



Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander HERITAGE MONTH

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How do you identify within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community?

I am Chinese American, the eldest of 5 daughters all born in Oakland California. My father remarried and I have another younger sister and brother; all who thrive, work and instill in our children the principles, traditions and values of our Chinese heritage.

How did you find your way to the Bay Area?

My mother and grandmother were born in San Francisco California, while my father was born in Guangzhou, China. My grandfather came through Angel Island and settled in Sonoma, California where he was a farmer. My parents met and fell in love at Oakland Technical High School and married in 1956. Born and raised in Oakland, California and where I choose to raise my family and retire.

How has your heritage shaped the person you are today?

I am a very Americanized Chinese, however I follow our traditions, beliefs, Ching Ming, foods, superstitions, feng shui and values of our ancestors. Family gatherings, food, cooking of favorites for celebrations were always woven into our lives. My work fulfills me: the nonprofit world of helping immigrants and my second job as realtor assisting families and first-time-home buyers in home ownership in the Bay Area.

Who are the role models or mentors that have influenced you or helped guide you?

My hardworking and sacrificing grandparents, my Uncle Sum and my parents are my role models; showing us daily how perseverance, integrity, love and backbone rewards with stability, well-being and sustenance. Learning from their dedication and work ethics we became successful Asian American minorities. Our contributions helped to shape the landscape of diversity, color and spectrum of the bay.

What brings you joy about your heritage and culture?

Pride in who I am and my heritage stands out for me when in 1987, I visited the village home in Guangzhou China where my Dad and Grandmother were born and relatives still reside, has brought tremendous insight. In that same house where they slept on hard wooden beds and knelt to cook on a floor level wok, I saw a photo of my sisters and me proudly displayed in the main room, indicating their pride in American-born relatives. It was profound and deeply meaningful in the what-ifs of life and how we all came to be in the here and now.



**Behavioral Health
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