

SERVE THE PEOPLE!

A conference on
Asian American Community Activism



Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16, 1998

University of California, Los Angeles

Sponsored by the UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition, Asian Pacific American Graduate Students Association, Environmental Coalition and Asian American Studies Center

5/15 Bill Gallegos

1WK 1970 - NY Chinatown

- first issues health care hospital
- Chinatown draft counseling
- Childcare school - bilingual
- openly supported rev. China

Red Guards 1969 > I. Hotel
JT Collective

theoretical concept:

struggle for nat'l liberation

Asian nat'l Movements

• Free Choi Soo Lee ' campaign

Leon Watson

born in Virginia

attended N.C. A + T

Unity is born thru struggle

→ Vietnam Veterans Agst the war

"gook" = "nigger" (politicization)

late '60s

support

Afro^{Asian} American Liberation Committee

Tendency to dismiss people if they don't agree with us.
But everyone has to start from somewhere.

People don't get born ~~the~~ communists

Influence of BPP - Mao's writings were very influential

Gertrude Pratt - socialist revolutionary

RCP

Grace Lee Boggs PhD. - Philosophy

Detroit resident

1970 Asian American Reality Conference

1974 Revolution + Evolution in the 20th century

BPP - its popularity shows their influence

KING: Racism, Militarism, Materialism

distinguish rebellion / revolution

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40s Labor Mvmt

5.15.98 p.2

Grace Lee Boggs

what does it take to go beyond rebellion
Need to create institutions. Build as we fight
what was the economic base of society
Immigration fr 3rd world society
Bi-racial → Multiracial
Capitalism advanced to multinational

1992 Uprising in LA

Hi-technology "eliminates peoples'
usefulness."

Detroit = 2 forces in conflict

Developers v. The People

↓

Casinos

↓

want new
kinds of cities

1991 First Peoples of Color Environmental
Summit.

The City as the arena of our struggle.

Parallels workplace as the arena of
industrialism

DETROIT SUMMER → create youth leadership

Yuri Kochiyama

radicalized by Black Liberation Movement
Venceremos Brigade - CUBA

1971 → China

N. Vietnam → Alex Hing

1. ethnic studies
2. opposition to Vietnam war
3. identity issues
4. linking with third world
5. left wing politics
6. interact with Asian communities

5/15

Yuri Kochiyama sometimes
Movement people see themselves as
"superior"

Pass the Baton of social awareness ...
to peers, young people, elders

Jericho '98 -

break the silence re:
U.S. Govt censorship of
political prisoners

27 years (Gerónimo Pratt)
served

Puerto Rican independentistas
have received the ~~most~~
longest sentences.

Fanon:

discover or betray your mission -
~~but~~

liberation, decolonization of mind

Black Radical Congress
June 19 -
Chicago

Lily, Mark, Brian, Helen,
CSLA

1:15 - 2:30

Panel

3:10 end straight to
friendship
Brian -
Ukraine

1. Everyone introduce themselves

2. What are people interested in?

3. 10-15 min. each Questions while we're talking

2.A. What histories of student/worker activism have you read?

B. What histories of student/worker activism would you like to be able to read?

C. Why we got involved in our respective projects

short description of what we are doing?

① How are you able to do this? How do you work ~~in the~~ this into people's lives?

→ Union Activities in Asia
→ Student Histories

SNCC and the
Awakening?

5-16-98

Jane Bai - intro to topics which speakers will address

1. Mark Masaoka
2. Miriam Ching Louie
3. Steve Louie
4. Enrique de la Cruz
5. Debbie Wei

(tape recorder stopped)

Mark M.

context of marxism - influence

1. how theory of social change
- 2.
3. integrating with the people

United Fronts

- difficulty for of winning over workers to revolutionary socialism
- LRS disbanded
- Articulate / Formulate alternative models

1. fighters for genuine reforms
2. creatively engage electoral politics
3. union rtf insurgencies (support)
4. new forms of organizing in the third world
5. Movements have accomplished certain things but look at where we are now.

Miriam Korean + Chinese (a paper on early influences in the
personal exp 1968 UCB - int'l student mvmnt Asian Amer mvmnt

Asian Amer Pol. Alliance

Venceremos Brigade (age 18) to Cuba

Third world Women's Alliance (out of SNCC)

Alliance Agst Women's Approach

AWA

generations

influences
Marxism

Alinsky (Now)

1989 Impt period - collapse of socialism

5-16

Plenary #1

Miriam

influence of
post modernism

neoliberalism, global restructuring } needs to be part of
our analysis

main 2 points

- (1) look @ global restructuring (and analysis of where we're at)
- (2) intergenerational dialogue

Steve Louie - AAPA

GDRA April 1969

Panthers in the Sacramento Capital

Cultural Rev in China

Traveling: broad movement of resistance

Heroes = peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America

Applying revolutionary theory

- prisoners support

- JA → SF

- USCPFA

- Wei Min SC } 1-Hotel

Tree → Revolutionary Union

- Workers - Unloading Trucks: building multi racial
unity of W-C

- who's the enemy

2 issues

(1) internalism + personal transformation

(2) Ditto for previous speakers

then 1980

RCP

ENRIQUE de la CRUZ

Anti-Marcos Movement in U.S.

(1) Fil-Am Community - base of Anti Marcos work

(2) Lessons

Evolved at tail end of AsAm Movement ~1972 → 1991/2
in response to Marcos' declaration of Martial Law

essentially a solidarity Movement

Personal Lessons

(1) Rev vs. Ref. (in character) - A FALSE ISSUE

eg Elections - how you see it: could be rev., ref. or
even conservative. 1986 Philippines - how did

CP see it (boycott)

Phil legislature
voted out
US military bases

5-16

Enrique

② serve the People -

we first need to learn from the people (problem of students, esp.) - we thought we knew everything and became elitest, dogmatic and lost sight of empowering people and replace w/ structures that dignify the people.

Debbie Wei (Philadelphia)
graduated from high school 1975
Echoes, reverberations

PUBLICATIONS - pivotal role. Roots → Yellow Seeds
Oberlin College (attended) Philadelphia

serve the People (reading Mao)

1977-78 Allan Bakke

Dropped what really stuck → the organizing experience
Dut → Housing Organizing - Black + also a Chinese community
work in the public schools

Critical Education - only for the elite

2 yrs teaching in Hong Kong
Take back education

influx of SEA refugees. Chinatown shifted.
married, 2 kids

TOTAL Devastation of inner city

Demise of structures

Criminalization of youth

Rise of careerism

Hope + Hope Not / the Hopeless

(Not even the Have + Have Not)

QA

Where does leadership come from? (Not a book) Enrique

5-16-98

11:15 am

HYUN LEE

CAAV - see mission statement for definition

1986 formed

First strategy: raise awareness

documenting examples

Cooptation by Hate Crimes movement (late '80s, early '90s)

CAAV broke away - losing edge in terms of documenting

(1) earlier focus

media + advocacy

(2) new focus

dig deeply into immigrant communities

EXAMPLES in NYC

1. anti immigrant
2. criminalization of immigrants (?)
3. bashing undocumented workers
superexploitation of workers
police brutality

STRATEGIES

legal strategies

lobbying

services

electoral

* community organizing (CAAV's priority)

A. Hot Line

B. Training folks → survey, outreach, one-to-one

Organizers: bring out ~~community~~ common interests
identify + develop community leaders
facilitate

critical Resistance: Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex

~~crit~~ critresist@aol.com

(510) 643-2014

5-16-98
Concurrent
Panel #1

other examples in NYC

1. dividing committees

local police colluding with certain groups agst
Chinese Merchants ("lowering quality of life")

Organizing Project

- Dollar Van shuttles Chinatown → satellites
City - moratorium on licenses

- Geographical confinement of Chinese (thru City policies)
North is only way to expand

See Mee

Coalition Agst Police Brutality

The Police are the greatest perpetrators of anti Asian violence
DAs don't indict the police

Coalition work with Nat'l ^{Congress} ~~Coalition~~ for Puerto Rican rights

Project: RACIAL JUSTICE DAY Annual

Audre Lorde Project (works with queer comm'ity)
marginalized

Black, Latino, Asian, Poor people of color > Coalition

Hot 97 Hip Hop >
Street Soldiers

Police Brutality manifests itself differently.

Young Black + Puerto Rican Youth - often the
main focus

Broadening people's understanding

This model (Juliani (sp?)) of policing is spreading.

5/16/98

Most effective methods

75% Practice by Doing

5% lecture

90% Teach Others

★ See Wu Tang Clan homepage
Shaolin / Bourroughs in Brooklyn

Feast of Resistance, Tony Osumi (Japanese + Jewish American)

C+H Sugar (Hawaiian Sugar Plantations)
Grapes (UFW / Philip Vera Cruz)
Vegetables
Canned Salmon

History is all around us

New Asian + P.I. Working Class
Sefa API not all inclusive } a two-sided problem
PI's have a role

Anannya - Low-wage workers SAKI ? Frong.

Domestic Violence > first

Domestic Workers Project > more recently

vocal bourgeoisie - selective memory
focuses on professionals

underground working class migration

examples of work: taxicab, construction
tourist visa → then become undocumented

Reasons for migration (♀)

50-80% income sent home
mostly "Live-Ins"

Employers = South Asian

12-24 hours 5-7 days

No social security #

Differences domestic workers here + India

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1. NGOism - celebration of non profit orgs
as if they could ~~set~~ solve the problems
of the world

gives rise to professionalism in social change work

2. Personal Transformation required

Paul Lee

KIWA 1982?

500,000 in LA area

70% are workers - not small business owners

250 Korean restaurants - workers here (2,000 workers)
lack of min. wage, no benefits, no job security

Most Problem

\$2²⁰/hour

12 hours/day

6 days/week

70% Korean ♀
Latino ♂

Nam Thai

internal contradictions - media controlled by
conservative elements

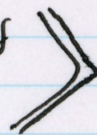
Questions

(Mine)

community-based organizing

union - resources

student organizing



article
- Michelle?

→ Broadcast quality tape
could've been played
over the radio

- Significance

how can people bring it back

• call for activism

• assembling activists to tell their stories (in our voice)

- SCOTT

how did the idea develop

how was it organized

goals of the conference committee

follow-up?

High Points

opening panel - Yuri, Grace

Movement today vs. before

how organizing might work today

New forms for organizing

changes
global economy
political conditions

the meaning of serve the people

revolutionary models for organizing

audience
Qs: inexperienced

* hearing what people are doing
working w/ SEA communities

Laos & (girls)

Youth: Cambodian & (girls)

} Empowerment
sexism in culture

TOPIC / Facilitator

share how you are doing that work

Cathy

call serve the People

APALA has the capacity to do more (it's positioned to do these things)

→ APALA's newsletter could be more extensive (not just updates)
came back:

"enhance our own org. to serve our communities —
→ not just our members, but to serve everywhere."

Pursue funding for the workers center which would serve Asian workers.

Community Medicine @ Madigan

① Assessment of what data is available now.
(who @ the state or fed level has already surveyed?)

② Tools?

SERVE THE PEOPLE! Conference Vision

THE 1990s HAS BEEN A TIME OF CONTRADICTION DEVELOPMENTS FOR ASIAN AMERICANS. WE HAVE SEEN AN UPSURGE IN THE PRESENCE OF ASIANS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY, EVEN THOUGH MUCH OF THIS NEW RECOGNITION HAS COME IN THE FORM OF ATTACKS. DRIVEN BY THE BI-POLAR CHARACTER OF ASIAN IMMIGRATION, WE ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY SEEING A RISE IN THE BOURGEOIS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SECTORS OF ASIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE GROWTH OF POOR AND WORKING-CLASS COMMUNITIES.

DURING THE ASIAN AMERICAN MOVEMENT, THE SLOGAN "SERVE THE PEOPLE" WAS A CALL FOR ACTIVISTS TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY WORK. IN THE CONTRADICTION 1990s, COMMUNITY WORK HAS COME TO DESIGNATE A VARIETY OF THINGS, SUCH AS SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDING, CONGRESSIONAL LOBBYING, AND THE ELECTION OF POLITICAL "LEADERS." AS A RESULT, FEW AND FAR BETWEEN ARE THE ASIAN AMERICAN CONFERENCES WHICH PLACE AT THE CORE OF THEIR AGENDA THE CONCERNS OF COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS FOR CREATING FUNDAMENTAL STRUCTURAL CHANGE AND BUILDING STRUGGLE AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL.

THE "SERVE THE PEOPLE" CONFERENCE IS DESIGNED TO BRING PROGRESSIVE ASIAN AMERICANS TOGETHER FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY TO DEVELOP AN ANALYSIS OF THE CRUCIAL ISSUES FACING ASIAN COMMUNITIES IN THE U.S. AND A PROGRESSIVE STRATEGY FOR WORK AROUND THESE ISSUES. WHILE MORE ASIAN AMERICANS ARE RISING TO POSITIONS OF PROMINENCE IN SOCIETY, THIS CONFERENCE IS DRIVEN BY THE NOTION THAT GAINING ACCESS TO MAINSTREAM INSTITUTIONS IS, BY ITSELF, AN INSUFFICIENT STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE MASSES OF ASIAN AMERICANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN WORKING-CLASS IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES.

OUTLINE OF PROGRAM

FRIDAY, MAY 15

FOWLER MUSEUM AUDITORIUM

7:30 - 10:00pm Roundtable

"Interracial Unity and the Struggle for Liberation"

Bill Gallegos (Community Service Organization, East LA)

Yuri Kochiyama (Asians for Jericho, New York City)

Grace Lee Boggs (Veteran activist, author Living for Change, Detroit)

Leon Watson (Youth Opportunities Unlimited, South Central LA)

Preceded by a Cultural Performance by Nobuko Miyamoto (Great Leap, "A Grain of Sand")

SATURDAY, MAY 16

KERCKHOFF GRAND SALON

8:00 am Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:00 am Welcome

9:10 - 10:55 Roundtable

"The Legacy of the Asian American Movement"

Moderator: Jane Bai (Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence, New York City)

Miriam Ching Louie (Women of Color Resource Center, Oakland)

Steve Louie (Steve Louie/Asian American Movement collection, UCLA)

Debbie Wei (Asian Americans United, Philadelphia)

Mark Masaoka (Unity Organizing Committee, Los Angeles)

Enrique de la Cruz (UCLA Asian American Studies Center)

11:15 - 12:30

11:00 - 12:15 Concurrent Workshop/Panel Session #1

(Workshops are interactive presentations designed to provide hands-on education in methods of community work. Panels feature diverse speakers followed by question and answer.)

Workshop: Confronting Environmental and Economic Racism

Ackerman 2408

Pamela Chiang (Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Oakland, CA)

Julia Lau (Chinese Progressive Association, San Francisco)

Fighting Anti-Asian Violence and Building Multi-Racial Coalitions

Kerckhoff 135-State Room

Jee Mee Kim and Hyun Lee (Racial Justice Committee/CAAAPV, New York City)

Workshop: Multiculturalism in K-12 Education

Ackerman 2410

Debbie Wei (AAU and the School District of Philadelphia)

Panel: Fighting Sexism

Kerkchoff Grand Salon

Sun Hyung Lee (API ForCE, San Francisco)

Kim Mach (Student activist, U. Mass-Boston)

Alexandra Seung Hye Suh (Rainbow Center, New York City)

Ai-jen Poo (CAAAPV, New York City)

Panel: International Solidarity

Ackerman 3508

Joe Navidad (BAYAN Int'l-USA, Los Angeles)

Shishir Thadani (South Asians for Collective Action, San Jose)

Rep. from Korean Youth and Student Union (Los Angeles)

Panel: Student Activism

Ackerman Viewpoint Lounge

Kye Leung (U. Mass-Boston)

Shingly Lee (UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition)

Michael Ma (De Anza College/APSU, San Jose)

Geline Evangelista (League of Filipino Students, UCLA)

12:15 pm Lunch

(caucus for activists working on affirmative action) → outside on the green

Additional food outlets: Kerckhoff Coffeehouse (2nd floor), Panda Express (1st floor Ackerman) and Cooperage (A-Level Ackerman)

1:15 - 2:30

Concurrent Workshop/Panel Session #2

Workshop: Economic Justice/Stopping the Welfare Cuts

Ackerman 2408

Representatives from Asian Pacific Islanders for Community Empowerment

Workshop: Progressive Electoral Activism/Lessons from Fighting Prop 187, 209 and 227 (anti-Bilingual Education Initiative)

Kerckhoff Grand Salon

Eric Mar (Northern California Coalition for Immigrant Rights, API ForCE)

Vivian Chang (Metropolitan Alliance, Los Angeles)

Joselito Laudencia (Californians for Justice)

Workshop: Resisting Imperialism

Kerckhoff Viewpoint Lounge

Anibel Comelo (UCLA Labor Center),

Jay Mendoza (BAYAN-USA, Pilipino Workers Center, Los Angeles)

Panel: Criminalization and Political Repression

Kerckhoff 135-State Room

Li'i Furumoto (moderator, UCLA)

Wayne Lum (David Wong Support Committee/Asians for Jericho, New York City)

Daniel Tsang (Alliance Working for Asian Rights and Empowerment, Orange County, CA)

Panel: Documenting the History of Student and Worker Activism

Ackerman 3508

Tracy Lai (Seattle Central Community College)

Cathy Lowenberg (APALA, Seattle)

Panel: Strategizing the Left: Ackerman 2410

Jung Hee Choi (API ForCE, San Francisco)

Meizhu Lui (Health Care for All, Boston)

2:35 - 3:50

Concurrent Workshop/Panel Session #3

Workshop: Organizing Inner-City Southeast Asian Youth

Kerckhoff 135-State Room

Eric Tang (Southeast Asian Youth Leadership Project/CAAAV, New York City)

Cassandra Lor and Ellen Somekawa (Asian Americans United, Philadelphia)

Workshop: Queer APIs in Organizing

Ackerman 3508

Eric Wat (CSU Fullerton)

Ju Hui Judy Han (Los Angeles Culture Net, identification only)

Gina Masequesmay (O Moi and Mahu)

Jeff Kim (LA Gay and Lesbian Center)

2:35 - 3:50

Concurrent Workshop/Panel Session #3 (continued)

Workshop: Teaching Asian American Studies

Ackerman 2408

Glenn Omatsu (UCLA Asian American Studies Center)

Panel: Activism in Little Tokyo from Redevelopment and Redress to the Rafu Shimpo

Ackerman Viewpoint Lounge

Organized by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations.

Panelists: Ayako Hagihara, Dean Matsubayashi, David Monkawa, Alan Nishio, Jim Matsuoka, Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka, Evelyn Yoshimura, Tracy Kiriama and Jenni Emiko Kuida.

Panel: Organizing Asian Workers

Kerckhoff Grand Salon

Mizue Aizeki (moderator, HERE Local 11/APALA, Los Angeles)

Joanne Lum (Chinese Staff and Workers Association, New York City)

Quynh Nguyen (UFCW/Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Los Angeles)

Anibel Comelo (UCLA Labor Center)

Panel: North Korea Famine Assistance

Ackerman 2410

Coordinated by members of:

Korean Youth and Student Union (Los Angeles)

Committee for Korean/International Solidarity (Bay Area)

Korean Education and Exposure Program (LA, New York City)

4:00 - 5:45 Roundtable

"The New Asian and Pacific Islander Working-Class"

Moderator: Eric Mar (API ForCE, San Francisco)

Sefa Aina (UCLA Asian American Studies Center) *SAMOAN, TONGAN*

Anannya Bhattacharjee (Workers' Awaaz, New York City) *"Awaaz" = voice*

Paul Lee (Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates, LA)

Nam Thai (Vietnamese American Coalition for Civil Rights, SF)

Kent Wong (UCLA Labor Center)

Preceded by a Spoken Word Performance by Faith Santilla (League of Filipino Students)

5:45 - 6:00

Comments and Evaluations

BIOGRAPHIES

Sefa Aina: "I graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in History in 1997. I was the head (pres.) of the Pacific Islands Students Association for 3 years, and during that time increased our outreach from 50 to 500 Pacific Islander kids in the LA County. I'm currently the Asst Coordinator of Student/Community Projects at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, and teach the Asian Pacific American Leadership Development Program."

Mizue Aizeki is a staff researcher with the Hotel Employees Restaurant Employees Local 11.

Jane Bai is the Executive Director of the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence in New York City.

Anannya Bhattacharjee is a community organizer and writer in New York City. She is a founding member of Sakhi for South Asian Women and SAMAR Magazine, and is the former Executive Director of the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (CAAAPV). She is currently involved with South Asian domestic workers and other women in setting up Workers Awaaz (Workers' Voice). She has written and spoken widely on domestic violence, South Asian communities, immigrant identities, and women workers in "informal" industries.

Grace Lee Boggs is a Chinese American from Detroit, who has been a speaker, writer, and movement activist in the African American community for 55 years. She worked closely with C.L.R. James in the Johnson-Forrest Tendency and co-authored numerous works with her husband, James Boggs, including *Revolution and Evolution in the Twentieth Century*. She was an instrumental figure in the establishment of the Asian American Movement in Detroit. Her autobiography, *Living for Change*, was published by the University of Minnesota Press in March 1998.

Vivian Chang is a staff member at the Metropolitan Alliance in South Los Angeles.

Pamela Chiang is a co-founder and current Lead Organizer of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network in Oakland, CA. She joined the staff in 1996 to guide and implement the organization's strategic planning process and is now providing direction on emerging organizing work. From 1992 to 1996, she was a Council Member and Co-chair for the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice.

Jung Hee Choi is a graduate student in history at San Francisco State and a member of Asian Pacific Islanders for Community Empowerment.

Anibel Comelo is based at the UCLA Labor Center where she designs internships for students who are interested in contributing to the struggle for workers' rights. She was born in Bombay, India and also teaches a class at UCLA on contemporary issues in the South Asian community. She has

been involved in international social justice campaigns since her emigration to the US.

Enrique de la Cruz is the Assistant Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. During the anti-Marcos movement, he was active in the National Committee for the Restoration of Civil Liberties in the Philippines and Ugnayan and served as National Chair of the Alliance for Philippine Concerns.

Li'i Furumoto is a student activist at UCLA and a member of MEChA.

Bill Gallegos has been active in the Chicano Movement since the 1960s. He has worked in the Crusade for Justice, La Raza Unida Party and was a founding member of the August 29th Movement and the League of Revolutionary Struggle. He is currently working with the Community Service Organization, a grassroots group in East Los Angeles.

Ayako Hagihara, a recent graduate of UCLA, is a member of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations and Campaign for Justice - Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans. She is also a columnist for the *Rafu Shimpo*, a Japanese American daily based in Los Angeles.

Jee Mee Kim: "I am currently an volunteer member and Board of the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (CAAAPV) working on issues of police brutality and harrasment in the Asian immigrant community in New York City. I also represent CAAAPV in the NYC Coalition Against Police Brutality."

A staff member of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center since 1993, **Jeff Kim** is currently Program Manager of the Legal Services Department. He oversees the Center's Anti-Violence Project which monitors anti-lesbian/gay/transgender hate crimes as well as its Immigration Law Project. Jeff has been a member of the Gay Asian Pacific Support Network since 1992, and served as the organization's co-chair in 1994.

Yuri Kochiyama is a longtime human rights activist. She is currently a research fellow at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Tracy Lai teaches history and coordinated studies at Seattle Central Community College. She is especially interested in ethnic and women studies. She has been a student, community and labor activist and is currently active in American Federation of Teachers #1789 (her faculty union) and Students Against I-200 (at SCCC).

Julia Lau is an organizer with Chinese Progressive Association in San Francisco.

Joselito Laudencia is the Executive Director of Californians for Justice. Californians for Justice is a statewide grassroots organization working to build power among people of color, and women, poor and young people of all colors in California. Joselito has a 10 year history in community, electoral, legislative and campus organizing.

Hyun Lee is an organizer with the Racial Justice Committee of the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence in New York City.

Paul Lee is an organizer with Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates and is currently engaged in a mass campaign to organize Korean and Latino restaurant workers in Koreatown, Los Angeles.

Sun Hyung Lee is a member of Asian Pacific Islanders for Community Empowerment.

Kye Leung is a student at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Cassandra Lor: "I am a 25 year old Cambodian woman. I am currently working as a Program Director for Asian Americans United in Philadelphia. My work is concentrated on building leadership among Asian American youth through our Community Youth Leadership Project which trains high school students in community organizing skills, leadership development, and to be role models for Asian American children. In addition, we have our basketball, volleyball, and girls self defense class."

Miriam Ching Louie works with the Women of Color Resource Center (WCRC) in Berkeley, CA. Louie is developing popular education curriculum for WCRC's Women's Education in the Global Economy project. Previously Louie also worked for 13 years with Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (AIWA) and served as the media coordinator for the Garment Workers Justice Campaign. She now serves as media coordinator for Fuerza Unida, a women workers' center in San Antonio, TX, in their campaign targeting Levi Strauss & Co.

Steve Louie was a student activist in the late '60s who left school to join the movement, working with Wei Min She in San Francisco. Soon after, he took a job unloading trucks and began labor organizing, which he did until 1980.

Cathy Malia Lowenberg: "I am a School-to-Work Labor Liaison for the King County Labor Council's Worker Center in Seattle. I'm a member of OPEIU Local 8 and active in the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance. Currently, I'm coordinating APALA's Asian Pacific American Workers' History Project and teach middle and high school students how to conduct oral history interviews with local union activists."

The daughter of Chinese immigrants, **Meizhu Lui** spent 20 years as a hospital kitchen worker in a public hospital. She organized her peers--mostly single mothers of color--to fight for greater equality and respect both in and out of the workplace and became the first elected Asian President of a union local (AFSCME) in Massachusetts. Meizhu currently is a community organizer in Boston's low-income and immigrant communities for Health Care For All.

Joanne Lum is an organizer with Chinese Staff and Workers Association in New York City and the National Mobilization Against Sweatshops.

Wayne Lum. "My primary focus has been with U.S. political prisoners support organizations, including the Yu Kikumura Support Committee, Asians for Jericho and Jericho '98. I have also been an active member of a social prisoners organization, the David Wong Support Committee, since 1993, and I am currently involved with the Comité Puerto Rico '98 in New York City."

Kim Mach, a freshman at UMass, Boston, is an intern at the Greater Boston Legal Services, Asian Outreach Program.

Eric Mar, the Associate Director of the Northern California Coalition for Immigrant Rights (NCCIR), has been active in the Asian American people's movements for 15 years. He is a founding member of APIFORCE (Asians and Pacific Islanders for Community Empowerment) and currently teaches Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University.

Mark Masaoka is a staff representative for SEIU Local 660; former UAW activist at GM Van Nuys; and member, Unity Organizing Committee

Jim Matsuoka: helped to establish the Pioneer Projects, taught Asian American studies at Cal State Long Beach and has been active in Little Tokyo issues such as redevelopment, New Otani and Rafu Shimpo. He is a founding member of NCRR.

Jay Mendoza is currently the Executive Director of the Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California. He is also an Executive Committee member of BAYAN-International, U.S.A., an organization advancing the struggle for national democracy for the Philippines. Jay is also the author of "Class Analysis Among Filipinos in the United States".

When Great Leap's Artistic Director **Nobuko Miyamoto** began writing music 25 years ago, there was virtually no such thing as Asian American music. Out of the activism of the late 60's, Nobuko, Chris Iijima and Charlie Chin recorded the first album of Asian American music, *A GRAIN OF SAND* in 1973. Nobuko's belief in the power of art to transform self and society propels her to continue to do concerts of her music and perform her one-woman show, *A GRAIN OF SAND*. Her albums, *TO ALL RELATIONS* and the reissue of *A GRAIN OF SAND: songs from the birth of Asian America* are available from Bindu Records.

David Monkawa currently working for Hotel Employees Restaurant Employees Local 11 in Los Angeles, has been active in progressive artwork, labor and Little Tokyo issues ranging from redevelopment (Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization), and unionization efforts at Japan Foods and the New Otani.

Joe Navidad is member of People's CORE and Bayan International-USA in Los Angeles.

Quynh Nguyen is an organizer with the United Food and Commerical Workers Local 770 in Los Angeles and is a member of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance.

Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka was part of the JACS- Asian Involvement and organized programs for youth and anti-drug campaigns in the community. She is a high school teacher and has been active in workers and newcomers rights (Horikawa Restaurant) and housing issues (San Pedro Firm) in Little Tokyo, NCRR, and the Rafu Shimpo Support Committee.

Alan Nishio has been involved with Asian American Studies both at UCLA and Cal State Long Beach, and JACS. He was active in Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization, helped to initiate NCRR and is currently part of the Rafu Shimpo Support Committee and President of Little Tokyo Service Center Board

Glenn Omatsu teaches Asian American Studies at Pasadena City College, California State University, Northridge, and UCLA and serves as associate editor of *Amerasia Journal*, research publication in Asian American Studies. He also works in community movements, labor struggles, and international solidarity networks.

Ai-jen Poo is program director of the Women Workers Project at CAAAV. Before coming on as staff in January of 1997, she was a member of CAAAV for two years. She has also volunteered at the New York Asian Women's Center, studied women's studies in college, and was actively involved in the Columbia student struggle for ethnic studies.

Faith Santilla is a member of the League of Filipino Students Los Angeles, an organization of youth and students fighting for true emancipation and democracy for the Filipino people and for all oppressed peoples around the world that suffer from the rape of Imperialism. She is currently attending the School of Hard Knocks and is receiving financial aid.

Ellen Somekawa is the director of Asian Americans United, a Philadelphia community group which focuses its work in Chinatown and in a Southeast Asian neighborhood. As a member of AAU, Ellen has worked on issues such as mobilizing against anti-Asian violence, fighting against cuts in city services, and protesting bias in the criminal justice system.

Alexandra Seung Hye Suh lives in NYC and works with the Women's Workers Project of CAAAV; the Korea Exposure and Education Program (KEEP); and the Rainbow Center, a center for Korean immigrant women formerly married to U.S. military servicemen. She is also a Ph.D. candidate at Columbia and currently teaches Asian American Women's Studies courses at NYU and Barnard.

Eric Tang is an organizer with the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (CAAAV) in New York City. At CAAAV, he directs the Youth Leadership Project (YLP). YLP seeks to develop the leadership and organizing skills of Southeast Asian youth living in the Northwest Bronx. Currently, the youth are active in tenants organizing and workfare rights organizing.

Based in San Jose, **Shishir Thadani** has been a volunteer/activist in international solidarity/anti-war work, South Asia/India Solidarity work, and solidarity with socialist nations. He is the Co-Editor of *South Asian Voice* (a web E-zine), a member of South Asians for Collective Action, Co-Editor of *South Asian Affairs*, and a co-organizer for India Relief and Education Fund - a non-profit group dedicated to providing alternative educational materials from India, supporting progressive groups/causes in India, and providing monetary relief to victims of natural disasters in India.

Nam P. Thai came to the US as a refugee from Viet Nam in the mid-80s. She moved to the Bay Area three years ago to be reunited with the rest of her family who resettled in the Silicon Valley. For the past three years, Nam has actively organized in the immigrant and refugee communities through her work at the Northern California Coalition for Immigrant Rights, the Political Ecology Group and the Vietnamese American Coalition for Civil Rights.

Dan Tsang is an librarian activist and co-founder of the Alliance Working for Asian Rights and Empowerment, which fights police harassment of youth in Orange County, Calif. He hosts "Subversity," a progressive interview program on KUCI, 88.9 FM each Tuesday from 5-6 p.m. He sued the CIA for spying on him after he indexed CovertAction Information Bulletin.

Eric C. Wat (CSU Fullerton) brings people food, listens to their stories, writes them down and tries to pass them off as history. And yes, he expects a degree out of it.

Leon Watson has been involved in the anti-war, labor, campus and African American liberation movements since the 1960s. He is currently the director of Youth Opportunities Unlimited in South Central Los Angeles.

Kent Wong is the Director of the UCLA Labor Center. He served as the Founding President of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance from 1992 to 1997. He has worked as a staff attorney for the Service Employees

International Union, and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. For more than 20 years, Kent has been a labor and Asian community activist.

Debbie Wei works as a curriculum specialist in Asian Pacific American studies for the School District of Philadelphia. She is a founding member and member of the Board of Asian Americans United in Philadelphia. She spent two years in Hong Kong, teaching and organizing students. In Philadelphia, she has worked around a wide range of issues including educational equity, housing, police abuse and anti-Asian violence.

Evelyn Yoshimura has been active in Little Tokyo as part of Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization, restaurant work at Tokyo Kaikan, community work at Little Tokyo Service Center and Amerasia Bookstore and is currently Assistant Editor at the Rafu Shimpo in Los Angeles. She was involved with Asian American Studies at Cal State Long Beach and Gidra.

THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE THIS CONFERENCE POSSIBLE:

All of the conference panelists, workshop leaders, performers, and moderators who generously gave of their time and knowledge. Everyone from out-of-town who helped to carpool conference attendees. Everyone in Los Angeles who helped to house out-of-town guests.

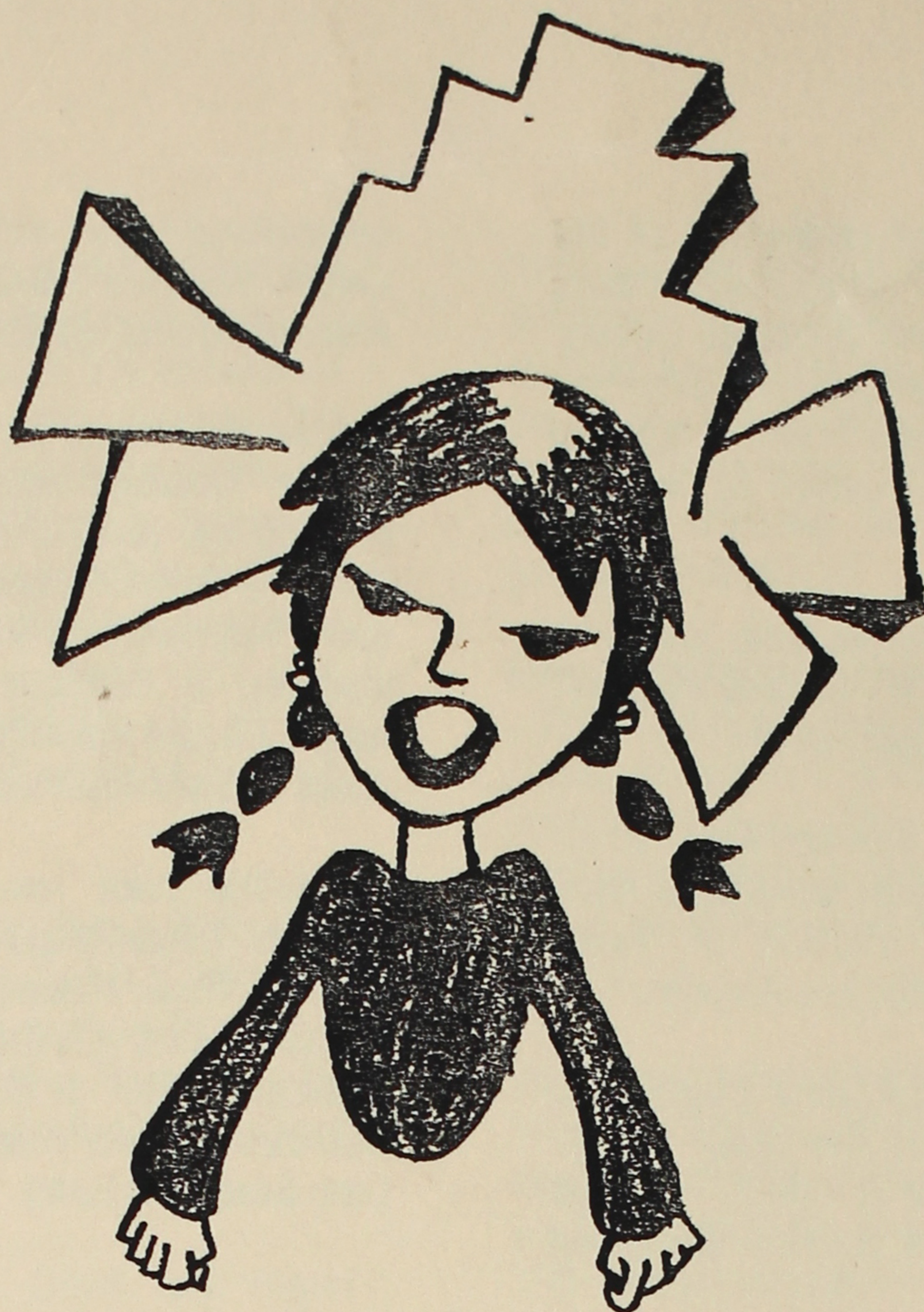
Through their ongoing work and struggle, as well as participation in conference planning, the following organizations were instrumental to the development of this conference from a far-fetched idea to concrete reality: Asian Americans United, Asian Pacific Islanders for Community Empowerment, Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence, Pilipino Workers Center and ACTION.

Asian Pacific Coalition staff members: Shingly Lee (food and coordination), Amy Luu (food and audio/visual services), Nimoal Sun (funding and audio/visual), Stephanie Wang (driving), Cory Jong (outreach) and April Cheng (driving)

Leslie Ito (program layout), Steve Wong (video production), Bob Nakamura (video equipment), Vincent Fu (funding), Yuki Kidokoro (funding), Shraddha Parekh (out-of-town housing), Don Nakanishi (funding), Meg Thornton and Sefa Aina (planning, evaluations), Marji Lee (book orders and table), Glenn Omatsu (advice, contacts), Jung Hee Choi (planning), George McKinney (outreach), Anibel Comelo (outreach), Fernando Gapasin (outreach), Freddy Paine (housing), Tony Osumi (housing, driving), Jenni Kuida (planning, housing, driving), Eric Tang (outreach), Jane Bai (planning), Meizhu Lui (outreach), Vy Nguyen (press releases), Ellen Somekawa (outreach), Eric Mar (outreach), Sun Hyung Lee (housing/transportation, planning), Alexandra Seung Hye Suh (housing, planning), Steve Louie (advice), Ryan Yokota (planning, outreach), Jay Mendoza (planning, outreach), Faith Santilla (planning, outreach), Alyssa Kang (planning, outreach), Yong-Bin Yuk (planning, outreach), Roy Hong (advice), Ayako Hagihara (outreach), Quynh Nguyen (planning, outreach), Eric Wat (planning, outreach), Emily Lawsin (name tags, housing), Rose Ibanez (outreach), Erin O'Brien (outreach), Matt Finucane (outreach), Anna Gonzalez (outreach), Tracy Lai (anthology), Sally Van Meter (book store), Debra Simmons (accounting), Mike McNitt (event planning), Christine Sufrin (advisor)

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AND anyone else we may have overlooked.



ART ATTACK II

**SATURDAY MAY 16
8:00pm to 1:00am**

Art Attack II will be a presentation of Asian Pacific Islander art and cultural work, with a particular emphasis on art which speaks to the political realities that we are currently facing in this period of time, and which speaks to API high school youth. The event is free, and food will be provided.

Location: the SIPA Community Center in Echo Park
Address: 3200A W. Temple Street (corner of Robinson)
Time: 8pm-1am
Info Line: (310) 224-2939

Directions from UCLA: Take the 405 South to the 10 East. Take the 10 East about 20 miles to the 110 North. Take the 101 North and exit on Alvarado. Take Alvarado to Temple and take a right on Temple. The SIPA Community Center is a couple of miles up the road on the left hand side. Park on Robinson.