



May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

By Greg Hugh



May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian Pacific encompasses the entire Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (Fiji, New Guinea, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Micronesia (Guam, Kiribati, Marianas, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Wake Island, Palau) and Polynesia (Cook Islands, Easter Island, French Polynesia, Hawaiian Islands, Midway Islands, New Zealand, Rotuma, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu).

A 1978 joint congressional resolution established Asian-Pacific American Heritage Week to be observed in May, a month chosen to

coincide with two important anniversaries: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a month-long celebration during which the achievements of American ethnic groups with roots in Asia and the Pacific Islands are honored and their contributions to the United States recognized. The U.S. Census Bureau lists more than 25 such groups – Australians, Bangladeshi, Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipinos, native Hawaiians, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, New Zealanders, Pakistani, Polynesian, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai and Vietnamese. As Americans, they contribute to the strength of the U.S., help shape its future and share in its promise and opportunity.

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China in Cuba

By Elaine Dunn

After restoring full diplomatic relations with Cuba in December 2014, the Obama Administration has been striving to cultivate normalization between the two countries. The president visited the island nation in March – the first sitting U.S. President to do so in 88 years. A year earlier, a high-level U.S. delegation also visited to discuss telecommunication and Internet infrastructure and equipment, with hopes of playing a major role and profitable contracts in the Cuban wireless market.

Gallant efforts, but no cigars! The Chinese are already a few steps ahead.

Cuba turned to China for its Internet connectivity and equipment, at least in the short foreseeable future. U.S. telecommunications companies also may have been given the cold shoulder because the U.S. had historically tried to undermine the Castro regime in that area. China's President Xi Jinping visited in July 2014 and signed 29 bilateral agreements in areas of finance, agriculture, industry, telecommunications, oil and energy.

Besides, China and Cuba have much in common: both are communist countries; both are at a critical point in terms of reform and development. The two countries have witnessed rapid growth of economic and trade ties in recent years. In fact, Cuba had increasingly courted Chinese trade and investments to shore up its fragile economy. China has been Cuba's second-largest trading partner since the 1990s. (The number one spot belongs to Venezuela.)

In 1847, after the first Opium War, 140,000 Chinese were sold to Cuba as



Chinatown gateway

coolies to replace the slaves from Africa. Then more Chinese arrived in Cuba en masse in the 1850s. Changes in the Chinese farming system, political discontent and ethnic strife -- especially in southern China -- led many farmers and peasants to look for work overseas. On July 3, 1857, 200 Chinese laborers arrived by ship. They had signed eight-year contracts, crossed the oceans blue to work in Cuba's sugarcane fields. However, many of these Chinese were severely abused and committed suicides. Most died before they completed their contracts. The Chinese government sent investigators to Cuba in 1873 to look into the high suicide rates of its laborers.

As a result, 1874 saw the last ship carrying Chinese laborers to Cuba.

Many Chinese laborers married Cubans. By the 1870s, the Chinese Cuban community had grown to about 40,000. Havana had a Chinatown, el Barrio Chino that covered a 44-block square and was one of the biggest Chinese communities in Latin America in its heyday. The enterprising Chinese also started operating laundries, restaurants and small retail shops as well as working in local factories. Some even fought along Cubans that toppled the regime of Fulgencio Batista (whose father was part Chinese).

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Publisher's Pronouncements

Greetings:

Now that April showers have come and gone, I'm sure everyone is anxious to get going on their lawns and gardens. For me, a sure sign that spring has arrived is how my body reacts to the pollen circulating in the air. I sure hope that not many of you are having to deal with this annual malady, but are experiencing the more pleasurable aspects of the season.

Also, marking the return of spring this month are the Festival of Nations and the celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. On the back page, you can see photo highlights from the 9th Annual Passage to China that was held at Mall of America April 9 & 10.

In addition to observing Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we also will celebrate Memorial Day on Monday, May

30, in honor of the men and women who served in the U.S. military services. We are honored to present an article about three early Chinese American immigrants and their accomplishments. The article (pp. 10 & 11), was developed by Edina resident, retired Major General William Chen. It pays tribute to the three Chinese railroad workers and their descendants who flew with the Chinese Flying Tigers.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to contribute an article that you feel would be of interest to our readers. It can be on any topic that has a China connection, whether it be in history, culture, business, travel, arts, food or whatever. Or, if you prefer to cleverly express your view in a cartoon, that would be welcome as well. We would love to have

you join us as a volunteer contributor, so please feel free to contact us with any ideas you may have.

The staff of China Insight would also like to honor all mothers on their special day on May 8. We urge you to recognize your mother for all that she does.

As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Hugh

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Chinese buying up Vancouver

A third of the homes sold in Vancouver in 2015 were snapped up by mainland Chinese, totaling \$9.6 billion. They also snapped up 14 percent of Toronto’s property. The Canadian government is looking into the impact of housing prices for the locals.

Wealthy Chinese also bought property in New Zealand, one of whom became the prime minister’s neighbor and one bought an entire island! Tycoons Wang Jianlin bought a \$114.4 million mansion in London’s “Billionaire Row” while Jack Ma bought himself a centuries-old Bordeaux vineyard, a 28,100-acre stretch in New York’s Adirondacks and the world’s second most expensive home on Hong Kong’s Victoria Peak.

Internet security chief blocked

The “father” of China’s “Great firewall” was ridiculed at a recent speech at Harbin Institute of Technology when he was blocked by his firewall while trying to demonstrate how South Korea also has similar Internet security controls.

To continue, he had to set up a virtual private network to bypass state censorship! Social media ridicule was swift. Comments ranged from “Blocked by his own system,” to “so dedicated he did not leave a back door even for himself.”

Incompetent wait-staff fired

Two restaurants in Gaungzhou closed after its “staff” were fired. The restaurants had been employing robotic wait staff. Their human counterparts complained about the robots’ inability to carry soup and other food plates steadily, not to mention they broke down frequently. The robots also could not take orders or pour hot water/tea for the customers.

However, the robots were superior in attracting customers to walk through the door!

Childhood dream realized

A 42 year-old Hong Kong graphic designer who grew up watching robot cartoons dreamt of owning his own robot some day. He spent \$52,000 and 1.5 years to create a female robot that responds to programmed commands spoken into a microphone. Its owner said approximately 70 percent of its body was created using a 3D printer.

The corners of the life-sized, life-like prototype’s lips curl up when told she is beautiful. She also responds with “Hehe, thank you.” Creepy.

Church with no religious function

The Cinderella High-Heel Church stands 52-ft tall and 33-ft wide. The high heel consists of 320 panes of blue glass and is located at the Ocean View Park in Chiayi County, southern Taiwan. The art installation is meant to attract more female tourists. No report on whether it accomplished its objective yet.

Desperate? Absurd? Or both?

Chinese imperial seal set record

A seal carved for and used by China’s longest reigning emperor, Kangxi, fetched USD10.5 million at a Sotheby’s auction mid-March. The third highest price paid for a Chinese imperial seal came from an Asian buyer.

The seal bears four characters, jingtian qinmin, meaning “revere heaven and serve thy people.” ♦



Tiananmen Museum closing doors



Organizers of Hong Kong’s Tiananmen Museum will be closing the world’s only museum dedicated to China’s Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989 by year’s end. They believe they are being targeted for political reasons when there’s increasing concern on renewed pro-democracy sentiment in Hong Kong. Pro-Beijing

groups protested the museum’s opening in 2014.

More than half of the visitors are from the mainland where mention of the June 4 massacre is banned. Organizers say they are looking for new and bigger premises, free of legal battles with the current building tenants’ committee officials. ♦

The taco cleanse

Here’s the foodie’s answer to spring cleaning: a Hong Kong restaurant will be offering three vegan tacos that will leave eaters “more energized and rejuvenated” after three days. The tacos are based on recipes developed by Los Angeles taco “scientists.”

Interested taco cleansers can purchase a three- or seven-day cleanse kit that includes all the ingredients and recipes for making your tacos. Tacos bought at the store will be approximately \$4.50 each and the three-day kit, \$30. No price available on the seven-day kit yet. ♦

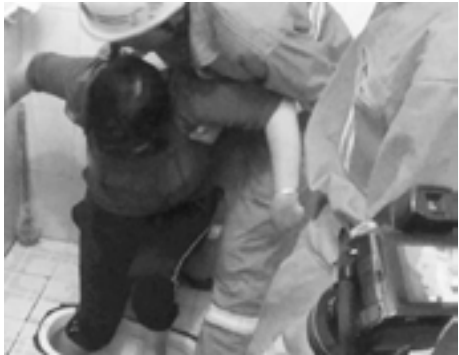


A truly sh#&!@%* accident

Beware where you put your feet when using a squat toilet next time! Apparently, firefighters in China have extensive experience rescuing stuck limbs in those little cesspools!

The latest incident occurred in a Nanjing company dormitory where a woman got her entire foot and ankle trapped in the toilet hole. Lucky for her, she had her mobile on her to call for help.

The firefighters poured cooking oil on her foot and down the hole and slipped her foot out. Perhaps besides the mobile, one



should consider carrying a vial of cooking oil to the squat toilet as well! ♦

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By the numbers
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Changing face of Australia
The Chinese population in Australia has grown rapidly since the late 1990s. It is the single largest immigrant group there after the Indians. Also, Australia’s permanent Chinese population is getting younger – and there are more females than males arriving.
No surprise then, that China is the largest investor in Australia for the year that ended June 30, 2015, and Australia’s largest two-way trading partner in goods and services. Australia is also the second most-favored foreign country for Chinese investors, after the U.S.
The flow of Chinese money into Australian real estate and agriculture has raised political sensitivities. Critics argue that residential property prices jumped double digits and farm purchases puts Australia’s food security at risk. The government has suggested resulting in suggested stricter new rules.
24 million is the rough estimate of Australia’s total population.
866,001 Chinese living in Australia as of the 2011 census.
1.8 percent increase in the proportion of the Australian population who were born in China over the past decade.
60 percent growth in Chinese investments in Australia, totaling approximately \$15 billion in 2015.
45 percent of the Chinese investments are concentrated in real estate. Other major investments were in renewable energy (20 percent), healthcare (17 percent), mining (9 percent), infrastructure, gas and oil, and agribusiness (each 3%).
94 percent of Chinese real estate investments are concentrated in New South Wales.
7 “mega deals,” each worth more than \$500 million, accounted for much of the investment in Australia. Four were worth well over \$1 billion.
12 deals worth a total of \$375.2 million were in the dairy, beef and cotton sectors.
<2 billion USD is the total Chinese investments on Australian farms or agricultural businesses, according to research by the accounting firm KPMG and the University of Sydney’s China studies centre, one of the few sources of detailed information on Chinese investment.
202 million USD is the purchase price for one of the largest dairy producers (Van Dieman Land Company on the island of Tasmania) by a Chinese investment firm in February 2016.

No prison time for ex-NYPD officer Peter Liang

By Elaine Dunn

Former New York Police Officer Peter Liang will not serve time behind bars for the death of Akai Gurley. Gurley died from a bullet fired by Liang that had ricocheted off a wall in a dark stairwell in a Brooklyn housing project in November 2014.

Outside the courthouse on April 19, sentencing day, scores of angry protesters and more than 200 cops gathered, including those from the NYPD's counterterrorism unit. Metal barricades were put up to control potential clashes between Liang supporters and Gurley protesters. Emotions ran high. Liang's supporters held up "One tragedy, two victims" signs and chanted "Justice for Liang." Gurley's supporters chanted, "Indict, convict, send those killer cops to jail. The whole damn system is guilty as hell."

There had been accusations that the prosecutors were scapegoating Liang because of his Chinese American heritage. Liang, a mild-mannered 28-year-old, is the son of Chinese immigrants. He grew up and attended school in New York's Chinatown. His mother was a garment factory worker who eventually became a travel agent. His father worked as a cook.

After his conviction in February 2015, Liang became the first NYPD officer to be convicted in a fatal shooting in the line of duty since 2005

em - the Asian American community quickly coalesced in his support. Numerous rallies around the country were organized, many drawing as many as 10,000 supporters, and funds were raised to help in Liang's legal fees.

The Asian community was justifiably concerned that the presiding judge Danny K. Chun, himself an Asian American of Korean descent, might feel compelled to hand down a harsh sentence for fear of being perceived as "being soft" on another Asian.

Although the Brooklyn District Attorney had sought a conviction aggressively, he also asked the Chun to spare Liang prison time. He noted in a letter to Chun, "Because the incarceration of the defendant is not necessary to protect the public, and because of the unique circumstances of this case, the People do not believe that a prison sentence



Peter Liang (L) walking out of courtroom.

are some highly emotional feelings about this case, as everybody knows. But bottom line: I know for a fact that he will do the right thing as he sees fit."

As Chun handed down the sentence of five years' probation and 800 hours of community service, he said, "Shooting that gun and killing someone was probably the last thing in his [Liang's] mind and probably never entered his mind at all. This was not an intentional act ... There's no evidence, either direct or circumstantial, that the defendant was aware of Akai

is warranted."

Prior to sentencing, Chun received petitions and letters from the Asian-American community to show leniency. However, as Michael Farkas, the president of the Kings County Criminal Bar Association told The New York Times in a story published on April 12, "There

Gurley's presence." Chun also reduced the manslaughter conviction to criminally negligent homicide, a non-violent felony, because he felt the prosecutors failed to show Liang 'consciously disregarded' a substantial risk of death."

As expected, the lenient sentence drew criticism from African Americans, who have demanded greater accountability from a system they claimed that does not value black lives. Gurley's supporters told reporters, "There's no justice." However, a defense lawyer who was not involved with the case commented, "... the judge called it the way he sees it." He said the criminally negligent homicide finding was more in line with what happened — "a terrible accident."

Liang's supporters were relieved. Liang himself talked briefly with Gurley's friend and mother of his 3-year-old daughter, telling her how deeply sorry he was for their loss, saying, "I know you lost a loved one, a provider. I couldn't be sadder."

Although Liang dodged a 15-year prison term, his life (and those of the Gurley family) will never be the same again. The kid who grew up dreaming of becoming a police officer will have to grapple with a dream unrealized.

There are no winners, no matter how you look at it. ♦

Investigative newspaper editor's sacking weakens HK press freedom

By Elaine Dunn



Ming Pao's front page story on Panama Papers

Two years ago, around the time of the Hong Kong pro-democracy protests, the chief editor of investigative newspaper Ming Pao was brutally stabbed on the streets of Hong Kong.

Two years later, following Ming Pao's

front-page story linking top Hong Kong businessmen, celebrities and politicians to offshore accounts as revealed in the Panama Papers leak, its top news editor was abruptly sacked on April 19. Is it coincidence or is it another form of suppressing press freedom?

Ming Pao is one of Hong Kong's most respected Chinese-language papers. Its management issued an official statement claiming the firing was a cost-cutting move. However, staff and journalist organizations are not buying it. They question the "saving resources" claim and held a rally with signs that said, "Not clear, not open."

This latest incident calls into question the paper's editorial independence. It also calls attention to the greater question: is Hong Kong's media once again under threat?

Emily Lau, chairwoman of Hong Kong's Democratic Party, said, "The whole pro-

fession is trembling like a leaf because of political and economic pressures."

The Hong Kong Journalists Association said, "We are deeply worried and unsettled about the space and degree of freedom for local news."

According to Paris-based Reporters Without Borders' report released one day after the firing, Hong Kong's press freedoms had dipped slightly in 2015 -- it is now ranked 69th in the world, down from 34th in 2010. (China is currently ranked 176 out of 180!) Even though the Hong Kong media could still cover sensitive stories, "the need to fight to protect their editorial positions from Beijing's influence is increasingly noticeable," its report stated.

A Hong Kong University survey of 1,006 respondents conducted between April 11-14 showed Hong Kongers' satisfaction with press freedom has fallen to the lowest

level since 1997, the year the former British colony was returned to China. More than half of the respondents believe local news media practiced self-censorship.

At the same time, a small comfort may be gleaned from Jack Ma's pledge not to interfere in editorial decisions of the South China Morning Post, his new purchase. "I have neither the experience nor desire to interfere with the newsroom operation. I will not take part in the editorial decision-making," Ma said, nevertheless reserving the right to weigh in as a reader."

Ma's Alibaba completed its purchase of SCMP, Hong Kong's venerable English-language paper of record, in early April 2016. ♦

(Read detailed articles on the state of Hong Kong's and China's press freedom in the April 2016 and February 2015 China Insight at www.chinainsight.info.)

Committee of 100 names new chair



Frank H. Wu as Chair Incoming chairman is Distinguished Professor at University of California Hastings College of Law; looks forward to bridge-building opportunities within Chinese American community

The Committee of 100, a non-profit organization of prominent Chinese American leaders in business, government, academia, entertainment and the arts, named Frank H. Wu as chairman on April 17.

Wu previously served as Chancellor and Dean at University of California Hastings College of Law and continues as a Distinguished Professor of the school. He has been a member of the Committee for almost 15 years.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to serve as C-100's chairman since I believe strongly in this organization's mission and the powerful impact it can have on U.S.-China relations and the standing of Chinese Americans," said Wu.

"A strong relationship between the U.S. and China is now more important than ever and the distinguished Chinese American membership of C-100 is uniquely positioned to serve as a bridge between the two countries. I look forward to working with my fellow members and the greater Chinese American community to ensure that we can

be a force for positive, lasting change."

C-100's outgoing chairman Herman Li said: "I am thrilled that Frank will be the Committee's new chairman. Not only has he been a vocal and effective advocate against racial bias, he also had a long history of commitment to a variety of philanthropic and cultural causes that will be of tremendous benefit to our members."

Before joining UC Hastings, Wu was a member of the faculty at Howard University, served as Dean of Wayne State University Law School in his hometown of Detroit, and was a

continued on page 7

The Rise of Sun Yatsen

By Pat Welsh, contributor

That Sun Yatsen (孫日新 or Sun Zhongshan 孫中山) struggled to overthrow the old Qing Dynasty is common knowledge. Less well understood is the age in which he developed.

Sun grew up in Xiangshan County (香山縣) between Macao and Guangzhou as a peasant. That area had a long history of contact with foreigners and anti-Manchu feelings. Here Sun learned as a boy about the popular folklore of the valor of the Taiping Revolution that had ended shortly before his birth.

At the age of 13, Sun went to Honolulu to join his elder brother in 1879 at the British-Anglican Iolani School, where he became a Christian as part of his Westernization. The sentiment there at that time was pro-Hawaiian Independence and against American annexation. He then went on to Oahu College (later known as the Punahou School). Fearing that Sun was becoming too westernized, his brother sent him back home to China only to have Sun expelled to Hong Kong for desecrating local idols. He was baptized as a Congregationalist in Hong Kong and studied at the College of Medicine.

Despite his foreign upbringing, Sun developed a keen sense of nationalism. Underlying Sun's nationalist sentiments were his observation that China of the 1890s had become very different from the China of his boyhood. In China's port cities, the main streets were clogged with Japanese rickshaws. China's factories, railways and steamships were humming with steam engines that were all imported, not made in China. Foreigners and their equipment seemed to have become as pervasive as in an outright European colony. Sun also saw how cheap rural labor was flocking to the cities to work with manufacturing, cotton and tobacco enterprises.

Sun also recognized that Chinese society saw the emergence of new paths toward upward mobility. He observed that the old scholar-farmer-merchant-craftsmen classes were no longer the sole sources of respectability. He witnessed the emergence of the comprador class of Chinese individuals who worked for foreign interests. Upward mobility also could be achieved through officer training at military academies. The social distinction between the scholar gentry and the merchant class had now become blurred as the merchant could now acquire a degree status and qualify for the government bureaucracy. The abolition of the examination system based on the old classics gave rise to a new class of intelligentsia. Those achieving the new education from the West became manufacturers, traders and journalists.

From these observations and his growing sense of nationalism, Sun began undertaking a new role as a professional revolutionary

and a party organizer. In his early days before the Boxer Uprising, he was very unsuccessful. The popular reformers Liang Qichao (梁啟超) and Kang Youwei (康有為) viewed him as an uneducated upstart. His writings had been criticized as being too banal. Other revolutionary figures were

often better than he was. The popular Li Hongzhang (李鴻章), who had agitated for reforms in the imperial government ignored Sun when Sun had taken a reform proposal to him in 1894. Physically, Sun was of medium height and slightly built, nothing spectacular to look at.

Over time, he did try to work with the triad society strongmen, Japanese expansionists, Chinese students, as well as other reformers. He also worked with overseas Chinese merchants, Comintern agents, warlords and anyone who might deign to listen to him. Philosophically he was flexible, careful not to adhere to ideologies that might limit his options.

Despite his shortcomings, after the Boxer Uprising, his stature as a revolutionary figure gradually grew. People noticed that he was working for a cause that he knew was larger than himself. He had gradually developed a charisma among his peers. He had developed a network of cooperating supporters, both Chinese and foreign. He made it a point to learn from his failures and mistakes. Over time, he was to the young Kuomintang Party what Lenin was to the Russian Revolution.

Formed in 1894, the Revive China Society was Sun's first secret organization. Its membership was largely overseas Chinese in Hawaii. In 1895, a small branch of this organization was set up in Hong Kong. Sun had hoped that Japan's defeat of China in that year might become an event to take advantage of during the unrest developing in southern China. In 1896 in Guangzhou, he set up the Agricultural Study Society and made use of a Christian bookstore there to plot an unsuccessful uprising. The local authorities had been tipped off and a number of the plotters were arrested. Sun fled and eventually landed in London, where he was seized and held in the Chinese legation for 12 days. With the help of a friend who notified Scotland Yard, the Foreign Office and the Times newspaper, Sun obtained his release.

In 1897, Sun returned to Japan where his fame preceded him. He found himself adopted by a Pan-Asianist organization that had been looking for a Chinese leader whom they could assist in the regeneration and modernization of a new China. There Sun took on the Japanese name Nakayama ("Middle-Mountain"), the Chinese characters for this was Zhongshan, 中山.

After 1900, Sun tried again to instigate an uprising with the help of triads, bandits and Hakka farmers in a village not far from

Hong Kong; but this, too, failed.

In its Kanda district in early 20th Century Tokyo the evolution of a new source of revolution fed by a revived sense of nationalism gradually emerged. There thousands of Chinese students who had been sent to Japan for an education often saw themselves being taunted by native Japanese children for their antiquated queues and long gowns. They had become humiliated by the vivid show of China's weakness and arch-conservatism. They responded by studying the way a modern Chinese state could be created using Japanese and Western ideas. Yen Fu (嚴復), a translator, provided Chinese translations of the works of J. S. Mill, Adam Smith, T.H. Huxley and other western writers.

From his failures Sun recognized that he needed a theory of revolution and what a revolution would bring if he were to be successful in recruiting intellectuals as organizers. In 1903, he began to write articles. Later he would write the book "On Revolution." He also came up with an intellectual device that he called the Three People's Principles (三民主義) of nationalism, democracy and socialism. In Sun's eyes, the term "minzu zhuyi" (民族主義) meant the people and races combined into one nation. The second term, "minquan" (民權主義) referred to the people's rights and power. The third term was actually a classical Chinese expression "minsheng" (民生主義) that referred to the people's livelihood. Sun's idea of socialism was not those of Marx and Engle's, rather it was more similar to that of Henry George and his single-tax theory, more concerned with the people's welfare than ownership of the means of production.

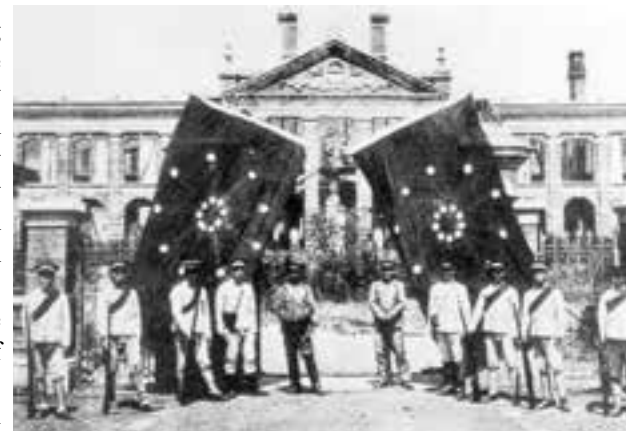
Sun also favored a five-branch national government structure. In his writings he envisioned not only the legislature, executive and judicial branches but also examination and censorial branches as well.

In August 1905, Sun established the Tongmenghui (同盟會), a revolutionary alliance to unify the revolution under his leadership. Within these groups, most came from upper-class elite students from central China. They accepted Sun largely because he seemed to be able to get results by attracting foreign help and funds. The Chinese students in Tokyo actively adopted these new ideals, took the oaths requested of them and approved a complex structure of officers, branch organizations, programs and publications. Part of the strategy of the Tongmenghui was to get the western governments to help create a Chinese republic.

In 1907, Sun faced failure. Once again, seen as a troublemaker, Sun was expelled from Japan. The following year he was banished from French Indochina as well. The Tongmenghui began to lose its momentum and popularity and Sun was expelled from this organization as well.

When the Revolution of October 10, 1911, broke out, Sun was in the United States drumming up support for his revolution. The revolution turned out to be more of a collapse of the Qing government than a real revolution. A New Army officers' plot in Hankow was exposed and about 3,000

soldiers rebelled in order to save themselves. A sergeant in an engineering battalion Xiong Bingkun (熊秉坤) gathered up his army comrades, assaulted and occupied an ammunition dump. An army service corps then fought its way to join with Xiong's men at Wuchang. An assault on the office of the Qing governor-general Rui-cheng (瑞澂)



at Wuchang, caused Rui and the military commander Chang Biao (張彪) to flee in disorder. A local brigadier Li Yuanhong (黎元洪) found himself pressed into leadership of a new independent regime. During the next six weeks, all provinces except Zhili, Honan, Shandong and three Manchurian provinces declared their independence from the Qing government in Beijing. Sun Yatsen returned to Nanjing and was installed as a provisional president on January 1, 1912. On February 10, 1912, the boy-emperor Henry Puyi (溥儀) abdicated.

Yuan Shikai (袁世凱), who had been recalled to Beijing by the Qing court to serve as a prime minister and commander-in-chief of the collapsing army, was offered the presidency of the new Republic of China if his forces would support the rebellion. Yuan, ambitious and seeing the possibilities of achieving both revenge against the Manchu regent Caifeng (載灃) and of political leadership in a New China acceded to the rebellion. On March 10, 1912, Sun resigned the presidency and Yuan assumed the office. My next offering will look more closely at Yuan Shikai, his development and his reign in office. ♦



About Pat Welsh

In 2009 while teaching English at Sichuan University, Welsh was asked to give a speech where he was introduced to the audience as a "pioneer of Chinese American relations" as a result of his cooperative work in international banking during the Deng Xiaoping era. For more than 65 years, Welsh has been learning Chinese and has used this knowledge both professionally and personally to enhance his understanding of Chinese and Asian affairs. He currently resides in Georgia and occasionally lectures on China to classes in World History and World Literature.

The luckiest generations in the U.S. and in China: the baby boomers and the Generation '89, Part II

By Rick King and Chang Wang, contributors

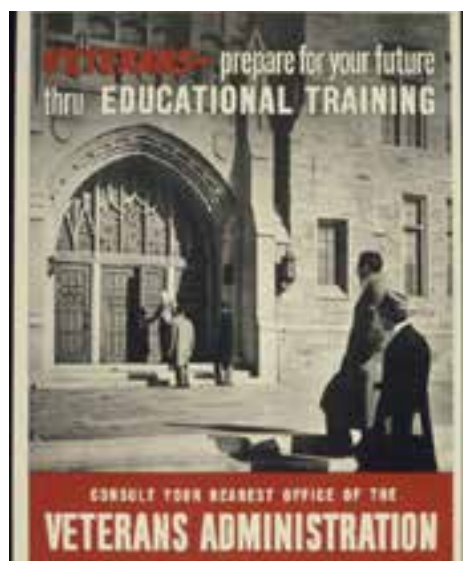
Editor's Note: Both Rick King and Chang Wang consider themselves lucky, and the luckiness is generational. King, a “baby boomer” who was born in California and grew up in Massachusetts, believes overall, his generation is better off than his parents’ and his children’s; Wang, originally from Beijing, belongs to “Generation ’89” in China, even believes his generation is the luckiest in Chinese history since 1842.

China Insight invites King and Wang to author a conversational style essay to compare the lives and the key characteristics of the “baby boomers” in the U.S. and the “Generation ’89” in China.

Last month, King and Wang defined who qualified as the boomers and Generation ’89-ers and described some of the societal and economic circumstances surrounding their formative years. The rest of this series will provide details of, compare, and contrast the various factors that affect and influence the well-being of the “luckiest” generations and the generations that came before and after them.

Education

King: Many people coming back from the war - the parents of the “baby boomers” were educated thanks to the G.I. Bill. After that, the “baby boomers” and their parents needed to figure out how to fund a college education. At that time, our technical high schools were very strong in skill building. Guidance counselors in your school steered you into a technical career, meaning you would learn to be a professional carpenter, plumber, or other trade worker. Or you would go on to college based on their assessment of your aptitude and interests. Cost of college tuition hadn’t exploded yet, but was already significant. But our parents were ready to sacrifice to send us to college to make the future better for us.



A poster of the G.I. Bill after the WWII

This was a time that certain government grants started to show up, to help with educational expenses. There were need-based grants: e.g., Pell Grants and Stafford Grants, to help people who did not have the means to pay for a college education. Universities with strong academic programs also began their own grants. The price of university continued to escalate during our time. It was a time people were clearly routed toward a career aspiration: either college or the trades. For my children’s generation: the expansion of the colleges and schools – two year degrees and four year degrees in college – continued to a great extent, making colleges more and more accessible, but also more unaffordable.

So when you look at school and education, I might say we lived in a good time, though probably not the best time, but definitely better than my children’s generation. The G.I. Bill actually continued after the Korean Conflict, still pretty significant.

For my parents’ generation, education-

ally, very few people did anything outside the United States. The United States was a big booming market itself with plenty of opportunities, so people were very much focused on the U.S. My generation began to think about a semester abroad, but most people who did that were in international finance, international relations, or related fields, working for a foreign degree or foreign language. But, generally speaking, my generation was not encouraged to study abroad. The expansion of the United States was so big that people did not spend much time outside. However, for my children’s generation, it would be almost unheard of for someone to finish college without at least a semester abroad. These days, living and traveling experiences in foreign countries before graduation are the norm, not the exception. It was a good time, but it was a little late because the global market had already evolved considerably with the expansion of possibilities outside the U.S. A lot of my generation was not trained globally to become the leader of global enterprises. They have to learn on the job and learn to know the rest of the world along the way.

Education-wise, my generation was probably not in the best spot, but counting pluses and minuses and considering the accessibility of college for my generation, the result was very positive.

Wang: Generation ’89 did not participate, fortunately, in the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) and the “Down to the Countryside Movement” (1968-1978). The Cultural Revolution destroyed China’s arts, culture and education. In 1968, Mao declared certain privileged urban youth would be sent to mountainous areas or farming villages to learn from the workers and farmers there. In total, approximately 17 million youth were sent to rural areas as a result of the movement. Many fresh high school graduates, who became known as the zhiqing (“Educated Youth,” 知青) in China and the “Sent-down” or “Rusticated Youth” abroad, were forced out of the cities and effectively exiled to remote areas of China. Some commentators pity these people, many of whom lost the opportunity to ever attend college. This generation is now in charge of China’s political and economic policies. Their overall hostility to the modern principles of governance and economy probably could be explained by their early experience in the countryside.

China’s education system was completely shut down during Mao’s Cultural Revolution – and a whole generation before us did not receive education. In 1977, Chinese colleges reopened, so everybody in my generation could have the chance to go to college should they decide to.



One of the freshmen classes at Tsinghua University in Beijing, 1978

Most received at least a college education. Graduate school and professional degrees were very popular for my generation. Study abroad was allowed and was common.

From the late 1970s to early 1990s, Chinese universities were basically tuition-free, and with subsidy and scholarship. However, when I decided to study abroad after graduating from Peking University Graduate School, I had to return the college tuition and graduate school tuition, totaling 22,000RMB (2,660 USD) to the Ministry of Education in 2000.

China’s higher education became commercialized in 1993, so for the generation after us, almost everybody needs to pay for college.

Employment

King: For my parents’ generation, the economy was booming, jobs were readily available. Not everybody was fully employed, but people worked their way out of that. For my generation, the economy was still pretty strong so there weren’t a lot of people who did not find a job when they graduated. Generally speaking, the economy was very positive. I actually think it was a good time for jobs.

I grew up in Massachusetts, went to school there, then to college in Vermont, and taught in Vermont for a while, volunteering for a couple of years before that. There were not a lot of desirable job openings in teaching: I wanted to coach and teach in a small school district, which did not have a lot of openings. But when there was a math-teacher opening, and I took it.

Wang: In the 1980s and early 1990s, Chinese universities and colleges took care of job assignments after students’ graduation. So a lot of people in my generation did not need to make a lot of effort to search for jobs when they graduated from college.

For the generation after us who went to college after the mid-1990s, job market became very competitive. The unemployment rate skyrocketed, even for college graduates.

If you decide to study abroad, then there

will be a different story. I am also very fortunate in that scenario – landing a job with Thomson Reuters.

Housing

King: My generation witnessed a big housing boom. There were lots of differently priced houses. There were not as many different ways to finance a house as today, but home ownership was preferred. People would start with an apartment, and then try to buy a house. The only involvement of the government would be certain types of loans, depending on where you lived, there were types of programs to help people with different levels of income.



Levittown, Long Island, early 1950s

For many people of my generation, seeing housing prices decline in certain areas was a shock because, in most of our lifetime, housing prices always went up. Buying a house was considered to be “the biggest and most secure investment.”

In general, for my generation, housing was booming and purchasing a house was considered a saving tool.

Chang: For my generation, the first residence after you became married was normally a small flat provided by the employer - normally a state-owned-enterprise or government entity. Very few of this kind of flat had an individual bathroom or kitchen, but at least they offered a minimal level of privacy, and it was almost free. You only paid nominal electricity and water charges. As your rank improved, you qualified for a larger flat.

In 1998, commercialization of real estate officially began in China. If you had a flat rented from your employer, you paid a one-time fee to purchase the flat. Since 1998, housing prices increased at least 20 times. So during the process, you most likely had sold your first flat, purchased at least one large apartment, and built a lot of equity, perhaps even bought a few investment properties. Again, this is only true for urban residents. The housing bubble will burst sooner or later, but most of my generation has already cashed in their profits.

I was in graduate school in 1998 so I was not qualified for a flat - I probably missed one of the biggest investment opportunities offered to my generation. ♦

Rick King is executive vice president and Chief Information Officer at Thomson Reuters, which provides professionals with the intelligence, technology and human expertise they need to find trusted answers. King and his wife live in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Chang Wang is chief research and academic officer at Thomson Reuters. Wang and his wife live in Eagan, Minnesota.



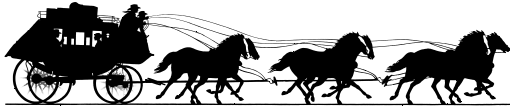
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Baozi chain set to take on America

By Zhang Yi, China Daily, March 4

People Committee of 100 new chair

continued from page 4



The GQS restaurant chain now has nearly 200 branches nationwide, mainly in Shanghai and Hangzhou.

Steamed buns, also called baozi, is the kind of food that couldn't be more familiar in Chinese daily life. Recently, a Hangzhou-based chain specializing in baozi is set to launch an overseas branch in America, the paper.com.cn reported on Friday.

Harvard Square in Boston will be the site for the first store.

This is the first time that a steamed bun chain has opened a branch abroad even though an American coffee chain, which merged with a well-known counterpart "Gou Buli" in Tianjin, declared that it would "never sell baozi in a cafe".

"Why do we try to sell steamed buns in the United States? If we select one kind of food as the ambassador of Chinese tradition-

al food, baozi would be a nice choice, so we would like to promote Chinese cuisine while doing business. Moreover, Americans are keen on handmade things, which is just the way baozi is made," said Gao Jun, deputy general manager of Hangzhou Gan Qi Shi (GQS) Restaurant Management Co Ltd on March 3.

Established in 2009, the GQS restaurant chain now has nearly 200 branches nationwide, mainly in Shanghai and Hangzhou. It is said the annual sales revenue exceeds 200 million yuan, selling nearly 70 million steamed buns every year.

Near Harvard University, Harvard Square is home to dozens of cafes and restaurants, but is not a tourist area always crowded with Chinese visitors. "Our target consumers are local residents and college students who are more likely to accept foreign culture instead of Chinese tourists. Universities and colleges including Harvard University flock together in the Boston, so we make Harvard Square our first overseas site," explained Gao.

As for the filling of the steamed buns, the popular ones are beef with curry and pork

meat, which will certainly be reproduced in the U.S., and the price of the pork ones may hit \$3 before tax per bun. Besides, new products may be launched to cater to local tastes.

According to Gao, there will be steamed buns with fillings like chicken meat and lobster as Americans favor chicken and Boston abounds in lobsters. Compared with the other fillings, the lobster, of course, will be more expensive than others.

"An adult usually eats two or three baozi for one meal, which cost around \$10. That is equal to having fast food like McDonalds. But don't forget that our steamed buns are all handmade, so in light of this, Americans would think baozi are worth more," added Gao.

Besides the fillings, the same standards met by Chinese stores will be demanded in the States. For example, a single baozi weighs 100 grams, of which 60 grams is for the peel and 40 for the filling. Also, 22 peels should be made in one minute.

While the standards remain the same as at home, the employees in the American branch will all be local. "But they certainly need to be trained in Hang Zhou for three months. Right now we have 10 American employees trained among which there are ex-White House officials and head chefs from American restaurant chains," said Gao.

The Harvard Square Chain is supposed to open in the first half of the year and their second overseas shop in Providence is also in the works now. ♦

visiting professor, adjunct professor, or teaching fellow at numerous other academic institutions. He has been dedicated to civic engagement and volunteer service throughout his career, including being appointed by the federal Department of Education to its National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), by the Defense Department to the Military Leadership Diversity Commission, and serving as a Trustee of Deep Springs College near Death Valley.

Wu is the author of "Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White" and co-author of "Race, Rights and Reparation: Law and the Japanese American Internment." He is currently writing a book on the Vincent Chin case, blogs regularly for the Huffington Post, and appears frequently as a media commentator or speaker.

Prior to his academic career, Wu held a clerkship with the late U.S. District Judge Frank J. Battisti in Cleveland and practiced law with the firm of Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco. He received a B.A. from the Johns Hopkins University and a J.D. from the University of Michigan, and completed the Management Development Program of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. ♦

About the Committee of 100

The Committee of 100 is an international non-partisan leadership organization of prominent Chinese Americans in business, government, academia, and the arts. For over 25 years, the Committee has been committed to a dual mission of promoting the full participation of Chinese Americans in all fields of American life, and encouraging constructive relations between the peoples of the United States and Greater China. www.committee100.org.



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Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

continued from page 1

There are 3.8 million Asians of Chinese descent, excluding the Taiwanese, in the U.S. in 2010. Chinese-Americans were the largest Asian group, followed by Filipinos (3.4 million), Asian Indians (3.2 million), Vietnamese (1.7 million), Koreans (1.7 million) and Japanese (1.3 million). These estimates represent the number of people who reported a specific Asian group alone and people who reported that Asian group in combination with one or more other Asian groups or races.

Whether you are Asian American or

non-Asian, you can celebrate APA Heritage Month by eating at Asian restaurants or attending one of the numerous APA Heritage events organized by local Asian American community organizations. Taste the different foods from Asian countries, watch cultural performances and learn more about Asian American history and culture. The Chinese community in the Twin Cities last month celebrated their heritage by holding the ninth annual A Passage to China event at Mall of America, which will also be hosting the Pan Asian Festival which as noted on pg. 16 ♦

Pan Asian Arts Festival

Date & Time: Saturday, May 14, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Location: Sears Court Rotunda, Mall of America, Bloomington

Celebrate many Asian cultures and heritage (Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Hmong, Indonesian, Indian, Vietnamese). This festival will be an opportunity to foster collaboration among Asian American & Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) performing arts/dance groups. Furthermore, the festival bridges all cultures and creates positive dialogues that embrace differences. Enjoy more than 100 performances, multimedia entertainment, arts and crafts, and food from the Asian regions.

“Painting With Words: Gentleman Artists of the Ming Dynasty” at Freer|Sackler



A Spring Gathering
Shen Zhou (1427-1509)
China, Ming dynasty, ca. 1480?
Handscroll; ink and color on paper

The exhibition “Painting With Words: Gentleman Artists of The Ming Dynasty” celebrates the relationship between imagery, brushstrokes and words as mastered by artists of the Wu School in China in the 15th to early 17th centuries. It will be on view in the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, District of Columbia, through July 24.

Highlighting the “Three Perfections” - poetry, painting and calligraphy - which were regarded as the ultimate expressions of Chinese literati culture during the Ming dynasty (1369-1644), the exhibit features 45 scrolls and album leaves by 30 Wu School artists – the first exhibit Freer|Sackler exhibition devoted exclusively to the Wu School. Most works come from the Smithsonian’s Freer Gallery of Art and Sackler Gallery, home to one of the most extensive collections of Chinese painting and calligraphy in the country, with five loans from other U.S. collections. The earliest work is dated 1464; the latest work is dated 1622.

“The more you understand the personal, professional and stylistic relationships among these artists, the more you understand the individual pieces,” said exhibition curator Stephen Allee, the Freer|Sackler’s associate curator for Chinese painting and calligraphy.

The Wu School

Centered in the wealthy commercial city of Suzhou, the Wu School takes its name from a kingdom that ruled the area in antiquity. Members of the Wu School excelled in a wide array of creative expressions, but they were most admired by their contemporaries and later generations for their poetry, calligraphy and painting.

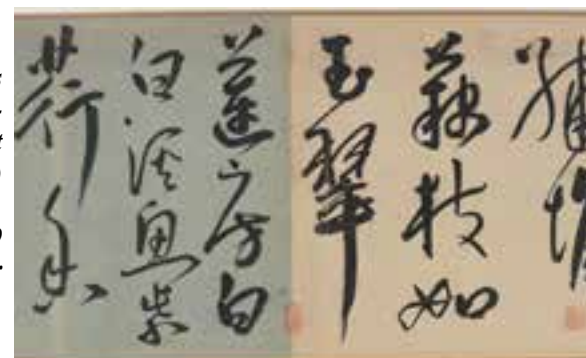
The Wu School encompassed both professional and literati, or gentleman artists. Professional artists produced beautiful highly polished works on popular themes. Gentlemen artists often created painting and calligraphy for each other and their brushwork and themes tended to be nuanced and personal in nature. Accompanying most of the works in the exhibition, poetry was the primary method of social exchange for gentleman artists, as well as their most widely practiced form of self-expression.

“Painting with Words” will have an accompanying website about the objects on display.

About the Freer and Sackler Galleries

The Smithsonian’s Freer Gallery of Art and the adjacent Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., together comprise the nation’s museum of Asian art. It contains one of the most important collections of Asian art in the world, featuring more than 40,000 objects ranging in time from the Neolithic to the present day, with especially fine groupings of Islamic art, Chinese jades, bronzes and paintings and the art of the ancient Near East. The galleries also contain important masterworks from Japan, ancient Egypt, South and Southeast Asia and Korea, as well as the Freer’s noted collection of works by American artist James McNeill Whistler. The Freer, which will be closed during the exhibition, is scheduled to reopen in spring 2017 with modernized technology and infrastructure, refreshed gallery spaces and an enhanced Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Auditorium. ♦

Six Poems on the Lotus Marshes, in running-cursive script
Wang Chong (1494=1533)
China, Ming dynasty, ca. 1528=29
Handscroll; ink on paper



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From railroad workers to Flying Tigers: a legacy of progress

By Carolyn Kuhn, Gene Chan and Bill Chen

Editor's note: May 7, 1843, marks the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States and May 10, 1869, marks the completion of the transcontinental railroad where the majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants. In 1990, former President George H.W. Bush signed a bill to extend Asian-American Heritage Week to a month-long commemoration of Asian American contributions.

Introduction

The first major contribution by Chinese Americans in the United States was the building of the transcontinental railroads – the Central and Pacific Railroads linking east and west, resulting in economic development, commerce, passenger travel and tourism. But full recognition of the role of the pioneering Chinese railroad workers has been a slow process. The May 2014 induction of Chinese Railroad Workers in the Department of Labor's Hall of Honor was a significant but long overdue step toward recognition of their accomplishments, which entailed hard labor and skilled work, with corresponding high risk of life.

Launched in 2012, Stanford University's Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project constitutes a comprehensive research and collection effort to detail who the workers were, how they lived and how their experiences changed their lives. The project involves an interdisciplinary, transnational effort that will result in an online multilingual digital archive.

Upon the submission of input to the Stanford project by one of the authors, a serendipity finding surfaced – there were two other descendants who served in World War II in China in the 14th Air Force (Flying Tigers) under the legendary General Claire L. Chennault. All three served as officers; two in the U.S. Army Air Corps and one in the Chinese Air Force. Two were pilots: one a Hump pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps, one a P-40 and P-51 fighter pilot in the Chinese Air Force.

This article pays tribute to these three Chinese American Flying Tigers who are descendants of Chinese Railroad Workers, while highlighting the accomplishments of their forefathers:

- First Lieutenant W.C. Chin, grandson of railroad foreman and labor contractor Chin Lin Sou.
- Captain Bill King, grandson of railroad foreman and labor contractor Jim King.
- Captain Moon Chen, son of railroad worker Chan Fong.

These veterans of World War II truly befit Tom Brokaw's characterization of the Greatest Generation of our times - men who served during the war and then returned to civilian life to continue their contributions to the nation.

These descendants of Chinese Railroad Workers attained the competencies and skills of aviation, which constituted a Legacy of Progress - progress that was totally unimaginable to those in the first generation who built the railroads. Where the technology of the 19th century was locomotives and railroads, the technology of the 20th century was aircraft and aviation. The descendants in the 20th century were successful in attaining levels of achievement

consistent with the advanced technology of their time.

Flying Tigers

Three successive organizations were known as the Flying Tigers:

- The American Volunteer Group (AVG) was formed in 1941 consisting of American pilots and volunteers who went to Burma and China; and were commanded by Claire Chennault as a civilian, retired from the U.S. Army Air Corps. These volunteers were released from the U.S. armed forces to aid China against the Japanese. They flew P-40 aircraft where the noses of the P-40s were painted with shark's teeth. After their first air battle victory on Dec. 20, 1941, against attacking Japanese aircraft, the Chinese press referred to the AVG as Flying Tigers, and the name stuck.
- The China Air Task Force was formed in July 1942 after the AVG was dissolved and commanded by Brigadier General Claire Chennault.
- The 14th Air Force (Flying Tigers) was formed in March 1943 when the China Air Task Force was dissolved; and commanded by Major General Claire Chennault. Of significance is that one of the wings assigned to the 14th Air Force (Flying Tigers) was the Chinese American Composite Wing, organized as a mix of U.S. Army Air Force and Chinese Air Force pilots and airmen.

W.C. Chin

First Lieutenant W.C. Chin (1916-2012), a third generation American-born Chinese, was a communications officer during World War II with the 23rd Fighter Group, Flying Tigers in the China-Burma-India Theater.

His grandfather, Chin Lin Sou (1836-1894), was from Guangdong Province. Chin Lin Sou stood six feet tall, had grey eyes and spoke fluent English and Cantonese. When he immigrated to the United States in 1859, he served as a foreman labor contractor for the Central Pacific Railroad.



Chin Lin Sou

Following completion of the railroad in 1869, he settled for a time in Black Hawk, Colorado. He became a supervisor in a mine and was able to bring his wife to Colorado

from China. Chin and his family eventually moved to Denver where he became a successful businessman. His children and descendants became important figures in the city. His first born, Lily Chin (1873-1933), was known for her beauty and intelligence as well as being the first recorded Chinese American born in Colorado. His son, William C. Chin, was known in Denver as Willie Chin, Honorary Mayor of Chinatown.

As a Colorado pioneer, Chin Lin Sou is memorialized in stained glass at the State Capitol Building, also at the Central City Opera House, and on a mosaic tile wall at the Colorado Convention Center along with many other Colorado pioneers.

Grandson W.C. Chin, son of Willie, was born on Feb. 29, 1916 in Denver. He entered the U.S. Army Air Forces Communications School at Scott Field, Ill., and was commissioned a second lieutenant on Dec. 25, 1942. Chin was initially assigned as a squadron-training officer for the Heavy Bombardment Group, 4th Air Force.

Reassigned overseas, he arrived in China on March 27, 1945, and was assigned to the 23rd Fighter Group, 14th Air Force (Flying Tigers) as a communications and cryptographic security officer. His campaigns were the China Offensive and China Defense. Recalling his assignment with the 23rd Fighter Group, he stated he "was probably one of two Chinese in the entire 23rd Fighter Group, and we had a good time together. The officers and enlisted personnel always gave courtesy and respect to an officer, even a lowly lieutenant."

Chin returned to the U. S. on Jan. 6, 1946, and was honorably discharged at Ft. Logan, Colo. on Feb. 28, 1946. He had been awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, American Service Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. Upon his return to Denver, he helped to found and became the First Post Commander of Cathay Post No. 185, an affiliation of American Legion Post in Denver, comprised mostly of Chinese and Japanese veterans of World War II.

Chin eventually became a television station soundman in Los Angeles. He returned to Parker, Colo., in 1993 and died on March 13, 2012, at age 96. He was survived by three children (son William Edward Chin, daughters Cindy Hofman and Diane Probst), numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters, nieces and nephews. Chin was a proud World War II veteran. Until his last days, he never went out without pinning to one lapel an American flag and to his other his Flying Tiger pin. He has a marker at the Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver.

Bill King

Bill King (1916-2002), a third generation American-born Chinese, volunteered to fly for the Chinese Air Force in World War II and was assigned to the Chinese American Composite Wing (CACW) of the 14th Air Force. He was a highly decorated Flying Tiger pilot.

Bill King's grandfather, Jow Kee or Chow Yook Kee (1840-unk) came to San Francisco from Zhongshan, Guangdong Province, in 1855 when he was 16. He found a job with gold miners who liked



Capt. Bill King

him, taught him English, and gave him an American name – Jim King. Knowing English, he went to work as a foreman and labor contractor for the Central Pacific Railroad building the western end of the transcontinental railroad. The payroll records of the Central Pacific Railroad in January 1866 show the listing of Jim King, Contracting Co. After completion of the transcontinental railroad, King continued as a labor contractor, hiring former railroad workers and other workers from his home village, for the Sacramento River levee construction. After clamshell dredgers displaced the workers, they became agricultural workers in the region and King became a tenant farmer. He married Hel Shee, whom he met in San Francisco. They settled in a farmhouse in the Delta and had eight children.



Jim King, labor contractor

Grandson Bill King graduated from Sacramento City College with an aeronautics degree and learned how to fly at Solano County airport in 1938. He joined the Chinese American Volunteer Group in San Francisco; the group trained pilots for China with donations from local Chinese. At the time, the U. S. was not at war with Japan yet, so it was hush-hush. After about 50 hours of flight training, a group of 17 pilots and 17 mechanics shipped off to China in 1939.

King attended the Chinese Air Force Academy, graduated in February 1941, and flew for the Chinese Air Force. He was assigned to the 5th Fighter Group of the Chinese American Composite Wing (CACW), 14th Air Force (Flying Tigers).

He flew 109 combat missions in 16 months while with the CACW. Among his medals were the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded by the United States and the Presidential Unit Citation.

In August 1944, King and his commander, Colonel Frank Rouse, left for an early morning bombing mission over Hunan Province, and were intercepted by eight Japanese Zeroes.

continued on next page

From railroad workers to Flying Tigers:

continued from page 10

According to U.S. Army Air Forces Captain James R. McCutchan, in a letter to King's mother, "Bill, seeing the enemy first made a pass on the entire (Japanese) formation and broke it up, enabling the colonel to make good his escape." The letter continued by stating that King shot down one Zero and fled south. After his plane was hit by enemy fire, he crashed it in a rice field, crossed a river and hiked four days back to base.

King returned to Locke, Calif., in 1947 with two samurai swords given to him by a general he escorted after the Japanese surrender in Nanjing.

He met his wife Ruby Chann, who worked at the Yuen Chong general store in Locke. "My cousin bet me \$1 I wouldn't go out with him, so I did," she said. "He's one of those guys you meet and right away you like him."

King managed a girl's basketball team and worked as an inspector for General Mills in Lodi for 28 years. According to Ruby, he was the type who didn't like to talk about the war because he had seen so much.

Bill King was highly decorated.



Bill King's awards and decorations
Moon Chen

Moon Chen (1908–2009), a second generation American-born Chinese, had a career in aviation that spanned 44 years - serving successively as an airline pilot, U.S. Army Air Corps Hump pilot, Flying Tiger, airline executive and aerospace company executive.



Capt. Moon Chen

His father, Chen Fong (1860–1924), was from Hoiping, Guangdong Province. Chan Fong was given a house by his father, a village elder and Chinese scholar. He converted the house to a school. While he was devoted to teaching, he was urged by his friends to leave China to seek gold in California. After surviving the harsh sea voyage, the group was taken to a remote area to work on the Southern Pacific Railroad. Because Chen was educated, he served as a liaison between the railroad contractor and the workers and assisted in giving explanations to the workers. He also was a letter-writer

for the workers. When the railroad from California to Texas was completed, the workers were released.

Chen migrated to Biloxi, Mississippi and worked with some Chinese people in a grocery store. The store was successful enough for him to travel to New York City, and while in Chinatown, he was introduced by a matchmaker to meet Haylee Wong (1880–1918), who was born in New York and was working as a nurse's aide in a hospital. He fell in love at first sight and they got married in 1900. Their first daughter and first two sons were born in Mississippi. Due to hostility and prejudice toward Chinese, Chen's family lost everything in Mississippi and settled in Ohio to start a new life, establishing a Chinese laundry. Six other sons and a daughter were born in Ohio. Chan and Haylee were very happy raising eight sons and two daughters. Unfortunately, in 1918, six months after the youngest son was born, Haylee caught the Spanish flu and died at the age of 38. Chen Fong passed away in 1924.

Son Moon Chen, orphaned at age 15, worked his way through high school and college. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1932 with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering. Unfortunately, during the Depression, he was unable to find a job in aeronautical engineering. Even though he was American-born, aircraft companies at the time exercised hiring discrimination against those of Oriental origin. That did not deter him. He had a passion for aviation.

Moon Chen believed that to be successful, he had to pursue something different and distinctive, and be self-reliant. He saved enough money to take flying lessons and graduated from the Curtiss Wright Flying School, Long Island, N.Y.

One of his early experiences was flying cross-country in an open cockpit biplane for the U.S. Mail Service. He loved it. "Sky is the limit, sky is my companion," he said. "To be sitting on top of the world and way above the clouds, what a beautiful feeling -- a wonderful feeling of heavenly peace and tranquility." Flying gave him added confidence during the dark days of the Depression.

Armed with a commercial pilot's license but no employment contract, Chen went to Shanghai in 1935. Multi-engine qualified, he interviewed with China National Aviation Corporation (partially owned by Pan American Airways), passed a flight test, and started flying as an airline pilot.

Chen met Priscilla Chang in August 1936 in Shanghai through an American-born Chinese "cousin." Chen's flying schedule often kept him away, and they were not able to go on their first date until January 1937. But, they probably set a record in terms of getting engaged on May 2, 1937, and married on May 20, 1937!

The Japanese attack of Chinese troops at the Marco Polo Bridge southwest of Beijing occurred on July 7, 1937. Chen was flying over the bridge and observed the clash. He immediately reported the incident to Nanjing authorities; the incident marked the beginning of the second Sino-Japanese War. Sub-

sequently, as the Japanese attacked Nanjing, Chen flew multiple flights from Nanjing to Hankou, and later to Chongqing, evacuating government officials to the China interior.

In 1939, Chen was a pilot with the Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company (CAMCO). CAMCO supported the AVG known as the original Flying Tigers and was the employer of record for the AVG pilots. Chen also helped to recruit men to be trained for the CAMCO Loiwing factory near the China-Burma border. This factory assembled and repaired P-40 aircraft for the AVG/Flying Tigers. Its airfield at Loiwing was used by the AVG to mount raids into Thailand and Burma.

After Pearl Harbor, Chen joined the U.S. Army Air Forces and piloted C-47 and C-46 aircrafts. He flew VIPs (Chinese and Americans), military supplies, and made surveys into unknown areas for the establishment of new airfields. He flew the Hump route and made more than 500 missions over the Hump, without a dent in his aircraft. He was assigned to the China Air Task Force and the 14th Air Force (Flying Tigers) under Chennault. Chen was selected and served as Chennault's personal representative and liaison officer to the Chinese Air Force in Chongqing.

Moon and Priscilla had frequent household moves and separations because of the wartime situation. Priscilla, along with the then family of two young boys, lived in Ohio and New York while awaiting the end of World War II.

After World War II, Chennault co-founded an airline, Civil Air Transport (CAT) in China to carry rehabilitation and recovery supplies across war-torn China. Chen joined the fledgling airline as the area manager in Shanghai and later was the area manager in Guangzhou. In Hong Kong, he was assistant to the CAT President Chennault. Shortly thereafter, he was assigned as area manager in Japan-Korea, where the airline supported the U.S. Air Force in airlift operations during the Korean War. In January 1952, Chen became CAT's first director of traffic and sales. He helped establish passenger routes to Tokyo, Manila, Seoul and Bangkok. Subsequently, he was promoted to vice president of sales & marketing and contributed to establishing the American-owned CAT, as a highly reliable and reputable regional airline in the Far East.

In the early 1970s Chen was a consultant to and later an executive with Northrop Aircraft Corporation. He assisted Northrop in winning the F-5E jet fighter aircraft coproduction program and subsequently served as the program director.

Chen was an active community leader. He was a strong advocate for Chinese Americans to assimilate into the American society. With a loud booming voice, he was

always the center of attention at receptions and cocktail parties. In 1952, he was the youngest and first of Chinese origin to be designated as a 33rd degree Mason. A strong supporter of his alma mater, Chan received the University of Michigan Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 1958 for advancing the presence of the university in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2014

he was designated, posthumously, a Distinguished Alumnus in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Michigan.

Chen retired in 1980 in San Francisco and later moved to Chevy Chase, Maryland. His bride of 71 years, Priscilla, passed away in 2008 at the age of 97.

At age 101, Chan passed away peacefully on Dec. 7, 2009. His last gesture embodied his life as a pilot and aviator; he gave a "thumbs-up" -- signifying "All is Well" in aviator's language while also meaning "ding how" or the "very best" in Chinese.

Chen is survived by three sons: Bob, Bill and Moon Jr. All three are military veterans. Together with Moon Jr.'s daughter Debbie, an Army Aviator, the Chen family has three consecutive generations who served in the U.S. armed forces, probably a rarity for Chinese Americans.

Perspectives

Where the first major contribution of Chinese Americans in the United States was the building of the transcontinental railroads, we can say with reasonable confidence that probably the second major contribution of Chinese Americans was their service in the U.S. armed forces during World War II and their deeds and accomplishments on the home front in support of the war effort. By their combined efforts, they demonstrated their competencies, skills, courage, loyalty, and patriotism - and they opened up opportunities for all Chinese Americans to work in all walks of life in mainstream America.

W.C. Chin, Bill King, and Moon Chen ably demonstrated that Chinese Americans could be competent, skilled, and patriotic military officers. They set the example and paved the way for subsequent generations of Chinese Americans to serve in the U.S. armed forces. Each was proud to be a Flying Tiger.

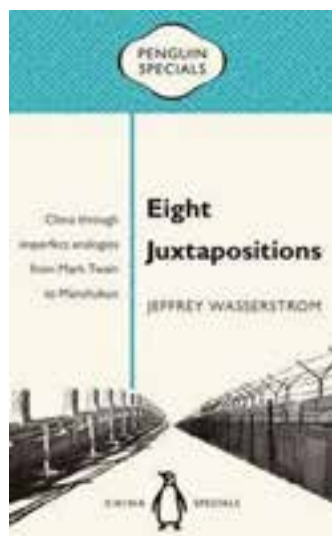
It is important for our younger generations to understand history and the legacy of those who contributed to it. The descendants of Chinese Railroad Workers who were Flying Tigers established a Legacy of Progress beyond the accomplishments of our first generation immigrants.

We are confident that successive generations will continue with a Legacy of Progress and attain higher levels of achievement in new endeavors consistent with the advanced technologies of their time. ♦

- Carolyn G. (Jew) Kuhn, niece of W.C. Chin works at the University of Colorado Medical Campus in Aurora, CO as a Standardized Patient Clinical Educator.
- Gene O. Chan, nephew of Bill King, had a successful career as a rocket propulsion designer and retired after working 34 years at Aerojet.
- Bill Chen, son of Moon Chen, is a major general, U.S. Army Retired and a retired defense industry executive.

“Eight Juxtapositions” by Jeffrey Wasserstrom

Reviewed by Jonathan Chatwin, *The Asian Review of Books*, April 3



Author: Jeffrey Wasserstrom
Publisher: Penguin Books China
Publication date: October 2016
Paperback: 104 pages

Dr. Jonathan Chatwin is a British writer who has lived in, and written on, China. He is the author of “Anywhere Out of the World: The Work of Bruce Chatwin.”

The prevailing mode of writing on China tends towards the lengthy and explanatory; by virtue of the country’s complexity, size and cultural distinctiveness, it seems to be felt that the middle kingdom can be best dealt with by means of the epic survey. Penguin’s series of China Specials has demonstrated the success of an alternative approach, offering commute-sized insights into particular aspects of Chinese history and culture.

In *Eight Juxtapositions*, the historian and commentator Jeffrey Wasserstrom approaches modern China by way of eight “imperfect analogies” which place “side by

side two different yet comparable elements to help us think about each in a new way.” As such, the book goes further in challenging the normative mode of writing on China, which often treats the country as singular and utterly incomparable to anything other than itself at different historical moments. It also rejects simplistic binary assertions of the “Is Xi Jinping a reformer or conservative?” school, aiming rather to encourage a type of cultural triangulation which illuminates and reframes the China story, rather than seeming to reduce it to any “perfect fit” interpretation.

“*Eight Juxtapositions*” moves chronologically through the last eight years of the China story. Wasserstrom’s agenda, if it can be called that, is to challenge obvious and reductive thinking on modern China and thus, though the moments which inspire each chapter are generally familiar (even if they tend not to be the most apparently historic), the conclusions and comparisons are more nuanced and unexpected. For example, in his 2009 chapter “A Wall and a Massacre,” Wasserstrom draws a connection between the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, and the tenuous position of the CCP in the aftermath of Tiananmen protests (2009 marked both the 20th anniversary of the fall of the wall, and the 60th anniversary of Communist rule in China). The obvious reaction, with historical perspective, is surprise that somehow the ruling party in China managed to cling on in such a turbulent period. Wasserstrom, however, asserts that the fall of the Berlin wall actually helped the Communist leaders in China; that as a result of the events in Eastern Europe they “made shrewd diagnostic efforts to avoid suffering that predicted fate” and continue to this day to “refine [their] policies with an eye toward altering the mix of factors” that led to the successful protests of 1989 in Germany and elsewhere.

A similarly insightful juxtaposition is

drawn later in the volume between George Orwell’s “1984” and Aldous Huxley’s “Brave New World.” A discussion of the relevance of these two works of dystopian fiction to the Chinese state is hardly radical; however, Wasserstrom’s exploration of the novels, oriented around the 2010 Shanghai Expo avoids the arbitrary and conventional either/or. While the PRC do undoubtedly employ the “boot-on-the-face” repressive techniques of Orwell’s novel (most notably in Xinjiang and Tibet), Wasserstrom rightly points out that in the major urban centres of

the east coast in particular, the distractions of Huxley’s “vulgar materialism” are equally forceful and calculated in maintaining social conformity.

A great virtue of Wasserstrom’s book (and his work on China in general) is its sense of inclusivity, and its enthusiasm for open-minded discussion of ideas. China is often treated as a subject for specialists only; *Eight Juxtapositions* reminds us of the value of fresh perspectives, of unlikely comparisons, and of resistance to reductive thinking. ♦

Education

Meet the education startup aiming to be China’s Google Classroom

By Jack Niu, *AllChinaTech.com*, April 12

Standing on the 43rd floor of Wangjing SOHO, a Beijing landmark designed by star architect Zaha Hadid, you get an amazing bird’s-eye view of a city under a vast sky that lets your imagination wander. These are the offices of an online education startup, Knowbox, and the feeling here is a bit like a big classroom full of young creative university students.



Knowbox’s APP.
Photo provided by Knowbox.

Knowbox seems different than the average office. But it’s not just their creative workplace that makes them stand out, it’s their unique insights and courage to set foot into China’s public primary and secondary education market

that makes them different. It’s not easy to get into this market, because local governments impose strict constraints on it.

Founded in 2014 in Beijing, Knowbox targets Chinese K-12 online education, which includes all primary and secondary education, by creating an online collaborative space where teachers can assign and correct homework and students can do homework.

In addition to bringing homework online, the platform also offers data-driven analytic reports on student performances in key knowledge points, which help teachers design a syllabus and teaching process in a bid to further improve the efficiency of teaching methods.

The platform received USD 10 million in Series A financing last July. The fundraising was led by tutoring services provider TAL Education Group, followed by the CEO of China’s second largest e-commerce website JD.com, Liu Qiangdong, and his wife Zhang Zetian.

Focus on improving products

“Our core R&D team members are mainly from Alibaba and Baidu, so we have advantages over other online education startups,” CEO Liu Ye told AllChinaTech.

Besides Liu, who has a lot of experience founding Internet companies, there are two other core members at Knowbox: COO Wang Ke, the former manager at Baidu’s strategic cooperation department, and CMO Jia Xiaoming, the former director of Intel China.



CEO Liu Ye, CMO Jia Xiaoming and COO Wang Ke (from right to left). Photo provided by Knowbox.

Liu said that the team brings core competitiveness to the table and that they will only focus on the K-12 online education scene.

Knowbox is not like other Chinese online education startups that rush to launch products in order to occupy the market. It has only two mobile apps to date. One is for middle and high school teachers and students in various subjects and the other focuses only on primary mathematics.

Liu said they will concentrate on improving their products rather than blindly developing new ones.

Business expansion

There are around 200 million elementary and high school students in China; moreover, Chinese parents are known for their willingness to invest heavily in the education of their children.

“Our business has expanded more quickly than we could imagine and this is continued on page 16

What did Mark Zuckerberg and Jack Ma talk about this weekend?

By Rhea Liu, AllChinaTech.com, March 19

Mark Zuckerberg never hides his interest in China.

With a photo of Zuckerberg and his bodyguards jogging past Tiananmen Square in Beijing on a heavily polluted day Friday, Zuckerberg announced his arrival and sparked heated online discussion in the process. He continued to grab public attention as he met and had a dialogue with Chinese tech mogul Jack Ma, the chairman of the Chinese tech mammoth Alibaba Group, at the China Development Forum, a state-sponsored forum.

What did the two discuss? Have a look with AllChinaTech.

On innovation

When asked about his opinion of China's next five-year development plan, which highlights innovation, Zuckerberg talked about innovation being dedicated

to solving long-term problems. The three problems Facebook is trying to solve in the next 10 years are Internet connection, the development of artificial intelligence and virtual reality.

Both then addressed their thoughts on AlphaGo's game with Lee Sedol last week. Zuckerberg predicted that in the next five to 10 years, there would be great leap for the development of AI. Ma, in contrast, emphasized that in the future, machines would be more powerful than human beings, but that they wouldn't be as smart.

On virtual reality

Facebook's acquisition of Oculus in 2013 started the worldwide trend towards virtual reality. Zuckerberg also made several public appearances to support both Oculus and its partnership with Samsung on Gear VR. What does he think of VR's

development right now?

When asked about whether 2016 would be the year of virtual reality, Zuckerberg said 2016 would be the year of virtual reality in the consumer market. The next product, Zuckerberg said, would be something similar to smartphone applications. He also predicted that maybe in five to 10 years, VR smartphones would be the mainstream of the market.

On impactful technology

Zuckerberg also talked about how he's impressed by AlphaGo. He thinks that given more time, AI will be able to drive a car safer than human beings, and that it will also make an impact on healthcare, such as increasing accuracy and safety.

In contrast with Zuckerberg, Ma tended to talk more about philosophy rather than real circumstances. Ma said in the

past 300 years, humans have understood more about the universe, but less about ourselves. He believes that in the next three to four decades, human beings should get to understand ourselves better.

On advice for entrepreneurs

Both tech magnates also shed light on advice for entrepreneurs.

Zuckerberg suggested entrepreneurs should think of solving problems instead of founding a startup. He also called it "crazy" that many people in Silicon Valley founded a company even before they thought of what kind of problems they were going to address.

Ma, instead, was more encouraging. He said, if one had a dream, he won't do it for money, but would rather sell his house to pursue his dream. He said, as a teacher, he hoped technology can make everybody's life better. ♦

Business

China in Cuba

continued from page 1

By the 1950s, many Chinese had left Cuba for New York City and Miami because conditions in Cuba for those of Chinese descent improved little under Fidel Castro. Many established Chinese-Cuban restaurants in their new home cities.

When Castro came to power in 1959, Chinese Cubans still had their own ethnic community with private businesses centered in Havana's Chinatown. However, by 1968, they became one of Castro's Revolutionary Offensive's targets – Castro's campaign to jump-start economic growth and curb individualism. Ironically, this "offensive" was often described as a parallel to China's Great Leap Forward under Chairman Mao and its Cultural Revolution combined, and with equally disastrous results. Chinese Cubans' businesses were confiscated and they came under renewed racial and political discrimination.

When the 1990s came along, only some 20,000 second-generation Chinese Cubans remained, most were poor and no longer

identified with their Chinese cultural roots. Louie Kin-sheun, a Hong Kong researcher of Chinese diaspora in Cuba, whose father and grandfather had lived and worked in Cuba, wrote a book, "So Far Away in Cuba." "None of the stories of the first-generation Chinese Cubans were happy ones and all regretted going to Cuba," said Louie.

Relations between Cuba and China went hot and cold for about two decades and did not stabilize until the late 1980s during China's economic reforms when Chinese leaders visited the island several times to solidify economic and technological deals.

Cuba lost 75 percent of its foreign trade in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed. Castro quickly turned to China for help and started to revitalize Havana's Chinatown by allowing Chinese Cubans to run small, private businesses again. But those efforts came too little, too late, and Chinatown remained in dreadful disrepair. There was an effort in 1995 by the Chinatown Promotion Group to preserve and resurrect Cuba's Chinese culture. Its brochure states "rescue our forefathers' beautiful traditions from oblivion and bring Havana's Chinatown back to life for good." The CIA's World Factbook estimated there were only 300 Chinese of non-mixed descent living in Cuba by 2008.

In 2004, China granted Cuba \$400 million in the form of long-term loans to support development; this in addition to the \$1.3 billion it had already invested in the island since the 1990s.

These days, Chinese-made cars, buses, locomotives, ships and household appliances are increasingly prevalent in Cuba. The majority of its milled rice is imported from China. The China Development Bank financed a



Chinese Cuban association

\$500 million nickel processing facility. The Chinese flag flies from leased oil rigs along the northwest coast. A modern container port boasts Chinese equipment. And Chinese investment in the Cuban tourist industry, though small, is seen in construction of hotels and other recreational facilities. In June 2015, Cuba and China signed a joint venture agreement to construct an 18-hole golf course-resort complex at a cost of \$462 million.

According to Beijing trade between China and Cuba increased by 57 percent to a whopping \$1.6 billion in 2015. Direct flights from Beijing to Havana began last December. Chinese companies have a stronghold in building Cuban infrastructure: financed and constructed the ALBA-1 undersea cable, which connects Cuba to Venezuela and Jamaica; Huawei Technology installed dozens of Wi-Fi hot spots across Cuba; Huawei also led the pilot project in providing broadband home Internet access in Old Havana. In addition, Chinese

companies were involved in the development of the recently opened deep-water port in the town of Mariel and building two hospitals.

A more tangible benefit of China-Cuba relations for China is in people-to-people exchanges and education: Cuba helped train 100 Chinese in Spanish. Also, thousands of Chinese students have studied in Cuba, making it the largest host of Chinese students studying in Latin America.

Another initiative by Raul Castro to boost direct foreign investments was to allow investors to bring in their own nationals for construction projects and, also, allow the remittance of money by these workers back to their home countries. This issue is of particular importance for Chinese companies.

Cuba will continue to play an important role in China's Latin America strategy though it will not invest in Cuba if there isn't a profit or resource to be gained immediately. For now, both countries deem the Chinese-Cuban ventures beneficial. ♦



Chinese Cuban restaurant server

Chinese American voters: a curiously overlooked demographic

By Colin Moreshead, *China-US Focus*, April 1

The 2016 presidential primary races have once again highlighted the effect that race has had on political outcomes in the United States. Nonwhite voters have made Hillary Clinton the presumptive nominee of the Democratic Party, delivering more primary delegates thus far than Senator Bernie Sanders' largely white base. An "autopsy report" of the 2012 election, commissioned by the Republican National Committee, found that the party needed significant minority voter outreach to compete with Democrats. As candidates like Donald Trump and Ted Cruz double down on xenophobia, the prognosis for 2016 is even worse.

Though both contests have put the spotlight on race in America, Asian Americans have gone strangely overlooked. While African Americans and Hispanics still represent the largest minority groups in the United States, there are 18 million Asian Americans and their numbers are increasing faster than those of any demographic. Though America's Asians hail from dozens of different countries and a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, the nearly five million Chinese-Americans have become a major population in their own right.

One reason for the massive growth seen in the Asian American population is immigration. Pew Research Center reports that over 70 percent of Asian Americans aged 18 and up are foreign born, and Chinese Americans are the largest group among them. Foreign origins might typically mean that a demographic is up for grabs, or at least open to the ideas of either major political party. Pew reports that Asian Americans emphasize family values and working hard

to get ahead, which are two predictably conservative talking points. Asian American voting behavior has become overwhelmingly liberal, however, and if Republicans know why, they haven't done anything about it.

Exit polls point to a leftward shift in Asian American voting patterns over the last six presidential election cycles. In 1992, only 31 percent of Asian American voters supported Bill Clinton, edging out even white voters as the single most conservative bloc in the election. The pattern was turned upside down in only twenty years; 71 percent of Asian Americans voted for Barack Obama in 2012, making them the second-most liberal racial group.

Though Asian American support for Democrats has been noted in media coverage, journalists and politicians have referenced the group in monolithic terms. Political strategists have collected ample data to analyze the differences in voting patterns between sub-demographics like Cuban Americans and Mexican Americans, but the nuances of Asian American voting behavior remain curiously unstudied. According to Pew, more than half of Asian Americans identify strongly with their family's country of origin, and that could complicate things as political candidates wade into the discussion of Asia policy on the campaign trail.

Mentions of China during the 2016 presidential race have been both numerous and unsubstantive. Though some former candidates like Dr. Ben Carson and Carly Fiorina called for cooperation with China in conducting North Korean diplomacy, the majority of Republican rhetoric this year has been antagonistic. It's unclear how much

Chinese American voters care about Donald Trump's proposal for tariffs on Chinese goods, but they bristled at the Republicans' more xenophobic messaging: Jeb Bush's claim that anchor babies are mostly Asian drew the ire of Asian American politicians and media. It should be noted that while Republicans have been by and large more overtly anti-China than Democrats, Bernie Sanders has cited a trade imbalance and echoed 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney in accusing China of currency manipulation.

Asian Americans are still too small a group to exert significant influence on the outcomes of national political contests. Several states with rapidly growing Asian American populations could become more predictably liberal during the 2020s — Nevada, New Hampshire, and even Texas are already showing signs of bluing in some areas. In most cases, Asian Americans represent only a marginal edge for Democrats in general elections, and hardly enough of one to shape campaign strategy. But the geographic distribution of Asian American voters — and Chinese Americans in particular — will begin to shape Democratic primary elections in the next few years.

The United States' largest concentrations of Chinese Americans can be found in California and New York, by far the two largest contests among Democratic presidential primaries. In New York, Asian Americans already account for nearly nine percent of the population, and Chinese Americans comprise the lion's share. In California, Asian Americans are already the second-largest racial minority group after

Hispanics; Chinese Americans alone are approaching parity with the state's African American population.

California and New York award 548 and 281 Democratic delegates, respectively. Democratic presidential candidates can and have been decided on the support of voters from those states, and their Chinese American voters will only continue to gain strategic importance, particularly during prolonged races like the one between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. Assuming racial voter representation proportional to population, the Asian Americans of New York and California command a larger slice of primary delegates than the whole state of Colorado — Chinese Americans are the largest subset of that group.

Political strategists may not yet fully grasp the significance Chinese American voters will have in coming elections. Vote for vote, they may be the most under-analyzed bloc in American politics. China-related messaging from both parties has been scattered, providing limited examples and talking points for economic and foreign policy discussions and rarely ever drawing connections to Chinese American voters. Republicans will continue to lose the Asian American vote if they don't reshape their stances on immigration, trade policy and defense. Democrats can expect to keep the Asian American vote in general elections, but candidates for internal races will perform better if they court Asian Americans for the party coalition. To do so, Democratic politicians will have to develop a deeper understanding of various Asian American groups, and Chinese Americans chiefly among them. ♦

Colin Moreshead is a freelance writer living and working in Tokyo. His research focuses primarily on East Asian trade relations and exchange rate policy.

China issues, deletes article defending president over Panama Papers

China's Internet censors deleted a favorable blog post analyzing the links between relatives of the country's president, Xi Jinping, and papers leaked from the Panama-based Mossack Fonseca law firm.

The blog post appeared on an overseas blog, and was later reposted by the Shanghai-based news website Jiemian, which is owned by the ruling Chinese Communist Party, and Internet portal Tencent, before censors deleted it.

Media insiders said the post, which argued that Xi had "managed his relatives' affairs well" before taking power as president, was likely penned by officials at the highest level.

"Of course this blog post was authorized," a journalist surnamed Yi at a party-backed news organization told RFA. "You have no idea how much Xi is micromanaging the media and propaganda departments right now."

'It's pretty lame'

"Jiemian is an official news site, and media like that wouldn't normally dare put out anything like that [without authorization]," Yi added. "Why did they delete it? Haha, I have no idea, but it's pretty lame."

The massive leak of 11.5 million files from Panama law firm Mossack Fonseca has revealed details of the operations and ultimate, hidden ownership of a slew of

offshore shell companies owned by the relatives of high-ranking Chinese leaders.

Included in the stash of leaked document are details of an offshore shell company set up by Xi's brother-in-law Deng Jiagui in the British Virgin Islands.

The blog post took as its starting point the assumption that the Panama Papers are genuine, before arguing that the companies linked to Deng had never operated, and that there was no wrongdoing involved.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), which published the Panama Papers, has also repeatedly said that no wrongdoing is alleged on the part of beneficiaries of offshore companies.

"The records show no sign of any operations, which means that no tax evasion or abuse of power took place," it said.

A second journalist, operating within the state-controlled Chinese media, who gave only the surname Wang, also said the original blog post must have been the work of the government.

"They are feeling a huge amount of pressure [over the Panama Papers] and the government felt it was necessary to push back a bit," Wang said.

"If they had put it in [the party-controlled] People's Daily or Xinhua news agency, that would have been too official, so they used a market-oriented, new media organization like Jiemian to do it," he said.

From the top

He said the post was likely deleted because it had already done its job.

"They put this article out, let a limited number of people see it, and then they deleted it," Wang said. "There's no way that [Jiemian] would have had the authority to publish it without authorization [from the top]."

"This article could only have been written by Xi's office, otherwise the central propaganda department would never have told Jiemian to run it."

An editor at a major Chinese news website surnamed Liu said he didn't believe Jiemian could have published the article without being ordered to do so either.

"I don't think that's at all likely ... They would have been authorized to do it at the highest level," Liu said. "Then they deleted it because they couldn't have it plainly out in the open."

Since the emergence of the Panama Papers leak, Chinese censors have been fighting to ensure the top-down deletion of information that details how Chinese high-ranking political and financial elites managed and hid their wealth offshore.

Propaganda departments have issued a string of directives in recent days banning media organizations from publishing independent reporting or commentary based on the leaks.

An employee who answered the phone

at Jiemian's editorial offices in Shanghai on Wednesday declined to comment, saying they didn't know about the story.

Cyberspace Administration pays a visit

However, an employee at the website's Beijing office said officials from the central propaganda department and the Cyberspace Administration had visited the office in the morning. "I don't know what they were here for," the employee said.

A Chinese scholar surnamed Sun, who has followed the Panama Papers leaks closely, said Beijing is unlikely to be as worried about them as some national leaders, however.

"Actually, China doesn't really care about this sort of thing, because they can block this sort of news," Sun said. "They just refuse to comment on groundless reports, as we have heard, because there are no checks and balances on their power."

"Who is going to demand that they resign ... like the prime minister of Iceland did, or give them trouble like the U.K. prime minister? There is no way to do that [in China]," Sun said. ♦

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Ex-Houston Rockets star Yao Ming recognized in U.S.

By Greg Hugh

The dreams of several basketball legends recently came true when the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced its class for 2016. Unlike Cooperstown or Canton, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. is not linked specifically with the American pro league. It also honors international players, amateurs, women, coaches, contributors and referees. The criteria for admittance to the hoops hall is less focused on American professional on-court performance.

In 2002, Yao Ming went from the basketball courts in his native China (where he had already played five seasons of basketball) to being a first overall pick in the NBA Draft.

However, the NBA had never seen a player like Yao Ming. Not only is he 7'6" tall, he is Chinese.

He was selected by the Houston Rockets. Over the next nine seasons, Yao would not only be a force in the middle (when healthy) for Houston, but helped to expand the NBA's global appeal in both China and all of Asia.

Initially, Yao was greeted with less-than-welcoming gestures by other players. Shaquille O'Neal mocked his Chinese accent; Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr, an NBA analyst for TNT in 2004, called Yao a "Chinaman" during a telecast;

Right from the start of his NBA career, Yao was blocking shots like it was going out of style (including getting the better of O'Neal during their head-to-head meetings). For his career, Yao averaged 19 points, nine rebounds and two blocks per game. It's hard to argue that, for a period in the middle part of the last decade, Yao was the most valuable player in the league.

Like many (physically) big men who have played the game, Yao was plagued by injuries for much of his time in the NBA. Starting with the 2005-06 season, he would miss time for injuries to his feet, toes, knees and other parts of his lower body common to a player his size, which resulted in him missing the entire 2009-10 season.



Photo from Xinhua

Despite his injuries, Yao was constantly voted by the fans as an All-Star, being named to the team eight of his nine seasons in the league. Five times, he was voted to the All-NBA second or third team, showing the media and those around the league knew he could play.

Once his U.S. career came to an end, Yao became active in community service and charity work in his home country. His global appeal is something that not only benefited the NBA, but the sport of basketball as a whole.

Yao didn't have the years in the league like O'Neal or the numbers like Iverson, but he was just as vital to the sport of basketball

in the last decade that he has earned a spot in the Basketball Hall of Fame with his former on-court rivals.

Yao, 35, retired from the NBA in 2011 after spending eight years in the league. He'll enter the Hall of Fame under the newly created Direct Elect International Committee, which took into account his years playing in China and his role in growing the game in the Far East. Yao was taken No. 1 overall by the Rockets in the 2002 NBA Draft. He averaged 19 points, 9.2 rebounds and 1.9 blocks in 486 career games, led the Rockets to the playoffs four times, made the All Star team every year of his career and was named All-NBA five

times. Unfortunately, chronic lower leg and foot injuries plagued him throughout his career and forced him to retire at the age of 30.

Since Yao first entered the NBA, Chinese influence on the game has increased. One of the best point guards in the league, Jeremy Lin, is Chinese. Several NBA teams even wore special uniforms for Chinese New Year. The league has expanded preseason games to China and the home stadium of the Washington Wizards is in the city's Chinatown.

Shaq, Yao and Alan Iverson are the 2016 class of inductees into the NBA Hall of Fame. ♦

Former NBA star Stephon Marbury receives Chinese Green Card



Marbury poses with Zhang Jiandong, deputy mayor of Beijing, during a ceremony in Beijing

[BEIJING, April 18]-- Former NBA star Stephon Marbury has become a permanent Chinese resident as he showed his "green card" on his Weibo account on Monday.

Marbury, a leading player in the Beijing Duck basketball team, helped the team win three championships in the Chinese basketball league.

Marbury posted a short video on Twitter-like Weibo, showing he received the Foreigner's Permanent Residence Card from Zhang Jiandong, vice mayor of Beijing.

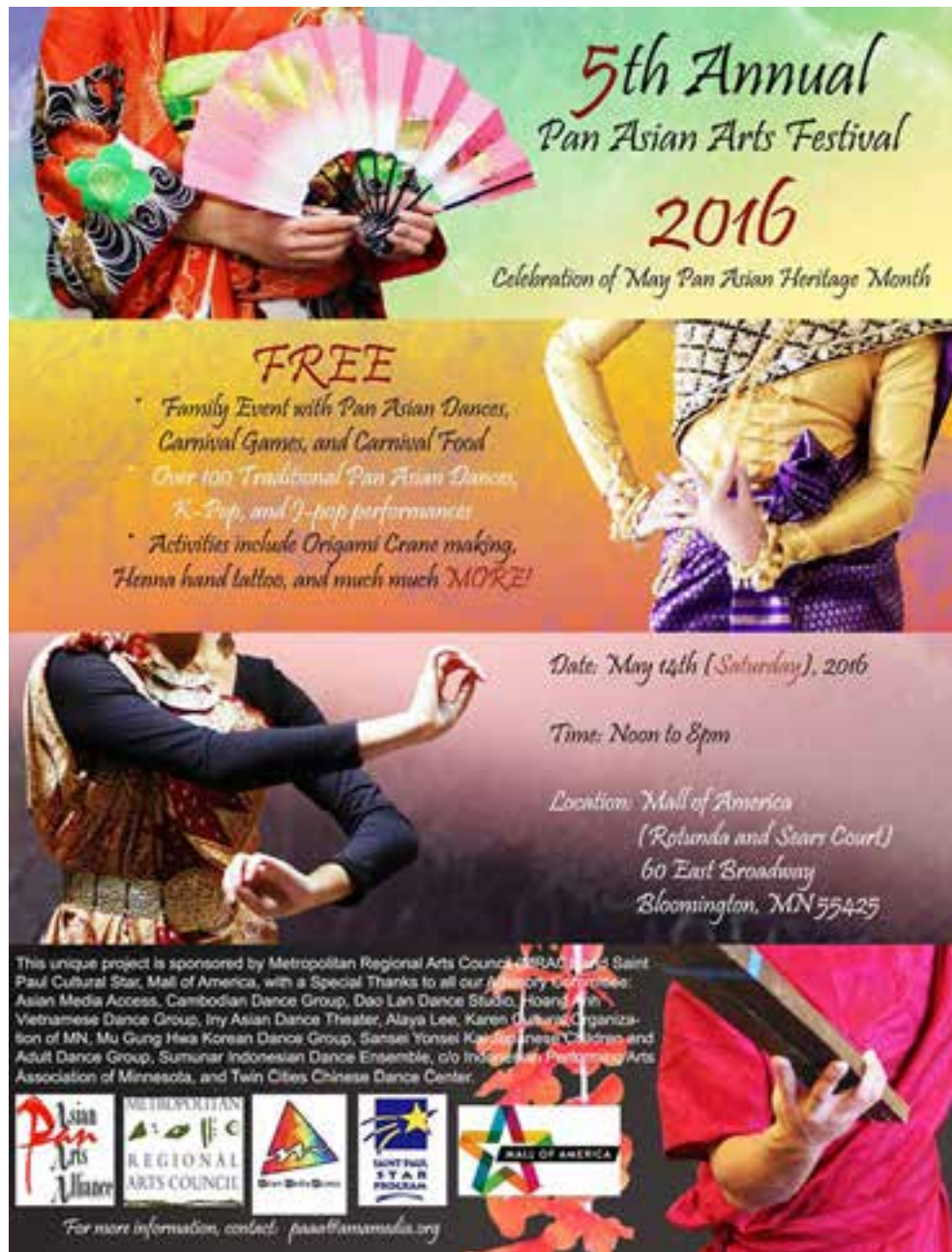
Beijing's super guard is the first foreign player to get China's green card in the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) league's 21-year history.

"I'm so thankful and blessed to receive my green card today from the Beijing

Government. It's a true honor to be part of the capital of China. I hope I can not only help win more championships but continue to bring positive energy and love," said the two-time NBA All-star.

A Chinese green card is one of the hardest to obtain with only around 5,000 issued since 2004, when the policy was introduced. That compares with about 600,000 foreigners currently living in China.

The 39-year-old veteran, who steered Beijing to three titles in past four seasons, is recognized as the most successful foreign player in Chinese Basketball Association history. A museum in honor of him was unveiled in downtown Beijing last December. ♦



5th Annual Pan Asian Arts Festival 2016
Celebration of May Pan Asian Heritage Month

FREE

- Family Event with Pan Asian Dances, Carnival Games, and Carnival Food
- Over 100 Traditional Pan Asian Dances, K-Pop, and J-Pop performances
- Activities include Origami Crane making, Henna hand tattoos, and much much MORE!

Date: May 14th (Saturday), 2016
Time: Noon to 8pm
Location: Mall of America (Rotunda and Sears Court)
60 East Broadway
Bloomington, MN 55425

This unique project is sponsored by Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) and Saint Paul Cultural Star, Mall of America, with a Special Thanks to all our sponsors: Asian Media Access, Cambodian Dance Group, Dao Lan Dance Studio, Hoang Anh Vietnamese Dance Group, Iny Asian Dance Theater, Aya Lee, Karen Ouyang, Organization of MN, Mu Gung Hwa Korean Dance Group, Sansel Yonsei Korean Children and Adult Dance Group, Sumunar Indonesian Dance Ensemble, c/o Indonesian Performing Arts Association of Minnesota, and Twin Cities Chinese Dance Center.

For more information, contact: paasatiansamula.org

China's Google Classroom

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mainly because our products benefit teachers," Liu said. "Our apps alleviate the burden on teachers in assigning and correcting homework."

Knowbox has established relationships with many public schools and local governments to promote its products and services.

The platform now covers more than 20,000 elementary and high schools in 400 major cities including Beijing, Shanghai and Harbin, and its user-numbers have reached 3.8 million.

What's next?

According to a report by research firm CCW Research, China's online education market exceeded RMB 82 billion in 2014.

"The K-12 education market is a one-trillion-dollar market and we are making efforts to build a smart database and improve our products," Liu said.

He said that they want to build their platform into a hybrid of Google Classroom and Knewton in the future.

"Our platform will form a closed circuit for K-12 online homework

including assigning homework, collecting homework, correcting homework and providing guidance for homework," he said.

Liu disclosed that they will launch their Series B round of financing in 2016.

China's K-12 education sector is attracting lots of startups as online education is in full swing in the country. Some notable players in the sector include Yuantiku, 17zuoye and Afanti.com. ♦

Jack Niu is a writer at AllChinaTech. He's a trained translator from Anhui Province who is into new tech startups and tech analysis in China and abroad. Previously, he worked as a college teacher as well as on publications for China Science and Technology Press.

A Passage to China photo highlights

Photos by Cindy Bai

