



The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

&



1882
FOUNDATION

present:

THE BLESSINGS AND CURSES OF

ASSIMILATION

**A CONVERSATION WITH DR. FRANKLIN S. ODO,
DR. GARY P. ZOLA, DR. RIV-ELLEN PRELL,
& TING-YI OEI, MODERATED BY TED GONG**

PROGRAM:

In America, the assimilation process is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, most members of an American minority group aspire to find full acceptance within American society. On the other hand, many resist total assimilation by negotiating their own distinctive identity that is shaped by a minority culture. Or as one scholar recently observed, “Jewish [and Chinese] Americans struggle to determine which side of the hyphen they should embrace.”

To commemorate May as both Jewish American Heritage Month and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the American Jewish Archives and the 1882 Foundation are joining forces to sponsor a unique webinar conversation to explore the yin yang nature of assimilation in America.

TUESDAY

MAY
31ST

5:00 PM
EASTERN TIME

CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER

Sponsored by:



Join us as we celebrate



**CHINESE
AMERICAN
MUSEUM**



**JEWISH
AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**

**ASIAN
PACIFIC
AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**

WEBINAR PANELISTS:

DR. FRANKLIN S. ODO



is a Japanese American author, scholar, activist, and historian.

Dr. Odo served

as the director of the Asian Pacific American Program at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) from the program's inception in 1997 until his retirement in 2010. As the director of the APA Program, Dr. Odo brought numerous exhibits to the Smithsonian highlighting the experiences of Chinese Americans, Native Hawaiians, Japanese Americans, Filipino Americans, Vietnamese Americans, Korean Americans, and Indian Americans. He was the first Asian Pacific American curator at the National Museum of American History.

DR. GARY P. ZOLA



is the Executive Director of [The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American](#)

[Jewish Archives](#) (AJA) and the Edward M. Ackerman Family Distinguished Professor of the American Jewish Experience & Reform Jewish History at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR).

DR. RIV-ELLEN PRELL



, an anthropologist, is Professor Emerita of American Studies at the [University of Minnesota](#).

Her books include *Fighting to Become Americans: Jews, Gender and the Anxiety of Assimilation*, and *Prayer and Community: the Havurah in American Judaism*. She is currently researching antisemitism and racism at the University of Minnesota and the Twin Cities in the 1930s, and the connections between the creation of Jewish students activism in the late 1960s and early 1970s and Jewish youth movements and summer camping.

TING-YI OEI



is the Curriculum & Education Director at [1882 Foundation](#). He served as a Peace

Corps Volunteer in South Korea, was a Fulbright Teacher in Scotland, and spent a year teaching in the Dominican Republic. Oei was also awarded a one-year research fellowship at Teaching Tolerance, the education project of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama. Now

he is a curriculum consultant with a particular interest in improving the quality of teaching Asian Pacific American history.

TED GONG



is Executive Director of the [1882 Project Foundation](#) and President of the [DC chapter](#)

[of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance](#). Before retiring in 2012, Gong was a career diplomat in the U.S. Department of State where he served primarily in East Asia on policy and operational issues related to border management and security, migration and refugees, and consular affairs. He has degrees in History, Asian Studies, and National Strategic Studies from the University of California, University of Hawaii and the U.S. Army War College.

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