Dear A3PCON Friends,

We come to this newsletter in celebration, reflection and gratitude for one of our own. Mariko Tse Kahn has served as a tireless advocate for the mental wellness of our AAPI communities as Executive Director of Pacific Asian Counseling Services since 2004. An LMFT by training, Mariko’s service to our communities began long before her role at PACS.

In 1977, 20,000 people from around the world gathered in Houston, Texas. The National Women’s Conference was the first and only time that the federal government supported a meeting with approximately 2,000 delegates from 50 states and 6 territories to collectively create a national women’s agenda. Mariko was a California delegate and ended up being the API spokesperson for the Minority platform. *(Pictured from left to right are: Rita Elway, Carmela Lacayo, Gloria Scott, Ethel Allen, Mariko Tse Kahn, Coretta Scott King, Angela Cabrera, and Maxine Waters.)*

In the nearly 45 years since this historic conference, Mariko’s commitment to fighting for the well-being of our communities has elevated every organization, every committee, and every role she’s stepped into. Her belief in a better world for us all shines through in her work, her advocacy and her friendships. Those efforts included building capacity of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities through A3PCON. She served in multiple leadership roles as co-chair of the Mental Health Committee, board treasurer, board vice-president and president. In these positions, Mariko always sought to strengthen member organizations’ ability to serve community members and address their needs.

Prior to joining PACS, Mariko was the Executive Director of The Maple Counseling Center in Beverly Hills, a private non-profit mental health counseling center, as well as the Executive Director of The Wellness Community, a non-profit organization that provided free support to cancer patients and their families. She was also a fierce leader in the Department of Mental Health and served on the Systems Leadership Team - which is the primary advisory group to the Director of LAC DMH. She is a former co-chair of the API Underrepresented Ethnic Populations (UREP) Committee, was a member of the Workforce Education and Training Advisory Committee and she worked on the development of the LAC DMH Innovations Plan.
Mariko’s comprehensive view and full understanding of what mental wellness takes led her to become a founding member of the MFT Stipend Committee of the Southern California Consortium of MFT Educators and Clinical Directors. She was chosen to serve as a member of the MHSOAC Workforce subcommittee on Education and Training.

In her eyes, one of her most rewarding experiences as a member of the Board of Directors of Cambodia Town in Long Beach. She was part of the community team of business and community leaders who spearheaded the successful naming of “Cambodia Town” and continued to be actively involved with them as they moved forward towards the economic revitalization of the community.

Her accolades are clear and precede her. Mariko Tse Kahn is a force to be reckoned with and will be dearly missed in all the spaces she fought for, created, supported and advised, as she transitions into her very well deserved retirement.

“Mariko Kahn is the consummate advocate for the mental health needs of our API communities here in Los Angeles County. She has been the outspoken critic of the Department of Mental Health failure to address the historic mental health disparity between mental health need and the lack of culturally competent services in our communities and has been the chief architect of the A3PCON Mental Health committee advocacy positions for the past decade. For all of us she has been the role model in the importance of “speaking up” at every opportunity to address the leadership at the Department of Mental Health and the Board of Supervisors on this issue and holding them accountable for their inability to address our needs. A3PCON is well respected, better and stronger given Mariko Khan’s leadership over the past 15+ years and I am truly grateful to be her colleague.” - Herb Hatanaka, SSG Executive Director

“There has never been a question of Mariko’s commitment to her work, the community, and the needs of the Asian Pacific Islander people. As a Board Member, and the former Board President, Mariko could always be counted on to remind us of our mission, our responsibilities to our members, and the history of our A3PCON journey. Thank you Mariko for your tireless dedication to our Board and to our organization as a whole.” - Rachelle Arizmendi, A3PCON Board President

“For decades, Mariko has been an amazing leader not only for A3PCON, but for the AAPI community in Los Angeles. She has always sought to raise awareness of our issues and ensure equity in terms of language access, resource allocation and funding. She’s also been a mentor to me, offering sage advice when I was South Asian Network’s executive director in 2010. As one of the few women AAPI EDs, Mariko serves as a model in her assertiveness, generosity and demands for excellence. Mariko, we are so grateful for your thoughtful leadership and dedication to the community and we will miss you dearly. Enjoy your retirement, though we promise to keep you busy in asking you to continue to serve in an advisory role at A3PCON.” - Manju Kulkarni, A3PCON Executive Director

Today, a little over a week into Mariko’s retirement - we are beyond grateful and
elated to celebrate Mariko and all that she’s done and created for our communities. Congratulations and thank you, Mariko!

Manju Kulkarni
Executive Director

Rachelle Arizmendi
Chair, Board of Directors

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Upcoming Events

This Thursday, August 12th at 5PM PST, A3PCON will be co-sponsoring the event: "Redressing Racial Injustices Through Reparations and Solidarity: Lessons Learned from the Incarceration of Japanese Americans, Slavery in America, and Repeated Suffering of Inequities by Black Americans". Registrants will receive a link to a free screening of “Reparations”, a Stop Repeating History production by panelist Jon Osaki, for viewing in advance of the program. Interested community members can register at link above.
REDRESSING RACIAL INJUSTICES THROUGH REPARATIONS AND SOLIDARITY

Thursday, August 12, 2021 • 5:00pm PT

Lessons Learned from the Incarceration of Japanese Americans, Slavery in America, and Reparations Suffering of Injuries by Black Americans.

Panelists:

Dr. Melina Abdullah
Mia Yamamoto
Dr. Cheryl Grills
Moderator:
John Mathews II

Register at www.langstonbar.org/civil-rights

Reparations, directed by Josh Darnell, is a film exploring reparation for slavery in the United States. Black Americans and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders reflect on the legacy of slavery, the inequalities that persist, and the critical role that solidarity between communities has in acknowledging and addressing systemic racism in America.

**Panelist:**
Dr. Melina Abdullah
Prominent Pan-Africanist, Civil Rights Activist, Global Leader, Black Lives Matter, Los Angeles

**Panelist:**
Mia Yamamoto
Civil Rights Attorney, Civil Rights Advocate, Past President of ACLU

**Panelist:**
Cheryl Grills, Ph.D.
Psychologist, Criminal Justice Reform Expert, Task Force Member

**Panelist:**
Jon Osaki
Filmmaker, Social Justice Advocate, Executive Director, ACJC

**Moderator:**
John Mathews II
Civil Rights Committee Chair

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**Special Thanks To All Of Our Sponsors**

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**Register at [www.langstonbar.org/civil-rights](http://www.langstonbar.org/civil-rights)**

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### Redistricting 101

You still have a chance to offer public comment, submit testimony, draw your community and submit your suggestions to LAUSD, LA City, LA County, and CA State Redistricting Commissions! Why is this important?

When the U.S. Census Bureau releases the data collected in the 2020 Decennial Census, electoral districts will be redrawn in the state of California (and everywhere that has districts). This process is called Redistricting, and it occurs to balance the populations in each district based on the Census data - which dictates funding, resources and legislative influence for the communities that live in the districts.
Most states give the power of redrawing legislative and congressional districts to the state legislature. Some states, like California, conduct redistricting differently. In 2008, California voters passed the Voters First Act. The Voters First Act mandates the creation of an independent Commission to redraw district lines.

UPCOMING REDISTRICTING MEETINGS

**Los Angeles Unified School District** - Meeting Agenda August 11, 2021

The next LAUSD Redistricting meeting will be held **Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM (PST)**. Agenda notes can be found above.

**Los Angeles City** - Meeting Agenda August 11, 2021

The next LA City Council Redistricting Commission meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM (PST)**. Agenda notes can be found above.

**Los Angeles County** - Meeting Agenda August 11, 2021

The next LA County Citizens Redistricting Commission (LAC CRC) Meeting and Public Hearing seeking input on communities of interest will be held **Wednesday, August 11, 2021** at the El Monte Community Center, 3130 Tyler, El Monte, CA 91731 beginning at **7:00 PM (PST)**. Parking is behind the building.

This will be their first combination of in-person and virtual LAC CRC meeting and public hearing in the San Gabriel Valley. For information about public hearings, please visit the public hearings page at; [https://redistricting.lacounty.gov/public-hearings/](https://redistricting.lacounty.gov/public-hearings/) or click here.

**California State** - Meeting Agenda August 12, 2021

The next Citizens Redistricting Commission regular meeting will be on **August 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM (PST)** followed by the public hearing for communities of interest input (Zone G). Agenda notes can be found above.

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The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) is a coalition of community-based organizations that advocates for the rights and needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in the greater Los Angeles area with particular focus on low income, immigrant, refugee and other disadvantaged sectors of the population. We set up this mailing list to keep you updated on AAPI related issues. This includes community announcements, key news items, resources, and training. We will send you no more than 5 messages a month.

**Our mailing address is:**
Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council
905 E 8th St
Los Angeles, CA 90021

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