



P3 Rizal Monument

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P7 FCSV Christmas Party

Induction of FCSV Officers and Board Members Chartering the New Beginning of FCSV

BY MURRAY NAVARRO

As the newly inducted and installed officers and board members step into their new roles and responsibilities, they come before the community with hearts filled with gratitude for the members' constant support of all our programs and projects. The community showed strong and persistent assistance in molding the FCSV into a better organization with a cognizant belief that we are stronger in members.

Most of the members came to voice their right to suffrage last November 26, 2023, to elect their leadership personnel. As a result, the newly elected FCSV Executive Board Members



Photo by Dan Dolar

On December 10, 2023, The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (FCSV) held their 2024-2025 Installation of Officers at the Jose Rizal Community Center in Sacramento, CA. This year FCSV invited Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen as their Installing Officer for the evening.

(EBMs) which are composed of 13 officers and 20 boards of directors were initiated last December 10, 2023, at Rizal Community Center.

The newly appointed officers by the power of majority vote are as follows: President Mur-

ray Navarro, First Vice President Vince A. Sales, Second Vice President Dinnah San Pedro, Secretary Margarita "Ging" Pasalo, Treasurer Aurora L. Ramos, Assistant Treasurer Alberta Pana, Auditor Mena Domondon, Assistant Auditor Erlinda Aglubat and

Peace Officers are Alex Avera, Carlos Cordero, Melchor Munar and Leonardo Pena.

The 20 Board of Directors are as follows: Bobby Aglubat, Estelita "Ling" Avera, Maria Bahoric, Rejie Baloyos, Bembet Borromeo, Roselie Cran-

dall, Anthony de Castro, Luz Daclan, Rose Delacruz, Edna delos Reyes, Jinky Dolar, Sarah Enloe, Sylvia Fortis, Carol Munar, Rick Pasalo, Priscilla Ramos, Mylene Simons, Remy Solomon, Zenny Yagen and Frank Zabal.

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How Asian Americans Fought Back Against Hate – and Won

BY VINCE CHANG

Congress determined that hate crimes have reverberating effects, not only for the targeted community but also for the nation. The Supreme Court has held that the widespread, systemic effects of hate crimes are significant enough to justify the use of enhanced sentences. . . . Additionally, these enhanced sentences for hate crimes are often seen as symbolically important because these laws have a signaling effect in sending a "message to society that criminal acts based upon hatred will not be tolerated."

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, *The Federal Response to Anti-Asian Racism in the United States* (Sept. 2023).

I am proud to serve with Brian Cohen as co-chairs of the NYS-



BA Task Force on Antisemitism and Anti-Asian Hate. We are grateful to NYSBA President Richard Lewis for convening this task force of talented and dedicated individuals and for

shining a spotlight on this pressing problem.

For decades the dominant narrative about Asian Americans has been that they are a "model minority," not subject to the same discrimination and other tribulations to which other diverse groups are subject. This oversimplified stereotype was shattered during the pandemic when hate crimes against Asian Americans soared by 800% in the first year of the pandemic. As a result, as the U.S. Congress stated: "Following the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in hate crimes and violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islander . . . [An] alarming surge in anti-Asian hate."

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Embracing Hope and Empathy Can Change Directions for the Better in the Year 2024



BY BENJAMIN ABAYA

As we bid farewell to the challenges and uncertainties of 2023, the dawn of a new year brings with it the promise of fresh opportunities, growth, and positive changes. It's a time to reflect on the lessons

learned, appreciate the resilience within us and embrace the boundless possibilities that lie ahead. In the spirit of optimism, let's explore the power of hope and how fostering a hopeful mindset can be the ultimate New Year's resolution.

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How Asian Americans Fought Back Against Hate – and Won

From page 1

The Response to Anti-Asian Hate Crimes

The Atlanta spa murders in March 2021, in which six Asian spa workers were murdered, catalyzed the nation's attention on the problem of anti-Asian hate crimes.

On March 18, 2021, for the first time in more than 30 years, a congressional hearing on discrimination against Asians was conducted. On May 20, 2021, approximately two months after the Atlanta spa murders, President Biden signed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act in recognition of the dramatic increase in hate crimes and violence against AAPI victims. The legislation, introduced by U.S. Rep. Grace Meng and Sen. Mazie Hirono, improved reporting of hate crimes, expedited the review of hate crimes related to COVID-19 and authorized grants to state and local governments to conduct hate crime-reduction programs.

This hate crime legislation was passed on a fast track on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis with majorities of 94-1 in the Senate and 364-62 in the House during a period when bipartisanship was rare. As President Biden remarked, the legislation represented “a significant break” in an otherwise hyper-partisan political climate.]

The COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act has been described as “the single most significant piece of legislation to improve federal hate crime data since the Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990,” according to Michael Lieberman, Southern Poverty Law Center senior policy counsel for hate and extremism.

How was such a bipartisan result possible, and what are the lessons for future hate crimes legislation?

First, the crisis atmosphere surrounding the Atlanta spa murders undoubtedly played a decisive role. As the Asian American Bar Association of New York chronicled, President Biden, Attorney General Merrick Garland and U.S. Representatives Grace Meng, Judy Chu, Young Kim and Ted Lieu issued statements supporting the Asian American community. In New York City, the is-



Photo by Dave San Pedro

sue of anti-Asian hate incidents became a campaign topic in the mayoral and the Manhattan district attorney races, with all candidates pledging to invest resources and attention to combating hate.

Notably before the spa murders, in 2020, there was significant opposition to even non-binding resolutions condemning anti-Asian hate crimes. The Atlanta murders provided an impetus for hate crimes legislation that did not previously exist.

Second, Asian American lawmakers played a pivotal role in securing the passage of the act. Asian American Representatives, most notably Rep. Grace Meng, spearheaded the historic March 2020 congressional hearing, the first hearing held on Asian hate crimes in 30 years. Congresswoman Meng focused on the Atlanta murders, noting “we saw the terrible news about the six Asian women who were shot and killed in the Atlanta area. Our community is bleeding, we are in pain, and for the last year, we’ve been screaming out for help.”

Third, a broad coalition of Asian and non-Asian groups supported the act. The legislation was endorsed by Asian Americans Advancing Justice,

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, Oxfam America and Muslim Advocates.

Among the non-Asian groups

supporting the act were the Anti-Defamation League, the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Medical Association, the National Education Association and Amnesty USA. ADL in particular “advocated tirelessly for these bills, including by organizing petitions in support, which have garnered thousands of signatures.”

Fourth, bar associations added their voices in support of the Asian American community. Before the passage of the 2021 legislation, the National Asian Pacific Bar Association and the Asian American Bar Association of New York, the American Bar Association and the New York County Lawyers Association, as well as a coalition of diverse bar associations, condemned the rise of anti-Asian hate crimes. Notably, the National Asian Bar sponsored a historic resolution in the ABA House of Delegates urging action on Asian hate crimes.

The New York State Bar Association convened this task force partially in response to the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes.

In short, the combination of a crisis atmosphere and strong leadership from a broad coalition of elected officials and Asian and non-Asian groups, including bar associations, helped produce the historic 2021 hate crimes legislation.

The History of Anti-Asian Hate Crimes

The 2021 legislation followed centuries of inattention to hate crimes against Asian Americans.

As Second Circuit Senior Judge Denny Chin and Kathy Hirata Chin emphasized: “This is nothing new, for there is a long history of hostility and violence against Asian Americans in this country, a history that is not well known.” As U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gonzalez noted: “From the LA Chinese massacre of 1871 to the murder of Vincent Chin, anti-Asian hate has been a stain on our nation’s history.” Harvard’s Courtney Saito explained that Asians have often been scapegoated during times of national distress: “This is really not an exceptional moment by any means . . . But it’s really part of a much longer genealogy of anti-Asian violence that reaches as far back as the 19th century.” As Judge Chin and Kathy Chin documented, anti-Asian hate crimes took such forms as:

The October 24, 1871 lynching of at least 18 Chinese Americans (10% of the Chinese American population of Los Angeles at the time) by a mob of hundreds.

The murders of 28 Chinese coal miners on September 2, 1885, in Rock Springs, in what was then the Wyoming territory.

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Editor's Note

We welcome you to Philippines Fiesta News’ first issue for the year with new events and celebrations to remember in our community in Sacramento.

Congratulations to the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity’s New Officers for year 2024-2025. As a newly inducted second vice president of the organization, along with all the officers and board members, we ask for our community’s continued support of our several upcoming fundraising functions throughout the year. First for the year is scheduled on January 27. See page 15 for more information. Also, for the first week in April, watch as we launch our second Sama-Sama Fashion Show to be held at the District 56, in Elk Grove, CA. The first event was held in 2002, where participants were representatives from different Filipino community organizations in Sacramento. We will be sending invitations to prospective participants and we are hoping you will all join us in this exciting endeavor. All proceeds of this event will go towards the FCSV Community Center Building Project. We are there, almost!

Mark your calendar for the Laban Group’s Year 2 launching of our Fight to Stop Asian Hate. See page 16, for more information.

We wish everyone a Happy and Safe New Year!

With love always,
Dinnah San Pedro

'Ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan,' and what Jose Rizal means to the youth

BY AGRYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

"Ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan (The youth is the hope of the motherland)."

This is one of the immortalized lines of Dr. Jose Rizal from the 1879 Spanish poem "A la Juventud Filipina" (To the Filipino Youth).

To 33-year-old radio broadcaster Hajji Kaamiño, the youth can be an achiever like Rizal, in the academic and national scenes, starting with being the voice of the less privileged.

Dr. Jose Rizal achieved academic excellence and was a staunch critic of the government during his time. The youth of today can follow Rizal's footsteps by taking the lead in upholding the principles of social justice, he said.

Campus journalist Mark Romero, 21, thinks the youth must seek a deeper understanding of Philippine history and advocate the improvement of the country's sociopolitical climate.

As we, who are part of the youth, would play an integral part of that effort, we should also be very familiar with our roots and our history. That will help guide our steps toward doing what's best for our country, he said.

Another student-journalist, 20-year-old Jerica Masculino, believes the youth are already participating in making positive change in the country as evidenced by young people openly making their stand on social issues by joining rallies and being outspoken about their views.

"Many of us have become aware of the lack of justice, so many of today's youth are ready to fight for the future because we and the future generations will benefit from being free of a bad system," she said.

"Hindi kami ang kinabukasan ng bayan, dahil kami ang ngayon na bayan (We are not only the country's future, we are the country now)," she said.

'National hero'

Jose Rizal, also known as Pepe, was born in Calamba, Laguna, on June 19, 1861. He was part of a group of Filipino Ilustrados who called for peaceful reform of Spain's colonial rule in the Philippines.

While in Europe, Rizal wrote about the discrimination that accompanied Spain's colonial rule of his country. Among his famous works are "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo."

He returned to the Philippines in 1892 but was exiled to Dapitan by Spanish authorities. He was convicted of sedition and was executed on Dec. 30, 1896, at the age of 35.

Despite his heroism, Rizal has not been officially declared the Philippines' "National Hero." Many, including Kaamiño, believe Rizal deserves such a recognition.

"He had set an example of a bloodless revolution against the Spaniards. He was one of



Rizal-Monument

the great minds in Philippine history," he said.

Romero and Masculino said they were "surprised" when they learned that Rizal was not an official national hero since his face is everywhere.

"I grew up thinking that Jose Rizal was our official National Hero because that's what my teachers in school and the elders around me taught me. His face is on the one-peso coin and many monuments, one of them erected in Manila, have been built to honor him" Romero said.

"The young people already know that he is our hero. For me, today's young people really have in their minds that Jose Rizal is our national hero, and that cannot be removed from their minds, whether he has been declared or not," Masculino added.

Rizal is one of the nine Filipino heroes in the list of the now defunct National Heroes Committee which was created in 1993 during the administration of President Fidel Ramos. The committee was tasked to study, evaluate and recommend

Filipino national heroes to recognize their heroic character and remarkable achievements for the country

Despite this, the Philippines has always recognized Rizal's heroism. Based on the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) website, the observance of Rizal Day goes back to the decree issued by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo on Dec. 20, 1898, declaring Dec. 30 as the anniversary of Jose Rizal's martyrdom and also "a national day of mourning," for Rizal and other victims of the Spanish dominion throughout its three centuries rule.

The first celebration of Rizal Day was held in Manila on Dec. 30, 1898, which coincided with the unveiling of the Rizal monument in Daet, Camarines Norte. The NHCP said the said monument was the first ever erected in honor of Rizal.

Rizal everywhere

It is not only the Philippines that recognizes Rizal. While there is no official record of the number of Rizal monuments in the Philippines, there are at

least 10 existing statues overseas, including the ones in California, New Jersey, and Washington in the United States. He also has statues in Mexico, Peru, the Czech Republic, Italy, Singapore, and China.

Rizal was the 22nd-generation descendant of the first-generation Ke family, whose roots are in Shang Guo village in Jinjiang. Rizal's great-great-grandfather was Domingo Lameo, or Ke Yi Nan in Chinese, who immigrated to the Philippines, according to records.

In 2018, the city of Calamba, Rizal's birthplace, recognized Rizal's Chinese ancestry and forged ties with Jinjiang, China, in February of that year. A report published in the Manila Bulletin in August 2023 also said that "both Chinese and Filipino historians have confirmed Jose Rizal's Chinese ancestry."

The Rizal Monument in Jinjiang stands as a symbol of friendship between China and the Philippines. According to the Knights of Rizal, it is the biggest Rizal Shrine outside the Philippines.

In 1999, then-President Joseph Estrada and then-Chinese Ambassador Fu Ying laid the foundation for the memorial.

Construction of the said shrine started in 2003 and was completed that same year. 1861, the year Rizal was born, was used as the basis for the monument's height—18.61 meters.

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How Asian Americans Fought Back Against Hate – and Won

From page 2

The massacre in 1887 in Hells Canyon, Oregon, in which at least 31 Chinese miners were murdered, their gold stolen, their camps burned, and their bodies thrown into the Snake River.

The attacks on Vietnamese fishermen in 1981 by the Ku Klux Klan in Galveston.

The brutal murder of Vincent Chin in 1982 in Detroit at a time when American auto companies in Detroit were threatened by competition from Asian companies.

Specific Instances of Recent Anti-Asian Hate Crimes

The foregoing instances of anti-Asian hate are not often taught in our nation's classrooms. Before the pandemic, hate crimes against Asian Americans were generally underreported and under-recognized. However, recent hate crimes perpetrated against Asian Americans have been so widespread and so brutal that they have been impossible to ignore. From New York to San Francisco, hate crimes against Asians erupted nationwide, accompanied by denunciations of Asians as responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic. And anti-Asian hate crimes did not stop when the pandemic did. The following is a small sampling of some of the most brutal, and/or most recent, anti-Asian hate crimes in New York City alone over roughly the last two years. (Over 40% of the anti-Asian hate crimes in large cities nationwide took place in New York City in one recent time period.

On Oct. 19, 2023, Jasmer Singh, an Indian American Sikh man, was beaten to death in a New York road rage attack. His family seeks hate crime charges against the killer.

On Sept. 2, 2023, a crime suspect caught on camera in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, yelled anti-Asian remarks at a man, then hit him with a stick repeatedly before running off.

On Aug. 7, 2023, an Asian woman from Nevada was punched repeatedly as “anti-ethnic remarks” were directed toward her on a Manhattan subway train.

On May 23, 2023, an indictment was handed down for an Asian hate crime in Koreatown in which an Asian man was pulled out of his car and assaulted. The man sustained bruising, pain in his elbow, a cut on his knee and a laceration on his forehead.

On March 2, 2023, an 18-year-old woman grabbed Cecile Lai, pulled her to the ground and punched and kicked her, according to the district attorney's office. A 44-year-old male bystander tried to pull her off the victim and then was himself attacked by two men who were with her. Before leaving the scene, the assailants' SUV swerved and came within inches of the female victim.

On Feb. 27, 2022, during a three-hour period, seven Asian American Pacific



Photo by Dave San Pedro

Islander women were attacked in seven separate incidents in midtown Manhattan.

On Feb. 22, 2022, GuiYing Ma died from her injuries after she was smashed in the head with a rock in Queens.

In February 2022, Christina Yuna Lee was followed and then stabbed more than 40 times in her apartment in Manhattan's Chinatown.

On Jan. 15, 2022, Michelle Go died when she was shoved to her death in front of a moving subway train.

In July 2021, Than Than Htwe died from head injuries after an attempted robbery caused her to fall down subway stairs.

On April 23, 2021, Yao Pan Ma was stomped on the head and killed in Harlem.

In May 2021, a video showed a stranger attacking an Asian woman with a hammer in Manhattan. The victim was hospitalized with head lacerations.

The foregoing list is, unfortunately, far from exhaustive. Scores of other hate crimes took place before, during and after the roughly two-year time period covered above. This list is confined to New York City and thus does not cover crimes such as the 2022 Atlanta spa murders.

Statistical Analysis of Recent Anti-Asian Hate Crimes

The evidence of hate crimes and hate incidents directed against Asian Americans is not merely anecdotal. While hate crimes and hate incidents are notoriously underreported, particularly when they were committed against Asian Americans, statistical evidence further demonstrates the magnitude of the problem.

One group studied internet activity and reported a rise of 1,662% in anti-Asian hate speech in 2020 compared with 2019. This peaked with the announce-

ment of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the most basic level, public opinion poll data sheds light on the statistical scope of the hate crime problem, showing that 1 out of 4 Asians has experienced a hate incident. And these statistics carry over into 2023. About 2 in 10 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (23%) say they have experienced being verbally harassed or abused in the last year, and 22% have been called a racial or ethnic slur.

Earlier surveys showed that fully one-third of Asian Americans feared threats and physical attacks and most said violence against them was rising. A joint report by Columbia University and Committee of 100 found that about 3 out of 10 of the nearly 6,500 Chinese Americans it surveyed in 2022 were verbally or physically harassed.

Stop AAPI Hate reported about 11,500 acts of hate between March 2020 and 2022. More than half of Asian respondents report that they know someone who has been victimized.

The foregoing data relates to hate incidents, which are not necessarily hate crimes, but the statistics on hate crimes are equally alarming. In 2021, 746 anti-Asian hate crimes were reported to the FBI by law enforcement agencies. Reports of hate crimes against Asian Americans jumped 342% from 2020 to 2021, continuing a pattern from the previous year: Anti-Asian crimes increased 124% between 2019 and 2020. The Bureau of Justice Assistance reported that the first quarter increases in 2021 followed a “historic surge” in anti-Asian hate crimes that started in 2020, with anti-Asian hate crimes increasing 149% in 16 of the largest cities.

The Asian American Bar Association of New York, including our task force members, Professor Elaine Chiu and Chris Kwok, performed perhaps the most extensive statistical analysis of anti-Asian hate crimes, thoroughly reviewing over 200 New York City cases. Notably, the study found that assault was the most common offense – 58% of all incidents – indicating that hate crimes are generally serious violent crimes. But the study found that prosecution of hate crimes remains difficult. Out of the 64 criminal prosecutions the database studied, only seven resulted in hate crime convictions. At the time, 20 other prosecutions were still pending.

The Profound Effect of Hate Crimes on Asian American Communities

The surge in hate crimes has resulted in fear and isolation in Asian American communities:

“For the Asian American communities that are experiencing this, it just feels like an all-out assault,” said William Ming Liu, PhD, a counseling psychologist and chair of the Department

of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education at the University of Maryland.

Early research has linked the uptick in anti-Asian discrimination to increases in anxiety, depressive symptoms, and sleep problems among those who are targeted.

A recent study showed that “having experienced or witnessed a hate crime incident was associated with higher levels of serious psychological distress . . . [and] having had to forgo necessary care . . .” Another study that surveyed over 5000 people, including 575 Asians, found that more than 72% of AAPIs who experienced a hate incident believed that anti-Asian discrimination is the greatest source of stress[56] and 70% of AANHPIs believed that discrimination against Asians became more common during the pandemic,

As a result of the fear and stress arising from anti-Asian hate, many AAPI persons changed their behavior in response to bias-motivated attacks and harassment, including closing shops early, avoiding community events or public transportation. Some opted not to report incidents to the police because they feel that their concerns would not be adequately addressed. Stop AAPI Hate commissioned a nationally representative survey of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and found that 45% indicated discrimination negatively changed their sense of belonging, and 31% stated that discrimination impacted their behavior, such as causing them to switch schools, jobs or where they shop.

Conclusion

Our task force is studying further ways to address hate crime and will report to the NYSBA House of Delegates in 2024. Although the hate crime epidemic of 2020–22 against Asian Americans has subsided somewhat, hate crimes persist, and we should continue to push for measures to address the scourge of hate crimes. As President Biden has stated:

For centuries, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders . . . have helped build this nation only to be often stepped over, forgotten, or ignored . . . [they have] lived here for generations, but still considered, by some, the “other” . . . It's wrong . . . it's simply un-American.

Vince Chang is co-chair of the NYSBA Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Asian Hate and a partner at Wollmuth Maher & Deutsch. He is immediate past president of the New York County Lawyers Association, past president of the Asian American Bar Association of New York, member of the NYSBA Task Force on Advancing Diversity, co-chair of the New York Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, and member of the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary. NYSBA.org



BY BENJAMIN ABAYA

From page 1

Hope is a beacon that lights our path, even in the darkest of times. It is the belief that tomorrow holds the potential for improvement and fulfillment. Embracing hope doesn't mean ignoring reality, instead, it empowers us to face challenges with courage and determination. Research has shown that a hopeful outlook is linked to improved mental well-being, resilience, and overall life satisfaction.

The advent of COVID 19, a pandemic of global proportion has abruptly changed our day-to-day lifestyle. Every country has strict protocols to follow such as wearing mask, social distancing, vaccination, number of days in isolation and many other restrictions imposed by the health authorities concerned. Many powerful countries pointed to China as the origin of the unforeseen virus, pointing out the open market of a certain city but immediately denied such speculation. China reasoned out that tourists from other countries were the carrier of the virus that first spread in a Chinese city.

The pandemic while steaming high as it infected millions of Americans became a political issue in the middle of the United States presidential election that resulted into the degree of federal response until it was realized that the pandemic must be stopped its deadly infection as it killed millions of people in every nook and corner of the world. The great hope of worldwide attention finally gained attention that made every country big and small share its expertise to stop the spread of this invisible enemy.

The people of the world did not lose hope that one day their life will be back to normal and enjoy their usual activities of promoting goodwill to their community and country, especially their family which has been as usual enjoy their frequent

Embracing Hope and Empathy Can Change Directions for the Better in the Year 2024

bonding during many festivities that they traditionally hold. Sadly, while the virus is slowly fading into oblivion, many other problems sprout out such as personal hate by a deranged mind of one person against the other, racial discrimination, antigay issue, waves of migration crisis, war on many fronts that resulted in countless deaths and infrastructure destructions.

At the home front, another dangerous issue sprouts out, the hate of Asian nationals who are blamed by a deranged mind person for everything that happened against other nationalities for their misfortunes. Aware of such dangerous behaviors of other nationalities the "Stop Asian Hate" movement started across the United States.

"Stop Asian Hate" is a social movement that emerged in response to the increasing incidents of discrimination, violence and harassment targeting individuals of Asian descent. The movement gained momentum particularly during the pandemic, with reports of anti-Asian racism and xenophobia. Advocates of "Stop Asian Hate" aim to raise awareness about the impact of such incidents to promote solidarity among communities and call for an end to discrimination and violence against Asians. The movement emphasizes the importance of fostering understanding, empathy, and support

to create a more inclusive and equitable society for everyone.

Sacramento was one of the cities spearheading campaigns to combat the violence against Asians in California. The Laban group, a Filipino media collaborative, presented a new anti-Asian hate awareness campaign to the public at the California Museum in Sacramento earlier last year. Organized action is just another closer step to show empathy and hope in our community. Hope emerges as a powerful catalyst, fueling the collective spirit of change. As individuals unite under a common cause, the shared belief in the possibility of positive transformation becomes a driving force.

It serves as a beacon of hope, offering a structured platform for individuals to channel their energies towards meaningful objectives. It is within the collaborative efforts of like-minded advocates, such organizations like Asian American Liberation Network, Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies, Everyday Impact Consulting and Philippine Fiesta News, obviously, with them the seeds of change are sown and nurtured. Through strategic planning, advocacy and community engagement, organized activism becomes a manifestation of hope in action.

The act of coming together, sharing ideas and working to-

wards a common goal fosters a sense of optimism that change is not only conceivable but achievable. Why settle with the status quo this year, in the face of challenges, setbacks, or systemic obstacles, hope acts as a resilient force, inspiring activists to persist in their endeavors, knowing that their collective actions hold the potential to reshape societies and create a more just and equitable future.

Besides hope, we, as a community, can also choose empathy as a pathway to a better tomorrow, a better year and a better life for everyone. Empathy serves as a powerful catalyst for transforming perspectives and fostering understanding. When individuals genuinely embrace empathy, they open themselves to the rich tapestry of diverse experiences and emotions that shape others' viewpoints.

By actively listening and seeking to comprehend the feelings and thoughts of those with differing opinions, empathetic individuals create an environment conducive to open dialogue and mutual respect. In the realm of changing minds, empathy acts as a bridge, enabling individuals to traverse the often-challenging terrain of conflicting beliefs. As one comprehends the struggles, joys and fears of others, preconceived notions can give way to a more nuanced and inclusive perspective. Empathy not only cultivates com-

passion but also sparks a willingness to consider alternative viewpoints, paving the way for transformative change and the building of connections that transcend differences.

Hope and empathy are powerful forces that have the transformative ability to elevate humanity and create positive change. Hope, the optimistic anticipation of a better future, inspires individuals to overcome challenges and persevere through adversity. It serves as a guiding light, illuminating the path towards progress and resilience. When coupled with empathy, the capacity to understand and share the feelings of others, these qualities create a harmonious synergy.

Empathy enables us to connect with the struggles and triumphs of those around us, fostering a sense of unity and compassion. Together, hope and empathy form the bedrock of a more compassionate and understanding society. By embracing hope, we can envision a world where challenges are met with determination, and by practicing empathy, we forge bonds that transcend differences. Ultimately, the combination of hope and empathy empowers individuals to contribute to a collective narrative of kindness, understanding, and positive change, creating a better and more compassionate world for all.



The "Family" is the smallest unit in national building, and it is usually used by our national leaders in their political slogans to inculcate in the minds of their constituents the need for a strong and stable family to contribute to a peaceful and progressive community. After almost 4 years of not seeing each other in one place, the family of Jun and Faina Abaya with their 6 children finally held their reunion on December 25, 2023, at the residence of Hieu and Jumpy Ngo home in Elk Grove, CA.

The family tradition was attended by; Mike and Liza

Valentine with children Mark and Mike; Jongjong and Sheryl Abaya with son Antonio; Jojo and Michelle Abaya and son Christopher; John Marie and Audrey Abaya with children Korben and Lennox; Benjamin and Kristina Abaya; Joseph and Elizabeth Jones with children Everly and Tristian Jones. Not in the picture are John Nino and Amanda Abaya with children Michaela and Giana, and Nathaniel Ngo.

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOUR FAMILY, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!



Induction of FCSV Officers and Board Members Chartering the New Beginning of FCSV

BY MURRAY NAVARRO

From page 1

The mentioned new FCSV EBMs were inducted and installed by Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen of District 10. She was introduced by Josie Patria in which she mentioned her participation in the community and remarkable contribution to the organization. A notable project was the food distribution to the senior cohort and the grants that were given to FCSV for the COVID-19 recovery programs. These are reasons for FCSV to expand its horizon to the greater API community because Nguyen included us in her projects and programs as the Former Executive Director of Asian Resources, Inc. during the height of the COVID pandemic. Before she administered the oath-taking, she mentioned that she would continue to support our community in addition to her initiative financial sponsorship of \$800,000 to build the community center.

After the EBMs were officially installed in their new roles, an acceptance speech by the newly inducted president was delivered which is the heart and soul of any induction and installation programs. Mr. Navarro, who was an unopposed candidate for president, chartered the new term of FCSV's future undertakings for the next two years. His "state of the community" in his discourse was focused on chartering the new FCSV which elaborates his plans and priorities as the leader of the organization. He also recognized that the new set of EBMs is a mix of familiar names and new blood of board members who are dedicated, untiring, and determined volunteers. As they take over the responsibilities, he provided the audience the context as to "why" changes are made for the new FCSV.

He emphasized that FCSV has seen exponential growth in its financial report in the last four years. FCSV had just more or less \$40,000 in our bank account fast forward to today based on the last financial report, FCSV has a total of \$346,264.81 in the bank. That is a prosperous 865.7% as a percent of the increase. He planned to continue to raise funds for the primary goal of the organization for the next two years which is to build the community center. Collaboration is the key element of his plans. The board will continue to join forces with numerous organizations and to name some – ARI, ACC, United Way,



Photos by Dan Dolan

Laban, and Seafood City. This effort is attributed to the previously mentioned inclusion of ARI's projects and programs that FCSV impressively attained from this collaborative effort with the different clubs and organizations of the Filipino community. Moving forward to build relationships with other businesses, institutions, and corporations to advance best practices for FCSV.

Fulfilling the long-awaited dream to become a reality is the most appealing and ambitious of his plans. It has been 50 years since Jose Rizal Community Center lost the ownership of FCSV. But not far from the center, FCSV owns a 1.8-acre lot at the corner of 66th and East Southgate which has been waiting to be shovel-ready. With the sponsored government money of \$880,000.00, the preconstruction operations of the community building will soon take place. The deficit of the total cost to build the center is beyond and above the leg work of the newly installed EBMs to continue fundraising.

With the plans in mind, starting with the Sama-Sama Fashion show aiming to raise \$50,000,

negotiate with Seafood City to work again as its agent for recruiting employees, manage and conduct a peaceful and elegant Mrs. Philippines fundraising, join the yearly Big Day of Giving for the fourth time next year. We were able to raise \$10,000, \$2,000, and \$6,000 for the last three consecutive years. And we will continue to apply for grants because we have an excellent grant writer in the organization in the person of 1st VP Vince A. Sales and with the hope to duplicate the revenue of the Fil-Am History Month fundraising event two years ago.

Swiping out the bad image and changing to a more productive EBM construed the personality of the executive board. The community would like to see real transformational leaders that will take over the organization. He agreed that there is a need to change if the community embraces success the immediately as possible time. Mr. Navarro quoted the pageant guru's principle of transformational leadership. Ms. Paola Shugart believed that (quote) transformational leadership is not about one person, but it can and must be putting the needs of the team

above all else in creating a vision for the future. Further, it can and must be empathetic beyond self-interest and committed to building confidence through inspiration and teamwork, not insecurity and chaos. And above all, it must be about honesty, respect, integrity, and living by your word. One cannot just talk the talk; one must walk the walk (unquote).

For this reason, starting next year, the board will have workable meetings and agendas. Delegating tasks to the different committee chairs to deal with the different issues concurrently and provide us a greater control over the changes to be undertaken. A Building Committee deals with the construction and furnishing of the physical elements of the proposed center, Finance Committee deals with the budget, accounting, and auditing needs, Membership Committee deals with recruitment, orientation, and retention of members, Business Plan Committee deals with a proposal on how to run the center and its future general use, maintenance and management, and Sustainability Committee dealing with the necessary measures to produce a relevant and

workable report to sustain the center over the years once it is constructed. These are essential parts and parcels of the organization to have a long-term plan and maintain our possession of the center. And definitely, these plans will not allow history to repeat itself, just like what happened at Rizal Community Center.

Fortunately, he has qualified and excited teammates who can fill these roles for FCSV. They will help map out the necessary procedures and plans to facilitate the smooth realization of our dreams into reality.

Modern diversity is also essential to conquer the evolving technologies that embody the success of an organization. So, he started to keep an eye on how FCSV has evolved from our early beginnings of FCSV to a more diverse community with the intricacies and complexities of modern times. These changes will help support the community while building a strong support system as they grow.

Mr. Navarro is confident that these changes will (1) provide needed support for our community which is struggling but exceeding its achievement goals, (2) provide support for executive board members and their leadership outcomes, and (3) continue to support all community members regardless of age as the board goes all-out to significantly exist on the map, they are in.

He immaculately believes that this year is an exciting time for FCSV. Their continued high expectations for themselves and the community members coupled with the incredible board team will ensure that they accomplish our long-time dream into a reality to have a community center called "Our Home Sweet Home."

Another highlight of the program was when the council of advisors who are past presidents of FCSV took turns giving their endearing advice to the new EBMs, particularly the president. Josie Patria (1992-1995) acknowledged the new and young members of the executive board. Lilia Rivera (2008-2011) emphasized Robert's rules to be circulated in every meeting. Aida Azurin (2012-2015) prayed for the success of the newly inducted EBMs and lastly, Mercedes Guerrero (2016-2019) enumerated some tasks to be undertaken to avoid chaos on the executive board.

Continued on next page

The Filipino Community Christmas Party Program

BY MURRAY NAVARRO

As the Christmas spirit traversed in every corner of the community, the Filipino Community did let it go but celebrated its yearly traditional merry-making, particularly with the younger cohort of the organization. Last December 16, 2023, the community members gathered from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Magellan Hall along Gerber Road to celebrate the most awaited clubs' event. The said event is celebrated by the different local clubs that FCSV hosts and yearly organizes.

The program was emceed by two fabulous veterans in the community: Sarah Enloe and Leila Pereira. They brought the holiday spirit of a jolly and merry atmosphere that the audience responded with their enthusiastic participation in the community singing of Christmas carols.

The newly inducted FCSV President Murray Navarro shared his thoughts in his welcome address. He stressed that the community Christmas party is a proven gathering and that the community has a solid foundation of unity and camaraderie amongst them bonded with our rich culture and tradition. Even though the current leader of the pack abandoned his team and relinquished his role before the end of the term, they are thriving without disappointment and discontentment.

He further encouraged the crowd to rejoice and merry-making to celebrate their little and bold accomplishments in their community.

And he said, "Feel the joy from the fruitful celebration of our hard work. See our triumphant in our dancing and singing this afternoon. Hear the melancholic



Photos by Dan Dolar

moments during our term because it is not Christmas every day through the jolly melodies. Taste the produce of our labor that once we lingered from hardship. And smell the scent of the future that we are about to flourish because we believe in what we do."

The palpable essence of the celebration was apparent in the presence of the community members that afternoon which is also a piece of evidence that they all love each moment that happened and is happening to the community. He called it the year-end culmination of all the blessings that they received in our community.

As the program progressed during the event, most of the community members surrounded the

Christmas tree. This emblem of the season existed since the year when this traditional celebration started in the community according to Mercedes Guerrero who is the care keeper of the spiral-lighted Christmas tree.

The Christmas party did not emulate anything but a consensus effort of generous donors. There are individuals, organizations, and supporters whose financial and in-kind donations made the party a festive and joyful event. Special thanks to the monetary donation of Mena Domondon that was placed in envelopes for the kids. The happy young ones were lined up to Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus personalized with authentic costumes by Frank Zabal and Aurora Ramos, respectively

to receive their gifts. Kids also received unwrapped toys courtesy of Asian Resources, Inc. headed by Executive Director Rejie Baloyos. Special gifts were also donated by Wells Fargo through the effort of Jinky Dolar.

The jolly crowd was entertained by Jocelyn Morales with her rendition of "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" followed by all other Christmas melodies. The merrygoers enjoyed the sumptuous food catered by Roselie Crandall and the sounds by DZound's Rick Pasalo.

The hall was so festive that captured the real spirit of the season which came from the colorful table decorations from Sylvia Fortis. The decoration committee situated some immaculate colors of the season

on each table. Thanks to Aurora Ramos, Rosanna Rose, Manang Lucing, Aida Azurin, Ling Aveera and Zenny Yagen. The blue shared program was created by Margi Pasalo and some lyrics of Christmas songs. To all working crew members, named or unnamed, may they find peace in their hearts as they devote some muscle work to make the event happen.

As the time approached nighttime, the little ones with their mom, dad, grandma, and/or grandpa enjoyed the treats and gifts that were prepared for them with the hope that they would remember the event and remind them that the Filipino Community cares for them. It was indeed a Christmas to remember.

Induction of FCSV Officers and Board Members

From page 6

In closing, Master and Mistress of Ceremonies who are 1st VP Vince A. Sales and BM Sarah Enloe, respectively called Elk Grove Councilmember Darren Suen for the final word. Suen firmly believed that for an organization to survive the intricacies of challenges that may come along the way, there must be a concrete plan on hand to guide the board members in fulfilling their plans for the community. He confirmed the stated plans of the newly inducted president which were mentioned in his "State

of the Community" acceptance speech. A special guest was also asked to speak before the closing. Dr. Richard Pan mentioned that there are many opportunities and programs of the government available to communities to take advantage of. He vividly knows these programs being a former Senator of California.

The induction program was chaired by the 1st VP Vince A. Sales with the help of Margie Pasalo who controlled the ticket distribution, Aurora Ramos and Luz Daclan who served as ticket

attendants, Sylvia Fortis who chaired the Deco/Table/Set up Committee with Bembet Borromeo, Remy Solomon, Dr. Tony Solomon, Zenny Yagen, Roselie Crandall, Dinnah and Dave San Pedro and Manang Lucing. The guests were welcomed by the receptionist; Rose Delacruz, Mylene Simons, and Dinnah San Pedro. The event was catered by Carol Munar and provided music and sound by DJ Edward Cordero. The event was captured by the lens of Daniel Dolar. The pull-down was headed by Frank Zabal and other board members.



Photo by Dave San Pedro

The event ended with profound evidence of the new beginning of FCSV. There was a great and high regard for ownership of responsibilities on short notice to prepare, execute, and culminate a community event. May this be

the new beginning of FCSV to fulfill the long-awaited dream to come through will not just be a "ningas cogun" but be set through until the end of their term (2024-2025).

A Brief History of American Legion Magellan Post 604

By Remedios Galeste, 1953 Charter member of ALA Magellan Unit 604

in collaboration with

Faina Abaya, President ALA Magellan Unit Post 2006-2008

The history of American Legion Magellan Post 604 is filled with events and circumstances that give us the glimpse of the kind of people who have formed this organization. It comes out that the founding members are endowed with natural traits from the blood of their forebears which runs into their veins that have made them men of stern stuff physically, mentally and spiritually elevating them above the ordinary.

They come from humble beginnings, live through the muscle of their arms and steady callous hands, constantly breathe the scent of the land they will till from dawn to dusk. They are the breed of men whose existence comes from what the fertile soil can give them and their willingness to accept without any qualm manual jobs that they can possibly handle to sustain a livelihood which they are proud to do because they are laborers and farmers by occupation.

Sometime in 1945, just immediately after the end of the World War II, Leo Bautista who was then the president of the Filipino Laborers and Farmers Association of Fairfield of the Filipino Laborers and Farmers Association of Fairfield just moved to Sacramento where the family owned Barbershop was put up at L St downtown Sacramento. During that same year Emetrio Galeste who was managing a large tract of Land in Sacramento was also the president of the Filipino Laborers and Farmers Association of Sacramento County and Vicinity. The place became the tell rendezvous of the many Filipino migrant workers and war veterans where they have haircut, leisurely passed the time, exchanged news about the Philippines and talked about the good and bad or circumstances in their personal or family lives.

Emetrio Galeste and Leo Bautista who had been honorably discharged from the United States Military Service after their short stint during the war actually knew each other since they were called for military duty. Emetrio Galeste was assigned with the U.S. Medical Group Corps while Leo Bautista was with the Artillery Brigade of the U.S. Army. Both saw action in the Pacific theater of the war having been

with the United States Army under General Douglas Mac Arthur when he landed in Leyte Philippines to fulfill his promise to the Filipino people to return and liberate them from the yoke of Japanese invaders.

During all their meetings, they were able to renew their acquaintanceships by reminiscing their war exploits, exchanging matters about their families and many other topics involving their future undertakings. Eventually, the Barbershop at L Street where the migrant workers usually held their meetings became so crowded that they talked about the idea of organizing themselves to have a permanent place to hold their meetings and social activities for the members of their families.

In 1945, Leo Bautista, Emetrio Galeste and some members of the Filipino Laborers and Farmers Association of Sacramento County and Vicinity who were war veterans themselves joined the American Legion and they were meeting at a rented private hall located along Elk Grove-Florin Road in Sacramento. Subsequently, the private hall where the members of the American Legion meet becomes too small to accommodate the war veterans interested to become members.

The Filipino American members have to seriously consider to find a bigger and permanent place to hold their meetings and other activities. The Filipino American members of the American Legion unyielding determination to have a place where they could possibly hold their meetings and social activities for the members of their families was realized when they were told that a piece of land with a building located along Gerber Road, in Sacramento was up for sale. However, the majority of the members of the particular American Legion who showed interest in to purchase the said property were Filipino war veterans whose real occupations were laborers and farmers encountered financial problems because the owner of the real property was asking a substantial amount for down payment.

During those days even the whole Filipino American membership of that American Legion could not possibly afford to raise

the amount being asked, so that they turned to Leo Bautista who was already a businessman aside from being the owner of the Barbershop for financial assistance. According to personal account in the absence of any written document, a loan was contracted between LeonBautista and the Filipino Laborers and Farmers Association of Sacramento County and Vicinity to consummate the purchase of the real property at Gerber road.

Thus, in the same year the Fili-



Past Commander of Magellan Post 604

pino Laborers and Farmers Association of Sacramento County and Vicinity took possession and assumed ownership of the property located at 8831 Gerber Road, Sacramento, CA 95828-4710 Sacramento County. The Filipino American members of the American Legion unanimously agreed to transfer their meeting place at the said property and officially named it as Magellan Post No. 604, The American Legion, Department of California.

The real property was estimated to be about three acres with single level building. The original structure was smaller than the present building. The old building was without the current stage, the office of the commander and with smaller kitchen. A renovation was made sometime in the middle part of the 1950's to add everything that completed the present look of the building today.

Eventually, the old registered name was changed into American Legion Magellan Post 604. Membership is opened to all American veterans regardless of gender, race, religion and political persuasion as long as they are within the categories of veterans provided by the constitution of the American Legion. The elections of set officers are conducted annually. The first com-

mander was Jose Conseco and as of the year 2007 it has been recorded that Mauricio Sagun Illaga who at the age of 100 is the oldest surviving member of the American Legion Magellan Post 604. It may not be the story now since this was written 16 years ago.

In 1953 during the term of Emetrio Galeste as commander,

he encouraged the wives of the members of American Legion Post 604 to join "The world largest women's patriotic service organization, serving veterans, their families and our communities" and "it was formed to aid American Legion in carrying out the great program of peacetime service to America to which the American Legion is dedicated.

In 1959, the Filipino Farmers and Laborers Association of Sacramento County and Vicinity acting as a corporation conveyed the same real property located at 8891 Gerber Rd., Sacramento CA 95828 Sacramento County to the American Legion Post 604, Department of California and the instrument conveyance was executed by Emetrio Galeste, as president and Bill Del Mar as the secretary.

Since that time on, the American Legion Post 604 elected officers assumed administrative and management functions over the said property by paying its annual property tax and other financial obligations for its proper maintenance. However, it is safe to assume that no elected officers of the American Legion Magellan Post 604 can claim ownership of the said property during their term of office because the Grand Deed of the property



Magellan Post 604

Photo by Dave San Pedro

is in the name of the American Legion Post 604, Department of California which possesses legal personality by itself in accordance with our existing laws.

Today, the pioneering spirit of the founding members of the American Legion Magellan Post 694 has been blurred by many circumstances because of the absence of documents and testimonies to show the hardship that they have encountered and this personal sacrifices to establish this organization. However, the founding members of this organization have laid down a solid foundation, so strong that today and years more to come can withstand the test of time.

They were humble in their occupations but they were able to unite themselves in common bond of unity to have their own place where they could meet at the time when it was hard for them to join their other comrade-in-arms who have fought in many great wars for the same cause as they did. Undoubtedly, the founding members of the AL Magellan Post 604 have no other objective in mind than the general welfare of our veterans who have shed their own blood in many battlefields on foreign lands to safeguard our democratic way of life.

Credit must certainly be given to the founding members of the American Legion Magellan Post 604 for having the tenacity and perseverance, despite the tremendous odds that they have encountered succeeded to form this organization. To them, the present members as as the future ones owe them a lasting gratitude because without their magnificent efforts and unyielding determination, we the proud members of the American Legion Magellan Post 604 and the American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604 are not here today.

Note: This brief history of the American Legion can be edited anytime by anyone who has in possession documents or one who can give testimony refuting or adding any circumstance or events mentioned herein.

BY OSCAR APOSTOL

Be-coming a grandfather takes you to another dimension of grace, love, wisdom and priorities. It is no brainer. Looking back, some thirty years ago I was in the prime of my life. I was forty something, working hard, chasing the elusive American Dream like every one else. At the same time I gave back to the community, big time too. In retrospect I feel good and proud I did. Now the winter begins.

Just a few days ago my daughter announced somewhat dis-taught, to more or less remind me she was turning forty. Wow! My pea brain reacted with a query. Really? She was dissatisfied my reaction was not sympathetic to what she expected. I just don't understand why women get flustered with figures. It is only a number, not life.

Back to me. Yes, I am now in the winters of my life. No wonder there's so much aches and pains. They were not there before. I am moving slowly too. The mop of hair, my personal signature that is, which used to be dark, thick and wavy has now dwindled down



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE SAN PEDRO

to precious few strands of silver. Balder pate showing more than hair. I feel the air caressing my head frequently. Perpetual air conditioning. I swear I have more hair on my sideburns. But to me life is a celebration and a gift so I live everyday to the fullest. At the end of the day the body's aches and pains are just memories.

A buddy of mine once teased me that my head is shiny like a mirror. He could clearly see his reflection by looking close to my bald pate. He chuckled like a hyena. I retorted, "Yes right, you must have looked ten times better as usual." No

intrusions to my privacy and my pea brain. It is hurting whatever ego is left. Can't take too many of this. Be a bank, respect my privacy.

Got to hold on to something I can claim my very own, you know. It is crucial to have one even something insignificant. She chuckled and followed it with quip and jokingly reminded me that what's hers is hers and what's mine is hers too. When did this occur? When you said "I do". I did? Oh man.

The other day I was thinking seriously about my grandchildren. Okay, I do think of them a lot. Everyday that is. Call it love.

In the Winters of my Life

A day in the life... with the grandchildren

more bald jokes after that. I get sensitive now and then.

"Does it bother you?" my wife asked.

About my baldness?

Of course not. She acted with a frown, perplexed and somewhat surprised I did not care. "Why not?"

Don't you remember my Dad was bald? It is only hair to me. So there. No more intellectual discussion, please.

Too many in-

During this summer break if we did not hear from them at ten we call. Our conversation goes like this.

Are you okay and do you want to be picked up? Yes Grandpa. Have you had breakfast? Just cereals and juice. Okay, you want McDonald, IHOP or Pancake House? My inner voice shaking its head disagreeing with me. Okay, IHOP it is today. My, the grandkids are clever at switching names to have variety. Smart kids. Empty pockets for me. But that's all right. But it is fun. I get in trouble often with their mother, my daughter.

Dad, please don't spoil them too much, declares my daughter. Oh yeah, not too much huh? I don't have much time on this earth and you tell me don't love them? No Dad. Sorry. I mean not too much sugar rush. Not good. Oh okay. I know the kids love us. Times like this remind me the good old saying I saw on the window shop while in Northern Ireland last fall. "When I get in trouble I go to Grandma and Grandpa." Isn't that so apropos and universal? What a nugget!

Expensive perhaps but it is worth every penny.

Our pool has become our commune and a gathering place with the grandchildren. I am right there swimming and frolicking with them. They can't wait to jump in to the pool but it gets tough to get them

out. Our son and daughter often shake their head exasperated. Going home is the least of their concerns so I usually intervene to listen to their parents. Sleep over at our place is regular during school breaks and weekends.

When the grandkids are with us they get to pick out their treats much to dismay of their parents. What's a Grandpa to do? Kids love junk food. Pizza is popular for dinner. With all of these showering of love and nurturing there is always discipline imposed and restatement of religion and good values which are integral part of being a Filipino. There has to be boundaries. We love them but prepare them to be strong and equip them with strong values to be good responsible citizens. Get them ready when the times to take off and become full-fledge members of the community and the world.

Perspective: We show and demonstrate our love to the grandkids because when we transcend our life, they will remember us with love. That's good enough for us. In the same token we treasure our own grandparents because of their nurturing love. To a child it is full of wonders and something truly magical and special. It is our endowment to their memory box to be opened and treasured later. Yes, we spoil them alright and that's our job as grandparents.

Reprinted from Sept. 2007 issue of PF News



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Sorcy

BY RINABETH "RB" APOSTOL

"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psalm 27:13

Consorcía "Sorcy" Concepción Apostol was hoping to write her own eulogy and obituary. However, on December 18th, 2023, she received a call from her ancestors – her Lola 'Sabel, her mom Betty, her dad Maning, her brother Boy – and other friends she had been missing and hadn't had the opportunity to see for a while. It was an offer that she couldn't refuse. Tasked with a mission to prepare God's good work in time for Christmas - she was to teach the angels how to laugh a little harder, how to take a whole-sided approach to judgment and not discriminate against those who couldn't reach the pearly gates so easily. Yup, God was offering the kind of job security she couldn't say no to because even as a retired educator, the term "retired" was still very loose. She's drinking coffee again, dancing, singing, and joking to her heart's delight. Her appetite is back, her belly is full, and her health is excellent. An organizer until the end, she left detailed instructions in her red notebook for her husband, Bo and her daughters, RB and Rebecca, their spouses Marie and Wahab and her granddogters, Waffle and Storm. Low adherence to these instruc-

tions and tasks will not be tolerated.

Sorcy, also lovingly called "Miss," was constantly busy. It wasn't just motherhood – it was the work that needed to exist so others in the world could peacefully exist. Fighting for social justice isn't an overnight task – it's a lifetime achievement. People whose lives she touched call her super-human, "a forever type of woman," invincible... ineffable, really. But mortality is real and in her human-ness, she did everything she could to make an impact on this earth; taking on dictators while diabetic, creating safe-havens while battling cancer; and eventually giving her whole heart, literally, until it could give no more. And like every human, there is a need to feel special; a need to feel that she belonged as a valued member of society, to feel deeply appreciated and honored by those around her.

It wasn't always the case. In this crazy, messed up world where Sorcy would oftentimes blame capitalism, people have lost their way. Regardless of how she preached love and tolerance, some who were close to her took this for granted. She knew she wasn't perfect, nobody is - but she was steadfast in her faith in humanity, often giving others the benefit of the doubt. She refused to place profit before people – instead extending a help-

ing hand before blame and caring for others before self-care.

Sorcy believed in forgiveness and she wants to let you know that her work here is done. She knew the call was coming and asked to be given her last rites/extreme unction a week before she passed. She was reassured by her husband and daughters in her final moments, that she is an extraordinary woman who is deeply loved and will be deeply missed. Her smile, her energy, her ability to embrace life, the love for her friends and family, and her warmth to her students, community and colleagues will be fondly remembered. She was incredibly hard-working as an educator, activist and even a caregiver to the very end for her Ate Melly.

77 years. Years of encouraging others of their innate special-ness. She wants you to know that you too are valued, worthy of love – that your gifts are beyond intellectual prowess, wealth or star power; but held within the marvelous mystery and indescribable beauty of your simple human heart.

The difference Sorcy made in this world is a lesson in legacy - she asks that you celebrate her accordingly.

STAND UP TO ANTI-ASIAN HATE



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

If you have experienced or witness an incident of anti-Asian hate, bias or discrimination, report at STOPHATE. CALVILRIGHTS.CA.GOV OR CALL 833-8-NO-HATE 833-866-4283

STRONGEST



TOGETHER

KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE. If you have experienced or witnessed an incident of anti-Asian hate, bigotry, bias, or discrimination, report at [STOPHATE.CALCIVILRIGHTS.CA.GOV](https://stophate.calcivilrights.ca.gov) or call **833-8-NO-HATE (833-866-4283)**. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**



The following ad campaign is brought to you by the Laban Group: Filipino Ethnic Media Collaborative. This group aims to promote awareness in our beloved Filipino American community and the broader public about anti-Asian hate incidents and crimes; reduce stigma surrounding the reporting of hate incidents and hate crimes; enhance understanding of resources for victims and survivors; and, to promote community healing and cross-racial collaboration. This collaborative is funded by the "Stop The Hate" campaign from the California State Library in partnership with the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs. Learn more at linktr.ee/labangroup.

KNIGHTS OF RIZAL – SACRAMENTO LANDMARK CHAPTER IN ACTION



BY IRVIN ISRAEL NOVAL

The Knights of Rizal – SLC conducted an Outreach program themed, “SPREADING AHOLIDAY CHEER”. It was a Christmas gift giving event held at the St. Peter – All Hollovs Parish. The recipients were students

of the English Catechism class, led by their teacher Madam Marivel Camasura & husband Sir Randy. Also present during the event was Father Jovito Rata who himself is the Parish priest. It was a successful event and the teachers proposed to do it again next year and make it bigger involving other members. They were all thankful to the KOR-SLC organization for the outreach program and for their generosity!

AT THE CONSULATE:

The 127th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Dr. Jose Rizal, who is the National Hero of the Philippines was celebrated at an earlier date last Dec. 21 to coincided with the first overseas visitation of our newly elected Supreme Commander Sir Raymundo A. Del Rosario KGOR, Year 2023-2025. During that day flowers and wreath were offered at the Bust ni Rizal and in attendance were the Consulate staff and the Knights of Rizal officers. Moreover, our very own Consul General Neil

Frank R. Ferrer was elevated to a higher degree in the order and is now a Knight of Rizal Commander and will be heading the Bay Area Chapter. Rizal Day is Dec. 30, which is considered a Philippine National Holiday, is widely celebrated all over the world by Filipino`s to commemorate his life and works.





*Knights of Rizal
Sacramento Landmark Chapter
In Action*






SPREADING A HOLIDAY CHEER!

*When: 9-10 am Dec. 17, 2023
Recipients: Catechist Class
Where: St. Peter all Hallaws Church*




Buhay Pinoy

Komiks by Dave San Pedro

Lasang Pinoy

Embutido



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE SAN PEDRO

Ingredients:
 1 kilo half lean ground pork (1/2 lean and 1/2 fat)
 ¼ cup bell pepper
 ¼ cup sweet pickle relish
 1 tbsp salt
 1 tbsp ground black pepper
 ½ cup carrots (cut in small cubes)
 1 large onion (minced)
 1 tbsp garlic powder (or 3 cloves fresh garlic finely chopped)
 1 large egg
 ¼ cup raisins (soaked in water first)

Instructions:
 In a large mixing bowl. Mix all ingredients until well blended NOTE: you can bake 1 tbsp of the pork mix in the oven to check if you need to adjust seasoning.
 Let rest for ½ hour to marinate
 Prepare 6 to 7 pieces of foil . Lay a piece of square foil on a flat surface and place around 250 grams of the pork mixture onto the center of each foil.
 Finally, roll the aluminum foil into a tightly packed log about 1" to 2" in diameter, sealing on both ends. Repeat with the remaining pork mixture.
 Place the embutido in a steamer and steam for an hour.
 Let it cool and slice. Serve with ketchup or your favorite sauces. Bon Appetit!

Notes
 Alternatively, if you don't have a steamer: place embutido in a wire rack on a baking pan, half filled with hot water. Cover with aluminum foil (Be sure the steam will not escape). Steam-bake in the center of the oven for an hour.

Jo Koy Reacts to Taylor Swift Sipping Her Drink After His Joke About Her Fell Flat at Golden Globes: 'It Was Cute'

The host called out the singer and the attention she gets when she attends NFL games to support boyfriend Travis Kelce during Sunday's awards show

BY JULIA MOORE
People

Taylor Swift was less than impressed when host Jo Koy shouted her out during the 2024 Golden Globes on Sunday — and now the host is sharing his reaction to her response.

The comedian made a joke about Swift, 34, and the NFL during his monologue. “The big difference between the Golden Globes and the NFL? On the Golden Globes, we have fewer camera shots of Taylor Swift,” he said, adding, “I swear, there’s just more to go to.”

The singer kept a neutral face when the camera panned to her for a reaction. Then, while still on-screen, she simply took a sip of her drink and kept her eyes forward, despite the apparent dig at her and Travis Kelce’s relationship.

After the show, Koy, 52, talked to Entertainment Tonight about the joke, and Swift’s response. “Aww man. It was cute! It was cute!” he said. “I was just saying — it’s less cutaways. That’s all!”

The comedian’s quip about the attention Swift and Kelce’s relationship has garnered comes after ratings for the NFL have skyrocketed in the months since the singer began cheering on the Kansas City Chiefs tight end in-person.

The league has embraced the newfound viewership, from promoting Chiefs games with Swift’s music to changing their X bio to shout out the Grammy winner. The support even goes all the way to the top, with commissioner Roger Goodell on board.

Goodell said on CBS Mornings that the relationship was “great” as he noted that “it has connected more fans of Taylor’s and more fans of the NFL in some ways.” He added: “I think it’s great for the league to have that kind of attention. So, we welcome it.” The singer has also shared her opinion on the matter. “I don’t know how



Taylor Swift, Jo Koy at the 81st Golden Globe Awards held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on January 7, 2024 in Beverly Hills, California.

they know what suite I’m in,” she said during her TIME Person of the Year interview, explaining: “There’s a camera, like, a half-mile away, and you don’t know where it is, and you have no idea when the-camera is putting you in the broadcast, so I don’t know if I’m being shown 17 times or once.”

Regardless, though, Swift is only there for one reason. “I’m just there to support Travis,” she said. “I have no awareness of if I’m being shown too much and pissing off a few dads, Brads and Chads.”

“When you say a relationship is public, that means I’m going to see him do what he loves, we’re showing up for each other, other people are there and we don’t care,” she continued. “The opposite of that is you have to go to an extreme amount of effort to make sure no one knows that you’re seeing someone. And we’re just proud of each other.”

As for the sport itself, she admitted, “Football is awesome, it turns out. I’ve been missing out my whole life.”

Swift was at the annual film and TV awards show presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association — with bestie Keleigh Sperry, the wife of Miles Teller, as her date — as a five-time nominee. She was nominated this year in the newly created cinematic and box office achievement category

for the Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour concert film, which documented her record-breaking, career-spanning live show.

Barbie ultimately won the award, but Swift enjoyed the night out with Sperry, 31, and Selena Gomez, who was also nominated for Only Murders in the Building.

Golden Globes Winners

By Kimberly Nordyke
The Hollywood Reporter

The 2024 Golden Globes were handed out Sunday night, with Oppenheimer, Barbie, Poor Things and Anatomy of a Fall among the films winning multiple awards.

Oppenheimer was named best motion picture, drama, with Christopher Nolan taking home the directing award for his work on the movie. Poor Things won the Globe for best motion picture, musical or comedy. Anatomy of a Fall won the film for best non-English-language motion picture, while The Boy and the Heron was named best animated film.

Lily Gladstone, Paul Giamatti, Emma Stone, Robert Downey Jr., Jeremy Allen White, Da’Vine Joy Randolph, Ayo Edebiri, Kieran Cullkin, Ali Wong, Steven Yeun and Matthew Macfadyen were among the winners in the acting categories. Billie Eilish O’Connell and Finneas O’Connell won

the award for best song. This year, Globes were handed out in new categories recognizing stand-up comedy and cinematic and box office achievement. Barbie won the award for best cinematic and box office achievement, whose category included eight nominees chosen from films that achieved “a box office receipt total/gross of \$150 million, of which \$100 million must come from the U.S. domestic box office, and/or obtain commensurate digital streaming viewership recognized by trusted industry sources,” the Globes said in announcing the category.

The award for best performance in stand-up comedy on television featured six nominated comedians who gave “traditional stand-up comedy performances of at least 30 minutes, other than roles in television series, lim-

ited series, anthology series or motion pictures made for television” on “a recognized media platform (individual social media accounts do not qualify).” Past Globes host Gervais took that award for Ricky Gervais: Armageddon (though he was a no-show).

Jo Koy hosted the ceremony, which aired live on CBS from the Beverly Hilton and streamed on Paramount+. Heading into the ceremony, Barbie and Succession led the nominations for the 2024 Golden Globes, with nine apiece.

This year’s Golden Globes mark the first since the Golden Globes’ longtime backer, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, was replaced following the acquisition of all the HFPA’s assets, rights and properties by Dick Clark Productions and Eldridge. Dick Clark Productions now owns and produces the Golden Globe Awards. DCP is owned by Penske Media Eldridge, a joint venture between Penske Media Corporation and Eldridge that also owns The Hollywood Reporter.

With the Globes no longer being overseen by the HFPA, a new, racially and ethnically diverse group of voters — made up of 300 journalists from around the world, representing 76 countries — selected this year’s nominees and winners.

In November, the Globes inked a new broadcast deal with CBS after the awards group ended its longtime relationship with NBC, which aired the 2023 Golden Globes, earlier this year.



Margot Robbie, Lily Gladstone, and Christopher Nolan accept their Golden Globe Awards. ‘Oppenheimer,’ ‘Barbie,’ ‘Poor Things,’ ‘Killers of the Flower Moon,’ ‘Succession,’ ‘Beef’ and ‘The Bear’ were among the night’s big winners.

KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE.

Photograph by Andri Tambunan



STAND UP TO ANTI-ASIAN HATE.

35% (154) OF INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE OCCURED IN A PUBLIC SPACE (I.E. STREET, PARK, SIDEWALK, PARKING LOT).

*Data pulled from the Bulosan Center's report on California Filipinos which gathered data from Stop AAPI Hate

If you have experienced or witnessed an incident of anti-Asian hate, bigotry, bias, or discrimination, report at **STOPHATE.CALCIVILRIGHTS.CA.GOV** or call **833-8-NO-HATE (833-866-4283)**.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.



The following public awareness campaign is brought to you by the Laban Group: Filipino Ethnic Media Collaborative. Led by Everyday Impact Consulting, Laban Group aims to promote awareness in our beloved Filipino American community and the broader public about anti-Asian hate incidents and crimes; reduce stigma surrounding the reporting of incidents and crimes; enhance understanding of resources; and foster community healing and cross-racial collaboration. This collaborative is funded by the "Stop The Hate" initiative from the California State Library in partnership with the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs. Learn more at linktr.ee/labangroup.

All proceeds will go to the Building Fund

FIESTA

Kick-Off Dinner & Dance Party

January 27, 2024

Pat O'Brien Community Center

8025 Waterman Road, Sacramento CA 95829

Dancing All Night Long, No Speeches

Cocktail Dress or Dancing Outfit

Starts at 5:30 pm
Ends at 10 pm

Donation \$40



Caterer-Rosalie
DJ-Dzound

Sponsored by:



For added fun, we will give the following awards with cash prizes:

- Star of the Night
- Best Dressed Woman & Man
- Best Ballroom Dancing Couple

Accepts Venmo, Zelle and Apple Pay

For more information please call:

Margie Pasalo—916-606-7179

Sylvia Fortis—916-832-6067

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 20, 2024

THE LABAN GROUP LAUNCHES YEAR TWO

SAVE THE DATE and join us on SATURDAY, January 20 to start off the new year with us!

We can't believe it's already been a year since our first Laban press conference and ad campaign launch! Our January Kick-Off event will recap our first year and highlight the necessity of continued support for ethnic media. We will also be unveiling some exciting updates for our second year, as well as launching the first ad for our 2024 campaign.

Light bites will be served!
More details to come.



CALIFORNIA AY PARA SA LAHAT

Upang mag-ulat ng isang mapoot na gawa Tumawag sa (833)866-4283 o bisitahin ang CAVsHate.org

USE YOUR VOICE TO REPORT HATE

Call 833-8-NO-HATE or Visit CAVsHate.org

UNITY. EQUALITY. DIGNITY.



Photograph by Andri Tambunan

November 2023

ILAW NG LIPUNAN

AAPI HATE AND VIOLENCE DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTS FILIPINA WOMEN AS THEY ACCOUNT FOR 55% (247) OF THE REPORTS IN CALIFORNIA.* But that darkness cannot dim our light. Proudly burn bright to lead our community. If you have experienced or witnessed an incident of anti-Asian hate, bigotry, bias, or discrimination, report it at **STOPHATE.CALCIVILRIGHTS.CA.GOV** or **CALL 833-8-NO-HATE (833-866-4283)**.

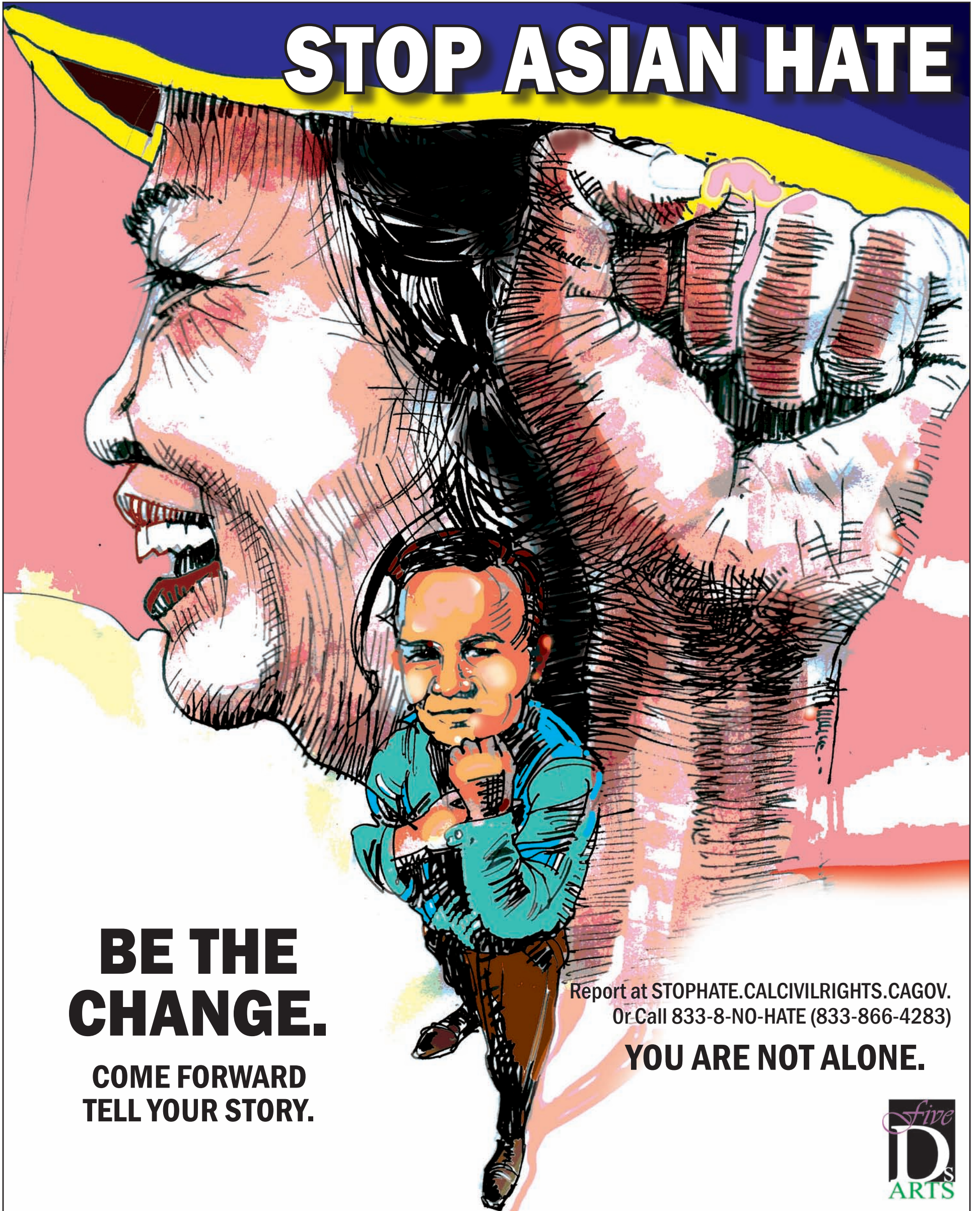
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STOP ASIAN HATE



**BE THE
CHANGE.**

**COME FORWARD
TELL YOUR STORY.**

Report at STOPHATE.CALCIVILRIGHTS.CAGOV.
Or Call 833-8-NO-HATE (833-866-4283)

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BE THE CHANGE.

#HATE IS A VIRUS

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STOP ASIAN HATE
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YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

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