

N.Y.C. CHINATOWN REUNION NEWSLETTER

March 8, 2010

NEW YORK

MARCH 8, 2010

MoCA News & Schedule of Events

education@mocanyc.org

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WHAT: March in D.C. for immigration reform is expected to draw over 100,000 from around the country. 10,000 are coming from New York in 200 buses! Join OCA-NY's contingency to D.C.!

WHY: To Demand Immigration Reform-Efforts to fix our broken immigration system have been repeatedly blocked by gridlock and partisan politics. More than 12 million remain undocumented in the U.S. Draconian laws like the 1996 immigration needs to be changed. This law removes discretion from immigration judges to consider rehabilitative factors in cases like Qing Wu. Thousands of undocumented children still can't go to college. It takes more than 10 years to petition for sisters and brothers abroad. Attempts to criminalize immigration violations and to do away with family based immigration remain a real threat. Enough is enough!

WHEN: Sunday, March 21, 2010. Buses will leave at 6:00 a.m. and return to New York City at 10:30 p.m. Manhattan buses leave: 25th Street and 7th Avenue. Flushing buses leave: 39th Avenue, next to the municipal parking lot.

COST: \$20.00 per person (covers roundtrip busfare)

RSVP: To reserve a spot with OCA-NY's group, you must contact Liz Ou Yang, President OCA-NY at lizouyang@aol.com no later than Friday, March 13th. There is limited space so first come-first serve so please reserve now!

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Here & Now: Chinese Artists in New York
Chapter III Towards Transculturalism
On view until Sunday, March 28.

Towards Transculturalism includes 4 artists of Chinese descent who endeavor to be part of the transculturalism trend in the era of globalization. Working in varied medium and style, the four featured artists, **Emily Cheng**, **Hung-Chih Peng**, **YoYo Xiao** and **Shen Chen** share interest in using universal language in their art creations. [View more>>](#)

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Greetings!

The Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI) is excited to share with you our triple-play of events lined up for the first week of March 2010.



Faculty Seminar Series in
Asian American Studies
Foreigners In Us - Why Love to Hate?
March 1, 2010



It all begins with with AAARI's first-ever **Faculty Seminar in Asian American Studies**, on Monday, March 1, from 6PM to 8PM, at 25 West 43rd Street, Room 1000, between 5th & 6th Avenues, Manhattan.

Panelists from academia and literature will offer their own unique perspectives on how they understand the term or conceptual pair, xenophobia/philia, and why this issue deserves more critical attention; followed by Q& A with the audience.

Panelists

- Linda Martín Alcoff (Hunter College, and CUNY Graduate Center)
- Terry Hong (Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program)
- David Henry Hwang (Playwright)
- Gary Mar (Stony Brook University - SUNY)
- Gary Okihiro (Columbia University)
- Bruce Robbins (Columbia University)
- Jack Tchen (New York University)

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Are you an artist or organization that's seeking a way to spread the word about what you're doing? Come join AAARI for the **Asian American Arts Alliance Town Hall**, on Tuesday, March 2, from 10AM to 12PM, at 25 West 43rd Street, 19th Floor, between 5th & 6th Avenues, Manhattan. This lively forum is a great way to learn about new opportunities and to meet friends. Can't make it? Watch the live webcast online, or the post-event streaming video.

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Love great movies? Come join AAARI for a screening/discussion of the acclaimed **Children of Invention**, on Wednesday, March 3, from 2PM to 4PM, at Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, HW215, Manhattan. Director Tze Chun will be on hand to discuss his film about two young children left to fend for themselves when their mother gets embroiled in a pyramid scheme and disappears.

For more details on these and all our upcoming events, please visit www.aaari.info. See you in March!

Sincerely,

Antony Wong
Program Coordinator
Asian American / Asian Research Institute
City University of New York

PS - Before you join AAARI in the evening for our lecture on the 2010 Census, join us in the morning for a co-sponsored talk on **Vietnam in Transition**, presented by the Murphy Institute for Worker Education, on Friday, February 26, from 8:30AM to 10:15AM, at 25 West 43rd Street, 18th Floor, between 5th & 6th Avenues, Manhattan. This talk will focus on labor issues taking place in one of Asia's most fastest growing economies, and it's affect on the working class poor.

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HANNAH PAKULA, author of THE LAST EMPRESS

Thursday, March 4, 201

Discussion - 6:00 PM

Dinner 7:30

at The Players Club

16 Gramercy Park South @Irving Place

212 478-6116

Hannah Pakula, award winning biographer, will discuss her widely acclaimed biography of Madame Chiang Kai-shek. Henry Kissinger wrote: "The Last Empress is the definitive biography of Soong May-ling, who came to fame as Madame Chiang Kai-shek. A rare combination of brilliant writing and insightful scholarship. It captures the complexities of an extraordinary woman in a turbulent time, who influenced the course of China's history in the twentieth century."

The author will have the biography available for sale (cash and checks only) and signing.

6:00 - 7:30 - Program will be held in a separate room - \$5 per person paid at the door.

7:30 Dinner will be a buffet in the main dining room at the historic Players Club. The cost of the buffet is \$35 including tip and tax. Attendees will be able to pay for their own dinner with either a Master or Visa card. Cash is acceptable, but no change is available.

RSVP: Space is limited, so it is essential that reservations be made before Friday, February 26. Please either e-mail me or phone me at (203) 863-9655.

"CHING CHONG CHINAMAN"

a new comedy by Lauren Yee, directed by May Adrales at the West End Theatre
263 W 86th Street, between Broadway & West End Avenue
Tickets \$45

Mei Hua Society Group - Sunday March 21 at 3:00pm
Special group rate: \$35 per ticket
includes post-show Q & A with the artists

The Wong family is American as apple pie. Daughter Desdemona dreams of Princeton but could use help with her calculus. Her brother Upton wants to be a World of Warcraft champion but needs more free time to train. Upton solves both their problems by bringing an immigrant home one day, but they soon discover that "Ching Chong" has American dreams of his own!

To reserve tickets with the Mei Hua Society group, call Steven Osborn at the Pan Asian Rep office, 212-868-4030, and ask for Mei Hua tickets on Sunday March 21st at 3:00.

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Judge Keeps His Word to Immigrant Who Kept His

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/19/nyregion/19judge.html?emc=eta1>

To read the article, please click CTRL and enter.

WASHINGTON, DC

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On March 21st, there will be a historical march in Washington D.C. for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR)! It is being organized by the Reform Immigration FOR America campaign in collaboration with OCA and other community organizations. Over 100,000 people are targeted to attend!

Immigration is an issue that deeply affects the Asian Pacific American community. For example, the OCA-New York Chapter has been fighting tirelessly for the future of Qing Hong Wu, a Chinese American immigrant who faces deportation for mistakes made in his youth. Please see the NY Times article for the [full story](#) and sign the [online petition](#) to support Qing Wu.

This is a pivotal moment. All sectors with a stake in CIR will be represented and it is crucial for the Asian Pacific American community to show support and be visible. We need to create external momentum to put pressure on Congress and the Administration to address the need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

For those interested in attending the march, we can connect you to people organizing buses from all around the country. Please contact [Lan](#) for more information.

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OCA, a national organization dedicated to advancing the social, political and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs), is pleased to announce they received a \$125,200 grant from State Farm. The grant will be utilized in 2010 to support OCA's APIA U: Leadership 101 Program and the upcoming JACL/OCA Leadership Conference.

"OCA is honored to have this relationship with State Farm and we're grateful for their continued support of our leadership programs," said OCA National President Ken Lee. "Because of State Farm, we have been able to provide future leaders with the tools they need for success."

APIA U: Leadership 101 promotes State Farm's strategic focus of Education Excellence, Strong Neighborhoods, and Diversity. APIA U: Leadership 101 is a day-long training that helps students understand their identities, develop their leadership, and become community advocates. The training provides students with the skills necessary to become and remain active participants in their

communities and to realize their economic and personal goals.

Last year, the leadership training program served approximately 500 students during the academic school year across the nation at 11 colleges and universities.

This year's training's will take place at the following colleges and universities:

Cornell University, March 13-14, 2010
College of William and Mary, March 27-28, 2010
University of Kansas, March 27-28, 2010
University of Connecticut, April 3-4, 2010
Tufts University, April 3-4, 2010
Georgia State University, April 17-18, 2010
Santa Clara University, May 1-2, 2010
University of California - Irvine, May 8-9, 2010

The JACL/OCA Leadership Conference continues to enable leaders from OCA chapters, JACL Chapters, and members from partner APA organizations to attend a four-day intensive training in Washington, D.C. This program is designed to introduce participants to the political process; past speakers have included Former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta and Congressman Mike Honda. State Farm has sponsored this program since 1994. This year's JACL/OCA Leadership Conference will include 30 participants from all over the country and will take place from March 5-9, 2010 at Four Points at Sheraton in Washington, DC.

"State Farm is pleased to continue to partner with OCA in these leadership programs. Our commitment to education excellence for all students is a top priority as we help build safer, stronger, better-educated communities," said Leslie Moe-Kaiser, Corporate public affairs at State Farm.

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February 24, 2010

President Obama nominated University of California Berkeley School of Law Associate Dean and Professor Goodwin H. Liu to serve on the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit today.

Professor Liu is a nationally recognized scholar in the areas of education and constitutional law. Before joining UC Berkeley School of Law, Professor Liu was a litigator in private practice. Prior, he was a law clerk to the Honorable David S. Tatel on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals and

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Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the United States Supreme Court, and was Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education. He is committed to community service, and his work has been recognized through several awards, including the Pacific Islander, Asian, and Native American Law Students Association Alumni Award (Yale Law School); Asian American Alumni Award (Stanford University); and the Stanford Associates Governors' Award for Exemplary Volunteer Service.

Professor Liu was born to Taiwanese immigrant parents in Augusta, Georgia. He grew up in Clewiston, Florida and Sacramento, California. A distinguished graduate of Stanford, Oxford, and Yale Law School, Professor Liu was also a Rhodes Scholar, and is a member of the American Law Institute.

"Professor Liu's nomination is a positive step to address the glaring absence of Asian Pacific Americans on the appellate level," said George C. Wu, Executive Director of OCA. "As former law clerk to the Supreme Court and recognized scholar on constitutional law, Professor Liu will bring unsurpassed intellect and fairness to the Ninth Circuit."

Professor Liu's appointment to the Ninth Circuit is particularly significant for the Asian Pacific American community. Of the approximately 175 active federal appellate court judges, there are currently none who are Asian Pacific American. If confirmed, he will only be the fifth Asian Pacific American federal appellate court judge in the history of the United States. Along with Denny Chin, nominee to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, he is the second Asian Pacific American nominated to the federal court of appeals by the President.

OCA congratulates Professor Liu on his historic nomination, and thanks President Obama for nominating him. OCA also commends Senators Feinstein and Boxer for their support of Professor Liu's nomination.

CALIFORNIA

"Sweet and Sour: Life in Chinese Family Restaurants" By John Jung

Sweet and Sour examines the history of Chinese family restaurants in the U. S. and Canada. Why did many Chinese immigrants enter this business around the end of the 19th century? What

conditions made it possible for Chinese to open and succeed in operating restaurants after they emigrated to North America? How did Chinese restaurants manage to attract non-Chinese customers, given that they had little or no acquaintance with the Chinese style of food preparation and many had vicious hostility toward Chinese immigrants?

The goal of *Sweet and Sour* is to understand how the small Chinese family restaurants functioned. Narratives provided by 10 Chinese who grew up in their family restaurants in all parts of the North America provide valuable insights on the role that this ethnic business had on their lives. Is there any future for this type of immigrant enterprise in the modern world of franchised and corporate owned eateries or will it soon, like the Chinese laundry, be a relic of history?

Check the following website for the bio of author John Jung. <http://www.csulb.edu/~jrjung/>

[John Jung](#), Professor of Psychology Emeritus California State University, Long Beach [My 40 year Academic Career](#)

Praise for Sweet and Sour: Life in Chinese Family Restaurants

John Jung has taken us down another memory lane and this time we brought along our appetite. *Sweet & Sour* evoked hundreds of memories of Chinatowns, favorite soul food dishes, haunts of opulent and garish banquet halls and the more frequented and beloved hole-in-the walls. These are the collective memories shared by families and friends. *Sweet & Sour* is also an anthropological study. Chinese cooks across these United States and Canada created an everlasting love for Chinese food enjoyed by all cultures. Find a "chop suey" house and generations upon generations will cite their favorites, be it chow mein, fried rice, beef brisket stew or even chicken feet. Without a doubt this is by far Jung's best work and with the greatest universal appeal.

Sylvia Sun Minnick, Samfow: The San Joaquin Chinese Legacy

John Jung again demonstrates a marvelous ability to blend archival data with fascinating first-person accounts to bring to life the family-operated Chinese eateries that are quickly disappearing from today's society. Following solid historical groundwork, Jung uses narratives of 10 individuals

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who grew up in such places to take readers inside old-time chop suey houses. Their stories provide a candid telling of the personal, familial, and cultural significance of these familiar cafes. As with his earlier books on Chinese family-owned laundries and grocery stores, the author sheds a fresh and ample light on a subject even more familiar. And once again he does it so well from the inside out.

Mel Brown, Chinese Heart of Texas: The San Antonio Community 1875-1975.

Sweet And Sour is a powerful historical exploration of an American institution: the family-owned Chinese restaurant. John Jung succeeds in bringing to life the exterior side of such Chinese eateries across the nation--their appearance, their location, and of course, their hybrid, Americanized menu offerings. In addition, by means of a variety of interviews and primary sources, he focuses attention as well on their little-known private side, the daily routines and harsh working conditions that made them run. Jung underlines the contributions of all family members, including children, that were necessary for success.

Greg Robinson, A Tragedy of Democracy: Japanese Confinement in North America

Sweet and Sour: Life in Chinese Family Restaurants tackles the long-neglected topic of Chinese food with a focus on Chinese restaurants. This well-researched, thoughtfully conceptualized monograph brings academic rigor and adds historical depth, as well as the perspectives of an insightful scholar and a second-generation Chinese American, to our understanding of the development of Chinese food in the realm of public consumption in the United States and Canada. It promises to elevate that understanding to a higher level... Through this book, I hope, consumers at the ubiquitous Chinese restaurants can also gain a deeper appreciation of historical forces and human experiences that have shaped the food they now enjoy.

Yong Chen, San Francisco Chinese 1850-1943: A Trans-Pacific Community, Professor of History, University of California, Irvine.

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An Interview with Lewis Kawahara
On the College of San Mateo
Asian Pacific American Film Festival
Interviewed by Leonard D. Chan

Lewis Kawahara is an instructor at the College of San Mateo (CSM) and creator of the San Mateo Asian Pacific American Film Festival. The film festival will take place on Saturday, March 20, starting at 1pm for the afternoon matinee and 7pm for the feature film portion of the program.

The matinee is FREE for the public and the feature film viewing is \$5 for general admission, \$3 for students and seniors. Parking is FREE!

Go to the College of San Mateo website (collegeofsanmateo.edu) for more information.

Tell us about the San Mateo Asian Pacific American Film Festival - why and how did you start it?

I teach an Ethnic Studies course called "Ethnicity in Cinema" at CSM. From this experience I thought that the college as well as our student population would be interested viewing films that had an Asian Pacific American viewpoint to them.

After discussing the possibilities of holding a film festival with Frederick Gaines, Chair of Ethnic Studies, we expanded our conversation with other faculty and staff persons on campus. Everyone felt that it was a good idea and we should move beyond the idea and make it happen.

I met with CSM president, Michael Claire, who was immediately on board with the film festival idea. With his backing and direction we were able to establish a time and date, and he willingly agreed to give a short welcome address to the audience for both the afternoon matinee and the evening program.

I should also give credit to Ms. Linda Springer, CCLPEP staff member, who was very helpful in locating California Civil Liberties Public Education Programs (CCLPEP) films and their filmmakers. And special credit to all the filmmakers who are attending.

Many may want to know if this festival is connected with the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival being held around the same time as your event. Tell us about any possible connections, similarity, differences, and things that they may see at the San Mateo festival that they may not see in San Francisco. Unfortunately for us, we are NOT connected with the [Center for Asian American Media's](http://www.ccaam.org) (CAAM) 28th San Francisco International Asian American

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Film Festival which runs from March 11-21, 2010. CAAM staff is very supportive of our efforts and has given us ideas and suggestions on how to organize a film festival event.

It is my hope, in the future, that we can join forces with CAAM because they have a great reputation with their film festival. This will be their 28th year of producing their film festival.

Differences...CSM is offering a FREE afternoon matinee of California Civil Liberties Public Education Program's (CCLPEP) films.

Similarities...."Colma: The Musical" premiered at the CAAM Film Festival as did there "sing-a-long" version which we will be presenting. It's a sing-a-long - get your singing voices ready!

Please tell us about the movies that will be shown at your festival.

Our APA Film Festival is divided into two sections. (See the section at the end of this article for complete descriptions)

The movies that you are showing for the matinee were created with the support of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CCLPEP). For our readers that are not familiar with CCLPEP, tell us a little bit about this state grant program and it's connection with your festival.

CCLPEP was created with the passage of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Act (AB1915) in 1998. The legislation was authored by Assemblyman Mike Honda and was renewed in 2000 (AB1914) by Assemblyman George Nakano. In 2003, Assemblywoman Wilma Chan and others led the way for the Legislature to continue the program by removing the termination date and making CCLPEP subject to annual budget authorizations, making it a permanent state program. The purpose of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program is to sponsor public educational activities and development of educational materials to ensure that the Japanese American Concentration Camp Experience during World War II will be remembered.

For me personally, I like all these films a lot and I am sorry that we could not show ALL the other CCLPEP-funded films (hopefully with CCLPEP help we will be able to show more films at next year's CSM Asian Pacific American Film Festival). The

films being screened at our festival are only a few of the CCLPEP films available. We are offering the viewing public a chance to see film that are not seen often or FREE.

The CSM APA Film Festival will bring former students and the general public to the College of San Mateo and they will see the many changes to our campus - from the new construction of buildings, to the beautification of the campus landscape. Everyone is welcome and we have FREE parking.

MISCELLANEOUS

Essay: A Home 8,000 Miles Away
By: [ALAN CHIN](#)

Although I was born in the United States, Toishan is my ancestral home. I speak a local dialect of Cantonese that is incomprehensible to the rest of China.

Toishan is a county-level city of 1 million people in Guangdong Province in southern China. I have been photographing there since 1989. It looks at first glance like many other areas: a few gleaming buildings and factories, multilane divided highways, McDonald's, new cars and well-dressed pedestrians. It seems to exemplify wealth and economic growth.

Behind this facade is Toishan's peculiar history. Until the 1960s, two-thirds of all overseas Chinese, like my family, originated from this one small region. It was poor and over-populated during the 19th century and very close to Guangzhou, where the foreign powers first penetrated China. Thus it was a fertile recruiting ground for the "coolies" who built the American transcontinental railroad, and for the generations who emigrated to become restaurant workers and laundrymen.

My paternal great uncle, Sing Chin, left our village of Gongmei in 1927, traveling first to Cuba and then the United States. My father, Fow Sang Chin, followed in 1951. He would not see my mother for 18 years. They worked in family-run laundries in the Bronx and Queens, and I grew up in that now-vanished world of the old sojourners' Chinatown.

Those were tumultuous years in China, with the Second World War and civil war between Communists and Nationalists. Contact with the motherland was almost completely severed during

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the Cold War and the chaos of Mao's Cultural Revolution.

The lives of the Chinese in the diaspora diverged radically from those of our relatives back home. Politically and culturally, mainland China disintegrated and rebuilt itself in paroxysms of murderous totalitarianism and then unabashed capitalist reform.

Many ordinary social services like schools and hospitals survive only on donations from overseas. State funding has withered. The health system once provided basic, if primitive, care to all. It is now accessible only to those who can pay. Villages have lost their populations as residents seek better opportunities elsewhere.

My last remaining close relative in Toishan was a great aunt who died early last year. My father's house and the house in which my mother was born now sit empty, their former inhabitants scattered across the United States, Malaysia and Canada.

But when I walk through the rice fields and the paved roads that now lead to Gongmei, villagers recognize me and accept me as a native son — albeit one who is overheard speaking in English on a mobile phone and seems to spend an inordinate amount of time taking photographs. After all, I keep returning. And my name is on the donors' plaque of the recently built community center.

The more time I spend there, the more it begins to feel like some kind of home, illusory as that might seem. Despite the persistent poverty and the vast chasm between Gongmei and my life in New York, I can foresee a time when Toishan might become like Tuscany, a picturesque region rich in history and architectural heritage, a vacation getaway. For now, though, it is still part of the forgotten rural China, engulfed in a crisis that is quiet but sustained.

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The following write up could be a typical conversation we might have had on Mott St years ago..... except its now 50 plus years later.....

By: Daniel Lee

I have always been curious of how some of our life events happened and how they came about....perhaps the answers can be found in our short Chinese/American history in the USA and the many positive external circumstances guiding us.

I'm proud of the fact that many of us have taken the steps in one generation, through education; experiencing the right circumstances; and with hard work have been able to enter different professions and subsequently have productive and comfortable lives in comparison to our parents. We all had our struggles and difficult times, but we all learned from them and moved on in life to where we are today with no handouts and entitlements. In the Chinatown community, we always had close, loving and strong family values; good proper church teachings and guidance and excellent school teachers who helped frame our academic foundation for later educational, professional and social achievements. From my perspective, the negative American connotation of the Chinese laundryman, laborer, houseboy, Charlie-the waiter, etc.... was all but eradicated, to a large degree, in one generation by the progress made by the guys and gals who grew up in Chinatown and the greater surrounding New York Metropolitan area.

This transformation didn't happen overnight because I can still remember the humble experiences of the late 40's, 50's & into the 60's when things started to really change with the reform in immigration laws. Perhaps a pivotal point was when a greater number of the Chinatown kids got accepted, by exam, into the specialized academic high schools and a larger number of us went on to college to earn our degrees. On a comparative basis, the Stuyvesant ethnic makeup was 80% Jewish when I attended in the 50's...today it is 65-75% Asian. The Asian student bodies at Brooklyn Tech & Bronx Science are also up there in the 60% plus range. On the college level, the only other group, beside Asians, are the Jews with a high percentage per population ratio (about the same 4% of the total USA pop. as Asians) in attendance at top colleges and universities.

Up here in New England, a Boston radio talk show host commented that if Harvard didn't have a reverse discrimination policy.....**Harvard's student body would be all Asians and Jews.**

However, the Jews are way ahead of Asians in political representation on the local/state/federal levels. Perhaps the explanation lies in the fact that the Jews have been in the USA longer than the Asians because of all the immigration laws discriminating against Asians from the late 19th and first half of the 20th century.

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Jewish immigrants who came to America in the 19th and early 20th centuries were not like the Irish and Italian immigrants, who were peasants or tenant farmers from the countryside of Europe. For centuries in Europe, the Jews had been forbidden to own land so they settled in cities and towns taking up urban trades and professions. Seventy percent of the Jews who came to the USA from the late 1880's to the 1st World War period had some kind of occupational skills. They had owned small groceries or jewelry stores. They were also bookbinders or watchmakers. However, the majority of their experiences were in the clothing trade. The Jews were tailors and dressmakers, hat and cap makers and furriers and tanners. Slowly, but surely, through sacrifice and hard work they made a living on the lower East Side of Manhattan and in time built an industry in Midtown Manhattan's garment district. I've often wondered when I was growing up **on** Division St as to why all the furrier, coat, and dress stores on the street were all run by Jews? Remember *Brooks Brothers* on Mott St or the concentration of clothing, coat, shoe, linen/material, etc. stores on Delancey St. and the surrounding streets...Orchard, Ludlow, Broome, Rivington, etc....by the Williamsburg Bridge commonly known as **Jew Town**? Many of the kids of these early immigrants went on to become, lawyers, doctors and businessmen in the family trade(s). The next generations follow suit and there were more lawyers, doctors, and engineers & scientist to add to the Jewish population. Needless to say there was discrimination in the major law firms at the time and many Jews had to start their own law firms. There was even bias in the major corporations on the hiring of Jewish engineers & scientist where many of them resorted to changing their last name before applying for a position.

On the other side of the world in *Asia in the mid 19th century*, the single biggest migration in China's history was taking place where millions of Chinese were leaving the country because of bad political, social, and economic conditions to go to countries in southeast Asia, the Philippines, New Zealand, Australia, Africa, the West Indies, and the Americas. The initial wave of immigration to America was only a little over 100,000 Chinese laborers who came to make their fortunes in the 1849 era gold rush. Today there are about 4 million Chinese in the USA, which is a small portion of the Chinese overseas community of app.40 million. The millions of Chinese who settled in

southeast Asia and other countries over a period of time worked hard, achieved economic and professional success, and prospered in business. Many became wealthy and their children went to schools in Europe and America to prepare for professions such as medicine, law, engineering, science, banking, and finance etc.... Over the last century and a half, the Chinese entrepreneurs and businessmen in these countries ran most the business and commerce in southeast Asia.

Back here in the USA, Congress had passed the Chinese Exclusion Act **of 1882** which severely limited the number of immigrants into the country except for diplomats, merchants, and students. The enterprising Chinese found ways around the law to enter the country legally under the **"paper family"** concept but the numbers were much smaller than the millions of Chinese going to southeast Asia and other countries. In looking back on my own experiences, many of our parent's families settled in New York 's Chinatown must have come to America around the 1920-1930 timeframe which leads our generation to be in high school in the late 40's & late 50's. Interesting fact is that when the Communist took over China in 1949, there were many Chinese students studying at American Universities who were anti-Communist and now had to stay in the USA. Many of these students got their doctorates and stayed at the university level as professors or doing research. Soon, they were joined by a second wave of immigration escaping from the mainland China and leaving Taiwan to study at American Universities under scholarships. Over time these students received their graduate degrees and stayed on as professors or research scientists. Their children went on to become doctors, lawyers, engineers, scientists and other professional endeavors. With the Immigration Act of 1965, it opened up a third wave of immigration which included Chinese of all socio-economic groups and backgrounds. The Chinese population grew at a rapid rate and NYC now has three Chinatowns to accommodate the growing number of people. Although these three waves of immigration came at different times and for different reasons, they all shared common attributes such as a belief in education, hard work, family loyalty, thriftiness, and entrepreneurship. These attributes helped many ethnic Chinese achieve rapid success in America. The success of the Chinese in the USA, southeast Asia, and other countries are a mixed blessing and curse at the same time.

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The blessing is a *secure and comfortable life style* and the curse is *prejudice and discrimination* by the host country, as witnessed by the attacks and purges on oversea Chinese in Vietnam and Indonesia. Certainly, here in the USA the Chinese have experienced their share of prejudice and discrimination during all three waves of the immigration cycles and our generation have learned a lot through the "*street smart*" lessons of NYC.

My college classmate from Thailand (Daicha Pisitkasem) used to write letters home to his family in *Thai* or *English* but.. when he needed money his father insisted that the request be written in Chinese....otherwise no money....interesting. His family migrated to Thailand from China and he was 3rd generation with the family changing their Chinese name to a Thai name to assimilate into the culture and to deflect any possible discrimination because of their wealth.

I once said to a Jewish friend of mine.....Cut the world in half....the Jews run most of the business in the west and the Chinese run most of the business in the east.....

When I look back at our life in Chinatown and the greater surrounding New York Metropolitan area, our generation produced a large number of success stories with our share of entrepreneurs, businessmen, engineers, scientists, doctors, dentist, lawyers, bankers, ministers, computer scientists, architects, teachers, professors, financiers, and a host of other professions and trades. This is an untold story of the many names of sons and daughters of the NYC Chinatown generation who went through PS 1, 23, PS 65, 30, public/private high school system, and on to college and graduate & professional schools to successfully take advantage of the many opportunities offered by this great country.

Although Chinese Americans are classified as a minority group, we have made significant contributions in the sciences, engineering, technology, medicine, finance, education, and businesses contributing to the intellectual, cultural, and material wealth of America. It may be another generation or two when the population size increases to a level where there will be a higher representation of Chinese Americans/Asian Americans in political circles to have a impact and contribute to the policies of both political parties and the direction of this country.

That day will indeed be the.... tipping point where the Chinese Americans/Asian Americans will be truly a political force and contributing to the greatest of this nation that we call home.

Take the opportunity to read Allan Yee's article in the 2008 NY Chinatown Reunion Book, "**WW II Remembrance of the Trials and Tribulations**" ? If we thought it was rough and tumble in Chinatown, after reading his article it made the lower east side of Manhattan look like a mere playground. I first met Allan at Grumman Aerospace Corp. on Long Island where he was a RF Engineer on one of the most sophisticated fighter planes being designed at the time (F-111). He arrived in the USA after the World War II and might be considered part of the second wave of immigrants. Allan had to first learn English and then went on to earn his degree in electrical engineering and later a masters in computer science. What a academic and personal accomplishment in spite of the odds, to say the least.

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Deadly blood clots can be prevented .

"The goal of Deep-Vein Thrombosis Awareness In Motion is to use movement as a way to continue to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of deep-vein thrombosis, to help assess personal risk and to encourage dialogue with a healthcare professional."

The coalition is partnering with Mary Ann Wilson, a registered nurse and host of the PBS-broadcast, "Sit and Be Fit," to present Deep-Vein Thrombosis Awareness In Motion. The program demonstrates simple movements that can be done anywhere -- a hospital bed, an airplane or at the computer -- that may help reduce the risk of blood clots by encouraging blood circulation.

"Everything we are recommending can be done in a chair, requires only simple movement and can be done anytime -- for example, place your feet flat on the floor, leave the heel on the ground and lift the toes, hold for 3 seconds, then alternate to lift off your heel for 3 seconds, and repeat," Wilson told United Press International.

"The risk of developing deep-vein thrombosis is nearly eight times higher during hospitalization, but being age 40 and older, overweight, a smoker, having restricted mobility, cancer, an infectious disease, respiratory failure or a family history of blood clots can increase the risk of having a blood

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clot," Dr. Geno Merli, coalition steering committee member and chief medical officer at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, told UPI.

The DVT Awareness in Motion video and movement guide are available on the coalition's Web site, www.preventdvt.org.