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Committee Bridges

求同存异

Fall 2003

Committee of 100

DAVID HO IN BEIJING: SARS AS A "GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY" FOR CHINESE SCIENCE

Since the SARS epidemic broke out of China early this year, **David Ho** has applied lessons he learned from studying another deadly virus- AIDS- and shared them with the Chinese world. Between late March and early May, during the climax of the SARS epidemic, Ho visited Hong Kong three times, Beijing twice, and Taiwan once. Not only was he advising governments on public health procedures and policies, but coordinating transnational scientific research that may lead to a drug that blocks SARS.

The famed AIDS doctor, scientific director and CEO of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York City, spoke frankly with Chinese colleagues in Beijing this July at the International Symposium on SARS sponsored by the Chinese government. Because he is so respected in China for his AIDS research (Ho discovered the AIDS drug cocktail that has revolutionized HIV/AIDS treatment), what Ho says can have enormous influence on what the Chinese government does to prevent another SARS crisis.

Ho described himself as a kind of "CPU" (Central Processing Unit), as he traveled to the various Asian SARS battlegrounds, where the dedicated doctors and scientists shared their research with him but knew little about what was being discovered about SARS elsewhere. In May he suggested to the

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From left: David Henry Hwang, Iris Chang, Frank Wu, and Helen Zia.

NYC 100
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CHINESE AMERICAN IDENTITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

FOUR WRITERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Four second-generation Chinese American writers, all C-100 members, captivated a standing-room-only, mostly Chinese American audience at the C-100 annual conference in New York City this April, as they explored a common theme- the changing Chinese American identity.

The speakers were:

- **David Henry Hwang**- Tony Award-winning playwright (*M. Butterfly*) whose repertoire includes the recent Broadway revival of *Flower Drum Song*.
- **Iris Chang**- best-selling author of popular histories- *The Rape of Nanking*, *Thread of the Silkworm*, and *The Chinese in America*.
- **Helen Zia**- journalist and activist who wrote *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People* and co-authored

My Country Versus Me with Wen Ho Lee.

• **Frank Wu**- author of *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White* and Howard University law professor.

DO WE LIVE IN A POST-IDENTITY AGE?

Identity has been a consistent theme of Chinese American literature- back in 1909, Yung Wing's book, *My Life in China and America*, introduced the notion that we as Chinese Americans would act as mediators between the East and the West and at the same time be exploring our own identities. . . But, if you look at young artists of today, ethnicity is often not even referred to; it becomes just one part of the total picture. The brilliant [film] "Better Luck Tomorrow" has Asian American characters but they don't discuss their ethnicity, and their parents are invisible. **DAVID HENRY HWANG**

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- 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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I have been enjoying Iris Chang's recent book, "The Chinese in America." In particular, I found some lessons from the past that are worth juxtaposing with the present.

Let's consider the period of the mid- to late-1800s leading up to the Chinese Exclusion Act. During that time, we saw the early boom period of the railroads, the discovery of gold, and the migration of the American population from East to West. At the same time, Chinese labor became very important to American business.

As the number of Chinese workers in this country increased, the mood towards them changed. While the bosses continued to welcome this cheap, industrious source of labor, the workers and unions became increasingly threatened. Like a pile of wood chips waiting for a flame, these conditions were ignited by a downturn in the economy. As you would expect, bad times bring out the worst in us. In this particular case, labor leaders and politicians alike pointed to Chinese immigrants as scapegoats. One result was the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Fast forward to today: a post-dot com downturn in the economy has driven more and more companies to look offshore for cost-cutting opportunities. In this country, unemployment keeps going up. Newspapers like *USA Today* sound the alarm by pointing out that not only are massive numbers of blue collar jobs moving to Asia, but, for the first time, large numbers of white collar jobs are moving there as well! With the political season heating up, you can be assured that some candidates will pick up on this issue.

For me, all of this underscores the importance of an organization like ours. I foresee some tough times ahead. But rather than being frozen in the headlights by these thoughts, I am encouraged by what I see happening within our organization.

More than ever, we are involving our members in meaningful projects—educating young Americans about Asia, increasing the number of Asian Americans on corporate boards, inspiring young professionals to greater heights of achievement through mentoring activities and Regional Leadership Forums, and improving our linkages with leaders in Beijing and Washington.

I think we will need to redouble our efforts to present positive images of Chinese Americans. Following our successful campaign to highlight Chinese American philanthropists, we now need to showcase other Chinese American contributions to this country.

At the same time, on our upcoming China Trip, we will communicate to Chinese leaders how their fiscal management policies have affected the American economy. I believe that we owe it to them to communicate the unique perspective of Chinese Americans.

I am certainly not predicting another Chinese Exclusion Act. But, I am suggesting that we are in for some tough times as the momentum builds opposing the migration of jobs, blue and white collar, offshore to Asia. The Committee of 100 must be a vital part of demonstrating to Americans that Chinese Americans are not a part of the problem but an integral part of the solutions.

Bob Lee
Chairman
Committee of 100

STAY ON C-100'S "SHORTLIST"

We are paring our very long mailing list down to size. If you didn't send back the reply card in the summer issue and want to make sure you get *Committee Bridges* in 2004 . . .

Contact us at (212) 371-6565 or
c100@committee100.org with your email
and postal address. Or, drop us a postcard.



CHINESE AMERICAN IDENTITY*(cont. from page 1)*

Are we in a post-identity age? I sometimes feel I've become more Chinese as I grow older just because the topic keeps coming up more and more. **HELEN ZIA**

Does our focus on identity actually reinforce the notion of our being perpetual foreigners? Or, is the fact that we focus so much on identity because we are not considered by others or ourselves to be true Americans, and we're still struggling with how to balance different aspects of our heritage? **DAVID HENRY HWANG**

CHANGING STEREOTYPES OF CHINESE AMERICANS

Part of our identity is how we are perceived by others. Whenever Chinese American writers write about our communities, we always have to have present in our minds— what do people really think of us?— and then start with “Chinese Americans 101”. . . Post-identity fatigue is having to re-tread the same turf over and over again. **HELEN ZIA**

One stereotype remains constant, the notion that we are perpetual foreigners. That sometimes leads to daily irritations and sometimes to larger injustices such as the Wen Ho Lee case. **DAVID HENRY HWANG**

When I was a kid, one of my playmates asked me one day, “Why are you Chinese?” Since then I've been puzzling over this question because it was apparent to me, even as a child, that we were different. I was embarrassed of my parents and a maybe a little bit resentful, because it was their fault that we were Chinese! **FRANK WU**

It wasn't hard for me to decide I was Asian American. It was so much better than those names I was called on the playground. I was called Jap every bit as much as I was called Chink. Many of our

peers sometimes still say half-jokingly, but with some seriousness, ‘well, you all look alike!’ **FRANK WU**

There's a perception today that the Chinese in America started out poor and down-trodden at the bottom of society, only to rise steadily to the top. But the reality is that the Chinese, like other ethnic groups, endured cycles of acceptance and abuse, wild swings between xenophobia and tolerance. **IRIS CHANG**

If we want to demolish the stereotypes that we are clannish, un-American, and loyal only to each other and to China, we must be willing to help other groups in need, regardless of their race or ethnicity. **IRIS CHANG**

THE CHANGING REALITY OF CHINESE AMERICANS

Assimilation was a really bad word in the '70s and '80s. Assimilation implied that I as an Asian was trying to pathetically ape white people. Now I think that assimilation is dynamic. Yes, the culture is going to change me but I'm also going to change the culture. **DAVID HENRY HWANG**

It's great that there are more and more voices and descriptions of who we are as Chinese American. That's the only way to move away from a one-dimensional view of us. **HELEN ZIA**

We should all view our own personal experience as authentic. It's ultimately defeatist to worry about whether your experience is fake or authentic. It's all authentic. We have to view ourselves as individuals and not obsess over the larger dictates of the group identity. **IRIS CHANG**

The time is long overdue for there to be an Asian American civil rights leader. We have no Jesse Jackson, we have no Al Sharpton. . . What we need to do amongst ourselves is to nurture those public voices. **FRANK WU**

C-100 IN ACTION**CHINA'S U.N. AMBASSADOR WANG YINGFAN BID FAREWELL IN JUNE**

From left: Shirley Young, Ambassador Wang Yingfan, and I.M. Pei.

On June 24, the Committee hosted a farewell lunch for China's departing Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Wang Yingfan, and his wife. The Ambassador will become Vice Chair of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress, one of China's key foreign affairs positions. In April, he gave a keynote speech at the Committee's annual conference in New York, a masterful presentation of China's reasoning on U.N. deliberations over Iraq and other challenging issues that he encountered since coming to the U.N. in 2000.

C-100 founder and governor **I.M. Pei** presided over the gathering, which was attended by **John Fugh, Henry Lee, Xiaobo Lu, Betty Lee Sung, Henry Tang, Charles Tse, Charles P. Wang, N.T. Wang, Alice Young, John Young, Shirley Young**, Executive Director Alice Mong, and other staff members. Ambassador Wang told C-100 Executive Counsellor **John Young** that he felt the Committee was uniquely able to provide China with honest and friendly advice because C-100 members are American citizens who view China not only through the prism of their Chinese heritage but with American interests and values. Largely because of Wang's skillful

(cont. on page 4)



C-100 IN ACTION*(cont. from page 3)*

diplomacy, Young observed, China managed to persuade the U.S. of its flexibility and good will during the U.N. debate on Iraq, although like Germany, France, and Russia, it also opposed the use of force until U.N. inspections uncovered prohibited weapons in Iraq.

On June 26, **John Young** and **Charles P. Wang** attended a United Nations gathering hosted by Ambassador Wang, attended by 300, many of them high-level U.N. officials, reflecting the esteem in which he is held.

OTHER MEETINGS WITH VISITING CHINESE OFFICIALS

On June 27, **John Young** and **Charles P. Wang** met with two officials who helped arrange C-100's most recent trip to China: Wang Shenghong, the Director General of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (Zheng Xie), and Wang Linxu, a well-known artist who is a member of Zheng Xie's Foreign Affairs Commission. In San Francisco, **Bob Lee, C.B. Sung,** and **Peter Liu** also hosted a luncheon for these two officials. Zheng Xie, a powerful advisory group to the National People's Congress, is made up of intellectuals, entrepreneurs, former diplomats, and members of non-Communist parties.

A farewell luncheon for China's outgoing Consul General for New York City, Ambassador Zhang Hongxi, was hosted on July 11 by the Committee. **David Chang, Carolyn Chin, Xiaobo Lu, Henry Tang, Charles P. Wang, N.T. Wang, Alice Young, John Young,** and **Shirley Young**, along with C-100 staff members, joined the Consul General and his wife.

**COMMITTEE TO OPEN LIAISON OFFICE IN HONG KONG**

John Chen, C-100 Vice-Chair for International Relations, announced that the Committee is planning a presence in Greater China to

coordinate communications with Asian leaders and to organize activities for C-100's members living in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. Project Link will be staffed by a liaison office in Hong Kong, which may open this year.

Among the activities of the office will be planning the Committee's trips to Greater China and making contacts with Greater China leaders, including junior and emerging leaders, in university and commercial circles as well as government. Also being considered are C-100 speaker series in universities and an annual conference that will feature C-100's Asia-based members, who make up about 10% of the membership.

**COMMITTEE CO-SPONSORS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FROM COAST TO COAST****New York City**

"Leadership Crisis in Hong Kong: Making Sense of the Wide-Ranging Implications" was a briefing held July 23 by the Asia Society in collaboration with C-100. The July 1 march by 500,000 people in Hong Kong to protest the proposed national security law, also known as Article 23, was a wake-up call about the mood of the Hong Kong people. **Alice Young**, Chair of the Asia-Pacific Practice Group at Kaye Scholer LLP Law Firm and Vice Chair of the Committee of 100, spoke on the business community's perspective. Analyzing the response of the Chinese leadership and discussing human rights issues was Andrew Nathan, Professor of Political Science at Columbia University. Christine Loh, CEO of the Civic Exchange in Hong Kong, presented the Hong Kong perspective.

The speakers agreed that for Beijing and the Hong Kong Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa, stability in Hong Kong is key. It was suggested that the high level of discontent in Hong Kong was caused by a troubled economy combined with the Hong Kong leadership's poor handling of the debate. They also agreed that a positive sign was Beijing's restraint in letting Hong Kong deal with the problem on its own. *(Thanks to C-100 summer intern Tim Wang for reporting on this story)*

Southern California

In Pasadena, the Asia Society co-sponsored a panel with C-100 on "The Economic Impact of SARS: A Disaster or a Warning?" on June 4, with **Alice Huang**, virologist at Caltech; Reginald Chua of *The Asian Wall Street Journal*; and Scott Mowrer, vice president for Cathay Pacific. "Retreating from global activities is not an option," Huang said, reassuring participants that "SARS is less contagious than influenza," and "the tried and true methods of preventing the spread of viruses work well with SARS." She also suggested that we can improve our planning in case of a bioterror attack by looking at how people reacted in the SARS epidemic.

The National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and C-100 jointly sponsored a June 11 talk at Town Hall Los Angeles, "Asia in the New Century: Prospects for Regional Economic Integration." It featured China's most distinguished trade official, Long Yongtu. Long is currently secretary-general of the Boao Forum for Asia and was in charge of China's WTO negotiations. C-100 members **Herman Li, Charlie Sie,** and **Peter Liu** attended.

Washington, D.C.

On August 4, the Atlantic Council of the United States convened a workshop bringing together Chinese and American experts on international and regional security to assess the strategic environment after the Iraq War. Co-sponsored by C-100, **John Fugh** (former Judge

Advocate General of the U.S. Army) and **Julia Chang Bloch** (Director Emeritus of the Institute of Global Chinese Affairs) were among the distinguished American participants. The Chinese participants were top international affairs scholars in influential positions at leading institutions including the Central Party School.

The workshop participants concluded that the U.S.-China relations are the best they have been for decades. Especially promising for cooperation are counter-terrorism, non-proliferation on the Korean Peninsula and South Asia, and Japan's evolving role in regional and global security.

DAVID HO

(cont. from page 1)

Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology that it would be useful for SARS experts to meet and share what they had learned. The July meeting was the result.

"SARS could be a golden opportunity for China," Ho suggested. China should be at the forefront of finding "an ultimate solution to SARS." The way to make that happen is for China to lead the way in creating a central clearinghouse for SARS data and research from all over the world. "We still know only a few things about the SARS virus, and we do not know if the epidemic will return or not. It is only prudent to act as if it will come back—repeatedly and strongly." But whether or not it returns, the creation of a world-wide database and a consortium of SARS researchers, based in China, would do much to push ahead Chinese biological science.

China has carried out large-scale, Big Science research projects in physics and aerospace—why not in biology too? asked Ho. "But, Big Science can only be done in a cooperative fashion," he said, which means breaking down political as well as institutional barriers. If China



WHO'S WHO ON C-100 STAFF

MICHAEL MA

Assistant to the Treasurer

C-100 Treasurer **Dennis Wu** selected Michael Ma this January to assist him with managing the Committee's finances and budget. A Senior Audit Manager for Deloitte & Touche in San Francisco, Michael is a CPA who came to the U.S. in 1994 from China, where he studied industrial management at the renowned People's University in Beijing. Michael's work for the Committee is pro bono, a contribution from his firm as well as himself. He is proud to be able to help the Committee because he feels that C-100 is "doing good work for Chinese people and society at large."

finds a way to control or prevent SARS, "it will not only benefit the population at risk but also be a source of national pride."

Ho, like much of the international health community, had criticized the Chinese government for its initial mishandling of the epidemic, especially for its slow dissemination of information about the disease's spread. Many blame China for allowing the disease to escape China. "SARS has given China a black eye in the international arena, because it is seen as the source of the problem, whereas it has appeared that the solutions have all come from the outside. This implies that the capabilities to solve SARS don't exist in China, and we all know that's not true," said Ho.

Another problem, Ho told *Science Magazine*, is that "the Chinese give way too much respect to the opinion of teachers or elderly individuals. Younger scientists should learn to challenge authority a little more when the data do not fit." An incredible story is told in the July 18 issue of *Science* about a group of virologists at the Academy of Military Medical Sciences who were actually the first to discover that SARS was caused by a coronavirus (the same family of viruses that causes the common cold)—a month before an international network of scientists announced the same discovery. But the Beijing scientists kept their

findings to themselves because the prevailing theory in China, espoused by a senior official, was that SARS was caused by a bacterium. Thus, China missed its chance to win international acclaim and perhaps even slow the progress of SARS. In July, Ho cautioned Chinese scientists to "be on the dogma alert."

From his vantage point as a veteran of AIDS research, Ho knows how critical it is to share information with colleagues worldwide about all aspects of a contagious disease, from its genome structure to vaccine and drug studies. "From the outset of SARS, let's have a coordinated effort, integrating our findings in one database." Instead of the National Institute of Health in the U.S. maintaining this SARS clearinghouse, Ho would like to see China take the lead.

Meanwhile, Ho is beginning the collaborative process himself and making news with the team's experiments on what could be a SARS therapeutic, a synthetic protein that appears to block the SARS virus. This is a collaboration between his New York colleagues, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences in Beijing, and Hong Kong university scientists. In addition, Ho's team is in the process of constructing a number of potential vaccines to protect against SARS. The protective effects of these new vaccines will be determined in the next six months.

C-100 EDUCATION PROJECT FOCUSES ON CALIFORNIA CURRICULUM

Improving the American public school curriculum so that it includes more and better content on Asia and Asian Americans is the mission of the Committee's Education Committee, co-chaired by **Julia Chang Bloch** and **Leslie Tang Schilling**. California will be the focus of C-100 efforts because of the large number of Asian Americans in its population and because its curriculum decisions on critical issues often are ahead of other states.



Leslie Tang Schilling

This summer, Committee members convened two meetings in San Francisco and Los Angeles with educators who have been active in this field. In San Francisco, 30 people attended a meeting with Schilling and C-100 member **Linda Tsao Yang**, including Bay area teachers, principals, curriculum specialists, foundation officers, and policy advocates.

Two priorities were identified:

- (1) Textbooks, so important to any curriculum, currently have very little Asian American content.
- (2) More Asian Americans or those with a special expertise in Asia or Asian Americans need to join school boards, the Board of Education, and especially the California Curriculum Commission.

The San Francisco participants shared a rich abundance of grassroots curriculum projects. One involves a C-100 member, **Adeline Yen Mah**, whose books, *Falling Leaves* and *Chinese Cinderella*, were read by 10,000 children and many adults in Orange County Reads One Book.



Adeline Yen Mah

Schilling commented: "We're at the beginning of what we know is a long-term process. Education systems take time to change. But, while we pursue our long-term goals, we will also be looking for innovative ways to get content into the schools where a mandate already exists to teach about Asia and Asian Americans.

"We keep hearing that, on those rare occasions when teachers are obliged to teach about Asia, they're often not properly trained or equipped to do so. This is an opportunity for developing teacher training and materials to meet a real need. And, we'd like to see more Asian Americans in leadership positions at all levels of the education infrastructure."

(Thanks to Kathy Wah Lee for reporting on this project. Lee will be joining the C-100 staff this October as Program Director.)

Announcement

NEW ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PRIZES TO BE AWARDED

Every year, five \$25,000 Prizes for Excellence in International Education will be awarded to innovative programs that help close the international knowledge gap in American schools. The Goldman Sachs Foundation and Asia Society have teamed up to inspire schools, colleges and universities, state education programs, and media/technology groups to develop new ways of bringing knowledge about the

world's cultures, languages, politics and societies into American classrooms. The winning programs will be documented in a "best practices" guide. For more information, go the website, www.internationalead.org. C-100 is a member of the national coalition formed by the Asia Society to promote international education.

“SHOCK TROOPS” NEEDED TO PROMOTE TEACHING ABOUT ASIA IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS

NYC 100

April 24-26, 2003

EDUCATION PANEL CALLS FOR LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL ACTION

“American students are trapped in educational isolationism that leaves us unprepared for the reality of the 21st century global economy. We can’t claim that we’re educating to high standards if we ignore teaching about the most populous region in the world.” As Co-chair of the National Coalition on Asia and International Studies in the Schools, former Michigan Governor John Engler keynoted a panel of impassioned educational activists seeking to broaden the ranks of citizens calling for more teaching about Asia in the schools.

“This is a movement, and we need shock troops,” said Ambassador **Julia Chang Bloch**, who represents the Committee of 100 on the National Coalition. John Tateishi, executive director of the Japanese American Citizens League, led the thirty-year

grassroots campaign to teach about the Japanese internment of World War II in California schools, and urged the audience to get involved: “If we [Asian Americans] don’t push, nobody else is going to.”

James A. Kelly, founding president of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, agreed: “Nothing will happen unless there is a strong bottom-up effort from citizens and interested teachers. Schools are slow to change, they resist change, but they do change.”

Vivien Stewart, Vice President of the Asia Society, the organization that serves as the secretariat for the Coalition, thanked the Committee for becoming a major partner in the Coalition’s efforts. In addition to Bloch, she noted that **Leslie Tang Schilling**, **Bob Lee**, and **Dominic Ng** aim to



Julia Chang Bloch

bring China into the California curriculum; **Shirley Young** has been creating partnerships between schools in China and the U.S. for many years; **Henry Tang** is helping the Moyers’ Chinese American series get into schools; and **Jerry Yang** appears in an awareness-raising video that the Coalition has developed as part of its public engagement campaign.

The Coalition’s website, www.asiaintheschools.org, is a clearinghouse for information on current activities in different states and strategies for motivated citizens and educators to bring Asia into their community’s classrooms.



CHINA’S CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

EARTH INSTITUTE’S DIRECTOR JEFFREY SACHS

NYC 100

April 24-26, 2003

Jeffrey D. Sachs has attracted media attention as an economic superstar and guru to developing nations. Wooded to head Columbia University’s Earth Institute in 2002 after twenty years at Harvard, Sachs is also an advisor for the United Nations’ Millennium Project to alleviate world poverty. He spoke on the economic future of China for the Committee of 100 conference this April.

“The period since 1978 [in China] has been probably the most splendid period of economic



Jeffrey Sachs

progress in the history of the world,” said Sachs. “China’s ten-fold increase in living standards for more than 1.2 billion people is something that was not seen on the planet before at this pace and scale.

Sachs acknowledges that there is a huge economic, scientific, technological and educational gap between China and the developed world, but it is a gap that the Chinese have a “deeply-felt urge to close.” If the past 25 years are any indication, Sachs

believes, China will catch up in a “matter of decades.”

“Steering China through several decades of fast growth will be a monumental challenge and a monumental achievement.” Sachs then laid out the obstacles that China will have to overcome in the next generation to achieve this success—and avoid disaster.

SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

1. There is a huge economic imbalance between China’s lagging Western interior and its booming Eastern coast.

(cont. on page 10)

IN MEMORIAM: C.C. WANG, ARTIST AND CHINESE ART COLLECTOR 1907-2003

By Jane Leung Larson

Best known for his magnificent collection of Chinese paintings, but wanting most to be remembered for his own still evolving art, **C.C. Wang** died July 3 at age 96 in Manhattan. Wang joined the Committee in 1990, shortly after it was founded. C-100 Governor **Henry Tang** called Wang a “cultural lion” who had uniquely bridged East and West through his life and art. Tang urged Chinese Americans to visit the C.C. Wang Family Gallery in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, to learn more about traditional Chinese art. The Metropolitan has 60 paintings acquired from Wang’s collection, with others dispersed in museums across the country.

Wang’s life has been consumed with the study and practice of Chinese painting since he was 14 and living in Suzhou, a traditional haven for Chinese artists. His classical training in calligraphy and painting, at the side of master artist/collectors, was combined with study of the best Chinese art collections, both private and imperial. It was later said that before he was 30 years old, he had already seen more of the most prized Chinese paintings than anyone else in the world.

After Wang immigrated to the U.S. in 1949, he lived in New York, supporting his family and his growing art collection of Sung and Yuan dynasty paintings by working for a wallpaper company, art consulting, selling real estate, and teaching painting. At the same time, he began exploring Western art, taking classes at the Art Students League where he was exposed to Abstract Expressionism.

By the 1960s, Wang began to move from traditional Chinese landscape painting to far more abstract and colorful compositions, and as time went on, his work became more and more innovative and self-expressive. Though imbued with the brushwork and sensibility of his classical art training, Wang’s art had become thoroughly modern. Endlessly experimenting, by the end of his life he had turned to calligraphic expressions, and his were among the most striking works featured in “China Without Borders,” an exhibition of the most notable contemporary Chinese artists mounted in New York in 2001, when he was 94.

It was as a collector that Wang gained most of his fame. In 1999, the Metropolitan presented “The Artist as Collector: Masterpieces of Chinese Painting from the C.C. Wang Family Collection”, which showcased rare works Wang had collected by Yuan painters Zhao Mengfu, Ni Zan, and Wang Meng, as well as Wang’s most treasured piece, “Riverbank,” a landscape painting attributed to the 10th century artist Dong Yuan. Hanging alongside these classical works were C.C. Wang’s own creations—abstracts and landscapes—traditional Chinese painting in an encounter with modernity.

Wang’s son S.K. Wang and daughter Yien-koo Wang King thanked the Committee for the support of its members, many of whom were close friends with their father. Wang’s memorial service exemplified the respect he had earned from Chinese art scholars, with eulogies by Met curators Maxwell Hearn and Wen Fong, Wang’s former student and Chinese art dealer Arnold Chang, and art historian Jerome



Abstract #22052710
69 x 40 cm
C.C. Wang, 2002
Ink & color on rice paper

Silbergeld, who wrote in his book, *Mind Landscapes: The Paintings of C.C. Wang* that Wang’s values, life and art “represent a ‘Grand Synthesis.’”

Just two months before Wang died, he and his daughter invited C-100 founder **I.M. Pei** for lunch at the Metropolitan Museum. Later, at Wang’s studio, he showed Pei some of his most recent work, which Pei found remarkably “forward-looking” in its use of new materials but also “traditional with a twist.” Pei is especially fond of Wang’s landscape paintings and hopes to arrange for an exhibition of Wang’s work at the new Suzhou Museum that Pei is now designing [see Member News].

MEMBER NEWS



Celebrated architect **I.M. Pei's** professional life is brimming with architectural projects, although at 86, he insists he will not take on any

new ones. This May, he attended the opening of his glass-spiralled extension of the German Historical Museum in Berlin, commissioned by Germany's former Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and featuring a new retrospective exhibition of Pei's work, which includes many of the world's most memorable buildings, such as the Bank of China in Hong Kong. Soon to be completed are the Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean in Luxembourg and the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar, the latter project taken on "long before 9/11" because Pei wanted to learn more about Islamic culture.

Closest to his heart is design of the new Suzhou Museum, to be built near his family's former compound, the Garden of the Forest of Lions, in the paradisaical city of Suzhou. The Suzhou Museum will house the treasures of this 2,500 year-old city and will reflect both the traditional low-rise, sloped-roof architecture that surrounds it and Pei's signature style.

Pei opened C-100's conference this April by telling how the Committee began in 1989 as a personal response to "Tiananmen," when he realized the need for a strong Chinese American voice in U.S.-China relations. "It is very important for this country to have committed Chinese Americans who have the ability to bring together two cultures, two peoples and two nations."



Betty Lee Sung, who wrote the first popular history of Chinese Americans (*Mountain of Gold*, 1967) and went on to do pioneering research on

Chinese living in the Eastern U.S. and on Chinese American intermarriage, is now encouraging others to follow in her footsteps.

Long after her retirement as professor and chair of the Department of Asian Studies at City College of New York in 1992, Sung remains active, as chair of the Asian American/Asian Research Institute (AAARI) at the City University of New York (CUNY), serving all 20 colleges in the CUNY system. It had been Sung's dream to found an institute devoted to research on the neglected field of Asian Americans on the East Coast, and AAARI finally came into being in 2001. Although still young, it has energized New York region scholars and students of Asian American studies through such activities as two well-attended conferences and a weekly lecture series that covers Asia as well as Asian America.

AAARI's first conference, held in May 2002, brought together Asian American leaders to address the little-studied effects of 9/11 on New York's Chinatown. This May, Sung presided over the Asian American Conference on Education that addressed such critical educational issues as school violence, student counseling, Asian American identity and the arts, and inter-racial relationships. Now, Sung is working to make the Institute self-sustaining through grants and gifts and is preparing for a major fundraising campaign.



Tu Weiming, Harvard Yenching Professor of Chinese history, philosophy and Confucian studies, has spent the last few years deeply engaged in

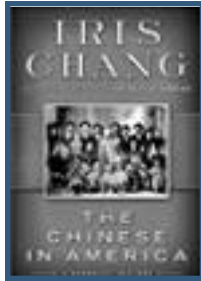
a global dialogue about globalization and cultural diversity. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan appointed Tu to the select group of intellectual leaders who led the Dialogue among Civilizations and contributed to its report, "Crossing the Divide." "Since September 11, dialogue is more challenging," Tu said, "with so much sentiment for unilateralism in the U.S., but eventually we have to accept dialogue as the best way of dealing with other cultures, especially those radically different from ours." The U.N. dialogue continues, and this July, Tu took part in a UNESCO-sponsored ministerial conference in India and a U.N. University Global Seminar in Seoul.

Successful dialogue between people of different backgrounds begins with tolerance, and moves to recognition, respect, reference, mutual learning, and finally celebration, says Tu. China is one of the countries that could most benefit from broadening its horizons, believes Tu, and he addressed this topic in "Prospects for a Cultural China," a talk in New York July 17 for the China Institute and the California-based Evergreen Foundation. Tu's much-discussed concept of "cultural China" includes people living in Greater China, the Chinese diaspora, and, most controversially, those of non-Chinese descent who are involved with China.

Tu is also a regular lecturer for the Aspen Institute and the World Economic Forum, venues for dialogue among elite business leaders.

C-100 BOOKMARK**THE CHINESE IN AMERICA:
A NARRATIVE HISTORY****Iris Chang** Viking, 2003

By Stella Dong

[excerpted from an interview published in the South China Morning Post, May 6, 2003]

Iris Chang.

Although Chinese have been in America since the mid-nineteenth century, their history—one of enormous struggle and endurance—is unknown to most Americans. It took 150 years, but the story of Chinese in America is only now coming into its own. March saw the premiere of a monumental three-part television series, “Becoming American: The Chinese Experience.” That was followed this April by the publication of Iris Chang’s much-awaited third book, “The Chinese in America: A Narrative History.”

Chang, author of the best-selling “The Rape of Nanking,” saw her job in “The Chinese of America” as that of answering the question of why Chinese émigrés “made the very hard and frightening decision to leave the country of their ancestors and the company of their own people to make new lives for themselves,” and, having answered that, to explain what happened to the emigrants once they arrived in the United States.

While “The Rape of Nanking” was a book that broke new ground in its being the first English-language book about the Nanking massacre written for the general public, “The Chinese in America” is more of traditional history, albeit one with a “human

rights perspective,” says Chang. How so? “In this book as in the ‘Rape of Nanking,’ I’ve tried to show how racism can be used as a tool by powerful elites to tighten their control over the people they govern. I want people to be sensitive to how racism can be exploited for political or economic ends.”

Chang also hopes that non-Chinese readers of her new book will come

away with a better idea of who Chinese Americans are. “There’s still the perception of Chinese Americans being seen as foreigners rather than Americans.” And, she asserts, “People outside the community will flatten us into stereotypes. But a lot of the stereotypes about Chinese have no bearing whatsoever on how most of us live.”

CHINA’S CHALLENGES*(cont. from page 7)*

2. China needs to re-construct its public health system, which is barely functioning in the rural areas.

3. Agricultural lands are being stressed with the press of a growing population. China will become a major net importer of food. To solve this, China is positioning itself to become a world leader in agrobiotechnology.

4. China needs to turn from being an importer to an exporter of science and technology to promote its long-term economic growth. The challenge is to transform the closed government-dominated research system to an open university/government/private sector approach.

5. China must get its public finances in order, especially its state-owned commercial banks that are reeling from a huge burden of Non-Performing Loans.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

1. Water shortage: Northern China is extremely dry, the underground water aquifers are being drained, and the whole China plain, including Beijing, is subsiding. To provide water to the North, China is about to divert the Yangzi River

through canals, an expensive and ecologically damaging project.

2. Air pollution: Asian “black smog,” caused mainly by the burning of coal, has dramatically contributed to the drying of the atmosphere in Northern China.

3. Energy systems and climate change: Fueling China’s development is coal, a major source of the emissions that are changing our climate. Finding a way to make coal safe for China means not only that China’s massive growth can continue but also will be good for long-term global health.

POLITICAL AND GEO-POLITICAL CHALLENGES

1. China needs a more open political system. Sophisticated, high-level societies require open transmission of knowledge and freedom of movement, action and choice.

2. Geopolitically, China’s progress is threatened by U.S. fear of it as a rising power. It’s critical that Americans understand that China’s success is our success. Good relations with the U.S. are central to China’s hopes of catching up.



AFFIRMING DIVERSITY: THE SUPREME COURT RULES ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

An Analysis by Frank H. Wu

“Instead of the question of whether affirmative action should be abolished, the question is how we will make good on the promise of a diverse democracy.”



Wu, a C-100 member, is a professor at the Howard University Law School. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1991 and taught there in 2002-03. He also testified in the trial of the law school case described below

This June, the United States Supreme Court ruled in two University of Michigan affirmative action cases, decisions that compel the nation to confront the challenge of achieving genuine racial integration.

In the pair of lawsuits, the nine Justices upheld the law school plan that seeks a “critical mass” of diverse persons, but struck down the undergraduate plan that grants points to applicants for being African American or Hispanic, or white or Asian American but also socioeconomically disadvantaged—in addition to the primary factors of grades and test scores.

In the law school case, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor wrote the majority opinion. She reasoned that “context matters when reviewing race-based government action under the Equal Protection Clause” and “not every decision influenced by race is equally objectionable.” She held, as her predecessor, the late Justice Lewis Powell, had a generation earlier in the famous Bakke case, that a school “has a compelling interest in attaining a diverse student body.”

The Justices appeared to be persuaded by the evidence that racial diversity produces tangible benefits in the classroom and that it was impossible to bring about such diversity without taking into account race. Unlike previous litigation over affirmative action, the law school case resulted in an actual trial. Social scientists presented research about the effects of racial prejudice and the persistence of racial disparities affecting people of color, especially African Americans and Hispanics.

For complicated reasons that are only starting to be analyzed objectively, African American students in particular would decline to minuscule numbers at the elite law schools under a rigid regime of admissions based solely on grades and test scores. There would be no more than a few dozen enrolled at Michigan and schools such as Harvard and Stanford, resulting in even fewer African Americans working in the legal field. A record number of friend-of-the court briefs were filed in the Supreme Court cases, but the one with the most impact on the Justices was from retired military commanders, who described the positive changes brought about by racially mixed troops and minority officers.

In the undergraduate case, the Justices also followed the lead of the moderate Powell. The Bakke case prohibited racial quotas. The

Michigan cases appear to prohibit any race-based points system.

The Michigan law school approach has been open. Under its guidelines, Asian Americans also could be directly included as beneficiaries if the numbers of Asian Americans were not a “critical mass.” As it happens, Asian American enrollment in the most recent classes has been over ten percent – more than a quintupling in just over a decade.

The Supreme Court has ruled, yet the most difficult decisions remain. The Supreme Court has only set the limits. The political process, at the national, state and local levels, along with the choices made by individual schools through their boards and administrations, will determine whether people of all backgrounds will continue to have access to the best higher education in the world, and how these plans to ensure access are crafted so as to not unduly harm those who are not direct beneficiaries.

The Supreme Court has changed the question to be answered. Of course, asking the right questions is a pre-requisite to finding the right answers. Instead of the question of whether affirmative action should be abolished, the question is how we will make good on the promise of a diverse democracy. It is a challenge, but we are up to it if – and only if – we work together.



FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
S. ALICE MONG



I recently received an e-mail from a fellow alum, Randy, who contacted me after he read of my appointment as the Executive Director of the Committee of 100 in our alumni magazine. Randy reports that he and his wife were among the first American families to adopt Chinese babies in 1995. They have two daughters, aged 6 and 8. Randy's wife started a local chapter of Families of Children from China. Now, they are trying to get their daughters' private school, where 40% of the students are of Asian descent, to teach Chinese rather than French and are recruiting the Chinese parents in this endeavor. I applaud their effort and have no doubt that they will succeed.

In the Aug. 16, 2003 *Financial Times*, Patti Waldmeir confesses that she has become "more Chinese than the Chinese" in exposing her two adopted Chinese daughters to their heritage and culture, in the hope that they will have the tools with which to construct their Chinese identity.

It is wonderful to see how things have changed in the last 30 years. A Chinese American friend recently returned from Asia to attend her 20th high school reunion in North Carolina and had the startling realization that she had been the only Asian in her class of 200! Growing up in the States in the 1970s, we had been encouraged to assimilate and to become more American than the Americans. My friend and I re-discovered our Chinese (and American) identities while working and living in Asia.

Looking back, it seemed so important to us as kids and teen-agers to "fit in" rather than appreciate our uniqueness as Chinese Americans. In some situations, our "uniqueness" was not appreciated by fellow Americans—just ask Vincent Chin's family. It was only in 1982 that Chin was beaten to death in Michigan for being Asian. This incident demonstrates that it is not enough to teach our children to appreciate themselves, but also necessary to teach our fellow Americans to appreciate us as well and not use us as scapegoats during bad economic times. Hence the importance of the C-100/Asia Society education initiative of increasing Asian and Asian American content in the K-12 curriculum—in 21st Century America, multiculturalism is not just a luxury, but a necessity.

Patti Waldmeir also wrote about how Chinese adoptees need a "link to Asian American culture" and "role models who look like them in America." When Randy's 4-year daughter was asked by her preschool teacher to name her favorite musician, she replied "Yo-Yo Ma." According to Randy, there are approximately 30,000 adoptive Chinese children in the U.S. I can't wait to read about the contributions that this new generation of Chinese-Americans will be making in the U.S. and, maybe, even in China, in the years to come. I know the next Yo-Yo Ma, I.M. Pei, Connie Chung and Maya Lin will be among them.

LOS ANGELES TO HOST
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 2-3, 2004



From top: Ng, Cherng, Li and Woo.

Committee of 100 members in the Southern California region are projecting that the next annual conference will be C-100's most successful yet. With two record-breaking Los Angeles United Way Campaign chairs among its leadership—**Dominic Ng** and **Andrew Cherng**—the 2004 conference planning group certainly has the local fundraising experience to make that happen. Ng is chair, and Cherng, **Herman Li** and **Charlie Woo** are co-chairs.



Committee of 100

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