

ON THE SHELF

Book recommendations Finding your true self

By Samantha Pak
NORTHWEST ASIAN WEEKLY

The Faker

By Sarah Smith
Berkley, 2019

Emmie Echavarre is a faker. She has to be as one of the few female employees at Nuts & Bolts, the power company where she works. During business hours, she works to be tough — the opposite of her easy-going self — in order to survive in her male-dominated workplace.

But the one thing Emmie, who is half Filipino, doesn't have to fake is how much she dislikes her coworker, Tate Rasmussen. Tate has been hostile to her since they first met, despite Emmie's repeated attempts to be friendly.

If only he weren't so good looking.

Then the two of them are forced to work together on a charity construction project for their company. The more time they spend together, the more Emmie begins to see another side to Tate. She learns that Tate has a soft heart and is kinder than she thought — and that there has been a reason why he has been so antagonistic with her.

"Faker" is the story about two people who struggle with being themselves and they come to realize that one of the few places they can be, is with each other.

Both Emmie and Tate are complex and complicated characters. Although the story is told through Emmie's point of view, readers learn a lot about Tate just through their interactions. Smith shows readers why the two are the way they are.

Emmie is a strong woman trying to make her mark in an industry where she is a minority, both in terms of gender as well as race. We see how difficult it can be, but Emmie doesn't let the obstacles get in her way.

Another thing I appreciated was Tate's introversion. So many times in male/female romances, the male lead is portrayed as more of a ladies man and outgoing. Smith shows that just because Tate is different from what's expected, doesn't mean he's not someone worth loving — something we all should remember.

The Best at It

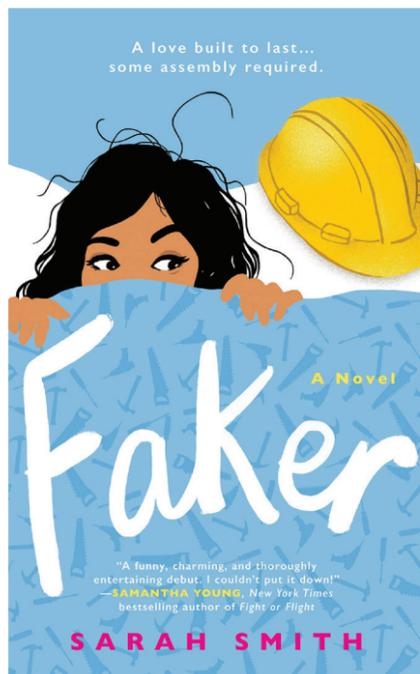
By Maulik Pancholy
Balzer + Bray, 2019

Rahul Kapoor is about to start seventh grade in his small Indiana town. With middle school just around the corner, Rahul is growing increasingly anxious.

Sensing his anxiety, Rahul's grandfather, Bhai, gives him some advice: Find one thing you're really good at and excel at it.

This leads Rahul, who is Indian American, and his best friend, Chelsea, on a quest to figure out what he's really good at. What follows are hilarious and heartbreaking attempts at football and acting, things Rahul has never tried before. He thinks that once he finds it, school bully Brent Mason will finally leave him alone. And he'll stop worrying about staring at his classmate Justin Emery for too long.

"Best" is the story about a boy trying to figure out who he is and finding the courage to actually be that person. Rahul is smart and initially cares a lot about



what other people think (as most middle schoolers tend to). But as the story unfolds, he slowly learns about the power that comes with just being himself.

Pancholy's portrayal of Rahul's desperate need to be the best at something, specifically the stress it causes him, will have readers (especially younger readers) questioning whether the effort is really worth it. Rahul struggles with stress and pressure (mostly self-inflicted), bouts of obsessive compulsive disorder, and his sexuality. One of the things I really enjoyed about "Best" was the relationships. We see how close Rahul is with his grandfather, how supportive Rahul's parents are of him and his brother, and how loyal of a friend Chelsea is. Pancholy shows readers the importance of these relationships and what (and who) should really matter to us.

Interior Chinatown

By Charles Yu
Pantheon, 2020

When it comes to thinking about himself and his place in the world, Willis Wu does not see himself in a starring role — not even in his own life story.

Instead, he just sees himself as Generic Asian Man. Sometimes he gets to play other roles, such as Disgraced Son, but he's always a secondary character, never the protagonist. And every day when he leaves his small room in a Chinatown SRO (single room occupancy hotel) and enters Golden Palace, the restaurant where his parents work, "Black and White," a procedural cop show, is constantly in production. Even there, Willis is just a bit player. But his dream is to be Kung Fu Guy, the pinnacle role for an Asian man. Everyone in the community believes this. Except Willis' mother, who tells him, "be more."

"Interior" is a fun satirical novel about Hollywood tropes and Asian stereotypes. The story is filled with stereotypical Asian roles we have seen on TV and in films, from Generic Asian Man and Sifu, to Dragon Lady (of varying ages) and Oriental Flower. And even though the roles are not meant for us to differentiate the characters from each other or to humanize them when compared to Black and white characters, Yu does a great job of showing readers the individuals behind



these bit roles.

I'll admit that "Interior" was initially confusing for me to read, as it goes from being written as a narrative to more like a TV or movie script. But that is how Yu differentiates from Willis living his own life, and when he is playing a role.

"Interior" is also told from a second person point of view. This was another creative



technique, especially when Willis or "you," the reader, begins to think about how there could be more to life than playing bit roles in someone else's story. ■

Samantha can be reached at info@nwasianweekly.com.

<p>COLD SMOKED SALMON</p>	<p>HOT SMOKED SALMON</p>	<p>SALMON JERKY</p>
----------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------

SEANATIVEUSA.COM
206-419-5222

ON THE SHELF

Book recommendations

Goals and purposes that take us around the world

By **Samantha Pak**
NORTHWEST ASIAN WEEKLY

The Bride Test

By **Helen Hoang**
Berkley, 2019

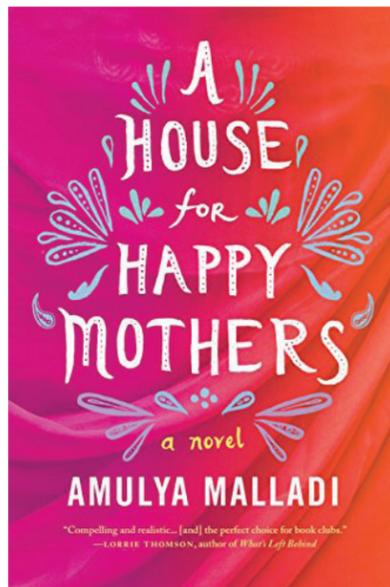
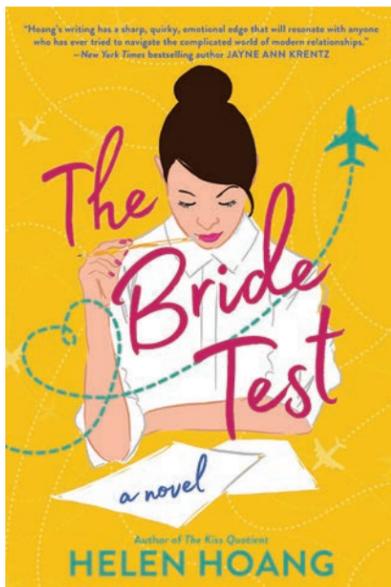
Khai Diep doesn't really have emotions. While he might feel little things like irritation or contentment, he doesn't do the big ones like grief. Or love. But his family knows better. Due to his autism, he just processes emotions differently. So his mother takes it upon herself to travel to Vietnam to find him the perfect bride.

As a mixed-race girl living in the slums of Ho Chi Minh City, Esme Tran has always felt out of place. So when she meets Khai's mother, who presents her with the opportunity to meet a potential husband, Esme grabs it.

Through Khai and Esme, Hoang shows us how it's possible to fall for someone you've known for only a short period of time. We see how their relationship develops under unusual circumstances and the obstacles they have to overcome.

With Khai, Hoang does a great job of showing readers how someone on the spectrum may process things and act in a relationship. Khai is someone who loves routine and likes things done a certain way. So seeing how Esme disrupts his life is fun to watch. But as the two get to know each other better, we see Khai slowly adjust his life to make space for Esme—without realizing what he is doing.

As an immigrant, Esme's time in the United States is not easy. But instead of wallowing in her situation, she is proactive and works to change things. She may see herself as "not classy," but she doesn't apologize for this. Instead, she owns it and everyone else can just take her or leave her.



"Bride Test" also features strong secondary characters, including Khai's brother Quan, who is my favorite. Seeing how well Quan understands his brother—taking Khai's autism into consideration, but still giving him a hard time (like an older brother should)—is a great display of brotherly love. Hoang is currently working on Quan's love story next, and I for one am eagerly waiting for it.

A House for Happy Mothers

By **Amulya Malladi**
Lake Union Publishing, 2016

Living in Silicon Valley, Priya has a great life: a loving

husband, good career, and a beautiful home. But what she wants more than anything, and cannot have, is a child. So when she learns about Happy Mothers House, a clinic in India that specializes in surrogacy, she and her husband go for it.

Asha, the woman they select to carry their baby, is from a southern Indian village, raising her two children in a tiny hut with her husband. She reluctantly rents out her womb to the couple in order to fund a better education for her gifted son.

"Happy Mothers" delves into the world of surrogacy.

see **SHELF** on 14

WEEKLY SPECIALS

July 24-30, 2019

<p>SAPPORO FOOD FAIR Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Portland Sapporo Sister City! Taste and discover some specialty items from Sapporo, Japan as we welcome vendors from Japan to our Beaverton store. Advertised items available at all four store locations while supplies last.</p> <p>HOKKAIDO CROQUETTE Assorted Variety 3.49-3.99</p> <p>SAPPORO RAMEN Miso or Shoyu 6.99</p> <p>HOKKAIDO INSTANT MISO SOUP Tokuyou or Low Salt 3.49</p> <p>HOKKAIDO MISO with Dashi or White 5.99-6.99</p>	<p>SEAFOOD</p> <p>YUKON RIVER KETA SALMON Fresh! Enjoy wild salmon from the famous Yukon River. Known to have 3 times the oil content than other Keta Salmon. Ideal for the BBQ.</p> <p>Whole 5.99 lb Fillet 8.99 lb</p> <p>HEAD-ON PRAWNS 40/50 Count. Excellent for the grill. Previously frozen. 5.99 lb</p> <p>HOKKAIDO INSTANT SOUP Assorted Variety 2.59</p> <p>TSUKISAMU ANPAN Assorted Flavor Red Bean Bun 1.99</p> <p>MILK KARINTO WHEAT SNACK Assorted Variety 2.99</p> <p>SENBEI Ginger or Miso 3.99</p>	<p>NATSU MATSURI JAPANESE SUMMER FESTIVAL JULY 27 at www.uwajimaya.com</p> <p>PRODUCE</p> <p>GOBO Burdock Root 10/\$10</p> <p>LYCHEE Fresh & Sweet! 2.99 lb</p> <p>MEAT</p> <p>THIN SLICED PORK BUTT 5.99 lb</p> <p>CHICKEN THIGHS Boneless and Skinless 1.99 lb</p> <p>DELI</p> <p>INARI SUSHI Sushi Rice Wrapped with Seasoned Fried Beancurd. 6 pc. From our Sushi Case. 6.49</p> <p>CHICKEN UDON Made to Order 7.95</p> <p><small>All Seafood & Produce subject to availability due to changes in season or adverse weather conditions.</small></p>
---	---	---

Follow Us on Facebook & Twitter!

www.uwajimaya.com

UWAJIMAYA
A Tradition of Good Taste Since 1928

Seattle & Bellevue Hours
Mon - Sat: 8am to 10pm
Sunday: 9am to 9pm

Renton & Beaverton Hours
Open Daily: 9am to 9pm

To See All of our Weekly Specials, Recipes, Store Events and Announcements, visit www.uwajimaya.com

seattle | bellevue | renton | beaverton | www.uwajimaya.com

A Proven Leader for Bellevue

"Serving our community as your Councilmember is an honor. As a regional leader in transportation, construction and public policy, I bring a unique and much-needed perspective. Together, we will keep Bellevue one of America's most innovative and vibrant cities, and address the challenges of growth. As an immigrant, I know that our diversity IS our strength. VOTE Janice for Bellevue."

– Janice **梁浩婷**

The Seattle Times
June 28, 2019

Zahn's readiness to talk about key specifics of city infrastructure evinces a clear and analytical understanding of the fundamental priorities citizens need from their local government leaders.

– *The Seattle Times* Endorsement Editorial

www.JaniceZahn.org
VoteJaniceZahn

JaniceZahn

for Bellevue City Council | Pos. 5

Paid for by Friends for Janice Zahn
11900 NE 1st Street, Suite 300 | Bellevue, WA 98005

SELL BUY CONNECT

john@nwasianweekly.com

206.223.5559

classifieds

BOOK YOUR SPACE

www.nwasianweekly.com 412 Maynard Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98104 T. 206.223.5559 F. 206.223.0626

EMPLOYMENT

Kitsap Transit
Connecting Communities

Full-time. Excellent benefits + \$21.07/hr to start, \$21.89/hr at 6 months & \$23.26/hr at 1 year. Fuel & perform other servicing duties, clean interior & exterior of buses, etc. Req: Minimum of 6 months experience servicing & cleaning vehicles. Desirable: Experience driving a large vehicle (2 ton truck, 35-40 foot bus, etc.) and knowledge of diesel engines. Must possess and maintain a Class B Washington State commercial driver's license with a passenger, hazardous materials and tanker endorsements, and with the air brake restriction removed. Visit kitsaptransit.appone.com to apply. Deadline: 4:00pm on Friday, August 9, 2019. EEO/AA.

Want to be a part of the NAW team? Northwest Asian Weekly is accepting applications for freelance writers. Flexible hours. Journalism degree preferred but not required. Send resume and writing samples to: Ruth Bayang editor@nwasian-weekly.com.

EMPLOYMENT

Kitsap Transit

Captain
(3 positions)

Sal: \$7,562 - \$10,169/mo (\$43-\$58/hr.). Duties: Master of small passenger ferry, resp. for operating the vessel & leading emergency ops per USCG regs. Job details + appl. (incl benefits): http://kitsaptransit.appone.com/. Deadline: 4:00 PM, 8/2/19, EEO/AA

Wok Chef

High-End Asian restaurant looking wok chef to work immediately, Little English ok, Hard working person, team work. Will pay high. Good benefits, healthcare, vacation and bonus. Call 206-227-8000.

CHINESE INFORMATION AND SERVICE CENTER is seeking a **CASE MANAGER – ELDERLY CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM** in Seattle, WA to assess client's phys. & mental condition & dev. a svc care plan. Min. Req.: MA in Psych., Counseling Psych. or rel. & 6 mos. counseling or rel. exp. Travel Req. Resumes to Kevin Chan, CISC, 611 S. Lane St., Seattle, WA 98104.

EMPLOYMENT

DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY STRATEGIES

The Workforce Development Council of Seattle King County (WDC) is seeking a person to partner with businesses to develop strategies and programs within the regional workforce system to prepare, connect and build the talent needed by businesses. This position will build a core strategic function within the regional workforce system focused on supporting inclusive, equitable economic growth by better coordinating the needs of industry and talent, ensuring a deeper impact on employment and careers for people farthest from opportunity. As a member of the management team this position will interface with the WDC board and committees, economic development, education and other stakeholders.

Candidates must have five or more years of related experience in business development and management and/or workforce development in a strategic role overseeing the development and implementation of complex programs with multiple stakeholders. A demonstrated commitment to racial equity and social justice, and a strong commitment to joining the WDC on the journey towards achieving organizational racial equity is also required. The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Email info@seekingwdc.org for full job description and application instructions.

NOTICE

**KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed bids will be received by the King County Procurement Services Section, 3rd Floor, 401 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104, until 2:00 PM of bid opening date for the following listed bids.

To download a document, go to our web page at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/procurement>. King County encourages minority business enterprise participation. King County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs, services, and employment opportunities.

1172-19-PLR
Vehicle & Equipment Filters and Related Supplies
OPENS: August 06, 2019

1176-19-LSM
On-Call Environmental Hazard Services
Pre-proposal Conference: July 24, 2019 at 1:00 PM, Chinook Building, 3rd Floor, Room 328, 401 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104
OPENS: August 08, 2019

NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE

Subscribe to the Northwest Asian Weekly \$40 for one year.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip Code _____
Phone _____

Mail to: NW Asian Weekly 412 Maynard Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98104 or call 206-223-0623

SHELF from 8

Through the eyes of a prospective mother, as well as a surrogate, Malladi shows readers the best and worst things about India's surrogacy industry. Both Priya and Asha struggle with the situation—questioning the ethics of their situation, whether Asha is being exploited and whether all of it is even worth it in the end.

Through Priya, Malladi shows readers how struggles with infertility can affect a couple. She shows the strain it can have on them physically, emotionally, and mentally.

Through Asha, we see how surrogacy can affect a woman, as her emotions range from disgust with herself, to happiness for helping a childless couple, to resignation at having to do what she must for her family. Malladi also shows the emotional toll surrogacy can have on a woman, as Asha struggles against becoming attached to the baby growing inside her.

Before this, I had never really given

much thought to surrogacy. While "Happy Mothers" shows readers a very specific type of surrogacy overseas, the story opened my eyes to what people might go through in such a situation.

Patron Saints of Nothing
By Randy Ribay
Kokila, 2019

Jay Reguero is in his final semester of high school, and he plans to spend it playing video games until he graduates and is off to the University of Michigan. But then he learns that his cousin Jun has been murdered in the Philippines as part of President Duterte's war on drugs. And no one in the family will talk about it. So Jay travels to the Philippines to learn what happened.

But finding answers isn't as easy as it may seem and Jay faces off with Jun's dad, a police chief inspector who runs his household as strictly as a police department. As he learns more about his cousin, Jay begins questioning how well he really knew his cousin and struggles

to shake the guilt he feels in the part he played in the events that led to Jun's death.

"Patron Saint" is the story of a young man who goes back to his home country, initially to learn about his cousin's death, but also to reconnect with family. And as little as he knows about them, it soon becomes clear that due to the fact that his family doesn't really talk about anything important, they're also in for a few surprises from each other. Like most families, the Regueros are a complicated bunch and Ribay does a great job of showing readers their complexities and flaws.

Ribay also doesn't shy away from showing readers the hard truths of the Philippines' war on drugs, which has been happening since Duterte took office in 2016. I have to admit that I had no clue about this. And I know I won't be the only one who is unaware. As heartbreaking as some of the facts were, I think it is necessary for readers to realize what is happening to people in other parts of the world. As big as the

drug war may be, Ribay uses the Reguero family's story to humanize the issue and hopefully get more people talking about it. ■

Samantha can be reached at
info@nwasianweekly.com.

SOLUTION from SUDOKU on page 6.

9	3	5	7	4	1	6	8	2
7	6	4	8	2	3	5	9	1
1	8	2	5	9	6	7	3	4
6	4	9	2	3	7	1	5	8
8	2	1	4	6	5	3	7	9
3	5	7	1	8	9	4	2	6
5	9	3	6	1	2	8	4	7
4	7	6	9	5	8	2	1	3
2	1	8	3	7	4	9	6	5

SERVICE DIRECTORY

DONE RITE
CARPET CLEANING
206-487-8236

PSYCHIC PALM & TAROT CARD READINGS
MASTER HEALER & FENG SHUI SPECIALIST
Tell past present, future, helps in love, marriage, business. Break your bad luck and troubles.
Re-store good luck.
\$10 off reading when you mention this ad
(425) 789-1974

GARY GROTZ LAW FIRM
Quality Legal Representation at a Fair Price
1207 S. Jackson St. #201, Seattle, Wa. 98144
(206)625-0655
www.Grotzlaw.com
Cantonese, Vietnamese & Cambodian interpreters available

Get your Classified Ad!
Place a 6 line classified ad for just \$30!
Call 206-223-0623.

The American Legion
Cathay Post 186
Serving the community since 1946
cathaypost@hotmail.com

\$1,000/DAY
POSSIBLE ONLINE!
(737) 200-1055
www.retirenow2018.com

HONG LAW FIRM, PLLC
206-856-8291 • honglegal@gmail.com
Bankruptcy Chapter 7 • Personal Injury
Landlord-Tenant • Simple Wills
Frank S. Hong, Attorney at Law
avvo.com

PERSONAL INJURY • WRONGFUL DEATH
AIRLINE DISASTERS • DOG BITES
BICYCLE ACCIDENTS • PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS
Mandarin, Cantonese & Korean Interpreter available
206-625-9104
WEBSITE: HLG.LAWYER

ON THE SHELF

Complications of young love

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

By Samantha Pak
NORTHWEST ASIAN WEEKLY

I BELIEVE IN A THING CALLED LOVE

By Maurene Goo
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017

Desi Lee is a girl with a plan. A plan for everything. It's how she became a student body president and star player on the soccer team. And it's how she'll get accepted into Stanford. But despite all the planning, she's never had a boyfriend and her failed attempts at flirting ("failures") are legendary among her friends.

So when the new boy in school, one Luca Drakos, becomes interested in her, Desi does what she does best: plan. She finds guidance in the Korean dramas her father has been obsessed with for years—the same K-dramas she has dismissed.

And as you could expect, hilarity ensues as Desi plans and implements crazy situations, ranging from boat rescues to fake love triangles to staged car crashes. But soon everything becomes more real and she realizes there are things in real life that can't be solved by a bout of slapstick comedy.

"Believe" is the story of a girl who has spent most of her life with very specific goals and does not let anything stop her from achieving them. It's enjoyable to see how she deals with things when her plans go awry. Desi has a strong type-A personality and she knows how to get things done, so it's amusing when things don't go her way. And although she may have the top grades and be in all the right clubs, she is also flawed and blinded by her need to be perfect (there is a reason for this). These flaws make her more human and relatable to readers.

In addition to a strong protagonist, "Believe" also features strong secondary characters—from Desi's two best friends who keep her ambitions in check, to her father with whom she shares a very close bond. While they are all there to support Desi in her new adventures in romance, they also bring her back down to Earth when her ambitions get the best of her (and they definitely do).

FRANKLY IN LOVE

By David Yoon
G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2019

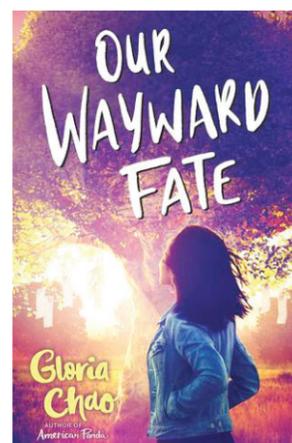
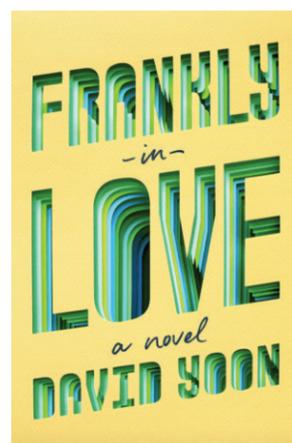
Born and raised in southern California, Frank Li is an all-American boy in his senior year of high school, going through many of the things American teens experience at that age: taking the SATs and applying to colleges, spending as much time with his friends before they go their separate ways, catching "senioritis." He even starts dating his first girlfriend: Brit Means.

The only problem is that in addition to being American, Frank is also Korean. And his parents want him to end up with a nice Korean girl. Brit is white. Needless to say, issues arise.

Enter Joy Song, a family friend

who is in a similar predicament with her Chinese American boyfriend. Realizing they both have the same problem, Frank proposes a possible solution to Joy. Now all of a sudden, Frank's life gets a lot more complicated.

"Frankly" is the story about first love and the big feelings that come with it. Yoon does a great job of capturing what it's like to be young and in love for the first time, and how that relationship is everything to a young person. And it was refreshing to see it from a male perspective. Personally,



see SHELF on 12

At every age, the health of your mouth is important

- **For children** - cavities can affect eating, sleeping and learning
- **For pregnant women** - gum disease can cause problems during pregnancy
- **For adults** - poor oral health is linked to diabetes, heart disease and stroke

The good news? Gum disease and cavities are preventable!



THE
MIGHTY MOUTH™

For tips to prevent disease and to find a dentist near you,
visit TheMightyMouth.org

SHELF from 9

as a female reader, it was nice to see boys at that age can be just as excited and confused about relationships.

Readers will also get a glimpse of what it can be like to date coming from an immigrant background. I found some of the struggles Frank experiences and the hoops he jumps through to have a love life to be very relatable.

Yoon also showcases the roles our different relationships have on us—from Frank's relationship with his parents, to his close but geographically distant relationship with his sister, to the bond he shares with his best friend, Q. Readers will see how important they can be and have us appreciating more the people in

our lives.

OUR WAYWARD FATE

By Gloria Chao
Simon Pulse, 2019

At 17, Ali Chu has grown up as the only Asian person in her Indiana school. And to fit in, she knows she must be as bland as white toast to survive—meaning eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and ignoring the racism from her classmates and teachers.

For most of her life, she has been on autopilot. But that is abruptly disrupted when Chase Yu, the new kid in town who also happens to be Taiwanese, shows up at school. Ali initially resists getting close to Chase because according to everyone

at school, “they belong together.” But then she finds it nice and a relief to be able to be herself around someone who gets it, someone she can joke with in two languages and stand up with, to the everyday racism they face.

But Ali's mother finds out and forces her to end the relationship. Not one to stand by and let that go, Ali starts digging into why her mother is so against the relationship and uncovers secrets.

“Wayward Fate” is the story about a young woman trying to figure out where she belongs in a world where she has never felt like she was enough—not white enough to fit in among her classmates and not male enough (or at all) for a mother who seemingly wanted a son.

In addition to Ali's story, Chao includes

snippets of a retelling of the Chinese folktale, “The Butterfly Lovers,” which may be intertwined with Ali's fate.

Ali is a strong young woman who may seem passive and initially just lets things happen to her, but readers quickly learn that she just needed to find her power and stand up for herself.

Chao does a great job with the complications that come with relationships, from familial to romantic to platonic. There are layers to Ali's relationships with the people in her life—just as there are layers to the relationships most of us have with the people in our lives. ■

Samantha can be reached at editor@nwasianweekly.com.

YANG from 1

with contact information. If an individual, even in good faith, does not fill in the signature correctly, it is not counted toward the requisite amount.

Yang, the first Chinese American to run for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States, has been rising in recent polls. His platform of providing each American over the age of 18 \$1,000 per month, known as the Freedom Dividend, is gaining traction with prospective voters. The former lawyer and entrepreneur is also concerned that the automation of jobs will leave many Americans out of a job. The message is resonating with many voters looking for a change of course with the current state of America and American politics.

Yang's first big splash in the Seattle area was a rally last spring at Gasworks Park. This is what got Stephens up to volunteer.



Ben Stephens

“The first time I volunteered was that May Gasworks Park rally. I watched him on YouTube and became involved with its Facebook group.”

Stephens felt compelled with Yang's message and his overall sincerity to help Americans.

“I would say that I really like his policies and say that it is the right policies

at the right time, but if I were to be honest, if you were to just watch him for 10 minutes on YouTube, you see a man who is genuine, I didn't see a politician.”

Stephens added, “He's in this race because he sees a lot of problems coming down the pike that the political establishment is not prepared for.”

Yang's supporters see the completion of the process for him to be on the ballot as a significant benchmark. Stephens highlighted that it caps off the teamwork of canvassing at farmers markets, outside of movie theatres, and other areas where people congregate.

Stephens helped coordinate community outreach and canvassing of areas to gather the names on the ballot. This required him and other volunteers to step outside of their comfort zone and talk to strangers.

He noted that a majority of people he interacted with knew of Yang and his policies. Even those that were undecided signed on behalf of Yang, acknowledging

that the candidate should have his name on the ballot. Stephens recalled a displaced manufacturer worker unsure of Yang's policies, to which he reminded the worker of Yang's concern that millions of manufacturing jobs could be eliminated by robots and automation.

“At that point, the switch went off for him,” and he seemed to get behind Yang, Stephens retold.

In addition to personally reaching out to voters, Yang's Washington state campaign has a solid team working on digital efforts in getting his message out on various social media platforms.

The deadline for candidates to turn in their signatures and accompanying paperwork to appear on the March 10, 2020 primary ballot is the beginning of January 2020. ■

Jason can be reached at editor@nwasianweekly.com.

BLOG from 10

attacks and abuses—and above all, mapping out a successful plan to win, it's absolutely remarkable. It's scary for all stakeholders involved, and not just the candidate.

I will never forget what Rep. Cindy Ryu once said. “We (the community) need to support our (Asian) leaders.”

What can we do to empower our Asian elected officials? Instead of waiting for the Asian officials to establish themselves in their new role, why not celebrate now? They have lifted us up by running and engaging the community, and we will do our part to lift them up.

NEW FORMAT FOR DEC. 6 EVENT

You need not worry about the Top Contributors dinner being too long and boring. Asian Weekly prides

itself in ending the program on time. Last year, our Top Contributors Dinner ended at 8:30 p.m. This year, we divided our program into two parts: Short and long program. The short program will focus on newly elected Asian officials at 6:40 p.m. They are Janice Zahn, Bellevue City Council member; Sam Cho, Port of Seattle Commissioner-elect; Sofia Aragon, Burien City Council member-elect; Kim-Khank Van, Renton City Council member-elect; Peter Kwon, SeaTac City Council member; Dr. Tam Dinh, Mercer Island School Board member-elect; Francine Wiest, Bellevue School Board member; and David Chan, Snohomish County South County Commissioner. I wish we could recognize more.

We will introduce them by reading a short bio, but they will not give a speech afterwards. Their speech will be printed in the Asian Weekly the following week so you can read about them.

The long program will be about the Top Contributors. There will be no thank-you speeches. Each honoree will respond in two minutes to the question the emcee asks.

Please come and celebrate with a new league of amazing stars. Take selfies with all of them on stage. This will be a memorable moment in the history of Asian Americans. ■

The Top Contributors awards dinner is on Dec. 6 at China Harbor Restaurant in Seattle, from 6–9 p.m. To purchase tickets, go to topcontributors2019.bpt.me.

Assunta can be reached at assunta@nwasianweekly.com.

KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received for C01404C19, PSERN Radio System Bandera Site Improvement; by the King County Procurement and Payables Section, 3rd Floor, 401 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104, until 1:30 PM on 02/25/2020. Late bids will not be accepted.

Scope of Work: This solicitation is for the construction at the Project Site. The Contractor shall provide labor, materials, and equipment necessary to perform construction services, including, but not limited to, installation of Owner furnished Radio Tower. Work shall also include site and road improvement. The Contractor will

not be responsible for obtaining rights of entries, site leases and building permits, nor will it be responsible for installing the electronic communications equipment at the Site.

Estimated contract price: \$1,800,000

MANDATORY Pre-Bid / Site Tour: 11/25/19, 9:00am, OR 12/3/19, 9:00am

Complete Invitation to Bid Documents, including all project details, specifications, and contact information are available on our web page at: https://procurement.kingcounty.gov/procurement_ovr/default.aspx