



THE DRUM CIRCLE

A communicative gathering of people coming together into the light with their own natural human-beat

The L.A. County Asian American Employees Assoc. Newsletter



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Turkey With a Side of Fried Rice
- October Remembrances: Chinese Massacre of 1871 & Filipino-American History Month
- Meet a County Leader: Jackie Guevarra
- Essential Kits & Toy Drive
- New Recruits
- A Celebration of Community: Asian Pacific Resource Center
- Yoshitomo Nara-Lost and Found
- Model Minority Myth Lyrics
- How to Report a Hate Crime
- AAPI Documentary Highlights

Much to Be Thankful For

Joanna De La Cuesta, Treasurer

This past October’s Filipino-American History month reminded me of my own experiences as an immigrant in the US, and the many reasons why I have so much to be thankful for. My family and I flew from Manila to LA during one hot summer to start a new life. That summer was also one of the saddest times in my life because I left some of my closest friends and family behind. However, despite the sorrow and obstacles I faced moving to a foreign country, our move was also an opportunity of a lifetime. I am now thankful for living in a country that has such a diverse community, lots of great attractions, opportunities to earn a living regardless of age and ethnicity, and advanced technological innovations. I am also thankful for the continued support from Asian communities and friends who help me overcome the challenges that come along as an Asian immigrant.

Such experiences inspired me to join LACAAEA so I can contribute to the AAPI community. I am happy and proud to know that LACAAEA has accomplished so much in such a short time. During this year, LACAAEA appointed its’ new Executive Board, inaugurated its’ newsletter “The Drum Circle”, and welcomed over 30 new members. LACAAEA also held events and activities, such as the celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month in partnership with LA City Employees Asian American Association.

Additionally, LACAAEA hosted distinguished AAPI leaders to share their stories and advice, provided scholarships to well-deserved youths, and held a Shang-Chi movie screening event. You can look forward to more member services and events this coming year, such as LACAAEA’s 50th anniversary celebration, more improvements on the LACAAEA website, and member trainings and workshops.

In this issue of The Drum Circle, you will find an Op-Ed on how Asians strive to excel, efforts to bring awareness of the 1871 Chinese massacre, some notable achievements of Filipino-Americans, County leader and former LACAAEA President Jackie Guevarra, lyrics to the song “Model Minority”, and so much more!

On behalf of LACAAEA, we would like to thank you for your continued membership support and involvement. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to share your experiences and talents with us. There are many ways for you to get involved and we are always seeking volunteers to help us out. Contact us at notifications.lacaaea@gmail.com if you would like to know more.

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year. We look forward to serving you in 2022!



Joanna works as a Senior Accountant-Auditor at the Dept. of Auditor-Controller (A-C), where she leads audits to assess and provide recommendations to strengthen the County’s controls and processes. She started with A-C as an Accountant-Auditor and has been working with the department for over seven years. Before starting her career with the County, Joanna worked as an Accounting Supervisor at various nonprofits and has also worked as a Senior Financial Auditor at a regional CPA firm.

During her personal time, Joanna enjoys staying in touch with friends and family, going to k-pop concerts and stand-up comedy shows, and exploring different cities and theme parks with her husband. Joanna was born in the Philippines and moved to LA at the age of 16.

LACAAEA Turns 50 Next Year!

Next year in 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of LACAAEA. As we reflect on our half century anniversary, it is clear that LACAAEA has built upon its historic beginnings to meet the needs of the LA County AAPI community it was intended to serve. It will be an exciting year full of events that celebrates our progress and honors our past. Our story will continue next year with packed full of events, such as our county leadership conferences and networking opportunities both in and outside of the county. We will continue to work with leaders of the AAPI non-profit organization and the County to educate, resource, and advocate for the AAPI community and the County employees. Thank you for your continued support of LACAAEA!



Please be on the look out for exciting events and programs by subscribing to our email notifications, connecting with us on Facebook or LinkedIn to receive events announcements, and checking out our YouTube.

THE DRUM CIRCLE CONTRIBUTORS

Editor

Jodi Chen

Writers/Contributors

Daniel Yen

Joanna De La Cuesta

Jodi Chen

Katrina Lacerna

Truc Moore

Winnie Xiao

Turkey with a Side of Fried Rice: How Asians Celebrate Thanksgiving

Contributed by Truc Moore

Thanksgiving can be an interesting, yet fun, holiday for Asians in the U.S. The holiday's distinctively American origins can be alienating for some Asian immigrants who haven't lived here very long. Others, like multi-generational Asian Americans, find the holiday to be representative of large family gatherings around turkey, ham and dishes from their Asian cultures, or they abandon the turkey completely and go with a full blown Asian feast. Still others, exhausted by the effort of cooking a large meal only to be left to do the dishes, use the long holiday weekend to head to Las Vegas with its cheaper hotel rooms and shorter Buffet lines.

Many Asian families have embraced cooking Thanksgiving dinner at home, with Thanksgiving signaling a major Asian family celebration where the table is covered with a turkey or ham (or both), stuffing and all the fixings. But how you cook the turkey and what fixings you have, is the real game changer. Growing up, my parents put their Vietnamese spin on turkey by marinating it in soy sauce and garlic, and stuffing it with glass noodles, tofu and shitake mushrooms. As for the fixings, there was always a side of fried rice and egg rolls sitting next to the bowl of mashed potatoes.



Now that I have my own family, I still continue with Thanksgiving dinner in this manner, with eggrolls and banh coun (Vietnamese fresh meat rice crepes) served as appetizers next to my deviled eggs and shrimp cocktail!

I know many other Asian families do the same thing. My Filipino friends always have pancit noodles, lumpia rolls, and ube pie at their Thanksgiving dinners. Japchae, mung bean pancakes, kimchee jeon (pancakes with meat and veggies) and kimchi are common at my Korean friends' Thanksgiving dinners. (Koreans are so lucky, they get to celebrate two Thanksgivings – Korean Thanksgiving in September and American Thanksgiving in November!) My Chinese friends make Asian sticky rice and dumplings, and one of them even uses leftover turkey to make turkey congee the next day!

For other Asian families, these large elaborate meals at home involving turkey that often was dry and bland, wasn't ideal. Instead, they ordered in or cooked large Asian feasts similar to what they enjoyed on Chinese New Year's! One Chinese friend recounts that after her family immigrated here, they tried making a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. They discovered they really didn't like turkey, and opted instead for duck, soy sauce chicken, crab, noodles and other savory and amazing Chinese dishes on Thanksgiving.

And for those Asian families that didn't want to cook, they would go out for a nice Asian meal on Thanksgiving. While many American restaurants would close on Thanksgiving, that wasn't the case for many Asian restaurants. Indeed, many Asian restaurants stay open on Thanksgiving in San Gabriel, Alhambra and Monterey Park, and are often busy and bustling with guests enjoying a large family meal together!

After gorging ourselves at Thanksgiving buffet, we have taken the kids ice skating on the Vegas Strip, did a little gambling, and then went shopping at Black Friday sales the next day at one of the many malls that cover Las Vegas. If you have a large family, mixing in Las Vegas is a great and fun way to celebrate Thanksgiving.



Yet another tradition that has sprung up for Asians celebrating Thanksgiving in Southern California, is to go to Las Vegas! Some Asian families haven't really developed a taste for turkey, and the mountain of dishes afterward that no one wanted to wash, dissuaded them from planning and cooking such large meals. So they headed to Las Vegas, a city filled with excellent Asian restaurants and All-You-Can-Eat buffets. Las Vegas has long been a holiday alternative for Chinese and other Asians in Southern California. I myself have participated in this holiday tradition, and have taken the whole family to Las Vegas where the hotels have cheaper rates and shorter lines at buffets over the long weekend. The buffets have been wonderful on Thanksgiving, and there's always turkey and all the fixings, along with unlimited crab legs and sushi.

Hopefully this article has made you hungry and excited about Thanksgiving!!! No matter how Asians and other Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, there's no arguing that Thanksgiving is the greatest equalizer when it comes to holidays. Rooted in the nostalgia of European settlers breaking bread with Native Americans, Thanksgiving reminds us that we are all immigrants to this country. There is no denying that everyone in the United States, with the exception of Native Americans, aren't originally from here. All of our ancestors were immigrants to this country. We should embrace our immigrant status this Thanksgiving, and celebrate the holiday for what it is - a very WELCOMING holiday! Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!!

Truc has been employed with the County for the last 14 years. She is an attorney with County Counsel and advises the County on information technology, intellectual property, contracting, procurement and government law matters. Truc is an avid traveler, foodie, cook and USC fan.



October Remembrances:

The Chinese Massacre of 1871

Contributed by Daniel Yen



The Chinese Massacre of 1871 occurred on October 24, 1871, in LA where a mob of hundreds brutally attacked, bullied, robbed, and murdered Chinese residents in Old Chinatown. A total of 19 Chinese immigrants were killed

throughout the course of the riot. At the time, the Chinese population of LA amounted to a mere 172 and as such, those killed in the racial massacre represented over 10% of the Chinese population. Individuals from the mob were prosecuted and several were convicted of manslaughter in these deaths. However, the convictions were later overturned on appeal due to technicalities.

What Has Been Done?

Currently, the only marker of the massacre is a small sidewalk plaque on Los Angeles Street, near the Chinese American Museum and El Pueblo De Los Angeles plaza. English and Chinese text is crammed into a square that doesn't properly represent the significance of the historical event.

What Is Being Planned?

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the largest mass killing in modern LA History. The 1871 Steering Committee, a team of civic and cultural leaders, coordinated with the city to release a report with recommendations to create a memorial to the massacre. The city is providing \$250,000 dollars for a design competition to create a world-class memorial that would properly commemorate the importance of the massacre. To read the steering committee report, go to their Civic Memory site at: <http://civicmemory.la/report/1871>.

Filipino-American History Month

Contributed by Joanna De La Cuesta

The first Filipinos arrived in the U.S. in 1587 in Morro Bay, California. Filipino-Americans have since grown into a population of over 4 million and have made significant contributions to society, science, and arts and culture. In 2009, Congress passed a resolution recognizing October as Filipino-American History Month. In this article, LACAAEA is extending its celebration by highlighting some notable Filipino-Americans and their outstanding achievements.



Angelita Castro-Kelly served as NASA's first-ever female Mission Operations Manager to oversee the early developmental missions for NASA's Earth Observing System Program. Angelita was born in the Philippines where she graduated summa cum laude and

continued her graduate studies in the U.S. Despite the big gender discrimination that existed during her time and at her chosen field, Angelita persisted to prove that she was as capable as her male colleagues to do the job. She received many recognitions for her contributions at NASA, such as the Flight Project Mission Impossible award and the NASA Honor Award Exceptional Achievement Medal.



Emil Guillermo is an award-winning journalist and the first Asian-American male to host a national news broadcast program. He was born in San Francisco and studied film and history at Harvard University. Emil hosted NPR's All Things Considered

from 1989 to 1991, making him the program's first non-Caucasian host. He was also a writer for AsianWeek, the largest English language Asian American newsweekly in the country. Emil wrote the column called "Amok" for over 14 years, which was considered the most widely-read column.



Lea Salonga is best known as a Broadway actress who landed the lead role of Kim in the musical Miss Saigon and the first Asian woman to win a Tony award. She is also the first actress of Asian descent to play the roles of Eponine and Fantine in the Musical Les

Miserables. Additionally, Lea provided the singing voices of two Disney Princesses: Jasmine in Alladin (1992) and Fa Mulan in Mulan (1998) and was awarded the Disney Legends Awards in 2011. In 2004, Lea married an Asian America of Chinese and Japanese descent, and they have one daughter. She and her family currently resides in the US and the Philippines. Lea's more current project is playing Aunt Gail in the film Yellow Rose, which is a musical drama about an undocumented Filipina girl who has a dream of leaving her small town in Texas to pursue a country music career. The film premiered at the LA Asian Pacific Film festival on May 2019.



Rob Bonta was sworn as Attorney General of California on April 2021, making him the first Filipino-American and second Asian-American to occupy the position. He was born in the Philippines and immigrated with his family to California when he was just an

infant. Rob's parents were activists for the United Farm Workers Movement and worked alongside Cesar Chavez to organize farmworkers to fight for racial, economic, and civil rights. Rob and his family moved to Sacramento where he attended high school and was the class valedictorian. He then attended Yale University and graduated with a Juris Doctor in 1998. Before becoming California's Attorney General, Rob served nine years as a Deputy City Attorney in San Francisco. In 2012, Rob became the first Filipino-American in California to win the election to the Legislature to represent Assembly District 18.

Meet a County Leader



**Jackie
Guevarra**
Executive Director,
Quality and Productivity
Commission

Why did you choose to work for LA County?

The County was not my first choice. I fully expected to end up working for the Internal Revenue Service. For five years while in college, I worked on the Volunteer Income Tax Program, which prepared income taxes for the elderly and low-income people. For two of those years, I was the Co-Director and coordinated the training and preparation of volunteers for the tax season. We worked closely with the IRS. During the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, we were able to continue the program and received an award from the IRS Commissioner. I intended to be an IRS Agent after graduation. However, while taking my Audit class during my Senior year, I volunteered to work registration for the Institute of Internal Auditor's Annual Conference. The contact was Chuck Porter, Principal Accountant-Auditor, with the Department of Auditor-Controller. At the end of the Conference, he asked me to apply with the County...and the rest is history.

What advice would you give to someone starting out?

Ask questions, volunteer for special projects, network, and pay it forward. Keep learning, develop an expertise, and be ready for the next opportunity.

What's the biggest factor that has helped you be successful in your career?

I start with the usual reasons (e.g., giving 100% to everything I do, working well with others, developing an expertise, networking, strong communication skills, etc.), but what truly helped me succeed was having inspirational and supportive supervisors and mentors. Their guidance and insight have been invaluable. Whenever I need feedback, they are only a call, text or email away.

What are your success habits?

1. Continue learning and growing, professionally and personally
2. Accept challenges as opportunities to create/expand your knowledge and expertise
3. Don't be afraid of change—sometimes change is good
4. Keep an open mind—consider both sides before making a decision
5. Give credit where credit is due—remember to acknowledge your staff and those who help you get your work done.

Whose career inspires you and why?

I start with the usual reasons (e.g., giving 100% to everything I do, working well with others, developing an expertise, networking, strong communication skills, etc.), but what truly helped me succeed was having inspirational and supportive supervisors and mentors. Their guidance and insight have been invaluable. Whenever I need feedback, they are only a call, text or email away.

What personality trait should every leader have?

A leader possesses many traits including compassion (at the end of the day, we are all human), integrity (people will follow those they trust and who inspire them), accountability (takes responsibility for their and the team's performance), and optimism (a positive attitude sets the tone and team morale).

What was the hardest decision you ever had to make?

Professionally, leaving CSUN for the County was a very tough choice. I have been a grateful County employee for nearly 25 years!

How do you push through your worst times?

Stay positive in good times and bad. Work through the hard times as opportunities for growth and development. Create a strong support system (friends, family, colleagues, mentors). Have faith in your abilities to get the job done—and don't be afraid to ask for help. Talk/vent to others—find an outlet to unburden your troubles and challenges.

What mistakes have you made along the way? If you could start all over again, what would you do differently?

Mistakes are a fact of life and they happen every day—all with varying consequences. Every mistake is an opportunity to learn and reset. Once, I did not speak up in support of a colleague, a mistake I regret to this day.

In light of the rise in AAPI hate crimes that are occurring in our community, what are some actions our community can do as a response?

Encourage the AAPI community to report acts of hate. In partnership with LA County's Human Relations Commission and the DMH, 211 LA hosts a hotline for individuals who have been victims or witnesses to acts of bullying or incidents motivated by hate or discrimination to connect with services. Report a hate incident at: www.211la.org/la-vs-hate.

What is the best advice you can give LACAAEA and its membership?

Join, be active, participate, network.

Jackie began her County career in 1997. She joined the Department of Auditor-Controller's Audit Division as an Accountant-Auditor. By 2000, she was planning and leading audits of County departments and programs as a Principal Accountant-Auditor. Her primary clients were the Department of Health Services and Treasurer and Tax Collector. Jackie also served as part of the Special Projects Division (Red Team) and worked on various projects with the Chief Executive Office. After almost fourteen years with the Audit Division, she joined the Accounting Division. She was primarily responsible for coordinating the compilation of the County's audited financial statements (Annual Comprehensive Financial Report) and supervised the Financial Analysis/Property Tax, Special Funds/Warrants, and Budget/Publications Sections. She also coordinated the countywide Fiscal Forum training and lead the Accounting Division's Mentor/Mentee program.

In 2018, she joined the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors as the Executive Director of the Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC). The Commission was formed to promote innovation, quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of County services. She manages the day-to-day operations of the Commission, works with seventeen Commissioners on various programs/events (e.g., Leadership Conference, Productivity and Quality Awards, Department Visits), and manages the Productivity Investment Fund.

Jackie has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from CSUN. Jackie is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Brunch Sponsor



Toys Recipient



ASIAN PACIFIC
Community Fund
Invest in people

Essential Kits
Recipient



Down But Not Out

**Monetary Donations
Accepted:**

Down But Not Out
Tax ID 81-3487821
www.paypal.com/
paypalme/dbnohelps
or www.venmo.com/
dbnohelps

Essentials Kits & **TOY DRIVE**

- Community Service & Networking -
Donate an Unwrapped Toy to APCF &
Help Package Essentials Kits for the UnHoused
to be Donated to Down But Not Out

Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 9AM
Brunch to follow at 11AM

Ramada Inn, South El Monte
1089 Santa Anita Avenue, South El Monte, CA 91733

RSVP by December 1st by clicking **HERE**.

Special Presenters

Arodi Abraham Bautista is one of three founders of DBNO, which was formed in 2013. Arodi was born in El Paso TX but lived in MX until 8yrs old, when family moved to the Los Angeles area. As a CSUF Business Grad, he started volunteering on Skid Row since 2010.

Byron Takeuchi, owner of B-Man's Teriyaki & Burgers, grew up in the restaurant business. He worked at his Parents', Spike's Teriyaki Bowl since they opened in 1976. Byron's Dad, Bob Takeuchi, was actually the creator of the "Teriyaki Bowl". In 1990, Byron graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in Hospitality Management and a minor in Business.

Masks & Vaccinations Required
Friends & Family Event

Meet Our New Recruits

Welcome
New
LACAAEA
Members

Betty Phung
Auditor-Controller

Douglas Tsuyuki
Internal Services

Ernie Loo
Office of the Assessor

Frederick Chung
Board of Supervisors

Julie Roth
Workers Development,
Aging, & Community

Lynda Johnson
Board of Supervisors

Nancy Song
former County employee

Phoebe Liu
Board of Supervisors

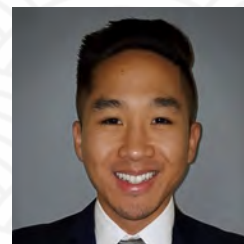


JAYSON CHAN | DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Jayson began his County career in 2004 as a Student Worker with the Superior Courts. He furthered his career at the Department of Auditor-Controller where he specialized in conducting IT audits across numerous County departments. He is currently with the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors under the Office of Inspector General. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, experiencing new foods, listening to music, relaxing outdoors, and learning new things.

DANIEL YEN | WRITER

Daniel started his professional career working in the residential mortgage sector at a bank. From there, he transitioned into an accounting firm where he specialized in auditing employee benefit plans, labor organizations, and a variety of clients. After a few years, he brought his experience into the Department of Auditor-Controller. He focused on information technology audits for various departments and now works on the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. In his spare time, Daniel enjoys playing sports, discovering new music, and hanging out with family.



BOWEN CHENG | WEB DEVELOPMENT

Bowen is a Senior Application Developer at the Internal Services Department. At ISD, he is part of the cloud development section where they design, develop, operate, and maintain cloud information systems, such as Emergency Response Investigation Service (ERIS), Countywide Homeless Information Portal (CHIP), Project Roomkey Invoicing Application (PRKIA), Fair Chance (FC), and Telework (TW). He is also responsible for the County's homeless initiative system - Financial Reporting System for Homelessness (FRSH) and the County's poverty alleviation initiative application - the Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) application. Bowen enjoys computer programming, trying new foods, listening to music, playing video games, and traveling in his free time.

A Celebration of Community: LA County Library's Asian Pacific Resource Center

Contributed by Katrina Lucerna

LA County Library is one of the largest library systems in the country, with 86 branches spanning over 3,000 square miles and within that vast system, there live four gems. LA County Library is home to four cultural resource centers educating, archiving, and serving communities of color: the American Indian, Asian Pacific, Black, and Chicano resource centers.

In this issue, we introduce you to Katrina Lucerna, Librarian of the Asian Pacific Resource Center (APRC). Established in 1979 at the Rosemead Library, APRC plays a critical role in the county library system and is an invaluable resource to LA's richly diverse AAPI/NHPI communities.

APRC also hosts programs and exhibits to celebrate the cultural heritage of AAPIs. This includes book discussions, author visits, art workshops, film screenings, cooking demonstrations, as well as music and dance performances. APRC also provides specialized reference assistance and referral services to assist in locating agencies that address the needs of the communities. Learn more about the APRC's programs, services, and resources.



Can you describe the users of the APRC?

As a public institution, APRC welcomes and services a wide array of users. The general public, including families, as well as academics, researchers, and authors frequent the center. Given our proximity to LA and the film industry, we also get information requests from screenwriters, actors, or production staff.

Could you describe the size of the APRC and feature some of its collection highlights?

APRC's collection has over 16,000 holdings, all focused on AAPI culture. This includes fiction and non-fiction books, audio books, dissertations, magazines, newspapers, and music and movies. We are the only resource center to offer materials in multiple languages, such as Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese. The emphasis of APRC's English language collection is the AAPI/NHPI experience with a core collection on the history and culture. The microfilm collection holds over 100 titles of historical newspapers. Another highlight of the collection is our historical newspapers on microfilm. The APRC has over 100 titles on microfilm of historical immigrant and ethnic

newspapers published in the United States, with some dating back to the 1800s. Researchers, academics, and authors visit from around the country to access this collection.

I have noticed an uptick in interest for materials on the Polynesian experience, particularly that of NHPIs. Customers have been requesting info on various aspects of NHPI culture, including linguistics and history. This may be due to SoCal's large NHPI population as well as recent land rights battles and the momentum of the Hawaiian sovereignty movement.



The need for diversity and multiculturalism – has it become a concern for you when conducting workshops and exhibitions for your customers?

As APRC represents such a vast array of cultures, diversity is an utmost concern. In my opinion the AAPI umbrella term is rather ungainly and much too broad; it encompasses too wide a group which has no great unifying characteristics, except perhaps (rather expansive) geography.

Given the rather herculean task at hand, I do believe that APRC does an admirable job at providing representation for all these disparate cultural groups. As APRC Librarian, I have made a concerted effort to incorporate the voices of underserved AAPI communities, particularly that of Southeast Asians, in both our collection and programming. I want to ensure that everyone has a place at the APRC, while not allowing one voice to dominate.

What parts of your job is fulfilling and what do you find most frustrating?

Planning and hosting cultural programs is easily the most exciting part of my job. It's a lot of fun to discover new presenters and performers, then working with them to provide programming in our libraries. It is also rewarding to share these cultural events with our community, which reflects their own traditions/history or exposes and educates others to another point of view.

Because of COVID-19, our programming efforts have moved online. While I miss the energy of face to face interactions with an audience, I am glad that we are able to provide high value and culturally relevant programs during a global pandemic. Our AAPI Virtual film festival in 2020 was the Library's first stab at an online event. Another point of pride is the APRC's "Beginner's Guide to Sushi" cooking demo which, with over 450 attendees, is LA County Library's highest attended virtual event.

Continued to page 10

Yoshitomo Nara—Lost and Found

Contributed by Winnie Xiao

I've always been drawn to the Japanese pop art genre because of the colorful expression of the artists' wild imaginations. So when I found out that Yoshitomo Nara's paintings are on exhibit at LACMA, I knew I had to go see them. It turned out to be a trip to the Lost and Found of Forgotten Childhood Dreams.



Yoshitomo Nara is a Japanese artist whose signature style features wide-eyed children often acting rebelliously or looking intently into the distance. The theme that appears constantly throughout these paintings is the simplicity of the drawings. They're so simple and yet they capture so much. As I walked from room to room, the drawings on display went from well-thought-out paintings to random doodles on scratch paper. I felt like I was on a guided tour back to a time when I was little, and I used to draw just for the fun of it. That was something I lost over the years, but Nara did not.

I originally planned on writing about Yoshitomo Nara's history and what inspired his artwork but then all of that is available on the Internet. So instead, I'm going to take this chance to tell you a little bit about myself. I'm sure Nara won't mind.

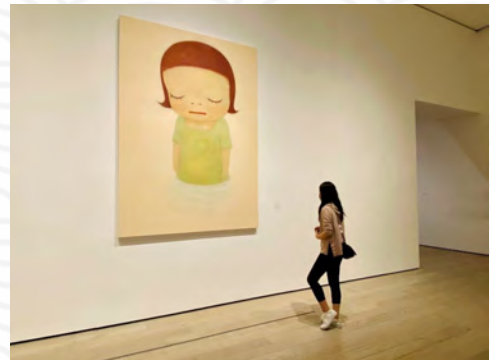
I don't remember exactly when I started drawing, but it must've been the moment I picked up a pencil. I took off to draw everywhere. I'd go through pages and pages of sketchbooks, scratch papers, and walls. Yes, our walls were covered with my scribbles up to where my little hands could reach. It was a mess, but my mom was proud. My desire to draw was fueled by the need to materialize my imagination. In my head, princesses and magic were real, and I loved to pretend that I was slaying monsters with Sailor Moon.

As I got older, I started taking all kinds of art lessons. My very first art class was a disaster. That day I showed up at the class where other kids have already started drawing and the lesson of was to draw fish. I sat down and thought, that's SO EASY, and within a minute, I filled a white paper with at least a dozen fish. Then the teacher walked over and said, "you drew so many... you were only supposed to draw one". Immediately I thought I did something wrong. Tears streamed down my face as my mom led me out of the classroom while all the kids stared. I think it was the first time I realized

that there are rules and expectations to doing something I love. I still drew and took more classes after that but time was chipping away at my passion. Occasionally, the teachers would enter me into competitions and I didn't know why. I didn't ask for it and I didn't like comparing with other kids. I remember for one of the competitions, the teacher told me exactly what to draw and even though it turned out nice, it just wasn't mine. I didn't understand back then that even though my mom never asked me to win any awards, our culture expected us to excel at these extracurricular activities so the teachers taught us to compete. Every experience I had told me that there was always someone else better than me. It shouldn't have mattered but it did. Then somehow I stopped in my high school years. I lost the ease of drawing whatever I wanted, and my imagination lost its outlet. If I drew, I would judge my work as either good or bad. Often they were bad and would get tossed in the trash.

Those drawings that I tossed look just like the ones at Yoshitomo Nara's exhibit, except his are cherished and cared for. What I threw away were records of precious moments and feelings that made me who I am.

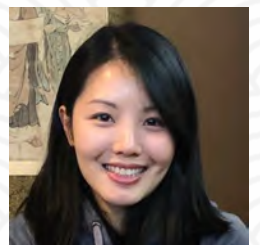
A girl walked by me in front of one of the paintings and whispered to her friend "so simple, I can draw it too". She said my thoughts out loud. I wish I kept all my drawings no matter how silly they looked at the time. I wish I could've shut out all the noise and kept drawing for no other reason than that it made me happy.



Seeing Yoshitomo Nara's drawings made me realize it's ok to not be perfect. It's like getting a permission slip to let my imagination fly again. I'm going to pick up my brushes again and learn to enjoy doing something that used to make me feel happy and fulfilled and this time I won't judge.

If you also visit the Yoshitomo Nara exhibit at LACMA, I hope you'll like it as much as I did. Maybe you too will find the inspiration to do more of what you love and be more of who you are.

Winnie received her bachelor's degree from USC Marshall School of Business. She currently works as an appraiser at the Assessor's Office handling business property valuation. She enjoys working closely with the public and helping people navigate through the complex system of property assessments. In addition, Winnie is assisting with LACAAEA's outreach efforts to recruit more AAPI youths to participate in the Youth@Work program.



Winnie's favorite pastime is sitting down with a coffee and reading a good book. She also enjoys traveling, drawing, singing, and playing the piano.

Model Minority

Songwriters: Alan Zhu, Ann Chung, Jason Chu

In our wallets they're thinkin we got commas,
Really in back pockets we're carrying deep traumas
Hang-tied us, by our own trousers
Seen as outsiders, they used to red-line us
Time called us "out-whiting the white" scholars,
Drove a divide between us and our Black brothers
You got admitted to dominant white college?
Still you ain't valid for most of them white collars
Southeast Asian dark cousins
Drive down the streets, police radio buzzin
Gaslighted to thinkin we made progress
Still they killed Christian Hall and said nothin (Shh...)
Not a model, not a monolith, ay
Not a pawn for your politics, nah
Learned from Gandhi and Dr. King
If the system don't bring peace we must abolish it, yea

Chorus

If you only knew
Walk a mile in our shoes
If you only knew
We're not so different from you
We're not invisible people

I'm sick of people believing that we got privilege and
we're passing as white
When that's a myth they fabricated to combat civil rights
Pit us against the Black and Brown, a means to divide
And dehumanize, like See them chinks? They doing
fine!
Just to justify their various slurs
Model Minority is not a portrait, it's an Asian caricature
To lump us together is parody work,
Before you call us wealthy, let's talk about our income
disparity first
They're lying, claiming that we're white-adjacent
Then why do racists say Ching Chong, slant their eyes
at Asians?
Bamboo ceiling blocking high positions, higher wages
They hired us centuries ago for only migrant labor, my
guy, they hate us
From the Chinese Exclusion Act to the Hart-Cellar Act
Where they let us in to be pawns only part of their trap
Silence our issues like It's in the past!
We ain't got no political power or media coverage
Where's the privilege in that?
Model minority
Got people ignoring me, me
Me and my community
And just because some of us found success
Does not mean we do not know that we are being
oppressed
Oppressed...see some of us have been here for
generations
Others, children of immigrants,
And even others still immigrants themselves
We struggle with our own histories of American
colonialism
Yet we stand by our Black brothers and sisters
Because we share the pain, and we say your names
Vicha Ratanapakdee, Noel Quintana, Delaina Ashley
Yaun, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, and so many others
Rest in peace
This is not a privilege
This is not political
We are America
And we will never again be invisible
Never again be invisible



Rapper/Activist **Jason Chu** speaks hope and healing in a broken world, blending high energy performances with thoughtfully crafted lyricism.

Most recently, Jason's work has been presented on the National Mall in Washington DC (In America: Remember) and curated in the LA Dept. of Cultural Affairs virtual exhibition Reimagine Public Art: House and Home.

His music has been heard on Warrior (HBO Max), Snowpiercer (TNT), and Wu Assassins (Netflix). He has shared poetry at the Obama White House, been featured in the Chinese American Museum of LA, and presented at the Getty Center, Flushing Town Hall (with Joe Kye), and the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center (with Clairoboscure Dance). Jason tours extensively, with hundreds of shows across the US and worldwide.

As an expert on AAPI identity and hip-hop culture, Jason has spoken and led workshops at UPenn, *Dragon*Con*, NYU, Yale, and beyond. He is a contributor to the St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture.

Follow Jason at [@jasonchumusic](https://www.instagram.com/jasonchumusic) everywhere.



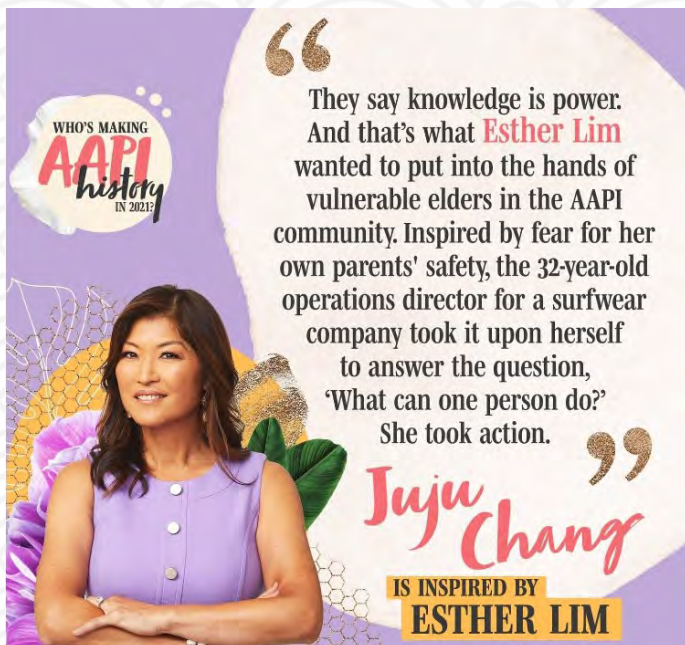
Christian Hall was adopted from China in hopes of giving him a better life. Last year, he was shot and killed by Pennsylvania State troopers on December 30, 2020.

The police had been responding to a report about Hall, who was suspected to be suicidal and found with a firearm. Though he appeared to disarm himself and surrender, Hall soon picked the firearm back up and began moving towards police as he was fatally shot. Christian was 19 when he fell victim to institutional failures that harm those who don't fit the "model minority" myth.

Ask ourselves a series of questions.

Will we fight only for ourselves or will we embrace the concerns of all oppressed peoples? Will we overcome our own oppression and help to create a new society, or will we become a new exploited group in the present American hierarchy of inequality? Will we define our goal of empowerment solely in terms of individual advancement for a few or as a collective liberation of all peoples?

- Glenn Omatsu



How to Report a Hate Crime

What is a Hate Crime?

Any crime committed with a bias and prejudice motive and selects victims based on a particular group- race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability, age, gender.

Hate Incidents

- Name calling, insults, displaying hate material on your property or public places
- If it starts to threaten a person or property, it becomes hate crime

Hate Crimes

- Any act or attempted act that constitutes an offense under criminal law such as:
 - Harassment
 - Involves injury
 - Threats/acts of violence
 - Property damage

Effects of Hate Crimes

- Sense of security is lost
- Victim, family and friends of victims suffer personal, financial, emotional loss
- Divides neighborhoods and communities
- Raises fear and suspicion
- Lowers openness and cooperation
- Directly threatens principles of democracy and equality
- Directly attacks our country's founding principles
- People lose confidence in the law
 - Causes retaliating attacks by the victim groups
 - Creates more violence and social/ethnic conflict

Why You Need to Not Report a Hate Crime

Do not worry about being a citizen! You have rights!

- Do not fear deportation or arrest
- Do not be ashamed or in denial. You are not alone in this. There is a whole community that will support you if you speak up.

By reporting hate crimes, you protect yourself and others:

- All crime must be reported to control and prevent future incidents
- Not reporting hate crimes raises levels of violence
- When left unpunished, the rule of the law is challenged
- Directly threatens national security
- If no crimes are reported = no record = no hate crimes

Prevention Tips

Always let someone know where you're going

- Carry ID
- Stay alert of your surroundings
- Familiarize yourself with key landmarks (Market, police station, fire department, gas station, restaurant, intersections)
- Carry personal alarm or whistle and flashlights
- Avoid isolated areas and shortcuts
- Do not walk alone especially at night
- Walk near curb, facing traffic
- Choose busy, well lit streets
- Look confident and purposeful in your walk
- Do not display any cash, credit card or jewelry

When taking public transportation

- Check bus/train schedule
- Do not wait alone at a stop
- Know where you are going and how to get back
- Sit near bus driver
- If harassed, report to driver immediately

When Facing an Attack

- **Walk away ASAP** or take the next exit and get out of the situation
- **Do not get triggered** to participate in a verbal argument because it will escalate the situation
- **Engage bystanders** Tell them what is going on and ask them for help
- **Take out your phone** and start taking pictures or a video of the perpetrator if safe
- **Call 9-1-1** if someone is physically injured or threatened
- **Scream 'HELP' or 'FIRE'** or blow personal alarm/whistle
- **If you are physically attacked:** Protect your body and defend yourself by whatever means necessary. Act like a crazy person because they will freak out and let you go
- **Document with your phone or ask someone to document the attacker:** Full body and profile picture; License plate, car, model; Scene of incident
- **OBSERVE as much as you can:** Skin color; Facial hair (beard, mustache); Eyes (color, glasses?); Hair style/color (side part, long, short); Height; Clothing; Behavior; Voice; Age; Tattoo; Scars; Jewelry; Weight

The How to Report a Hate Crime Books have been translated to Chinese (simplified & traditional), Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese, and Tagalog. To find out how you can order copies or help make a financial contribution to distribute more books, go to <https://www.hatecrimebook.com>.

Esther is a proud 2nd generation Korean-American who created booklets on How to Report a Hate Crime in 10 different languages for the LA and Orange County, New York City, Greater Bay, Saint Louis, Illinois, and Maine regions. She has printed and distributed over 93,000 physical copies of the booklets and is continuing to expand to more regions and languages.



Her sole purpose of creating books on how to report a hate crime was to provide equity and break the concept of having a language barrier just to gain knowledge of resources that were already out there.

She believes there are different aspects in everyone's lives where we see inequity and even in a small way, we can do something about it.

A Celebration of Community: Asian Pacific Resource Center

Continued from page 6

This past May's heritage month was jam packed with cultural events for all ages. Highlights included Chinese, Japanese, and Indian musical and dance performances through a partnership with the Music Center, as well as a Minecraft tour of San Francisco's Chinatown hosted by teens from the Chinatown Community Development Center. The APRC also hosted a presentation from tattoo artist and educator Tricia Allen on Polynesian tattoo traditions that was very well received.

But I have to say, the everyday, mundane interactions I have with customers provide me with such joy. An entire library comprised of materials about AAPI culture is not the norm, unfortunately. We regularly have customers come in, amazed and excited that there is an entire Resource Center dedicated to the API experience.

What's coming up for the APRC? Anything new or interesting?

I am also a member of the Library's Immigration Task Force and early this year we applied for a Cal Humanities Library Innovation Lab grant. Thankfully we were awarded the money, and during the last several months I have been working in a statewide cohort to devise programming for our immigrant communities.

Inspired by a previous tattoo program, the project I devised is entitled "Stories on Skin: Tattoos and

the LA Immigrant Experience". This virtual series will take place in December 2021. We have invited leading tattoo artists and subject specialists to speak about the tattoo traditions of some of LA's immigrant populations: Chicano, African, and Japanese and Samoan. I encourage everyone to attend as we have a really amazing slate of speakers. I hate to be partial, (but not surprising, given my interests) the Japanese/Samoan program is going to be extraordinary! Taki Kitamura is one of the best known Japanese tattoo artists in the country and, if all works out, he will also conduct a live tebori demo for his event. Please keep an eye out on www.lacountylibrary.org/virtual-programming to register for these events!

Visit the Asian Pacific Resource Center at Rosemead Library: 8800 Valley Blvd, Rosemead, CA 91770. (626) 573-5220 www.lacountylibrary.org/asian-pacific-resource-center



Katrina Lacerna started with LA County Library in 2015 as the Government Services Librarian. She currently serve as the APRC Librarian. Katrina graduated with a BA in Asian American Studies from CSU Fullerton. She then received my MLIS from San Jose State University. Katrina is the daughter of Filipino immigrants and am a New Jersey Native. She believes that both experiences has indelibly shaped who she is, and how she pronounce her vowels.

is, and how she pronounce her vowels.

Must Watch Documentaries About AAPIs



Far East Deep South

The film sheds light on the history of Chinese immigrants in the American South and the discrimination they faced during the late 1800s to mid-1900s through the emotional journey of Charles Chiu and his family as they travel from California to Mississippi to find answers about Charles' father,

K.C. Lou. With the help of local residents and historians, the family learns about the interconnected relationship between the Black and Chinese communities in the Jim Crow era and the impact of restrictive immigration policies that kept their family apart for generations. Through a series of stunning discoveries at the Mississippi Delta Chinese Heritage Museum and the National Archives, the Chiu family also uncover how deep their roots run in America. This unforgettable story offers a poignant perspective on race, immigration, and American identity.

The film features notable leaders, authors and historians such as U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu, Dr. Gordon Chang, Dr. Jane Hong, Dr. John Jung, Dr. Robert Voss, Tyree Boyd-Pates and Past National President of Chinese Americans Citizens Alliance, Carolyn Chan.

Available with English, Spanish, Chinese (traditional and simplified) subtitles.

Produced by Baldwin Chiu and Larissa Lam
www.FarEastDeepSouth.com



The Race Epidemic

The film is about another outbreak caused by COVID-19. An epidemic of hate based on race against Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs). With a politicized pandemic sweeping through the country and a former President calling it the Chinese Virus, the rise of attacks and hate against AAPIs is not surprising.

hate against AAPIs is not surprising.

Can naming a virus after an innocent ethnic group cause the outbreak of an epidemic of hate? Or is it something hidden deeper within American society? The film takes a close examination of xenophobia and racism against AAPIs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Race Epidemic is a significant film of our times as innocent AAPIs are being attacked and murdered on the streets. It's time to act. We can no longer be the silent minority. Our voice will not be silenced.

Produced by Ronald W. Wong
Directed by Tony Shyu
www.TheRaceDocumentary.org