

N.Y.C. CHINATOWN REUNION NEWSLETTER

May 13, 2011

We wish to offer our condolences to Elaine Chu in the passing of her grandson, Brian James Hom, on April 10th.

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We also offer our condolences to Dawn Ming in the passing of her son, Kevin Ming. Kevin was on our Reunion Committee for 3 years and was very instrumental in making our reunions the success it has been.

NEW YORK

MAY 13, 2011

MARK YOUR CALENDAR and GET READY TO MAKE YOUR TRAVEL PLANS!

Join us in the Big Apple for the 2011 National Convention! The theme of this year's convention is "Advocacy Through Compassion – A New York State of Mind." As OCA continues to move forward with its mission, the theme will focus on philanthropy and activism within the Asian Pacific American (APA) community.

There is no better place than New York City for this as APAs make up 12% of the population, and represent over 40 cultures and ethnic groups. This year's convention will also commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11. OCA will take a look back at the effects of this event not only within the APA community of New York City, but the effect it had on APAs across the country.

Highlights for this year's Convention include:

- Workshops
- Exhibit Hall & Community Health Fair
- Friday Night Event
- Programs for APA youth and college students
- Small Business Development Summit
- OCA Gala Awards

Visit the [OCA website](#) for up to date Convention information and stay tuned for details regarding registration! Looking to save on travel? See what Southwest has to offer by clicking [HERE!](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

CHICAGO, IL

Meet Dr. John Jung and get his autograph after presentation, author of "Sweet and Sour"

Time: Saturday, May 21 · 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Location: Chinese-American Museum of Chicago - Raymond B. & Jean T. Lee Center

238 W 23rd Street

Chicago, IL

Books may be purchased for book signing at the Museum

Member: Free • Non-Member: Suggested admission \$2 each

Donations welcome!

Limited space. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED AND CAN BE MADE BY

CALLING (312) 949-1000.

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME, PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS

CALIFORNIA

OCA, a national organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans, congratulates Judge Edward M. Chen on his confirmation today to become the first-ever Asian Pacific American and Chinese American Federal District Court Judge in the history of the Northern District of California. The Senate confirmed Judge Chen 56 - 42, who has waited over 600 days for today's vote.

"OCA and the entire Asian Pacific American community can finally celebrate the confirmation of Judge Chen," said George C. Wu, Executive Director of OCA. "Through his leadership and commitment to the community, Judge Chen is an enormous source of pride for OCA chapters in the Bay Area and throughout the country."

Judge Chen has served as the U.S. magistrate judge for the Northern District of California since 2001. One of the many highlights from his distinguished career as a litigator prior to the bench is Judge Chen's role on the legal team that overturned the conviction of Fred Korematsu. Judge Chen joins 13 other active Asian Pacific American Article III judges in the nation, 7 of whom were nominated by President Obama.

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Culinary Historians of Northern California

Upcoming Meeting:

Date: Thursday, June 9th

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Location: Omnivore Books (Noe Valley, SF)

Address: 3885a Cesar Chavez Street
San Francisco, CA 94131

Phone: (415) 282-4712

Speaker: John Jung, Ph.D., author of *Sweet and Sour: Life in Chinese Family Restaurants* (2010)

MISCELLANEOUS

Reading List

Chinese Laundries: Tickets to Survival On Gold Mountain by **John Jung**. Published by Yin and Yang Press, 2007.

Southern Fried Rice: Life in a Chinese Laundry in the Deep South by **John Jung**. Published by Yin and Yang Press, 2005.

The Year of Finding Memory by **Judy Fong Bates**. Published by Random House Canada, 2010.

China Dog and Other Tales from a Chinese Laundry by **Judy Fong Bates**. Published by Sister Vision, 1997.

Enduring Hardship: the Chinese Laundry in Canada by **Ban Seng Hoe**. Published by Canadian Museum of Civilization, 2003.

The Chinese Laundryman: A Study of Social Isolation by **Paul C. P. Siu**. Published by New York University Press, 1987.

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A White Man's Province: British Columbia Politicians and Chinese and Japanese Immigrants 1858-1914 by **Patricia E. Roy**. Published by University of British Columbia Press, 1989.

The Oriental Question by **Patricia E. Roy**. University of British Columbia Press, 2003.

Chinese Islanders: Making a Home in the New World, by **Hung-Min Chiang**. Published by Island Studies Press. Charlottetown, 2006.

What to do During an Earthquake

TIPS FOR EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

- 1) Most everyone who simply 'ducks and covers' when building collapse are crushed to death. People who get under objects, like desks or cars, are crushed.
- 2) Curl up in the fetal position during an earthquake. It is a natural safety/survival instinct. You can survive in a smaller void. Get next to an object, next to a sofa, next to a bed, next to a large bulky object that will compress slightly but leave a void next to it.
- 3) Wooden buildings are the safest type of construction to be in during an earthquake because wood is flexible, also, the wooden building has less concentrated, crushing weight. Brick buildings will break into individual bricks and will cause many injuries, but less squashed bodies than concrete slabs.
- 4) If you are in bed during the night and an earthquake occurs, simply roll off the bed. A safe void will exist around the bed.
- 5) If an earthquake happens and you cannot easily escape by getting out the door or window, then lie down and curl up in the fetal position next to a sofa, or large chair.
- 6) Do not stand under a doorway because the doorjamb falls forward or backward and you will be crushed by the ceiling above. If the door jam falls sideways you will be cut in half by the doorway. In either case, you will be killed!
- 7) Never go to the stairs. The stairs have a different 'moment of frequency' (they swing separately from the main part of the building). The people who get on stairs before they fail are chopped up by the stair treads - horribly mutilated. Even if the building doesn't collapse, stay away from the stairs. Even if the stairs are not collapsed by the earthquake, they may collapse later when overloaded by fleeing people. They should always be checked for safety, even when the rest of the building is not damaged.
- 8) Get near the outer walls of buildings or outside of them if possible - It is much better to be near the outside of the building rather than the interior. The farther inside you are from the outside perimeter of the building the greater the probability that your escape route will be blocked.
- 9) People inside of their vehicles are crushed when the road above falls in an earthquake and crushes their vehicles. Lie next to your vehicles. The crushed cars have voids 3 feet high next to them, except for the cars that had columns fall directly across them.
- 10) Paper does not compact. Large voids are found surrounding stacks of paper. Spread the word and save someone's life...

The entire world is experiencing natural calamities so be prepared! 'We are but angels with one wing, it takes two to fly.'

Watch the film "Triangle of Life" and you will learn how to protect yourself during an earthquake.

The Chinese Migration to Suriname (**hold down the CTRL key and left click twice**)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/11/world/americas/11suriname.html?emc=eta1>

A City of 260 Million. Where Else But China?

Beijing is planning to combine nine southern Chinese cities into the world's largest urban area. Called the "Turn the Pearl River Delta into One" scheme, the plan will effectively merge Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Dongguan, Foshan, Huizhou, Zhaoqing, Jiangmen, Zhongshan, and Zhuhai into a single megacity with a geographical size larger than Switzerland.

Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province, is already considered the world's second largest metropolis with 24.9 million residents. The other eight cities in the Pearl River Delta plan will mean that the new unit will have a total of 42 million inhabitants. Add in the neighboring Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, which some Chinese planners would like to do, and you have a megacity of 50 million people.

The PRD, as the Pearl River Delta is known to locals, is already an economic unit that accounts for a tenth of China's economy and a quarter of the country's trade by value. Government officials and private developers have already linked the nine cities with roads, tunnels, and bridges, but planners would like to see even more connecting infrastructure.

The idea is to spend 2 trillion yuan—slightly over \$300 billion—on 29 rail lines running 3,100 miles. Inhabitants will zip from one urban center to another in an hour or less, a real feat because the area is separated by the wide mouth of the muddy Pearl River. There would be about 150 infrastructure improvements to enhance transportation, energy, water, and telecom networks.

Slums? Technocrats have not forgotten human needs in their grand plan. Not only industry but also public services will be spread more fairly with medical facilities and schools upgraded. Residents, for instance, will be able to use the internet to find hospitals with the shortest waiting times. The concept is that with size comes both efficiency—telecom bills, for example, will be cut by 85%—and the ability to bring resources to bear on problems—pollution is one of the problems that will be dealt with on an integrated basis.

Central technocrats officially [deny](#) plans to create one PRD megacity. Nonetheless, they admit to contemplating essentially the same thing: three adjoining "economic circles" of three cities each in the delta.

What's the motivation for the consolidation in whatever form it takes? At first glance, it looks as if local leaders want to put the PRD in a better position to compete with Beijing and Shanghai. The plan would also serve their interests by marginalizing nearby Hong Kong. Eventually Beijing wants the

former British colony to be part of an integrated PRD—the city was included in a national five-year plan for the first time this year—but for the moment it will be left out of the nine-cities scheme.

Yet there is a darker aspect to the effort. Beijing for decades has attempted to tame unruly Guangdong province, long a thorn in the side of China's central leaders, and the PRD concept fits perfectly with President Hu Jintao's goal of exerting influence, "harmonizing" local officials in Chinese lingo.

The fierce competition among Pearl River Delta cities gives him an excuse. The inter-city rivalry has ultimately been good for economic development, but it has inevitably led to duplication. Mr. Hu is using the duplication to justify central control that planning naturally contemplates. As Guangzhou academic Li Zhigang [says](#), "The central government wants to see a coordinated development of PRD cities under its guidance."

Under its guidance, central planners have all sorts of ambitious schemes. They are, for instance, planning to create across the country "small cities" of up to 25 million people and city clusters with up to 100 million.

Think that's big? The grandest of proposals contemplates a Bohai Economic Rim of up to 260 million people centered on the adjoining cities of Beijing and Tianjin. Technocrats and diplomats are also implementing regional plans to essentially merge the North Korean port of Rason into portions of China's northeastern provinces.

Beijing, which already created [Chongqing](#) with 33 million inhabitants, is changing the notion of what is a "city." In short, Chinese planners are ignoring municipal boundaries and looking to regionalization to create solutions. As management consultants sometimes say, if you want to solve a problem, make it bigger.

The Chinese government likes big solutions, but as Forbes's Joel Kotkin writes in "[The Problem with Megacities](#)," there are drawbacks to gigantism. And in China's case, there are simple fixes to urban problems. Instead of redrawing city borders and creating gargantuan units, for example, Beijing could remove the so-called *hukou* restrictions in order to permit people to live and work wherever they choose. If the Chinese people had the right to move from place to place, they would make and remake urban centers without the problems inevitably caused by straight-jacket central planning.

Do individuals, through millions of uncoordinated decisions, also make bad choices? As we see in the thousands of slums scarring the world, the answer is yes. Yet by their nature people also create competition that is the engine of growth. The trouble in Beijing at the moment is a desire for orderliness and predictability that will one day rob Chinese cities of the vitality for which they are now known.

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Very Interesting

If you are right handed, you will tend to chew your food on the right side of your mouth. If you are left handed, you will tend to chew your food on the left side of your mouth.

To make half a kilo of honey, bees must collect nectar from over 2 million individual flowers
Heroin is the brand name of morphine once marketed by 'Bayer'.

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Tourists visiting Iceland should know that tipping at a restaurant is considered an insult!

Albert Einstein was offered the presidency of Israel in 1952, but he declined.

Astronauts can't belch - there is no gravity to separate liquid from gas in their stomachs.

Ancient Roman, Chinese and German societies often used urine as mouthwash.

The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows. In the Renaissance era, it was fashion to shave them off!

Because of the speed at which Earth moves around the Sun, it is impossible for a solar eclipse to last more than 7 minutes and 58 seconds.

The night of January 20 is "Saint Agnes's Eve", which is regarded as a time when a young woman dreams of her future husband.

Google is actually the common name for a number with a million zeros

It takes glass one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years

Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end

If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Each year 2,000,000 smokers either quit smoking or die of tobacco-related diseases.

Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals

Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.

The song, Auld Lang Syne, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year.

Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent

Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450°F

The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.

Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean

The banana cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man

Airports at higher altitudes require a longer airstrip due to lower air density

The University of Alaska spans four time zones

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.

In ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.

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Warner Communications paid \$28 million for the copyright to the song Happy Birthday.

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

A comet's tail always points away from the sun

The Swine Flu vaccine in 1976 caused more death and illness than the disease it was intended to prevent

Caffeine increases the power of aspirin and other painkillers, that is why it is found in some medicines.

The military salute is a motion that evolved from medieval times, when knights in armor raised their visors to reveal their identity.

If you get into the bottom of a well or a tall chimney and look up, you can see stars, even in the middle of the day.

When a person dies, hearing is the last sense to go. The first sense lost is sight

In ancient times strangers shook hands to show that they were unarmed

Strawberries are the only fruits whose seeds grow on the outside

Avocados have the highest calories of any fruit at 167 calories per hundred grams

The moon moves about two inches away from the Earth each year

The Earth gets 100 tons heavier every day due to falling space dust Due to earth's gravity it is impossible for mountains to be higher than 15,000 meters

Mickey Mouse is known as "Topolino" in Italy

Soldiers do not march in step when going across bridges because they could set up a vibration which could be sufficient to knock the bridge down

Everything weighs one percent less at the equator

For every extra kilogram carried on a space flight, 530 kg of excess fuel are needed at lift-off

The letter J does not appear anywhere on the periodic table of the elements.

Memories of Chinatown and Chinatown Reunion Newsletter Archive: <http://adiitl.com/chinatown/>