

ON THE SHELF

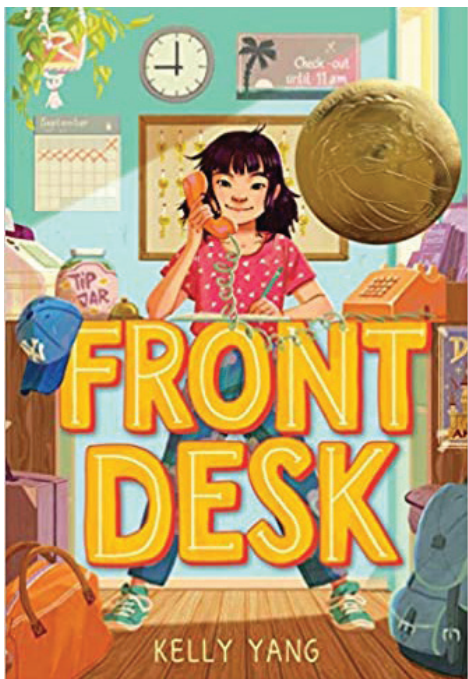
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Banning books won't stop us from reading them

By Samantha Pak
NORTHWEST ASIAN WEEKLY

FRONT DESK

By Kelly Yang
Arthur A. Levine Books, 2018



Things are starting to look up for Mia Tang and her parents. Two years after arriving in the United States, they've gone from living in their car to running and living at the Calivista Motel in Anaheim, California. While her parents focus on cleaning the rooms, 10-year-old Mia manages the front desk and tends to their guests.

Mia's parents also hide immigrants, letting them stay in empty motel rooms for free—but if the motel owner Mr. Yao finds out, their family is doomed.

"Front Desk" is an immigrant story told from a young girl's perspective and is based on some of Yang's real-life experiences as a child. Mia's story will stick with you long after you've put down the book. She's strong and independent, with a fierce sense of right and wrong. My favorite moments are when she stands up to anyone who tries to make her or others feel small. Mia knows when people are doing something wrong and is brave enough to call them—usually adults—out on it.

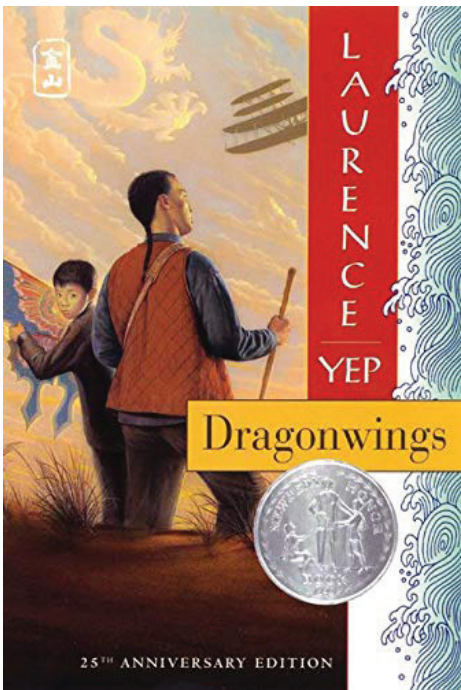
One of the reasons this story has been challenged to be removed from schools

is its portrayal of police officers, who racially profile her friend Hank, a Black man and one of the "weeklies" who lives at Calivista. I always appreciate it when books geared toward young people don't sugarcoat the realities of life. Just because they're young doesn't mean they haven't been exposed to injustices. Oftentimes kids, especially BIPOC kids and those with immigrant backgrounds, are the ones caught up in it—and Yang knows this and portrays this in an age-appropriate way.

Yes, the racism, bullying, and exploitation of vulnerable populations Mia encounters might make readers uncomfortable. But that doesn't mean we should shy away from her story. Instead, we need to ask why we're uncomfortable and what we can do to address these issues.

DRAGONWINGS

By Laurence Yep
Harper & Row, 1975



At the age of 8, Moon Shadow sails across the ocean from China to be with his father, Windrider, in San Francisco. It's 1903 and Windrider has been in the United States since before Moon Shadow was born, so the father and son are meeting for the first time. Moon Shadow joins his father, working at a laundry business owned by other Chinese men, but he quickly learns Windrider's dream is to build a flying machine like the Wright brothers.

Despite enduring mockery from other Chinese, poverty, being separated from his wife, and even an earthquake, Windrider is determined—and Moon Shadow is determined to help him.

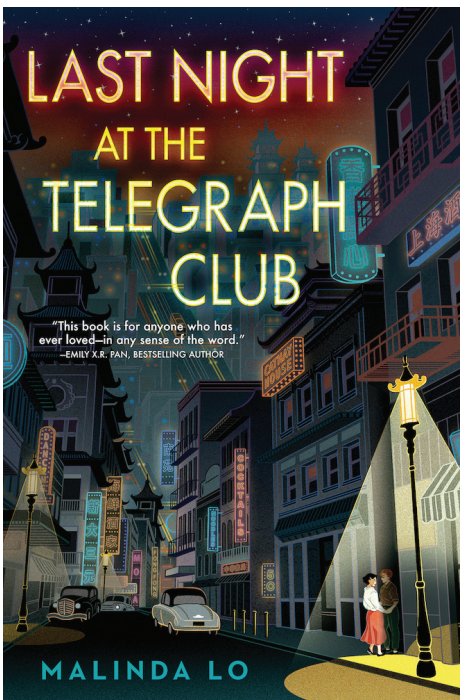
Inspired by Fung Joe Guey, the Chinese immigrant who built a flying machine in 1909, "Dragonwings" is a story that touches on the struggles and dreams of immigrants in a time steeped in anti-Chinese and anti-Asian sentiments. From the racist attitudes of whites, to referencing the Chinese Exclusion Act and lynchings, Yep gives readers insight to what immigrants at the time dealt with while trying to survive in a country that was happy to exploit their labor, but didn't

value them as human beings.

The Chinese characters in the book refer to white people as "demons" (though once Moon Shadow gets to know some of them, he starts calling them by their names), which is one of the reasons "Dragonwings" has been challenged to be removed from schools. But when you read about how the Chinese are mistreated and the constant danger they feel, it's understandable. This country was built on oppression and violence. But the story has predominantly been told through the lens of the oppressor, so when it's told from the perspective of the oppressed, of course it's not going to be pretty—and that's all the more reason these stories need to be told. Moon Shadow reminds readers of all ages that there are multiple sides to history and shows us the importance to learn about all of them.

LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB

By Malinda Lo
Dutton Books, 2021



Since she was young, Lily Hu had felt there was something different about her. When she discovers a book about two women falling in love, that "something" just falls into place. Thus begins the 17-year-old's journey to figuring herself out.

Joining her on the journey is Kathleen Miller, the girl who, up until then, has just been the other girl in math class. But once the two girls visit a lesbian bar called the Telegraph Club, Kath slowly becomes something more to Lily.

"Telegraph Club" takes place in 1954 San Francisco—not a safe time for two girls to fall in love, especially not in Chinatown. On top of that, Red Scare paranoia has many in the local Chinese American community on edge, including Lily's family as deportation looms over them and her father's citizenship is threatened.

Lily is a strong young woman with unwavering integrity. When faced with difficult situations, she chooses the path

see SHELF on 14

Weekly Specials

Prices Valid March 16-22, 2022

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Pork Shoulder Roast 3.49 lb</p> | <p>Myojo Nama Hiyashi Chuka Cold Ramen Japanese Style Cold Noodles with Soy Sauce Vinaigrette. 3 pc 3.99</p> | |
| <p>Sweet! Gold Nugget Mandarins 2.59 lb</p> | <p>Sockeye Salmon Fillet 1.5 lb Average. 13.99 lb</p> | <p>Surasang Korean Rice Cakes Sliced, Sticks or Twin Ball. 650 g 2.99</p> |
| <p>Takoyaki Japanese Octopus Dumplings. Available Hot or Cold in the Deli. 5 pc 2.99</p> | <p>Dong Won Premium Luncheon Meat 12 oz 3.19</p> | <p>Shirakiku Organic Miso Soybean Paste. 375 g 3.99</p> |
| <p>Oliver Sauces Tonkatsu, Chuno or Worcestershire. 20.45 oz 3.29</p> | <p>Happy Lamb Hot Pot Dipping Sauce Original or Spicy. 110 g 2/\$3</p> | |

To see all of our weekly specials, visit uwajimaya.com

seattle • bellevue • renton • beaverton • uwajimaya.com

CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT

WORK IN HEALTHCARE

Helping Families Grow

ORM Fertility, an internationally recognized fertility center is looking to hire bilingual clinical professionals, fluent in Mandarin to support our diverse patient community locally and around the world. Competitive salaries and generous benefits packages with stipends for additional translation services above the starting rates. If you want to work for an organization, non-hospital environment whose mission is to help all types of families realize their dream of parenthood, ORM is a place for you.

All mandarin speaking employees will receive an hourly stipend in addition to their base rates!

Base rates include:
Registered Nurse Coordinator - \$38 - \$45 DOE
<https://oregonreproductivemedicine.applicantpro.com/jobs/2177602.html>
Nursing Services Coordinator - \$20- \$25 DOE
<https://oregonreproductivemedicine.applicantpro.com/jobs/2177607.html>
Patient Services Coordinator - \$18 - \$22 DOE
<https://oregonreproductivemedicine.applicantpro.com/jobs/2177600.html>
Benefits: Medical, Dental, 401K, Paid Time Off

Be a part of meaningful, lifechanging work. Learn more and apply today at ormfertility.com/careers



KING COUNTY FLOOD DISTRICT Deputy Executive Director \$112,856 - \$151,779 Annually

The King County Flood Control District is seeking to hire a Deputy Executive Director, who is a highly skilled and motivated individual, to provide strategic partnership to the Executive Director, serve as a project manager, strategist, advisor, and communications liaison responsible for policy development and integrating all forms of outreach and communications used by the Flood District. The Deputy Executive Director is a self-starter with a keen political acumen and has experience working on complex and controversial issues, performing extensive research, presenting analysis, and developing and maintaining valuable relationships among governmental entities.

If this aligns with your skill set and inspires you, we'd love to hear from you!

HOW TO APPLY:

A complete job announcement and instructions on "HOW TO APPLY" can be view by going to www.kingcounty.gov/jobs

FOR SALE

Asian restaurant for sale in Seattle area. Great business owner wants to retire and willing to sale on a good price. 206-356-5405.

EMPLOYMENT

Japanese restaurant in Everett looking for **Server and Sushi chef / sushi helper**. Please call : 404-376-5407

METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE DIRECTOR Closes: Position Remains Open Until Filled



King County

This position will remain open until filled but the screening process will move quickly. In order to be considered for the first round of interviews please submit your application materials no later than March 22, 2022, before 11:59 p.m.

The King County Council is looking for a skilled and motivated individual, with a passion for community engagement to advance equity and social justice in King County. The Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) Director works with communities across the county to ensure the Council understands the broad spectrum of issues facing the County, as well as the people we serve. The ESJ Director also shares the Council's positions and policies with communities across King County.

The successful candidate is a leader with a proven track record of carrying out equity and social justice efforts. This is an exciting opportunity to join the King County Council staff and play a role in ensuring residents receive quality regional services and foster effective partnerships with communities within King County.

This position requires a self-starter with a keen political acumen, cultural competence and experience working and building trusted relationships with underserved communities. The Equity and Social Justice Director is a salaried, at-will, overtime exempt classification. This position reports directly to the Chief of Staff but is responsive to all members of the council.

HOW TO APPLY: To apply and view a complete job announcement and apply, go to www.kingcounty.gov/jobs

A King County application is required to be considered for this opportunity. Interested applicants must complete the supplemental questions and submit a letter of interest with your application.

EMPLOYMENT

Mechanic

Full-time. \$32.51/hr - \$35.84/hr. Performs journey-level diagnostic repair & maint on buses, vans & trucks. Exp: 4 yrs diesel or automotive mechanic OR 2 yrs diesel or automotive mechanic AND training from recognized diesel or automotive program. Visit kitsaptransit.appone.com to apply.

Kitsap Transit is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Sewing Factory Supervisor - recruit, train and oversee a small group of sewing machine operators and production line positions. Competitive salary DOE. For more information please visit: <https://bit.ly/36J8wj5>

Good wok chefs for Asian restaurant without or so so English. High pay with benefit and healthcare. Want to work long with our group call 206-502-9942.

EMPLOYMENT

Woodburn is Hiring!

We are seeking a **Tier I Service Technician** for our Seattle area. On the job training and advancement potential. \$20-23/Hour
COME JOIN OUR TEAM!
Call Laurie at 425-258-4402 x 100.

Looking for good pay, free healthcare, paid sick time, free license and insurance renewals, and more? West Seattle's Massage H3 is looking for **licensed massage therapists, certified reflexologists, personal trainers and estheticians**. Check out our website: <https://www.massageh3.com>

Sushi Chinoise in Bothell location is currently looking for a fulltime **wok chef**. Must have experience cooking at least 5 years. 5 days a week, good pay
Please call for interview Thoa 206-790-3611. Sushi Chinoise. 19122 Beardslee Blvd, Bothell, WA 98011

FIRST PUBLICATION

King County Housing
Authority (KCHA)

Fire and Life Safety - Task Order Contract

**PROPOSAL
DUE DATE:** 03/31/2022

KCHA is soliciting bids for Fire and Life Safety for commercial and residential apartment properties located in King, Thurston and Skagit Counties. Women and Minority owned companies are strongly encouraged to submit proposals. **Proposals are due Thursday, March 31st, 2021.** Proposals are available at kcha.org/business/construction/open or via email March 10, 2022. Contact Danielle Munroe at KCHA (206) 574-1200 or daniellem@kcha.org

NOTICE

KCHA will accept Bids from **Qualified General Contractors for the Gustaves Manor – Envelope & Roof Project** located in Auburn, WA. See website for details at www.kcha.org/business/construction/open/

EMPLOYMENT

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA), is a national non-profit that preserves and promotes the dignity and well-being of elders as they age. We are seeking a **Project Director and a Payroll Specialist** to join our team! The Project Director will have strong case management or social service experience and fluency in an Asian or Pacific Islander language abilities to manage our Senior Community Service Employment Program. The Payroll Specialist will have multi state Payroll experience and attention to detail.

If you are looking to be part of a team that is passionate about seeing our elders thrive in our communities, submit your resume and cover letter to hr@napca.org.

NOTICE

4Culture wants to support your creative work! Now offering grants to fund projects in arts, heritage, and preservation. Deadline: Wednesday, April, 20. Visit 4culture.org/project-grants to apply. Email hello@4Culture.org to request English language support.

EMPLOYMENT

Deckhand

(4 Positions)

Starting pay: \$34.41/hr. + generous benefits. Perform deckhand duties. Req: HS diploma/GED and at least three months' exp. as a deckhand on a vessel that is at least 65ft. Job details, appl. incl. benefits info: <http://kitsaptransit.appone.com/>. Deadline: 4:00 PM, 04/01/22

KITSAP TRANSIT IS AN EQUAL
EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a **FREE** LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-888-360-1582.

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 money down + low monthly payment options. Request a **FREE** Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-888-674-7053.

LOOKING FOR ASSISTED LIVING, memory care, or independent living? A Place for Mom simplifies the process of finding senior living at no cost to your family. Call 1-855-913-2628 today!

**DONE RITE
CARPET CLEANING
206-487-8236**

SHELF from 8

that’s right for herself, rather than the path that would be easier—for herself and others—even when the results are heartbreaking (as they often are). The things she sacrifices to be her authentic

self will have readers questioning what they would do if they were put in the same situation.

Because “Telegraph Club” features a romance between two young women, it’s been challenged to be removed from schools. The prejudice Lily faces in the

story for being who she is and for loving who she loves is not surprising, given her story takes place in the 1950s—still horrible, but expected. But to see her and Kath’s story facing similar attempts of erasure in the present day is a reminder of how far society has to go in accepting those

who are seen as “different.” And this is all the more reason why this story and others like it need to exist. ■

**Samantha can be reached at
info@nwasianweekly.com.**

AFTER YANG from 7

wants her Yang back and she can’t wait.

Part of the film’s gentle comedy is how, even in the future, family difficulties look familiar, with familiar consequences. Make a major purchase on something that isn’t exactly new, and you run the risk of having little or no recourse if it breaks down. You’re saving money in the short term, but you’re gambling. If you lose your gamble, you could be looking at high fees just to have a problem looked at. And that endless conundrum of Western life, at least: Never enough money to explore all the options, especially the preferable options.

Mika doesn’t care about any of this though. She knows her brother is a little different, but she wants him repaired, not replaced. Her parents send her mixed messages on this. That’s something else parents do in the present, as well. They both love their daughter, but they can’t agree on how to calm her.

Jake’s journey through what’s possible and not possible, with Yang, takes him through what’s possible and not possible in life, and love, and family. He’ll discover answers that lead him to more questions. He’ll discover Yang’s journeys through things Yang was never designed to do, things Yang’s theoretically incapable of doing.

But the film refuses to resolve, as most films do. Some of the crucial questions remain. Can we love the inanimate? The Furby fans mentioned earlier answer the question: yes. Dr. Aiken, and others, wonder and doubt at our increasing reliance on electronic, mechanical companions. What might be the long-term implications of telling children to place their love in something that doesn’t love?

But “After Yang” proposes, amongst its other queries, one possible counter to the above. What if the electronic, the mechanical, learns to love back? ■

Andrew can be reached at info@nwasianweekly.com.

SOLUTION from SUDOKU on page 6.

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

AT THE SHELF

Parents,

they're far from perfect

By Samantha Pak
NORTHWEST ASIAN WEEKLY

Aru Shah and the City of Gold

By Roshani Chokshi
Rick Riordan Presents, 2021

Aru Shah has just made a wish on the tree of wishes, but she can't remember what it was. And she can't remember how she acquired a new sister. Not a soul sister, but an actual sister who claims to be the Sleeper's daughter, like Aru. But before she has time to really figure out what's going on—or how she's been missing for months—she has to get back to the rest of her fellow Potatoes. They need to find their mentors, Hanuman and Urvashi, in Lanka, the city of gold, before war breaks out between the devas and asuras.

While they're still determined to fight, it's becoming clear that Aru and the Potatoes aren't sure about fighting the Sleeper and his demon army on behalf of the devas. The gods have been too devious. This is a definite shift from their previous quests, during which the teens trusted the gods to have their best interests at heart. As a long-time lover of this series, I really appreciated seeing this in Aru and the rest of the gang. Like all young people their age (14-15), they're growing up and figuring out what's truly important to them, and not just because the adults tell them something's an important cause.

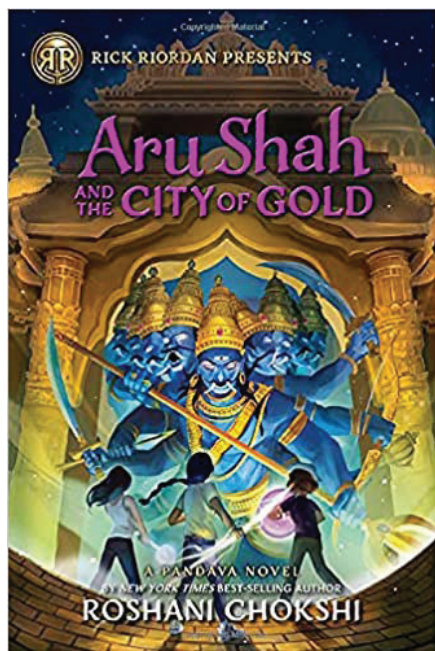
In addition to the continued mission to save the world, "City of Gold" is a story about realizing that adults—especially your parents—aren't perfect. While Aru knew this about her father (he is the Sleeper, after all), seeing her come to this conclusion about her mother, who she loves, is heartbreaking. But as Aru realizes what drives her mother's actions, she learns to accept her mother's flaws. And that's a true sign of maturity. I love the adventures in this series, but what I really love is how Chokshi grounds them in stories about growing up and becoming your own person and figuring out where you fit in the world—something so many of us can relate to.

From Little Tokyo, with Love

By Sarah Kuhn
Viking Books for Young Readers, 2021

High schooler Rika Rakuyama's life may have the makings of a fairy tale—an orphan living with her two cousins, working at her aunts' restaurant. But she'll be the first to let you know that a happily ever after is not in the cards for her. After all, being biracial with a hot temper and awesome judo skills, she's the furthest thing from a princess.

All this changes during the Nikkei Week Festival when she locks eyes with the festival's grand marshal, actress Grace Kimura. From there, Rika embarks on a quest for the truth: Is the



reigning queen of Asian American rom-coms actually her mother? Joining her on said quest is actor Hank Chen, one of Grace's most recent co-stars. And as the two explore Los Angeles and Little Tokyo, Rika begins feeling like a happy ending for herself might be possible. But for someone who's never felt like she belonged, Rika still has a feeling she's just setting herself up for disappointment.

"From Little Tokyo" is loosely based on "Cinderella," with a few appreciated modernizations. For one, Rika's relatives are not horrible. Bossy, yes. But they love her and treat (and worry about) her no differently from anyone else. Rika may feel like an outsider, but her family doesn't see her that way and that journey of her realizing this is so lovely and heartwarming.

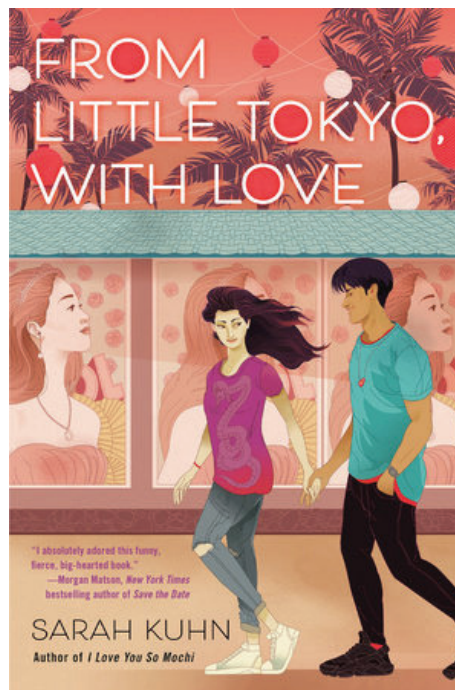
Another difference from the fairy tale is that Rika doesn't need rescuing, thank you very much—a little help every now and then maybe, but so can everyone. She's strong (physically, thanks to the judo) and stubborn. Rika's also pretty angry and short tempered. I cannot stress how much I loved her anger. Thanks to racist and sexist stereotypes, most of society has a very narrow view of how Asian females should act. I can't be the only one who's tamped down her feelings as to not stand out or make waves. So seeing Rika get mad and actually stand up for herself and others really spoke to me.

The Forest of Stolen Girls

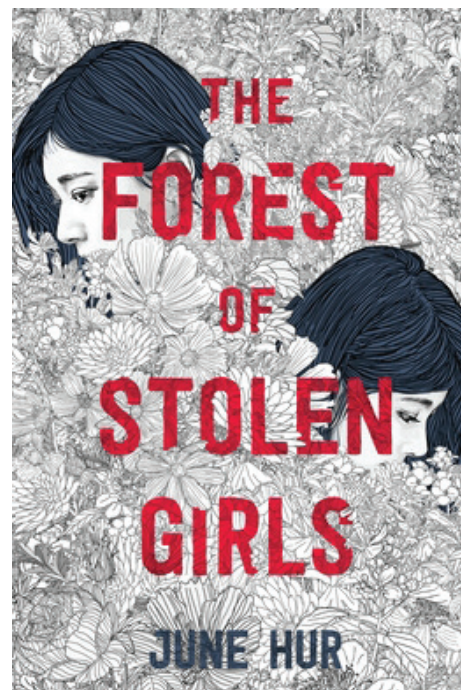
By June Hur
Feiwei & Friends, 2021

Korea, 1426. Ever since she and her sister Maewol were found unconscious in the forest at the scene of a crime, Hwani's family has never been the same. Four years later, her police detective father discovers 13 girls have recently gone missing in that same forest. So he travels to their hometown on the island of Jeju to investigate—only to disappear as well.

A year later, at 18, Hwani makes her own journey back home to find out what



happened to her father. Her investigation also brings her face to face with Maewol, who stayed behind to train as a shaman when Hwani and their father moved to the mainland, for the first time in five years. Despite being sisters, the two young



women don't know how to be around each other, having been estranged for so long. But as Hwani digs deeper into their father's disappearance and uncovers the

see **SHELF** on 13

FROM HOME TO HOME:

50th Annual
NORTHWEST
FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

Northwest Folklife in partnership
with Seattle Center

May 28-31, 2021
Online at nwfolklife.org

Presented by Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
Powered by YOU for Over 50 Years
Donate Today


Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
FOLKLIFE
NORTHWEST
FOLKLIFE
FESTIVAL
seattlecenter

■


ASTROLOGY

Predictions and advice for the week of May 22–28, 2021


By Sun Lee Chang




Rat—Are you inspired to do something a little different today? Sweeten the day with a dash of fun and spontaneity.




Ox—Release your inner potential by trusting yourself and putting in the effort to make your dream come true.




Tiger—If the situation is starting to feel a bit too complicated, simplify it by getting back to the basics.




Rabbit—A bold move has changed the landscape for you. Luckily, the change in scenery is what you had in mind.




Dragon—You have much to be proud of lately, but don't let complacency stop you from pushing to even greater heights.




Snake—Did you uncover a problem recently? Once you acknowledge it, the real work can begin.




Horse—As darkness turns to light, you will start to notice things that were previously not on your radar.




Goat—Do you have the pieces, but don't know how to put it together? Seek the advice of someone in the know.




Monkey—It is important for you to set boundaries, so no one encroaches where you don't want them to.



Rooster—Not all advice is worth taking. Consider the source and if they have anything to gain by your decision.



Dog—Even with a proven track record, the current conditions will require you to pay close attention.



Pig—Did you take an existing idea and make it better? Be sure to give credit where it is actually due.

WHAT’S YOUR ANIMAL SIGN?

RAT 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020 OX 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021 TIGER 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 RABBIT 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011 DRAGON 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012 SNAKE 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013 HORSE 1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014 GOAT 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015 MONKEY 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016 ROOSTER 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017 DOG 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018 PIG 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019

**The year ends on the first new moon of the following year. For those born in January and February, please take care when determining your sign.*

SHELF from 9

secrets of the small village, she and Maewol find their way back to each other.

“Forest of Stolen Girls” is a story about a young woman searching for her father—literally and figuratively. As her and Maewol’s bond grows stronger and the other girl shares what she remembers from the Forest Incident,

Hwani begins to question whether she knew her father at all. She has to reconcile her sister’s truth with the beloved hero who raised her. It’s devastating to see Hwani begin to realize her father is not perfect and that he’s made mistakes—with his own daughter, nonetheless.

A lot has been written about the relationship between Asian mothers and daughters, but not as many about Asian fathers and daughters. So I appreciated that this

story is filled with examples of fathers and the lengths they would go in the name of love and protecting their daughters—even if some of the results are less than ideal. ■

Samantha can be reached at info@nwasianweekly.com.

BILL from 1

compromise. Biden has said he will sign it.

“Asian Americans have been screaming out for help, and the House and Senate and President Biden have clearly heard our pleas,” said Rep. Grace Meng, D-N.Y., who helped lead efforts to pass the bill in the House.

To many Asian Americans, the pandemic has invigorated deep-seated biases that in some cases date back to the Chinese Exclusion Act of more than a century ago. President Donald Trump repeatedly referred to the virus, which emerged in Wuhan, China, as the “China Virus” or the “Kung Flu.” And as cases of

the illness began to rise in the U.S., so too did the attacks, with thousands of violent incidents reported in the past year.

Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., said it’s painful for many to “open up the newspaper everyday and see that yet another Asian American has been assaulted, attacked and even killed.”

Yet to some activists, including organizations representing gay and transgender Asian Americans, the legislation is misguided. More than 100 groups have signed onto a statement opposing the bill for relying too heavily on law enforcement while providing too little funding to address the underlying issues driving a rise

in hate crimes.

“We have had hate crimes laws since 1968, it’s been expanded over and over again, and this new legislation is more of the same,” said Jason Wu, who is co-chair of GAPIMNY-Empowering Queer & Trans Asian Pacific Islanders. “These issues are about bias, but also rooted in inequality, and lack of investment and resources for our communities. Not a shortage of police and jails.”

Meng acknowledged some of the concerns raised by the groups, but countered that the widespread underreporting of hate crimes needs to be addressed.

“Law enforcement is currently

underreporting these kinds of incidents and it makes it easy to ignore hate crimes all together,” she said.

Rep. Jim Jordan, an Ohio Republican, suggested that the surge in Asian American violence was tied to efforts backed by some Democrats and other progressives to decrease funding for the police.

“This violence, by and large, is happening in Democrat-controlled cities,” said Jordan. If “money wasn’t taken from police and they were allowed to do their jobs, we would probably be in an entirely different position.”

Yet the bill also represented a rare moment of bipartisanship

in a Congress that has struggled to overcome partisan gridlock, while underscoring an evolution in Republican thought on hate crimes legislation.

Many conservatives have historically dismissed hate crimes laws, arguing they create special protected classes so that victims of similar crimes are treated differently.

“I’m glad Congress is coming together in a bipartisan way,” said Rep. Young Kim, a California Republican who is Korean American. “Let’s also recognize that we cannot legislate hate out of our people’s hearts and minds.” ■

BLOG from 10

Most of my Hong Kong relatives have not been vaccinated. They are hesitant because each of the vaccines—Sinovac, Johnson & Johnson, and Pfizer—has its share of problems. So vaccination has not been fully embraced there. For the time being, many of my friends and relatives are still enforcing their own lockdown at home. Can you imagine how depressing it must be, to be living in your self-made prison?

Masks inspire

When COVID deaths and infection rates spiked last year, our business was devastated. Last May, Outdoor Research (OR) called us to place classified ads, while most businesses were shutting down and laying off people. OR was hiring, expanding, and had over 100 openings for manufacturing masks, not just sportswear.

That was a breath of fresh air. So I interviewed them and wrote about OR. The mask idea inspired OR, which in turn, inspired me to write about their innovation and job creation in the spirit of “Made in America.” I love that it gave us both story ideas and business for the Northwest Asian Weekly.

It is even more exhilarating to learn that a Chinese-Malaysian epidemiologist, Dr. Wu Lien-teh, invented the surgical face mask, leading to the development of N95 masks, during the Manchurian Plague in 1910, in northwestern China. Wu used surgical tape and gauze tied together to cover his face. His French colleague, who didn’t believe in Wu’s pioneering concept and refused to wear the mask, died later.

You still need masks

Seattle - King County Public Health officer Dr. Jeff Duchin urged people to wear masks on his Twitter

account, even though CDC has said you don’t have to if you are fully vaccinated. He agreed with a statement saying that it was unwise for the CDC “to lift the mask mandate for vaccinated people so early,” according to the Seattle Times. Only 37.5% of the U.S. population is vaccinated as of May 18, not even half.

So many of us are thinking about trips these days. Bring your masks along because you need them on the plane. The CDC guideline towards masks is to wear them when visiting hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and homeless shelters, in addition to flying on a plane.

Don’t leave home without a mask. Stick one in your pocket or purse, just in case you might run into someone that you suspect has not been vaccinated. It is now a modern savior before the pandemic is really over. ■

Assunta can be reached at assunta@nwasianweekly.com.

ON THE SHELF

Why be perfect when you can be yourself?

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

By Samantha Pak
NORTHWEST ASIAN WEEKLY

THE DONUT TRAP

By Julie Tieu
Avon, 2021

With no boyfriend and no job prospects, Jasmine Tran finds herself back home after college, working at her parents’ donut shop. Her daily grind now consists of donuts, Netflix, and sleep, and she wants nothing more than to break free. But then a spike in rent threatens the shop’s survival and her parents need Jasmine’s help even more.

Then she runs into Alex Lai, her crush from college and things start looking up. Successful, good looking, and Chinese, he’s the ideal boyfriend in her parents’ eyes. But that changes after a disastrous meet-the-parents dinner. Jasmine is also having her own doubts.

Now Jasmine has to figure out whether she really wants to be with Alex, how to save her family business, and what she wants to do with her life.

“Donut Trap” is the story about a young woman dealing with familial pressures. Wanting to live up to our parents’ expectations is a feeling many people can relate to, regardless of our background. But when you add the immigration experience to the mix, it just adds another layer of pressure. We want to make our parents’



sacrifices and struggles worth it and Jasmine is no different. And as the story progresses, we see how all of this has affected Jasmine, both presently as well as in the past.

This is also a story about the Cambodian diaspora and how diverse it is. Jasmine’s parents grew up in Cambodia, are ethnically Chinese, and, when they escaped the

Khmer Rouge, ended up in Vietnam before coming to the United States. So Jasmine’s upbringing includes aspects of all of these cultures. While my family is (mostly) ethnically Cambodian, we have extended family and friends who fit this description or are in a similar situation. Just as not all Asians are the same, not all Cambodians are the same and I appreciated Tieu

including this detail. I also appreciated that this was not a story about Jasmine’s family surviving the genocide. It’s part of her story, but Tieu does a great job of showing that there’s more to Jasmine than just her family’s trauma.

see SHELF on 14

Protect your family,
your wealth, and
your health.

COVID-19 can cost you more than your health. It can also cost financial security for you or your loved ones. The COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing illness and costly medical care.

Get your free COVID-19 vaccine or booster shot today.



vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov

Vaccinate
WA

CLASSIFIEDS

DONE RITE
CARPET CLEANING
206-487-8236

DOLPHIN from 11

The first census of Irrawaddy dolphins in Cambodia in 1997 estimated their total population was about 200. In 2020, the population was estimated to have fallen to 89, almost all in the group that still exists downstream from Stung Treng.

“The remaining population of ‘critically endangered’ river dolphins in the Cambodia section of the Mekong is now stable, whilst still facing serious challenges,” said a statement from Lan Mercado, Asia-Pacific director of the World Wildlife Fund. “This latest river dolphin death highlights how vulnerable these and other species remain.”

The tail of the dolphin that died was seen tangled in a fishing net about a week earlier, the Cambodian state news agency AKP reported. It said the

dolphin was unable to swim properly after that and died due to its injury and inability to catch its usual prey for nourishment.

The World Wildlife Fund said the 25-year-old male dolphin, 8.5 feet long and weighing 242 pounds, is believed to have died three days before his body was found.

In addition to being entangled in fishing nets, the species is also threatened by pollution, according to Cambodia’s Fisheries Administration and other conservationists.

In recent years, risks have also increased due to climate change and waters made shallow by the construction of upstream dams, both of which decrease water flow and the number of other aquatic species that the dolphins eat. ■

USE ItchNoMore® shampoo on dogs & cats to relieve secondary dermatitis, treat yeast infections & eliminate doggy odor. At Tractor Supply (www.fleabeacon.com)

ADVERTISE STATEWIDE with a \$325 classified listing or \$1600 for a display ad. Call this newspaper or 360-344-2938 for details.

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details, 855-635-4229.

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-888-360-1582.

GENERAC Standby Generators provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Request a free quote today! Call for additional terms and conditions. 1-888-674-7053.

SHELF from 8

LUPE WONG WON’T DANCE
By Donna Barba Higuera
Levine Querido, 2020

Lupe Wong’s big goal in life is to be the first female pitcher in Major League Baseball. Her goal in the short term is to meet her favorite pitcher, Fu Li Hernandez, who’s Chinacan/Mexinese—Chinese and Mexican American—like her. But she can only meet him if she gets straight As on her next report card. All grades are pointing to the seventh grader meeting her hero, but then—horror of all horrors—she learns she’s going to have to square dance in physical education.

As a champion of causes—from the worthy, like expanding the race options on school tests to more than just a few bubbles, to the maybe-not-as-worthy, like complaining to the BBC about the length of time between seasons of “Doctor Who”—Lupe realizes this will be her next fight.

“Lupe Wong” is the story of a girl who is not afraid to speak her mind. Sure, she can be stubborn at times, but that also means she won’t just fall in line and let things be—especially

when she thinks injustices have occurred. Sometimes this backfires, particularly when she doesn’t think things through, and with dire consequences (at least dire for a pre-teen).

Barba Higuera does a great job of blending humor with themes such as the importance of being true to yourself and speaking out about something for the right reasons. Lupe is a hilarious character and it’s great to see her grow throughout the story. Her crusade to end square dancing in P.E. starts out a little selfish (she is only 12, after all), but by the end, we see her shift and become more thoughtful and compassionate. Her evolution serves as a reminder to readers of all ages that we can all take the time to stop and think before we speak or act.

A TASTE FOR LOVE
By Jennifer Yen
Razorbill, 2021

To most people, Liza Yang is pretty much perfect. But to her very traditional Taiwanese mom, Liza is too stubborn and rebellious—and needs to be more like her older sister, Jeannie. The one thing Liza and her mom do agree on is their

love for baking. So when her mom lets her take on a bigger role in their family bakery’s annual junior baking competition, Liza sets out to prove she is, in fact, a good daughter.

But when she sees that all the competitors are Asian American boys, Liza knows her mom is up to something—specifically, matchmaking. And as annoyed as she is at her mom, Liza is even more annoyed to find herself actually drawn to one of the “bachelors,” the stoic but irritatingly hot James.

“Taste for Love” is a fun retelling of Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice.” My favorite parts were the baking competition. All the guys have been handpicked by her mom and while they may appear to be good matches on paper, real life is a whole other thing. So obviously, hilarity ensues—especially because a number of them have next to no baking skills.

This is definitely one of those books you don’t want to read while hungry. Yen’s descriptions will have you craving everything from boba, to Korean barbecue, to dumplings. And in a society where anything “too different” is open to ridicule, I appreciated Liza’s unashamed love for all different types of Asian

food and the normalizing of different aspects of our everyday lives without exoticizing or “othering” us.

Finally, I just loved Liza. I related to parts of the fraught relationship with her mom, as well as her relationship with Jeannie and her role as a younger sister. That pressure to try to be perfect and live up to an older sibling is something I still deal with today. But as Liza learns the value in being herself and following her own passions, she reminds readers that who we are is enough, in any situation. ■

Samantha can be reached at
info@nwasianweekly.com.

SOLUTION from SUDOKU on page 6.

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