Logman** was appointed to be Governor Newsom's Deputy Cabinet Secretary. Previously, she served as Deputy Secretary at the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, Director of External Affairs at the California Exposition and State Fair, and Deputy Appointments Secretary for Governor Brown Jr.

## Current Passings - End of Watch

for two local police officer who were killed during their watch, serving to protect our communities.

**Natalie Corona**, 22, rockie Davis Police Officer, gunned down in Davis on January 10, 2019.

**Ronil Arriaga**, 32, 7 years with the Newman Police Department, gunned down in Newman on December 26, 2018.

## My Sister's Cafe celebrates its 5th birthday teaching many lessons



My Sister's House (MSH) is a safe haven dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking in Asian and Pacific Islander and other underserved communities.

An important cultural value of Asian/Pacific Islanders is self-sufficiency and self-reliance. From its beginning, almost two decades ago, My Sister's House started its Women to Work program to help domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking survivors learn skills to advance their careers and become financially independent. Job information was shared, resumes were assembled, interview practice was conducted, job referrals were made but still My Sister's House clients, often especially those with language or cultural barriers, were unsuccessful securing work.

To remedy this issue, five years ago, My Sister's House launched My Sister's Cafe to support its Women to Work Program and to assist in providing job training and income to help survivors "get back on their feet" financially. "Our board, staff and volunteers are so glad to provide the support for survivors to build a stable foundation to grow and thrive"

## Scholarships

**The Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program** is a collaborative effort between the Friends of the California State Fair, the California Exposition and State Fair, the California State Fair Agricultural Advisory Council, the Ironstone Concours Foundation, Blue Diamond Growers and Western Fairs Association. This program seeks to motivate California's well-rounded students (high school seniors and college students) by awarding scholarships to a diverse set of backgrounds and majors. Deadline: Feb. 28. Info: [castatefair.org/scholarship](http://castatefair.org/scholarship). 14 categories: agriculture, art, business, culinary/hospital/event planning, education, former fair exhibitor/volunteer, international agricultural trade, top achiever, trade school, viticulture/enology, Western Fairs Assn relation

## Jobs, Fellowships

**CAIR-Sacramento Valley/Central California team** is looking for Sacramento: Immigrants' Rights Attorney; Sacramento: Operations & Development Manager; Fresno: Outreach Coordinator. To apply, please send a cover letter, resume and three professional references to [info@sacval.cair.com](mailto:info@sacval.cair.com) and include the job title in the subject line.

**Sacramento State's Center for California Studies** offers four fellowship programs: California Senate Fellows Program, Executive Fellowship

Program, Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program, Judicial Fellowship Program. If you're 20 years old or older by Sept. 1, 2019, and have a bachelor's degree, Capital Fellowships offer an incredible opportunity to gain public service and leadership experience! Fellows receive a \$2,698 monthly stipend, health care benefits and student loan deferments, among other perks! The application period for the 2019-2020 programs is now open. The deadline to apply is Feb. 11th.

**Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)-Policy Director** sought. APEN, based in Oakland, was founded in 1993 with the belief that all of us have the right to a clean and healthy environment, in which we can live, work, learn, play and thrive. <http://apend4ej.org/get-involved/jobs/policy-director>

## Lao curriculum support

Join Lu-Mien Community Services (IMCS) and Advocates for Lu Mien (AIM) in a statewide effort to include multi-ethnic Laotian history and culture in California's school curriculum. Sign the online letter of support today at [bit.ly/mienlos](http://bit.ly/mienlos). Please share with your contacts. Visit <http://aimcalifornia.org> for more information about this project and updates on this movement. Contact Info: [hello@aimcalifornia.org](mailto:hello@aimcalifornia.org)

## APIs RISE Fund: Grants Census 2020 Outreach

Grant Deadline: Friday, Jan. 18

The APIs RISE Fund, comprised of API (Asian and/or Pacific Islander) philanthropists and community leaders, aims to build and strengthen the next generation of API leadership for the Sacramento region. Their mission is to increase the capacity and impact of Asian Pacific Islander philanthropic giving in the capital area. They advance their mission by cultivating and securing resources and by engaging with locals to learn about the issues affecting the community.

This year, the APIs RISE Fund is opening a grant opportunity with the theme "Making APIs Count." The purpose of this grant is to support projects that are doing the important work of ensuring that API communities will get counted during Census 2020 or that amplify and promote API voices, participation, and representation in the public sphere. The maximum grant amount will be \$10,000 for any single organization. For more information, contact [grants@sacregcf.org](mailto:grants@sacregcf.org).

## Taiko Classes

4-Week Youth Taiko Class (Ages 7 and up), Tuesdays, 6-7pm, \$60

4-Week Beginning Taiko Class, Tues, 7-8pm, \$60

4-Week Intermediate Taiko Class, Tuesdays, 8-9:30pm, \$90

All classes start January 15th. Instructor permission is required to register. 50% sibling discount available. No experience necessary. All classes are held at Sierra 2 Studio #1 (2791 24th St, Sacramento). To register, contact [kristyoshiro@gmail.com](mailto:kristyoshiro@gmail.com).

says Jessica Heskin, Board President.

My Sister's Cafe provides learning opportunities for survivors to start and manage personal bank accounts, develop their work history; obtain an apartment or transportation, and countless other things necessary for self-sufficiency. "Last month two survivors were able to obtain full-time jobs after they were able to build their resume and job skills during their time with the cafe." says Alexio Morales-Martens, My Sister's Cafe Manager. Additionally, in a period of #metoo incidents, not surprisingly the restaurant industry faces high rates of sexual harassment and potential power and control issues with customers. My Sister's Cafe is able to address and prevent this by educating its staff members on how to handle situations with aggressive customers, and by providing an environment for which the public can discuss sexual harassment in the workplace or in the home and different types of abuses.

Executive Director Nilda Valmores noted, "My Sister's Cafe provides an opportunity and place for customers to learn what resources My Sister's House has to offer such as employment classes, legal assistance, immigration help, counseling, and support groups."

My Sister's Cafe is open Monday-Friday from 9am- 3pm at 455 Capitol Mall in Sacramento. Volunteers, along with paying customers, are welcome!

If you or someone you know is in a domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking situation please call My Sister's House 24/7 multilingual support line at 916-428-3271 for information, support, safety planning.

## Calendar

Continued from Page 12

Feb 13, Mar 13 Wed **ACC Senior Services Family Caregiver Support Group.** 12-1:30pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). If you are an informal/family caregiver in need of support, join us for informational/emotional support and guidance by other caregivers and staff. Free. Info: Soojin Yoo, 916/393-9026 x326, syoo@accsv.org.

Feb 14, Mar 14 Thu **ACC Senior Services Parkinson's Support Group.** 1-2:30pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This support group provides resources, counseling, and support to family caregivers of individuals with Parkinson's. Info: Parkinson's Association, 916/685-4162.

Feb 14, Mar 14 Thu **ACC Senior Services Phone and PG&E Bill Review Clinic.** 2-4pm ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Are you paying too much for phone service? Is your PG&E bill unusually high? Bring your questions and a recent phone (landline or wireless) or PG&E bill and we will explain your charges, identify fraud, or save you money! Free. Drop-ins welcome on a first come, first served basis. Info: 916/393-9026 x 339, team@accsv.org.

Feb 17 Sun **SF Day of Remembrance.** 2-4pm at AMC Dine-In Kabuki 8 (SF)

Feb 19 Tue **Lantern Festival** marks the end of the Chinese New Year celebration.

Feb 19 Tue **EO 9066 Day of Remembrance-** On this day in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which gave the US Army authority to remove citizens from military zones in Washington, Oregon and California. 147,000 Japanese Americans were arrested and imprisoned during the war based on "military necessity" which was later disproven as racist wartime hysteria

Feb 19 Tue **ACC Senior Services "Fibromyalgia is Real: Explaining Fibromyalgia to Family and Friends."** 3-4:30pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This workshop will explain how to discuss fibromyalgia with family and friends, how to gain their support and understanding, and how to help them see your truth. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org.

Feb 23 Sat **Faith Ako & Halau Ka Waikahe Lani Malie Concert.** 630pm at The Sofie Center for the Arts (2700 Capitol Ave, Sac). Tickets: SBLEntertainment.com

Feb 23 Sat **Nichi Bei Foundation's Films of Remembrance.** 11am-9pm at New People Cinema (SF Japantown). Info: www.nichibei.org/films-of-remembrance

Feb 26 Tue **ACC Senior Services "Dementia Conversations."** 3:30-5pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This workshop will offer tips on how to have honest and caring conversations with family members about common difficult subjects: 1. Going to the doctor; 2. Deciding when to stop driving; 3. Making legal and financial plans. Free. To register: call the Alzheimer's Association at 800/272-3900 or e-mail lvilleda@alz.org.

Mar 5 Tue **ACC Senior Services "Basics of Composting."** 3:30-4:30pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This workshop

will review the styles of composting, bin selection, what does and doesn't go into a compost pile, trouble shooting, why compost, what is compost and how to use compost in your garden. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org.

Mar 6 Wed **Asian Youth Project Leadership Program: 29th Anniversary Banquet.** 530pm at Ming Dynasty (1121 Broadway St, Sac). \$60/person. Info: apyldinner@gmail.com, 916/719-5847

Mar 8 Fri **ACC Senior Services "CalFresh Presentation."** 1-2pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Groceries and food expenses can take up a large portion of one's budget, especially for a senior living on a fixed income. Learn about the CalFresh program that can provide benefits to help individuals with limited incomes to obtain basic, nutritious food. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org.

Mar 26 Tue **ACC Senior Services "Tips for Choosing Cell Phone Service."** 2:30-4pm ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Learn what questions to ask when choosing a service and ways to cut your cell phone costs. Get the best plan for your needs and budget. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org.

Mar 22 Fri **ACC Senior Services "Shingles & Pneumonia Vaccinations."** 10-11am at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Learn what shingles and pneumonia are, what they do to the body, and why it is important to be vaccinated. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org.

Mar 20 Wed **ACC Senior Services "Let's Have Lunch and Talk about Death."** 12-2pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Yolo Hospice is hosting a lunch and a frank discussion about death. Part of a national movement, the event will begin with two media pieces to add to the richness of the discussion. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org.

Mar 29-May 17 Fri **ACC Senior Services "Matter of Balance."** 10am-12pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This 8-week award-winning program can help participants to view falls and fear of falling as controllable; set realistic goals for increasing activity; change their environment to reduce fall risk factors; and promote exercise to increase strength and balance. Limit: 10 students. \$25 suggested donation for materials. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, classes@accsv.org.

Mar 31 Sun **ABAS Law Foundation Speaker Series: Vietgone.** 7pm at Capital Stage (2215 J St, Sac.) An American love story about two new Americans in 1975. Saigon has fallen. He lost his wife. She lost her fiancé. Will they find each other here? American Theatre Critics Assn's 2016 Steinberg New Play Award. Unlike mainstream media's Asian American stereotypes, playwright Qui Nguyen does "feminist, strong women," "sexy men," and humor that resonates. Tickets+ sponsorships at : www.abaslawfoundation.org. (For anyone who can't make it Mar 31, APIs RISE Fund is sponsoring another performance Apr 7.)

Mar 31 Sat **Nichi Bei Foundation Day with the Athletics.** A's v LA Angels. 1pm at Oakland Coliseum. Info: www.nichibdi.org/tickets.

Apr 6 Sat **PACT: Finding Our Voices, Developing Our Narratives, Valuing our Inner Strength through our Learned Adoption Experiences.** Youth and adult programs 1-4pm. 4pm potluck. Aurora School (40 Dulwich Rd, Oakland). Register: www.pactadopt.org

Apr 7 Sun **APIs RISE Fund presents Vietgone,** an American love story. Capital Stage (2215 J St, Sac.)

Apr 22 Mon **Muslim Day at the Capitol.** A day of meetings with state legislators to discuss issues of concern. Register on Facebook or on the CAIR-CA website.

May 10 Fri **150th Anniversary Celebration of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroad completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.**

May 13 Mon **My Sister's House 18th Anniversary Gala.**

May 18 Sat **ABAS Law Foundation Speaker Series Joint Program with the Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival.** Watch www.abaslawfoundation.org for information.

June 6-9 **WakamatsuFest150,** a celebration of 150 years of Japanese American heritage, arts and cuisine at the Wakamatsu Farm, site of the first Japanese colony in the US. Japanese American performances, music, speakers, demonstrations, vendors, food, crafts, poetry, kids activities, manga/anime contest. Sponsors, vendors and volunteers needed. Tickets/info: www.arconservancy.org

June 28-30 **KAAN Conference Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family.** Minneapolis. Keynotes, films, presentations, roundtables, performers, exhibits, for adults, youth and children. Info: KANet.org

June 29 Sat **Nichi Bei Foundation's 9th Annual Soy and Tofu Fundraiser.** 11am-5pm at St. Mary's Cathedral (Gough St, SF). Info: www.soyandtofufest.org

July 2-7 **PACT Family Camp West. Tahoe City.** Pact Family Camp is a weeklong summer retreat where adopted children of color of all ages—and their families—share experiences and build community while learning from experts and each other. Register: www.pactadopt.org, 510/243-9460

August 10 Sat and 11 Sun **ABAS Law Foundation Speaker Series: Hold These Truths.** Acclaimed one-man play about Gordon Hirabayashi, civil rights hero who challenged World War II's race-based restrictions in the US Supreme Court. Playwright Jeanne Sakata's "epic love story between one man and the U.S. Constitution" received three 2018 Theatre Bay Area Awards. Watch www.abaslawfoundation.org for information.



## Calendar

Jan-June **PACT Teen Club**. Three session packages at Bay Area locations. Slots available for 14-18 year olds. Teen, In-Between and Tween gatherings focus on both social interactions among the youth and our Mentors/Chaperones have designed a curriculum tailored to adopted and fostered youth of African American, African, Latino, Asian and Native American descent to explore their feelings and experiences related to adoption and race. Register: [www.pactadopt.org](http://www.pactadopt.org), 510/243-9460

Jan 15 Tue **Film: California's Forgotten Children Documentary-Let Their Voices Be Heard**. 6-8pm at Yolo Co Office of Education (1280 Santa Anita Ct, Woodland). Free. For educators, people who work with at risk youth, community members. Info: Jennifer Davis 530-666-8372, Jennifer.davis2@yolocounty.org

Jan 15 Tue **My Sister's House: 11th Annual Human Trafficking Conference: Human Trafficking and the Drug Connections**. 830am-330pm at CSUS Ballroom (6000 J St, Sac). For law enforcement, victim advocates, service providers and concerned citizens. CEU anticipated (LCSW, LEP, LPCC, MFT, MCLE, RN.) Register: [mysistershouse.bpt.me](http://mysistershouse.bpt.me). Speakers: Marti MacGibbon, Rose Mukhar, Sarah-Jane Vegas. Registration \$45/general, \$20/student.

Jan 16 Wed **PACT Webinar: Is Open Adoption a Good Idea for Foster Adoptions**. 11am-1230pm. Info: Register: [www.pactadopt.org](http://www.pactadopt.org), 510/243-9460

Jan 18 Fri Asian Real Estate Assn of America (AREAA) Greater Sacramento-10th Anniversary Installation Dinner - "Crazy Rich Eating." 6-10pm at Wellseason Chinese Cuisine (9089 Bruceville Rd, Elk Grove). \$65/member, \$85/nonmember. Info: 916/947-4312

Jan 18 - May 27 **Documentary: "Then They Came for Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans During WWII and the Demise of Civil Liberties"**. Multimedia exhibition: Homes of Futures Without Violence. The Presidio (100 Montgomery St. SF.) Hours: Wed-Sun 10 am-6pm. Free.

Jan 19 Sat **PACT: Baby Care for Adopted Infants. Learn the basics of baby care with fellow pre-adoptive parents**. 930am-1230pm in Emeryville. Register: 510/243-9460, [www.pactadopt.org](http://www.pactadopt.org). PACT's mission is to serve adopted children of color.

Jan 21 Mon **MLK Day and MLK March for the Dream - Celebration of Togetherness**. A community walk-with-me and invite a friend! 9am at Sacramento City College (3835 Freeport Blvd., Sac.) Five miles to the Sacramento Convention Center. Info: [www.marchforthedream.org](http://www.marchforthedream.org)

Jan 21 Mon Third Mondays, 6-7pm **My Sister's House #MeToo sexual assault survivor support group**. Open to all genders. Info: 916/930-0626

Jan 22 Tue **APSEA Brown Bag Workshop - State Leadership - The role and responsibility of the Career Executive Assignment (CEA)**. Speaker: Suzanne Ambrose, Executive Officer, State Personnel Board. Info: [www.apsea.org](http://www.apsea.org)

Jan 22 Tue **Opening day for traveling exhibit from Japanese American National Museum: 200 images by Sus Ito (1919-2015)-a rare look at the 442nd Regimental Combat Team's service**. California Museum (1020 O St, Sac). Sacramento

Museum Day-Feb 2 free admission.

Jan 23 Wed **Human Trafficking Awareness Event** sponsored by Woodland Police Dept, EmpowerYolo, Dignity Health, PROTECT, Yolo Co. District attorney. 6-8pm at Woodland Community Center (2001 East St, Woodland). Free. Open to community members 12yo and up. Special presentation for youth by PROTECT. Survivor speaker: Jenna McKaye. Info: Yolo Co District Attorney's Office 530-666-8180, Woodland Police Dept. 530-661-7875

Jan 24 Thu **ACC Senior Services "We're Ready! Are You Ready for Public Benefits."** 1-2pm (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This workshop provides information on your public benefits (Medicare, Medi-Cal, and Veteran's Benefits). Learn from experts on how to get prepared without buying insurance products. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, [classes@accsv.org](mailto:classes@accsv.org).

Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 29 Fri **ACC Senior Services "It's About Time-Calendar Conversations."** 1-3pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). This series of calendar conversations is designed to help you get more from your month. These hands-on workshops will help you live your best life. \$15 for 3 classes/\$8 drop-in per single class if space available. To register: 91 Jan 29 Tue ACC Senior Services "Aging with Grace—Fall Prevention." 3:30-4:30pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). We will discuss what causes falls, how our mindset can contribute to our safety, and how simple exercises, many done while sitting down can prevent falls. \$3 pre-paid/\$5 drop-in. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, [classes@accsv.org](mailto:classes@accsv.org).

Jan 26 Sat **Sacramento JAACL and Sacramento Senator Lions Club: 2019 Annual Crab and Spaghetti Feed**. 5pm at Sacramento Buddhist Church (2401 Riverside Blvd, Sac). UCD Bakuatsu Taiko, raffle, paper airplane contest, dessert table, dessert silent auction. \$55/individual, \$10/6-10year old, Free-5year and under. Info: Janice Luszczak 916/903-6645, Shirley Kato 916/393-6887

Jan 26 Sat **Maharlika Lions Clubs Crab and Shrimp Feed**. 6pm at Rizal Community Center (7320 Florin Center Mall, Sac). \$50/adults, \$10/children under 12. Opportunity drawings, silent auction, dancing. Proceeds to benefit the club's medical mission, migrant workers, My Sister's House and others. Info: Lynn Ventura 916/798-4423, Myrna Agbunag 916/505-1421, Vickie Debord 916/524-3452

Jan 26 Sat **Mochi Pounding Demonstration and Tasting, New Year's Potluck**. 11am Mochi, 1pm Potluck at Buddhist Church of Florin (7235 Pritchard Rd, Sac). \$5/non members, Free/members+those 5 years and younger. RSVP by 1-23 to [judyfukuman@comcast.net](mailto:judyfukuman@comcast.net), 916/524-2783

Jan 31 Thu **ACC Senior Services "Preventing Sales Calls and Robocalls."** 2:30-4pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Learn how to deal with those unwanted calls. We will also discuss third-party gas company sales calls. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, [classes@accsv.org](mailto:classes@accsv.org).

Jan 31 Thu **Asian Resources Lunar New Year Dinner**. Honoring Assemblyman Jim Cooper and Nilda Valmores. 530pm at Happy Garden Seafood Restaurant (5731 Stockton Blvd, Sac).

Info: [www.asianresources.org](http://www.asianresources.org), 916/454-1892. Sponsorships available.

Feb 1 Fri **ACC Senior Services "Canine Companions for Independence."** 1-2pm at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Canine Companions for Independence is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure a quality partnership. You will have the opportunity to see a puppy in training. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, [classes@accsv.org](mailto:classes@accsv.org).

Feb 2 Sat **CAPITAL Meeting**. 830-11am at Sac Sheriff Central Station (7000 65th St, Sac). Info: Sonney Chong [sonney.chong@att.net](mailto:sonney.chong@att.net), Stephanie Nguyen [stf\\_nguyen@yahoo.com](mailto:stf_nguyen@yahoo.com)

Feb 3 Sun **Executive Order 9066 Day of Remembrance Program**. Noon-4pm. \$5/general. Docent tour of Uprooted! Japanese Americans During WWII (1, 130 2 230pm). Exhibit: "Before They Were Heroes: Sus Ito's WWII Images." California Museum (1020 O St, Sac).

**Feb 5 Tue Lunar New Year, Year of the Pig**

Feb 7 Thu **ACC Senior Services "Cyberbullying and Internet Safety."** 10-11am at ACC Senior Services (7334 Park City Dr, Sac). Learn what to do if you are receiving threatening or inappropriate requests online, how to recognize and avoid common scams, and what to do if you fall victim. Free. To register: 916/393-9026 x330, [classes@accsv.org](mailto:classes@accsv.org)

Feb 8 Fri **Sacramento Chinese of Indochinese Friendship Assn (SCIFA): Spring Festival Banquet**. 6pm at Happy Garden Restaurant (5731 Stockton Blvd, Sac). RSVP by 1-25, Linda Lui [linda.m.lui@gmail.com](mailto:linda.m.lui@gmail.com), 916/541-2866

Feb 9 Sat **Chinese New Year Celebration Assn: 2019 New Year Celebration**. 11am-5pm at Hiram Johnson High School (6879 14th Ave, Sac). Lion dance, martial arts, cultural entertainment, community exhibits, arts and crafts, food vendors, children's games. \$6/adults, \$1/children under 12. Info: [www.cnyca.net](http://www.cnyca.net), 916/601-7511

Feb 9 Sat **Northern California Time of Remembrance**. 1-4pm at California Museum (1020 O St, Sac). Sponsors: JAACL chapters-Florin, Lodi, Placer, Sacramento. "Revisiting vital civil rights lessons of the 1988 redress victor for today's divided country by Mr. Mitchell Maki. \$20/general, \$15/college students, Free-under 18. Tickets: [www.nctor.org](http://www.nctor.org), Nancy Whiteside 916/508-6587, 916/427-2841, [nwhiteside@hotmail.com](mailto:nwhiteside@hotmail.com)

Feb 9-March 9 Saturdays **My Sister's House Spring Domestic Violence Advocate Training**.

Feb 12 Tue **Asian Bar Assn of Sacramento (ABAS) Law Foundation Speaker Series: "Local Advocates Confront Immigration Policy Crisis."** Refreshments. 530pm at Pacific McGeorge School of Law (courtroom, 3200 Fifth Ave, Sac.) Hear the latest about our government imprisoning innocent children, from UCD Immigration Clinic Director Holly Cooper, Psychotherapist Satsuki Ina, and Clinic student litigator Karen Pedraza. Moderated by Professor Blake Nordahl. Admission \$15, students \$5. Info: [www.abaslawfoundation.org](http://www.abaslawfoundation.org). Continued on Page 11