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REBEL GIRLS

LOCAL AAPI/LATINA TEENS THE LINDA LINDAS CONQUERED L.A.,
AND THEN COACHELLA. NEXT UP, THE WORLD. BY LINA LICARO

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IRVINE TO PURCHASE ASPHALT FACILITY FOR \$285 MILLION

IRVINE LEADERS ENTER A SEVEN MONTH ESCROW FOR THE ALL AMERICAN ASPHALT FACILITY.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

After announcing the creation of Irvine's 700-acre Gateway Preserve in March, the Irvine City Council announced the official cost of purchasing the All American Asphalt facility in Orchard Hills.

During the April 11 meeting, Irvine leaders approved a \$285 million plan to acquire the asphalt production facility, including its equipment, according to a staff report included in the City Council Agenda.

The sale will also require a \$500,000 budget appropriation for "site studies and due diligence."

In terms of a purchasing timeline, Irvine will open a seven month escrow upon completion of the Purchase and Sale Agreement. A staff report indicates that Irvine is expected to make a non-refundable deposit for \$28.5 million on June 15.

Per the sale agreement, the AAA facility is expected to cease all operations by Wednesday, Nov. 15. Irvine will pay \$228 million within five days of the cessation. The final payment of \$28.5 million will come one day before the close of escrow, which is listed as Feb. 1, 2024.

Terms include the city's ability to visually inspect the site prior to the first deposit. Irvine is also seeking an insurance policy to address site specific contamination.

"The City has the ability to perform limited due diligence on the site prior to making the first of the three non-refundable deposits, including a visual inspection of the site," states a staff report. "Additionally, the City has secured commitments

that will enable the procurement of an environmental insurance policy to pay for costs related to potential environmental contamination on the site. That particular insurance policy is estimated to cost between \$400,000 - \$1 million."

The sale comes after many years of complaints from residents living in North Irvine that have continuously reported the facility's foul odor. Many residents feared that the emissions associated with the odor could be harmful to human health.

Some potential homeowners in Orchard Hills told Irvine Weekly the presence of the asphalt production facility was not disclosed during the time of purchase.

In the face of fear from residents, along with the facility's mounting odor violations, leaders in Irvine have even tapped state legislators to join the city's All American Asphalt facility conversation.

In 2021, Irvine asked Senator Dave Min to weigh in, checking to see if the senator could shift regulatory mandates in terms of where facilities could operate.

In a phone call with *Irvine Weekly*, Min said purchasing the facility would be the quickest and most effective solution for the City of Innovation.

"The law is the law. As I've said, for us to change that law would require us to look pretty deeply at some of these issues around what is the right concentration, and it would have to be something of uniform applicability," Min said. "It would be a long time coming, honestly – but we couldn't just target this plant."

IRVINE HALTS ELECTRIFICATION ORDINANCE AFTER FEDERAL RULING

THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS STRUCK DOWN A SIMILAR ORDINANCE IN BERKELEY. IRVINE IS NOW REVIEWING POTENTIAL WAYS FOR A PATH FORWARD.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

Despite the Irvine City Council's unanimous vote last month to approve an ordinance for the electrification of new buildings, Irvine will pause on implementation due to a ruling from Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The ruling stems from a 2019 case involving the California Restaurant Association and the City of Berkeley. The case, held at the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, surrounded the California Restaurant Association's opposition to Berkeley's attempt to enforce a ban on natural gas appliances, as well as prohibit the installation of natural gas piping.

Irvine's ordinance would have similarly banned natural gas appliances in the new construction of government and residential buildings with exceptions made for the cooking of ethnic dishes in newly constructed restaurants. While Irvine's building electrification ordinance set aside exemptions protecting the use of natural gas appliances in designated restaurants, the item was removed from the April 25 Council agenda, prior to its second reading.

In terms of significance, the second reading typically serves as a formal way to adopt ordinances during a regular city council meeting or public hearing.

Irvine City Manager Oliver Chi explained that staff recommended the second reading of the ordinance be removed from the agenda in hopes of



CONSCIOUS DESIGN VIA UNISPLASH

finding a work around the recent ruling.

"Last week, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a building electrification ordinance, approved by the city of Berkeley, was deemed to be in violation of federal law and therefore struck down," Chi explained. "Our building electrification ordinance does contain similar reasoning as the ordinance in Berkeley, and what we're suggesting is that the second reading be pulled off the agenda to provide staff some additional time to see if we can effectively develop a work around."

One of the opinions within the ruling, filed on Monday, April 17, from U.S. Circuit Judge Patrick J. Bumatay found

that Berkeley's ban on natural gas piping was a violation of The Energy Policy and Conservation Act which protects state and local regulations related to natural gas piping infrastructure.

"The Energy Policy and Conservation Act, expressly preempts state and local regulations concerning the energy use of many natural gas appliances, including those used in household and restaurant kitchens," Bumatay wrote. "Instead of directly banning those appliances in new buildings, Berkeley took a more circuitous route to the same result. It enacted a building code that prohibits natural gas piping into

those buildings, rendering the gas appliances useless."

While Irvine's electrification ordinance was similar, the council carved out stipulations that would allow for certain restaurants to maintain their same style of cooking with open flame.

Irvine Vice Mayor Tammy Kim took issue with aspects of the ordinance that pertained that might interfere with ethnic styles of cooking. During the city's first public hearing regarding the building electrification ordinance in March, Kim pushed for several exemptions that would allow restaurants that rely on open flame cooking to maintain that process.

"Bulgogi, which is Korean meat, literally means 'fire meat,' that's the literal translation," Kim said. "This is really about our culture, our heritage, our tradition, our history. Taking that away is really stripping an entire community of its own food culture."

During the April 26 meeting, Irvine City Council Member Dr. Kathleen Treseder asked about the possibility of moving the second reading of the ordinance to the next City Council meeting in May.

Irvine City Attorney Jeff Melching explained that it would be possible to provide an update on the ordinance, but that it was city's staff's recommendation to remove the second reading of the ordinance in an effort to avoid future litigation.

"If, for some reason, there's an ability to move forward in two weeks – which is not likely because the legal process moves relatively slowly – staff recommended not to adopt the ordinance tonight because we think that would increase the possibility of litigation against the city," he explained. "The question is, what's the next step?"

Melching underscored the unlikelihood of finding a work around for the Ninth Circuit ruling, adding that city staff would likely continue to recommend postponing the ordinance in the future.

Treseder said she remained optimistic for an update at the next City Council meeting.

"I'm hoping for a report of a possible work-around. I'm hearing that there might be one from other attorneys, so that's what I'm looking for."

ENTERTAINMENT

MAY PERFORMANCES IN BLOOM AT THE BARCLAY IN IRVINE

WHILE THE REGULAR SEASONS OF SHOWS AT THE IRVINE-BASED BARCLAY THEATRE BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER, HERE'S WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THEATER GOERS AT THE WELL-KNOWN "JEWEL BOX" THIS MAY.



Friday, May 19
Joey Alexander
8 p.m.

Returning to the Irvine Barclay Theatre stage for the third time, Joey Alexander is an extraordinary and uniquely gifted pianist from Indonesia. He is a young musical star whose expressive range and musical maturity goes beyond the stereotypical definition of jazz prodigy. Alexander skyrocketed to fame with his public performance debut at the 2013 Jazz at Lincoln Center Gala. He has since performed with

Wayne Shorter and Esperanza Spalding at The White House, the Apollo Theater, Carnegie Hall, and at major jazz festivals and nightclubs around the world. Two of Alexander's albums – *My Favorite Things* and *Countdown* – reached No. 1 on the Billboard jazz charts and received three Grammy Award nominations – one for Best Jazz Instrumental Album (his debut album, *My Favorite Things*), and two for Best Improvised Jazz Solo ("Giant Steps," from *My Favorite Things*, and "Countdown" from the *Countdown* album). With the release of his sixth album, *Origin*, Joey has created an even more personal and powerful statement of his musical and artistic vision.

Saturday, May 20
Music of the Knights – Commemorating the majestic musical masterpieces of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Sir Elton John, and Sir Paul McCartney
8 p.m.

Three of the world's most successful songwriters – Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Sir Elton John, and Sir Paul McCartney – have each been knighted by the Queen of England for their contributions to music. From Broadway to the top of the pop charts, these musical geniuses each created an incredible individual musical legacy. Music of the Knights honors their lasting musical influence. Performed by a cast of New York's top Broadway/

cabaret vocalists the evening features beloved the songs "The Phantom of the Opera," "Memory," "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina," "Circle of Life," "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," "Your Song," "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me," "Yesterday," "Hey Jude," and many more.

Sunday, May 21
DARPANA – Reflecting on 40 Years
4 p.m.

Ramya Harishankar, the award-winning artistic director and choreographer for Irvine-based Arpana Dance Company (ADC), will present *Darpana: Reflecting on 40 Years* at Irvine Barclay Theatre. Harishankar will take a trip down memory lane with a mixed repertory featuring traditional Bharata Natyam (a classical dance from India), new creative interpretations of the idiom, and collaborations with special guest artists in celebration of the 40th anniversary of ADC.

Monday, May 22
United States Air Force Band of the Golden West
7:30 p.m.

The esteemed USAF (United States Air Force) Band of the Golden West returns to Irvine Barclay Theatre as a part of its West Coast tour to build community and celebrate our country. This year's performance will honor the late Gen-



eral William Lyon, as 2023 would have been the Southern California native's 100th birthday. The concert will begin with a salute to our local veterans, inviting all in attendance to stand and be acknowledged. The renowned band will feature 60 of its Airmen – musicians performing patriotic favorites, and a video about General Lyon, created by the Lyon Air Museum, will be shown. Willa Dean and Bill H. Lyon, General William Lyon's wife and son, will be special guests at the concert. "The philanthropic impact of General Lyon and his family is evident throughout Orange County, including Irvine Barclay Theatre, as General Lyon and his wife Willa Dean were avid supporters and founding donors of the Barclay," said Jerry Mandel, President of Irvine Barclay Theatre. "We are thrilled to honor General Lyon, his life, legacy, and his contributions to the community with this event."

Tuesday, June 6
From New York, With Love
8 p.m.

Golden State Ballet presents FROM NEW YORK, WITH LOVE, a triple bill evening showcasing some of the world's freshest choreography from NYC icons: Justin Peck, Norbert De La Cruz III, and Gabrielle Lamb. The program includes two world premieres and *In Creases* by Justin Peck, a Tony Award Winner (Carousel), choreographer of Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story* (2021), and Southern California native. Three ballets, two world premieres, one night to remember.

Irvine Barclay Theatre is located at 4242 Campus Drive, Irvine, California 92612 adjacent to UC Irvine. For tickets or more information, please visit www.thebarclay.org or call (949) 854-4646.

REBEL GIRLS

LOCAL AAPI/LATINA TEENS THE LINDA LINDAS CONQUERED L.A., AND THEN COACHELLA. NEXT UP, THE WORLD.

BY LINA LECARO



The Linda Lindas
(MARTIN WONG)

If Coachella 2023's lineup made a lot of music fans feel like they were out of touch in terms of what "the kids are listening to these days," it also offered an easy way to discover precisely that via a user-friendly YouTube livestream of the festival. Sure, people of all ages still endured the expansive music fest, but many who might not have otherwise opened their minds to the new music lineup were able to do so from the comfort of their couches. Southern California's youthful viral sensations The Linda Lindas surely won over their share of new fans, young and old, last month.

During their broadcasted Saturday, April 15 set, they encountered persistent sound problems (the mics repeatedly went out). But the technical difficulties led the girls – guitarist Bela Salazar (18), bassist Eloise Wong (15), guitarist Lucia de la Garza (16) and drummer Mila de la Garza (12) – to make the show into an interactive exchange with fans that was inspiring and exhilarating to watch. They turned what could have been a disaster into a jubilant, career defining moment.

Which shouldn't have been too surprising for anyone who's followed their growth as a band. Everything that led up to that point, and to now, has had a similarly pivotal impact on their trajectory, and all very organically, too. The Linda Lindas may have been in the right place at the right time (a few times), but they've also said the right things when they needed to be said, and they've represented their generation and their cultures – Salazar is Salvadoran and Mexican, while Wong is Chinese and her cousins the de la Garza sisters are half Mexican/half Chinese – in a very real and irresistible

way. This band feels like it was simply meant to be.

Their beginnings were auspicious to say the least. They first played together as elementary school kids at Girlschool LA, the music and ideas festival co-created by former Airborne Toxic Event violinist Anna Bulbrook to nurture and support female music artists. Held at the Bootleg theater, the 2018 event featured huge names like Grabage's Shirley Manson, Fiona Apple, The Yeah Yeah Yeah's Karen O and Best Coast's Bethany Cosentino. But the highlight of the gathering is still remembered as Kristin Kontrol (of the Dum Dum Girls) cover band, made up of very young kids including all four of what would become The Linda Lindas when they were 7 to 13 years old.

After the raucous set, Bela, the oldest and most experienced musician, asked Eloise and her cousins – sisters Lucia and Mila – to back her up on a few songs for a show at the Hi-Hat in Highland Park (which, like The Bootleg is sadly now shuttered). They've been growing their fanbase – and "growing up" themselves – ever since.

After School Special

Chatting with all four members just after their triumphant Coachella shows (and literally after school) at an Eagle Rock diner, they are effervescent yet mature, innocent yet wise. Lucia and Mila's mom is there, but she remains largely quiet (all the band's parents prefer not to be quoted in media about them, which allows the members to truly represent themselves; and after the whirlwind of the past few years, they are pros). They speak thoughtfully and confidently about their inspirations, their experiences and their music.

"Honestly, doing Coachella was very surreal. Because, you know, we're Californian. And it's such a huge deal here in California, as well as around the world... everywhere really," says Lucia, as the milkshake she ordered is loudly blended behind us. "To actually be playing it, it's such a benchmark... It shows how far we've gotten in such a short amount of time. I mean, we've been doing this for what, four or five years and like, we were playing Coach-

MUSIC



ella at 12 – my sister Mila is 12.”

Mila might in fact be the youngest person to ever play Coachella, and considering none of the members ever went to the fest as patrons, it's quite an accomplishment. In between the two Coachella weekends, the band even opened for Blondie at the Greek Theater, who were also on the fest lineup. And it's not the first major opening slot they've scored (they've previously played with Bikini Kill at the Palladium and The Yeah

Yeahs at the Hollywood Bowl).

"It was Blondie, Blondie, Blondie! Glen Matlock is so tight!" interjects Wong, whose tastes veer punkier, about the addition of the Sex Pistol on bass. "It was really fun to play Coachella, but a lot of it for me was getting to see all of the other bands like Soul Glo and Scowl and Destroy Boys – they were all on our stage."

An enclosed space with chandeliers, air conditioning and a dark ambi-



ance, the Sonora tent showcased a lot of up-and-coming bands in what the *Desert Sun* called "a venue within a festival environment." It offered mostly young new bands with the exception of Blondie. The Linda Lindas seemed to be the only band who encountered mic issues and it was clear the crowd was with them all the way, either way.

"I think that at the end of the day, even in life, things happen and so we have to learn how to keep going," says Salazar.

"There were people there that came to see a show, so we needed to deliver, you know, and keep going and not get mad at the situation."

"Part of our show is having fun with it. If we're having fun, the audience is having fun and it's all cool," adds Wong.

Growing Up

The joy the young band brings to the stage is what made them so appealing from the start. Each grew up around mu-



music and creative L.A. culture, so it's part of who they are. Bela's parents are in the arts, while Lucia and Mila's dad, Carlos de la Garza, is a successful producer and engineer. Eloise's father is Martin Wong, co-founder of the iconic Asian-American magazine *Giant Robot* and curator of Save the Music Chinatown (the popular fundraiser series for the music department at Castelar Elementary where Eloise was a student). The all-ages DIY punk rock shows featuring legendary local punk bands and some new bands were some of the first gigs the Linda Lindas played and where they honed their chops. Exposure to so many of L.A.'s seminal punk performers clearly rubbed off.

The Lindas Lindas' sound varies, depending on whose vocals are up front. Some songs are sweet and wistful, while others are aggressive and snarling. There are references to the band's heritage – Salazar even sings in Spanish on a number – and their name comes from Japanese filmmaker Nobuhiro Yamashita's 2005 movie called *Linda Linda Linda*, which inspired the Blue Hearts' Japanese rock song "Linda Linda," a number Wong sings at shows (she doesn't know Japanese, but she sings it phonetically).

Their sound recalls the Go-Go's, The Muffs and Bikini Kill (they cover all three

confidently), but as their Epitaph debut full-length "Growing Up," which came out last month, makes clear, their musical point of view as Gen Z, non-white females is decidedly their own.

During a benefit in support of Jackie Goldberg's School Board run, the LL's first covered Bikini Kill's "Rebel Girl," which somehow got back to singer Kathleen Hanna, who shared a clip of it on Twitter stating, "when the cover surpasses the original."

"I don't agree with that," insists Lucia, humbly. "I just remember it. It's just like in my mind always now."

Hanna asked the band to open for hers at the Palladium soon after, less than a year from its official formation. Amy Poehler happened to be at the show, and she invited them to perform the cover in her Netflix teen comedy about punk zines called *Moxie*. Things were happening fast and phenomenally for the band, and then COVID-19 hit. The pandemic and the shutdowns were hard for everyone of course, but it was particularly difficult for kids and teens for a number of reasons. The music biz also suffered and it's been in a state of recovery from canceled tours and shows ever since. But The Linda Lindas somehow turned the tough times into something musically raw and revelatory.



Too Many Things

As french fries are chomped and shakes are slurped, we ask the band about naysayers. These young rockers have achieved a level of success and notoriety that older musicians dream of their entire lives and it's come quickly, if unexpectedly, and seemingly pretty easily. It's trendy to call anyone with connections "nepo babies" these days, but that narrative ignores the fact that opportunity only gets you so far. The current crop of second generation L.A. music scene bands – like Starcrawler, Frankie and the Studs, Fidlar, The Pink Slips and The Side Eyes – make exciting music and offer charismatic stage shows. If that partially comes from what they were exposed to growing up, so be it. Bands like the aforementioned and The Linda Lindas are keeping punk, rock and alternative music alive and in a manufactured pop-driven world, and that is a gift. We must protect this at all costs, as they say.

"The positivity that we've gotten is way more than the negativity," Wong says, to which Salazar adds, "We've actually been super lucky that like, on social media, there hasn't been like a crazy amount of bad stuff. I mean, there are obviously comments sometimes, but we don't feed into that. For the most part, I feel like everything's been super positive, which has been nice."

Lucia says that she has noticed some adults, specifically male, tend to pass them off as only for kids or women, saying, "Oh, my wife really loves your band. Or like, my daughter really loves your band. Just implying he doesn't like it," but

she hopes The Linda Lindas can be for everyone.

"I feel we've won over some of some of those dudes who have a stick up their butts," adds Salazar. "We're young, and sometimes people assume we don't know things or we don't want to know things. But we want to be involved, and we want to learn and grow."

"They're incredibly talented and adorable and have wonderful things to say," Bethany Cosentino of Best Coast – who joined them on stage at their sold-out Fonda Theater show in March – told the *NY Times* recently. "They made me feel hopeful. They have an energy that maybe the world will be a better place."

It remains to be seen how the band might evolve as its members mature, but here's hoping their quirky style (Salazar styles a lot of their looks) and their wholesome vibe remain. The Epitaph release, which was largely written during the pandemic, shows a lot of growth in range already – serving simple hooks and catchy melodies one moment and ranty chants and thrashy riffs the next. Mostly, it captures the angst and zeal of the moment in which it was made.

As the gals prepare for finals at school and a summer vacation opening for Paramore (their parents join them on their touring journeys), they also are working on their next record. Now that the world is opened up again, the themes and ideas promise to open up as well. Their first new single, "Too Many Things," provides a bouncy burst of energy and an emotive slice of life repping how the teenagers are navigating music, identity and relationships.

Whatever comes next for The Linda Lindas, expect them to be as exuberant and empowered as they are right now, even as they move into adulthood, just like the groups who influenced them to rock in the first place. The Go-Go's Gina Schock calls them "the new Go-Go's and then some."

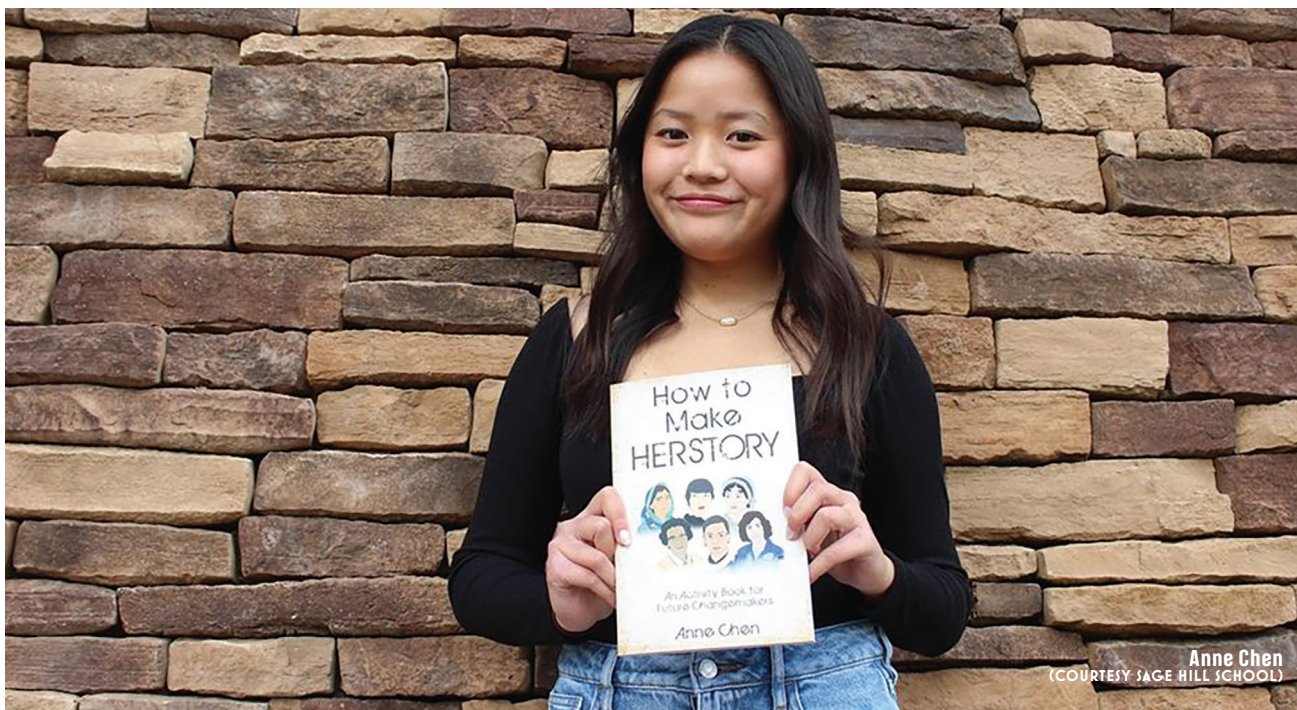
"I have watched this band over the last several years, and they just knock me out," Schock enthuses. "I am a huge fan of their album *Growing Up*. Their songwriting keeps getting better and better as does their musicianship. Watch out world!"

ARTS

16-YEAR-OLD IRVINE AUTHOR PUBLISHES BOOK ABOUT WOMEN'S HISTORY

ANNE CHEN, 16, RECENTLY PUBLISHED A BOOK DEDICATED TO HISTORIC FEMALE FIGURES. CHEN HOPES TO NOT ONLY INSPIRE BUT BE A LEADER FOR CHANGE THROUGH STORYTELLING.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER



In an effort to share stories about notable women in history, a 16-year-old student has recently published her first book. Aptly titled, *How to Make HERSTORY*, the book is divided into different portions acknowledging different types of female leadership throughout history.

Author Anne Chen, a junior at the Newport Coast-based Sage Hill School, spoke with Irvine Weekly to share the

inspiration behind her recent accomplishment.

Chen said she had the intention of sharing the importance of not only female leaders throughout history, but also championed female activists as well.

"I wanted to do a play on the word history, and make it 'her story'," Chen explained. "The term has been around for a while now, and it's been used con-

stantly as a way of looking at women's history through a feminist lens and looking at women's stories because oftentimes they are overlooked."

In describing the literary landscape of *HTMH*, Chen said she chose women that inspire her along with the women she admires.

"There are three sections – there's leaders and activists, trailblazers and storytellers. These are women that I've

profiled – I would say they're stories, or more like mini biographies. The top two for me are Juliette Gordon Low, who is the founder of the Girl Scouts of America and Ruth Bader Ginsberg – but I also wanted to focus on some women who aren't very prominent," she said. "But aside from that I decided to include Florence Nightingale which is dedicated to my sister, and for my mom I included Anna May Wong and Mya Lin because those are two people that she is really inspired by."

Alternatively, Chen added that she hopes to spark creative inspiration in her readers with different guided activities, which are found throughout the book.

"There's a lot of activity – Anna May Wong is an actress and one of the activities that goes along with that is, making your own movie poster about your life and casting actors or actresses who you would want to play the people in your life," she explained. "Fun things like that, that relate to these female figures."

As an Ambassador Scout in the Girl Scouts of America, Chen added that she wants to lead by example. In addition to publishing the book, Chen held a workshop at GEMFest on March 25, to inspire her peers to step outside of their comfort zone when it comes to following their dreams.

"As a girl scout, one of the biggest things is to be a changemaker. I want to teach other girls how to do that as well, so that's how I came up with the 'How To' Part," Chen said.

Chen spent nearly three years formulating ideas around the project.

"I started writing the book last summer," she said. "But even before I started writing, some of the challenges I faced were just thinking about how I wanted to approach the project, and ultimately I decided to go with writing the book and leading the workshop."

While Chen does not have a specific university in mind at this point, she says that history and gender studies could be potential areas of focus once she graduates from Sage Hill School.

How to Make HERSTORY can be found on Amazon.