

NOVEMBER 2011

## To Whom It May Concern - *Ka Shen's Journey*

### *Special Screening*

Wednesday,  
November 2, 2011  
6:30 p.m.

*Castelar Elementary School*  
840 Yale Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Free parking - enter via College Street

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

The definitive and true life story of Nancy Kwan, who as a young Eurasian girl from Hong Kong captured the hearts and minds of cinemagoers around the world in her stunning motion picture debut role in *The World of Suzie Wong* (1960), then in her unforgettable follow up role as "Linda Lo" in the all Asian, Rodgers & Hammerstein Hollywood hit musical *Flower Drum Song* (1961). With just two pictures in two years, the Eurasian girl from Hong Kong would become one of the most sought after young stars in Hollywood. But, the motion pictures that would follow would never again mirror, that initial success!

This feature docu-drama explores the real life drama of "what happened" to such a promising career as it takes its audience on a personal journey, a woman's journey, which is as equally compelling, as it is inspiring. Nancy Kwan's story is both fairytale and poignant. It is a story of "Art imitating life and "Life imitating art" as the character she so aptly portrayed in *The World of Suzie Wong*, loses her only child in the story of the film. Sadly, in real life this same tragedy would occur, and her life would be forever changed by this circumstance.



Courtesy of Nancy Kwan

The film features Joan Chen, France Nuyen, Vivian Wu and Sandra Allen together with a host of family and friends of Nancy Kwan. It was extensively shot on various locations including Hong Kong, Cambodia, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Kansas City. Beautiful original water-color artwork was created for the film by renowned Chinese American Artist Jin G. Kam. The poignant and original music score was composed by Chris Babida, the composer of the stunning Hong Kong Ballet score – *Suzie Wong*.

*Written, produced and directed by Brian Jamieson for  
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## Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps

At the October CHSSC meeting a presentation was made by Greg Fong describing the history of the Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps. He discussed preserving the history of the LAC and how the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California is an important partner. Following the presentation was a very engaging and nostalgic Q & A with first hand recollections.

Greg Fong and his team are looking for assistance in acquiring information and artifacts from this important chapter in history.



Greg Fong emphasizing the importance of preserving the legacy of the LAC Drum and Bugle Corps



A number of alumni of the LAC Drum and Bugle Corps were in attendance Photos: O.C. Lee

## Board of Directors

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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.



NOVEMBER 2011

## Portraits of Pride II Book Signing Event

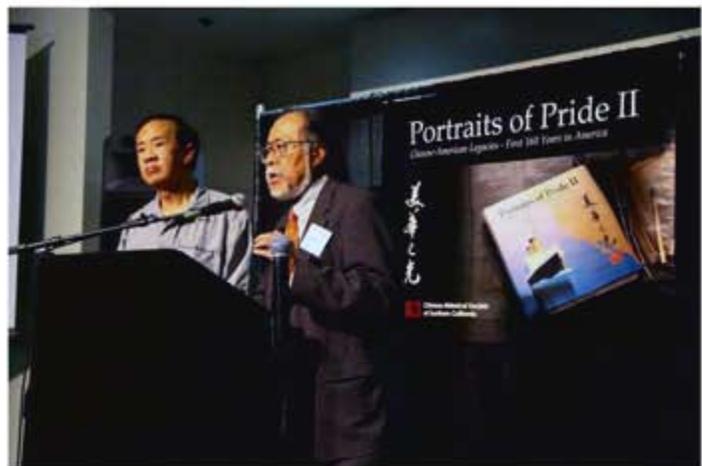
For PoP II's creators—its publisher, editors, writers, book and production designer, cover designer, design consultant, and the audience gathered for the event—the October 13th publication launch of *Portraits of Pride II Chinese American Legacies—First 160 Years in America (PoP II)* at Azusa Pacific University was a celebration of the book.

The attendees included Chinese Historical Society of Southern California members, Azusa Pacific University (APU) executives, faculty, students, and those who heard of the event through the Chinese Historical Society's publications. Numerous copies of PoP II were sold that evening. Many who bought the book sought Project Director and Editor-in-Chief LP Leung who was pleased to autograph the beautiful volume.

Dennette Miramontes, Senior Director of Development of APU presented the evening's agenda.

David E. Bixby, APU Executive Vice President, spoke and introduced Chinese Historical Society of Southern California President Eugene Moy.

Mr. Moy remarked when he watched the 10th Anniversary memorial ceremony for 9-11, a solo presentation by internationally famous cello virtuoso, Yo-Yo Ma, moved him the most because he is a Chinese American who is profiled in POP II. Through the PoP II profile, Moy learned Yo-Yo Ma has recently been designated a United Nations Messenger of Peace. The CHSSC president stated he is introducing the book to the audience so they can learn more about Yo-Yo Ma and other Chinese Americans of achievement.



Photos: O.C. Lee

Moy also praised Mr. Leung's ability to assemble a team of talented, volunteer writers to interview, research, and write PoP II's articles; to write about the complex work of these individuals; and his obvious ability to grasp their work.

Eugene Moy then introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. LP Leung.

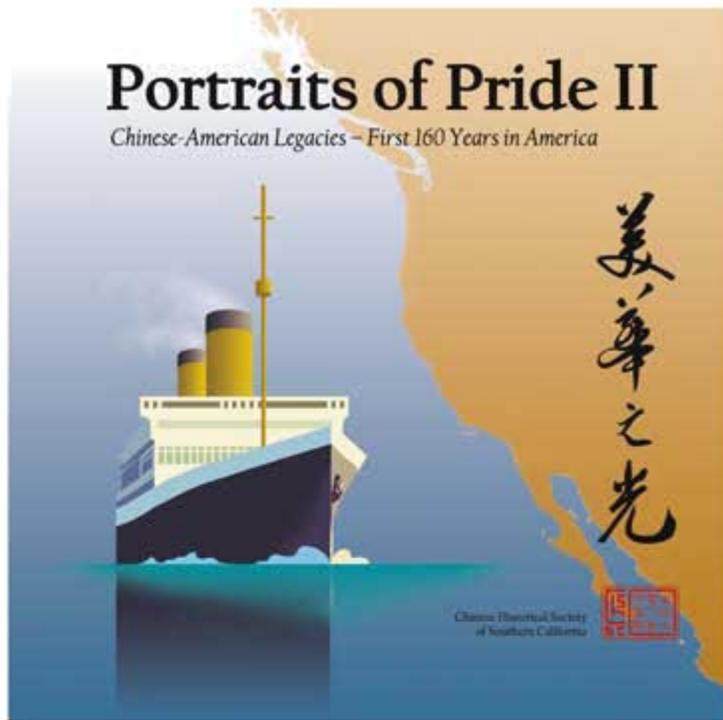
Mr. Leung explained that although he is not a writer or historian, he took on the director's role of the *Portraits of Pride II* project because current and future generations need to know and be proud of their ancestors' world-impacting achievements. By showcasing the positive contributions of Chinese Americans, Leung hopes to counteract the Wen Ho Lee fiasco, as well as answer former president Bill Clinton's question, "What did the Chinese Americans do?" The PoP II director also emphasized reading the historical material toward the back of the book is vital to understand how the California and federal laws were used to repress and humiliate Chinese Americans.

A PowerPoint teaser (film trailer) highlighted key book profiles and Chinese-American Nobel laureates. Actor Jack Ong narrated the PowerPoint presentation, graphic artist Fenton Eng produced it, and arranger and musician, Hunter Woo composed its multi-track score.

We thank all those who helped with the book signing event, including Marian Chew, Fenton Eng, Jack Ong, Gordon Hom and Edward Ng.

We ask you to contribute to the *Portraits of Pride* publishing project in the following ways: 1) make donations to the *Portraits of Pride* project which are fully tax-deductible; 2) Purchase one or more copies of PoP II and, having read it, donate it to your public library; and 3) Spread the word by appealing to Chinese-American parents since this book has the potential to inspire the next generation.





*"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

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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 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MC # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



NOVEMBER 2011

## Commemorating 1871 Chinese Massacre on 140th Anniversary

This past Saturday, CHSSC president Eugene Moy joined a small gathering at Placita de Dolores, a small square across from Union Station, the site of Old Chinatown, to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the October 24, 1871 Los Angeles Chinese Massacre. This impromptu event was organized by David Louie, a member of the city commission (the other Asian on the 9-member commission is Lisa See) that oversees El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, which includes various facilities and programs such as Olvera Street, the Italian Hall, the Avila Adobe, and the Chinese American Museum. The El Pueblo area was also the site of the infamous Chinese Massacre. Rising anti-Chinese sentiment in the community, fanned by hostile newspaper articles, coupled with an existing environment of violence, and finally the shooting death of Robert Thompson when he stepped armed into a Chinese-owned business in the middle of a dispute, led to a riot involving hundreds of local townspeople and the death of 18 Chinese.

The commemorative ceremony was led by David Louie, with a historical narrative by William Estrada, former El Pueblo curator and now Chair of the History Department at the L.A. County Natural History Museum. Commentary was provided by 49th district Assemblymember Mike Eng and L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, who reflected on our great diversity today, and learning from history to address ethnic and community conflicts to avoid outbursts of violence that can claim innocent lives.

Others in attendance were South Pasadena Mayor Mike Ten, and members of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance and Friends of the Chinese American Museum. The ceremony culminated in the recital of the name of each of the Chinese victims, followed by the tolling of the bronze bell in La Placita. Afterwards, the gathering walked to the Los Angeles Street frontage of the Chinese American Museum, where a bronze plaque in the sidewalk marks the approximate location of the Chinese Massacre.





## 5th Grader's Poem: 'He Loved America Both Good and Bad'

By Mary Ann Zehr

A California 5th grader's poem about her grandfather, an immigrant from China, has been selected as the winning entry for the "Celebrate America" contest sponsored by the Washington-based American Immigration Council.

With the contest, volunteer attorneys visit 5th grade classrooms to talk about immigration and provide information about the competition. This year's judges included big names such as Randi Weingarten, the president of the America Federation for Teachers, and U.S. Senator Dan Inouye, a Democrat from Hawaii.

Maya Young Wong of Altadena, a student at Castelar Elementary School in Los Angeles Chinatown, based her winning poem on the life of her "Grandfather Ben," who died before she was born, but whose life was honored in stories told to Maya by her grandmother.

I like how the poem reflects Maya's understanding that her grandfather's life wasn't easy in the United States. When it came to jobs, "chances for Chinese were least to fewest," she says. After getting shot as a soldier in World War II, she writes, "He didn't win any fame or medals/Just came back home to wed and settle."

She concludes, "He loved America both good and bad."



金山

2011 National Grand Prize Winning Entry

### My Grandfather Ben

From China sailed my Grandfather Ben.  
He came to America when he was four plus ten.  
His Guangzhou village was small and poor  
And he helped his mother with farming chores.  
Every morning he gathered bits of firewood  
And drew water from the well as much as he could.  
From morning to night he slaved like an ox.  
But it was never enough to fill the rice box.  
So his parents said, "You'd better leave home  
And go to America where you can roam".  
Until you find a great place of your own.  
America, Gold Mountain, is the place to go  
Big and wide, and high and low.  
Everything is yes, and there are never any nos.  
But here in America life was hard  
And it wasn't like a birthday card.  
Golden Mountain didn't have jobs  
For Chinese men, and that made them sob.  
From San Francisco to Saint Louis  
Chances for Chinese were least to fewest.  
Still his heart never gave way  
Cause he knew hard work always pays.  
So Grandpa Ben worked hard again.  
Slaving in a laundry from five to ten.  
And he lived in important USA times  
Starting from cool Jazz Age crime  
Right on down to the Great Depression's  
Brother can you spare a dime.  
Until finally his big chance came  
To show American and Chinese are the same.  
He joined the army in World War II  
And fought in Europe for the red, white and blue.  
All over he fought bringing supplies  
To American soldiers on the lines.  
Until one day he was shot in the back  
And his jeep flipped over and he got smacked.  
He didn't win any fame or medals  
Just came back home to wed and settle.  
Still to me he is The Greatest Hero.  
Cause he never gave up and never said no.  
He loved America both good and bad  
And taught his 5 kids not to be sad.  
Work hard, dream big, and never give up.  
And one day Gold Mountain will live up  
To what is written on the Statue of Liberty  
Chances for all and the gift to be free.  
To my Chinese Grandfather,  
Whom I love and honor.



**Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California  
Members and Donors  
(October 2011)**

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*We would like to express  
deep appreciation  
to the following members  
for supplying refreshments  
at our monthly meetings:*

Winifred Lew  
Susan Sing  
Drs. Tim and Annie Siu  
Sylvia Soo Hoo  
Susan Chan-Tanahashi



*Deepest gratitude to the following organizations and  
individuals for their generous donations in support of  
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's Visit to Los Angeles Exhibit*

CACA – San Gabriel Lodge  
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Alice Tom  
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Gay Yuen



*Congratulations to Annie Chin Siu, D.D.S.  
and Tim K. Siu, M.D. for receiving  
the Cal State L.A. University Service Award  
at the 37th Annual Alumni Awards Gala  
held on Thursday, October 6, 2011*



## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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

Help us save paper and postage, email us for your online newsletter at [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com)

### Community Calendar

#### Wednesday, November 2, 6:30pm

##### To Whom It May Concern - Ka Shen's Journey

A special screening of the definitive and true life story of Nancy Kwan, who as a young Eurasian girl from Hong Kong captured the hearts and minds of cinemagoers around the world in her stunning motion picture debut role in *The World of Suzie Wong* (1960), then in her unforgettable follow up role as "Linda Lo" in the all Asian, hit musical *Flower Drum Song* (1961). Castelar School 840 Yale St., Los Angeles, CA 90012 Free parking – enter via College St.

#### Now – Jan. 31, 2012

**Remembering Angel Island** exhibition commemorates the 100th year anniversary of the opening of Angel Island Immigration Station through its history, legacy, and unforgettable stories. Constructed in 1910 in the heart of San Francisco Bay, Angel Island Immigration Station processed more than one million immigrants from over 80 countries - including 175,000 Chinese.

Chinese American Museum

425 N. Los Angeles St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 [www.camla.org](http://www.camla.org)

#### Special Exhibition Tour

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

**Now – 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](mailto:pedrochan@aol.com)

#### Chinese American Film Festival at the Pacific Asia Museum:

##### Dali-Love at First Sight - Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 p.m.

light reception, followed by a 7 p.m. panel discussion with CAFF filmmakers and cast members. Film starts @ 8:00 p.m. Length: 90 min, in English. In Dali, 5,000 years of Chinese culture and modern life-style blend into one of the most fascinating travel experiences in the world; a wonderland of fantasy mystique and ancient splendor.

##### Once Upon a Time in Tibet – Saturday, November 5 @ 2:00 p.m.

Length: 96 min, in Chinese with English subtitles  
Set at the beginning of World War II, an American pilot en route from India crashes in Tibet. The locals see the stranger's arrival as a bad omen, so Yongcho, the "cursed woman", is charged with the duty of taking care of him and sending him away after he recovers.

##### Color Me Love - Saturday, November 12, @ 2:00 p.m.

Length: 107 mins, in Chinese with English subtitles  
College graduate Wang Xiaofei scored a job at a high fashion magazine. In this bizarre yet fresh circle, came in contact with dreamy fashion, art and luxury and what's more, fell in love coincidentally with the hot and famous avant-garde painter, Luan Yihong.

RSVP, call 626-449-2742 extension 31 (press 131 to access extension 31), Free to members of PAM, general admission \$9, senior and students \$7.

Pacific Asia Museum 46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101. [www.pacificasiamuseum.org](http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org)