

NEW YORK

JUNE 15, 2011



Commerce Secretary Gary Locke with MOCA Director S. Alice Mong and staff Carolyn Antonio, Beatrice Chen, Emily Chovanec, Jannette Lau, Karen Lew, Frank Liu, Sophia Ma, Yue Ma & Ting-Chi Wang at MOCA's Hsien Hsien and Bae Pao Lu Chow Cultural Programs Center.

On May 12, 2011, the **Museum of Chinese in the America (MOCA)** had the honor of hosting **Commerce Secretary Gary Locke**, MOCA's 2005 honoree, at our new home.

Maya Lin, designer of the Museum and Co-Chair of the Board, along with **Director S. Alice Mong**, gave Secretary Locke a tour of the Museum, congratulating him on his nomination as the new U.S. Ambassador to China.

Secretary Locke had an opportunity to view the tile profiling him on the Luminary Wall, which is part of the Museum's Core Exhibit, ***With a Single Step: Stories in the Making of America***. The Luminary Wall honors Chinese descendants who have made major contributions to American history, chronologically documenting their stories from all walks of life. Secretary Locke's tile appears in *Section 8: Towards a More Perfect Union*, along those of Maya Lin, Ang Lee, David Ho and Elaine Chao.

Register Now!

[Take a glance](#) at what OCA's 2011 National Convention Aug. 4-7 has in store for you.

-OCA Members register by clicking on [FULL REGISTRATION PACKAGE \(OCA Member\)](#).

-Non-members register by clicking on [FULL REGISTRATION PACKAGE \(Non-Member\)](#).

-Only looking to attend a few events? [CLICK HERE](#) for A LA CARTE menu options.

Hotel and Travel

Make your reservations TODAY especially for those who are looking for a room with two beds as there are only a limited number available.

Hotel: Hotel rooms at the **Grand Hyatt** are \$199/night for single or double occupancy, plus 14.75% hotel tax and a \$3.50/per night city tax. **The hotel cutoff date is July 5, 2011.**

Reservations at the Grand Hyatt will be based on room availability and at the hotel's listed rate. To make a reservation, please call the hotel reservation department at 1-800-233-1234 and reference the **OCA National Convention.**

Air Travel: Looking to save on travel? **Fly Southwest!** Log-on to southwest.com/oca and receive a 10% discount on the total amount of a round trip **"Wanna Get Away"** fare purchase before taxes and fees. **(Up to two carry-ons are always free with Southwest)** Click [here](#) to find out more and get the promotional code!

Looking to Explore New York City?

The OCA-NY Chapter is pleased to provide two special Broadway show options: "Priscilla -- Queen of the Dessert" on Wednesday, August 3 and "Wonderland" on Sunday, August 7. These shows were chosen because they both feature at least one Asian American performer and can only be seen in the United States in New York City. After each show, you will be able to meet some of the cast, including J. Elaine Marcos of "Priscilla" and Jose Llana of "Wonderland."

On Sunday, August 7, 10 am- 12:30 pm, join us for a private reception at Corky Lee's Queens Museum of Art (QMA) solo exhibition. Afterwards, enjoy a dim sum brunch catered from New York's "other" Chinatown--Flushing--as you view "Asian Pacifically New York."

[CLICK HERE](#) to purchase tickets. **THESE ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE FULL REGISTRATION PACKAGE.**

Please visit www.ocanational.org for the latest Convention information!

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Science whiz Viola Wu wins one of four Proton Energy Scholarships worth \$100,000

DAILY NEWS, Friday, May 13, 2011

A Queens student who spoke no English when she arrived in the U.S. eight years ago got the surprise of her life when she was called to the principal's office Thursday.

Zi (Viola) Wu, 19, of Fresh Meadows, had been told there was a problem with her student login at Francis Lewis High School - but instead, the stunned teen found out she won a \$100,000 college scholarship.

"Oh my God. I'm so happy," Wu said after officials broke the life-changing news to her. "I was afraid I would not be able to afford college."

WASHINGTON, DC

Washington, D.C. - 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 \$25,000 grant from the Comcast Foundation. The grant will be utilized in 2011 to support OCA's goals of education and leadership by funding OCA's Internship Program.

"With the generous support given by the Comcast Foundation for the 2011 Internship Program, OCA will be able to expand its ongoing programs and continue to educate, organize, and serve its constituency comprised of APAs, youth, and the communities that need the most assistance," said Ken Lee, OCA national president.

Established in 1989, the OCA Internship Program has grown into a year round program to include

over 20 undergraduates each year. OCA has provided internship opportunities to over 400 APA college students to learn about public policy issues that are affecting the APA community as well as leadership development tools, including networking and workforce development. OCA interns are placed in Congressional offices, federal agencies, the OCA National Center, and other prominent non-profit organizations for ten weeks.

In 2010, OCA supported 26 interns in positions that included the Speaker of the House, the Minority Business Development Agency, and the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islander. This year, OCA will be welcoming 24 students to the summer internship class.

"Comcast's commitment to diversity and the communities we serve is an important part of our day to day culture. We are very pleased to be able to partner with OCA to help deliver its mission and goals that impact the community in a positive and real way." We look forward to a year of growth for OCA and our partnership in 2011 and beyond," said Executive Director of External Affairs of Comcast Corporation & Vice President of External Affairs for Comcast Cable, Johnnie Giles.

About the Comcast Foundation

The Comcast Foundation was founded by Comcast Corporation in June 1999 to provide charitable support to qualified non-profit organizations. The Foundation primarily invests in programs intended to have a positive, sustainable impact on their communities. The Foundation has three community investment priorities—promoting community service, expanding digital literacy, and building tomorrow's leaders. Since its inception, the Comcast Foundation has donated more than \$90 million to organizations in the communities nationwide that Comcast serves. More information about the Foundation and its programs is available at www.comcast.com/community.

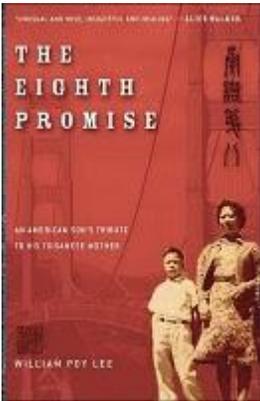
CALIFORNIA

Chinese 'peasant' dialect redeemed

Toisanese (Hoisanese is the REAL pronunciation) were among the first Chinese-Cantonese immigrants to hail to the United States from the Guangdong/Guangzhou Province of Southern China in the Pearl River Delta, west of Hong Kong. *Many Hoisanese immigrants came to the U.S. starting in the 19th century to help build railroads, and eventually stayed to establish laundromats, restaurants, etc. and worked hard to build a better future for their families.* Some famous Hoisan folks include: U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, Chef Martin Yan (*Yan Can Cook*); Hawaii Senator Hiram Fong, Hong Kong Martial Artist Donnie Yen (star of *IP MAN*), Actor James Hong, Former California Treasurer Matt Fong; Actress Anna May Wong.

WRITER TAKES PRIDE IN EARTHY TOISANESE By L.A. Chung - 12/22/2007

In unraveling his family history, writer William Poy Lee had no idea he'd wind up making a declaration of respectability for Toisanese across America. Yet there he was on stage, in the hoity-toity Asian Art Museum in San Francisco this month, publicly singing out salty, gritty Toisanese set to music, with his mother Poy Jen in the front row. He turned Toisanese - from household names to cuss words - into a performance. It's enough to make a self-respecting Chinese cringe. *Toisanese is a Chinese dialect, but it is pure peasant-speak, in all of its graphic, roiling, diphthong-laced glory.*



"Everyone said Toisanese was such an ugly language. Everyone," said Lee, who dreamt up the idea of a jazz-like improvisation performance, based on ordinary words of his childhood tongue. Lee reconnected with the dialect while writing his memoir, "The Eighth Promise," delving into *why America's first Chinese immigrants were such tough people.*

Most of the first Chinese immigrants to the United States hailed from Toisan, one of four districts in the Pearl River Delta outside Guangzhou, known before as Canton. Once, 95 percent of the Chinese in the United States, from former Washington Gov. Gary Locke to Sunnyvale Councilman Dean Chu, traced back to Sze Yap, the four-district area where Toisan is located. Many of the people who inhabited San Jose's early Chinatowns and built the Ng Shing Gung Temple in Kelley Park come from Sze Yap. Up to the 1970s, you could speak Toisanese, also pronounced Hoisanese, to almost any Chinese-American from New York to Mississippi to San Jose and be understood.

Try to find "Toisan," on the map, however, and you will only find "Taishan," which is the word in Mandarin. Unlike the most well-known big city, major dialects of China, Toisanese exists only on the tongue. "There are no Toisanese novels or opera," Lee observes. "Bruce Lee never slipped into Toisanese." It sounds rough, as though you have pebbles in your mouth. "In truth it is a shout," Lee said, one that might "include some finely sprayed spittle."

Mandarin-speaking people cannot understand Cantonese, and frequently claim it hard to listen to. Cantonese-speaking people pronounce Toisanese inferior and hard to listen to. Therein lies the crux of it. As he delved into his book, Lee delved into feelings of embarrassment about the dialect. As a kid growing up on the streets of Chinatown, U.S.A., Toisanese or any Chinese got him benched at school. Even in Cantonese school, teachers rapped his knuckles for speaking Toisanese. Then he began to think about Toisanese attributes for what they were: a hard-honed language that is inseparable from the land, unpretentious and tough-skinned. The words come "wrapped up like clods of dirt embedded with stones." As he thought about it, "Toisanese can arc over the rice paddies, go through a flock of noisy geese, cut through a stand of bamboo, and go around a hill," he wrote. In short, it was designed for survival. Yet, it had a musicality. The famous Tang Dynasty poetry, when read in Cantonese - or Toisanese dialect - rhyme, unlike in Mandarin.

Lee took a page from jazz to riff Toisanese words off of percussion and wind instruments to enliven his book readings. He collaborated with Layton Doung of Yellow River Drummers, and flutist Haley Wong to come up with an improvisational performance based on a "word score" of four parts: onomatopoeia, household words, salty cuss words and food-related words. Some, like cable car, is an onomatopoeia, invented here, translated as "dang-dang car." "One guy said, 'Hearing you guys doing it publicly with so much fun makes me feel me better about my language,' " Lee said, "It was an 'Oprah' moment - healing in front

CHINA

Chinese Animal Activists Save Hundreds of Dogs From Being Eaten

By ERICA HO Erica Ho—Apr 19, 2011

Hundreds of dogs were spared being served on the dinner table in China after activists staged a 15-hour standoff to save them.

[\(Read about China's live animal keychains.\)](#)

Last Friday afternoon, hundreds of dogs were on their way to Chinese restaurants when a suspicious driver swerved his car in front of the truck to stop it. He then alerted activists on his microblog, who gathered 200 strong around the truck. They rendered the vehicle immobile, jamming traffic on the highway.

After a long standoff right outside Beijing, an animal activist group managed to free the dogs by purchasing them for 115,000 yuan (\$17,600). Conflicting reports differ on the number of dogs involved, but the [Global Times](#) has placed the number as high as 520. [\(Read about China banning animal circuses.\)](#)

Sadly, many of the dogs were found with collars and nametags, indicating that they may have been stolen from their beloved owners. The healthy dogs will be put up for adoption while the sick ones were sent to pet hospitals in the nation's capital. Unfortunately, it is unclear whether some of the allegedly stolen dogs will ever be reunited with their owners.

Both dog and cat meat are popular delicacies because they are believed to promote bodily warmth during the winter season. In recent years, authorities have considered putting measures in place to outlaw the practice.

Local newspapers suggested that the transporters would probably face no repercussions. Animal protection laws barely exist in China, and the truck had all the legal permits to transport the animals. Still, it's one significant victory for Fido lovers everywhere.

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From Beijing to Lhasa

China's Railway Across the Roof of the World

A tribute to the world's greatest railroad builders.

Author: Eddy Cheong

Double click on picture to see the video.

NIGERIA



The Chinatown in Lagos, Nigeria, was built in 2004. It is home to more than 100 shops that sell everything from ceramic coffee cups to Hannah Montana backpacks. The Chinatown in Lagos, Nigeria, is one of a kind. It looks like a big, red medieval fortress with crenellated walls that resemble the Great Wall outside Beijing. A Nigerian flag and the Chinese flag fly together on the ramparts.

Inside is a courtyard filled with 180 shops, selling everything from blue jeans to *High School Musical* sketch pads. But many stores are shuttered and dusty. Chinese clothing imports practically destroyed the Nigerian textile industry, so six years ago, the Nigerian government banned them.

"The impact is that most of them [Chinatown clothing shops] had to shut down," says Solomon Julius, a Nigerian who manages Chinatown. Nigerian companies have also tried to crack down on Chinese businesses for selling pirated CDs and DVDs.

Ope Banwo, an entertainment attorney, accompanied police on a raid of Chinatown in 2006. Banwo says cops found bootlegs of Hollywood films. Then, Banwo says, something strange happened: Police received a phone call and let everyone go. He says it was clear to him that somebody intervened to save the merchants from arrest.

[The Chinese have] taken over this economy like they're taking over the world.

- Ope Banwo, Nigerian lawyer: "When I say, as a lawyer, they're being protected by the powers that be, I don't say it lightly," Banwo says. "I saw that and they left those guys with everything."

Today, you can't find pirated DVDs in Chinatown, but people sell them just outside the gate. Like many Nigerians, Banwo sees Chinese businessmen as an unstoppable force. "They've taken over this economy like they're taking over the world," he says. "The next superpower is China."

Some vendors in Chinatown tell a different story. Huang Haifeng owns a tiny shop that sells doors and cheap Chinese suits. He says doing business in Nigeria is brutal. Huang Haifeng owns a shop that sells doors and men's suits. Many Nigerians see Chinese as indefatigable businessmen, but Huang says operating in Nigeria is tough.



"I want to quit trading," Huang says. "There are no profits." "Even last year, we lost much money. In dollars, last year [\$80,000] or \$90,000. Even some Chinese, they lost more," he says.

Huang moved to Nigeria in 2002, because the country has Africa's largest Chinese population and he saw a huge potential market for Chinese goods. Huang imports the suits he sells from China, but Nigeria is notoriously corrupt, and Huang says some of his suits are stolen in customs. "Sometimes, each bag, you're short five or 10" suits, he says.

Huang says manufacturing in Nigeria isn't much easier. He imported parts and tried to build doors in a factory here to save money, but Lagos suffers blackouts several times a day, which makes operating a factory difficult and expensive.

- Chinatown vendor Huang Haifeng:

"The cost was too high, because there's no power," Huang says. "We're always using diesel, and the engineer is not as good as a Chinese engineer."

A third big problem, Huang says, is exchange rates. The Chinese currency, the renminbi, is strengthening, raising the cost of his products. Meanwhile, the Nigerian naira has weakened, reducing his purchasing power. Some Nigerians think the Chinese are taking over the country, but Huang shakes his head. "No, I don't think so," he says. "I don't think so."

Tony Jun agrees. He runs a Chinatown shop that sells everything from 50-cent ceramic coffee cups to \$10 *Hannah Montana* backpacks. But after nearly a decade in Lagos, Jun says it's no longer worth it. He figures he can make more money back home. Jun plans to move back to China in the next year.

MISCELLANEOUS

New York Chinatown's New Generation

Wilson Tang is a second-generation American who is taking over ownership of the legendary Nom Wah Tea Parlor in Chinatown.

N.Y.C. CHINATOWN REUNION NEWSLETTER

June 15, 2011

<http://video.nytimes.com/video/2011/06/07/dining/100000000853608/chinatowns-new-generation.html>

(Hold down the CTRL button and left click on your mouse, at the same time, to access video.)

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