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**Los Altos for Racial Equity Newsletter - Issue #5**

1 message

**LARE via ActionNetwork.org** <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:22 PM

Reply-To: losaltosracialequity@gmail.com

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Hi Tanya!



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**May 2022   Issue 5**

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**Los Altos for Racial Equity (LARE)** is a group of Los Altos residents who share a commitment to the work of social justice. The mission of **LARE** is to ensure equity for the Los Altos BIPOC community by influencing policy change, engaging the public in racial equity advocacy, and promoting diversity in community businesses, arts and events.

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## **Issue Highlights**

**May is National Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month and National Mental Health Month**

May is AAPI Heritage Month - a time to celebrate the 50 ethnic groups that make up the AAPI community. It is also a critical time to bring awareness to the injustices suffered by

Asian Americans for hundreds of years. Recently, Asian Americans have largely felt scapegoated and blamed for the COVID-19 pandemic. Roughly two months after the first confirmed COVID-19 case in the US, [60 percent of Asian Americans](#) reported having witnessed someone blaming people of Asian background for the coronavirus epidemic.

False information spread on social media buoyed by a racist former president who called COVID a 'Chinese virus' and created a hostile environment unleashing 100 attacks on AAPI people [per day](#). In 2021, more than 6000 hate crimes against AAPIs were self-reported; the actual number is far bigger as many victims feared retaliatory attacks if they did speak up.

Scapegoating Asian Americans is an American legislative 'reflex' through its history. The U.S. has a history of discriminatory, [racist laws](#) against AAPIs. One example is in the late 19th century, when white nativists spread xenophobic propaganda about Chinese uncleanness in San Francisco. This fueled the passage of the infamous Chinese Exclusion Act, the first law in the United States that barred immigration solely based on race. Initially, the act placed a 10-year moratorium on all Chinese migration.

As we look forward to celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, we need to learn more about its unique features as a diverse, rich group of multiple ethnicities. AAPIs are not a monolith but consist of many ethnic groups speaking over 100 languages, with connections to Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, Hawaiian, and other Asian and Pacific Islander ancestries. Over 24 million Americans, or [7.3%](#) of the U.S. population, are AAPI; however, about [two-thirds](#) of the population identify with their specific ethnicity or country of origin.

Being anti-racist is a daily practice but you need the 'whole' picture and history to know how to help. To start, here are some Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month facts you should absolutely know.

AAPI Facts: [History of Anti-Asian discrimination](#)

1. May 7, 1843, First Japanese immigrant arrives in the U.S.
2. May 10, 1869, Transcontinental railroad completed with the labor of nearly 20,000 Chinese Immigrants.
3. May 6, 1882, Chinese Exclusion Act
4. March 3, 1885, *Tape v. Hurley*, California's Supreme Court rules that the state entitles "all children" access to public education. The case centers on [Mamie Tape](#), then 8 years old, an American-born daughter of Chinese immigrants whose family sued the San Francisco Board of Education for denying her admission because of her race.
5. December 7, 1941, The Japanese bomb [Pearl Harbor](#). Two months later, [President Franklin D. Roosevelt](#), fearing Japanese immigrants or those with Japanese ancestry had taken part in planning the attack, issues an executive order that forces more than 120,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast into [internment camps](#). According to the National Archives, approximately 70,000 of those targeted are U.S. citizens, and no charges are made against any of them. Most lose their homes,

businesses and belongings, and are held until the war ends. In 1988, President Ronald Regan signs a law apologizing for the civil liberty injustice with the order to pay \$20,000 to each person who had been incarcerated.

6. 1978 AAPI Heritage Week signed into law by President Jimmy Carter
7. 1992 AAPI Month signed into law by President George H.W. Bush

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## Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in the U.S. since 1949. Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. During May, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) joins the national movement to raise awareness about mental health. Each year NAMI fights stigma, provides support, educates the public, and advocates for policies that support people with mental illness and their families. Mental Health Awareness Month provides a perfect opportunity to shine a spotlight on spreading helpful mental health resources, information and content. Take action through efforts, like voting for mental health or advocating for improving our nation's crisis response system (see the [Partner Guide](#) for more examples).

### Call to Action:

- [#ReimagineCrisis](#) - support 24/7 local crisis call centers, mobile crisis teams, and crisis stabilization options
- [#VoteForMentalHealth](#) - People with mental illness are traditionally disenfranchised in the elections process, and every level of policy impacts the mental health services we see in our communities. Voting with mental health in mind is critical.
- Be a Mental Health care [advocate](#)

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## Local Issues

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### News from Partner Organization

**The Los Altos Community Coalition (LACC)** is a non-profit organization working through education and conversation about future trends, policy proposals, and best practices to promote good city planning, good government, and civil discourse in our community. LACC

will meet on Friday, 5/20, from 8:30am - 9:30am, on Zoom and welcomes the community to join them to hear **Russell Hancock**, President and CEO of Joint Venture Silicon Valley, discuss 'State of Silicon Valley Briefing'.

**Russell Hancock** is President & Chief Executive Officer of Joint Venture Silicon Valley, a position he has held since 2003. In these roles Dr. Hancock is best described variously: as a civic leader, community gatherer, institution builder, civic entrepreneur, social scientist, and outspoken advocate for regionalism. Since taking the helm he has grown the size of the organization ten-fold; assembled a potent board filled with mayors, CEOs and university presidents; built strategic partnerships; recruited a highly talented staff; founded the Institute for Regional Studies, and launched initiatives that are delivering measurable results to the region.

**Russell** is also the founder of the annual *State of the Valley* Conference, a "town hall" meeting attracting more than 1,500 leaders for a day spent in dialogue and discussion about the Valley's challenges and opportunities. The conference features the release of the *Silicon Valley Index*, a document now receiving national and international attention.

Click [here](#) for the Zoom link. Meeting ID: 825 1985 6242; One tap mobile: +16699009128,,82519856242# US (San Jose)

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## Los Altos Police Department

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Assembly Bill (AB) 953 enacted The Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015 (RIPA) into law. This law requires each California Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) to annually report their 'stop data' to the Attorney General. A 'stop' is defined as any detention or interaction by a peace officer of a person, pedestrian or driver, that results in the officer conducting a search. As a gesture of good faith, the Los Altos Police Department (LAPD) has released its RIPA data (before legally required per the size of the department) to a team at LARE who are currently analyzing the data. For a more detailed explanation of the law click [here](#).

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Assembly Bill [\(AB\) 481](#) was passed by the California Legislature to address the funding, acquisition, and use of military equipment by each California LEA. Per California Government Code Section 7071, the LAPD Military Equipment Policy (MEP) must be approved by City Council. LAPD will present their MEP to City Council on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, during their regular meeting. LAPD will host a Town Hall on Thursday, May 12, at 5pm in the Manzanita Room at the Los Altos Community Center to present their MEP and answer questions from the community.

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### Have you read...?

Have you read 'The Emancipator'? You may find some copies of pages from the 19th century abolitionist publication calling for the end of the enslavement of Black people. But I'm referring to the the current day commentary-forward platform created in collaboration with The Boston Globe and Boston University's Center for Antiracist Research seeking context and depth to achieve racial justice. '[The Emancipator](#)' re-launched on April 19th and will continue to publish articles about systemic racism in America and the antiracist approach to understanding and beginning to dismantle these systems,

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### Important Dates

- Tuesday, 5/10, 7pm: City Council Meeting, [Agenda](#), [Video](#)
- Thursday, 5/12, 5pm: LAPD Town Hall re: Military Equipment Policy, Manzanita Room - Los Altos Community Center
- Tuesday, 5/24, 7pm: City Council Meeting

### Upcoming Dates

- Thursday, 5/12, 1pm: Antibigotry Symposium (online), [Register](#)
  - Wednesday, 5/18, 7pm - 8:30pm: Panel discussion on Gender Disparities in the Pandemic-Employment and the Workplace, via Zoom, sponsored by Los Altos Women's Caucus
  - Saturday, 10/1: NAMI Silicon Valley walk, [Register](#)
  - Thursdays, 4pm - 8pm: 2022 Farmer's Market
  - Permanent COVID-19 testing Booth, M-F, 7:30am - 3:30pm at the Los Altos Community Center. [Signups](#)
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## How Can You Help?

Read more about LARE on our [website](#) and follow us on social media (Instagram, Facebook), @losaltosforracialequity. LARE has several Working Groups focused on the following areas:

Accountable Governance, Policing & School Resource Officers (SROs), Housing, Education, Environment, Community Support, and Arts and Events. If one or more of these Working Groups resonate with you and you would like to participate in making change happen in our community, reach out to us and let us know how you can help! We are looking forward to hearing from you!

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