

Cultural Differences Add to Lamorinda's Tapestry

Locals share how they keep their Asian ancestry alive

By Sophie Braccini



Yuriko Magagna, Yukyeong Kim, and Yue Li Photo Sophie Braccini

Lamorinda Asian-American residents have a diverse tapestry of origins, histories, and cultures that skillfully mesh with the rest of the population and contribute to its development. Yukyeong Kim, Yuriko Magagna, and Yue Li are three young local mothers who have developed a friendship since meeting

in Lamorinda. Li came from Beijing, China as a graduate student and is raising her family here. Magagna was raised in Mexico by a Japanese family and attended Sophia University in Japan where she met her husband, who is an American. Kim is Korean and came here two and a half years ago, after her husband started

a four-year assignment in the Bay Area.

"This is my first time living in a foreign country," says Kim. Her husband's South Korean company recommended Lamorinda for its learning environment. "I met many Korean people here; we have not formed a

formal group, but at the end of the year we have a big party with 50 or 60 people. Life here is wonderful," she says, adding that at the beginning it was hard because of the cultural differences. Family dynamics are quite different here, she explains; dads are more involved in the family life, sup-

porting the kids' sports activities, for example, while men in South Korea are mostly focused on work.

"At first it was difficult, but eventually I became more comfortable, I find the difference very interesting and I enjoy it," says Kim.

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Hail to the D'Backs Chief

By Nick Marnell



Campolindo High School's Chip Hale is all smiles as he is announced as the manager of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Photo Jennifer Stewart, Arizona Diamondbacks

New Arizona Diamondbacks manager Chip Hale had every reason to be intimidated when he tried out for the Campolindo High School baseball team in 1980.

"We had a great team," said his coach, Lafayette resident Don Miller. "I don't think he realized what he was getting into. Chip was a stocky, left handed hitting third baseman. He wasn't a great athlete. He was a good player with the mental toughness and an intense desire to compete."

"No one worked harder, though," continued Miller. "After practice, he'd ask, 'Coach, can I drag the field for you?' He was that kind of a kid."

"I was actually more of a football guy," said Hale, who also quarterbacked the Cougars' football team. "We had just moved from San Jose to Moraga so I started on Miller's junior varsity squad." Hale had to play his way onto a team loaded with future professional players, including Paul Faries, who later played for the San Diego Padres and the San Francisco Giants.

During his freshman year Hale made his Campolindo varsity debut against Livermore High School. Again, he had every reason to be intimidated. Hale's first at bat was against Cowboys' star pitcher Randy Johnson, the future major league Hall of Fame lefthander.

"The four years at Campo were fantastic," said Hale. "And we played together all summer in American Legion ball. I remember camping with the team in Oregon, before we came in runner up in the 1982 American Legion World Series." Hale said he felt the team aspect of baseball has been compromised today. "We knew how to win, as a team," he said. "Now, the emphasis is more on individuals, playing on travel teams."

Hale confirmed that playing for Miller was stressful. "He was more of a football style coach. There was lots of yelling and screaming, but we needed it. He put us through the wringer, and it helped us in the future."

Early on, Hale exhibited signs that he was a natural for management. "We're playing in the 1980 North

Coast Championship, in Albert's Park," said Miller. "We're scouting Redwood and Petaluma highs. Chip says, 'Hey coach, can I go with you guys to scout?' This was a freshman! You look back at that, and you can see why he was born to be a big league manager."

"I talk to Donny as much as any coach I've ever had, maybe once a week," said Hale. "In some respects, I'll try to run this team his way. Of course, now you need a different way to teach. Discipline will be different. But I plan to teach the team winning baseball, and I will expect that the game be played the right way."

After he starred at the University of Arizona, the Minnesota Twins chose Hale in the 1987 amateur draft. He played seven seasons with the Twins and the Los Angeles Dodgers before he began his professional managerial career in 2000. For the past three seasons Hale was the Oakland A's bench coach, and after the 2014 season, he spoke with the Twins about their managerial vacancy.

"I was about to interview with Minnesota, and I got a call from Arizona," said Hale. "It was Derrick Hall, team president." He met with Hall, chief baseball officer Tony La Russa, general manager Dave Stewart and three others from the Diamondbacks' front office. "It was an intimidating group," said Hale. "We talked about how I would do things. They called back the next day, and said, 'Don't commit to the Twins.' Sunday night, I had dinner with the front office, and the deal was announced the next day."

On Oct. 13, the Arizona Diamondbacks formally introduced Hale as their manager. Once again, Hale will face an immediate intimidating challenge, as the Diamondbacks open the 2015 season against the world champion San Francisco Giants.

"I am excited and proud to say I'm a Campolindo grad and that I am now a major league manager," said Hale. "If my dad hadn't bought that house on Corliss in Moraga, and if it weren't for my experiences at Campolindo, I wouldn't be here today."

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