

Wednesday, July 6th, 2022



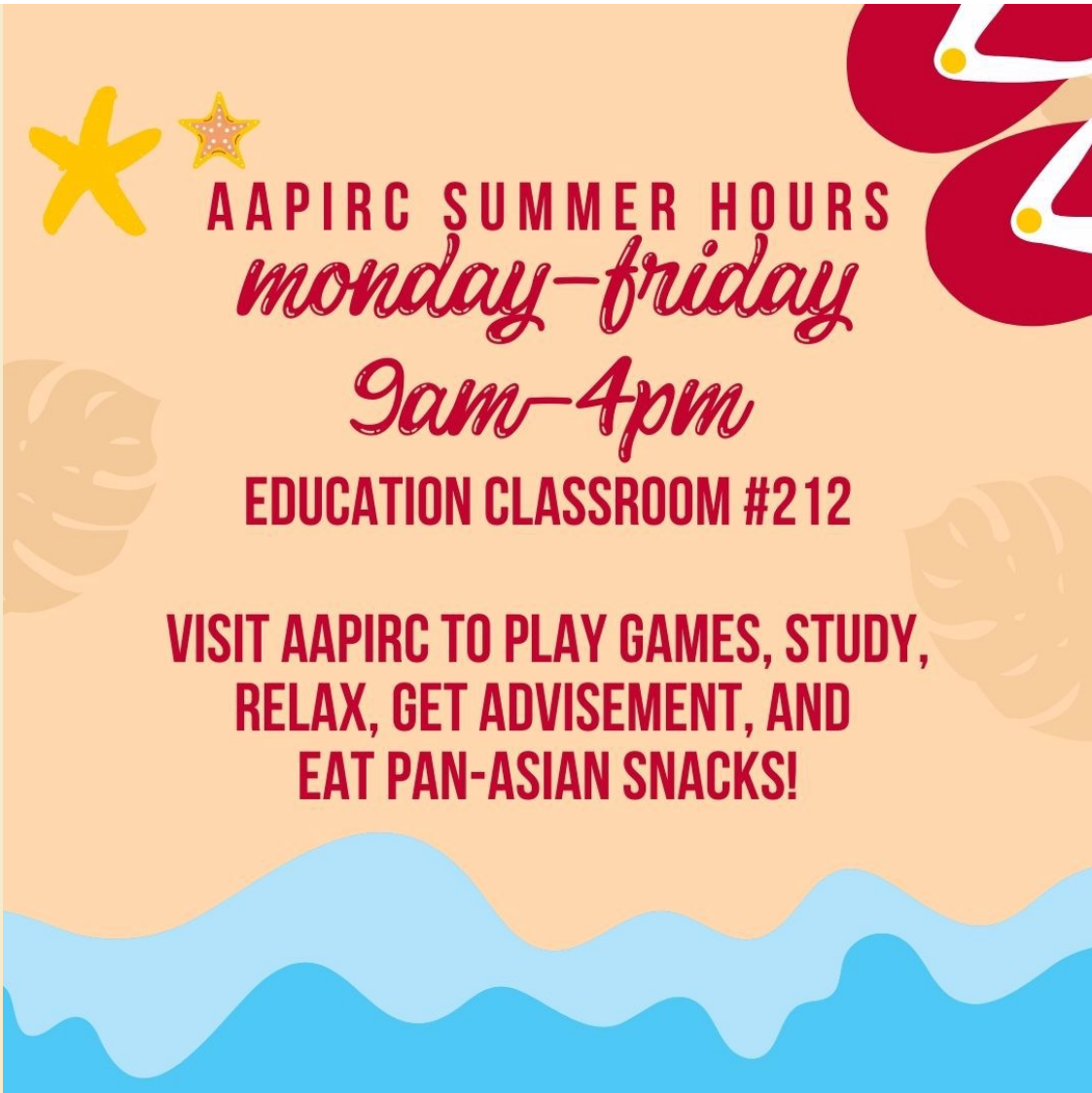
ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER RESOURCE CENTER

The Asian American Pacific Islander Resource Center (AAPIRC) was established during the 2021–2022 academic year as a result of a student-led initiative to create a department that supports AAPI students at UNM.

Hello and happy July! Can you believe the fall semester starts in less than 8 weeks? At AAPIRC, we're enjoying summer while we still can. **Join us for yoga led by our very own Associate Director, Farah Nousheen, today at 2pm.** We would also like to **recap last week's AMAZING class with instructor, Pam Hong.**

We included a New Yorker article on the murder of Vincent Chin in our last newsletter, and this week **Charlotte will explore his story further in the newest publication of the Visibility Blog.**

Remember to mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 24th for our Boba Tea Social! We hope to see you there and, as always, thank you for your support!



Make an Advisement Appointment Today!



AAPIRC **ADVISEMENT**

AAPIRC is now offering culturally-sensitive advisement with our Associate Director, Farah Nousheen. If you identify as AAPI, we highly recommend you schedule an appointment with Farah at LoboAchieve.unm.edu. Services include financial, academic, and career advisement specifically tailored to meet AAPI students' needs. Even if you don't need these services, we would love to get to know you and hear your ideas for the center!



Last Week's Qigong Session

Unwind this summer semester with...

Yoga & Qigong at AAPIRC!

Wednesdays @ 2pm



*These sessions are open to all
students, staff, and faculty!
Bring your own mat or use
one of AAPIRC's*



ASIAN AMERICAN
PACIFIC ISLANDER
RESOURCE CENTER

For all UNM students, staff, instructors, and community members: AAPIRC will be offering an hour of mindfulness, yoga and qigong **every Wednesday at 2pm during the summer semester**. No experience necessary! You can bring your own mat, or use one that is available here.



Last week, AAPIRC participated in a qigong class taught by Pamela Hong. We have good news and bad news. First, the class was extremely calming and empowering as Pam guided us through movements, breathing, and meditation. The bad news: we were so at peace, we forgot to take pictures! We want to thank Pam for bringing her services to AAPIRC. We are always excited to see new and returning faces at these classes and love the yoga community we are building each week.

Join that community by coming to our class today at 2pm!

The Visibility Blog

About the Blog: The Visibility Blog will be included in future newsletters and housed permanently on our website. This blog will feature reviews and creations of AAPI literature, art, and podcasts from the employees of AAPIRC. The aim of this blog is to provide visibility to the otherwise invisibilized contributions and peoples of the AAPI community. Once the blog gets going, we will open it for Lobo and community submissions!



Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American citizen, college graduate, and son

The Murder of Vincent Chin

by Charlotte Auh

It is no secret that **Asian American/Pacific Islander history is often overlooked, improperly told, or villainized in American history books**. Even though the topic of today's blog was monumental and crucial for Asian Americans at the time, many of us are probably asking, "**Vincent Who?**". This week, I listened to the 35th episode of the Asian American History 101 podcast hosted by Gen and Ted Lai covers [The Murder of Vincent Chin](#).

Two weeks ago, **June 19th, 2022, marked the 40-year anniversary of the attack on Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American living in Michigan**. To fully explain Vincent's death, we must first explore the decades-long conflict of the automobile industry which led to his murder. In the 1920s, several major automobile companies opened factories in Detroit. Later, to avoid paying United States-standard salaries, automobile companies moved their factories off U.S. soil. **By the 1980s, Japan had taken the title of world leader in the automobile industry from the U.S.** because of their smaller, more fuel-efficient cars.

Though American automobile companies had been the ones to originally move their companies to Japanese soil, **American auto-workers were quick to condemn Asian Americans for the decline in jobs**. As Gen Lai puts it, "**blaming Asians was easy**".

Vincent Chin, celebrating his bachelor party, found himself in the same club as **two White men on the night of June 19th, 1982: Ronald Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz who had recently been laid off by Chrysler.** Witnesses claim to have heard Ebens confront Vincent, saying **“it’s because of you little motherf*****s that we’re out of work”**, to which Vincent replied by punching Ebens in the face. Vincent, Ebens, and Nitz were all kicked out of the club for fighting and continued brawling in the parking lot. When Ebens retrieved a baseball bat from his car, Vincent and his friends left. Ebens and Nitz then spent 20 minutes searching for Vincent, reportedly paying a third man to help them. They found Vincent at a nearby McDonald’s, where **Nitz held him down while Ebens beat him with the baseball bat. Vincent was declared brain dead at Henry Ford Hospital and died on June 23rd, 1982.** His last words, whispered to his friend before he lost consciousness, were **“it’s not fair”**. At the time, Michigan crime statistics did not include an Asian ethnicity option, so Vincent was listed as White.

This brutal killing did not originally garner a lot of national attention, rather it was considered a “local story”. However, like other modern hate crimes, it was the *ruling* that angered the AAPI community and its allies nationwide. Ebens and Nitz were originally charged with second-degree murder, though a plea bargain brought this charge down to manslaughter. **They were each sentenced by Judge Charles Kaufman to 3 years of probation (no jail time) and fined \$3000.** In defense of this ruling, Judge Kaufman said **“These weren’t the kind of men you send to jail... You don’t make the punishment fit the crime; you make the punishment fit the criminal”**.

Kaufman’s outrageous logic served as a catalyst for Asian Americans to band together.

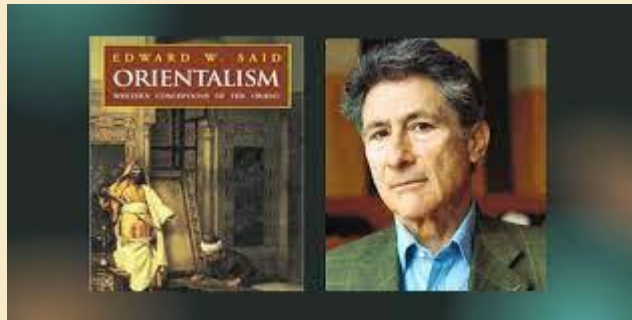
The American Citizens of Justice (AJC) was created and, headed by a group of Asian American community leaders, **petitioned the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate Vincent’s case as a violation of his civil rights.** The Department of Justice did open an investigation, which served as **“the first time Asian Americans were protected in a federal civil rights prosecution”**, because they were not previously viewed as a protected class. In 1984, the U.S. district court sentenced Ebens to 25 years in prison, though he was released 2 years later because of improper prosecution witness coaching. Vincent’s mother was left without justice or her son, saying **“What kind of law is this? What kind of justice?...If two Chinese killed a White person, they must go to jail. Maybe for their whole lives. Something is wrong with this country”**. 40 years later, we are still left wondering what kind of justice exists for perpetrators of hate crimes. By educating ourselves on Vincent’s story, we acknowledge the anti-Asian racism that has long existed in the United States and ensure that Vincent’s death was not in vain. As Hua Hsu wrote in the New Yorker, **“It could have been any one of us. It can be all of us, together.”**

Orientalism Reading Group

Hello, my name is Mohammed Yahya Rawwas, and I am a Philosophy Master’s student here at UNM. As part Lebanese-Syrian, I am interested in the legacy of French and British colonialism



in the Middle East and North Africa. I developed the idea of starting a reading group through AAPIRC that would explore the issue of Asian identity through a historical and theoretical lens. Ever since I began frequenting AAPIRC, I've seen it develop a clearer mission, and I believe this reading group fits well with its previous and upcoming slate of programming. I also have previous experience helping to run reading groups centered around Marxist or feminist texts. More information on the text we will be reading this Fall semester is below.



Professor Edward Said's 1978 book *Orientalism* is one of the founding texts of postcolonialism, a theoretical tradition which seeks to forward a critique of colonial ideology and its afterlives. Edward Said (November 1, 1935 – September 25, 2003) was born in Mandatory Palestine and grew up in Egypt before moving to the United States. He was a scholar focusing on literary theory and the legacy of colonialism, particularly in the Middle East. *Orientalism* tackles how this colonial history shapes Western conceptions of this region to this day. I also believe that parallels can be drawn between the specific histories examined in *Orientalism* and the effects of colonialism on other parts of Asia as well, and I hope to cultivate a productive dialogue along these lines. This reading group will tentatively begin on September 7th, 2022 and cover 1 chapter per week, to be discussed at Wednesday meetings, through the fall semester. We will move at the pace of the group and meet weekly to discuss the assigned reading. The group is open to all interested participants in all areas of disciplines. All graduate students are most welcome!

If you are interested in this program, please fill out [this interest survey](#).

Opportunity for Students!

STUDENTS INVITED!

CENTERING OUR VOICES

COLLEGE STUDENT VIRTUAL DISCUSSION

**\$50 AMAZON
GIFT CARDS
AND OPTIONAL
ONE YEAR
NOVA
MEMBERSHIPS
FOR
PARTICIPANTS**

WED, JULY 13TH, 2022 12:00-1:30PM CT
THUR, JULY 28TH, 2022 1:00-2:30PM ET

The purpose of the "Centering our Voices" conversation is to hear from students about the unique needs of diverse student populations as it relates to interpersonal violence. This session will center the voices of immigrant students.

Scan QR code to RSVP and for more information.



**SCAN
ME** 

bit.ly/38JeAth



"Where are you from? No, where are you *really* from?"



If you identify as AAPI, it's likely you've been asked these questions, usually by a complete stranger. In reality, this stranger doesn't care that you were born and raised in the United States, they want to know your *Asian heritage*. As "perpetual foreigners", Asian-Americans are often perceived as being from "somewhere else". At AAPIRC, we want to take back this question, where are you from? Use our new map to mark where your family immigrated from/to, where you were born, where you have lived, any city that has shaped your identity! Our associate director, Farah, used 4 pins to mark that she was born in Hyderabad, India, immigrated to Chicago, lived in Seattle, and is now in ABQ. We want to know about the identities of the Lobos who are coming to AAPIRC; come add your pins today!

Mahjong at AAPIRC

We are excited to announce that the Chinese Culture and Language Club (CLCC) is housing their automatic mahjong table in AAPIRC! This table will automatically handle tile shuffling and wall building. Thank you to ASUNM and CLCC for this great addition to our resource center!

And a special shoutout to the members of CLCC who built the table using an instruction manual written completely in Mandarin!



Are you interested in playing or learning mahjong? Make sure to come to our **Welcome Back Boba Tea Social on Wednesday, August 24th from 4pm–6pm**. We will have **teaching sessions and more information on the history of the game**. A **boba tea bar, selection of Japanese cakes, and fresh samosas** will be served!

AAPIRC INVITES YOU TO OUR

Welcome Back Boba Tea Social

Wednesday, August 24th | 4pm-6pm
Education Classrooms #212 (AAPIRC)



We Want YOU To Decorate AAPIRC

AAPIRC has always been student-focused. Now that our space is set up, we want to cover our walls in student art! We are looking for pieces of any

AAPIRC is calling for...

community art!



media that focus on the AAPI experience. We will be circulating a survey for artists in a future newsletter. For now, start brainstorming and get those creative juices flowing!

If you wish to unsubscribe from our newsletters, please email us at aapirc@unm.edu and let us know.

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