

# Currents

Asian American Pacific Islander Community Newspaper Serving Sacramento and Yolo Counties-Volume 33, No. 2 Summer/June 2020

## AAPI community demand political leadership denounce xenophobia

April 14, 2020

Dear Sacramento Mayor and Members of the City Council -

On behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AA&PI) community of the Greater Sacramento Region, we write with immense concern for the safety and well-being of ourselves, family members, communities, and neighbors. We are community organizers, advocates, educators, attorneys, business owners, doctors, nurses, and active contributors of society facing the COVID-19 epidemic with hope, hard work, and goodwill. However, the outbreak has triggered a second crisis to our community - fear-induced racism. Rising racist and xenophobic incidents have already occurred to too many of our AA&PI families, friends and colleagues. From hearing racial slurs in the lines of grocery stores, noticing dirty looks at the pharmacy, to finding extensive damage to our cars in the parking lot. We ask you, our city and county officials, to collectively and publicly denounce the xenophobia towards AA&PI, work with city and county agencies to address this concern immediately, and ensure all economic recovery and public health resources are made accessible to all communities, especially the most vulnerable.

AA&PI communities continue to be instrumental and pioneers in the Greater Sacramento

Region's socio-political and economic development since the 1850s. Chinese immigrants helped to build the Central Pacific Railroad and contributed to Sacramento's cultural arts scene. Japanese, Filipino, and Punjabi communities developed Sacramento and California's agricultural economy in the early to mid-1900s. Southeast Asian refugees from the American wars in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, including Cambodian, Cham, Hmong, Lu-Mien, Lao, Vietnamese and Chinese-Vietnamese refugees, began to resettle in Sacramento from 1975 to 2005. Today, 302,991 Asian Americans and 29,491 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders call the Greater Sacramento Region home, totaling approximately 22 percent of Sacramento County's population. About 70 percent of businesses in the Southpointe Plaza on Mack Road are Filipino-owned; approximately 45 percent of businesses on the Stockton Boulevard Corridor are Southeast Asian-owned; and the historic Japanese business district in the Freeport area continues to thrive. All of these AA&PI businesses continue to serve all residents in the Greater Sacramento Region. Californians of every political stripe face a stark truth - hospitals and healthcare facilities are depending heavily on Filipino Americans, who account for 20 percent of California's registered nurses, and many other AA&PI community members now more than ever. Without them, US health care, for all its glaring flaws, would cease to exist. Our AA&PI communities have called Sacramento home for generations, raised our families, attended public kindergarten through higher education institutes, built small businesses, and contributed to the Greater Sacramento Region. We must work together to denounce all racist and xenophobic rhetoric and ensure the wellness and health of all residents.

or current resident

We call on our local officials to publicly condemn the violence, allocate funding

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REGISTER TO VOTE by Oct. 19

## Count on Census 2020

By Poonie Holst (ACC Senior Services) and Nancy Xiong (HIP California)

### A Lot to Gain & A Lot to Lose

The United States conducts a Census survey every 10 years, counting every person who is living in the country – and the Census is happening this year! The Census determines the distribution of Federal resources to communities and it determines the number of local leaders in Congress. Unfortunately, many “hard-to-count groups,” such as older adults, veterans, and homeless, etc., have difficulty participating for various reasons. For example, Asian American and Pacific Islanders have been undercounted because of the lack of language access and unfamiliarity with the process. For older Americans, isolation, vision difficulty, lack of access to technology, or fear of scams prevents participation.

### Everyone Counts!

When filling out the Census, count every single individual in the household, from newborns to older adults. Everyone. The person filling out the Census form does not have to be related to everyone living in the household. Sometimes, people will only report certain family members, because they think being a relative is a requirement and blended families or mixed-immigration status families do not qualify. Everyone living in the home counts in the Census.

The Census will use the number of people counted in each region to help determine the amount of Federal funding allocated to our area for hospitals, roads, transportation, emergency grants, education, etc., in our area. For older adults, the Census impacts programs like CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and housing support. For our children, the Census determines funding for early childhood programs such as Head Start, free or reduced-price lunches at school, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Thus, it is critical that we ensure that we count everyone living in each household!

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## AAPI community demand political leadership denounce xenophobia

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to the most vulnerable members of our community who are disproportionately affected by COVID-19, work diligently with city and county agencies to create policy solutions to address these issues, and thoroughly investigate and respond to all reported events. We recommend that the city of Sacramento and the county of Sacramento do the following -

- Add an additional guideline to city and county ordinances to fight against and prevent future discrimination towards AA&PI communities due to COVID-19, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Adopt and adapt Center for Disease Control and Prevention “Reducing Stigma” language AND the California Attorney General’s “Hate Crime” webpage onto city and county websites and send this language through your community newsletter,

- Set up local hotlines (with appropriate languages) for all communities, including limited English proficient population, to call and report incidents in a safe manner, and

- Develop and disseminate guidelines to different places of business in the Greater Sacramento Region to ensure safety for all communities, including making Stop AAPI Hate incident reports available to AAPI city and county staff, as well as AAPI clients and consumers.

- Create COVID-19 emergency funds including a) a fund invested in children, youth, and young adults, b) a mental health fund, and c) a fund specifically serving undocumented community members.

- Create a racial equity impact awareness tool to map risk scores for communities within the county, including:

- Disaggregating data on testing, hospitalizations, deaths, and recoveries by race to focus health care approaches to those at highest risk of infection.

- AA&PIs are at alarming high risk due to underlying and long-standing health inequities, thus, AA&PI health data must be disaggregated by CA AB 1726 guidelines.

- Develop and disseminate culturally responsive COVID-19 safety, public health materials, and economic recovery resources in the necessary AA&PI languages spoken in the Greater Sacramento Region, including but not limited to Cantonese, Fijian, Hmong, Iu-Mien, Lao, Mandarin, Samoan, Tagalog, Tongan, and Vietnamese.

- Conduct webinars available to community based organizations, small businesses, and community members regarding regional, statewide, and federal public health and economic recovery resources in order for community leaders to have a direct line of communication with decision-makers to inform and influence policies and resource allocations.

Now is the time to affirm and ensure the safety, wellness, and public health of all residents. We can overcome this pandemic and work in

partnership for a thriving Sacramento region. Thank you for your consideration. For any questions please contact Nkauj lab Yang, Co-Director at Hmong Innovating Politics, nkaujiab.yang@hipcalifornia.com.

Sincerely, Nkauj lab Yang, Co-Director, Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP); Dr. Robyn Rodriguez, Founding Director, UCD Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies; Megan Sapigao, President, Philippine National Day Association (PNDA); CaseyAnn Carbonell, Co-Founder, Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities (EMAC); Dr. Bao Lo, Assistant Professor, CSUS Department of Ethnic Studies; Dr. Timothy Fong, Director, CSUS Full Circle Project; Mindy Moua, Coordinator and Counselor, CSUS Full Circle Project; Yen Marshall, National Executive Director, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA); Dean Murakami, President, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) Sacramento; Nilda Valmores, Executive Director, My Sister’s House; Dr. K. Lily Liemthongsamout, Founding Director, Lao American Advancement Organization (LAAO); Leesai Yang, Director, EBAYC-Sacramento; Sonney Chong, President, CAPITAL; Basim Elkarra, Executive Director, CAIR-Sacramento Valley and Central California; Janice Yamaoka Luszcak, President, Sacramento JAACL; Josh Kaizuka, Co-President, Florin JAACL Sacramento Valley; Judy Patacsil, National President, Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS); Jinky Dolar, Chapter President, OCA Sacramento - Asian Pacific American Advocates; Kao Thun, Executive Director, Iu-Mien Community Services (IMCS); Jasmine Dellafosse, Senior Regional Organizer, Gathering For Justice, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC) Pilot Alum; Mai Yang Vang, School Board Trustee, Sacramento City USD; Bobby Dalton G. Roy, Community Activist; Christine Tien, Community Advocate; May Lee, Community Advocate; Mona Tawatao, Community Advocate

Reponses to date:

Councilman Guerra was first to denounce violence against AAPI businesses on Stockton Blvd. and promised his commitment to follow up with another meeting.

Deputy Executive of Social Services (Bruce Wagstaff), director of Human Assistance, the director of Behavioral Health Services and the Public Information Director have also expressed commitment to reduce stigma language on their websites, incorporating the attorney general’s hate crime language and assessing needs and gaps in services and resource allocation.

### Report hate crimes:

Stop AAPI Hate (English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, Japanese)

StandAgainstHatred.org (English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese)

Civil.Rights@AG.NY.gov, 1-800-771-7755 (New York)

Stopbullying.gov (cyberbullying)

FBI 1-800-CALL-FBI

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging  
www.napca.org - English: 1-800-336-2722, 廣東話/Cantonese: 1-800-582-4218. 普通话/Mandarin: 1-800-683-7427, 한국어/Korean: 1-800-582-4259, 日本語/Japanese: 1-800-398-1117, Tagalog/Filipino: 1-800-593-8087, Tiếng Việt/Vietnamese: 1-800-582-4336, Español/Spanish: 1-800-948-3844

## A Message from U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott

The Eastern District of California is one of the most diverse regions in the country, and federal law enforcement is committed to protecting our diverse communities. As the Chief Federal Law Enforcement Officer for the Eastern District of California, I want to ensure all those who call this region their home feel safe regardless of their race, ethnic origin, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

During the COVID-19 public health crisis, our office remains open and our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners remain vigilant in protecting your safety. Should you become aware of any violations of law, or threats to public safety, it is important that they are reported to law enforcement.

We have been in regular and ongoing contact with our local and federal law enforcement partners regarding potential hate crimes directed at persons of Asian descent arising from the COVID-19 virus. We have also been in contact with Asian American community leaders. Hate crimes are particularly damaging to the fabric of our society because they impact an entire class of people. Generally speaking, under federal law, a hate crime is a crime whose victim is targeted because of their race, ethnic origin, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Prosecuting hate crimes continues to be a top priority for our office and our law enforcement partners, and our Hate Crimes Taskforce remains active. I encourage you to report any suspected hate crimes. We need your help - we need the community to be our eyes and ears because we can only investigate and prosecute crimes that are brought to our attention.

If you are a victim of a hate crime or witness a hate crime, please call 911 first. Once you are safe, please also report the hate crime to the Federal Bureau of Investigation by calling 1-(800) CALL-FBI. This FBI tip line offers language translation services in many languages spoken in our region, including Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. When calling, please provide basic information to help us investigate - the who, what, when, where, and why. If you wish, you can make your tip anonymously.

If you see something, please say something. That is the only way we can help. Your act of bravery by speaking up can help keep our communities safe and can help stop hate crime. The United States Attorney’s Office thanks you for your help. Please be safe and healthy, and we will get through this time together.

US Attorney Scott hosted a AAPI community Zoom meeting on April 16th re hate crimes.

## Asian Pacific State Employees Association/APSEA

### Richard Lew (1931-2020) Legacy:

Implementing APSEA's vision of serving, enhancing, and leading state government and our community

As APSEA's fifth President (1979-1980), Richard (Dick) Lew provided steadfast leadership in a new organization that was established in 1975 to assist members with equal rights, upward mobility, and provide support for various community groups. He advocated for systemic change that promoted diversity and remedies to racial and social injustice.

Dick was Assistant Director for Legislation at the California Youth Authority and was deeply committed to building a more equitable society. After he retired from the state, he continued to serve as a Youthful Offender Parole Board hearing officer and taught classes at the State Training Center.

Dick emphasized the importance of developing strong partnerships with the community and the departments during his APSEA Presidency. A review of the 1979-80 newsletters and minutes showed his involvement in both the community and state with such activities as:

- Community Forum on Prop 9 (Jarvis II initiative) at JFK High School featuring state legislators, Sacramento Mayor, and other public officials. Concerns included affirmative action, lay-off procedures, etc.
- Partnering with KCRA-TV in dealing with Asian/Pacific stereotypes and creating a program on the Asian/Pacific community.



- Opposing the Governor's firing of the Asian Director for the California Department of Corrections
- Testifying at the State Personnel Board to abolish discriminatory barriers such as a minimum height requirement for California Highway Patrol officers.

- Personal and professional development workshops on civil service (e.g., Staff Services Manager Classifications I, II, and III), stress management, affirmative action, annual training conferences, and legislation
- Success on assisting employees with discrimination and employment issues
- Receptions for new gubernatorial appointments, Asian Legislative Caucus

After Dick's presidency, he continued to help APSEA become stronger in its efforts to promote justice, opportunity, and fairness for all. He played a critical role in APSEA's maturation and growth by establishing APSEA chapters in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the Central Valley, along with meeting regularly with Agency Secretaries, Department Directors, and the Legislature. To acknowledge Dick for his outstanding service to APSEA, he was honored at the 1990 APSEA Annual Scholarship & Installation of Officers Dinner.

Perhaps the most lasting of Dick's legacy is the establishment of the first APSEA scholarship program in March 1980. The goal is to promote educational opportunities and knowledge of our future leaders. In tribute to Dick's contributions to the community and continued strategic leadership over the many years, the APSEA Board has committed to donate a scholarship in his name.

### Hate during the Covid-19 Pandemic

By Alex Eng

Historically the month of May has been designated legislatively as a period to acknowledge Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) – their cultures and accomplishments.

Instead we are faced with another wave of hate incidents and hate crimes. According to one survey taken by an Asian American organization, over 1000 have taken place since March. And those are only the ones reported. On the east coast an older Asian woman was verbally assailed and knocked down by a group of assailants; a suspect in central California was arrested for vandalizing an Asians car. Closer to home here in Sacramento a woman screamed, "thanks for the f----g virus!" and spitting at the teller in a bank.

Verbal and physical abuse is nothing new to us. Since the late 1800s AAPI have been the victims of discrimination and hate. From the 23 hanged in Rock Springs, Wyoming to the 17 killed in southern California to the thousands driven out of their homes and business through arson, intimidation and starvation throughout California ("Driven Out" –Jean Feltzer). Despite our successes and contributions, hate crimes have continued until now.

Why the sudden upsurge? I place the blame squarely on the president of the United States. His rhetoric and attitude toward people of

color, have incited and inflamed the fires of hate and prejudice like never before. He continues to blame China for the increase of the covid-19 pandemic and deaths in the United States and too many believe this diversionary tactic.

As recent as May 11, 2020 during a press briefing at a White House briefing, Meijang Chiang, a reporter asked the president, "Why do you see testing as a global competition?" His response was, "Go ask China!" A response that did not answer the question and was clearly racial. When Ms. Chiang then asked, "why are you saying that to me?" Trump mumbled something and abruptly ended the briefing by walking away. This incident was not lost on the media. Commentators and analysts have been very aware of what's going on and are calling attention to the racial affront. Hate starts from the top; and will continue as long as nothing changes and there are no consequences for irresponsible speech or actions.

What can we do to protect our communities and loved ones? Be vigilant and aware of our surroundings; maintain a safe distance around you. If anything occurs, I strongly advise reporting any and all hate crime/incidents to local law enforcement. Try to give as much detail as you can remember, noting date, time, participants, etc. Even incidents may indicate a pattern of escalating behavior. Ultimately we can keep informed and be involved in the political process.

I applaud McGregor Scott and his staff of the U.S. Attorneys Office of the Eastern District for making hate crimes against AAPIs their highest priority. His outreach to our community brings hope but they do need our collective help in reaching our constituents and other AAPI organizations. His office is in partnership with local enforcement to combat hate.

Feel free to contact Sean Vassar of the U.S. Attorney's Office for information or to report hate incidents/crimes. His contact information: sean.vassar@usdoj.gov; or call 916-554-2706. Go to [www.justice.gov/edu](http://www.justice.gov/edu) for information.

Be safe and be well.... Alex Eng





## Count on Census 2020

Continued from front page

The information recorded in the Census information is confidential and sharing the information with any other government agency is prohibited. If someone in the household is unrelated, undocumented, or only has a green card, that information is protected by law!

### It's Not too Late! Complete the Census Today.

As of May 4, 2020, only 27.66% of the AAPI population in Sacramento County completed the Census. If the undercount continues, the region will receive reduced federal funding and may have less representation in Congress. Because of COVID-19, the Census Bureau has extended the deadline to complete the survey to **October 31, 2020**. We need your help to get the word out about the Census and ensure everyone is counted.

To make sure people are completing the Census, the Census Bureau usually sends out people called enumerators. They walk door-to-door to homes and apartment buildings and ask people to complete the Census. Due to COVID-19, this process is on hold until further notice. If people complete their Census form promptly, they can avoid having a worker from visit their home.

If an enumerator, comes to the door, people should check that the person has a valid Census Bureau ID, which will have the official's name, photograph, a Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date. The Census will never ask for a person's political and religious beliefs, social security or driver's license number and will not send an email. It is important to remember that person does not have to be a citizen to complete the Census. If anyone thinks the person at the door is a scammer, he or she should notify the local police.

For the first time, the Census is available online at [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov) and it takes less than 10 minutes to complete. People may also call **1-800-923-8282** and complete it by phone, or request a mail-in form. Complete the Census online or by phone in 13 different languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese and Japanese. Organizations throughout Sacramento are ready to provide translation or interpretation services to anyone who may need help completing the survey. You may call ACC Senior Services at (916) 394-6399 ext. 121, if you would like more assistance.

## COVID-19 on Census 2020 - FYI

With COVID-19, there are some adjustments about what is the "right place," that is, where you "normally live." Barely 45 percent of Californians answered the Census by mid-April. Everyone in California needs to be counted regardless to whether or not they are documented or undocumented. There is no citizenship question in this survey.

**College students** - If someone such as a college student is just living with you temporarily due to the Covid-19 situation, they should be counted **where they ordinarily would be living on April 1, 2020**. You are counted as if you are "at school." College and university owned Greek and dorm housing will respond for students who would have been living there. In off campus apartments, houses, with or without roommates, you should respond for the entire household even if you are not sure if your roommates answered yet. The Census will adjust duplicates later.

**Hospital** - You are counted at the residence where you live and sleep most of the time, even if you were in the hospital for a routine stay, in an inpatient hospice facility or a newborn baby in the hospital on April 1st.

**Health care facilities** - You are counted as living at a health care facility if you have no usual home, are in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric unit for long-term nonacute care, or in a nursing facility.

**Traveling** - You count yourself where you live and sleep most of the time, even if you were away from home on April 1st.

**Foreign visitors** - Those foreign visitors who were temporarily visiting the US on vacation or business on April 1st should not be counted.

**Homeless and now in a hotel or shelter** - If you are living in an emergency or transitional shelter that provides sleeping facilities for homeless people, you will be counted at the shelter.

**No permanent address** - You count yourself where you were living on April 1st. A Census questionnaire can be answered by providing a description of the location where you slept on April 1st.

Did you lose your Census invitation letter with the Census ID number? That is okay, you can answer online without the ID number.

Census field operations will be activated on June 1st which includes in-person activities. The Census Bureau is committed to using personal protective equipment and social distancing practices. The Census Bureau has requested permission from the Congress to continue collecting responses until October 31st. **Go to [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov) online and be counted!**

## ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER CENSUS SUBCOMMITTEE



**GET COUNTED:** [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov)

THE SACRAMENTO COMPLETE COUNT AAPI SUBCOMMITTEE CONSISTS OF:  
ACC SENIOR SERVICES, APA NEWS & REVIEW, APIS RISE, ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS (APAPA), ASIAN RESOURCE INC. (ARI), CHINESE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF SACRAMENTO (CACCS), CROSSINGSTV, Hmong INNOVATING POLITICS (HIP), Hmong YOUTH & PARENTS UNITED (HYPU), HUI O HAWAII OF SACRAMENTO, IUMIEN COMMUNITY SERVICES (IMCS), JAKARA MOVEMENT, JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE (JACL), LAO COMMUNITY LEADERS, OCA-SACRAMENTO, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DAY ASSOCIATION (PDNA), SACRAMENTO VALLEY KOREAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, AND TOFA INC.

ARTWORK BY KHOU VUE



## ACC SENIOR SERVICES

### ACC Senior Services Big Day of Giving Live Telethon raises more than 100k!

By Linda Revilla

For the regional fundraiser event, Big Day of Giving, ACC usually has a party/open house featuring ACC bands, food, arts demonstrations and exhibits, and last year, a craft and vendor fair. This year, because of the pandemic, we made the choice to do it all online. Our informal motto was “go big!” We broadcast an epic 5-hour live telethon on Facebook that brought in \$124, 000 in donations... and counting. This is more than double the amount raised last year.



MCs Mike Marando & Scott Okamoto

Three masked MCs, ACC board member, Mike Marando, former Sacramento River Cats announcer, ACC Program Director, Linda Revilla, and ACC Marketing Manager, Scott Okamoto, interviewed local dignitaries, such as council-member Rick Jennings, My Sister’s House ED, Nilda Valmores, APAPA’s Yen Marshall and CC Yin, and more. In-house live guitar music by ACC Memory Care Resident Care Manager, Michael Deneau, added to the excitement on the set, and provided quite the ear worm with his rendition of “Times Like These.”

Musical guest acts were Skyped in live. Shirley Stassi transfixed the audience with a beautiful hula. Ukulele was well-represented by Judge William Shubb; Dennis & Janet Fisher; and Dani Joy. ACC guitar duos Asian Pair (George Connor & Mary Nakamura) and Gary Yee and Jane Nakagawa also performed. Koichi Mizushima with daughter, Ellie, and singer, Alexi Ishida, were other highlights, bringing youthful energy to the show. ACC volunteer instructor, Joaquin Ngrangad led a trio in dancing/exercising to a disco number - all while wearing masks.

ACC Culinary Services Manager, James Hutchins, flambéed a steak as part of his demo that had one viewer comment, “it was torture to watch because we couldn’t taste that steak!” There was a mix of entertainment and information on ACC programs and services. The telethon was to raise funds to mitigate the effect of the pandemic on ACC’s operations.



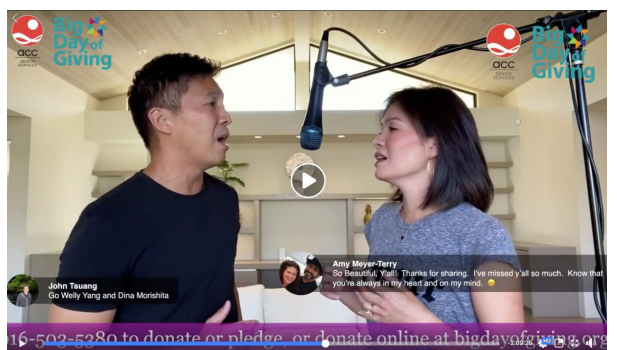
Koichi Mizushima with daughter, Ellie

Our efforts to keep everyone safe and adhere to the shelter-in-place orders means pausing programs such as the Lifelong Learning & Wellness classes, limiting transportation by ACC Rides to critical rides, halting move-ins at Greenhaven Terrace and Maple Tree Village, and taking extra sanitizing precautions and increased use of personal protective equipment at all sites, especially the Care Center. All of which has impacted ACC economically.



Maple Tree Village Staff

Facebook showed 2,100 cumulative “views” of the telethon on the day it was broadcast, May 7, 2020. Since then, the recording on Facebook has gone viral, with 5,000 more views! No doubt, the appearance by Broadway stars, Welly Yang and Dina Morishita, who shared two beautiful songs, and special guests Lisa and Laura Ling, with their father Philip are reasons for the repeated views.



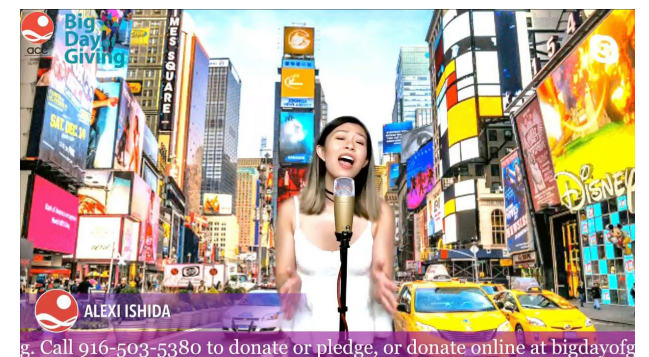
Welly Yang and Dina Morishita

Ted Fong, ACC consultant, was the “man behind the curtain,” aided by volunteers, Garrett Ashizawa, Nina Fong, and staff, Perfecto Bravo and Michael Yang. The success of the telethon has ACC planning future live online

events.



Mike Marando with Lisa, Laura and Phillip Ling



ACC TV anyone?

### ACC Still Providing Utility Assistance

Long before the coronavirus pandemic, ACC Senior Services, through the TEAM and CHANGES programs, has helped consumers with their phone, internet, and PG&E bills. During this difficult time, we are continuing to provide this FREE service. We can help complete applications for discount programs, like California LifeLine, CARE, and Medical Baseline, negotiate discounts, payment plans and extensions, assist with changes to accounts, establish new accounts, and find less costly services. For the health of our community, we are unable to meet in-person. However, we can schedule conference calls with clients and their phone, internet or utility providers.

According to one satisfied client, “I would like to express my much appreciation for Susan Sarinas’ efforts in the reduction of my monthly phone bill. The cost savings for me was the direct result of Susan communicating, in conjunction, with the phone company. Thank you, Susan, & ACC’s program for this community service for seniors.”

-- Kind regards, Ray L.

If you or anyone you know needs help with a phone, internet, DirecTV, AT&T U-verse, or PG&E bill, contact Susan Sarinas at (916) 503-5809 or team@accs.org.

## Fresno COVID-19 hate vandalism

On Sunday March 8th, Anna Chandy went outside to see written on her dad's car which was parked in front of their home: "F\*\*\* Asians and Coronovirus." The neighbor's car had also been vandalized but not with racist writing. No one in the family has been diagnosed with COVID-19. [Note, the Fresno Chinatown Chinese New Year Parade was held the day before.]

The family reported that accidentally coughing in public will cause a reaction from people in Fresno: "Oh my God the coronavirus." Saeng Bunsy, a 37 year old Laotian, said while buying diapers at a Fresno store a woman told her to "move out of my way" and then used a racial slur.

Fresno police are currently investigating two separate hate incidents - the Chandy vandalism and another Asian family's vehicle which was also vandalized with racial slurs blaming Asians for the coronavirus. While police said they could make an arrest within days, no arrests have been announced. The police department's Facebook page and Valley Crime Stopper website are silent.

At the March 17th Fresno County Board of Supervisors meeting, Fresno County Supervisor Steve Brandau fueled the xenophobia by opining, "I think that many in government and in our society have been overreacting to the Chinese coronavirus. ... This overreaction causes me great concern over the economy." Brandau displayed the same failure of leadership which President Trump demonstrated the next day (March 18th) arguing that there is nothing wrong with calling COVID-19 the "Chinese virus."

## Stop AAPI Hate

AAPIs are encouraged to report hate incidents at StopAAPIHate whether you only witnessed or experienced micro-aggressions, bullying, harassment, hate speech, or violence. These hate acts need to be documented. With more information, the AAPI community can better respond, demand justice and prevent further incidents from occurring.

*March 19, 2020 - Stop AAPI Hate reporting center was established.*

*By March 26th, over 650 incidents had been reported.*

*By April 3rd, over 1,100 incident reports of verbal harassment, shunning and physical assault are documented.*

## A3PCON reporting site

By April 24th, the STOP AAPI HATE website received almost 1500 Incident Reports of Verbal Harassment, Shunning and Physical Assaults.

Since its official launch on March 19th, the STOP AAPI HATE reporting center has received almost 1,500 reports of coronavirus discrimination from Asian Americans across the country. The reporting center was founded by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) and San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department. Asian Pacific



Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) is a coalition of more than forty community-based organizations that serve and represent the 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the greater Los Angeles area, with a particular focus on low-income, immigrant, refugee and other vulnerable populations. Chinese for Affirmative Action, founded in 1969 to protect civil and political rights of Chinese Americans and to advance multiracial democracy in the US, is today a progressive voice on behalf of the broader Asian American and Pacific Islander community advocating for systemic change.

Data from the first month of STOP AAPI HATE can be found in its April 23rd report available at [www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org](http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org). The following patterns emerged over the course of one month:

- STOP AAPI HATE received 1,497 reports in its first four weeks.
- Incidents from California and New York constituted over 58% of all reports.
- Civil rights violations involving workplace discrimination and being barred from businesses and transportation or refused service made up almost ten percent of all incident reports.
- Forty-four percent of incidents took place at private businesses.
- AAPI women were harassed 2.3 times more than AAPI men.
- Nine percent of respondents were AAPI seniors (over the age of 60).
- Reports came from 45 states across the nation and Washington DC.
- Even as shelter-in-place policies were implemented across much of the country and AAPIs interacted less with others, the rate of acts of racism remains alarming.

A3PCON encourages individuals who have experienced hate as a result of COVID-19 to continue to report at [www.a3pcon.org/stopaapihate](http://www.a3pcon.org/stopaapihate). The incident report form is now available in twelve languages, including English, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese and Khmer, Hmong, Hindi, Punjabi, Thai and Tagalog. The lead

organizations are working with public, private and other community-based organizations to provide resources for impacted individuals and to advocate for policies and programs dedicated to curtailing racial profiling. "The data reveals three trends. First, the high number of hate incidents, especially assaults, reflects the impact of China-bashing by politicians. Second, high proportions of vulnerable populations--children, youth, elderly and limited-English speaking communities--are sadly impacted. Finally, combining cases of workplace discrimination and being barred from businesses indicates that Asian Americans' civil rights are being violated." said Russell Jeung, Ph.D., chair and professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University.

"The volume of incident reports continues to be concerning. But, beyond the sheer numbers, we hear the impact of hate in the pain, humiliation, trepidation and fear in the voices of AAPIs today." stated Manjusha Kulkarni, A3PCON executive director. She added, "This is a widespread problem with significant ramifications for our communities."

"Even with the high number of reports we have received, we know this is just a snapshot of what AAPI's are experiencing on a daily basis and we can expect the situation to worsen as the anti-China, anti-Chinese rhetoric becomes normalized," said Cynthia Choi CAA co-executive director. She further noted, "We know too well how this will all play out - fear mongering and xenophobia will lead to more attacks against AAPIs."

## Anti Defamation League analyzed the Stop AAPI Hate data

(May 4, 2020 press release)

Statements by public officials referring to COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus," "Kung Flu" or "Wu Flu" may be exacerbating the scapegoating and targeting of the AAPI community. Meanwhile, extremists continue to spread antisemitic and xenophobic conspiracies about COVID-19, blaming Jews and China for creating, spreading and profiting off the virus.

The following is a representative list

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## Anti Defamation League analyzed the Stop AAPI Hate data

Continued from page 6

of coronavirus-related anti-Asian incidents reported in the media or by the victims. The description of the victims is based on media reporting. Please note: This is not a comprehensive list; for more detailed information or to report an incident, refer to resources established by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) or Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA).

**MAY 3** – Pasadena, CA: Police arrested a man who threw a drink at several Asian American people while yelling racial slurs at them. (Source: Pasadena Now)

May 3 – New York, NY: An Asian man was attacked on the subway by a stranger who shouted at him, “You’re infected China boy, you need to get off the train.” The assailant then grabbed the victim and attempted to pull him out of his seat. (Source: NY Daily News)

May 1 – Hoboken, NJ: Spray-painted anti-Asian graffiti was reported on the sidewalk outside an apartment building. (Source: Patch)

**APRIL 26** – Queens, NY: An Asian woman in Rego Park was harassed by a man who yelled expletives and told her, “You’re the one who brought the virus here.” After the woman attempted to record him on her cellphone, he slapped her phone away. (Source: Patch)

April 25 – Pasadena, CA: An Asian man was walking with a friend when a motorist drove past and yelled at them, “Fucking Asians, motherfuckers. You brought this disease here.” Source: NextShark

April 25 – Chesapeake, VA: A Chinese restaurant owner was harassed by an individual who entered the restaurant and threw water on her and her husband. The owner of the restaurant also reported that someone painted “Go back to China” on her car. (Source: The Virginian-Pilot)

April 22 – San Jose, CA: Five Asian-Owned businesses were vandalized in nearby neighborhoods of San Jose. (Source: East Bay Times)

April 20 – Orange County, CA: During a second-grade class held on Zoom, one student told the class he does not like “China or Chinese people because they started this quarantine.” (Source: Facebook)

April 19 – San Francisco, CA: An Asian American woman was harassed while walking her dogs. She was told to “Go back to whatever fucking country you came from” and that “nasty people should stay in fucking Asia.” (Source: Facebook)

April 18 – Atlanta, GA: A plaque of Winnie the Pooh using chopsticks to eat a bat and the words “Wuhan Plague” was found outside a coffee shop. The plaque was also reportedly posted at other locations around East Atlanta on April 13 and April 16. (Source: The Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

April 17 – Philadelphia, PA: (Date approximate) An Asian-owned restaurant was vandalized with spray-painted graffiti that included the racial slur “Chink.” Source: WHY

April 17 – Albuquerque, NM: A Chinese American man reported that while at a supermarket another customer singled him out and told him to “stay away.” (Source: Reported to ADL)

April 16 – Brooklyn, NY: An Asian woman was walking on the street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood when two men harassed her with remarks about Chinese people and called her a “Fucking freak.” (Source: Reported to ADL)

April 15 – Newton, MA: A high school advance placement Chinese class held on Zoom was disrupted by individuals who targeted the students and teachers using racial slurs and loud mock-Chinese, and posting “vile, hate-filled images.” (Source: Boston Globe)

April 12 – Seattle, WA: Patriot Front, an alt right group, posted propaganda around Seattle’s International District targeting Asian American/Pacific Islander businesses. (Source: ADL identified)

April 10 – New York, NY: A Korean restaurant was defaced with graffiti that read, “Stop eating dogs.” (Source: NY Eater)

April 10 – New York, NY: A Zoom session hosted by an Asian American organization was disrupted by unknown individuals who wrote racist and anti-Asian slurs in the chat function. (Source: Reported to ADL)

April 8 – Houston, TX: A woman verbally harassed employees of a Vietnamese restaurant, telling them, “Get out of our country.” (Source: ABC-13)

April 7 – Amherst, MA: (Date approximate) In a letter to the Amherst College community, the president of the college reported that two Asian students at Amherst College had reportedly been the victims of verbal harassment in the town of Amherst. (Source: Amherst College)

April 5 – San Marcos, CA: An Asian woman was verbally harassed in a Costco parking lot of by an unidentified male who blamed the woman and Chinese people for the virus. (Source: FOX 16)

April 4 – Edison, NJ: A group of juveniles surrounded an Asian woman and attacked her with racial slurs before punching her in the back of the head. (Source: NJ Advance Media)

April 3 – Seymour, CT: A Chinese food restaurant received racist and threatening phone calls from callers who blamed the owners, who are Chinese, for the COVID-19 pandemic. The callers also threatened to shoot the owners. (Source: Valley New Haven Independent)

April 2 – Cherry Hill, NJ: A Vietnamese American man was walking his dog when he was verbally harassed by a stranger who yelled that he “caused the coronavirus and needed to get the fuck out of here.” Source: WHY

April 1 – Pittsburgh, PA: (Date approximate) An Asian American woman was at a grocery store when she was told by another shopper to shop with her own kind and that she “should be rounded up with the virus and shipped back to China.” (Source: Pittsburgh’s Action News 4)

**MARCH 31** – Philadelphia, PA: Several Asian American homes received a letter that referenced eating bats and pangolin and encouraged the recipients to burn themselves alive. Source: WHY

March 31 – Webster Groves, MO: American Identity Movement, an alt right group, distributed propaganda that read promoted their group and featured a Corona beer bottle with the coronavirus germ and read: “Immigration kills,” and “Made in China.” (Source: ADL identified)

March 30 – Yakima, WA: An Asian buffet restaurant was vandalized with graffiti that included an ethnic slur and a message that read, “Take the corona back.” (Source: YakTriNews)

March 29 – Bronx, NY: Three teenage girls harassed and used an umbrella to attack an Asian woman, saying, “You caused coronavirus, bitch.” (Source: New York Post)

March 28 – Evanston, IL: “Chinese virus” was found spray-painted on a jetty on the Northwestern University campus. (Source: Reported to ADL)

March 28 – New York, NY: An Asian woman walking her dogs was verbally harassed by two people who called her “the virus.” (Source: NextShark)

March 27 – San Angelo, TX: A Korean student at Angelo State University returned to his dorm room to find that someone had placed posters about COVID-19 on his door. (Source: San Angelo Live)

March 27 – Martinsville, IN: A man of Korean descent was denied entry into a gas station and told to “never come back.” The gas station attendants reportedly told police that “anyone of Chinese descent was not allowed in the store.” (Source: WISH-TV)

March 27 – Cerritos, CA: A Korean American woman was verbally harassed in the parking lot of a Walmart by a man who called her a “bitch asshole” and threatened to hit her. (Source: Reported to ADL)

March 27 – Evanston, IL: Someone spray-painted the words “Make China Pay” inside a bus shelter. (Source: Reported to ADL)

March 27 – Asheville, NC: A cooking class held on Zoom by an Asian American chef was disrupted by an unknown

person who yelled anti-Asian and homophobic epithets. (Source: Citizen-Times)

March 26 – Seattle, WA: A Chinese restaurant in the Chinatown-International District of Seattle was vandalized. (Source: NBC News)

March 25 – South Bend, IN: A student at the University of Notre Dame posted racist, anti-Asian, anti-Chinese comments on their Facebook page. The student also wrote “Go home” on the Facebook page of an international student from China. (Source: The Observer)

March 25 – Woodbury, MN: A woman returned home to find this flier posted on her door: “We’re watching you fucking chinks take the [C]hinese virus back to [C]hina. We don’t want you hear [sic] infecting us with your diseases!!!!!!” (Source: Facebook)

March 24 – Brooklyn, NY: In a subway station, someone spat on an Asian man and yelled, “You fucking Chinese, spreading the coronavirus. You people got the virus.” Source: NY Daily News)

March 24 – Madison, WI: Anti-Chinese messages referring to COVID-19 as the “Chinese Virus” were found written in chalk on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. (Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)

March 24 – San Francisco, CA: A man yelled at a Filipino-American man, using an anti-Asian derogatory term. (Source: Twitter)

March 23 – Des Moines, IA: An Asian American woman was waiting in line at a bakery when a white couple said, “Oh gosh, not here” and “fled” to another line when they saw she was Asian. (Source: Des Moines Register)

March 21 – Huntington Beach, CA: A flier that read, “You guys are Chinese Viruses” and “Get out of our country” was posted on a family’s front door and left on their car. (Source: Reported to ADL)

March 21 – Naperville, IL: A Chinese American man was jogging when he was attacked by two women who accused him of having the virus and told him to “go back to China.” They also threw a log at him and spat on him. (Source: WBEZ Chicago)

March 20 – Los Angeles, CA: CNN journalist Kyung Lah was preparing for a broadcast when a man approached her and used a racial slur. (Source: CNN)

March 19 – Brooklyn, NY: Oswald Jones, 60, targeted a 26-year-old Asian woman, allegedly yelling “Go back to China” and “You are dirty, get your temperature checked,” before attempting to punch her and steal her cellphone. Source: (NY Daily News)

March 17 – New York, NY: Jiayang Fan, a staff writer at The New Yorker magazine, reported being verbally harassed outside her apartment building by a passerby who repeatedly yelled “Fucking Chinese” at her, and called her a “Chinese bitch.” (Source: Twitter)

March 17 – Albuquerque, NM: A local Asian restaurant was vandalized with a spray-painted message that read “Trucha with the corona virus.” “Trucha” is slang in Spanish for “beware” or “watch out.”(Source: KOB 4)

March 16 – Daly City, CA: An Asian man coughed while shopping at Target and was verbally harassed by other shoppers. (Source: NextShark)

March 16 – Vestal, NY: A student at Binghamton University discovered that someone had submitted a racist response to a public Google form she had posted for an event. The submission included anti-Asian terms and referred to the coronavirus. (Source: Pipe Dream)

March 16 – New York, NY: An Asian woman was physically assaulted by a woman who accused her of spreading the coronavirus. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and charged with a hate crime. (Source: New York Post)

March 16 – Fresno, CA: An Asian American woman was harassed while buying diapers. She was told to “move out of the way” and then referred to using a racial slur. (Source: The Fresno Bee)

March 15 – Los Angeles, CA: A Filipino-American woman was harassed by a woman on the street who said, “Please don’t give me the virus.” (Source: Twitter)

March 15 – New York, NY: A man approached an Asian woman on the subway and said, “You’re Chinese, why did

## Anti Defamation League analyzed the Stop AAPI Hate data

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you bring Corona to America?" (Source: Facebook)

March 15 – Louisville, CO: Union Jack Liquor changed the message on their marquee to read "Firestone \$14.88 Thanks China." "14/88" combines two popular white supremacist numeric hate symbols. (Source: Colorado Hometown Weekly)

March 15 – Davie, FL: An Asian woman who works as a musician received harassing and racist text messages saying that she would not be hired anymore until she surrenders her "Chinese passport and renounce your Chinese citizenship." (Source: NextShark)

March 14 – Midland, TX: A Burmese man and his two children, ages six and two, were attacked and stabbed at a Sam's Club by a 19-year-old man. The alleged assailant admitted to targeting the family because he believed the family was Chinese and infecting people with coronavirus. The assailant was charged with three counts of attempted capital murder and one count aggravated assault. (Source: The Daily Beast)

March 13 – Pasadena, CA: A movie poster for Mulan was defaced with graffiti that depicted a mask over the titular character's face and the message "Toxic made in Wuhan." (Source: NBC News)

March 13 - Miami, FL: (Date approximate) Video shows an elderly Asian woman being chased with a bottle of Purell and a man yelling, "Come here! You need some hand sanitizer. Sanitize your ass!" (Source: NextShark)

March 12 – New York, NY: An Asian man was in a restroom at Penn Station when he was verbally harassed by a man who called him a "Chinese fuck" and said, "I hope you die by the coronavirus." The perpetrator also spat on the victim. (Source: Patch)

March 12 - Queens, NY: Police arrested Raoul Ramos and charged him with aggravated harassment as a hate crime after he allegedly harassed and pushed a 47-year-old Asian man who was walking with his 10-year-old son in the Forest Hills neighborhood. Ramos approached the pair and started screaming, "Where the [expletive] is your mask?" He also referred to them as "You fucking Chinese." (Source: New York Post)

March 12 - Albuquerque, NM: (Date approximate) At the University of New Mexico, an international student from China returned to his dorm room in Lobo Village to discover plastic covering his door and a sign that read, "Caution, Keep Out, Quarantine." (Albuquerque, NM). Source: KOB 4

March 12 - Albuquerque, NM: (Date approximate) Kay Bounkeua, Executive Director of NM Asian Family Center, told local news that while walking into her office building someone on the street yelled at her to "go back" to where she came from. (Source: KOB 4)

March 12 - Milwaukee, WI: Komeng Yang recounted in a Facebook post that people on the bus avoided him and kept their distance "because of the fear of the virus." After he sneezed because of pollen from a passenger's flowers, someone allegedly said, "Kick him off the bus." (Source: Facebook)

March 11 - Seattle, WA: A student at the University of Washington told reporters that he had been harassed the previous week while commuting on the light rail to school. According to Kim, another passenger yelled at him about Chinese people bringing diseases to the United States. (Source: Crosscut)

March 11 - Washington DC: A Cambodian-American man was at a 7-Eleven when a fellow customer called him a "chink" multiple times. (Source: NextShark)

March 10 - Charlottesville, VA: The Mainland Student Network at the University of Virginia reported that two Chinese international students were attacked by assailant(s) who threw raw eggs at them from a moving vehicle. (Source: Facebook)

March 10 - New York, NY: NYPD arrested a 13-year-old boy and charged him with assault and aggravated harassment as hate crimes after he approached a 59-year-old Asian man from behind and made anti-Asian statements. The

boy allegedly told the victim to "go back to his country" and mentioned the coronavirus. He also kicked the victim. (Source: CBS-NY)

March 10 - New York, NY: An international student from Korea was assaulted while entering a building on West 34th Street. The suspect asked her, "Where's your (expletive) mask?" She then proceeded to grab the victim by the hair and punch her in the face. The woman allegedly also told the victim, "You've got coronavirus, you Asian (expletive)." NYPD is investigating the assault as a possible bias crime. (Source: ABC-NY)

March 10 - New York, NY: Ed Park wrote in The New Yorker magazine that "a young black man" told him "Get the fuck away from me." Park asked the man, "Are you talking to me?" and the man responded: "Yes, you, fucking Chinese motherfucker, don't fucking get me sick." Park is Korean. (Source: The New Yorker)

March 9 - San Francisco, CA: A woman told reporters that while walking to the gym she was harassed by a man who shouted expletives about China at her and encouraged a passing bus to "run them over." The man then spat at her. (Source: New York Times)

March 8 - Fresno, CA: An Asian man's car was vandalized with the message "Fuck, Asions [sic] and Coronvivirus [sic]." (Source: ABC 30)

March 7 - Syracuse, NY: At Syracuse University, a flyer with information about preventing the spread of the coronavirus was vandalized with racist language targeting Chinese people. (Source: The Daily Orange)

March 7 - New York, NY: A 13-year-old boy spat at a 59-year-old Asian man and allegedly saying Chinese people have COVID-19. The same boy attacked the same man again on March 10 in a similar incident. (Source: CBS-NY)

March 6 – Cumberland County, PA: A passerby on campus harassed and hurled racist insults at an Asian-American student at a local college. (Source: Reported to ADL)

March 6 - Garden City, CA: Two students at Bolsa Grande High School filmed themselves verbally harassing and mocking Vietnamese-American classmates, yelling "coronavirus" at them during an International Week assembly. (Source: OC Register)

March 4 - Brooklyn, NY: Video shows a man on the subway arguing with a fellow passenger, who is Asian, and then spraying Febreze air freshener on the Asian passenger. (Source: ABC-NY)

March 1 - New York, NY: An Asian man was standing on the street smoking a cigarette when someone threw a bucket of water on him, resulting in a physical altercation. Source: NextShark

Early March – Los Angeles, CA: A woman reported that a man followed her while she was jogging, and shouted that because she is Chinese, she was to blame for bringing the virus to the United States. (Source: Los Angeles Times)

Early March – Orange County, CA: It was reported in an op-ed that in early March, an Asian-American fourth grade student's classmates accused him of having coronavirus. (Source: Los Angeles Times)

**FEBRUARY 27** - Philadelphia, PA: A young man and woman were physically assaulted by a group of juveniles at a SEPTA station in what appears to be a racially motivated anti-Asian attack. (Source: NextShark)

February 22 - San Francisco, CA: An elderly Asian man was physically assaulted while collecting recyclables near a housing project. The incident was filmed and shared widely on social media. In the video, one person can be heard saying, "I hate Asians." Dwayne Grayson was arrested on suspicion of robbery, elder abuse and committing a hate crime, as well as a probation violation for an earlier robbery. (Source: San Francisco Chronicle)

February 13 - Los Angeles, CA: In the San Fernando Valley, a 16-year-old student, who is of Asian descent, was physically assaulted by classmates due to coronavirus fears. (Source: CBS-Los Angeles)

February 12 - Plymouth, IN: Kao Lor and Lee Lor, both of Hmong descent, were traveling through Indiana and tried to get a room at a Super 8 Motel. The Super 8 employee asked Lor if he was Chinese. When Lor asked why he needed to know the employee responded, "Because of the coronavirus going around. And anyone from China, I am told, has to be picked up and quarantined for two weeks." (Source: WBND)

February 5 - Los Angeles, CA: An eighth-grade Asian-American student at Walter Reed Middle School was sent to the nurse's office after he started coughing from choking on water. After the nurse sent him back to class the other students teased him that he had coronavirus. (Source: FOX-Los Angeles)

February 2 - New York, NY: An Asian woman was attacked in the subway station for wearing a mask. One witness said she heard a man call the woman, who appeared Asian, a "diseased bitch." (Source: CNN)

February 1 - Los Angeles, CA: An Asian woman was subjected to an anti-Asian xenophobic rant about the coronavirus from another passenger while taking the Metro. The man stated that "Every disease has ever come from China, homie. Everything comes from China because they're fucking disgusting." (Source: Twitter)

Early February – Pasadena, CA: Chinese-American actor Tzi Ma reported that in early February a man yelled at him, "You should be quarantined." (Source: Good Morning America)

**JANUARY 26** – Bellevue, WA: A man's son, whose mother is Asian, was told to "get away" from a food sample table at a Costco because "he may be from China" (Bellevue, WA). Source: Twitter

January – Jersey City, NJ: The NJ Patch reported that in January, a man approached an Asian woman on the street and told her to "Go back to China" and referred to her with an anti-Asian slur. He also spat in her direction. (Source: Patch)

## Terminology counts - Trumps fuels anti-Asian frustrations

World Health Organization issued best practices for naming new human infectious diseases

8 May 2015 | GENEVA - WHO today called on scientists, national authorities and the media to follow best practices in naming new human infectious diseases to minimize unnecessary negative effects on nations, economies and people.

"In recent years, several new human infectious diseases have emerged. The use of names such as 'swine flu' and 'Middle East Respiratory Syndrome' has had unintended negative impacts by stigmatizing certain communities or economic sectors," says Dr. Kaiju Fukuda, Assistant Director-General for Health Security, WHO. "This may seem like a trivial issue to some, but disease names really do matter to the people who are directly affected. We've seen certain disease names provoke a backlash against members of particular religious or ethnic communities, create unjustified barriers to travel, commerce and trade, and trigger needless slaughtering of food animals. This can have serious consequences for peoples' lives and livelihoods."

Diseases are often given common names by people outside of the scientific community. Once disease names are established in common usage through the Internet and social media, they are difficult to change, even if an inappropriate name is being used. Therefore, it is important that whoever first reports on a newly identified human disease uses an appropriate name that is scientifically sound and socially acceptable.

The best practices apply to new infections, syndromes, and diseases that have never been recognized or reported before in humans, that have potential public health impact, and for which there is no disease name in common usage. They do not apply to disease names that are already established.

The best practices state that a disease name

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## Terminology counts

Continued from page 8

should consist of generic descriptive terms, based on the symptoms that the disease causes (e.g. respiratory disease, neurologic syndrome, watery diarrhea) and more specific descriptive terms when robust information is available on how the disease manifests, who it affects, its severity or seasonality (e.g. progressive, juvenile, severe, winter). If the pathogen that causes the disease is known, it should be part of the disease name (e.g. coronavirus, influenza virus, salmonella).

Terms that should be avoided in disease names include geographic locations (e.g. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, Spanish Flu, Rift Valley fever), people's names (e.g. Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, Chagas disease), species of animal or food (e.g. swine flu, bird flu, monkey pox), cultural, population, industry or occupational references (e.g. legionnaires), and terms that incite undue fear (e.g. unknown, fatal, epidemic).

WHO developed the best practices for naming new human infectious diseases in close collaboration with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and in consultation with experts leading the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).

The new best practices do not replace the existing ICD system, but rather provide an interim solution prior to the assignment of a final ICD disease name. As these best practices only apply to disease names for common usage, they also do not affect the work of existing international authoritative bodies responsible for scientific taxonomy and nomenclature of microorganisms.

Epidemics, pandemics in the past 5 years

2019-present COVID-19 pandemic

2019-present Dengue fever epidemic (Asia-Pacific, Latin America)

2019-present Measles (Samoa, Congo)

2018-present Ebola virus (Congo, Uganda)

2018 Nipah virus (India)

2017-2018 Seasonal influenza (US)

2017 Japanese encephalitis (India)

2016-present Cholera (Yemen)

2016 Yellow fever (Angola, Congo, China, Kenya)

2015-2016 Zika virus (worldwide)

2015 Influenza A/India swine flu (India)

## Tsuru for Solidarity

Tsuru for Solidarity is a volunteer-run non-violent direct action group of Japanese Americans dedicated to closing ICE immigration detention camps.

By May 3rd, Tsuru for Solidarity had 213,277 origami paper cranes folded across the country in support of immigrants incarcerated in the US. The original goal of 125,000 cranes, one for each person of Japanese descent who had been incarcerated during WWII, was

## My Sister's House: What to do if tension is escalating at home

Call My Sister's House crisis line 916/428-3271 or another helpline when your partner is not there.

Have a safety plan. If your partner is abusive, have a plan to protect yourself and your children in case you need to leave quickly. If you are abusive, be honest with yourself, think of the consequences, and get help.

Figure out what safe places you can go to in your home and outside.

Make sure you take care of yourself so you can handle the stress (i.e. exercise, sleep, eat well).

Seek medical attention and share what is happening with your health provider, including if it is forced sex. Have injuries documented and photographed.

Source: My Sister's House Safe Haven newsletter, Spring 2020

## Human trafficking arrests started with citizen alert

On March 24th, the Anderson Police Department with support of other law enforcement agencies arrested two people believed to be operating a human trafficking ring that spanned three north state counties- Shasta, Tehama and Butte. The day before, 40 law enforcement officers from seven different agencies served nine search warrants. "Operation Broken Promise" was initiated by a citizen reporting unusual behavior at the recently opened Relax Chinese Massage in Anderson.

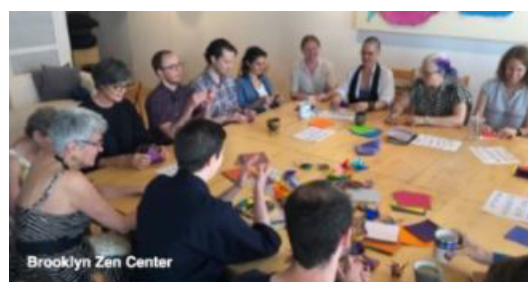
Anderson is 10 miles south of Redding and according to the 2010 census had 9,932 residents. The arrests came after a year of investigation.

51-year old Rui Wang (male) and 47-year old Junhua Wu (female), both of Chico, were arrested in Butte County on 58 felony counts including pimping, pandering and money laundering. Their bail is currently set at one million dollars. Six female victim (all Chinese, ages ranging from 20's to 60's) and three customers were contacted during the operation. The women had been promised jobs and freedom, but their passports were seized and they were expected to perform sex services to customers; the women were also living in the massage parlors.

The Anderson police say that Wang and Wu operated eight massage parlors in Redding, Anderson, Red Bluff, Chico, and Oroville, doing business as Relax with a Massage, Chinese Massage, Relaxation Massage, Relax Massage, and Flower Massage.

The Anderson Police worked closely with the Redding Police Dept, Shasta County Sheriff's Dept, Red Bluff Police Dept, California Highway Patrol, Franchise Tax Board, and Shasta County District Attorney's Office. My Sister's House and Northern California Anti-Trafficking Coalition also were on scene.

The victims were transported to a local victim center to meet with victim advocates and a translator. The victims have been offered services including housing, relocation, health screening, and immigration assistance. The Anderson police went forward with the arrests despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Wang and Wu will be prosecuted in Shasta County.



exceeded by churches, Girl Scouts, Buddhist temples, families, Nisei seniors, an origami class at San Quentin, activist groups, university clubs and many more people. The group has announced a new goal of 525,000 tsuru cranes which will represent one for each of the 400,000 immigrants being incarcerated annually in this country.

On June 6-7 a virtual National Protest to Close the Camps is organized with eventbrite (free) tickets. Tsuru fold-in event photos can be sent to tsuruforsolidarity@gmail.com. Photos from Denver, Sacramento, San Francisco, Brooklyn Zen Center, San Quentin prison, Emeryville, Cincinnati, Concord (CA), and Richmond (CA) will be part of video.

## Facing Down Bigotry—and a Pandemic

*Against harassment and bigotry, Asian American officials are finding ways to care for their communities through this crisis.*

By Janice Li and Svante Myrick

May 13, 2020

As members of the nonprofit Young Elected Officials Network, which is predominantly made up of people of color, we take the fight against racism to heart.

A random pedestrian spit on a 26-year-old woman on her way to the gym in her San Francisco neighborhood. In New York, a stranger chased and struck down a woman who appeared to be of Asian descent. And in Texas, a man stabbed a family of three at a store because he thought they were Chinese Americans spreading the coronavirus.

Donald Trump fanned the flames of this anti-Asian hostility by repeatedly calling COVID-19 the “Chinese virus.”

Donald Trump fanned the flames of this anti-Asian hostility by repeatedly calling COVID-19 the “Chinese virus.” And we can expect more racist rhetoric. According to reports, the National Republican Senatorial Committee advised candidates to “attack China” as a mainstay of their campaign messaging.

As members of the nonprofit Young Elected Officials Network, which is predominantly made up of people of color, we take the fight against racism to heart. Our millennial generation grew up believing deeply in social justice. We also believe that when the challenge is unprecedented, as this pandemic is, it helps not to be wedded to the status quo.

Our own cities have experienced disturbing incidents.

One of us, Janice, a first-generation Chinese American woman living in San Francisco, was harassed and shoved at a bus stop. Across the city, people have broken into and vandalized Chinese-owned businesses.

As mayor of Ithaca, New York, Svante is confronting verbal attacks on Asian Americans and situations in which people were physically menaced.

Talk to our young network, and one word emerges as we talk about our role in this crisis: education, in which cultural awareness is a vital ingredient.

As Ohio state senator Tina Mahrati said, “There is no cultural heritage for any virus.” Maranatha is the first Asian-American woman elected to the Ohio state Senate. Most Asian residents in her district are South Asian, as she is, and many have been bullied.

Some immigrants fear they will be targeted for deportation, and a lack of multilingual resources leaves people in fear of the unknown. Mahrati is speaking out, informing her constituents in a newsletter and online.

Georgia State Representative Bee Nguyen says she and her colleagues are pushing the governor’s office to ensure that Asian communities in her state have the information they need to be healthy and safe.

“A lot of the information out there is

very hodge-podge,” she says. People need multilingual information about the virus and how to mitigate its economic impact, including how to access benefits or what to do if your utilities are shut off.

Beyond these immediate adjustments, more action is needed to defeat all forms of embedded racism. We want everyone to stand in solidarity with communities of color as disproportionate impacts of the crisis strike us.

Even as we confront the ugliness of this crisis, we see great possibility. The pandemic has laid bare racism against Asian communities that some might have thought was a thing of the past. That awareness will inform our policymaking in the future.

Our network is in constant communication about what works best for cities, for schools, for deploying police and firefighters, for offering economic relief to residents — and yes, for combating bigotry.

When we emerge from the war on this virus, we will extend what we are learning to all the other “wars” we have — on poverty, addiction, and injustice — in a new way.

Meanwhile, in the states, cities, and towns our young officials lead, we are proud to celebrate the rich contributions of Asian Americans in this Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This year, it is more important than ever.

*Janice Li represents District 8 on San Francisco’s Bay Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors and is a member of the PFAW Foundation’s Young Elected Officials Network.*

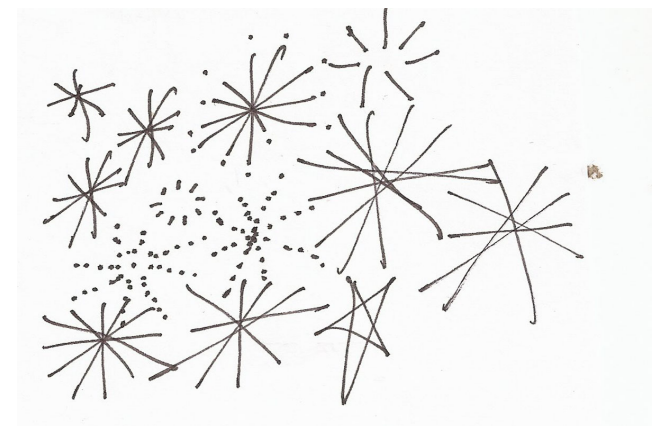
*Svante Myrick is the youngest-ever mayor of Ithaca, New York and the Director of Youth Leadership Programs at People For the American Way (PFAW) Foundation.*

## Sikh Coalition denounces Trump’s use of COVID-19 to promote racism

On April 22nd, President Trump issued his executive order limiting legal immigration for the following 60 days on the pretext that it would help control the COVID-19 spread. This order impacts those seeking US immigration visas, the length of suspension of immigration, asylum and refugee seekers, work visas and Green card holders from becoming US citizens. The suspension does not apply to lawful permanent residents already holding green cards and immigrants already in the US before April 24th.

The Sikh Coalition categorically rejects the blanket ban on immigration through this executive order. Punishing those who have worked for years to join our society in a legal and orderly way will not make us safer from this pandemic or help those who are suffering. Moreover, closing our borders indefinitely to legal immigration will not prevent the spread of COVID-19 when other Americans are increasingly permitted to return to domestic travel and work at this administration’s urging. Elected officials must listen to expertise based in science and reason, and Americans of all backgrounds must continue to treat each other with generosity and compassion. The Sikh Coalition urges the federal government to lift this ban immediately and forgo the implementation of any additional arbitrary immigration bans.

As always, the Sikh Coalition urges you to practice your faith fearlessly. Source: [www.sikhcoalition.org](http://www.sikhcoalition.org)



## Register to vote for the November 3rd election

You must register to vote at least 15 days before election day - October 19, 2020

Governor Newsom has declared by executive order that everyone is going to get a Vote-by-Mail Ballot. Under non COVID-19 circumstances, your request for a Vote-by-Mail Ballot is October 27, 2020.

If you forget to register by October 19th, you can register prior to election day and vote a “provisional ballot” which will be reviewed and counted if your registration is verified. This is called “same day voter registration.”

To register to vote, you must be a US citizen, a resident of California and 18 year old or older on Election Day. You can also register to vote in you are not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for a felony, or not prohibited from voting by court order because of mental incompetency.

If you are an US citizen and California resident and now 16 or 17 year old, you can

“pre-register” to vote and be automatically registered to vote on your 18th birthday.

You can register online at [registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov) but an online application needs a signature - either DMV will share your signature from their database, or you need to print, sign and mail in your application. You can mail in a paper application available from your county elections office, DMV field office, post office, public libraries and some government offices.

If you want to change your political party preference, moved, or legally changed your name, you must re-register to vote. If you updated your residence address with DMV or the US Postal Service, your registration will be automatically updated with your new address.

If you did not vote in the last election, you generally do not need to re-register as long as you remain at the same address. If you have not voted in several general elections, your registration may be cancelled.



## Auburn Chinese Cemetery gates regularly stolen

The Auburn Chinese Cemetery has continuously fundraised to replace metal gates at the historic site. Auburn was once home to thousands of Chinese workers in the early 19th century. These workers came to California to mine gold and work on the railroads, levees and other infrastructure. The Chinese Cemetery, a 2 1/2 acre site on Highway 49 (and Edgewood Road) still contains eleven burial sites. Thieves have stolen the iron gates at the cemetery entrance twice, in June 2018 and a couple years before then. [Metal thievery is common; the stolen metal is sold to a scrap company.] The gates had just been replaced two months before they were stolen again in 2018. The cemetery is usually locked; visitors need to make an appointment to visit. The Joss House Museum, a cultural center in Old Town Auburn, manages the property. Teen members of Future Farmers of America (FFA) graze their sheep on the cemetery's overgrown grass.

Richard Yue owns the cemetery where his great grandfather's bones still lie buried in a terra-cotta pot. "Unfortunately, somebody popped open the lid of it and stole the skull out of it, but the bones are in there."

The long, expensive boat trip between San Francisco and China in the 19th century caused many deceased Chinese persons to be buried in shallow graves for approximately seven years to allow the perishable flesh decompose first. Then the bones were exhumed, cleaned (bone scraping), packed into tin boxes or crocks and then shipped back to their home village to be buried with their ancestors.

"Funerary rites are a wonderful lens to understand and view a culture," says Linda Sun Crowder. A cultural anthropologist who teaches at Cal State Fullerton, she's also one of the state's foremost experts on the practice of Chinese "bone scraping."

Crowder says the bones are believed to harness powerful energy. "Every Chinese wants to be buried together with their ancestors, so that all the combined energy from these bones will help to fortify the family and bring good fortune."

Even the lowliest laborer would contract -- or his family association would contract - for bone scraping in the event of his death. The

bone scraping companies were located in San Francisco. It was common for many fortune hunters to presume their stay in California would be temporary; the Chinese had strong reasons to doubt they could set down roots because of pervasive anti-Chinese sentiment rife in 19th century America. Bone scraping happened until the 1950s when Communist China closed itself off from the rest of the world and shipping remains back to China became impossible.

## Did you Ching Ming this year?

Ching Ming (Qing Ming, "pure brightness") is the Chinese tradition of ancestor worship dating back over 2,500 years. Ancestor worship is based on three beliefs: one's fortune is influenced by the souls of ancestors, all departed ancestors have the same material needs they had when alive, and the departed can assist living relatives. Visiting the cemetery (hang san, walking the mountain) is the 15th day from the Spring Equinox (April 4th this year). In addition to cleaning the gravesite, repainting inscriptions on tombstones, sharing wine and foods with the deceased (good luck), paper money is burned for the ancestor's use in the afterlife, candles are lit, family members bow and kneel in respect.

In the Korean culture, the memorial ceremony for the dead is called Jesa. The most common type of Jesa takes place on the anniversary of the deceased person's death. Like many Korean traditions, Jesa has ties to Confucian teachings. Confucius taught that piety and love for one's family members are foundational for every society. Because of this, many rites and practices in Korea focus on respecting and honoring one's ancestors and family. This is true for all family members, but it's especially true for parents. The Jesa ritual can be done in the family home of the eldest son or at the gravesite which is cleaned. A shrine for the deceased is created including a shinwi (written prayer) and photo of the deceased person which faces north, food and drink are placed. The family does ceremonial bows in front of the shrine. Afterwards the family enjoys the feast and treats the ancestor as a guest.

Since over 80% of people in the Philippines identify as Roman Catholic, most Filipino families follow Catholic traditions. On All

Saints Day eve at 8pm, a special prayer is said, a cloth is spread with ashes before the entrance of the house to capture footsteps into the home where a kalag-kalag feast (special menu for the visiting souls, their favorite dishes and drink is set up. The meal is richly spiced, but garlic and salt are taboo (they are not appealing to the spirits). On All Saint's Day (November 1- 2), there is a visit to the cemetery where the grave is spruced up, candles are lit and flowers offered, and a priest may be arranged to give a prayer for the dead (responso).

In India, on the date when the person died the family repeats the tarpan ritual performed by the eldest male standing waist deep in a river or flowing water of body, using a dried grass twig (tip+root, "darbha") and taking a handful water facing east if the offering is to Sages (face east), or facing south for deceased ancestors, between specific finger tips or fingers, while speaking the ancestor's name. Shradh is a food offering of milk and black sesame seeds, cooked rice and the ancestor's fondest foods offered to the crows because ancestors come in the form of crows or the crows carry the feast to them. The Shradh ceremony ensures that the ancestors receive their food while staying in the astral worlds. Not performing Shradh will have dire consequences on the families. The annual ancestor-worship or 'Pitri-Paksha' (deceased ancestor dark fortnight) is a 15 day period in September/October. During this fortnight, Hindus donate food to the hungry in the hope that their ancestors will also be thus fed. Nearly 80% of South Indians are Hindu, a religion wherein reincarnation is expected because the soul is eternal and returns to the physical realm in a new body, recycling many times working through its karma is a major tenet.

Vietnamese honor their ancestors by burning incense and placing offerings on graves and household shrines, including food, fake money, alcohol and smokes that are thought to provide spiritual sustenance in the afterlife. Tradition also dictates that families must visit loved ones' graves before death anniversaries and Tet, the Vietnamese lunar new year. Family members pile into a van and leave flowers and light incense at the graves of deceased family members. Vietnamese light incense and burn paper money, paper copies of clothes, televisions, electric fans, nice houses, to honor the dead during a funeral and on holidays honoring dead ancestors. One shopkeeper told National Geographic, "What the living have the dead also need. This isn't superstition. It's about faithfulness and showing serious feeling to our ancestors." Family altars contain photographs of deceased loved ones and boxes with mementos and a biography of each deceased family member.

The Japanese Obon 3-day event in July/August is an annual Buddhist event for honoring one's ancestors and to free their spirits of their pain. It is believed that each year during obon, the ancestors' spirits return to this world in order to visit their relatives. Traditionally, lanterns are hung in front of houses to guide the ancestors' spirits, obon dances (bon odori) are performed, graves are visited and food offerings are made at house altars and temples. At the end of Obon, floating lanterns are put into rivers, lakes and seas in order to guide the spirits back into their world.

## Survey: More than 30 percent of Americans have witnessed COVID-19 bias against Asians

By Alex Ellerbeck, American University Fellow,  
published in partnership with NBC News

April 28, 2020, Center for Public Integrity

Eddie Song, a Korean American entrepreneur in New York, prepares to ride his motorcycle while equipped with video cameras and wearing a jacket over extra body padding. He's among the Asian Americans experiencing a surge in harassment and hate related to the coronavirus.

More than 30 percent of Americans have witnessed someone blaming Asian people for the coronavirus pandemic, according to a new Ipsos survey conducted for the Center for Public Integrity. Sixty percent of Asian Americans, who made up about 6 percent of the survey's respondents, told Ipsos they've seen the same behavior.

The poll, released Tuesday, comes as advocacy groups and researchers report an alarming rise in anti-Asian discrimination. Stop AAPI Hate, an effort to track these cases, reported about 1,500 instances of harassment against Asian Americans in a one-month period since mid-March.

"We're already seeing an increase in physical assaults, refusal of service and vandalism," said Cynthia Choi, co-executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action, a San Francisco-based civil rights organization helping to run the tracking effort, "despite the fact that 95 percent of Americans are sheltering in place."

Choi worries about what will happen when shelter-in-place orders are lifted and more people interact on subways, in workplaces and elsewhere. "We are preparing for worst-case scenarios," she said.

Serious incidents of violence have already occurred, in one of which a man is accused of stabbing an Asian American family, including two children, at a Sam's Club in Texas in March. By mid-April, the New York City Police Department was investigating 11 coronavirus-related hate incidents, one of which left a woman needing stitches after she was hit on the head with an umbrella while people yelled anti-Asian insults at her.

The surge in anti-Asian bias may reflect a growing tendency to blame certain groups for the pandemic, according to Chris Jackson, the head of public polling at Ipsos, who ran the survey of 1,001 adults. The survey has a "credibility interval," a way of measuring its precision, of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

While a narrow majority of poll respondents described the virus primarily as a natural disaster, 44 percent said specific people or organizations were responsible. Of those respondents, nearly two-thirds mentioned China or Chinese people.

"The majority of people — a bare majority, but a majority — are still viewing the pandemic as a natural disaster," Jackson said. "We've not asked this particular question before, but we've asked similar questions, and that number is coming down. Earlier on, there was a much larger number of people who viewed it as a natural disaster."

The poll found a partisan divide. Sixty percent of Republicans said the virus was caused by specific people or groups, almost double the share of Democrats who said that.

This reflects an intentional 2020 election effort.

The National Republican Senatorial Committee sent a memo directing campaigns this month to blame China when asked about failures in the Trump administration's response to the pandemic. "Don't defend Trump, other than the China Travel Ban — attack China," says the memo, first reported by Politico.

President Donald Trump and other Republican politicians have repeatedly referred to COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus."

"I think the Republican strategy is to deflect blame and scapegoat and rile up their base," said Russell Jeung, a professor of Asian American studies at San Francisco State University who is also involved in the Stop AAPI Hate tracker. "A clear consequence of using terms like 'Chinese virus,' of making China the central campaign strategy, is putting Asian American lives at risk."

In open-ended responses to the poll, many people simply blamed "China," leaving it unclear whether the blame was leveled at the Chinese government or at Chinese and Asian people more broadly.

Jeung said that it was fair game to criticize foreign governments for their responses to the pandemic but that Americans should also look to the failures of their own government. Politicians have a responsibility to denounce hate and racism, he said.

Charissa Cheah, a professor of psychology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, is researching anti-Asian bias during the pandemic. She said she is not sure that people make a clear distinction between criticism of Chinese leaders and criticism of people with Asian ancestry.

"Many of these implicit assumptions are done without thought," she said.

The tendency to blame China is particularly notable, she said, because researchers have found that most COVID-19 cases in New York were imported from Europe, not Asia.

Anti-Asian bias amid the virus' spread plays into a long history of racism in the United States that has associated immigrant groups with disease, Cheah said. But while some immigrant groups, such as those from European countries, were later assimilated into an identity as white Americans, people with Asian ancestry keep finding their status as Americans questioned.

"They fall very quickly from model minority to yellow peril," she said. "Asian Americans are considered perpetual foreigners. It doesn't matter how many generations you've been here. You're always asked, 'Where do you come from?'"

Community spread within the U.S. dwarfs the risk of exposure from outside travel.

But the Ipsos/Public Integrity poll results suggest that a minority of people see Asian Americans as disease risks.

One out of 4 people said they would be concerned about coming into close contact with someone of Asian ancestry in public, a share that jumped to 46 percent if the person was not wearing a face covering or other protective gear. Respondents were far more likely to express concern about encountering someone of any ethnic background who is coughing (94 percent), not wearing protective gear (79 percent) or elderly (56 percent).

To Jackson, the Ipsos pollster, that suggests that the lion's share of Americans see outward signs of disease or lack of protection — not ethnicity — as a risk factor. The trouble, he said, is that a small number of racists motivated to take action can cause serious damage.

"Virulent racism isn't a mass phenomenon," Jackson said. "But among Republicans particularly, there is an environment where blaming China or blaming the Chinese people is acceptable, and that is an environment that fosters more extreme acts."

The federal government has done little to combat a rise in hate crimes during the pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention swiftly launched a team to combat discrimination during the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome in 2003, but the agency has announced no such measures for COVID-19. The Justice Department has not said whether it is planning anything like its quick response to the backlash that affected Americans of South Asian and Middle Eastern ancestry after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

That leaves a critical gap. But bystanders can play a crucial role in combating hate, experts said.

People's level of prejudice is directly correlated with their perception of what is socially acceptable, said Mina Cikara, an associate professor of psychology at Harvard University: "Social norms are incredibly powerful in terms of driving attitudes." Denouncing violence, or publicly supporting the victim of harassment, sends a strong signal.

The consequences of not intervening could be severe. All it takes, Cikara said, is "a couple of awful people to do awful things."



## ACA-5 needed to repeal Prop 209

If the State Legislature passes Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 (ACA-5) to repeal Proposition 209, the issue will be on the November 2020 ballot and if approved by the voters will restore equal opportunity programs like affirmative action in California public education, public contracting, and public employment.

By overturning Prop 209, ACA-5 would create opportunities for all in California by allowing race and gender conscious programs to level the playing field for women and people of color. For example, the initiative would recover \$1.1 billion in lost public contracting opportunities for women and people of color owned businesses, and create a more representative public service workforce including teachers, first responders, and public health workers to reflect the diversity and needs of the State.

Asian American admission rates at University of California have also suffered since Proposition 209 was implemented. Affirmative action programs can uniquely address multiple barriers to college access and attainment tied to race and gender, especially for low-income and first generation college students in the Asian American community. ACA-5 will not institute a quota system or a population-based penalty in higher education admissions.

Chinese for Affirmative Action and Equal Justice Society (EJS) are co-chairing the Opportunity for All campaign to pass ACA-5 in the State Legislature and on the November 2020 ballot. ACA-5 was introduced by Assemblywoman Shirley Weber in March.



## CACS postpones 2020 Gold Mountain Celebration

Due to the current pandemic situation CACS Foundation has cancelled its celebration fundraiser to honor the late Lina Fat as inductee to the CACS Hall of Fame.

Lina passed away on November 25, 2019. She was foremost a wife, mother and grandmother. Her list of community accomplishments was very extensive and impactful. Lina was regarded as a community leader, generous philanthropist, a visionary and business woman for the Fat Family Restaurant Group. Lina had a keen sense of personal style and creativity that was soon part of the look and style of the Fat Family restaurants.

Her project to promote International Culture was very successful in bringing the communities together.

Until it is deemed safe to gather, the Foundation will postpone its annual dinner and the celebration of the life and times of the late Lina Fat. Her legacy lives on. We will not forget her.

## Why Boalt Hall removed name What's in a Name?

By Fischer Davis, California Magazine, Spring 2020 (UCB alumni publication)

On the morning of Thursday, January 30, UC carpenter Joe Poppi chiseled away the name "Boalt Hall" from the façade of the Berkeley law school. It was the culmination of a long debate after revelations surfaced about the building's namesake's racism.

John Henry Boalt was a 19th century attorney who, among other bigoted views, showed vigorous support for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prevented Chinese workers from entering the United States. In an essay called "The Chinese Question," Boalt wrote, "[T]he Chinaman has brought to us ... all the vicious practices and evil tendencies of his home ... Caucasian and Mongolian races are ... separated by a remarkable divergence in intellectual character and disposition."

In his proposal to the naming committee, Berkeley Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky concluded, "There is no evidence that John Boalt himself ... would remotely have supported the inclusive law school and the UC Berkeley campus we are so proud of today." Boalt's principal legacy, the dean said, was "one of racism and bigotry."

From the beginning, the removal of Boalt's name was controversial. Hundreds of comments, both for and against, were left on the chancellor's website by alumni, students and professors. Several alumni suggested a compromise: name the law school building after its actual benefactor - John Boalt's wife. In 1901, Elizabeth Josselyn Boalt made a \$100,000 donation to fund the construction of the University of California law school building in memory of her husband.

In the end, though, the committee voted unanimously to remove the Boalt name from the Berkeley Law building.

The case inevitably calls into question the names of other campus buildings, including LeConte Hall, where Berkeley physicist Ernest O. Lawrence first used his cyclotron to smash an atom.

The building was named for physicist John LeConte, who served as the University president from 1875 to 1881. His brother, Berkeley geologist Joseph LeConte, was a founding board member of the Sierra Club. While both LeContes were renowned for their scholarship, they were also former Confederates

and slave owners, who continued to argue for the supremacy of whites. In his 1892 book, *The Race Problem in the South*, Joseph wrote, "the relation of master and slave, then, is a natural one" and asked whether "extermination [was] the inexorable fate of all the lower races?"

Already, two LeConte buildings in California have been renamed - the Sierra Club's LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley and Berkeley's LeConte Elementary School. Whether LeConte Hall will meet the same fate remains to be seen.

## Trump attacks immigrants through the pocket book

In November the Trump Administration has made matters demonstrably more difficult for all immigrants and their families. Its latest proposal on November 14th, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) now wants to increase the fees required to apply for citizenship by 83%. In addition, the proposal will eliminate fee waivers that have made it possible for low-income immigrants to apply for green card renewals, employment authorizations, and asylum.

Millions will be affected by these changes. With the projected new revenue, USCIS intends to increase funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to patrol workplaces, target refugees for deportation, and dehumanize immigrant communities.

## State Consent for refugee resettlement temporarily halted

Trump's Executive Order 13888 published last September would require states to consent to receive refugees under the State Department's Reception and Placement Program. The program provides a one-time payment per refugees to assist with expenses during the refugee's first three months in the US. "Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement" would require each governor to affirmatively opt into the program. On January 15, Judge Peter Messitte of the US District Court for the District of Maryland issued a preliminary injunction against the program.

## Syllabus on COVID-19 racism

Professor Jason Chang of University of Connecticut (History and Asian American Studies) has developed an open-source syllabus to centralize textual and digital resources addressing COVID-19 racism. The page has topics including institutional announcements, class assignments, public relations and grassroots organization, news clippings, new content analysis. The page is also an incident reporting site. <https://tinyurl.com/ss9673t>

UCD Asian American Studies chair Robyn Magalit Rodriguez urges people to use the syllabus, "The harassment of Asians due to fears of the coronavirus are not only unwarranted but sadly part of a longer history of stereotypes associating Asians, especially Chinese, with disease. We urge people to find resources that will educate them about how to stay healthy as well as why their prejudices/biases in assuming all Asians have the coronavirus are rooted in a history of Yellow Peril rhetoric, xenophobia, ableism, and anti-Asian racism.... And please remember: frequent handwashing not anti-Asian stereotypes/harassment are your best means of preventing the spread of coronavirus."

[www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention](http://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention)

iHollaback's one hour interactive bystander intervention curriculum talks about the types of disrespect that Asian and Asian American are facing right now — from microaggressions to violence — using a tool they call the “spectrum of disrespect.” You'll learn what to look for and the positive impact that bystander intervention has on individuals and communities. There are five strategies for intervention: distract, delegate, document, delay, and direct; and how to prioritize your own safety while intervening. With some practice, you'll leave feeling more confident intervening the next time you see Anti-Asian/American harassment online or in person.

Show up, your guide to bystander intervention

WE ALL PLAY A ROLE in creating safe public space by supporting each other when we're harassed. That's what bystander intervention is all about. A lot of different things count as harassment. intimidating looks and staring, comments about appearance, vulgar gestures, whistling, and making kissing noises, following someone, racist, xenophobic, homophobic, sexist, and transphobic slurs. We all have the right to be safe in public space. But that's not how everyone experiences it.

Harassment can happen anywhere ... near schools, playgrounds, and campuses, on buses, trains and planes, in stores or other places of business, on sidewalks and streets, and in parks, at sports events, festivals, and concerts, online, near workplaces (There are special laws for school and work harassment).

Harassment can escalate into violence

COMMON REASONS people don't take action.

“Nobody else is doing anything.” This kind of thinking is called the “bystander effect” and it allows a whole crowd to wait for someone else to act. It takes courage to be the first to do something.

“I'm afraid I'll make things worse.” You can pick a less direct action, like asking someone else to help.

“It's harmless, right?” Verbal harassment makes targets feel uncomfortable and threatened, and can escalate to physical violence.

“It's a cultural thing.” Harassment is a product of racism, sexism, homophobia, and xenophobia - not the product of any one culture or identity.

“I can't make a difference.” Your actions can discourage the harasser, support the target, and help prevent future harassment.

“It's not my problem.” Even if you've never been a target, a friend or loved one probably has been. Harassment hurts everyone.

Tips for moving to action. The first step to being helpful is paying attention to what's going on around you. If it's hard to tell what's happening, focus on the person targeted. Do they look uncomfortable? Are they trying to move away? Look up from your phone and take out your earbuds to be a good observer.

5Ds of Bystander Intervention

**DISTRACT** -Take an indirect approach to de-escalate the situation. Say: Excuse me, do you know what the next stop is? Start a

conversation with the target or find another way to draw attention away from them. Ask them for direction or the time, or drop something.

**DELEGATE** -Get help from someone else. Say: Excuse me! This person is being harassed. Can you help? Find someone in a position of authority - like a bus driver, flight attendant, security guard, teacher, or store manager - and ask them for help. Check in with the person being harassed. You can ask them if they want you to call the police.

**DELAY** -After the incident is over, check in with the person who was harassed. Say: Are you okay? You can also say: “Can I sit with you? Can I accompany you somewhere? What do you need?”

**DIRECT** -Assess your safety first. Speak up about the harassment. Be firm and clear. Say: That's inappropriate. Leave them alone. You can also talk to the person being harassed about what's going on. Ask: “Are you okay? Should I get help? Should we get out of here?”

**DOCUMENT** -It can be helpful for the target to have a video of the incident. Laws about recording in public vary, so check local laws first. Is anyone helping the person being harassed? If no, use one of the other 4Ds to help them. Tips for documenting public harassment: keep a safe distance, film street signs or other landmarks that help identify the location. Say the day and time. ALWAYS ask the person targeted what they want to do with the footage. NEVER post it online or use it without their permission. Keep your attention on the person being harassed—make sure anything you do is focused on supporting them.

Sharing your story as a bystander helps build a network of support by reminding others they're not alone. It gives other people and organizations important information on where and how harassment is happening. Telling amplifies the stories of targets and bystanders. This helps to make harassment visible.

## 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 American Pacific Island 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 2020. Deadline: September 15, 2020. Circulation: 7,000. Editor: Pattie Fong. Distribution assisted by: The Sacramento Gazette (David Fong), Hach Yasumura, 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)

## Evidence mounts on the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on ethnic minorities

By Tony Kirby

The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, May 8, 2020

As the cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) continue to increase across the world, evidence is continuing to emerge that the pandemic could be disproportionately affecting people from black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) communities. (“BAME” is a British term including black-Asian-minority-ethnic, all groups discriminated against on grounds of their race, culture, nationality or religion.)

In the UK, this trend first came to public attention during media reports that showed the first 11 doctors who sadly lost their lives to COVID-19, were all from BAME communities. Following this, various analyses have been published, with one showing that of 106 COVID-19 fatalities in health workers some two thirds (63%) were in BAME people (up to April 22, 2020). The figure was 94% for doctors and 71% for nurses, with the average reduced with the inclusion of other health-care workers (55%).

The UK's Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre data, up to April 30, shows that of 6574 patients with COVID-19 in intensive care, one third were from non-white ethnic groups; ethnic minorities make up only 13% of the population as a whole. However, data released by National Health Service (NHS) England on April 19 showed that of 13 918 patients in hospitals in England who had tested positive for COVID-19 at time of death, 73.6% were white and 16.2% were of BAME ethnicity—more representative of the proportion of BAME people in the general population.

“The problem is that data on deaths and serious illness from COVID-19 among the health-care workforce and their ethnicity is not being routinely published by the government”, explains Dr. Chaand Nagpaul, the British Medical Association (BMA) council chair and a general practitioner (GP) in north London, UK. “However, it is a clear and consistent theme from the reports and what we know about those who have died so far, that a disproportionate number of those health-care workers who have tragically lost their lives are from BAME communities.”

The UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock has announced that there will be a review into the impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities, led by NHS England and Public Health England (PHE). The UK Government subsequently confirmed that the review will also analyse the effect of gender and obesity, as well as ethnicity. “While the review speaks of looking at existing health data, the BMA believes it is also vital to collect detailed data around occupation for all health-care workers who contract the infection, given that more than 150 are reported to have died, including at least 16 doctors, of whom 94% are from BAME origin”, says Nagpaul. “It is important to ascertain whether there are any occupational factors that have played a part in these health-care workers contracting the virus so that we can learn how to put in place measures to protect all health-care workers.”

He adds that many factors affecting the wider ethnic minority community apply to ethnic minority doctors, such as the greater prevalence

Continued on page 15

## Disproportionate effect

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of hypertension, diabetes, and coronary heart disease, which are thought to increase the severity of COVID-19 infection. “We also know that a large proportion of BAME doctors work in staff grade, specialist, and associate specialist roles, which are crucial, patient-facing roles that are invaluable for the running of the NHS”, adds Nagpaul. “Workplace factors could have a part to play too; for example, a recent BMA survey has found that BAME doctors were twice as likely as white doctors to feel pressured to see patients in high-risk settings without adequate personal protective equipment (PPE). Other BMA research revealed that BAME doctors are twice as likely not to feel confident to raise concerns about safety in the workplace compared with their white colleagues.”

Nagpaul raised all these concerns in a letter to Simon Stevens, the chief executive of NHS England, and days later, on April 29, 2020, NHS England wrote to all hospital trusts across England—as well as ambulance services, mental health trusts, and organisations providing community health—asking them to risk assess their BAME workers and where necessary reassign them to duties that leave them less at risk of contracting COVID-19.

On May 1, 2020, the UK’s Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) published its report, which found that people from ethnic minorities are more likely to live in areas badly affected by COVID-19 infection. However, despite people from ethnic minorities being younger on average than the white British population, and therefore theoretically less susceptible to infection, they were found to have higher death rates. After adjusting for age, sex, and geography, the authors of the IFS report found that the death rate for people of black African descent was 3.5 times higher than for white British people, while for those of black Caribbean and Pakistani descent, death rates were 1.7 times and 2.7 times higher, respectively.

In the USA, early data suggest that African Americans are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. In a preliminary study of data compiled from hospitals in 14 US states, African Americans represented 33% of COVID-19 hospitalisations, despite only making up 18% of the total population studied. In another analysis, among COVID-19 deaths for which race and ethnicity data were available, death rates from COVID-19 in New York City (NY, USA) among black or African American people (92.3 deaths per 100 000 population) and Hispanic or Latino people (74.3) were substantially higher than that of white (45.2) or Asian (34.5) people. “Studies are underway to confirm these data and understand and potentially reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the health of racial and ethnic minorities”, a spokesperson from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed to The Lancet Respiratory Medicine.

Chronic conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, hypertension, kidney disease, and obesity, are all more common in African American than white populations; all of these conditions have been associated with worse outcomes in COVID-19. However, the CDC states many other factors could be involved, such as people from ethnic minorities being more likely to live in more densely populated areas and housing, to use public transport more, and to work in lower paid service jobs without sick

pay, meaning they would be more likely to go to work under all circumstances, increasing the risk of exposure.

“I do not think that the pattern we are seeing in COVID-19 deaths for African Americans is solely due to pre-existing health conditions”, says Thomas A LaVeist, Dean of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA. “Race disparities in those diseases are not large enough to fully explain the COVID-19 death disparity. For example, there are no racial differences in obesity among men. Also, especially in the southern US states, white people also have extremely high rates of obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and the other chronic diseases.”

LaVeist says it is difficult to have definitive views on the cause of ethnic disparities in COVID-19 mortality until the overall infection rate has been established in different racial groups. “Are African Americans more likely to have been exposed to the virus? They seem to be more likely than others to work in jobs that place them at risk, such as check-out clerks and delivery drivers, and less likely to have jobs that allow them to work from home.” He adds that most southern states with larger ethnic minority populations have declined to expand Medicaid, which has reduced the number of poorer residents with regular access to primary health care. “Each of these factors, many of them the result of policy decisions, play a role in producing disproportionate death rates among African Americans”, he says.

In Australia, steps have been taken to protect Indigenous Australians living in remote and rural locations, mainly through the introduction of extremely strict limitations on travel in or out of these communities. “It’s important to stress that the majority of Indigenous Australians live in urban or regional areas—large and small cities mainly on the coast of Australia. While a lot of focus is on remote communities, a high proportion of Indigenous Australians in urban and regional areas have the same elevated risk of serious COVID-19 illness due to multiple chronic conditions and are at risk of rapid spread due to a high prevalence of overcrowding”, explains Jason Agostino, medical advisor to the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and Lecturer in General Practice at the Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia.

At the time of writing, Australia’s latest COVID-19 epidemiology report (including data up to April 26, 2020) showed there were only 52 cases of COVID-19 among Indigenous Australians, representing less than 1% of Australia’s cases despite Indigenous Australians being 3.3% of the population. “So far there have not been any cases in Indigenous Australians in remote or very remote regions”, explains Agostino. “Through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander COVID-19 Advisory Group and other forums we are able to identify strategies to address community priorities. An early and positive step to prevent spread was the additional travel restrictions put in place for many remote communities at the request of community leaders.”

However, institutional problems remain, in particular some communities have overcrowded housing and have no facilities

to safely isolate and quarantine infected or suspected cases. “There has also been insufficient support to enable health-care staff to quarantine before entering remote communities. If a health service wants to enforce the 14-day quarantine for locum staff, they have to bear that cost”, says Agostino. Should an outbreak occur, protocols have been developed for early transfer of cases and their close contacts out of communities and into regional centres, and the Australian Federal Government recently announced additional funding for retrieval services.

The risks of COVID-19 to Indigenous communities could not be clearer. More than 1 in 3 Indigenous Australian adults report having either cardiovascular disease, diabetes, or renal disease, and onset of these diseases often occurs 20 years earlier than the non-Indigenous population. Smoking rates are also much higher, with approximately 40% of adults smoking, more than double that seen in the non-Indigenous population. “The 2009 H1N1 influenza epidemic showed what can happen to Indigenous Australians”, says Agostino. “During that outbreak, rates of admission to the intensive care unit and mortality were some 4-times higher in Indigenous Australians compared with the non-Indigenous population.”

He concludes that “while Australia’s Federal and State and Territory Governments have put in place some good measures, the success so far is due to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people taking the lead and protecting their communities. Indigenous Australians began a network of community-controlled health organisations in the 1970s and this so-called whole of community, whole of person approach to health care is what is helping protect them in this early stage of the pandemic.”

## Confucius Institutes closing

Citing “national interest” concerns, the Department of Defense cut funding for Chinese-language programs at universities which also hosted Confucius Institutes.

The Beijing-funded Confucius Institutes, which taught Chinese language and culture, drew criticism for infringing on academic freedom and potential academic espionage. In 2018, Congress’ spending bill ended Pentagon support for Chinese-language Flagship programs at colleges with Confucius Institutes, unless the Defense Department granted a waiver. In 2019, no waivers were granted to any of the 13 institutes that applied.

At its peak, there were more than 100 US universities with Confucius Institutes. Since 2002, the Pentagon has funded the Language Flagship program to help universities graduate students with professional-level proficiency in Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian or Turkish. The Defense Department’s decision forces the institutions to decide which funding they will accept for Chinese language training.

Confucius Institutes, first launched in the US in 2004, plays a crucial role in China’s soft power and propaganda efforts and have been linked to the United Front, the secretive arm of the CCP which promotes the party’s policies overseas.



Source: Council on Islamic American Relations (CAIR) newsletter May 12, 2020 - Building and Defending Our Future, Pilgrimage to Manzanar

## Calendar

During May, **Asian Pacific Heritage Month**, Watch Over 50 Asian American Documentaries on Public TV -In honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, WORLD Channel will showcase the stories of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. With themes of social justice and courage, these films highlight the ways in which Asian Pacific Americans have triumphed and impacted history in a myriad of ways. View the complete list on caammedia.org.

May 18 Mon **Second Annual AAPI Day Against Bullying + Hate** sponsored by Act to Change. It's more important now than ever that we stand up to xenophobia and racism. Our virtual program, UNITED WE STAND, will commemorate this day with special guests and performances. 1-230pm PT, 4-530pm ET. Free. RSVP Eventbrite United We Stand: Commemorating AAPI Day Against Bullying + Hate

May 20 Wed **PACT First/Birth Parent/Family Support Call**. 4pm PST. A supportive phone call for peer support check-9n about how COVID-19 is impacting you, your children and your relationship with them. Register at pactadopt.org

May 22, 29 Fri **Rise APA Virtual Town Hall Series: Where are we going?** To respond to anti-Asian hate and discrimination during the coronavirus pandemic, we aim to uplift the diverse experiences and voices from around the country, to highlight ways for participants to get involved in local, regional and national efforts, to build and amplify the national voice of our APA communities, to encourage fundraising support of organizations involved in advocacy, civil rights, and support of hate crime victims, and to frame next steps for our future together. For each town hall, we will be bringing in notable guest speakers to help frame the conversation, and invite voices from around the country to take part in the discussion, with opportunities for conversation among all participants. 8pm ET, 7pm CT, 6pm MT, 5pm Pacific Time. RSVP [www.riseapa.org](http://www.riseapa.org)

May 27 Wed **Webinar: Lessons from the Past: Yellow Peril in COVID-19 Times**, a discussion of Asian American mental health issues, hosted by JACL, Asian American Psychological Assn, SE Asian Resource Action Center, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. 4pm Pacific Time at <https://jaclsalsalabs.org/lessonsfromthepast/index.html>. Panelists: Shirley

Ann Higuchi JD, Dr. Satsuki Ina, Dr. Carolee Tran, Dr. Gordon C. Nagayama Hall. RSVP: <https://jacl.salsalabs.org/lessonsfromthepast>

May 29 Fri **UCD Asian American Studies VIRTUAL Awards Banquet**. Honoring this year's graduating seniors, awards to outstanding students for exceptional contributions to the department and community. 630-830pm. RSVP to get Zoom invitation at <https://tinyurl.com/ASA2020Banquet>

June 6-7 Tsuru for Solidarity Virtual Protest to Close the Camps. June 6 10am-noon PDT Tsuru Rising - keynote Dr. Satsuku Ina; 3-4pm Regional gatherings, 4-6pm Kimochi Night - art, music, dance, national healing ceremony. June 7 10am PDT Tsuru Action through small group gatherings (socially distanced), letter writing, tsuru fold-ins; 3-5pm Healing Circles for Change. Free. RSVP/Tickets: Eventbrite "Tsuru Rising"

June 14 Sun **PACT: San Francisco Bay Area-First/Birth Parent/Family Support Group**. 10am-1pm. Anyone who is related by birth to a child placed in adoption or foster care can connect, listen and share their experiences of adoption, both private and through the child welfare system.. This meeting may be converted to a Zoom call. RSVP [pactadopt.org](http://pactadopt.org)

July 22 Wed **My Sister's House Art with a Heart** Info: 916/930-0626, [info@my-sisters-house.org](mailto:info@my-sisters-house.org)

Aug 1 Sat **My Sister's House Rummage Sale** Info: 916/930-0626, [info@my-sisters-house.org](mailto:info@my-sisters-house.org)

Aug 24 Mon **My Sister's House 19th Anniversary Gala** Info: 916/930-0626, [info@my-sisters-house.org](mailto:info@my-sisters-house.org)

Sept 19 Sat **My Sister's House High Tea** Info: 916/930-0626, [info@my-sisters-house.org](mailto:info@my-sisters-house.org)

## Currents Faces, New Places

**Sakura Gakuen Japanese Language School** is planning its Fall 2020 Japanese language classes. The in-person classes hosted at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento have closed during the Covid-19 pandemic. Distance learning is being explored. Info: [sakuragakuen.org](http://sakuragakuen.org), 916/542-0557ly's

**APIs Mobilize** in partnership with UCD Asian American Studies have launched its inaugural

Mobilize College Internship Program-State Capitol. Info: Joe Nguyen [jovnguyen@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jovnguyen@ucdavis.edu), Yee Xiong [yee@lam-consult.com](mailto:yee@lam-consult.com), [www.apismobilize.org](http://www.apismobilize.org)

**Sacramento County** received one of six Calif. Dept. of Public Health grants for a local Healthy Brain Initiative program addressing the impacts of dementia. LA, Placer, San Diego, Santa Clara and Shasta County also received the funding. California has 670,000 people living with Alzheimer's and 1.6 million caregivers supporting them. The programs will evaluate programs, educate the public on brain health and cognitive aging, engage public and private partnership and empower a workforce with dementia specific understanding.

**Tommy Kono** was inducted into the Sacramento Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2019 on January 26th. Kono, a Sacramento native who was the only weightlifter to set world records across four different weight divisions, won his Olympic metals in 1952, 1956, and 1960. Across his career, Kono set 37 American, eight Pan American, seven Olympic and 26 world records. He is also a member of the International Weightlifting Hall of Fame. Kono, 86, died in 2016 in Honolulu.

**Cindy Pickett**, elected 2018 to the Davis School Board, will be leaving UCD and the school board for a position as DePaul University's (Chicago) Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Pickett, raised in San Diego, received a bachelor degree in psychology from Stanford, doctorate in social psychology at Ohio State, and has been a faculty member in UCD Psychology Dept and Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty Equity and Inclusion.

**People's Collective for Justice and Liberation** held its second "A Townhall on Redefining Safety and Security in the time of Coronavirus/COVID-19" on April 25th to share the message that anti-Asian racism intersects with mass incarceration, deportation and detention and solidarity between people of color and alternative models to safety and security to policing includes pods, mutual aid, transformative justice and local community based approaches. Info: [peoplescollective4jl@gmail.com](mailto:peoplescollective4jl@gmail.com)

**House Resolution 77** was passed by the state Assembly on Feb 20 to apologize for the state's role in supporting the WWII internment of Japanese Americans.