The AACP Newsletter

Since 1970

Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc.

May 2009

AsianAmericanBooks.com - The Most Complete Nonprofit-Source for Asian American Books

Entries From Growing Up Asian in America 2009 A Program of the Asian Pacific Fund

Fund and their contest back in our May 2004 newsletter.

Growing Up Asian in America is a writing and art contest for To see the traveling exhibit of all of the winning entries, go to the Heritage Month. Each year the Asian Pacific Fund chooses a winners online, go to Asian Pacific Fund's winners page. different theme for the contest.

This year's theme is entitled -

Change; if you could change one thing to make the world a better place, what would that be?

AACP is happy to present to you a few of the essays and art from The theme came from Asian Pacific Fund's desire to find out how the Asian Pacific Fund's 2009 Growing Up Asian in America Bay Area youth felt about the current tumultuous period we live contest. This marks the fifth year that we've helped to highlighting in. Contestants were encouraged to explore such topics as the this marvelous contest. We first wrote about the Asian Pacific current global financial crisis, increasing threats to the environment, and the recent United States presidential election.

students from around the San Francisco Bay Area. The contest is Asian Pacific Fund's exhibit schedule page to find the date and timed to work in conjunction with Asian Pacific American locations of the exposition nearest you. To see all of this year's

> To those of you that are interested in entering next year's contest, check back with the Asian Pacific Fund's website in January of 2010 to learn of the new theme, and to find the entry form and

2009 Growing Up Asian in America Featured Entries

Provided courtesy of the Asian Pacific Fund

The presenting sponsor of Growing Up Asian in America 2009 is Target. Other major sponsors include NBC Bay Area, The Safeway Foundation, Walgreens, the Wells Fargo Foundation, and the Asian Art Museum. The Asian Pacific Fund is a community foundation that works with donors to improve the well-being of all Asian Americans in the Bay Area.

K-5 1st Place

Musical Changes

Sahana Narayanan, 5th Grade Sunnyvale, CA Living Wisdom School

If I were to change the world in one way I would give everyone on the planet a music education. Music education would help the world because when people learn to enjoy and appreciate music, then they can calm their minds. Music helps us look beyond ourselves. The sweet melodic tunes of different cultures bring inner peace to us in a unique way. And with this peace of mind, we stop thinking just about ourselves and start thinking about others. Music calms my mind in many ways. It helps me to concentrate. It makes me sensitive to others. It inspires me and makes me aware. If everyone had these benefits, then we could solve many of the world's problems such as poverty, war, violence, and global warming.

Music training improves concentration. And with better concentration, we could not only find out new answers to old questions, but also new questions that await new answers. In my violin class I have to focus very hard. If I don't concentrate, I can lose the whole flow. Each time I practice I find a new problem to solve. When one learns music, concentration becomes a normal part of your life. Just think if all of us had the opportunities to learn to focus the way that I have had through music. If we all did this, we could start the journey that awaits us of remaking earth by concentrating to help solve tough problems that we never even thought about.

We could understand the true beauty of other countries and avoid wasted wars. We would appreciate the melodies of Iraq, the elegant melodic pentatonic scales of China, the rich spiritual heritage of India, and the great rhythms of Africa. When I went to China about two years ago, I heard a certain five-note scale. I realized we South Indians call that scale "Mohana" Raga. We might be friends or enemies with certain countries, but really we are all the same like the Chinese scale and "Mohana" Raga.

But best of all music education brings me inner peace and inspiration. I sing South Indian Carnatic music, and the lyrics praise God. The meanings are usually something like, "Oh lord, you are the embodiment of good" or "you are the noblest of all." When I sing this music with understanding, it adds to my pleasure and gives me ideas to improve myself. Although the lyrics were written many centuries ago they can still help us today. People need this. When I sing a song with feeling, I reap much happiness and excitement. I wish that everyone could have this experience. If they did then people would be happier and it would give people the power to do what needed to be done.

As an Asian-American living in the bay area, I have had the privilege to learn not only the music of this land but also my ancestor's land. From this experience, I feel that music from here and all over the world can help us in making the world a better

(Continued on Page 2)

Give Us Your Feedback

Please feel free to send us your reviews, comments, and book suggestions. You can contact us at - aacpinc@asianamericanbooks.com

Up Coming Events

Here are some events that AACP will soon be attending. Invite us to your events.

Date/Time	Event	Location
June 27	San Mateo Buddhist	2 S. Claremont St.
4-10pm	Temple Annual Bazaar	San Mateo, CA
July 2-5	Tule Lake Pilgrimage	Klamath Falls, OR
-		Tulelake, CA
July 11-12	San Jose Obon Festival	SJ Buddhist Temple
-		San Jose, CA
July 18-19	Ginza Bazaar & Obon	SF Buddhist Church
	Odori	San Francisco, CA
Aug 6-9	OCA National Convention	St. Francis Hotel
		San Francisco, CA
Other Event of Interest that AACP May Not Attend		
May 26-30	National Conference on	Hilton San Diego
•	Race & Ethnicity in	Bayfront
	American Higher	1 Blvd Dr
	Education	San Diego, CA
June 4-	New World Order:	Fort Mason
July 10	Humanity Art Exhibit	San Francisco, CA
	Feature works by Flo Oy	
	Wong and others	
	SFMOMA Artists Gallery	
June 7	Charlie Chin's Uncle	Museum of CA
3pm	Toisan	Oakland, CA
June 14 &	Charlie Chin's Uncle	King Library
23	Toisan	San Jose, CA
June 20	Japanese Cultural Fair	Mission Plaza Park
11am-6pm		Santa Cruz, CA
June 26-28	JACL National Youth	Macalester College
	Conference	St. Paul, MN
July 18-19	Mountain View Obon	575 N. Shoreline Blvd.
-	Festival	Mountain View, CA
July 31-	The 11th Annual KAAN	Sheraton Hotel
Aug 2	Conference	Denver, CO
	(Korean American Adoptee	
	Adoptive Family Network)	

Editor's Message

Hello Everyone,

It was nice to see some of you at the events that we went to in May. There were four additional events that we attended that were not on the last newsletter's calendar.

Thank you Gail Kong of Asian Pacific Fund for allowing us to show your wonderful essays and art for our newsletter and the Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration in San Mateo. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Thank you to the winners of the Growing Up Asian in America contest. Your works were great and inspirational. I feel better about the future when I see your works and know that there's a new generation out there that show compassion, forethought, and motivation. I am especially glad to see that someone from my alma mater of Balboa High School in San Francisco won third place in the 9-12th grade group.

Thank you very much to all the volunteers that helped with the San Mateo Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration. Thank you to all of you that attended the event - we hope that you enjoyed it.

My apologies to those of you that wrote to me and haven't received a reply. I've been trying to complete a backlog of other tasks that have been placed on hold for the past few months. Please continue to send me your feedback.

Don't forget, June is our annual travel issue of the AACP newsletter. If you have a suggestion on some place that has an Asian Pacific American connection that you think deserves more visitors, please let me know so that I can write about it in our next newsletter. Or better yet, send me a complete description and I'll included it verbatim in the newsletter. Thanks.

Take care everyone.

Leonard Chan **Executive Editor**

Growing Up Asian in America

(Continued from page 1)

6-8 2nd Place

Change in Me

Jalena Keane Lee, 8th Grade Berkeley, CA Julia Morgan School for Girls

Friday October 3, 2008

"Aren't you excited for the dance tonight?" "I can't go. My mom is kidnapping me to Reno, for the last weekend to register voters."

My 80 year-old grandmother, cousin, mom and I embarked on a six-hour journey. During the drive, I daydreamed about the dance

and what I would be missing that night. When we arrived at the Obama Nevada Headquarters, we were bombarded by a packed parking lot, a huge grey warehouse with a line of people waiting to sign in and receive canvassing packets. The smell of coffee and doughnuts filled the air.

After we signed in, we found seats and waited for the presentation. As I sat there boredom enveloped me. Looking around I saw peace posters and bicycles hanging from the walls, when suddenly I noticed hundreds of people had come into the room, larger than the 300 anticipated. Streaming into the warehouse were 1,000 eager campaign volunteers of all ages filled with excitement.

introduced himself, described the day and issued a challenge: go of judgment and experiencing the moment. Register 1,000 voters today - win Nevada for Obama, and he would shave off all his facial hair. People laughed and applauded. 9-12 Honorable Mention

We made arrangements for Grandma to stay at the headquarters to avoid all the walking and we set out to canvass. As we left, I looked back to see my grandmother standing in the middle of the crowd looking forlorn. She wanted to go with us and didn't feel like she would be of any use at the headquarters.

Off we went into unknown neighborhoods, at first it was intimidating to knock on stranger's doors, but I got the hang of it. House after house, we were greeted by Caucasian families, very different from my multicultural upbringing in Berkeley. It felt good to know that perhaps my mom and I were breaking the shy Asian stereotype for those people. We knocked on hundreds of doors, registered two new voters, and arrived back at the headquarters, exhausted.

During the time that we were gone, my Grandmother had organized a potluck for the 1,000 volunteers and everyone was asking her for directions. Our large family throws gatherings at least once a month so everyone knows how to cook, prepare food, prep a space, and organize a huge party. When the coordinator was making his final speech he singled out my Grandma to thank her. Then the staff asked us if we could bring her back every weekend!

The purpose of the event was to create community, let the volunteers have some fun and share inspirational and funny stories. One story stood out to me. The coordinator said, "Come share your story if this is the first time you've been involved in a political campaign." Most people were expecting a teen, but instead a 50-year-old father went on the stage and said, "I never strongly believed in politics, but when I saw how much Obama inspired my son, I knew who I would be voting for. My son is the one who arranged this whole trip, and signed us both up. I am so proud of him, and when I remember back to when I was his age, I The images of Dhaka, Bangladesh are vividly pressed into my wish that I could be as driven and responsible as he is." Every word conveyed how much he loved and admired his son. After he left the stage, the two embraced in a warm hug, and the dad whispered into his son's ear "I hope I didn't embarrass you up there" and the son responded with tears in his eyes "You did great Dad."

During the party there were a number of people sitting in the back room, typing up all the data that we had collected that day. Towards the end of the event the coordinator announced that not only had we matched the number of register voters, we topped it. All of us together had registered 1,200 people so the coordinator would be shaving. There were cheers, hugs and laughter all around.

This was the turning point in my trip; this was the change in me. I realized what a difference I was making and how important it was for me to be there. I registered two voters, I watched my Grandma, at 80 still ready to change the world, and I experienced a fantastic party filled with hope. I saw how much of a difference I could make. My sense of self and priorities had grown from my

Standing in front of a large screen, the coordinator, a 26-year-old small school, to the broader world. By opening my mind I had a Caucasian man, with wire-rimmed glasses, and bushy facial hair, good time, and learned that I can change how I feel, just by letting

The World Chants: 'Yes We Can'

Arifeen Rahman, 9th Grade San Jose, CA Saint Francis High School

Change has never been a foreign concept to me. Since I was little, languages would swerve in an out of my tongue, combining, intertwining, and creating words and phrases even my parents had never heard of. Traditions would meld into a delightful potpourri. Eid was celebrated alongside Thanksgiving at my home; the turkey held it place of honor right next to haphazardly stacked boxes of prized sweets. Change has always been fluid to me, an evolving force of silent renewal and growth. But now, change is different. It is revolutionary, quick, abrupt, empowering shattering. I watched President Obama's election with fervor and the economy's death sentence with horror. The world is now amplified - each word ricocheting off walls of steel, each action spreading ripples across vast lakes of still water.

We live in a rare world today, tangled in a web of connections where information can travel from one end of the earth to another in a second. Yet, in many ways we are still so disconnected from one another. In today's world we seem to have forgotten our rare gift of empathy, instead lapsing into an apathetic state of thoughtless indifference. If I could change but one thing in this world, I would remove apathy from the human mindset.

The human ability to so strongly empathize with one another is distinctly ours - it is a gift to be treasured, and used to the utmost of our ability. Reverting to apathy means losing our humanity in the process. Our apathetic mindset is the largest barrier to solving the world's problems. Poverty and the environment are two issues that apathy has caused to spiral deeper into ruin.

mind from my visits as a child. The blaring of car horns mesh with the steady rise of exhaust from cars. Little scooters running on natural gas zip past tiny cars running on mixed gasoline and diesel. Ragged faces of young children peer in through car windows, begging for money. Not a single face turns to acknowledge them as they pass by.

The people are sedated, numbed by the everyday occurrence of such pain and suffering, that it no longer means anything to them. They are numbed by apathy. It is firmly in my belief that such horrors should no longer be mindlessly accepted. Every child deserves a home and an education. The upper and middle class must empathize with the less fortunate.

At the same time, apathy plagues the western world just as equally, if not more than the developing world. Landfills store plastic, waste, and garbage in pits of land. Excess almost literally defines our culture. Nothing can be reused more than once before being thrown away. Consumed with greed, companies obsess about short-term profit, forsaking the environment in the process.

environmental sustainability. Poverty has driven the poorest of convalescent home, visiting residents on his Segway sleigh. these nations to become the greatest recyclers. In Dhaka, nothing is wasted. Plastic is a rare substance. Bottles are collected. Tin And then, there was the mosque. cans are crushed and reused. Piles of newspaper constantly renew themselves as new copies. Plastic bags have been banned to When the editor-in-chief assigned me to photograph a religious protect sewage pipes from clogging during flood season. Their empathy and depth of connection with the earth's resources has It was the last day of Ramadan, and as a Catholic, I knew nothing created a practical method of preserving the environment.

abstract is impossible. This unknown substance, apathy, cannot be engineered and exchanged with a shiny replacement hot from the factory. However, the war on apathy can be fought on several surprise, they invited me to eat with them as they broke their final levels, from local to global. I fight in the war against apathy every fast. As we shared rice, they told me about how difficult it has shift I volunteer at Agnews Developmental Center and El Camino become to be a Muslim in America, how the word "Muslim" has Hospital. Every shift I complete brings me one step closer to nearly become a conversational slur since 9/11. In that mosque, I understanding these new worlds.

one another.

In the future I see myself as a writer, a novelist, or a playwright. I believe that the power of the pen can completely transform the world. Real change is brought through words, pen on paper, that affect people so much more deeply - a connection on a deeper level than thoughts or looks.

The secret to defeating apathy is embracing change itself as a progressive force to better humanity. In hope, I move forward.

9-12 Honorable Mention

Untitled

Carlo Acenas, 12th Grade Burlingame, CA Burlingame High School

Diversity builds character. When someone shares in the culture of others, he or she becomes a part of the community. I learned this when I joined the staff of a local newspaper. As a photojournalist, I have tried to bring news to life with the emotional power of a photograph. Although I aim to connect readers to the story, I have covered some extraordinary stories that have enriched my own life, opening my eyes to the diversity in my community.

There was the youth poetry contest-a third-grade girl stood alone onstage, reading her tribute to "the King" who had a dream of equality. There was the war protest-a high school Spanish teacher, standing beside her daughter, held up a sign with the words, "Ceasefire now," calling for peace in the Middle East. There was

In contrast, necessity has forced the developing world to reach Santa's Sleigh Ride-Saint Nick zoomed down the halls of a

service at the local mosque, I was treading in unfamiliar territory. about Ramadan except that it was a month when Muslims fast all day. The evening prayer began, and the worshippers knelt in two Many deny me my dream. They proclaim that changing an idea so neat rows. When I listened to the worshipers deep in verse, I felt the devotion in their words. I hardly lifted the camera to my eye. After the ceremony, I asked them about Ramandan, and to my realized the one thing in our world that needs to change.

As an Asian-American, change has always been fluid for me. I Our world is diverse. But people are not always accepting. Even have never lived in one world, but a mixture of two seamlessly at school, people stare suspiciously at students with veils and spun together. This is the world that I wish to show people. The turbans, and some people mock the Middle Eastern Club in casual true method to combating apathy is to open our eyes and to conversation. My Muslim friends avoid publicly announcing their embrace a true connection of East and West, rich and poor, faith. I will never forget when I found Ms. Gorgani, a Persian, realizing the breadth of diversity that surrounds us. The true crying in her room. The flags of Iraq and Iran that hung in the method is forming an interconnected realm, open to learning from halls during Diversity Week had been torn down and trampled. My experiences inspire me to defend diversity. Although I cannot cause intolerance to disappear, I can use my abilities to fight prejudice of all kinds in my local community. This semester for an English project I will photograph the daily lives of a number of students who come from different backgrounds. Some of these students emigrated from foreign countries, others have divorced parents, and a few live in foster care. In May, I will present my photographs to my classmates, with the hope that they will learn to appreciate our differences.

> In college, I want to work for a closer school community. To do this, I will strive to create human connections between students, as I try to do at my high school today. In 2007, I started a club called the KARMA Initiative, whose premise was simple-share a genuine experience with someone new. To initiate such interactions, we carry out "missions" that let people be silly together. In one such mission called Mission Rainy Day Fun, club members used umbrellas when walking outside, even though the sun shined like the summertime. In many of our missions, we confuse many entertained onlookers, but we have fun with each other and recognize that we tend to let our differences separate us.

> We all have a desire for companionship and compassion. Diversity creates opportunities to share both. In the next few years, I will meet many different people who will broaden my understanding of global diversity. A college education will give me new abilities that I can use to work for tolerance in my community. Even if the goal of tolerance seems unattainable, unconditional acceptance is worth a lifetime of work.

Links for this Article

- AACP's first article on the Asian Pacific Fund http://asianamericanbooks.com/newslets/nl0504.htm
- Asian Pacific Fund's website http://asianpacificfund.org/
- Growing Up Asian In America 2009 winning entries page http://asianpacificfund.org/awards/quaa/this-years-winners
- Exhibit schedule http://asianpacificfund.org/awards/guaa/general-information/exhibit-schedule

Growing Up Asian In American Art K-5 Honorable Mention K-5 Second Place 6-8 Second Place 9-12 Third Place Save the Striving for a **Tamil** Greener (Children in Sri **Tomorrow** Lanka) Catherine Chen. Omaelan 10th Grade Hariharan San Jose, CA Cupertino, CA I want to be a solar engineer **Education for Everyone** Notre Dame High to change the world School Faton Jennifer Gao Jerry Guo, 3rd Grade Elementary San Jose, CA Palo Alto, CA - Challenger School School **Discovery Charter School**

Miscellaneous Thoughts, Comments, and News

By Leonard D. Chan

and Soul

Obama of Asian Heritage? At first, I thought the answer was no. included a passage from the bill that established Asian Pacific But my friend pointed out that Obama had spent time in Heritage Month. House Joint Resolution 1007 states that Indonesia, that his stepfather was Indonesian, and that his sister Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week (as it was know then) was half Indonesian. Did this qualify Obama as being of Asian Heritage?

The Princeton online dictionary's first definition defines heritage as practices that are handed down from the past by tradition.

So yes, it is possible for President Obama or anyone else to be of Asian or Pacific Islander heritage, so long as one is attentive to learning the culture and history of these groups. The opposite could also be said - you can loose your heritage if you don't We that call America our home are not foreigners. We are bother to learn from the past. Heritage is not in our blood or genes; it must be ingrained in our heart, mind, and soul.

American Heritage Month?

I've noticed more Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebrations, events, and observances this year. I've also noticed Last Note that the titles of some of these events begin with Asian Pacific In the past two weeks we lost two really major Asian American happened to "American?"

Perhaps it's an inaccurate observation, but whether it's just a few or many, let me remind you, especially those that have some There will be a memorial service and celebration of Him Mark Heritage Month.

Heritage, It's not in the Blood, but in the Heart, Mind, From my AACP newsletter article in May 2006, entitled Why May and is it Still Needed?: Asian Pacific American Heritage Not long ago I had this email discussion with a friend - is Barack Month's Origins (AsianAmericanBooks.com/newslets/nl0506.htm#whymay), I "would bring to the attention of the American people the contributions that Asian/Pacific Americans have made to this Nation."

> Although learning culture and history of places in Asia and the Pacific Islands is to be commended and not at all discouraged, we must not loose focus that it is the Asian and Pacific Islander "American" heritage and experience that we celebrate in May.

Americans, perhaps of a different stripe, but still Americans. Let us celebrate our forefathers and mothers - perhaps ourselves for the more recent arrivals - remember and praise them for their What Happened to the "American" in Asian Pacific courage, struggles, and perseverance in helping to build this country and make a life here in America.

Heritage or Asian Heritage or some variation of this. What History/Studies scholars - Him Mark Lai and Ronald Takaki. They will be missed, but hopefully their work and writings will live on.

control over the naming of these events, that "American" is Lai's life on Saturday, June 20, at 2:30 pm, at the Chinese Culture extremely important to the whole point of Asian Pacific American Center, 750 Kearny St., in San Francisco's Chinatown. A memorial service is planned for Professor Takaki at UC Berkeley on some date yet to be determined.

ADDITIONS TO OUR WEBSITE

The following books are discounted for subscribers to our newsletter. The discounts on these books end June 20, 2009.

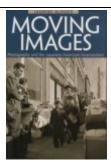


Mine Okubo Following Her Own Road

Edited by Greg Robinson and Elena Tajima Creef 2008, 207 pages, Paperback.

Mine Okubo: Following Her Own Road is the most complete book on the life and work of Japanese American artist Mine Okubo, who may be best know for her landmark book Citizen 13660. This is a collection of scholarly essays, reminiscences, and reproductions of some of Okubo's actual works.

Item #3552, Price \$26.95 ... for newsletter subscribers \$21.56

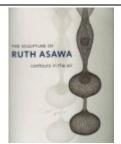


Moving ImagesPhotography and the Japanese American Incarceration

By Jasmine Alinder 2009, 207 pages, Hardback.

Many of you have seen pictures taken of the Japanese American experience immediately before, during and after the WWII internment camps. This is the book that tells the story behind the photographs. Jasmine Alinder investigates the why and how, the politics and the art, the propaganda and expository chronicling of the photographs. This is a fine complementary text to go along with the many photo journals on the Japanese American Internment.

Item #3551, Price \$40.00 ... for newsletter subscribers **\$32.00**



The Sculpture of Ruth Asawa Contours in the Air

By Daniell Cornell, Emily K. Doman Jennings, Mary Emma Harris, Karin Higa, Jacqueline Hoefer, Paul J. Karlstrom, John Kreidler, Susan Stauter, and Sally B. Woodbridge 2006, 256 pages, Paperback.

The Sculpture of Ruth Asawa is another fine profile of another amazing Japanese American artist. This biography covers Asawa's life and work, and includes an interview. Included in this book are over 100 full-page pictures of her sculptures, drawings, paintings, and prints. You'll see amazing sculptures that look like they were created with computers and complex mathematical equations, and wire pieces that look like things from nature.

Item #3553, Price \$34.95 ... for newsletter subscribers \$27.96



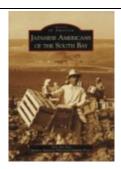
Kokomo Joe

The Story of the First Japanese American Jockey in the United States

By John Christgau 2009, 202 pages, Paperback.

Kokomo Joe is the biography of Japanese American jockey Yoshio "Kokomo Joe" Kobuki who was peaking in his chosen profession right at the start of World War II. Kokomo Joe follows Kobuki from childhood, to rising sports star, to WWII internee, to his post war attempt at a comeback, to his career ending injury, and his final hurdle of cancer.

Item #3554, Price \$17.95 ... for newsletter subscribers \$14.36



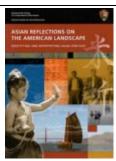
Images of America

Japanese Americans of the South Bay

By Dale Ann Sato and Japanese American Historical Mapping Project 2009, 128 pages, Paperback.

No, not the San Francisco/San Jose South Bay - this book is about Los Angeles County's South Bay region. Besides for that, this is a wonderful addition to the Images of America book series on another Asian American community that needed its story to be told. This book is further evidence of thriving Japanese American communities that existed before the disruptive WWII internment experience.

Item #3555, Price \$19.99 ... for newsletter subscribers \$15.99



Asian Reflections on the American Landscape Identifying and Interpreting Asian Heritage

By NPS, Brian D. Joyner 2005, 80 pages, Paperback.

Great resource on APA Heritage sites across America.

Download PDF of the book from http://www.nps.gov/history/crdi/pub lications/Asian%20Reflections.htm



Journey From Gold Mountain The Asian American Experience (Curriculum and Resource Guide)

By JACL

2006, 86 pages, Paperback.

Great reference on the Asian American Experience. Contains a section on Asian American history, an Asian American timeline, resources, and lesson plans.

FREE for teachers and educators.

Come to our store to get your copy or call us and get it for the cost of shipping.

© 2009 by Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc. (a non-profit organization since 1970)