

# Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration of San Mateo

## Organizers

Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc  
San Mateo Organization of Chinese Americans  
San Mateo Japanese American Citizens League  
Downtown San Mateo Association

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in San Mateo

Asian American Curriculum Project (AAP) of San Mateo, the San Mateo Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), the San Mateo Japanese American Citizen's League (JACL), and the Downtown San Mateo Association (DSMA), are pleased to jointly sponsor a celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> in San Mateo's Central Park Recreation Center from 10AM to 5PM.

Made possible by the generous financial support of individuals, non-profit organizations, and corporations, this event celebrates the achievements and history of Asians and Pacific Islanders in America with stage performances, exhibits and presentations, and arts and crafts.

The celebration will be hosted by **Jana Katsuyama** and **Lloyd LaCuesta** of KTVU 2 News.

### *Performers:*

#### **Urisawe - Performing Samdo Suljangu and Samdo Samulnori**

Urisawe, translated as "Our Movement", is an organization dedicated to promoting traditional Korean culture through performing arts. Established in 2002 by Me Sook Ko, a professional teacher, Urisawe offers many classes on traditional Korean dances and drumming, including, Poongmul, geom-mu (sword dance), tal-chum (mask dance), Samulnori, and more. Urisawe is open to anyone who is interested in learning about traditional Korean performing arts.

Urisawe will be playing 2 pieces. First is 'Samdo Suljanggu', which is a piece played entirely using janggu. Janggu is an hourglass shaped drum and the rhythms of this piece come from the 3 major regions of Korea. The second piece is called the 'Samdo Samulnori'. Samulnori is a Korean music played with four traditional Korean percussion instruments and it was created in 1978 basing its roots on the rhythms of Poongmul, Korean traditional percussion.

Contact: John Lee 607-592-7440

#### **California Youth Chinese Symphony** - [www.uscycs.org](http://www.uscycs.org)

The California Youth Chinese Symphony (CYCS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and has a mission of promoting musical diversity and enriching cultural lives of our communities by introducing Chinese traditional music and instruments.

It currently offers different levels of Chinese instrument lessons for beginning to intermediate students. Students can choose from different instruments including the pipa (Chinese lute), erhu (two-string violin), guzheng (lap harp), dizi (bamboo flute), sheng (mouth organ), suona (Chinese oboe), yangqin (dulcimer), konghou (double-string harp), and Chinese percussion. Advanced students will participate in orchestra and ensemble training with many opportunities to perform in community events as well as concert performances.

***Thia Konda Okasan and Me - Shamisen Jazz and Pop*** - [www.okasanandme.com](http://www.okasanandme.com)

Shamisen is a traditional Japanese instrument with 3 strings that is played in jazz, pop, and traditional music. Thia Konda has played the shamisen for 26 years as a member of Matsutoya Kai. Three years ago she started to experiment with the different genres of the shamisen. Her performance includes story time and origami

**Project Garuda - Indonesian Music**

Project Garuda consists of young Indonesian musicians and singers who enjoy getting together to create and enjoy performing great music ranging from jazz, pop, R&B, hip-hop, and classics that span across the generations and countries. For this special event they will perform contemporary classic songs from Indonesia's pop hits. The core of Project Garuda are four amazing musicians: Ignatius (keyboard), Gent (guitar), William (bass), and Willy (drums). For this event, we also have Alvan (violin), Ardi (guitar), and Felice (guitar, vocal). Ingrid and Putu's beautiful voices are already famous in our circle of friends, and this time will also include Vero, Felice, Sylvia, Widya, Nick, and Mira for vocals.

We want to introduce our rich Indonesian music culture through our performances. It starts with "Bengawan Solo", a beautiful, very famous song about the longest river in Java island. Using violin to represent the flowing melody, this song showcases Indonesia's famous keroncong style. Then we have two songs from Chrisye, one of Indonesia's most-decorated pop singer. "Kala Cinta Menggoda" (When Love Seduces) and "Cintaku" (My Love). We will also perform several other songs to let you enjoy our music with a little bit of surprise! For our finale, we have "Yogyakarta", a song from KLa Project, who is also a well-known Indonesian pop group.

Contact: Albert Hadiprodjo 714 390-5887

***Filipino Association of Foster City Choir*** - [www.faafc.com](http://www.faafc.com)

The Filipino-American Association of Foster City (FAAFC) is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Since the beginning years of FAAFC, FAAFC Choir has been performing in a variety of events under the musical direction of Rebecca Guerrero. FAAFC choir strives to preserve Filipino heritage by celebrating Philippine songs and preserving Philippine folk arts and culture. FAAFC is also proud to include some of its Tagalog classes youth members who will join the choir in its performance at the San Mateo's 9th Annual APAHC.

**Charlie Chin**

Writer, musician, and storyteller, Charlie Chin will be performing "Uncle Toisan" featuring the unique experiences of a Chinese American immigrant to the United States. His eyewitness account bridges the historical relevance of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the modern post-civil rights movement, and the emergence of present-day Asian American consciousness.

Charlie is an Artist-in-Residence at the Chinese Historical Society of American in San Francisco and has been honored as a "Community Folklore Scholar" by the Smithsonian Institution. Charlie performed with the band *Buffalo Springfield* and was a pioneer of Asian American consciousness with the album, "A Grain of Sand: Music for the Struggle by Asians in America," released in 1973. He has appeared on PBS in documentaries about Chinese American history.

***Exhibitors***

**San Mateo County Historical Museum** – [historysmc.org](http://historysmc.org)

**San Mateo County Elections Office** – [shapethefuture.org](http://shapethefuture.org)

**Self-Help for the Elderly** – [selfhelpelderly.org](http://selfhelpelderly.org)

Plus many more non-profit organizations and arts and crafts artisans.

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