

OCTOBER 2011

The Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps



The Los Angeles Chinese Drum And Bugle Corps., January 1970. At the steps of Los Angeles City Hall just prior to the Chinese New Year Parade.

Presented by

Chuck Quon and Greg Fong

Wednesday,

October 5, 2011 - 6:30 p.m.

Castelar Elementary School

840 Yale St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Free parking - enter via College Street

*The event is open and free to the public.
Refreshments will be served.*

The Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps (LAC)--later known as the "Imperial Dragons"--was a very successful award-winning youth performance organization that remained active in the Los Angeles Chinese American community for over 20 years. The LAC continued a tradition of community performance organizations that began with the Mei Wah Drum Corps in the early 1930s and the Chung Wah Drum and Bugle Corps in the 1950s.

Comprised of Asian American youth between 10 and 21 years of age, the LAC in the early 1970s became one of the largest Corps organizations in existence, fielding 140 members for competition. It was also one of the only nationally touring drum corps representing an ethnic community. In addition to regular appearances at annual Chinese New Year celebrations and other Chinatown events, the LAC proudly represented their community with performances and in competition throughout California and also grew to achieve national distinction and recognition.

Former members, parents and other supporters (many of whom are CHSSC members past and present) have had a long standing ambition to create and preserve an official institutional historic record that would be produced, disseminated, and made accessible to educate the public on the significant contributions of the LAC whose celebrated past played an integral part of so many lives in the Asian American community.



OCTOBER 2011

*CHSSC and Azusa Pacific University
invite you to a special preview and book signing event*

October 13, 2011 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Featuring
Portraits of Pride II

Chinese-American Legacies - First 160 Years in America

History of significant achievements of Chinese Americans

Project Director: L.P. Leung

*The program begins at 6:00 pm with a presentation,
book signing and refreshments immediately following*

Location: Azusa Pacific University
901 E. Alosta Avenue, Azusa, CA 91702
Wilden Hall Atrium

For more information, please call 626-815-5069



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Mission Statement

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California was organized in November 1975. The purposes of the Society are:

- 1) to bring together people with a mutual interest in the important history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in southern California;
- 2) to pursue, preserve and communicate knowledge of this history; and
- 3) to promote the heritage of the Chinese and Chinese American community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multicultural society of the United States.



Lily Chin

By Edward Ng

PoP II not only highlights world-class achievers such as Yo-Yo Ma, Michelle Kwan and the Chinese American Nobel laureates, but also chronicles unsung heroes such as Lily Chin. The book's account that touched me most was that of Mrs. Chin whose son Vincent was brutally murdered in a highly charged racial context. Most readers remember his name, and the story of Lily Chin is thoroughly told in PoP II in "A Mother's Relentless Courage to Fight Racial Injustice." Without sharing the book's full accounting, a thumbnail sketch of the case will refresh our memories.

In 1982, in Detroit, the U.S. auto industry was being battered by the public's insatiable appetite for Japanese imports. Job loss was rampant among auto

workers and many focused their anger on Asian Americans. In a neighborhood tavern, Ronald Ebens, who later that evening beat Vincent Chin to death, said to him, "It's because of you [expletive] that we're out of work." Ebens and his co-conspirator, Michael Nitz, never spent a day behind bars for their heinous act, infuriating Asian-American communities across the nation.

Lily Chin, Vincent's mother, was thrust into a limelight she never sought. She was a hard-working woman who supported her family in the restaurant and laundry businesses. But despite not being highly educated or speaking English fluently, she became a galvanizing presence to rally the fight for a U.S. Department of Justice civil rights prosecution.

If there was a silver lining, the events generated a pan Asian-American movement for social justice, leading to formation of activist groups such as the Asian American Justice Center.



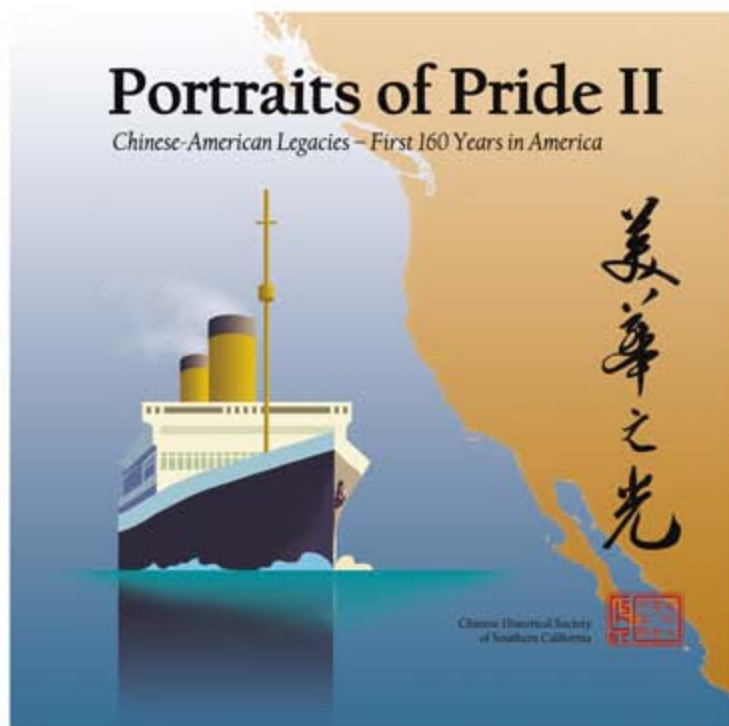
Photo: Corky Lee

I ask you to support the Portraits of Pride book series and its Free Library Book Program. Please understand I make this appeal in honor of one heartbroken and yet courageous mother—Mrs. Lily Chin. There are several ways you can support Portraits of Pride's mission to highlight Chinese American role models and educate the public. Some of these are:

1. Make a tax deductible donation directly to the CHSSC Portraits of Pride project;
2. Purchase one or several copies of PoP II. After reading the book, you can donate it to your public library which will give you a tax deductible receipt;
3. Spread the word by appealing to Chinese American parents. This book has the potential to inspire the next generation of students; and
4. Attend and support PoP II's official launch and book signing at Azusa Pacific University on Thursday, October 13th between 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. in the atrium of the School of Business. Please phone CHSSC at 323-222-0856 for details, directions, and to order copies of PoP II.

"MY FAVORITE PORTRAITS OF PRIDE II PROFILE"

We are asking readers of *Portraits of Pride II: Chinese American Legacies—First 160 Years in America* (PoP II) to share a profile from the new book that was especially meaningful to them. Please write your thoughts and send them to the CHSSC Portraits of Pride office, 415 Bernard St., Los Angeles, CA 90012; email: popchssc@yahoo.com



"Portraits of Pride II responds to the need for a source book emphasizing pride in the accomplishments of Chinese Americans."

The Portraits of Pride series' mission and purpose is:

1. To fill the "Missing in History" gap left by Chinese Americans;
2. To deepen and increase awareness of the positive contributions of Chinese Americans;
3. To identify role models for our younger generation;
4. To build upon and extend the work done by *Portraits of Pride I* and upcoming CHSSC projects;
5. To broaden and extend the Portraits of Pride "Free Library Book Program"; and
6. To support and mentor succeeding generations of Chinese American historians.



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

415 Bernard Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 323-222-0856
Email: chssc@hotmail.com
Website: www.chssc.org

Make checks payable to CHSSC

_____ copies of Portraits of Pride II

x \$ 40.00 Per Copy

\$ _____ Total

Portraits of Pride II

Chinese American Legacies - First 160 Years in America

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

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Visa/MC # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Library



After several months of painstaking efforts the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Library is entering the final phase of refurbishment. We would like to thank our volunteers and interns for their hard work; Alex Eng, Erika Eng, Vinson Han, Christina Li, Robert Verre and William Yuen have all contributed with their skills in painting, stenciling, carpentry, refinishing and cataloging of books. With over 1,200 publications, our library houses one of the more extensive collections of books about Chinese Americans, Chinese in America and culture.

Additional donations are being accepted at this time to complete the room. We are in need of window treatments, an area rug and other accessories. Your financial support would be greatly appreciated as we continue to restore and refurbish the CHSSC facilities. Please forward your donations or inquiries to:

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
CHSSC@hotmail.com
(323) 222-0856

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Community Calendar

Wednesday, October 5, 2011 6:30 pm

The Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps (LAC) was a very successful award-winning youth performance organization in the Los Angeles Chinese American community for over 20 years. Chuck Quon and Greg Fong will discuss the significance of preserving an official institutional historic record.

Castelar School 840 Yale St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Free parking – enter via College Street

Saturday, October 8, 2011 at 3 pm

Liao Yiwu will discuss and sign *The Corpse Walker: Real Life Stories: China From the Bottom Up* and his new book, *God is Red: The Secret Story of How Christianity Survived and Flourished in Communist China*. This will be the author's only Los Angeles area appearance. RSVPs strongly recommended; call the Museum Store, (626) 449-2742, ext. 20. Free for museum members and Visual Artists Guild. All others: \$9 general, \$7 students / seniors. Pacific Asia Museum 46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101. www.pacificasiamuseum.org

Thursday, October 13, 6-8pm

CHSSC and Azusa Pacific University invite you to a special preview and book signing event featuring "Portraits of Pride II Chinese-American Legacies - First 160 Years in America" History of significant achievements of Chinese Americans. The program begins at 6pm with a presentation, book signing and refreshments following.

Azusa Pacific University, 901 E. Alosta Ave., Azusa, CA Wilden Hall Atrium. For more information, please call 626-815-5069

Friday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.

Chinese American Education Association Installation Banquet. Ocean Star, 145 N. Atlantic Blvd., 2nd Fl. Monterey Park, \$35, for a good cause. Alice Mah, Alice Wong, or Winston Wu wuwins@gmail.com

Sunday, October 30 2:00 P.M.

Dreams of Joy by Lisa See - The best-selling author of *Snow Flower* and the *Secret Fan* and *Shanghai Girls* continues the story of sisters Pearl and May, and Pearl's strong-willed daughter. Books available for purchase and signing.

Pacific Asia Museum 46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA

For reservations, call the Museum Store (626) 449-2742, ext. 20

For information: www.pacificasiamuseum.org

Special Exhibition Tour

Commemorating Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Visits to Los Angeles

Sponsored by: Chinese American Museum, National Association of Chinese Americans, Chinese American Professors and Professionals Association, Chinese Historical Society of Southern Cal. and Sun Yat-sen Memorial Museum, Guangzhou, China

Now – Oct 24 Cerritos Public Library

October 26 UC Irvine

Oct 27 – Nov 10 Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association

Nov 14 – Nov 29 Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library

Nov 30-Dec.8 Asian Pacific Resource Center, Rosemead Library

December 9 UCLA

For more information contact Pedro Chan at 323.721.0774 or pedrochan@aol.com