

April 23rd, 2024

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THE BUTLER CENTER

NEWSLETTER

ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION



By Oziel Cime and Thecla Shubert

April is Arab American Heritage Month and in celebration the butler center hosted an Arab house music party. The basement of Lennox House, the original headquarters for the Butler Center, was used as a cozy gathering space with the furniture pushed to the side for an impromptu dance floor. Students joined for a night of fun, Mediterranean food from Heart of Jerusalem, and music from Palestinian DJ Tarek. DJ Tarek played Arab house music which is a genre that has gained international popularity in recent times. Student Oziel Cimes said that in light of the activism of Students for Justice for Palestine (SJP) he “wanted to have a non-political celebration that showed support for [these] groups.” For the Butler Center it was an exciting opportunity to return to our physical roots in Lennox and to throw a cultural celebration as part of our mission to “educate, advocate, and celebrate!”

AAPI HERITAGE MONTH AND THE HISTORY OF JAPANESE INTERNMENT IN COLORADO



By Thecla Shubert

You've probably heard about the dark history of Japanese Internment in America during WWII, but you may not know that one of the nation's internment camps was located here in Colorado. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized Executive Order 9066 which forced the relocation of many Japanese Americans with the deeply xenophobic justification that were a "threat to national security." Colorado Governor Ralph Lawrence Carr publicly opposed this order and welcomed Japanese Americans to Colorado for refuge. Thanks to his effort not a single Japanese American from Colorado was interned. However, in a move that many viewed as punishment for Carr's open opposition to 9066, the federal government established Camp Amache in Granada Colorado and forcibly relocated Japanese Americans from the West Coast to the camp in Colorado.

While US senator Edwin C. Johnson complained that camp "amenities" like the high school football team were "pampering the enemy," truthfully life was brutal in the internment camp. The camps were designed to be self sufficient - with most of the detainees working in agriculture. They were allotted 45 cents per day per a person for food, and hunger was often an issue as the agricultural environment of the Southern Colorado plains varied drastically from the West Coast climate that they there were used to. Others worked as doctors, nurses, and teachers. Amache also ran a silkscreen shop and general goods shop which serviced the surrounding town and rural residents. The silkshop specifically produced training materials for the US Navy and employees were paid about \$19 a month (half of what a comparable laborer outside of the camp would earn." Although the sentiment overlooks the fact that most detainees had been ripped away from their vocations and careers, this work was viewed as a "vocational training" program.

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In addition to this, the camp ran a Boys and Girls scout program, a nursery, a school, and hosted theater, concerts, sports activities, and classes on traditional Japanese arts like calligraphy and flower arranging. There were also various religious services and an onsite cemetery.

That may make life at the camp sound fairly normal, but one must remember that the detainees were there against their will, forced to live in poverty, and under the constant eye of guards from the watchtowers. Despite this blatant xenophobia and the betrayal of their nation of citizenship, many people from Amache and other internment camps enlisted in the US military. Amache housed over 7000 people, and 585 of those enlisted. Many fought in the 442 Regimental Combat Team, which was a team that was composed primarily of AAPI people. The 442nd is the most highly decorated regime in American history. Kiyoshi Muranaga, an Amache serviceman, served in the 442nd and was awarded the purple heart.

In recent years, members from Granada - specifically a local high school teacher and his students - have worked to preserve and restore the Amache site. They partnered with prior Amache detainees to start a small, one room museum in Granada. They also host annual days of remembrance and pilgrimages - events that often act as reunions for those who lived together during internment. Much of this team's efforts were destroyed by a tragic hailstorm in 2017, but in 2022 the site joined the National Historic Site registrar, and with funding from the National Parks Service restorations are back under way.

As we prepare to honor AAPI heritage month, readers are encouraged to check out <https://amache.org/> for more information about this forgotten piece of Colorado History. Information from this article was informed by sources provided by Amache.org and my own 2016 visit to the site.

Photo pg 1: workers at the Amache silkscreening shop

pg 2: the watchtower that overlooked the silkscreening shop.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Julissa Torres

They/Them

Psychology Major

What is your role at TBC?

I am an Identity and Cultural Programming Intern! I help support the planning and facilitating of multicultural heritage month events, Table Talk, and any other identity-based event hosted by The Butler Center!

What are you studying and what do you want to do after CC?

I am currently studying Psychology with a minor in Race, Ethnicity, and Migration studies. After graduating, I want to go to law school to study immigration law.

What is one interest you have outside of school?

One interest I have outside of school is mariachi. I've been playing mariachi music since I was 12. I love the art of creating music culturally significant to me and being able to perform it for others!

What does ADEI work mean to you or why did you get into this?

I'm a first-generation, low-income, queer student of color. Resources like The Butler Center have allowed me to connect with others who share similar identities as me and allows me to feel celebrated, seen, and cared for despite being at a predominantly white institution. I want to be able to provide the same type of support to other students who may not have found the avenue to foster the type of community that The Butler Center is capable of fostering.

What is one thing you'd like to see changed about CC or our local community? I would like to see the CC and local community be more educated on gender identity and pronouns. The LGBTQ+ community in the Springs and CC community is present, is big, and is not going anywhere any time soon. It is important that people take the time to learn about important things, like pronouns, that are important to their queer peers and shape their experience on campus.

What is one fun fact people might not expect about you?

I have a massive tea pot collection, but I don't really like tea.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



CC COLORADO COLLEGE
The Butler Center

Sponsored by the Departments of Anthropology, Asian Studies, English, Feminist and Gender Studies, History, Italian, Political Science, Religion, Race Ethnicity and Migration, Sociology, Spanish and Portuguese, and Theatre and Dance, the Butler Center, ADEI/ACE Grant and CCSGA.

Seats Limited
RSVP Required

Angela Davis
Blues Legacies and Black Feminism

April 26 - Shove Chapel
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Lecture begins at 7 p.m.



Smoking and weapons are not permitted on Colorado College property. Parking along Cache La Poudre with overflow parking in Robson Garage.
Contact tshubert@coloradocollege.edu for accessibility information or requests.

**RSVP via the QR
code or click
here**

Plus - follow us
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ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Join Pasifika
for our
cosponsored
Luau**

PASIFIKA WEEK '24 April 29 - May 3
sustaining our *kana* honoring our *Na mo'olelo*

**Or check out
other
Pasifika
events!**

pasifika week schedule April 29 - May 3

MONDAY - Pasifika Activism & Storytelling Exhibit Opening & Remarks in Worner at 12:30 PM

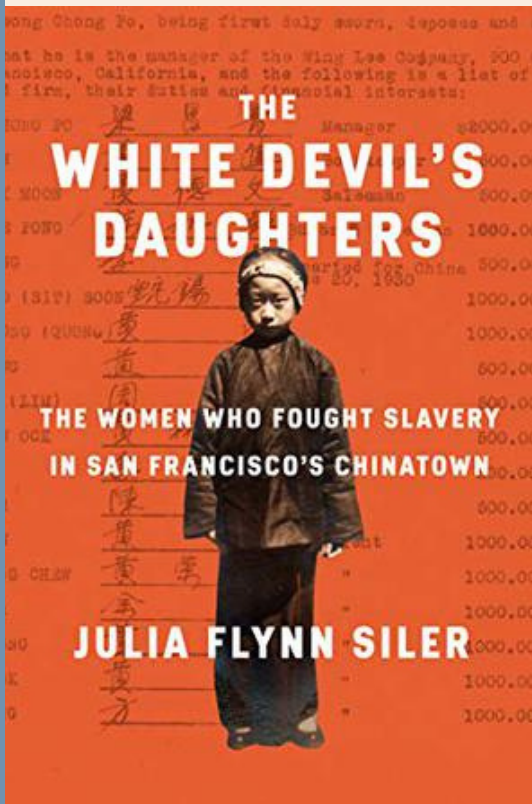
TUESDAY - Polynesian Panthers Screening & Lecture in Sacred Grounds at 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY - NASU & Pasifika Star Stories at Shove Bell Tower at 8:00 PM

THURSDAY - ADEI Staff Appreciation Luncheon

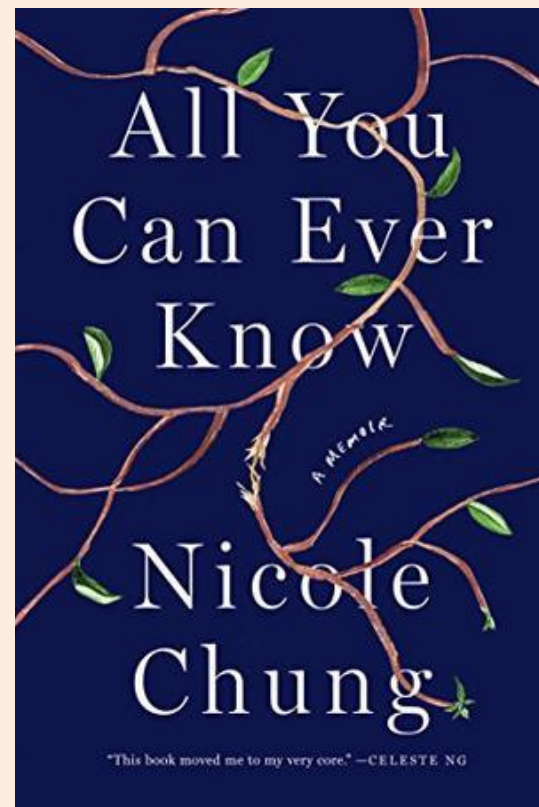
FRIDAY - AAPI Month Luau & Gupot Gala Gates Common Room at 6 PM

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS - AAPI NONFICTION

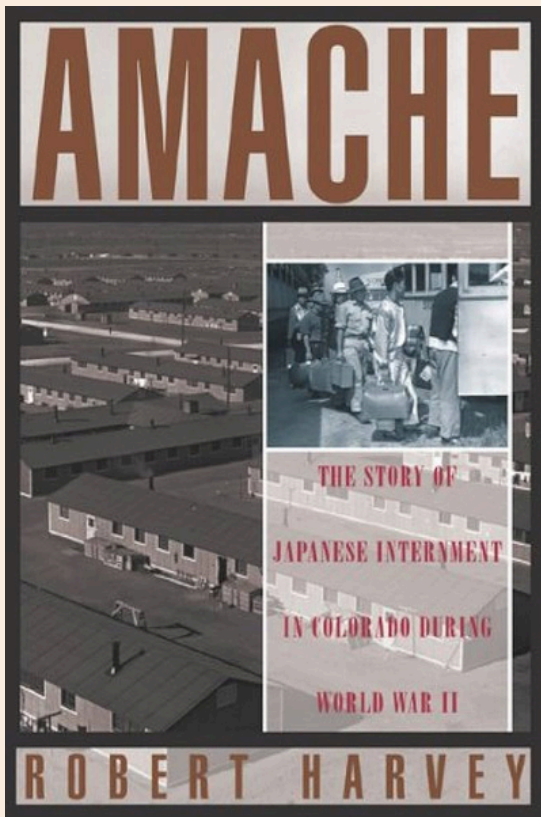


The White Devil's Daughter by journalist Julia Flynn Siler tells the untold story of the extensive underground slave market of Chinese girls in San Francisco. In the 1850s and 60s authorities largely looked the other way as young Chinese girls were tricked, kidnapped, and sent to the US where they were forced into prostitution or indentured servitude. Even with the passage of the 13th amendment, this type of slavery ran rampant in California as the Gold Rush boomed. At the same time, however, the Great Awakening was sparking new religious and moral fervor. In this context Margaret Cuberston founded a Presbyterian missionary called the Occidental Mission Home in San Francisco. Located at the edge of Chinatown, this became a safe haven for girls escaping smugglers and brothels. The book particularly focuses on Dolly Cameron who ran the home from 1899-1934 - fighting to bring villains to justice, shelter young girls, and preserve the sanctuary through fire, plague, earthquakes and attacks. Cameron was joined by Tien Fuh Wu who came to the house as a child to escape abuse. She became translator and assistant director for the home. Kirkus reviews calls this book, "An accessible, well-written, riveting tale of a dismal, little-known corner of American history." Pulitzer prize winning author, T.J. Stiles calls it "a diamond of a book."

As a Korean child of adoption, Nicole Chung was told the story many adoptees are told - that her parents selflessly gave her up because they "thought adoption was the best thing for me." In her memoir *All you Can Ever Know*, Nicole documents her own journey of challenging that narrative and seeking out her birth family. She details the discomfort of being Asian in a white community and family, and how, when she was expecting her own child, she decided to seek out connections to her roots. With "warmth, candor, and startling insight," Chung explores pain, family secrets, and her own sense of belonging. The New Yorker says, "Chung's memoir is more than a thoughtful consideration of race and heritage in America. It is the story of sisters finding each other, overcoming bureaucracy, abuse, separation, and time." Kirkus Reviews calls it "A profound, searching memoir about 'finding the courage to question what I'd always been told.'"



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS - AAPI NONFICTION



In conjunction with our prior article, we also are recommending ***Amache: The Story of Japanese Internment in Colorado During World War II*** by Robert Harvey. This book details the history of Amache - "one of the darkest chapters in Colorado history"- and endeavors to "forever preserve the voices and stories of those who endured this dark period of our nation's past." Robert Y. Fuchigami, a former Amache detainee, says the book is written with "solid research and great compassion."

Known as a "universally acclaimed, rapturously reviewed, and an instant New York Times bestseller," Chanel Miller presents a powerful debut memoir, ***Know My Name*** that shifted her in the public eye from a nameless victim "Emily Doe" to Chanel Miller, "the artist, survivor, and fighter." Many likely remember the name of Brock Turner, the Stanford student who raped an unconscious woman and received only a six month sentence, despite the minimum sentence being 14 years - all because the judge "didn't want to ruin a promising young man's future." With humor, truth, and pain, this book brings to light the story of Chanel and the isolated time she spent living as "Emily"- an anonymous victim that was under the highest level of scrutiny. Even most of her family didn't know that Miller was the person involved in the case. The book also introduces readers to who Miller really is - a comedian, an artist, a student, and more. Overall, the book endeavors to "to expose the brutality of entitlement, gender violence, and class privilege." Elle says, "In its rare honesty and in its small details, Know My Name is both an open wound and a salve, a quiet cry and the loudest scream."

