

# N.Y.C. CHINATOWN REUNION NEWSLETTER

May 7, 2010

## NEW YORK

MAY 5, 2010

*Door prize - Facial*

The Town of North Hempstead presents:

The First Annual Asian-American Festival

Place: North Hempstead Beach Park  
West Shore Road  
Port Washington, NY

Time: 12 PM – 6 PM

Enjoy traditional arts and crafts, performances,  
culinary delights of Asian-Pacific countries,  
including China, India, Japan, Korea and Pakistan.

Parking Fee: \$3, for more details please call 311.

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## NEW JERSEY

### *BRANDING YOURSELF FOR PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS*

*With Ashley and Ken Lee*

*Please join OCA-NJ for a program about creating a  
professional appearance and getting ahead in your  
career.*

*Topics to be presented include:*

*Dressing “Do’s” and “Don’ts” in the business  
world*

*Dress to build trust and confidence*

*How to succeed in your job*

*Networking in the professional world*

*Dispelling stereotypes*

Date: Saturday, May 15, 2010

Location: UPS  
Winters Avenue  
Paramus, NJ 07652

650

Time: 2:00 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Please RSVP (973) 980-1405 or  
pw00008@gmail.com by 5/10/2010

Presentation will be conducted in English and is  
free of charge

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## VIRGINIA

Jessica Chow, daughter of Doris (Chin) and  
Arnold Chow has been awarded a Fulbright  
grant to further her research on the role of  
Chinese American soldiers during World War II  
in China and their impact on Chinese in the  
area. She'll work from Kunming and studying  
at Yunnan University doing interviews and  
research. Before doing her formal research,  
she'll be in intensive language study with  
Middlebury's program in Kunming. She studied  
Chinese for 4 years in college, but needs to be  
really good for those interviews!

So hopefully, she will further her work on these  
brave men and the amazing contribution to not  
only America, but also to China.

The vets are planning a trip to China in  
November and hopefully, she will be able to  
meet them and their families. She has to take  
a language pledge to speak only Chinese in  
the language program and cannot speak any  
English, and the Chinese is not even in her  
dialect!! Maybe she can be a translator during  
meetings with locals who met or knew about  
these men.

Jessica is also a cousin to Pearl Chow and  
indirectly related to Gladys Chin. She is  
Gladys' son's niece-in-law!!!

## WASHINGTON, DC

Washington, D.C. – OCA, a national Asian Pacific  
American (APA) social justice organization with  
over 80 chapters and affiliates, is pleased to  
announce the launch of OCA Serves National APA  
Heritage Month Children's Book Tour in May.

“OCA is always looking to improve our communities  
and this book tour will inspire and give children  
tools to develop as future leaders,” said OCA  
National President Ken Lee. The OCA Serves book  
tour consists of a series of readings, aimed at

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providing children of all backgrounds with a connection to the APA experience and community.

OCA chapters will host children's book hours across the country featuring live readings by APA authors. The book tour features APA children's book authors: Cynthia Chin-Lee, Milly Lee, Kam Mak, Pooja Makhijani, Icy Smith, Janet S. Wong and Lisa Yee. OCA will donate over 500 APA books to local libraries, elementary schools, and youth attendees through 13 readings across the country.

This OCA Serves APA Heritage Month Children's Book Tour is made possible through a partnership between OCA, Nordstrom and designer Phillip Lim. Nordstrom has collaborated with Phillip Lim on a limited-edition T-shirt, which will be sold exclusively at 16 Nordstrom stores and online at [www.Nordstrom.com/apahm](http://www.Nordstrom.com/apahm) for the month of May. All after-cost proceeds will benefit OCA's youth programs.

## **OCA 1st Weekly Author Feature: Janet Wong**

*As a part of the OCA National APA Heritage Month Children's Book Tour, OCA will do weekly interviews with participating authors on their experience as an APA children's book author. This week, we are featuring **Janet S. Wong**, author of *Me and Rolly Maloo*.*

[Janet Wong](#) is the author of 21 books for children and teens, including *Apple Pie 4th of July*, *The Trip Back Home*, and *Minn and Jake's Almost Terrible Summer*. A graduate of Yale Law School, Ms. Wong became a children's author because she "couldn't think of anything more important than working with kids." While half of her books are inspired by her Chinese and Korean heritage, the other half are "just about growing up."

## **Attend one of the other many events in our APA Heritage Month Children's Book Tour:**

### **OCA-Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter**

#### Key Elementary School

2300 Key Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201

Friday, May 7

Author: Cynthia Chin-Lee

#### Roscoe Nix Elementary School

1100 Corliss Street, Silver Spring, MD 20903

Friday, May 14

Author: Pooja Makhijani

### **D.C. Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

#### Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library

901 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

Saturday, May 15

Author: Pooja Makhijani

### **OCA-Wisconsin Chapter**

#### Wauwatosa Public Library

7635 West North Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Saturday, May 8

Author: Milly Lee

### **OCA-Greater Los Angeles Chapter**

#### Alhambra Civic Center Library

101 S. First St, Alhambra, CA 91801

Saturday, May 15

Author: Icy Smith

#### Los Angeles Chinatown Branch Library

639 N. Hill Street

Saturday, May 29

Author: Lisa Yee

### **OCA-St. Louis Chapter**

#### Chinese Culture Day

Missouri Botanical Garden

4344 Shaw Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63110

Saturday, May 15

### **OCA-New Jersey Chapter**

#### Forest Avenue School

118 Forest Ave, Verona, New Jersey 07044

Friday, May 21

Author: Kam Mak

### **OCA-Central Illinois Chapter**

#### Thomas Metcalf School

7000 Illinois State University Normal, IL 61790-0001

Time: Monday, May 24

Author: Kam Mak

### **OCA-Las Vegas Chapter**

#### Paseo Verde Library

280 S. Green Valley Pkwy, Henderson, NV 89012

Saturday, May 22

Author: Milly Lee

### **OCA-San Mateo Chapter**

#### Foster City Public Library

1000 East Hillsdale Boulevard, Foster City, CA 94404

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Saturday, May 22  
Author: Cynthia Chin-Lee

**OCA-Westchester Hudson Valley Chapter**  
**Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival**  
Kensico Dam Plaza County Park, Valhalla, New York 10595  
Saturday, May 29  
Author: Pooja Makhijani

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**ATLANTA, GA**

**We are America: Asian Pacific Americans in the U.S. South Symposium 2010 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month @ National Archives at Atlanta**  
<https://sites.google.com/site/apahmatlanta/speakers>

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**HAWAII**

**"LOST" ACTOR, KEN LEUNG, VISITS SCHOOL**

ABC "Lost" star Ken Leung shook the hands of star-struck students who were receiving awards for their hard work at the Sui Wah Chinese Language School.

"I understand what a pain it is going to language class," said Leung who plays Miles Strueme on the ABC hit show filmed in Hawai'i. "I went to language school too, but not for very long. Had I not learned Chinese, some things in life wouldn't have happened for me. I wouldn't have gotten to go to China with my grandmother or get Chinese-speaking roles."

Leung's character joined the cast in Season 4 as a spiritualist who had been born on the island years earlier. His character has the ability to extract information from dead bodies.

Yesterday, Leung played the part of a proud person of Chinese heritage at the school's Open Day, an open house for parents to come and see the work their children have been doing every Sunday at the Chinatown language school. Students reacted with shyness as they accepted their awards and certificates yesterday. Some shook Leung's hand, others walked away quickly.

Eager parents stood by with their cameras at the ready to capture the Kodak moment when their son or daughter stood next to a television star. "He has the same kind of background, an immigrant, and

could share with the students, that they aren't the only one learning about their culture," said the school's principal, Chee Ping Lum. "Even famous people have to rely on their background for their career."

The school of 150 students is made up mostly of Hawai'i-born children with at least one Cantonese-speaking parent. Since the school began in 1986 with 13 students, it has accepted children from 3 to 18 years old. Some are non-Chinese, but most want to build a connection to their culture, said Wing Tek Lum, a spokesman for the school.

One of those students recognized yesterday was Shirley So, a 16-year-old McKinley High School junior. So's parents enrolled her in the school six years ago as a way to teach her Chinese. Her three-dimensional paper dragon perched on top of a wooden base was on display yesterday at the school's multipurpose room. "It's hard work, but I think it's worth it, because we're learning more about our language, history and culture," So said. "Sometimes the workload is a lot. If you know more about your culture, then you know more about yourself and where you are from."

Even as a New Yorker, Leung learned long ago the importance of his heritage — and who he is as a person and as an actor. His ability to speak Chinese has helped him get a few parts in movies, Leung said. "It's important to know your culture," Leung said. "It's gonna have an effect, whether you know it or not. It influences your behavior."

Garrett Young, a 15-year-old Kalani High School student, received an award for his work with the dictionary, learning how many writing strokes are used with specific characters. While learning Chinese calligraphy is difficult, Young said, he knows the value of being bilingual. "Chinese is the hardest language to learn," Young said. "It's tough sometimes not being able to have my Sundays to hang out with friends. ... (But) it's good to learn another language other than English."

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**CALIFORNIA**

By Ching-Ching Ni

Lillian Chung Wong, 98, remembers visiting the potter's field outside Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights when she was a child to pay her respects to her grandfather, a railroad worker.

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Then one day her family showed up for a visit and found nothing, not even the grave markers. "There was no grass . . . just cement," Chung Wong said. "So we stopped coming."

On Monday morning, Chung Wong and her 84-year-old "baby sister" Marie Chung Louise stood once again on the spot where they believe their ancestor is buried and witnessed something they had not been sure they would live to see. They had come for the unveiling of a memorial wall to commemorate the Chinese laborers who toiled on the Western frontier and died in segregated and forgotten graves.

The Chinese graves in Boyle Heights were discovered five years ago, during construction of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. The early Chinese immigrants who helped build California were forbidden to marry or own property. They were barred from Evergreen Cemetery, the oldest secular burial ground still operating in Los Angeles.

So when Chung Wong's grandfather Yee Hay died in 1916, his body was relegated to the nearby potter's field -- where indigents were buried for free and Chinese had to pay \$10, about \$195 in today's money. The Chinese burial ground later became the site of a crematory and at some point all the grave markers were removed until they were rediscovered in 2005, the exact location of the Chinese graves was lost to history.

"I'm sorry the early immigrants . . . were denied their civil rights and denied a decent burial," Ara Najarian, chairman of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, said at the unveiling ceremony. "I'm glad we're finally honoring them by righting the wrong."

In all, the MTA discovered 174 burial sites as well as many artifacts -- including buttons, Chinese porcelain, glasses, rice bowls, jade, coins and opium pipes. All the bones and artifacts will now be reinterred inside Evergreen Cemetery. The process, which will take several months, will start the first week in April, the MTA says.

The MTA spent \$2 million on the project -- on excavation, archaeological research, DNA analysis, construction of the memorial wall and the purchase of burial plots and coffins, said Carl Ripaldi, principal environmental specialist with the MTA.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### **"List of Chinese American-Wikipedia"**

Richard On (Tony On) - guitarist-songwriter for rock band "O.A.R.".

Richard is one of the four original band members. He is found: first) listed under "O.A.R. - Wikipedia", secondly) on "List of Chinese American-Wikipedia". Richard is the nephew of Rebecca On Wong of Silver Spring, MD.

In reviewing the Wikipedia "List of Chinese American". It is outstanding..I believe Edmond Gong of Miami Florida should be included on this list. He is now age 79. A listing update should include him. Google and other historical data will show he has made significant contributions to American culture and society. Some of his notable events are evinced following World War II, the John and Robert Kennedy era, among other events. As a public official, an academic background, bi-cultural orientation, and a practicing attorney for nearly fifty years.

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