



SACRAMENTO ASIAN SPORTS FOUNDATION

# The QUEST

Spring 2017

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[www.sasfquest.org](http://www.sasfquest.org)

## President's Message



Believe it or not, the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation Community Center is celebrating its 10th year! It seems like just yesterday when we broke ground and then opened our doors in March 2007! Throughout this past decade, our facility has hosted 11 SASF Crab Feeds, summer basketball leagues and instructional camps, along with other countless community events and activities.

We are so proud of how far SASF has come in its quest to provide a facility to serve as place for our community to come together. Looking ahead and moving forward, we want the facility will continue to flourish and be a hub for youth and adult sporting events, and we are striving for the facility to become a host venue for many community entertainment and arts events.

In the past year, we invested in the improvement of the acoustics and audio/visual systems. We also have a hard-working staff that provides oversight and maintenance of the facility. This provides consistency and excellence with customer service and facility conditions. For all of their good, hard work and dedication, I want to wholeheartedly thank the SASF staff.

Our next SASF event will be the "Here and Now Tribute to Luther Vandross" concert on July 15, 2017.

We look forward to a great evening of music by Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter Terry Steele as he pays tribute to the music and songs of the late Luther Vandross. To purchase tickets, please visit our website at [www.sasfquest.org](http://www.sasfquest.org).

We continue to strengthen our relationships with our community and stakeholders, and hope that we can continue to build capacity so this facility will continue to provide many great events and memories for the decade ahead and generations to follow.

In closing, I want to express my continued gratitude to all our present and past Board of Directors and the many valuable volunteers that lend their hard work and efforts for all of our events and functions. The success of our organization is due in large part on the support from our volunteers, and we hope to continue build upon tis strong network. If you are interested in volunteering or providing support for our SASF events, please feel free to contact us at [sasfrentals@gmail.com](mailto:sasfrentals@gmail.com) or (916) 391-6000.

Wishing you all a happy and eventful spring season ahead!

# SASF Mourns The Loss of Two Strong SASF Supporters

By Kingman Louie

This past February 2017, SASF lost two great individuals that supported SASF's dream.

Gene D. Wong passed away February 28th, 2017 at the age of 94. Mr. Wong and the Bel Air Wong Family were instrumental in donating the naming rights to our Capital Campaign that launched the construction of our facility back in 2005. Mr. Wong was born in Newcastle, California on November 10, 1922. He went to UC Berkeley, but was drafted into the US Army Aircorp and served as



a member of the Flying Tigers. In 1955, Mr. Wong and his siblings opened the first Bel Air Market on Fruitridge Road. From that one store, the Bel Air Market enterprise grew into Bel Air Market family empire it is today. Without Mr. Wong and his family's generosity, SASF might still be a dream on paper.

Janice Ichihō passed away unexpectedly on February 18th, 2017 as a result of a brain aneurysm. She was only 68 years old. Janice ran the SASF Basic Hoops program for kids from Kindergarten to 3rd grade since our facility opened in 2007. She was born in Sacramento October 17th, 1948. Besides running the SASF Basic Hoops program

for the younger kids in the community, she also coached junior varsity and varsity basketball at many of the local high schools, earning the honor of Coach of the Year in 1994. Our facility was filled to capacity for her Celebration of Life, which was held on March 12, 2017. The fond memories shared by the speakers at the service reflected the many lives that Janice personally impacted.



SASF is indebted to these two great individuals and all that they have contributed to our community.

## Newsletter Sponsorship

SASF is currently soliciting donations through advertisement opportunities in our newsletters (usually published March and September). Our newsletter is mailed to approximately 5000 SASF supporters and posted on our website for 6 months. This is a great opportunity for your business or organization to reach members of our community. If you wish to reserve ad space in our next newsletter or if you have any questions, please contact Karen Cotton at 916-739-1616 or [kccotton@fongprinters.com](mailto:kccotton@fongprinters.com)

Advertising Rates (per newsletter):

Business Cards (3 1/2" x 2")	\$65
1/4 page (3 15/16" x 4 15/16")	\$120
1/2 page (4 15/16" x 7 1/2")	\$200
full page (7 1/2" x 9 5/8")	\$300

## Facility Managers Report

By Evan Kanenaga

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the community, sports, and events center established by the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation. In what seems like a short period of time, SASF has accomplished many goals developed by its supporting founding member organizations and individual community members. SASF has earned the recognition of being one of the best indoor sports and special events centers in the Elk Grove /South Sacramento area.

Since the beginning of summer last year, SASF made repairs and improvements to maintain or improve the quality of the facility. Adding acoustic treatments, refinishing the hardwood floor, and switching to energy efficient lighting for the office and exterior areas helps to maintain a first-rate environment while saving on energy costs.



Battling the challenges of changing social and economic times, SASF is aggressively exploring new and unique opportunities that

will continue to support and provide our community with programs and events benefiting all age groups. Please check our website ([www.sasfquest.org](http://www.sasfquest.org)) for the latest information on current and future events and opportunities.

Lastly, I am looking for volunteers that have experience in marketing, office support, and/or program coordination. If you or anyone you know may be interested in helping a few hours a week, please contact me at [sasfrentals@gmail.com](mailto:sasfrentals@gmail.com) or (916) 391-6000.

Thank you for continuing to support SASF, our programs, and our vision for the future.

## 2nd Annual PREP Event

By Alyssa Chow

Calling all motivated, proactive, and enterprising high schoolers! This year, the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation will be hosting its 2nd Annual PREP Event. The goal of PREP, which stands for "Providing Resources for Education and Professionalism," is to expose high school students to the types of real-world skills that they will need not only during high school, but also once they enter the realm of preparing and applying for various programs in higher education, as well as in the work force. Each participant will be given a hard copy binder of all of the materials, as well as a digital copy on flash-drives that have been generously donated by Hanson Wong. If you or someone you know may be interested in signing up for this year's event, please go to [www.sasfevents.org/prep-2017](http://www.sasfevents.org/prep-2017) for more information and to register. If you have any questions, please e-mail Alyssa Chow at [alyssa.chow25@gmail.com](mailto:alyssa.chow25@gmail.com) or Evan Kanenaga at [sasrentals@gmail.com](mailto:sasrentals@gmail.com). Thank you, and we are looking forward to yet another excellent event!



## DONATIONS

The SASF gratefully acknowledges the following generous donations received from 11/1/16 - 2/28/17  
The SASF is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, Tax ID 94-3227001

Buddhist Church of Sacramento, Sponsorship Strive for Strength  
The Benevity Community Impact Fund, Capital Building Fund  
The Diocese of Sacramento, Inc., Sponsorship Crab Feed  
United Way, United Way  
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Chan, Henry & Janet, In Memory Of Bernard Sakamoto  
Chew, Alvin & Ginger, Brick Campaign  
Chew, Gregory R., Brick Campaign Nate Chew  
Corrie, Bill & Kathi, Sponsorship Crab Feed  
Corrie, Bill & Kathi, Sponsorship Crab Feed  
Fong, Lorna M., Sponsorship Strive for Strength  
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Inouye, Ian & Cheryl, In Memory Of Nate Chew  
Kobayashi, Honorable Charles & Doris, General Donation  
Kojima, Touru & May, General Donation  
Kwong, Ellen, Sponsorship Lunar New Year  
Kwong, Ellen, Sponsorship Lunar New Year  
Lee, Kermit & Martha, In Memory Of Jan Min Louie  
Louie, Betty & Fee, In Memory Of Jan Min Louie  
Louie, Betty & Fee, Sponsorship Strive for Strength  
Louie, Betty & Fee, In Memory Of June Kojima Coats  
Nishita, Allan & Charmaine, Sponsorship Strive for Strength  
Pellegrini, Ronald, In Memory Of Albert Lee Wong  
Tanihana, Eiko, In Memory Of Jan Ichiho  
Tanihana, Eiko, In Memory Of Michael Hideo Ito

Tanihana, Eiko, In Memory Of William Yutaka Mizusaka  
Tanihana, Eiko, In Memory Of Mariko Sasano  
Tanihana, Eiko, In Memory Of Carolyn Lim SooHoo  
Uda, Randy & Suzanne, Capital Building Fund PG&E Campaign  
Yabut, Jaime & Shirley S., In Honor Of Tsutomoto Ota's 90th Birthday  
Yamada, Mitsuo & Miyo, In Memory Of Shirley Sakiko Sato  
Yee, Fan & Viola, In Memory Of Jan Min Louie

Corrections from previous newsletter:  
Enkoji, Jeff & Janice, In Memory of Betty Akiko Abe  
Enkoji, Jeff & Janice, In Memory of Dorothy Kunisaki

Thank you!



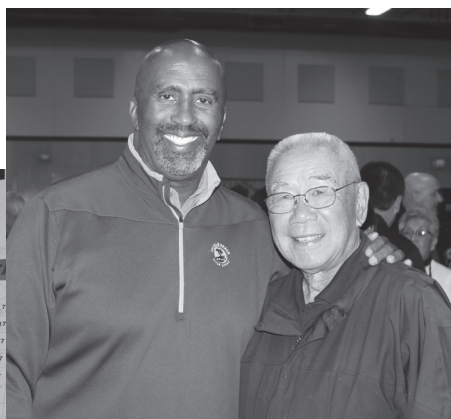
# 23rd Annual SASF Crab Feed

By Alyssa Chow

On November 19, 2016, the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation hosted its 23rd Annual Crab Feed in what turned out to be yet another “crab”-tastic event. Every fall, SASF hosts a crab feed for members and friends in the community to get together and enjoy great company and delicious food. For this crab feed, over 800 guests poured into the facility, ready to put on their crab bibs and grub on SASF’s famous Chinese-style crab. Almost 4800 pounds of crab was served that night. At the end of the evening, former mayor Jimmie Yee announced all of the lucky winners of

the raffle prizes that were donated by our many generous donors. The crab feed continues to be one of SASF’s biggest annual fundraising events, and we could not have done it without the continued help and support from members and friends in the community. Thank you to over 100 volunteers who assisted in preparing, serving, and cleaning during the event. Preparation were done Thursday and Friday night by dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in helping

out with next year’s event or would like to donate a raffle prize, please contact Karen Cotton at [kcotton@fongprinters.com](mailto:kcotton@fongprinters.com). The prize donors for the evening were: Adrienne Fong, Beth Lendrum, Bill and Kathi Corrie, Bob and Melissa Masuda, California Bank & Trust, Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services, Cavalini Paper @ Co. South San Francisco, Family Wealth Law Group, Professional Corporation, Freeport Bakery, Judi Okamoto, Mark Franusich, Mikuni Foundation, The Bread Store, Vicki Stanley, Walsh Station Automotive, and Wok in the Park, LLC





## Lunar New Year

*By Karen Cotton*

On Saturday, January 21, 2017 SASF and Sacramento Chinese Catholic Community-St. Vincent de Paul Society of Cathedral Parish hosted their second annual Lunar New Year Friendship Luncheon at Luther Burbank High School Cafeteria.

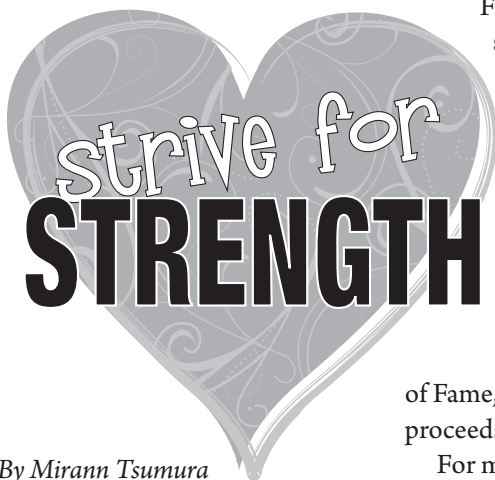
With the help of the volunteers from the parish and the Chinese American Council of Sacramento, we were able to serve a six course Chinese lunch to approximately 250 needy families and seniors.

As part of this celebration, we had the traditional lion dance perform and then a blessing from Father Ho from the Sacramento Chinese Catholic Community before the meal.

During the celebration, we also had the dance troop from William Land School perform a traditional Lunar New Year's dance while red money envelopes called "lycee" were handed out to all that attended.

Blessings from Steve Ly, Mayor of Elk Grove and retired County Supervisor Jimmie Yee were also given during the celebration.

This wonderful celebration has been underwritten by the generous support of Ellen Kwong and her family.



*By Mirann Tsumura*

Founded in 2007, Strive For Strength (S4S) is an organization run by local high school girls whose main goal is to promote women empowerment, education, and confidence. Each year, the S4S team organizes and hosts a one-day retreat for middle school and high school girls, which features inspirational speakers, informative presentations, and interactive confidence-building activities. Every retreat aims to focus on one or two major themes and issues; past retreats have focused on eating disorders, bullying, and domestic violence.

This year, for the 10th annual retreat, the S4S board decided to focus on "Unity." Around 60 participants gathered on April 10, 2017 at the SASF Facility to take part in this year's retreat. Featured speakers included Danielle Viglione, a former WNBA player and member of the Sacramento Sports Hall of Fame, and Kelly Richardson, writer of the Sacramento Bee's Teen Talk column. All proceeds from the retreat will go towards the Linda Kobayashi Scholarship Foundation.

For more information about Strive for Strength, please visit [www.striveforstrength.org](http://www.striveforstrength.org).



# Summer Youth Basketball Programs Starting Soon

By Kingman Louie



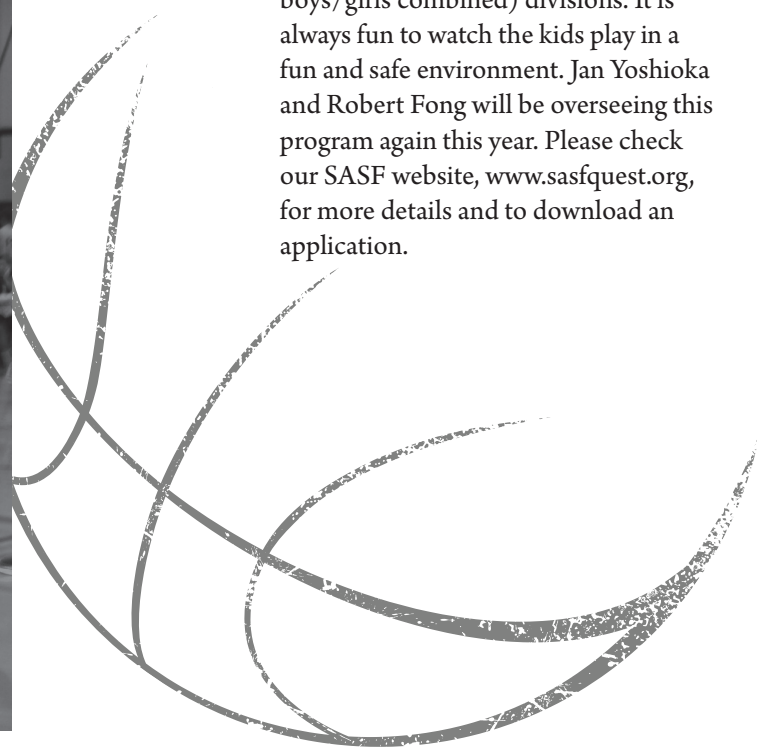
Our SASF Summer Youth Basketball Programs will be here sooner than you think.

SASF's Basic Hoops program will be held this year from June 19, 2017 to June 22, 2017, from 6:00 pm to 7:30



pm. While the program has historically been scheduled after Summer League, the organizers felt it was better to start it earlier in the summer this year. Basic Hoops will be focused on 1st through 3rd graders, teaching them basic basketball skills in a fun and supportive environment. It will be headed by Coach Marty Tateishi and Coach Mark Wong, both of whom will be putting the "fun" in fundamentals. This program is always a great experience for aspiring basketballers and always ends with a tasty treat at the end of each practice session. Registration for each participant is \$55.00. Please check our SASF website, [www.sasfquest.org](http://www.sasfquest.org), for more details, or contact Evan Kanenaga at (916) 391-6000.

Summer League will be from June 26, 2017 to August 4, 2017, and includes players entering grades 2nd through 9th grade. Summer League will be divided into 3 divisions of players: Boys and Girls Upper (7th, 8th and 9th grade), Boys and Girls Lower (4th, 5th and 6th grade) and Rookies (2nd and 3rd grade boys/girls combined) divisions. It is always fun to watch the kids play in a fun and safe environment. Jan Yoshioka and Robert Fong will be overseeing this program again this year. Please check our SASF website, [www.sasfquest.org](http://www.sasfquest.org), for more details and to download an application.



SACRAMENTO ASIAN SPORTS FOUNDATION PRESENTS

*Here & Now -  
Tribute to Luther Vandross*

*An Evening with Terry Steele*

Join us for an extraordinary evening of Love and Musical Magic with two-time Grammy Nominated Singer/Songwriter ("Here & Now") TERRY STEELE as he brings to life the soul-stirring sounds of Luther Vandross' legendary performances and honors the music of one of R&B's most beloved singers!

**Saturday, July 15, 2017**  
**9040 High Tech Court**  
**Elk Grove, CA 95758**  
**Doors Open at 5:30 | Performance at 7:00**

**\$40.00 General Admission**  
**\$50.00 Reserved Seating**

Tickets can be purchased through [www.sasfquest.org](http://www.sasfquest.org)  
 No Host Bar and Concessions  
 Rice bowls and other treats by the SASF Kitchen Crew

For more information go to [www.sasfquest.org](http://www.sasfquest.org)  
 or contact Evan Kanenaga at 916-391-6000,  
 email: [sasrentals@gmail.com](mailto:sasrentals@gmail.com)

Terry Steele spent much of his career behind the scenes as a songwriter. In the '80s and '90s, Steele's songs were recorded by Patti LaBelle, Whitney Houston, Diana Ross, and Dionne Warwick. Steele's best-known song is "Here and Now," which he co-wrote; Warwick brought the tune to Vandross' attention, and it became a major hit on both the R&B and pop charts in 1989. In 1999, Steele was hired as a lead vocalist by Hiroshima. In 2002, Steele co-produced his solo project Day by Day with Hiroshima keyboardist Kimio Cornwell.

## "Here and Now, Tribute to Luther Vandross"

By Steven Hamamoto

On July 15, please join SASF for the first presentation in Northern California of "Here and Now, a Tribute to Luther Vandross" featuring twice Grammy nominated singer/songwriter Terry Steele. Terry had a close working relationship with Luther Vandross as co-writer of "Here and Now", the #1 R & B Grammy winning song that is the basis of the show that brings back the velvety voice of Luther Vandross. I met Terry Steele 4 years ago when he performed as the lead singer of the contemporary jazz group Hiroshima. "Here and Now, a Tribute to Luther Vandross" has been performed for the last year at the Nate

Holden Theater in Los Angeles to sold out crowds. SASF is very fortunate to host Terry Steele's performance and hope everyone will make the event a memorable concert at our new acoustically renovated entertainment/sports hall. We would love to continue to bring you top flight entertainment in the future. So please help us make this an unforgettable night of energy and enjoyment for everyone!

The SASF Kitchen Crew will be offering rice bowl dinners and other tasty treats at the concession when doors open at 5:30 pm. There will also be a No-Host bar available.

Tickets are available on our website at [www.sasfquest.org](http://www.sasfquest.org). Tickets prices are \$40.00 for General Admission. Reserved Seating at tables in front of the stage is available for \$50.00. An added benefit for Reserved Seats is full service for refreshments brought to you during the night.

For any other questions contact Facility Manager, Evan Kanenaga at (916) 391-6000.

To get a taste of Terry Steele's Tribute to Luther Vandross, go to the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1spy3e-ae4U>

Hope to see everyone.



**Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation**  
9040 High Tech Court  
Elk Grove, CA 95758

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## **SASF Receives 2016 Community Service Award**

*By Kingman Louie*

Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation received the 2016 Community Service Award from the Chinese American Council of Sacramento on October 7, 2016. Each year, CACS honors one organization or individual that has helped the Sacramento Asian community at large. SASF received this honor because of our many programs that benefit the youth and the greater Sacramento community. Their youth programs like Strive for Strength (Empowering self confidence in young high school females), Teens Create Dreams (show casing young talent), PREP (Providing Resources for Education and Professionalism) for high school students try to help build their self confidence and marketability. Our guest speakers, like Martin Yan (Celebrity Chef), Major Kurt Chew-Een



Lee (famous high ranking military hero), Wat Misaka (1st Asian NBA Basketball Player) and Laura and Lisa Ling (North Korea prisoner and famous news reporter) shared their experience with our audience, to enrich the knowledge of our community members. President Don Lee, along with many of our Board members, accepted the award on behalf of the SASF organization.

