

2000 ELECTIONS

Democrat Al Gore won 54% of Asian American votes in 2000. George W. Bush 41%, Ralph Nader 4%.
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2001 CONFERENCE AGENDA

Check out our plans for the April 26-28 National Conference in Washington D.C.
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C-100 AND WEN HO LEE

A call for an independent inquiry is the latest in a chronology of C-100 actions beginning March 1999.
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"Seeking Common Ground While Respecting Differences"

Committee Bridges

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December 2000

Committee of 100

CHINESE PRESIDENT MEETS ASIA ORGANIZATIONS IN NEW YORK

JIANG ZEMIN'S VISIT PART OF U.N. MILLENNIUM SUMMIT

President Jiang Zemin gave a major address to members of the nation's leading organizations dealing with China, including the Committee of 100, at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on September 8. Clearly feeling at ease among an audience who knew China well, Jiang circulated through the crowd, which included C-100 members **Carolyn Sue Chin, Charles P. Wang, John Fugh, Alice Young, Shirley Young, David Ho, N.T. Wang, Charlie Sie, Henry Tang, I.M. Pei, Chi Wang, John Young** and C-100 guest Abraham Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League. Seated at the C-100 table was Yin Qinmin, Secretary to President Jiang.

Remarkably, Jiang gave his entire speech in English, which he learned as a youth in an American missionary-run middle school. On the touchy subject of Taiwan, Jiang called for "an early solution" which he said would contribute not only to peace and stability for Asia and the world but better U.S.-China relations. "I have said on many occasions that as long as the Taiwan authorities recognize the one China principle, we will sit down and hold

talks with them, and anything can be discussed. I could go to Taiwan or the leader from Taiwan could come to the mainland for such talks."

In New York to attend the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, Jiang preceded his visit by giving a rare in-depth interview to hard-hitting Mike Wallace on "60 Minutes."

During Jiang's visit, the


"A Close Look at China," and a talk by PRC Minister of Culture Sun Jiazheng at the Museum of Television and Radio in New York.

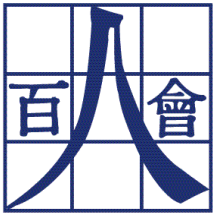
The luncheon was co-sponsored by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and the U.S.-China Business Council, with cooperation from the Committee of 100, Asia Society, Council on Foreign Relations and U.S.-China Policy Foundation. C-100 staff member An Ping assisted the



Chinese President Jiang Zemin welcomed by (left) Chi Wang, U.S.-China Policy Foundation, and C-100's Henry Tang.

Chinese government sponsored a multi-city cultural extravaganza, including the exhibition,

Chinese press corps covering the event, resulting in many articles in the Chinese media. 



Committee of 100

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Our mission:

•To promote the full participation of Chinese Americans in all fields of American life

•To encourage constructive relations between the peoples of the United States and Greater China

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Only an Independent Inquiry Can Remove Cloud in Lee Case

By HENRY S. TANG

Although some brief congressional oversight hearings have been held on the Wen Ho Lee matter, those efforts did not and could not search widely or deeply enough to reach the full truth about the Justice Department's handling (or mishandling) of it. Atty. Gen. Janet Reno should take immediate steps to ensure a more exhaustive review of this case in order to return credibility to the Justice Department

**'Such a special and impartial
body... can restore
credibility to the justice system.'**

and the FBI, just as she did when she appointed former U.S. Sen. John Danforth to settle the controversy over the government's actions in the Branch Davidian tragedy in Waco, Texas.

That is why prominent Asian American groups, including the Organization of Chinese Americans and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Assn., met with Reno earlier this month to press her to appoint an impartial outside investigative panel. In response, Reno offered to release those groups a classified internal Justice Department report on its handling of the case. Even if she did that (which remains uncertain), such a sanitized report would inherently suspect as self-serving and lacking in credibility. However sincere her offer may be, it is not a substitute for an in-depth independent inquiry.

In the Waco case, Reno and Congress understood that, even with the congressional hearings that were held, the stain on the FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies would not be erased until a respected and impartial authority had reviewed the evidence



and issued a public report on the findings, which Danforth did this past July. The Lee case urgently requires a similar airing of the facts.

Reno should establish a small bipartisan committee with subpoena power and proper security clearances and empower it to take testimony under oath and to examine the documents withheld from the judge in the case. The committee would not have to release those documents to the public but must have access to them.

Only such a special and impartial body, including respected Asian Americans among its members and staff, can restore credibility to the justice system. Many Asian Americans feel only anger and disillusionment about the Lee case and the apparent widespread use of racial profiling in security programs and investigations at those national laboratories.

If Lee can be so grossly humiliated and pilloried, potentially so can thousands of other loyal and dedicated Chinese American scientists-indeed, millions of other patriotic Asian Americans-who may someday be regarded as having "divided loyalties" simply because they or their ancestors came from Asia. The lack of full explanation in the Lee case leaves these Asian Americans all living and working under an unwarranted cloud of suspicion.

We should not forget that "military necessity" was once used to justify the wholesale and racist incarceration of more than 110,000 Japanese Americans under Executive Order 9066 in 1942. It took 46 years before the government made an official apology to those Americans and belatedly acknowledged that there had never been such a danger. Asian Americans-indeed, all Americans-will not wait another half-century to learn that there was also no "national security risk" in Lee's conduct.

Henry S. Tang is chairman of the Committee of 100, a New York-based nonprofit group that seeks to protect the civil rights of Chinese Americans and promote better understanding between the United States and greater China.

Reprinted from the *Los Angeles Times*.

2000 ELECTIONS

ASIAN AMERICANS SHIFT TO DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE

By Jane Leung Larson

In both the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections, a majority of Asian Americans voted for the Republican candidate, but in 2000 they moved strongly to favor the Democrat Al Gore. According to nationwide exit polls published in the New York Times, Gore won 54% of the Asian American vote, with George W. Bush at 41%. By contrast, in 1992, Republican George Bush won 55% and Democrat Bill Clinton 31% of the Asian American vote. In 1996, Republican Bob Dole at 48% beat Clinton at 43% among Asian Americans.

Regional and statewide polls show the same patterns, but even greater relative support for the Democrats. Focusing in on Los Angeles and Orange counties in California, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) polled 5,000 voters in heavily Asian neighborhoods on election day and reported that Gore received 62% and Bush 35% of the Asian American vote. APALC also found that Asian Americans registered as Democrats in Southern California increased from 36% in 1996 to 48% in November 2000. Thirty percent of the poll respondents were first-time voters. In California, where Asian Americans are 6% of the electorate, the Los Angeles Times reported that its statewide exit poll showed Asian Americans favoring Gore over Bush, 63% to 33%.

Asian American voting patterns may just be conforming to that of other minorities like blacks and Hispanics who vote in even higher percentages for Democrats. However, **Stewart Kwoh**, ALPAC's president, told the Los Angeles Times that Asian Americans don't feel either party has treated them well but thought that Democrats were more sensitive to their needs. One group, the 80-20 Initiative, claims some credit for this "bloc" voting, especially in California where it concentrated its efforts, hoping to persuade 80% of Asian American voters to vote for one presidential candidate, in this case Al Gore. Gore was endorsed by 80-20 after a bi-partisan panel interviewed Bush and Gore representatives concerning discrimination, racial profiling and glass ceiling concerns. Apparently there was considerable voter crossover by registered Republicans, since the percentage of Asian American votes for Gore far exceeded the percentage of registered Democrats.

C-100 members **Chang-Lin Tien**, **S.B. Woo**, and **Kenneth Fong** are 80-20 leaders.


Fighting for the presidency of George W. Bush were C-100 members **Matt Fong**, who co-chaired Bush for President in California and was honorary chair of the California Asian-American Coalition for Bush, and **John Tsu**, who chaired both the California and national Asian-American Coalition for Bush. In California where 40% of Asian Americans live, the Asian-American Coalition registered nearly 1 million Asian Americans. This included a quarter of a million Asian Californians who registered in Taiwan, Hong Kong and other parts of Asia as absentee voters. Other targeted for voter registration were Taiwanese Americans and Asian American church-goers who are pro-life.

Asian American voting patterns may just be conforming to that of other minorities like blacks and Hispanics who vote in even higher percentages for Democrats.

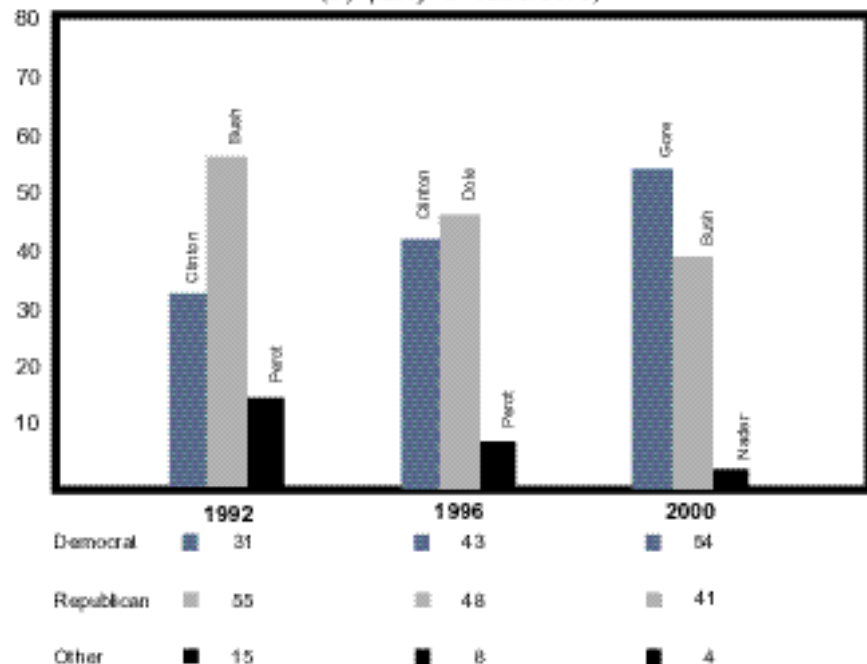
Part of the Coalition's efforts went towards advertising in Asian media to counter the 80-20 Initiative, with the message that Gore had not helped Asian Americans during his two terms as Vice President. Tsu said, "All the Chinese Americans [who] worked with him, helped him and did fundraising for him ended up

with convictions in prison. He not only did not try to help them but made them scapegoat for him."

Tsu gave two reasons for the decreasing Asian American vote for Republican presidential candidates: an increase in young urban Asian Americans who registered as Democrats and Democratic control of the White House for the last eight years, leading to greater Democratic involvement with the Asian American community. He projected that a Bush win in 2000 would not only help Republicans gain back what they lost but increase their share of the vote. Others have noted that Asian Americans tend to favor sitting presidents, so it was predictable that Clinton's share of the votes increased from 1992 to 1996.

Asian Americans won some major elections themselves on November 7. **Gary Locke** was re-elected Governor of Washington and David Wu won back his seat in the House of Representatives in Oregon's First District. Wu, a Chinese American, lost Asian American votes when he voted against Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China, a human rights stand that he has long held. In California, Japanese American Mike Honda was sent to the House of Representatives, joining Bob Matsui who was re-elected. 

How Asian Americans Voted for President
(by party of candidate)



C-100 SETS APRIL 26-28 FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON

NOTE NEW DATES (RE-SCHEDULING NECESSARY BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE CHANGES)

The public is invited to attend C-100's 12th Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C. from April 26 to 28. Conference headquarters will be the Grand Hyatt Hotel (1000 H St., NW). Plans announced in our September newsletter had to be changed due to the delayed resolution of the presidential election and resulting schedule changes for Congress. Conference co-chairs **John Fugh**, **Robert Gee**, and **Walter Wang** hope the conference will attract Washington policy-makers from the Administration and Congress, as well as officials from China and Taiwan stationed in the D.C. area. On April 25, the Committee will present the findings of its survey of American public opinion about Asian Americans at the National Press Club.



Breakfast, lunch and dinner speakers may include a former U.S. President, CEO from Fortune 500 company, and U.S. Senators. C-100 members will also attend a membership meeting on Sunday, April 29, and dine together on Friday and Saturday evenings. In the following agenda, details are subject to change. Registration materials will be sent to all those receiving *Committee Bridges*. 天

Thursday, April 26 GRAND HYATT HOTEL

10 AM
Registration

12 PM
Luncheon speaker

2 PM
"From Survey to Public Acceptance: The Hard Road Ahead" A panel co-sponsored with the Anti-Defamation League

MAYFLOWER HOTEL

6 PM
Reception

7 PM
Gala banquet and dinner speaker

Friday, April 27 GRAND HYATT HOTEL

8 AM
Breakfast speaker

9:15 AM
Forum I
"U.S. - China Relations: Challenges and Prospects"

11 AM
Forum II
"WTO and Beyond"

12:30 PM
Luncheon speaker

2 PM
Forum III
"U.S. Ambassadors' Perspectives" with Arthur Hummel, Winston Lord, James Lilley, J. Stapleton Roy, James Sasser

4 PM
Forum IV
Venture Capitalists

Saturday, April 28 GRAND HYATT HOTEL

Taking Charge: The Obligations of Public and Private Stewardship

8:30 AM
Forum I
"Making a Difference through Public Service" A panel of Chinese American public service veterans

11 AM
Forum II
"Creating Prosperity through the Private Sector" A panel of Chinese American corporate leaders

12 PM
Luncheon speaker

2 PM
Forum III
"Getting Results through Advocacy" A panel featuring Asian American grassroots advocates

4 PM
Forum IV
"Finding Common Ground through Alliances" A panel of leaders of Asian American organizations

C-100 IN ACTION

C-100 TRACKING POLITICS IN TAIWAN

In order to maintain close contacts with both sides of the Taiwan Strait, especially with the current political struggles in Taiwan, **John Young**, C-100 Executive Counsellor, has been keeping busy this fall. The Committee is carefully monitoring the situation because of its potential effects on U.S.-China relations.

Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) is being challenged by a coalition of opposition parties who hold the Legislative Yuan. The opposition, led by the Nationalists (KMT) who still have a majority of seats in the Parliament, seems set on overturning Chen's government. They point not only to the controversial cancellation of a partially-built nuclear power plant that had been approved by the Parliament, but to a faltering economy which has lost one-third of its value in the six months since Chen was elected. While impeachment of President Chen may not take place as had been threatened, Taiwan faces political instability for months to come.

Of even greater concern to the world are the increased cross-strait tensions since Chen was elected as Taiwan's first non-KMT President. Since assuming the Presidency, Chen has not accepted Beijing's position on "one China." However, the three opposition parties affirm the agreement reached by the chief negotiators for Taipei and Beijing in 1992-3 that "there is only one China" who also acknowledged that each side maintained its own interpretation of that concept. Chen will not embrace this agreement, and as a result talks between China and Taiwan are on hold. The unsettled situation worries the United States, especially if Taiwan calls on the U.S. to defend its interests against China. 天

ZHU RONGJI EXPLORES VENTURE CAPITAL ISSUES WITH C-100 MEMBERS

Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji invited several C-100 members to the Hall of Purple Light at Zhongnanhai one morning last April

for an energetic discussion about venture capital and high technology. C-100 members **Peter Liu, Chang-lin Tien, C.B. Sung, Charlie Sie, David Chu, George Koo, and John Chen** were in Beijing to attend *eBeijing-2000*, a conference for Chinese and American entrepreneurs and venture capitalists organized by W.I. Harper, a venture capital firm chaired by Liu. Premier Zhu started the conversation off by reminiscing with Sung about long-ago visits to San Francisco when he was mayor of Shanghai.

Then, Zhu began to seek his visitors' opinions about the role of venture capital in the development of high tech industries in the U.S. and how this might be applied to China. The scheduled half-hour meeting extended to one and a half hours, with talk of capital formation and the operational aspects of high tech companies. Sie said that "it was truly exhilarating for all of us to experience the degree of earnestness with which the Chinese leader wishes to implement change." 天

BOOKMARK WWW.COMMITTEE100.ORG

Now you can read the most recent statements and press releases from the Committee of 100 on the Web, thanks to KweeLee Design and to C-100 staff member Howard Luo. A Chinese language newsletter written by An Ping debuts on the Website as well.

Committee Bridges, the national conference agenda, white papers, speeches and other C-100 publications will also be posted, along with other features like a Photo Gallery and Frequently Asked Questions.



CHINA INSTITUTE CONFERENCE EXAMINES WEN HO LEE CASE

On October 13, China Institute in America and the Organization of Chinese Americans (New York) sponsored a conference with speakers coming from several critical perspectives on the controversial Wen Ho Lee case. The program was moderated by Jerome Cohen, perhaps the nation's top specialist on Chinese law, and featured five panelists. A video of this provocative conference can be viewed on the Web, at www.avasian.com.

Two radically different points of view on ethnicity and national security were expressed by Paul D. Moore, the FBI's Chief China Counterintelligence Analyst from 1978 to 1998, and **George Koo**, a Committee of 100 member.

Moore explained why the FBI focuses on Chinese Americans in spy cases involving China. Based on some twenty years of observation, Moore stated that China does not conduct espionage in the conventional way, unlike virtually every other country, including Taiwan and the U.S. In other words, China does not pay for intelligence or recruit spies based on personal vulnerabilities (such as disgruntled employees or people with financial problems).

Instead, China collects information from open sources like scientific journals; Chinese students who return from the U.S. and share what they learn; and information gleaned from the exchange of scientific visitors.

"MOSAIC SPYING"

The smallest component of the intelligence collected by China comes from what Moore called "special friends" willing to help China by collecting and forwarding information to China. As a result, in Moore's experience, 98% of the people who cooperate covertly with the PRC in intelligence operations are of ethnic Chinese ancestry. The other 2% "unfortunately look a lot like me," that is, non-Chinese with a strong China background. "China has found a way to get good people to do bad things, and the way they get them to do this is to convince them it's a good thing. But you can only convince them to do a good thing that's actually bad if you just do a little bit of it." Thus, each spy only produces a small bit of information, which China must put together with many other pieces, what has now come to be known as "mosaic spying."

In fact, Moore said, very few people fall for the PRC's espionage appeals although many are approached. Furthermore, there is no evidence that Chinese Americans are more likely to be spies than other ethnic groups. Therefore, he concluded, "ethnic profiling does not work in counterintelligence," since Chinese ancestry is no predictor of espionage.

The Wen Ho Lee Case & the Committee of 100

A Chronology of Major Events and Committee of 100 Actions

March 1999

WEN HO LEE FIRED BY LOS ALAMOS LAB AFTER NEW YORK TIMES ALLEGES LEE IS SOURCE OF W-88 WARHEAD SECRETS FOR CHINA.

C-100 drafts letter to President Clinton signed by 5 Asian American organizations, calling for due process and attention to rights of Asian Americans working in national labs.

April

President Clinton's Chief of Staff, John Podesta, meets with C-100 and Asian American organizations. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson addresses C-100's national conference.

May

COX REPORT RELEASED ALLEGING CHINA HAS VAST SPY NETWORK IN U.S.

C-100 engages media consultant to facilitate ABC "Nightline" program on ethnic profiling of Asian Americans.

June

C-100 meets with President Clinton to express concerns about ethnic profiling and due process in Lee case.

July

C-100 visits editorial staff of New York Times to discuss paper's approach to Lee case.

C-100 meets with editors of Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Minneapolis Star Tribune and San Jose Mercury News to convey Asian American concerns.

(continued on page 7)

August

C-100 letter to Secretary Richardson and Attorney General Janet Reno warning that anti-Chinese frenzy is being unleashed.

December

LEE INDICTED ON 59 COUNTS, BUT NOT ON ESPIONAGE, INCARCERATED WITHOUT BAIL.

C-100 led drafting of joint letter from 18 organizations to Secretary Richardson and Attorney General Reno expressing concerns about due process.

February 2000

C100 meets with New Mexico and national Chinese engineers and scientists' organizations, continues outreach to Chinese American scientists at national labs.

September

LEE RELEASED AFTER ADMITTING TO ONE COUNT OF MISHANDLING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

C-100 testifies at hearing of White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, calling for independent inquiry on government's handling of Lee case.

C-100 meets with Senator Charles Schumer who then asks Attorney General Reno to appoint Special Counsel.

October

C-100 and other Asian American groups meet with Secretary Richardson to discuss recruitment, and retention of Asian American national lab personnel.

Compiled by **Charlie Sie** with **George Koo**, **Nelson Dong** and Jane Larson.

*Note that above includes only the most important C-100 actions and does not include many related activities, such as speeches or interviews given by individual C-100 members.

Moore expressed bafflement as to why China prefers this kind of "grains of sand" approach to gathering intelligence, whereby tidbits are laboriously collected and eventually pieced together, resulting in, by Moore's estimate, a ten year lag in getting the information desired. Apart from being terribly inefficient, the style also renders the job of apprehending those guilty of helping China a formidable challenge for U.S. counterintelligence. Past behavior was a better predictor, and Moore argued that it was Wen Ho Lee's suspicious behavior, rather than his Chinese ethnicity, that led to his being investigated.


UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

George Koo, who was speaking for himself and not for the Committee, expressed the deep disillusionment of an Asian American activist. "Why would the most democratic nation in the world, the one that goes around monitoring and criticizing other nations for real and imagined abuses of human rights, resort to the very Gestapo tactics that they normally deplore?" Koo goes on to suggest that the government saw "a 5 ft. 4 60-year old Chinese man" and "thought they could apply enough pressure to get him to cave in and sign a confession, any confession to get them off the hook. Unfortunately for Lee and his tormentors, this is a case of cultural misunderstanding. They simply did not understand that the quiet, mild mannered demeanor of an Asian scholar does not mean the person is a willing foil easily run over and coerced."

Koo rejected Moore's view of whether ethnic profiling was a factor in American counterintelligence practice. He asked two pertinent questions that have yet to be answered:

"(1) Why is it that if China is so prolific in their recruiting and spying activity, the Cox Report names only one Chinese American as having passed information to China [Peter Lee]? Mind you, this person was sentenced to 12 months in a halfway house, fined and made to do a certain number of hours of community service—hardly an Aldrich Ames serving life imprisonment without possibility of parole.

(2) We should ask the FBI how many spies they have apprehended versus the number of Chinese American scientists they have intimidated and badgered for no justifiable cause? I personally know of several victims in the Bay Area whose careers were destroyed by the FBI. Moore, for example spent 20 years allegedly monitoring the Chinese in America—how many arrests and convictions can he claim?"

Koo suggested that these questions and others could be answered if an independent inquiry were to look into the Wen Ho Lee case. 

MEMBER NEWS



Gareth Chang



Robert W. Gee



George Koo



Jerry Yang



Pehong Chen



Helen Zia

The Friends of the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles honored **Gareth Chang** for Business Leadership at their awards banquet in November. After many years leading the China efforts of such companies as STAR TV and Hughes, Chang now is managing partner of GC3 and Associates, an investment and consulting company, and also heads two dot coms, Click2Asia.com and PingPong.com. Qinghua University has appointed Chang as a visiting professor in its newly established center for graduate studies in media and communications.

Rarely do unions pay tribute to management, but when **Robert W. Gee** left his post recently as a Clinton-appointed Assistant Secretary of Energy, he received an appreciation award from the National Treasury Employees Union praising his "integrity, honesty and humane view of people." The Department of Energy, where Gee headed the offices of Fossil Energy and Policy and International Affairs, also named its student internship program after him. Gee had promoted outreach to undergraduate and graduate students for summer technical internships in areas like engineering. Gee is now pursuing opportunities in the private sector.

The New York educational television station, WLIW21, honored **David Ho** for his scientific research relating to AIDS, at an awards dinner celebrating ethnic diversity on November 9. Ho is a commissioner of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, which will issue an interim report to President Clinton on the public hearings throughout the country held this year. At the September Town Hall Meeting in New York, Ho stated, "We will submit comprehensive recommendations on what actions should be taken by the federal government to deal effectively with community concerns that were heightened over Dr. [Wen Ho] Lee's case and other issues."

George Koo, Director of Chinese Services USA, Deloitte & Touche, reports that his employer's annual list of Silicon Valley "Fast 50" companies was topped by three Chinese American technology firms: Yahoo (co-founded by **Jerry Yang**), PCTEL, and NVIDIA. These companies are the fastest growing companies in their region based on compounded growth rate in revenue. Sixth on the list is BroadVision whose founder and CEO is **Pehong Chen**, profiled in a September 18 Newsweek article on "hyperachieving techno-migrants." In October, Koo also gave a well-received talk to the Seattle Area Asian American Professional Organizations Joint Conference, "'Asian American Ticket to the American Dream.'"

Michael Lin received the Meritorious Service Award from the Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) this November, in recognition of his work as the chair of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs in Maryland and as the past national president of OCA (1995-98). His OCA tenure included a national voter registration drive and the convening of several Asian Pacific American Leadership Summits. Lin is a program officer at the National Institutes of Health.

The newest Committee of 100 member is **Helen Zia**, social activist, journalist and the author of *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People* (Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2000). Her recent book blends personal and social history, describing the evolution of an Asian American identity and political movement. Zia herself has been part of this evolution, taking an active role in such Asian American causes as the Vincent Chin civil rights case and Wen Ho Lee's defense. She was an editor for *Ms. Magazine* and winner of many honors, including *A. Magazine's* "100 Most Influential Asian Americans of the Decade" in 1999.

WHO'S WHO IN THE C-100 OFFICE

WINNIE CHAN
 Corporate Relations Director


Winnie is the Committee's senior staff member, having joined C-100 in March 1997. With a new office manager, An Ping, joining the staff this fall, Winnie is concentrating on organization and corporate fundraising for the annual conference as well as coordinating many other meetings throughout the year. Winnie graduated with a degree in International Relations from SUNY Cortland in upstate New York, where she organized the school's first Asian American student group. While in college, she studied in Japan and China. After graduation, she spent eight months as an intern with the United Nations Association which promotes U.S. participation in the U.N.

PROFILE OF A MEMBER: MATT FONG

Matt Fong, who co-chaired California's Bush for President campaign, is now spearheading a national effort to promote the fortunes of Asian American political activists who supported the Bush candidacy in hopes that they will be appointed to some of the many sub-Cabinet level jobs still open in the new administration. Rumors are circulating that Fong himself is being considered for Secretary of the Air Force. Fong graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1975 and is now an active reservist assigned to the Pentagon. In 1998, Fong almost went to Washington when he nearly won a race against U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer in California.



"[The Committee's] value is that it raises the vision from within the Asian American community of what is possible."

Matt Fong is a Republican politician who began his political career as a Democrat. He was campaign manager for his prominent Democratic mother, March Fong Eu, California's Secretary of State for nearly twenty years. When his mother dropped out of a 1988 race for the U.S. Senate, Fong took the opportunity to reveal he was a "closet Republican." He says his experience in the Air Force and in small business alienated him from Democratic party policies, and after going to law school and becoming a high tech lawyer he was ready to run on his own--as a Republican.

By 1990 Fong was on the California ballot--then-Senator Pete Wilson asked him to join the statewide ticket as State Controller, running against Gray Davis, now California Governor. Although they lost, they made a good showing and in 1991, Governor-elect Pete Wilson chose Fong out of a field of one hundred more experienced candidates to be a member of the California State Board of Equalization. With that experience, Fong ran for and won the post of California State Treasurer which he held from 1995 to 1999.

In the two years since his run against Boxer, Fong has diverted his political energies to training others for leadership positions. Towards that end, he formed the Leadership America Foundation, a non-profit civic

organization whose purpose is "to educate, inform and inspire citizen participation in the governmental process."

On college campuses, he often targets Asian American students for leadership training. The Foundation also sponsors bi-partisan panels of experts to discuss such topics as the impact of the Internet on the presidential election. Other forums are more inspirational, "Profiles of Women in Leadership" or Alvin Toffler reflecting on the future.

What's a hot-button issue for Fong? "The incredible silence of the Asian American community about the New Mexico Democratic Congressional candidacy of former U.S. Attorney John Kelly who had been the lead prosecutor of Wen Ho Lee-- why isn't the community outraged?"

[Kelly lost the election.] Fong says that there also should have been more protests by elected Asian American officials, particularly the Democrats, about the way the Clinton Administration has handled the Wen Ho Lee case. "I stood up to those in my party who think China is a terrible enemy lurking in every corner," citing his membership on the Rand Corporation Asia Advisory Board which was critical of the Cox Report on Chinese espionage and his invitation to Republican Christopher Cox to speak at C-100's conference (which Cox turned down).

Fong has been very active in the Committee of 100, most recently as co-chair of the May 2000 conference in Los Angeles, his home. He felt that the Los Angeles conference excelled in showcasing Chinese American issues and talent to a mainstream American audience, not only in the hard-edged fields of high technology or venture capital, but also in the creative arts and entertainment industry.

Asked why he values his membership in the Committee, Fong said, "The Chinese American community has so much talent, and the Committee of 100 with its diverse membership has captured the essence of that talent in the arts, science, government and business. Its value is that it raises the vision from within the Asian American community of what is possible. And it demonstrates to mainstream America a diversity of talent at its highest level." ㊦

The Committee of 100 Cultural Institute works in the U.S. and China to enhance mutual understanding and creative collaboration through art and culture

AMERICAN OPERA COACHES TEACH MASTER INSTITUTE IN SHANGHAI

After years of operatic training in China capped by a C-100 master opera institute, Liao Changyong was winning rave reviews for his performance of Count di Luna in Placido Domingo's Washington Opera production of "Il Trovatore" this November. "Liao inhabited the role like a born Verdi singer," wrote the *Washington Post* (11/14/2000).

Liao was the beneficiary of a 24-day master institute taught by top American opera coaches in Shanghai this summer. The Shanghai Conservatory of Music and Zhou Xiaoyan Opera Center joined with the C-100 Cultural Institute to sponsor the master class, whose goal was to coach some of China's most talented young artists so that they can meet world standards of performing Western opera. Liao, a teacher and dean at the Shanghai Conservatory, had met those standards.

A team of nine of America's most experienced opera coaches led by Madame Joan Dornemann, assistant conductor of the Metropolitan Opera, ut better performances from students.



Musician playing the *zheng* or Chinese zither as part of a demonstration of Chinese instrumental music for the American teachers

devoted most of their time in Shanghai to refining the skills of 36 young Chinese performers in classical Western operatic technique, including voice, language, style, stage movements and cultural context. The eager students, all in their 20s or 30s, had been selected by audition from music conservatories and performing arts troupes throughout China. A unique feature of the program was to invite 100 music educators and students to observe the methods of the American teachers who used a relaxed teaching style to draw. Never in China had so many outstanding teachers and students received such lengthy and intensive training from so distinguished a group of visiting operatic coaches. Their training culminated in a public concert at the Shanghai Grand Theatre.

Because the Cultural Institute sees its mission as one of mutual understanding and exchange, it organized three performances and lectures to expose the American coaches to Chinese dance, music and opera, in a few of its many regional variations, including the Beijing and Kun styles. John Norris, the Stage Director who taught movement and acting, remarked on how important it was to loosen up the students, make them laugh and learn how to express the strong emotions that opera is all about--love, betrayal, loss.



American opera coaches visit the Shanghai Beijing Opera Troupe.

Both Norris and voice teacher Deborah Birnbaum noted what beautiful, big voices their Chinese students had and how ripe they were for this intense and demanding training.

Birnbaum said this was a "life-changing" experience for her in which she learned as much from the students and auditors as they from her. Next year, she hopes to learn more by teaching in the planned second summer master institute in Shanghai.

This cultural exchange was made possible with C-100 administrative, marketing and media assistance and funding from the Marcenas Foundation and Noriyoshi Horiuchi, its chairman. Shanghai municipal authorities applauded the program for contributing to Shanghai's development into an international cultural center. 🇺🇸

C-100 CULTURAL INSTITUTE SUPPORTS SYMPOSIUM ON WELLINGTON KOO AND CHINESE DIPLOMACY

By N.T. Wang and Jane Larson

Wellington Koo was China's (and perhaps the world's) longest-serving diplomat, from 1912 to 1966, coming to the aid of the young republic just after he received his PhD. at Columbia University and ending his career as a judge at the International Court of Justice (World Court). His indispensable diplomatic skills are attested to by the posts he held: Ambassador to the U.S. (for the first time when he was only 27 and then again in the 1940s and 1950s), Great Britain, and France, delegate to the League of Nations, Ambassador to the United Nations (1946), Foreign Minister, and even Prime Minister. Koo represented China in many international negotiations, including the 1919 Paris Peace Conference where China was forced to accept the Treaty of Versailles, transferring German-held Shandong province to Japan. Establishing a strong international position for China was his life's mission, and he was called on to serve under the constantly changing governments of Nationalist China. Today he is a role model for Chinese diplomats everywhere.

In September, the C-100 Cultural Institute helped support the "Symposium on Wellington Koo and Chinese Diplomacy" in Shanghai. The Symposium was organized by the History Department of Fudan University, the East Asian Institute of Columbia University (represented by **N.T. Wang**), and the Jiading Bureau of Culture. **Shirley Young** represented C-100's Cultural Institute. More than 50 delegates from mainland China, the United States, Japan, and Taiwan presented papers, including Koo's eldest daughter, Patricia Tsien.

N.T. Wang, in remarks summarizing the symposium, described the qualities that made Koo an outstanding diplomat.

First was Koo's command of English, both written and oral. Although many subsequent diplomats also prided themselves in foreign languages, few, including those whose



Wellington Koo served in the World Court from 1956 to 1966

mother language was English, reached the same level.

Koo had a vast knowledge and mastery of international law and politics. Three degrees earned at Columbia University in record time testified to his early grounding, and he continued to hone his skills throughout his career. Indeed, his memoirs became required reading for all those in Chinese diplomacy.

Koo's conduct of diplomacy was further enhanced by his understanding of domestic politics and its major players, both in China and in the foreign powers. In China, he refrained from entering into politics himself so that he would not threaten the parties in power and thus was able to serve under different regimes. Although at first the People's Republic could not forgive his association with the government on Taiwan, Mao soon reversed this position.

Koo's achievements proved that diplomacy was even more important for a weak country than for a strong one. He spared no efforts in defending China on the diplomatic front, even risking his life as in the case of his fact-finding mission in occupied Manchuria.

Finally, Koo's personal character and high standard of ethics reflected the Confucian values deeply rooted in his early tutorial training in China.

Materials about Koo's life and work abound, including eight volumes of memoirs and some 500 hours of oral history recorded at Columbia University. The Symposium recommended (1) publication of selected symposium papers, (2) further research on Koo,

and (3) organization of symposia and lectures in various countries.

"1919", a new Chinese dramatic film that tells the story of Koo at the Paris Peace Conference was also shown at the symposium. It was featured in the 2000 Chinese Film Festival sponsored by the Motion Picture Association this September in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York.

COMMITTEE PROMOTES CHINESE AMERICAN ROLE MODELS

The Committee of 100 will be organizing panels around the country to introduce the nation's most accomplished Chinese Americans in business, government, and the arts to Asian American students and young professionals. In Los Angeles, **Charlie Sie** assembled a role model panel which was held at the October 7 annual conference of the National Association of Asian American Professionals, whose nationwide membership is aged 35 and under.

Shirley Young moderated the program, which featured **Charles Woo** (CEO of Megatoys and the 2001 Chair of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce); Don Jue (Vice President of Server Sales, Western Region, for IBM); former C-100 member Ronald Lew (U.S. District Court Judge); and Elizabeth Bennette (Chief Information Officer for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of Los Angeles).

C-100 member and political activist Woo, whose rise as an entrepreneur was chronicled in *Fortune* magazine this year, cautioned participants that the successful Asian American business and professional person will confront many situations when they will be asked to interpret or speak for the Asian American community. "Standing around the water cooler, you'll be asked, what do Asian Americans think about this? Our opinion represents more than just ourselves. Because the community is very diverse, we should be careful of what we say, but take advantage of this role."

Book Review

By George Koo

American Goddess at the Rape of Nanking: The Courage of Minnie Vautrin by Hua-ling Hu

Some people live their lives at the water's edge, footprints of their passage on earth quickly erased by the rising tide. Others acquire a bit of immortality by converting their wealth into libraries, monuments and endowment funds. There are still others like Minnie Vautrin, who devote their entire life to helping others and hardly think about the next day much less their place in history. Thanks to Hua-ling Hu and her tireless effort to uncover facts obscured by the dust of time, Vautrin is, at least, one unsung heroine that will not be forgotten.

Author Hu manages to open the thin volume of under 150 pages with a most informative review of China's uneasy and ambivalent relationship with missionaries from the West and then sets the stage for Minnie Vautrin's arrival in China. At the beginning of the 20th century, teaching in missionary service was one of the more attractive career options for women. When Vautrin went to China, she knew nothing about the country. Yet, she was to devote 28 of her 55 years in China and came to call China her home.

By the time Japanese imperial troops marched into Nanjing in December 1937, Vautrin had already spent a quarter of a century at Ginling College in Nanjing. She not only administered the training of female students but also organized schooling for children of destitute families living nearby. Women were taught to read and acquire skills that would provide them a livelihood.

Most of the book, of course, is devoted to describing the atrocities committed by the Japanese troops and Ms. Vautrin's valiant efforts to confront and face down the brutal soldiers and their arms. She was not always successful in protecting the women seeking sanctuary inside the college, but she earned the eternal gratitude of the people of Nanjing who canonized her as a living Buddha.

American Goddess looks at the Rape of Nanjing from yet another perspective and complements other books recently published about this subject. At the same time, it tells an inspiring story of a selfless woman of compassion and courage. Minnie Vautrin is surely one of the earliest advocates, in China or America, for a woman's right to education. ㊦

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PRESS CLIPS

LA Times, Sept. 25, 2000
 "Lee Case Proved to be an Awakening"

'We needed something so shocking and terrifying that it got people to leap out of their inertia,' said movie producer [and C-100 member] Janet Yang.

-Evelyn Iritani

NY Times, September 18, 2000
 "Asian-Americans Demanding Bias Inquiry in Scientist's Case"

Dr. David Ho, a highly regarded researcher and director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York [and C-100 member], is a commissioner of the White House organization [Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders], and he said that previously the group was discouraged from raising questions about Dr. Lee by administration officials on the grounds that it was a pending criminal case. But now that it is not, he said, 'I think if we don't tackle this issue we will have no credibility among Asian Americans.'

-James Sterngold



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