

RARE Roosevelt Alumni for Racial Equity

On Monday, May 30, 2022 at 7Pm, the RARE Open Discussion Committee will host a panel consisting of RARE Board Members Allan Bergano, Teshika Hatch, and Robin Uchida Lange, along with current Roosevelt parent, Jenny Wu. They will lead a discussion on the broad topic of the Asian American experience. Along with their insights and shared experiences, the panel will touch on several topics, including the rich history of Asian immigrants and their progeny in the US, the struggle against common stereotypes, the recent rise in Asian hate crimes, and other challenges the community faces.

May's Panel Members:



Allan L. Bergano, DDS

Allan was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. He is a product of immigrant Filipino parents. His father came to America as a teenager, worked as a houseboy, and graduated from Franklin High School in 1928. He worked his way through college and graduated with a BS in Pharmacy from Oregon State University. On a trip to The Philippines he met his wife, a third-grade teacher who taught in the “jungle”, hiding from the Japanese in WWII. They married and settled in Seattle.

Allan was raised in the predominantly Black Central Area neighborhood of Seattle. He helped desegregate all-white Roosevelt High School as a member of the city's Voluntary Racial Transfer Program. In college, he benefitted from the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and affirmative action and became the first Filipino American to graduate from the University of Washington School of Dentistry in 1981. In 1983, he became the first Filipino American to practice dentistry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He and his wife Edwina, founded the Hampton Roads Chapter of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) in 1989. Programs created by the FANHS-HR helped students of Filipino ancestry embrace their personal journey by embracing who we are and what we can become. When it comes to racial equity as a Filipino American, Allan knows the way, goes the way, and continues to show the way in the making and shaping of a better America.

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Teshika Hatch

Teshika Hatch has been an advocate for educational equity and justice since her time at Roosevelt and then Garfield High School. Having studied Sociology and Psychology at Skidmore College, Teshika worked as an admissions counselor and multicultural recruiter at her alma mater, then a case manager and program director at Juma Ventures, a youth development nonprofit organization. The challenges that her first-generation college-bound students faced in school and in life led her to pursue a master's degree in Educational Policy, Organizations, and Leadership at the University of Washington. She currently works at Equal Opportunity Schools, advocating for Black and Brown students to have equitable access to advanced coursework.



Robin Uchida Lange

Robin Uchida Lange is a 1971 graduate of Roosevelt High School and a University of Washington graduate from the College of Forest Resources. She spent 7 years working at Mt. Rainier National Park and 2 years at Crater Lake National Park before taking seven years off to have kids. After Crater Lake she and her family moved to Glacier National Park and have lived in the area for the last 40 years. Robin spent 13 years teaching remedial reading, 20 years as an Executive Assistant for the regional hospital while simultaneously teaching piano lessons for 45 years. As a woman of color in a very homogenous state, she is interested in bringing forth the stories, truths, and power of racial equity.

Jenny Wu

Jenny Wu is a second generation Taiwanese-American whose parents immigrated in the late 1960s after the passage of the 1965 Immigration Act. She was born in a rural town in southern Illinois, then moved to the drastically different Los Angeles Area when she was ten. Jenny majored in civil engineering at Stanford. While in college, she worked on environmental justice issues in Chinatown and worked on annual publications of the Asian American Women's Journal, featuring art and writing of students on campus.

Jenny works at the US Environmental Protection Agency on water issues. She is on Roosevelt High's PTSA Race and Equity Committee and has a son at Roosevelt High School.

