



Here is a photo of a brown paper bag filled to the brim with empty alcohol cans that was left on the balcony of my apartment complex. I wish to share this photo because on several occasions I have been accused of excessive drinking and leaving trash outside my building by my landlord and neighbors. I feel these accusations stemmed from my age and new residency in my building. I feel stigmatized in my complex because I am much younger than the other tenants. I feel the tenants often times blame me for leaving trash outside, in particular empty alcohol bottles and cans. This has happened on several occasions, all of which were not mine. I hope this photo brings an awareness to others that stigma can take many different forms, such as age. Also, I hope this photo brings an awareness of the negative associations we (both individuals and community) have related to drinking alcohol. I feel this photo depicts how our society views alcohol (in excessive amounts, often resulting in negative consequences). I also feel this photo provokes many different thoughts and feelings associated with alcohol and alcohol paraphernalia.

*This project was sponsored by San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Office of Diversity and Equity.*



“Virgin Mary with Rosary” – a photo to symbolize the largest religious group in the Filipino Community. This photo represents my culture, and my community’s strong sense of faith and the challenges other religious groups face being part of that community (Filipino). I want people to realize that faith is important but, also acceptance and tolerance are key to having a united community. Because of my culture, our community (Filipino) is predominantly Catholic. I often feel stigmatized when my community finds out that I am not part of that religious group, and the feelings of not being fully integrated and judged.



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This is a photo of an upscale, luxury department store in the city I live in. I want to share this photo because I always feel out place when I'm near it, or to similar stores like it. I am reminded of the "haves" and the "have nots" in this image. For me, its difficult to relate to the shoppers and also the products at this store, being a "have not". And my feeling is that the vast majority of my community can relate to this. My hope for what this photo will convey is that people will be reminded of the economic disparities that exist in our society and how these divisions continue to impact our communities socially and economically.



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