

Crossing Boundaries

ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER
A M E R I C A N S



written by

**Irene Dea
Collier &
Lora Meilin
Collier**

illustrated by

**Janine
Macbeth**



Crossing Boundaries

Asian &
Pacific Islander
Americans

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THE ASSOCIATION OF
CHINESE TEACHERS
San Francisco, CA

*This project is dedicated to all who want to know
their history and the histories of others.*

— IDC, LMC, & J9M

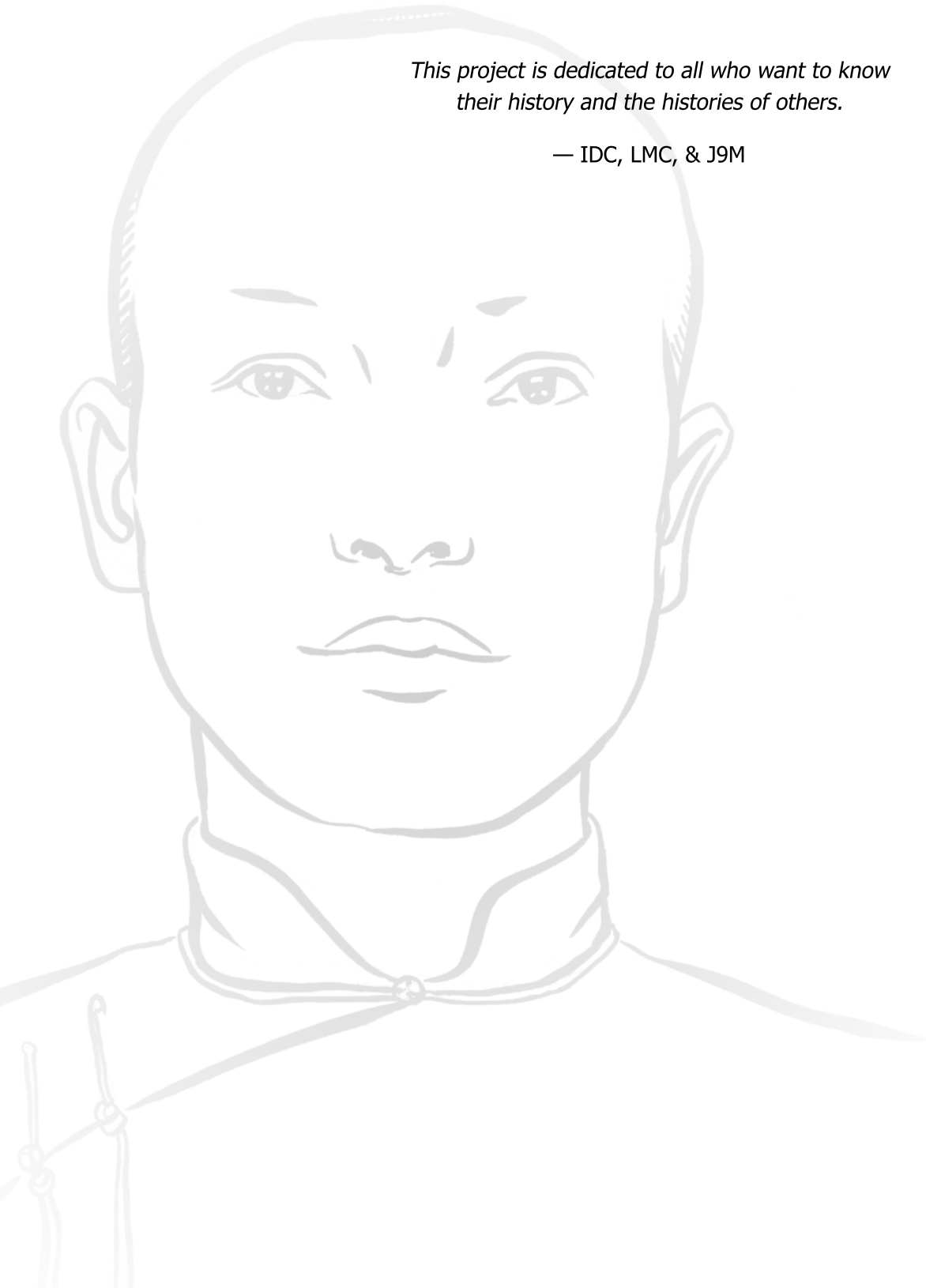


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THE ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE TEACHERS
P.O. Box 210564 · SAN FRANCISCO, CA · 94121
W W W . T A C T S F . O R G

Founded in the midst of the civil rights struggle (1969), **The Association of Chinese Teachers** is a professional organization of dedicated educators actively striving for educational excellence and equity for all students through advocacy and outreach, professional development, parent involvement, community collaboration, and participation in educational policy making. Over the years, TACT has been instrumental in shaping policy in the areas of affirmative action, bilingual education, crosscultural curriculum, and teachers' issues. The TACT Curriculum Committee is a subcommittee of The Association of Chinese Teachers. Over the years it has developed curriculum materials including filmstrips, books, and CD programs for distribution to the classroom. The Committee has coordinated Summer History Trips, hosted Lunar New Year Workshops, maintained a curriculum library of Chinese American materials, and contributed articles to the TACT newsletter.



Introduction

Courses about the history of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans (APIA) first appeared at the university level in 1969. This history showed how courageous individuals had to cross boundaries that limited and defined them by race, gender, and citizenship status. These individuals not only changed conditions for their own communities, they also changed America.

Teachers often find it difficult each May to gather materials for Asian Pacific Heritage Month to remember these struggles. While there are a few stalwart specialized companies devoted to APIA themes, most general catalogs carry few APIA resources that are easily adapted for the classroom. Parents are equally challenged to find materials for their own children that reflect the contributions of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

To fill this gap, our team has collected information about twenty notable Asian and Pacific Islander Americans who have shaped our country. Each profile consists of a short body of text, appropriate for Grades 4-8, and a large portrait. Accompanying baseball card size portraits are included. Suggestions for using these formats can be found in the back of the book.

This book is just a beginning. It was very difficult to narrow our list to only twenty. There are many more men and women we would like to honor and celebrate, but we present to you a starting place: twenty biographies carefully chosen to represent different APIA groups, historical time periods, occupations, genders, and sexual orientations. A more complete list of notable persons can be found on page 35, though this list is also far from comprehensive. Thank you for picking up this book.

Irene Dea Collier, Lead Teacher
Lora Meilin Collier, Co-author and Researcher
Janine Macbeth, Illustrator

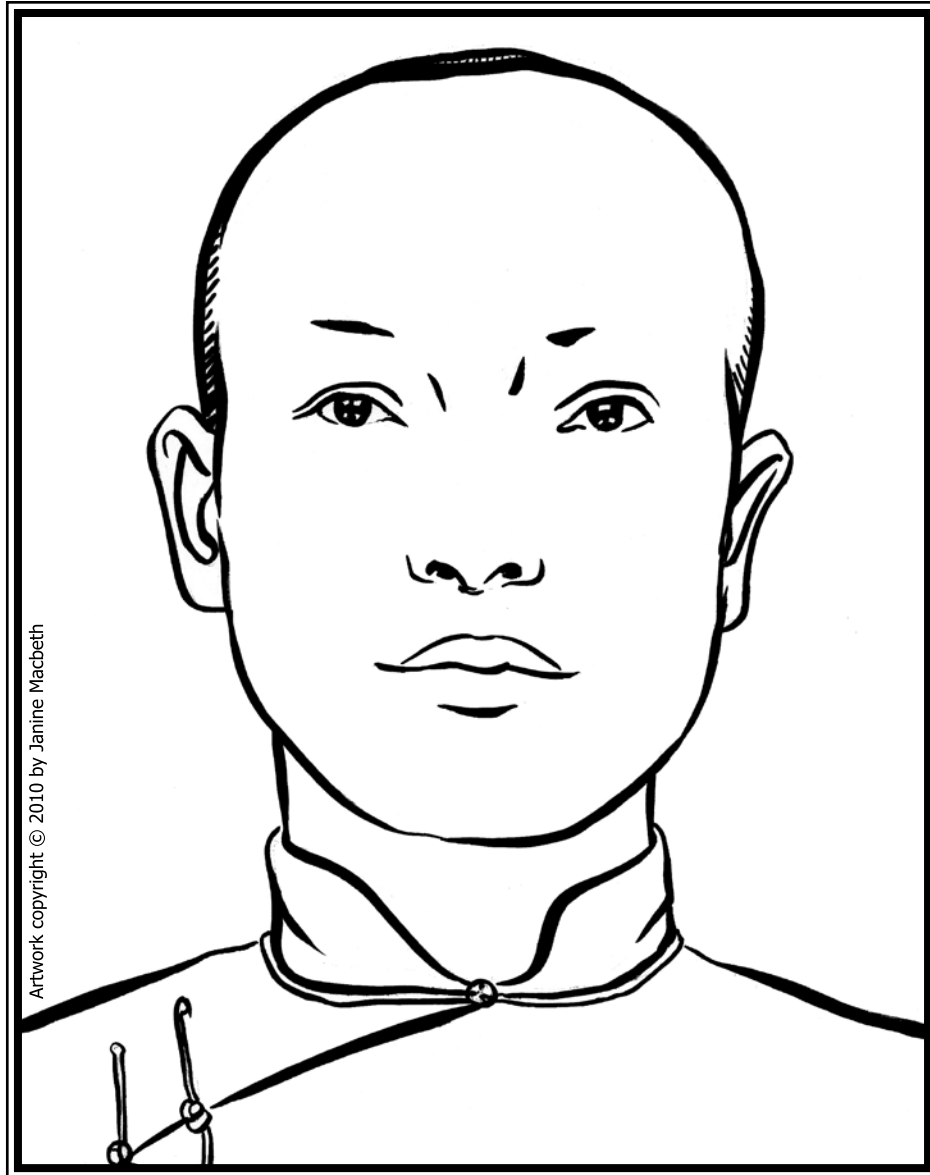
A note on surnames: In different historical periods, some family surnames are listed first, while in others they are listed last. To avoid confusion, the family surname on each biography card is indicated in capital letters. You will see that the order of the surname follows the custom of the historical period in which the person lived.



Mamie TAPE

Student

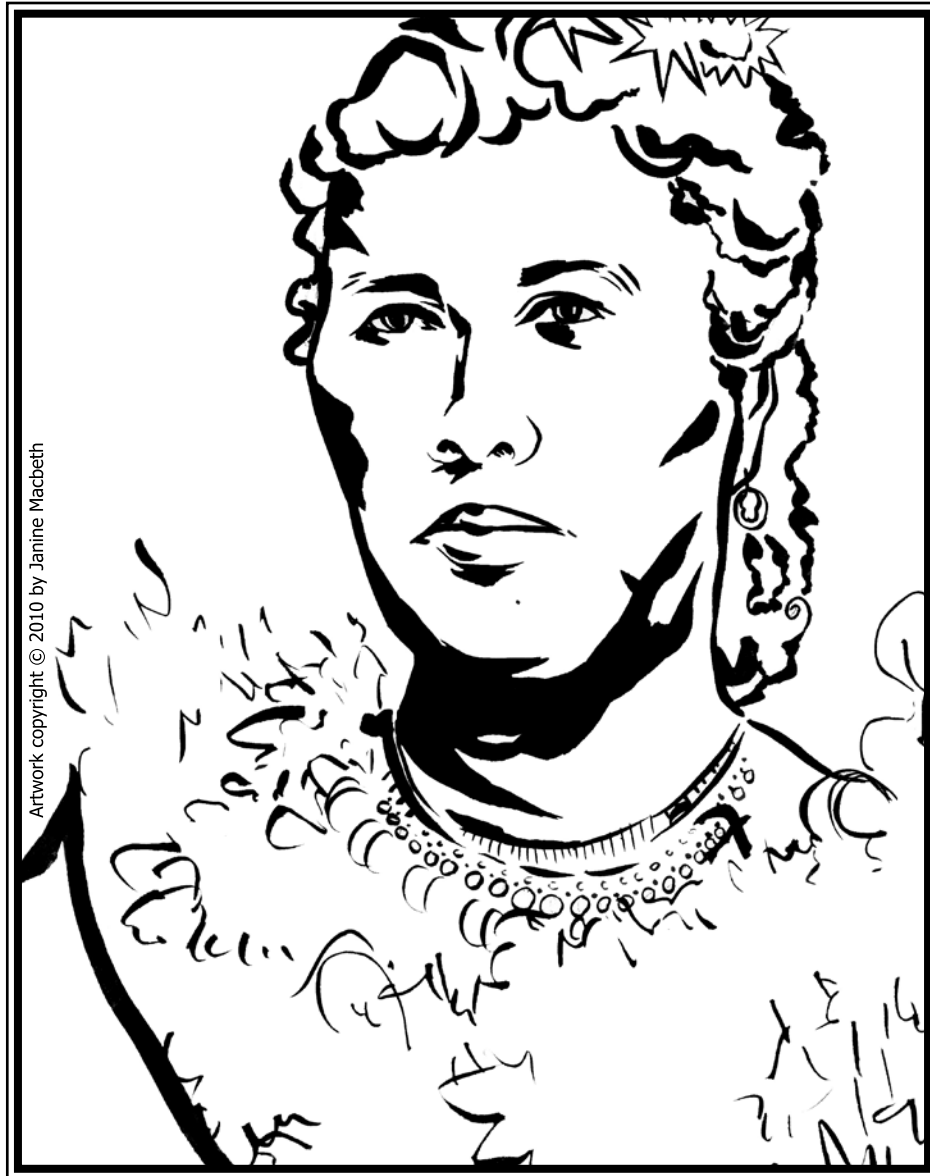
In 1884, Mamie Tape (1876-1972) was eight years old and lived in San Francisco. Her parents wanted her to attend Spring Valley School with her neighborhood friends. But the principal refused to admit Chinese children to the school. So Joseph and Mary Tape, Mamie's parents, decided to sue the school district (*Tape v. Hurley*, 1885). Although the California Supreme Court ruled that all Chinese children had the right to attend public school, the principal still refused to admit Mamie. The city then set up a segregated school for Mamie and other Asian students. Almost 70 years later, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that all children in America had the right to attend integrated schools (*Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954).



WONG Kim Ark

Citizenship Pioneer

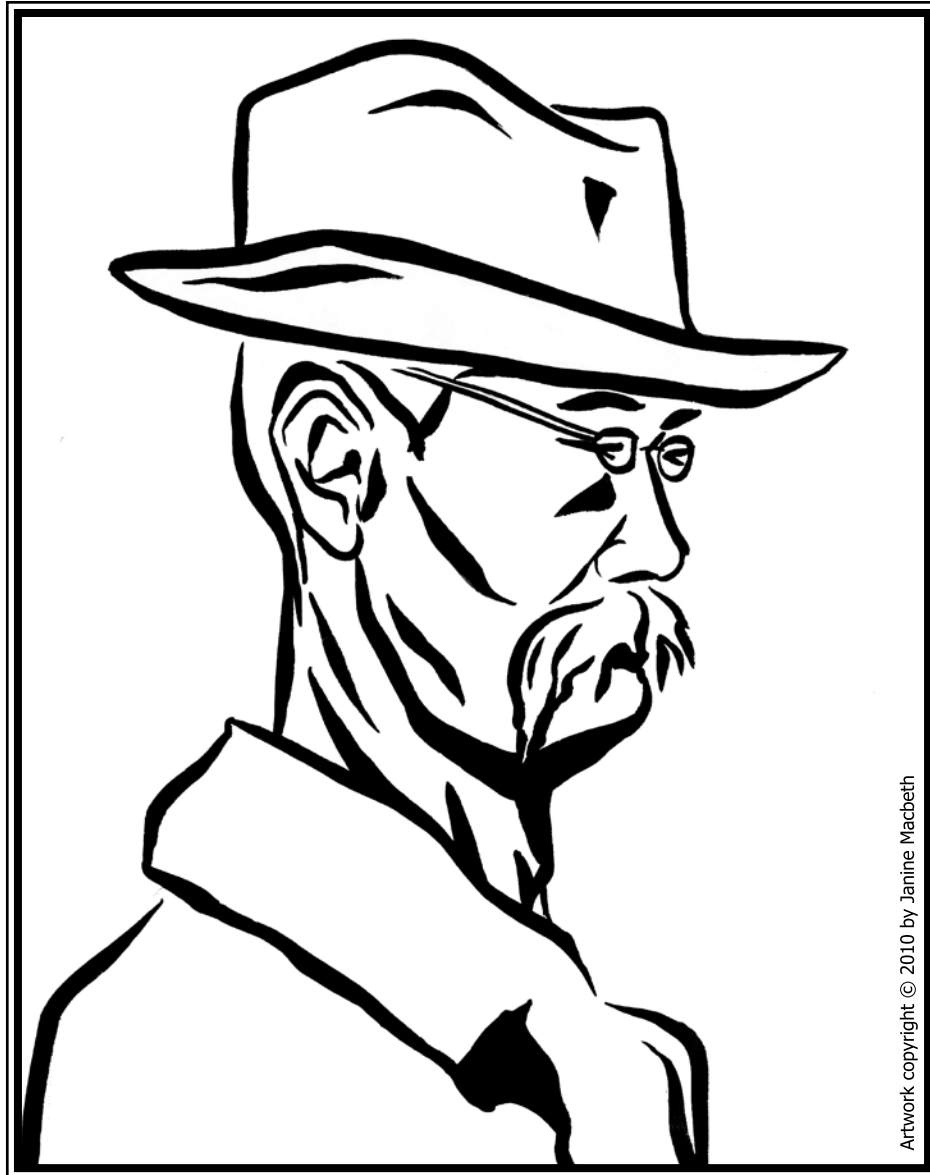
Wong Kim Ark (1873-unknown) was born in San Francisco. In 1895 he decided to visit his parents who had moved to China. When he tried to return to America, government officials refused to let him enter the country. According to them, Congress had passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 to prevent Chinese people from entering the United States. Kim Ark disagreed and filed a lawsuit arguing that he was a U.S. citizen by birth. In 1898 the U.S. Supreme Court decided that any child born in the United States became a citizen, regardless of the parents' citizenship status (*United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, 1898). Kim Ark was finally allowed to return home to San Francisco.



Lili'uokalani

Queen of the Kingdom of Hawai'i

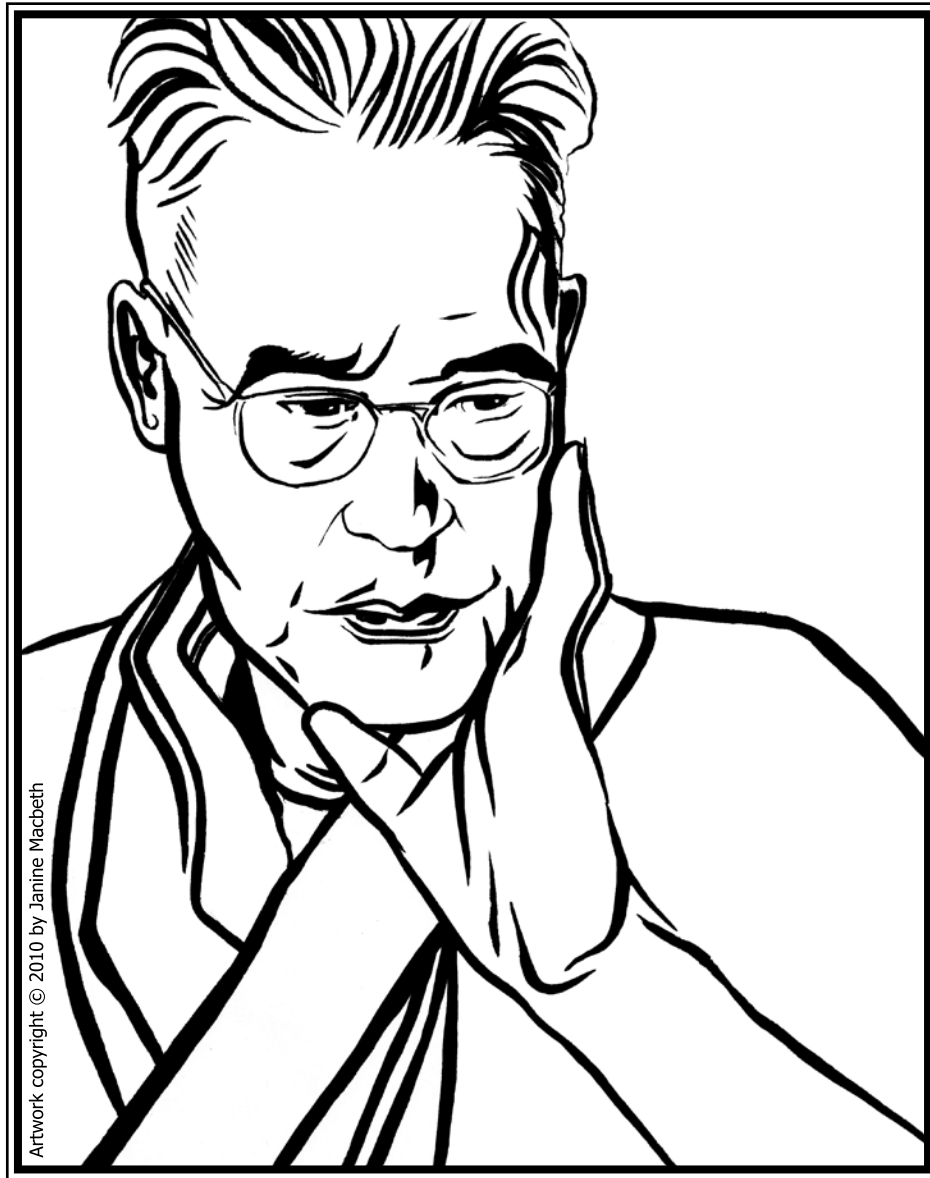
Queen Lili'uokalani (1838-1917) was born the third of ten children in Honolulu, Kingdom of Hawai'i. When she became queen in 1891, Queen Lili'uokalani wanted to return voting rights and political power to Native Hawaiians and Asians by writing a new constitution. The American sugar planters were afraid of losing business and convinced the U.S. Marines to take over the island by force in 1893. Since President Grover Cleveland did not give permission for this action, the Queen believed the kingdom would be returned to her, but it wasn't. In 1895, Queen Lili'uokalani was accused of trying to take back the throne and was jailed in her own house. Queen Lili'uokalani turned to music and documented Hawaiian history in traditional melodies. She wrote over 150 songs, including the popular "Aloha Oe" ("Farewell to Thee").



LUE Gim Gong

Horticulturalist

Lue Gim Gong (1860-1925) learned the art of pollination from his mother in China. He was only twelve years old when he left to find work in America. He later became known as "The Citrus Wizard" in Florida after he developed a sweet orange that could survive frost. It was so important to the citrus industry that he was given the Silver Wilder Medal in 1911. He also developed peaches that ripened earlier, tomatoes that grew in clusters, and a fragrant grapefruit. Gim Gong shared his fruit tree cuttings and seedlings with anyone who asked for them. To remember his generosity and his talent, the town of Deland, Florida, erected a statue and mural in his honor.



Chiura OBATA

Painter & Art Professor

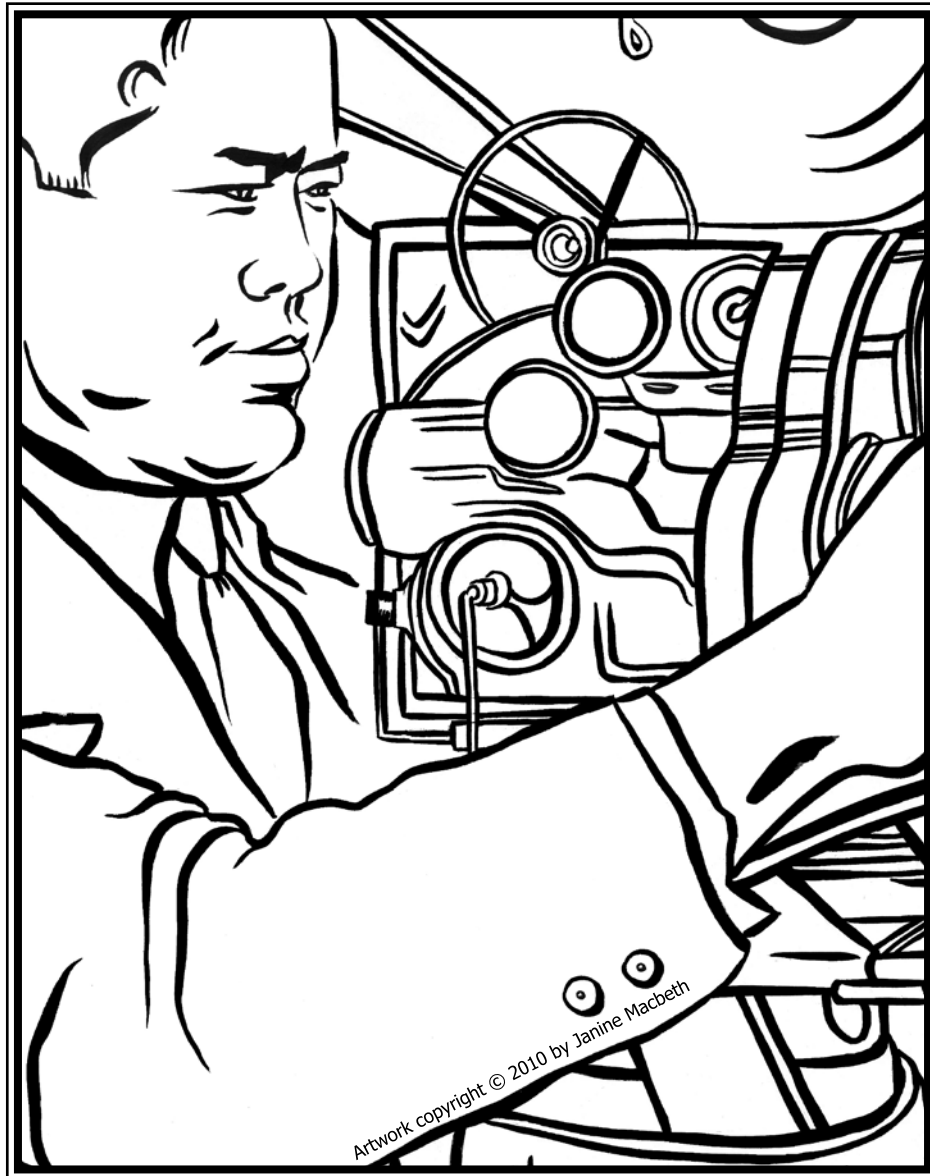
Chiura Obata (1885-1975) began painting as a child in Japan. To pay for college, he worked as a housekeeper and farm worker in the United States. Eventually, Chiura was hired to teach art at the University of California at Berkeley and started his own Japanese painting school. His landscapes of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada mountains were highly regarded. During World War II, the government ordered Japanese Americans to be imprisoned in camps because of their Japanese ancestry. Although Chiura was a professor and an accomplished painter, he was forced to cancel classes, sell many of his paintings, and was sent to Topaz, Utah. In camp, Chiura taught fellow internees to use art to document their experiences. His paintings of the Topaz Internment Camp are now a valuable historical record.



Hazel Ying LEE

Pilot

Hazel Ying Lee (1912-1944) was born in Portland, Oregon and fell in love with flying at age nineteen. She earned her pilot's license, but no one would hire a female pilot. During World War II there was a shortage of male pilots. Hazel was finally hired to fly, along with 131 other women, in the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP). Their job was to deliver new planes across America and test them for malfunctions before combat missions. In 1944, Hazel's plane collided with another plane whose radio was not working and she later died from her injuries. Thirty-eight WASP pilots died during the war, but none were given military honors or military funerals. In 1979, U.S. Congress finally recognized the women and granted them military status.



James WONG Howe

Cinematographer

James Wong Howe (1899-1976) was born in Toishan, China but grew up in Washington State. As a teenager, James worked at odd jobs in Los Angeles. On one job, he took photographs of actors while they were waiting for their next scene. The results were fantastic and he became a favorite cameraman during the age of silent films. James was a master at creating dramatic lights and deep shadows to make actors look their best. He experimented with unusual types of film and lenses, and even used roller skates and helicopters to capture special shots. James shot over 130 films and was recognized by the International Cinematographers Guild as one of the ten most influential cinematographers. He won two Academy Awards for *The Rose Tattoo* (1956) and *Hud* (1964).



Dalip Singh SAUND

U.S. Congress Member

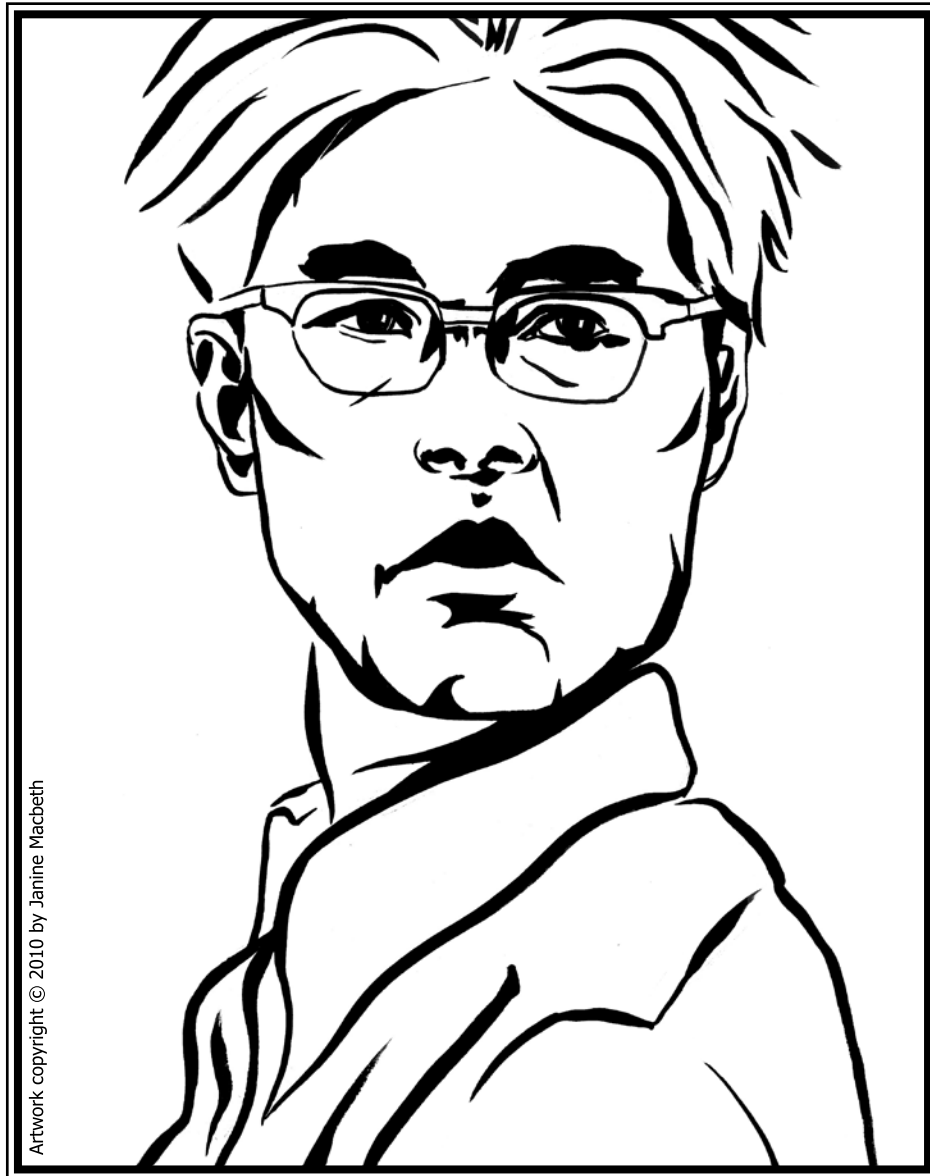
Born in India to a Sikh family, Dalip Singh Saund (1899-1973) traveled to study at the University of California at Berkeley. Dalip earned his Ph.D. in mathematics in 1922, but had a hard time finding work. Indian immigrants, like other Asians, were not allowed to become citizens and could not buy land. Dalip's wife was a citizen by birth, but the laws took away her citizenship when they married because Dalip was an Indian immigrant. Dalip eventually became a successful lettuce farmer. He also formed the Indian Association of America to challenge the citizenship laws. Working with the Indian League of America and the Indian Welfare League, Dalip helped Indians win the right to become citizens in 1946. In 1955, Dalip became the first Asian Pacific Islander American in the U.S. Congress. He eventually served three terms in the House of Representatives.



Patsy MINK

U.S. Congress Member

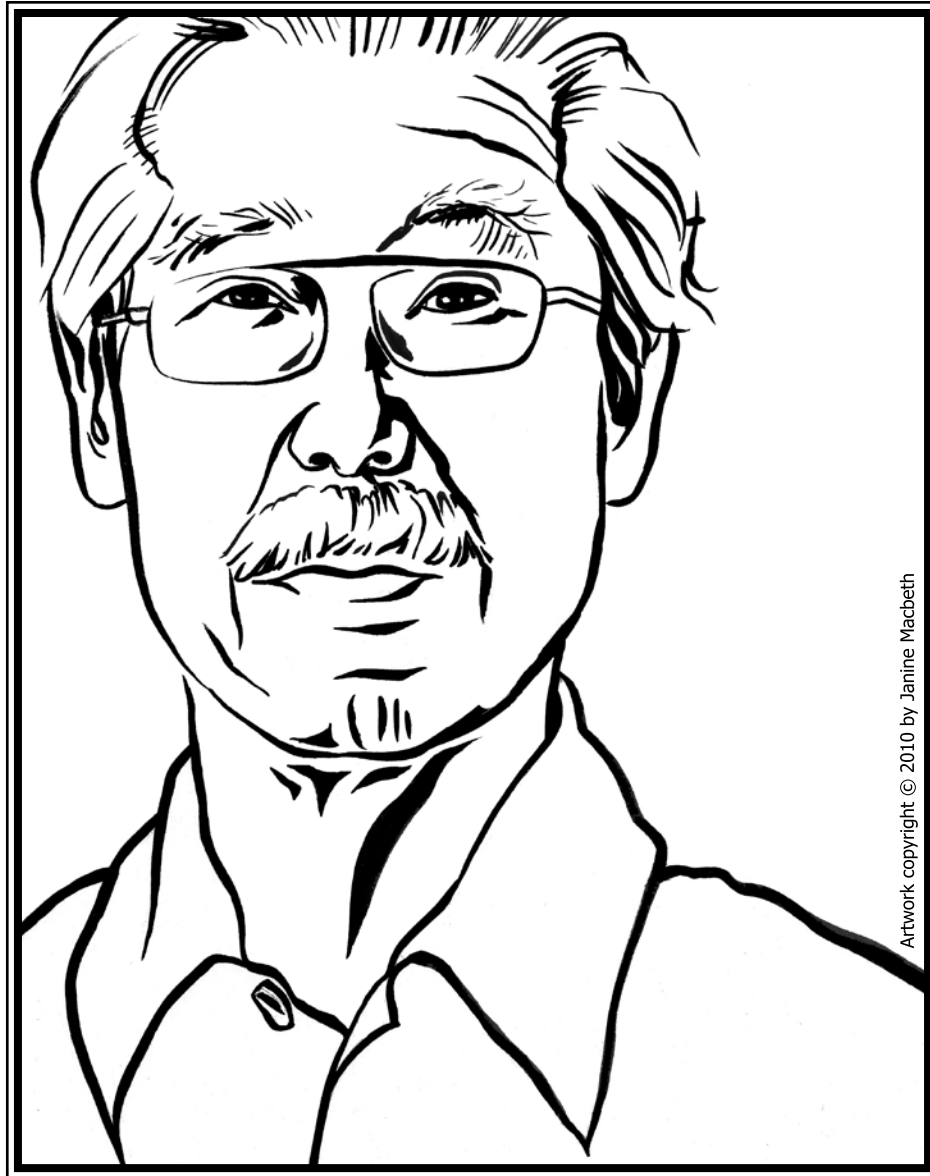
Patsy Matsu Takemoto Mink (1927-2002) was born in Pa'ia, Hawai'i. When she was a teenager, Patsy became the first girl at her high school to become student body president. After college, she wanted to become a doctor, but in 1948 no medical school would accept a woman. She became a lawyer instead and started her own law practice. In 1965, Patsy Mink became the first woman of color in U.S. Congress, representing Hawai'i. She authored laws that funded preschool programs for low income families and wrote a law that gave equal rights and funding for women in academics and sports (Title IX). In her twenty-three years in the House of Representatives, Patsy fought to promote equal rights for women, children, and the poor.



Philip VERA CRUZ

Labor Organizer

In 1926, Philip Vera Cruz (1904-1994) left the Philippines for Seattle and arrived with only \$25. He settled in California and became a farm worker. The work was hard and the pay was very low. Philip, Larry Itliong, and Pete Velasco organized Filipino workers into a labor union. In 1965, they began the Great Delano Grape Strike against the powerful grape growers. Cesar Chavez led Mexican American workers to join Filipinos in the Strike. Together, they formed the United Farm Workers Union - with Philip as a vice president. They picketed supermarkets and led a national boycott of table grapes. In 1970, the growers agreed to provide better pay, improved working conditions, and medical benefits. Philip Vera Cruz is honored by his community and labor unions for his work.



James A. HIRABAYASHI

Dean of Ethnic Studies

James "Jim" Hirabayashi's (born 1926) parents were immigrant farmers in Seattle. As a teenager, Jim, his family, and over 110,000 Japanese Americans were forced to move to concentration camps during World War II. Jim's brother, Gordon, challenged these orders all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. After the war, Jim was released from camp, attended Harvard University, and became an anthropologist. In 1968, students at San Francisco State College shut down the campus and demanded a more diverse education. Jim became Dean of the first School of Ethnic Studies in America. Jim juggled the needs of students, college professors, and different communities (Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Black, Latino, Chicano, and American Indian). Jim felt that everyone's help was needed to create a better curriculum. It is a struggle that continues today.



Laurence YEP

Author

Laurence Yep (born 1948) attended school in San Francisco's Chinatown, but grew up in an African American neighborhood. Throughout his childhood, he felt torn between the cultures, expectations, languages, and religions of the American and Chinese worlds. As an adult, he combines those elements into historical novels set in China and America. In his stories, Chinese railroad workers, business owners, and inventors find themselves at the same crossroads: living in a land they love, but one that also passes discriminatory laws against them. His stories, infused with myths and legends, tell of their survival. Laurence won two Newbery Honor Awards for *Dragonwings* and *Dragon's Gate*, and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal for his contributions to children's literature.



Willa KIM

Costume Designer

As a young Korean American girl in Los Angeles, Willa Kim (born 1930) loved drawing and making paper dolls. Her passion for design brought her to develop costumes for dance, theater, opera, and television. Before each project, Willa read the scripts, researched historical clothing, and watched rehearsals. With these elements in mind, she produced outfits that emphasized each actor and dancer's best features and movements. She also pioneered the use of stretch fabrics that created light, flowing silhouettes. Her attention to detail made her popular with dancers and choreographers. Willa is one of the few costume designers in the Theatre Hall of Fame and has designed costumes for over 150 ballets in San Francisco and New York. Willa won two Tony Awards on Broadway and two Emmy Awards for ballets broadcasted on television.



Dith PRAN

Photojournalist

Dith Pran (1942-2008) was born in Siem Reap, Cambodia. In addition to speaking Khmer and French, Dith taught himself English. Because he spoke three languages, Dith was hired by the *New York Times* to guide reporters throughout Cambodia during the Vietnam War. While interpreting for them, Dith taught himself to take pictures. In 1975, the war ended and there was chaos in Cambodia. A new regime called the Khmer Rouge gained power and executed almost two million people, including fifty members of Dith's family. Dith survived four years of torture before escaping to a refugee camp in Thailand, then to the United States. He worked again for the *New York Times* as a photographer and devoted his life to educating others about the Cambodian genocide. A movie based on his life, *The Killing Fields*, won three Academy Awards.



Maya LIN

Artist & Architect

Maya Lin (born 1959) grew up in Athens, Ohio. When Maya was a college student, she won a national competition to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. At first, her design for a black, reflective granite memorial carved with the names of fallen soldiers was controversial. Some thought it was too simple and unconventional. Others objected to the choice of an Asian designer. Since then, the memorial has become a place of comfort and healing about an unpopular war. Respect for the memorial also led Maya to design the Civil Rights Memorial in Alabama. Maya has continued to use materials like stone, wood, and water to create her sculptures. Viewers are encouraged to walk under, around, and through many of her art installations. In each piece, Maya creates calm spaces for people to reflect on their relationship to the environment.



Greg LOUGANIS

Olympic Diver

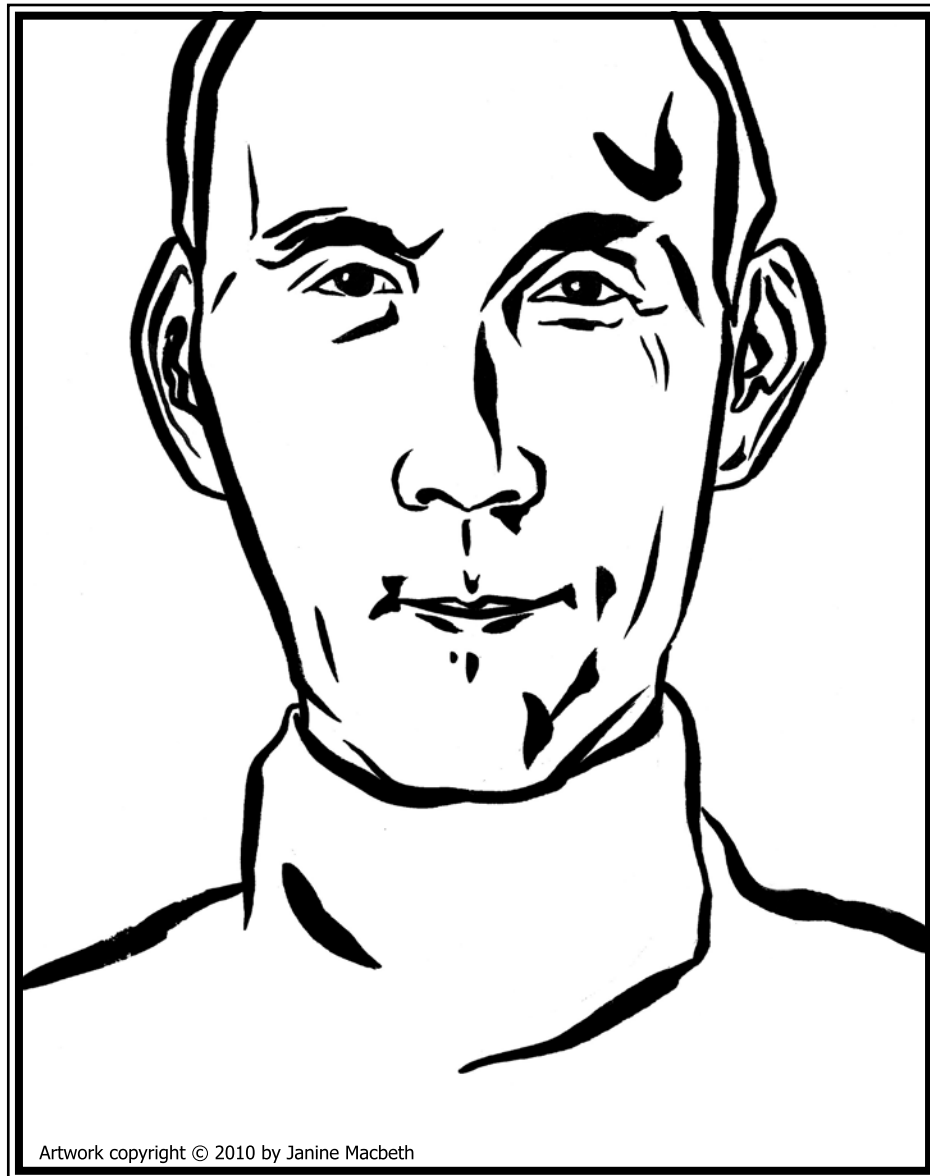
Greg Louganis (born 1960) struggled in school because he stuttered and had dyslexia, a learning disability. To make things worse, students teased him because of his Samoan heritage. His adoptive parents, a Greek American couple, encouraged Greg to take dance, gymnastics, and diving lessons. Greg worked hard and at sixteen he won an Olympic Silver Medal for diving in 1976 and later won Olympic Gold Medals in 1980, 1984, and 1988. The once shy child grew up to be known as the "diver of the century." But even as a successful diver, Greg often felt lonely as he struggled to hide that he was gay and HIV positive. Now he speaks about his experiences to inspire young people with learning disabilities and to win acceptance for gay athletes.



David HO

AIDS Researcher

David Ho (born 1952) was born in Taiwan and moved to Los Angeles when he was twelve years old. He struggled to learn English, but his math abilities and his basketball skills helped him to adapt to his new home. He eventually became one of the earliest researchers of a mysterious illness, later known as AIDS. Many refused to work with AIDS patients, but David worked fearlessly to identify the nature of the deadly illness. He was the first to prove there was no danger from shaking hands with AIDS patients or from touching their drinking glasses. David's work in developing AIDS treatments led to many national awards, including *Time Magazine's* Man of the Year Award in 1996 and the Presidential Medal in 2001.



Ed YOUNG

Illustrator & Author

Ed Tse-chun Young (born 1931) grew up in Shanghai, China during World War II. He later moved to America to attend college and became successful in advertising. But Ed soon discovered that his true passion was in writing and illustrating books for children. He developed his books as a form of art, experimenting with unusual formats so that each book touches the mind and heart. He has illustrated and written over eighty books, some with Chinese legends, calligraphy, poetry, and folktales. One book, *My Mei Mei*, describes the experience of Ed's own daughter when the family adopts a second daughter from China. Ed won the Caldecott Medal for *Lon Po Po: A Red Riding Hood Story from China* and also several Caldecott Honor awards.



Tiger WOODS

Champion Golfer

Eldrick "Tiger" Woods (born 1975) was 11 months old when he picked up a golf club to imitate his father's swing. Tiger's family loved golf, and his parents developed his golf skills and sportsmanship. As Tiger grew up, some of the golf clubs that hosted tournaments did not allow Black members. Tiger is African American, Thai, Chinese, Cherokee and Dutch. In 1997, he stunned the golf world by winning The Masters tournament at age 21. He was the youngest champion and the first African American and Asian American to win the respected title. Since then, Tiger's popularity has increased golf attendance, television ratings, prize awards, and sponsorships. Tiger wanted golf to "look like America," so he has started programs to teach children of all backgrounds about golf, sports, and educational opportunities.

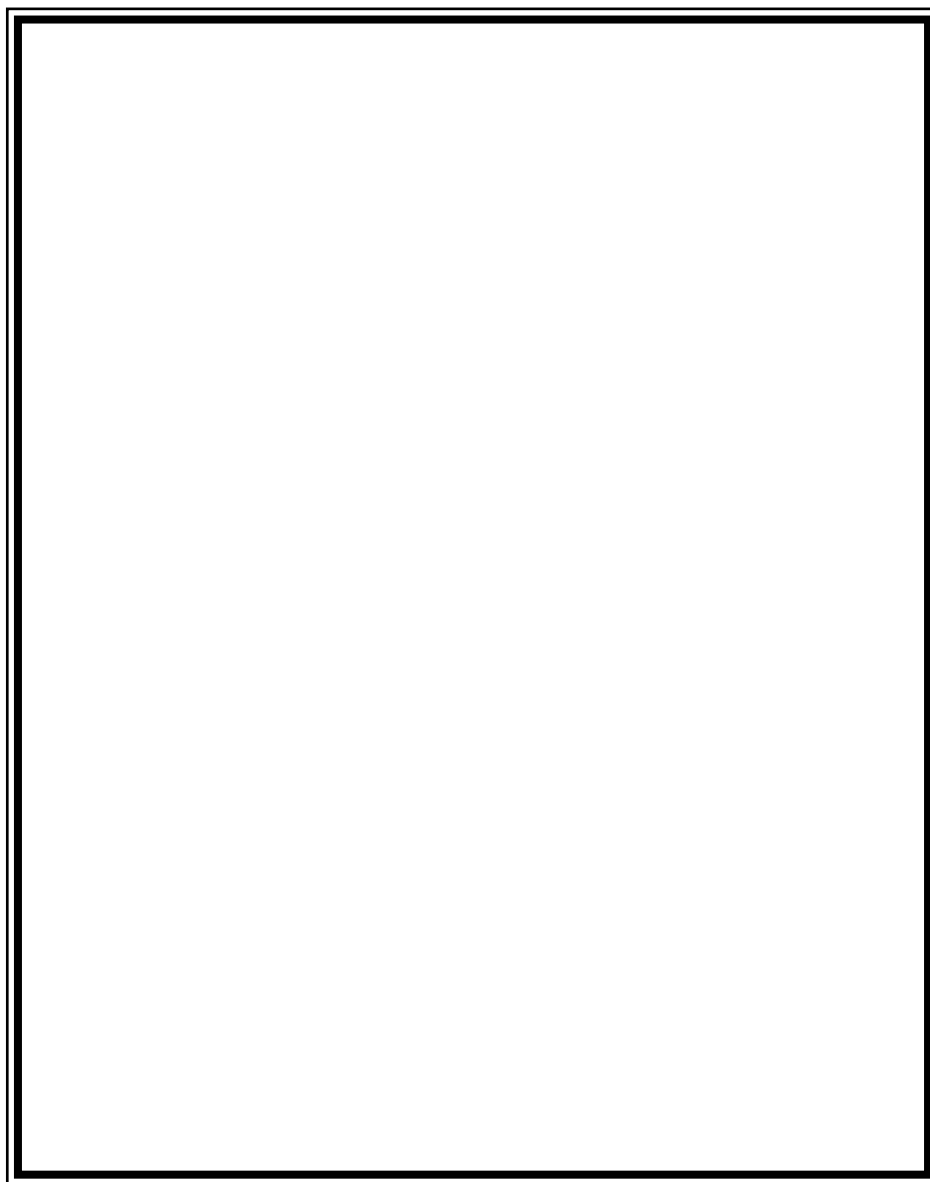


Thuy VU

News Journalist

Thuy Vu was born in Vietnam and fled her country in 1975 as the government collapsed. She lived in two different refugee camps before resettling in Duluth, Minnesota. Later, Thuy's family moved to San Jose, California. In college, she developed a love for storytelling through journalism. Thuy covered the U.S. Congress and national politics for National Public Radio (NPR) and is now a television news reporter in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2005, she returned to Vietnam to document changes in the country. She has also researched the fate of children who were airlifted out of Vietnam thirty years ago. For her work, Thuy has won three Emmy Awards and two Associated Press awards. Although the job of a news reporter can be stressful and chaotic, Thuy maintains a good sense of humor and writes reports that are fair, insightful, and clear.

Name _____ Date _____



Name _____

Profession _____

Name _____

Date _____

Biography Trading Cards

PAGE 1: FRONT

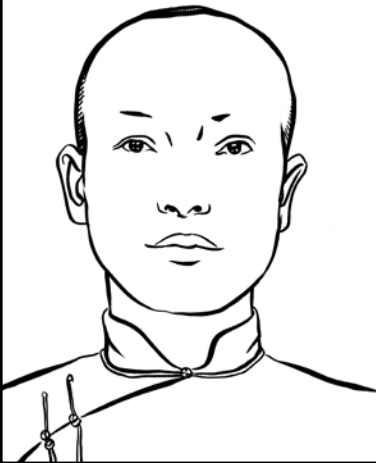
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Student



Mamie Tape

Citizenship Pioneer



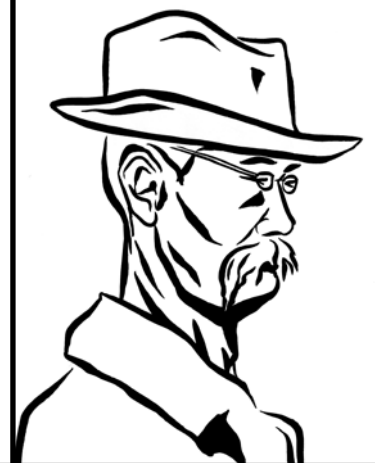
Wong Kim Ark

Queen of Hawai'i



Lili'uokalani

Horticulturist



Lue Gim Gong

Artist & Professor



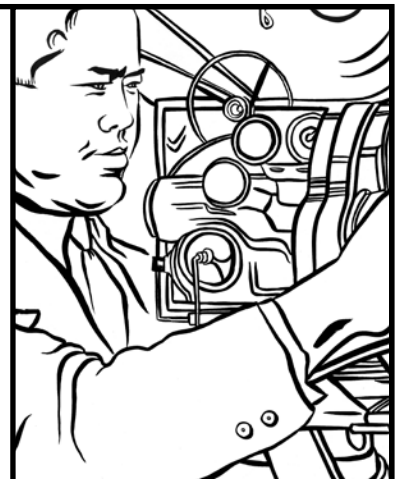
Chiura Obata

Pilot



Hazel Ying Lee

Cinematographer



James Wong Howe

Mamie Tape₍₁₈₇₆₋₁₉₇₂₎
Student

- Mamie's parents tried to enroll her in a San Francisco public school in 1885.
- The school denied her enrollment because she was Chinese.
- *Tape v. Hurley* ruled that Chinese students had the right to attend public schools.
- San Francisco established a segregated public school for Asian students after the case was ruled upon.
- Many schools remained segregated until 1954.

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Biography Trading Cards

PAGE 1: BACK

Lue Gim Gong₍₁₈₆₀₋₁₉₂₅₎
Horticulturist

- Lue Gim Gong came to work in America when he was 12 years old.
- He developed a sweet orange that was frost resistant.
- He became known as "The Citrus Wizard" in Florida.
- He won the Silver Wilder Medal in 1911.

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Lili'uokalani₍₁₈₃₈₋₁₉₁₇₎
Queen of Hawai'i

- Lili'uokalani became Queen of Hawai'i in 1891.
- She tried to return rights to Native Hawaiians and Asians.
- American sugar planters in Hawai'i directed U.S. Marines to force a takeover of Hawai'i without the approval of President Cleveland.
- She was put under house arrest after trying to take back her throne.
- She wrote over 150 traditional Hawaiian songs.

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Wong Kim Ark_(1873-unknown)
Citizenship Pioneer

- Kim Ark was born in San Francisco.
- He visited his parents in China, but was denied entry back into the U.S. because of his Chinese heritage.
- He argued in court that he was an American born citizen and should be allowed to re-enter the U.S.
- *U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark* ruled that children born in the U.S. are citizens.
- Finally, he was allowed to return home to San Francisco.

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James Wong Howe₍₁₈₉₉₋₁₉₇₆₎
Cinematographer

- James developed new lighting and filmmaking techniques that influenced filmmakers for generations.
- He shot over 130 films.
- He won 2 Academy Awards.
- He was recognized as one of the 10 most influential cinematographers by the International Cinematographers Guild.

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Hazel Ying Lee₍₁₉₁₂₋₁₉₄₄₎
Pilot

- Hazel obtained her pilot's license when few women were allowed to fly.
- During World War II, she was hired with the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP). As a pilot, she flew planes to test them for malfunctions.
- She was not allowed to fly combat missions because she was a woman.
- She died in a collision with a malfunctioning plane.
- Congress granted military status to WASP pilots in 1979.

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Chiura Obata₍₁₈₈₅₋₁₉₇₅₎
Artist & Professor

- Chiura started a painting school and taught at the University of California, Berkeley.
- When Japanese Americans were sent to concentration camps during World War II, he was sent to a camp in Topaz, Utah.
- He started an art school in camp, and taught internees to use art to document their experience.

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Name _____

Date _____

Biography Trading Cards

PAGE 2: FRONT

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U.S. Congress Member



Dalip Singh
Saund

U.S. Congress Member



Patsy Mink

Labor Organizer



Philip Vera Cruz

Dean of Ethnic Studies



James A.
Hirabayashi

Author



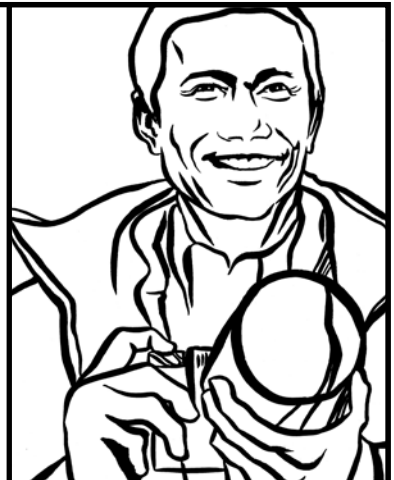
Laurence Yep

Costume Designer



Willa Kim

Photographer



Dith Pran

Dalip Singh Saund₍₁₈₉₉₋₁₉₇₃₎
U.S. Congress Member

- Dalip earned a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1922.
- He became a successful lettuce farmer.
- In 1946, he helped organize Indian immigrants to win their right to become citizens.
- In 1955, he became the first Asian / Pacific Islander American Congress member.
- He served 3 terms in the House of Representatives.

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Biography Trading Cards

PAGE 2: BACK

James A. Hirabayashi_(born 1926)
Dean of Ethnic Studies

- James was sent to a concentration camp when he was a teenager during WWII. He was one of over 110,000 Japanese Americans sent to the camps.
- He earned a Ph.D. at Harvard, and became an anthropologist & college professor.
- He became the founding dean of the very first College of Ethnic Studies in the U.S. at San Francisco State University.

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Philip Vera Cruz₍₁₉₀₄₋₁₉₉₄₎
Labor Organizer

- Philip was a migrant farmworker throughout the western United States.
- He organized Filipino farm workers with Larry Itliong and Pete Valasco.
- He started the Great Delano Grape Strike, which was later joined by Mexican farm workers.
- He founded the United Farm Workers Union with Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta.

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Patsy Mink₍₁₉₂₇₋₂₀₀₂₎
U.S. Congress Member

- In 1948, Patsy wanted to become a doctor, but at the time no medical schools would admit women.
- Instead, she attended law school and started a law firm.
- She became the first woman of color in Congress in 1965.
- She served 23 years in the House of Representatives.
- She authored Title IX legislation that provided for equal rights and funding for women in academics and sports.

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Dith Pran₍₁₉₄₂₋₂₀₀₈₎
Photojournalist

- Dith spoke Khmer, French, and English.
- He was a self-taught photographer, and worked as an interpreter for the *New York Times* during the Vietnam War.
- After the Vietnam War, Dith lost 50 family members in the Cambodian genocide of the late 1970's. He escaped from a labor camp after being imprisoned there for 4 years.
- Dith then worked as a photojournalist for the *New York Times* in the U.S.
- The movie *The Killing Fields* was based on his life, and won 3 Academy Awards.

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Willa Kim_(born 1930)
Costume Designer

- Willa loved making paper dolls as a child.
- She became a costume and set designer for Broadway shows and dance performances.
- She pioneered the use of stretch fabrics to create light and flowing costumes for stage performances.
- She won 2 Tony Awards and 2 Emmy Awards.
- She was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame in 2007.

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Laurence Yep_(born 1948)
Author

- Laurence grew up in San Francisco's Fillmore and Chinatown neighborhoods.
- He received a PhD in English from the State University of New York, Buffalo.
- Laurence wrote over 60 books for young adults. Most of his books focus on Chinese American themes and science fiction.
- Laurence won two Newbery Honor Awards and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal.

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Name _____

Date _____

Biography Trading Cards

PAGE 3: FRONT

- Instructions:**
- 1) Color this sheet.
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Artist & Architect



Maya Lin

Olympic Diver



Greg Louganis

AIDS Researcher



David Ho

Illustrator & Author



Ed Young

Champion Golfer

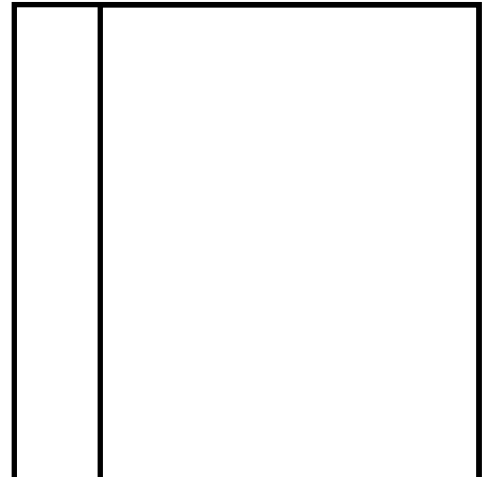


Tiger Woods

News Journalist



Thuy Vu



Maya Lin_(born 1959)
Artist & Architect

- Maya designs sculptures and art that use natural materials.
- In college, she won a national competition to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Her design was initially controversial because of the somber design and because she is Asian.
- Later she designed the Civil Rights Memorial in Alabama.
- She also designed the Museum of Chinese in America, which is located in New York City.

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Biography Trading Cards

PAGE 3: BACK

Ed Young_(born 1931)
Illustrator & Author

- Ed grew up in Shanghai, and moved to the U.S. where he worked in advertising.
- He left advertising to follow his passion and become a children's book author and illustrator.
- He wrote and/or illustrated over 80 books, many with Chinese themes.
- He won the Caldecott Medal and several Caldecott Honor awards.

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David Ho_(born 1952)
AIDS Researcher

- Born in Taiwan, David moved to Los Angeles where he struggled to learn English.
- He became one of the first doctors to research the HIV virus.
- He proved that there is no danger from touching AIDS patients.
- He was named *Time Magazine's* "Man of the Year" in 1996.
- He was awarded the Presidential Medal in 2001.

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Greg Louganis_(born 1960)
Olympic Diver

- Greg is of mixed Samoan heritage. He was adopted and raised by a Greek American couple.
- He struggled in school with learning disabilities.
- At 16, he won the Olympic medal for diving. Went on to win gold medals for diving at 3 more Olympic games.
- He was known as the "diver of the century."
- He openly shares his experiences as a student with learning disabilities, and as a gay athlete.

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Name _____
Profession _____

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Artwork by _____

Thuy Vu
News Journalist

- Thuy was born in Vietnam, and lived in refugee camps during the war. She then moved to the U.S. where she lived in Minnesota, and then California.
- She reported national politics for National Public Radio.
- When she returned to the Bay Area, she was voted the most popular Asian American news anchor.
- She won 3 Emmy Awards and 2 Associated Press Awards for outstanding reporting.

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Tiger Woods_(born 1975)
Champion Golfer

- Tiger started playing golf with his father as a toddler.
- He won the Masters golf tournament at 21 years old.
- He became the 1st African American & 1st Asian American to win a major tournament.
- He became one of the most successful golf players of all time.
- He started programs to expand opportunities for all children

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Additional Notable Asian & Pacific Islander Americans

ACTORS & FILMMAKERS

John Cho (b. 1972) Korean American.
Christine Choy (b. 1953) Korean American. Academy Award Nominee.
Sessue Hayakawa (1889-1973) Japanese American. Academy Award Nominee.
Daniel Arca Inosanto (b. 1936) Filipino American.
Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson (b. 1972) Samoan American/Black Nova Scotian.
Bruce Lee (1940-1973) Chinese American.
Noriyuki "Pat" Morita (1932-2005) Japanese American.
Mira Nair (b. 1957) Indian American.
Spencer Nakasako (b. 1955) Japanese American. Emmy Award Winner.
Haing S. Ngor (1940-1996) Cambodian American. Academy Award Winner.
Dustin Nguyen (b. 1962) Vietnamese American.
Sandra Oh (b. 1971) Korean Canadian/American.
Kal Penn (Kalpen Modi) (b. 1977) Indian American. White House Liaison.
Lea Salonga (b. 1971). Filipino American. Tony Award Winner.
James Shigeta (b. 1933) Japanese American.
M. Night Shyamalan (Manoj Nelliattu Shyamalan) (b. 1970) Indian American.
Sonja Sohn (b. 1964) Korean/African American.
Brenda Song (b. 1988) Hmong/Thai American.
Jack Soo (Goro Suzuki) (1917-1979) Japanese American.
Renee Tajima-Pena. Japanese American. Academy Award Nominee.
George Takei (b. 1937) Japanese American.
Wayne Wang (b. 1949) Chinese American.
Anna May Wong (1905-1961) Chinese American.
B.D. Wong (b. 1962) Chinese American. Tony Award Winner.
Teddy Zee (b. 1957) Chinese American. Producer.

ATHLETES

Tai Babilonia (b. 1959) Filipino/Hopi/African American. Ice Skating.
Michael Chang (b. 1972) Chinese American. Tennis Hall of Fame.
Roman Gabriel (b. 1940) Filipino/Irish American. Quarterback.
Duke Kahanamoku (1890-1968) Native Hawaiian American. Surfer, Olympic Swimmer
Michelle Kwan (b. 1980) Chinese American. Olympic Medalist, Ice Skating.
Sammy Lee (b. 1920) Korean American. Olympic Medalist, Diving/Coach.
Victoria Manalo Draves (b. 1924) Filipino/English American. Olympic Medalist, Diving.
Kim Ng (b. 1968) Chinese American. Assistant General Manager, Los Angeles Dodgers.
Dat Nguyen (b. 1975) Vietnamese American. Football.
Apolo Anton Ohno (b. 1982) Japanese/White American. Olympic Medalist, Speed Skating.
Jesse Sapolu (b. 1961) Samoan American. Football.
Vai Sikaheima (b. 1962) Tongan American. Football/Sportscaster.
Erik Spoelstra (b. 1970) Filipino American. NBA Coach.
Hines Ward (b. 1978) Korean/African American. Football.

Additional Notable Asian Pacific Americans

continued

AUTHORS

Carl Angel Filipino American.
Carlos Bulosan (1913-1956) Filipino American.
Dia Cha (b. 1962) Hmong American.
Leonard Chang Korean American.
Frank Chin (b. 1940) Chinese American.
Yangsook Choi Korean American.
Sook Nyul Choi (b. 1937) Korean American. ALA Notable Book Award.
Minfong Ho (b. 1951) Chinese-Thai American.
Maxine Hong Kingston (b. 1940) Chinese American.
Henry Kiyama (1885-1951) Japanese American.
Uma Krishnaswami Indian American.
Jhumpa Lahiri (Nilanjana Sudeshna) (b. 1967) Indian American. Pulitzer Prize Winner.
Milly Lee Chinese American.
Huy Voun Lee Cambodian American.
Grace Lin Chinese American.
Mai Neng Moua (1974) Hmong American.
Linda Sue Park (b. 1960) Korean American. Newbery Medal Winner.
Allen Say (James Allen Koichi Moriwaki Seii) (1937) Japanese/Korean American.
Jade Snow Wong (1922-2006) Chinese American.
Janet S. Wong (b. 1962) Korean/Chinese American.

CHEFS

David Chang (b.1977) Korean American
Cristeta Comerford (b. 1962) Filipino American. White House Chef
Charles Phan (b. 1962) Vietnamese American
Alan Wong (b. 1956?) Japanese/Chinese American

DESIGNERS / ARTISTS

Chloe Dao (b. 1972) Vietnamese American. Fashion.
Kimora Lee Simmons (b. 1975) Korean/Japanese/African American. Fashion.
Dong Kingman (Dong Moy Shu) (1911-2000) Chinese American. Painting & Graphic Design.
Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988) Japanese/White American. Sculpture & Interior Design.
Gyo Obata (b. 1923) Japanese American. Architect.
Thakoon Panichgul Thai American. Fashion.
I.M. Pei (b. 1917) Chinese American. Architect.
Vern Yip (b. 1968) Chinese American. Interior Design.
Vera Wang (b. 1949) Chinese American. Fashion.

EDUCATORS / HISTORIANS / COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

Grace Lee Boggs (b. 1915) Chinese American.
Helen Agcaoili Summers Brown (b. 1915) Filipino American.
Sucheng Chan (b.1941) Chinese American.
Arn Chorn-Pond (1965) Cambodian American.
Philip P. Choy (b.1926) Chinese American.
Fred and Dorothy Cordova Filipino American.
Shamita Das Dasgupta (b. 1949) Indian American.
Yuji Ichioka (1936-2002) Japanese American.
Tsuyako "Sox" Kitashima (1918-2006) Japanese American.
Yuri Kochiyama (b. 1921) Japanese American.
Him Mark Lai (1925-2009) Chinese American.
Al Robles (1930-2009) Filipino American.
Bill Soro (1939-2007) Filipino/White American.
Ronald Takaki (1939-2009) Japanese American.
Judy Yung (b. 1946) Chinese American.
Helen Zia (b.1952) Chinese American.

JOURNALISTS

Ti-Hua Chang (b. 1950) Chinese American. Emmy Award Winner.
Connie Chung (Constance Yu-Hwa Chung) (b. 1946) Chinese American.
Ann Curry (b. 1956) Japanese/Native/White American. Emmy Award Winner.
Ben Fong Torres (b. 1945) Chinese American.
Emil Guillermo Filipino American.
Michiko Kakutani (b. 1955) Japanese American.
K.W. (Kyung Won) Lee (b. 1928) Korean American.
Betty Nguyen (1974) Vietnamese/White American.
Alex Tizon Filipino American. Pulitzer Prize Winner.
Sheryl WuDunn (b. 1959) Chinese American. Pulitzer Prize Winner.

LAW

Ming W. Chin (b. 1942) Chinese American. Associate Justice, Supreme Court of California.
Morgan Chu (b. 1950) Chinese American. Attorney.
Herbert Choy (1916-2004) Korean American. U.S. District Judge.
Joyce Kennard (b. 1941) Indonesian/Chinese/Dutch American. Associate Justice, Supreme Court of California.
Dale Minami (b. 1946) Japanese American. Attorney.
Jaqueline H. Nguyen (b. 1965) Vietnamese American. U.S. District Judge.
Angela E. Oh Korean American. Attorney.
Robert M. Takasugi (1930-2009) Japanese American. U.S. District Judge.
William R. Tamayo Filipino American. Attorney.
Mililani Trask Native Hawaiian American. Attorney.

MILITARY

442nd Regiment (WWII) Japanese American.
Tammy Duckworth (b. 1968) Thai/White American.
Hung Ba Le (b. 1970) Vietnamese American.
Eric Shinseki (b. 1942) Japanese American.
Veteranos (WWII) Filipino American.

MUSICIANS

Anthony Brown Japanese/Black/Native American. Grammy Nominated.
apple.de.ap (Allan Pineda Lindo) (b. 1974) Filipino/Black American. Black Eyes Peas.
Sarah Chang (b. 1980) Korean American. Violinist.
Kirk Lee Hammett (b. 1962) Filipino/Irish American. Metallica.
Chad (Charles Edward) Hugo (b. 1974) Filipino American. N.E.R.D., The Neptunes.
Chris Kando Iijima (1948-2005) Japanese American.
Vijay Iyer (1971) Indian American. Jazz Piano.
Norah Jones (Gethali Norah Jones Shankar) (b. 1979) Bengali/White American. Grammy Award Winner.
Jahji Ling (b. 1951) Chinese-Indonesian American. Founder San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra.
Yo-Yo Ma (b. 1955) Chinese American. Cellist.
DJ Rheka (Rekha Malhotra) (b. 1971) Indian American.

POLITICS

Daniel Kahikina Akaka (b. 1924) Native Hawaiian/Chinese American. U.S. Senate.
Benjamin J. Cayetano (b. 1939) Filipino American. Governor.
Hiram Fong (Yau Leong Fong) (1906-2004) Chinese American. U.S. Senate.
Gary Locke (b. 1950) Chinese American. Governor.
Norman Y. Mineta (b. 1931) Japanese American. Presidential Cabinet Member.
Irene Natividad (b. 1948) Filipino American.

SCIENTISTS/INVENTORS

Amar Bose (b. 1929) Indian-Bengali/White American. Stereo speaker technology.
Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar (1910-1995) Indian/Pakistani American. Nobel Prize, Physics.
Steven Chu (b. 1948) Chinese American. Nobel Prize. Presidential Cabinet Member.
Pedro Flores (1899-unknown) Filipino American. First U.S. yo-yo manufacturer.
FONG Joe Guey (1883-1912) Chinese American. Aircraft.
Har Gobind Khorana (b. 1922) Indian American. Nobel Prize, interpreting the genetic code.
Tsung-Dao Lee (b. 1926) Chinese American. Second youngest Nobel Prize Winner.
Jim Yong Kim (b. 1959) Korean American. President of Dartmouth College.
Yellapragada Subbarao (1895-1948) Indian American. Cancer research.
An Wang (1920-1990) Chinese American. Computer technology.
Flossie Wong-Staal (b. 1947) Chinese American. HIV/AIDS research.

Suggested Activities

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS & TEACHERS:

Use a golden tan or light brown color for most of the faces.
Some portraits should be a darker brown (like Tiger Woods,
and Dalip Singh Saund) Do *not* color the faces a bright yellow.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Portrait Posters

Glue the portrait from this booklet onto a larger poster board. Color the portrait and illustrate items or a scene from his/her life that are mentioned in the text. Use *Honoring our Ancestors: Stories and Pictures by Fourteen Artists*, edited by Harriet Rohmer (Children's Book Press, 1999) as an example of how the final product should appear.

Letter

Write a letter to a person in this booklet. Tell them what lessons or inspiration you learned from their life story. Be sure to check with your teacher about correct letter format, spelling, and grammar.

Paper Airplane

In some folktales, thoughts can be delivered on the wind to the intended person, whether they are living or dead. Color one of the portraits, then write a letter on the back, fold the letter into a paper airplane, and fly it. Tape a piece of Christmas tinsel to the tail of the plane to approximate a vapor trail. Even if this is fanciful activity, practice using correct letter format.

Kites

In parts of Latin America, Africa, and Asia, kites are flown in honor of the deceased on special days. Messages are written on the kites, and by flying them, the living send messages to those in the spirit world. Write a message on the back of the biography to a deceased hero. Fold the paper in an "X" shape and make a few cuts along the fold. Thread bamboo skewers through the cuts and tape the ends. Tie string across the top and bottom and tie into an X. Tie kite string to the center. Be observant about kite safety (never wind the string around your fingers or wrist; fly away from wires; and never fly a kite in a storm). Kite kits and paper bag kites are available to schools at: www.kitesintheclassroom.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Words, Words, Words

Mount the portrait on a larger poster board. Create a poster with key words and sentences from the person's life around the portrait. Research their life on the internet. Write one page about a key event in that person's life.

Comic Strip

Illustrate one of the large biography cards. Use the format of a comic strip, in six to ten frames. Or, use a circle format with the events in time order, like the hours on a clock.

Talking Profiles

Create a profile view of yourself facing a profile of the person in the biography. Imagine a dialogue or interview between yourself and the person. What would you ask them? Be sure your answers for the person are based on research and facts.

Quotations Wall

Research an APIA life, using the internet or the local library. Copy an interesting quotation on legal sized tagboard, glue the baseball card sized portrait and your write-up. Explain the quotation, using events from the person's life in paragraph form. Assemble a "Quotations Wall" of all the students' projects.



HIGH SCHOOL

More Biographies

Write and illustrate a new biography from the list on page 35, using the format in the book (see the template on page 28). Draw a portrait or a scene from the person's life. Write a descriptive paragraph for the portrait and write the main points in a bullet form on the baseball card.

Biography Counterparts

Choose a few themes and research counterparts from the API community and another community. Examples of API and African American counterparts include: *Oscar Winners*: Haing S. Ngor & Sidney Portier or *Military*: WWII 442nd Regiment & Civil War Massachusetts 54th Regiment. More examples are available on the TACT website. www.tactsf.org

Book Making

Research an API American from the list that begins on page 35. Write and illustrate a biography for middle or elementary school students in children's book form. *Nothing but Trouble: the Story of Althea Gibson* by Sue Stauffacher, *When Marian Sang* by Pam Muñoz Ryan's are excellent examples of good biographies for younger children.

Community Snapshots

Research someone in your community who is API American. Consider people in the local media, politics, schools, in your neighborhood, or in your family. Write and illustrate a biography about the person.

Teams of Themes

Choose a theme (i.e. Nobel Prize Winners, athletes, television actors, or the law). Working with a team of students, create portraits and write ups, and display the set in your school.

Mock Court

Choose a court case from page 40. Research the arguments from opposing sides and re-enact the case. Discuss how the outcome may affect peoples' lives.

TRADING CARD GAMES

Create some games based on the baseball card sized portraits in this book for elementary and middle school students (for example, play a game like "Memory"). Be sure to write simple rules for playing the games.



Important Court Cases

Throughout history, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have used the court system to challenge discrimination. Some cases were won and others were lost.

People v. Hall (1854) Supreme Court of California.
Prohibited Chinese witnesses. Case number: 4 Cal. 399 (1854).

Chy Lung v. Freeman (1875) Supreme Court of the United States.
Federal power over immigration. Case number: 92 U. S. 275 (1875).

In re Ah Yup (1878) Federal District Court, California.
Defined racial barriers to citizenship. Case number: 1 Fed.Cas. 223 (1878).

Yick Wo v. Hopkins (1886) Supreme Court of the United States.
Required equal application of the law. Case number: 118 U.S. 356 (1886).

United States v. Thind (1923) Supreme Court of the United States.
Racial barriers based on social definitions of race not geography or heritage.
Case number: 261 U.S. 204 (1923).

Gong Lum v. Rice (1927) Supreme Court of the United States.
Upheld segregation in public schools. Case number: 275 U.S. 78 (1927).

Korematsu v. United States (1944) Supreme Court of the United States.
Upheld the internment of Japanese Americans. Case number: 323 U.S. 214 (1944).

Sei Fujii v. California (1952) Supreme Court of California
Ruled the Alien Land Laws as unconstitutional. Case number: 38 Cal.2d 718 (1952).

Lau v. Nichols (1974) Supreme Court of the United States.
Required schools to address the needs of non-English speaking children.
Case number: 414 U.S. 563 (1974).

Resources

GENERAL BIOGRAPHIES

Chinese American Portraits: Personal Histories 1828-1988. Ruthanne Lum McCunn. 1988.
Extraordinary Asian Americans. Susan Sinnott 1993.
Asian American Biographies, A-L. Helen Zia and Susan Gall 1995.
Asian American Biographies, M-Z. Helen Zia and Susan Gall 1995.
The Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience. Franklin Odo. 2002.

APIA PUBLICATIONS & TEACHERS' GUIDES

Asian American Curriculum Project ♦ www.asianamericanbooks.com
Children's Book Press ♦ www.childrensbookpress.org
East Wind Books of Berkeley ♦ www.asiabookcenter.com
Lee & Low Books ♦ www.leeandlow.com
Shen's Books ♦ www.shens.com

Contributors



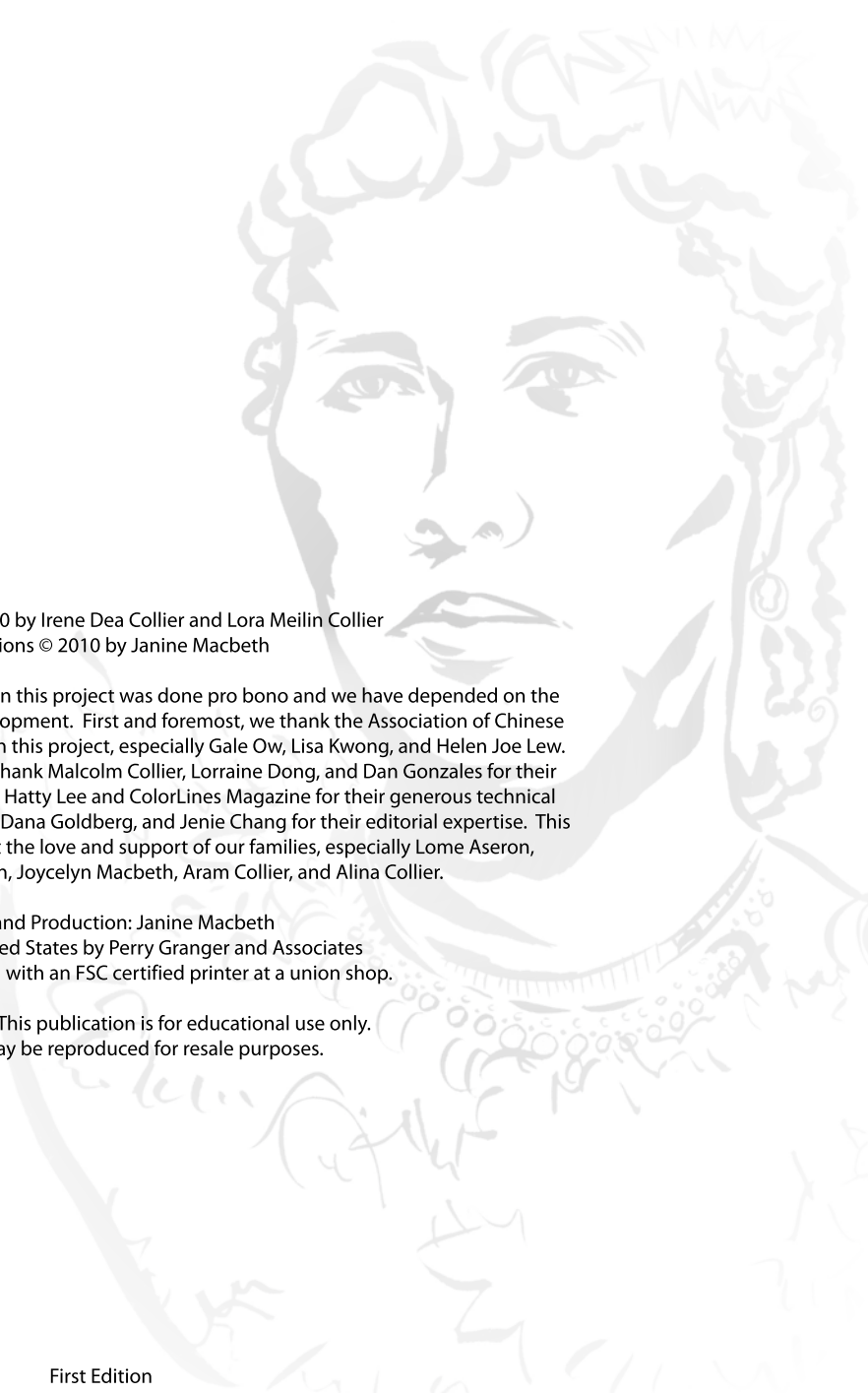
Irene Dea Collier was born in Guangdong Province, China. She came to the United States as a child and grew up in San Francisco's Chinatown. Irene has taught for over 35 years at the preschool, elementary, middle, and college levels, and has also been a curriculum writer, preschool director, and bilingual teacher. Irene's approach to teaching shares her passion for history, and honors the great risks that people of the past have taken to bring us to where we are today. Irene created the activities in this book, and has shared them all with her students over the years. She is also the author of *Chinese Mythology* (Enslow, 2001).

Lora Meilin Dea Collier was raised in San Francisco, with summers in Taos, New Mexico. She has worked for numerous youth and school programs and volunteered for the TACT curriculum project since 2002. Through her work, Lora seeks to increase opportunities for multiple voices to be heard in discussing the past, defining the present, and planning the future. She manages a grant program for the State of California that provides volunteer advocates to children in foster care.



Janine Macbeth was born and raised in Oakland, California. Her mother is a Chinese American public school teacher of over 35 years, and her father is a retired social worker who served homeless men with HIV in San Francisco. Janine has worked for the Applied Research Center, *ColorLines Magazine*, and Children's Book Press, the first known "first voice" multicultural and bilingual children's book publisher in the country. She has made art for magazines, organizations, art shows, events, performances, and friends. Janine is of mixed Asian, Black, white, and Native descent.

www.j9macbeth.com



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This book was printed with an FSC certified printer at a union shop.

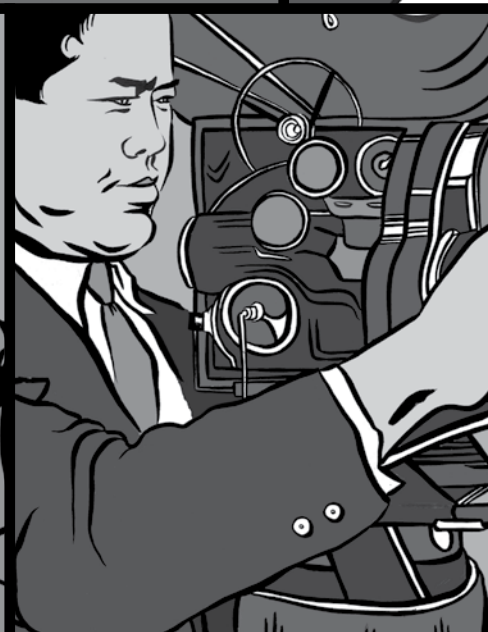
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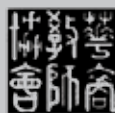
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Founded in the midst of the civil rights struggle (1969), **The Association of Chinese Teachers** is a professional organization of dedicated educators actively striving for educational excellence and equity for all students through advocacy and outreach, professional development, parent involvement, community collaboration, and participation in educational policy making. Over the years, TACT has been instrumental in shaping policy in the areas of affirmative action, bilingual education, crosscultural curriculum, and teachers' issues. The TACT Curriculum Committee is a subcommittee of The Association of Chinese Teachers. Over the years it has developed curriculum materials for classroom distribution.



This curriculum book includes a collection of:

- ◆ 20 biographies of influential Asian & Pacific Islander Americans
- ◆ 20 portraits for coloring
- ◆ 20 baseball size trading cards with portraits and information
- ◆ Activities for youth ages 5 through 18
- ◆ An additional list of over 120 notable Asian & Pacific Islander Americans



TACTS

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CHINESE TEACHERS
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www.tactsf.org

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