

C.A.C.A. Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge The Piazza – October 2018

Professor Nancy Yuen dispels Hollywood Myths that Racism Does not exist in the Movie Industry

In a talk given at the Author Program in Monterey Park Library on Sunday, August 19, Professor Nancy Wang Yuen asserted that racism against actors of color, Asians included, does exist in the Hollywood movie industry. This is evidenced by the paucity of actors of color who were nominated and winners of the Academy Awards (6.2% and 7.8% respectively). Over the history of the Awards, only three Asians have won acting awards.

The root cause of this is that the industry is controlled by "a set of predominantly white male creative talent,



Prof. Yuen talks as father-in-law Bro. David Yuen looks on

business executives, and gatekeepers (that) breeds a culture of ethno-centric storytelling and casting. The industry maintains the racial status quo by invoking colorblind rationales that attribute white male dominance to individualistic merit and cultural explanations", while putting up a "façade of progressive openness." Prof. Yuen argued that the so-called "lack of talent" among colored actors can be attributed to lack of roles/opportunities for them to hone their acting skills, because white writers often "personalize the writing process to their life experience" resulting in writing only for all-white casts even in diverse locations. Also,



Prof. Yuen Interacting with Audience

unwillingness for Hollywood talent agents to go outside traditional venues to seek actors of color (for example, East West Players for Asian actors) is a serious problem. Another rationale used by Hollywood film financiers is that the market prefers white actors. This myth can now be dispelled by the recent box office success of "The Black Panther" with an all-black cast and "Crazy Rich Asians" with an all-Asian cast. With China and other parts of the world becoming bigger markets and financiers for Hollywood films, there is an incentive for the movie industry to make movies with an international appeal, thus opening up more roles for actors of color.



From L: Lodge Pres. Charles Mau, Prof. Yuen and Vice Mayor Peter Chan

Dr. Nancy Wang Yuen is Professor of Sociology at Biola University. A lively Q&A session ensued after the talk. Prof. Yuen signed many of the book "Reel Inequality: Hollywood Actors and Racism" on which her talk was based

This event was cosponsored by the Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge of C.A.C.A. The

attendance was great with about 40-50 people, and MP Mayor Pro Tem Bro. Peter Chan was also present. .

Inventor Henry Chan Speaks on Senior Care with Technology as Second Career

Henry Chan, a retired telecommunications professional and now an inventor, was an invited speaker at our Sept. 10 Lodge meeting. Henry has a very dynamic personality with many interests and hobbies. He worked for Bell Canada and Verizon for over forty years. After retirement he took on a part-time job with Captioncall,



Henry Chan making his Presentation

installing free caption phones for hearing-impaired seniors. At the same time, he volunteered as a teacher in local community centers, using his diverse knowledge to teach seniors cope with new technologies to improve their quality of life. Through this experience, he developed CareRinger, a telephone reassurance system, to help independent seniors living alone. For this invention, he received a patent from the USPTO and started a business funded by the Pacific Asian Consortium for Employment (PACE) organization. With new roles and responsibilities associated with this business, he found new meaning in life. Through this process, he learned a lot about aging, which is inevitable, and the disabilities that come with age.



Henry Chan (L) and Bro. Charles

For those who are risk. Henry believes they should adhere to certain disciplines that will help delay their need for care while improving their quality of life. There are systems in our community that help those

whose help themselves when the need arises. Resources may come from (a) insurance, (2) agencies for aging and (c) friends and families. The same is true with technology, such as CareRinger. You can use it to let your loved one know you are OK, or when you may need their help. It can function as a reminder call for your medication. With the growing popularity of devices supporting voice recognition, the Internet of Things, etc., one can seek solutions specific to one's needs. More information is available at the website www.careringer.com. There are possibilities for our Lodge to collaborate with Henry and other organizations to serve the Chinese American communities in our area.

Screening of "Home of My Heart", Sunday, Oct. 14, MP Library



Sun, 14 October 2018, 2pm
Monterry Park Bruggemeyer
Library
Screening followed by
discussion

Mel years to preserve what inevitably loses to all the state of the

GSGV Lodge is cosponsoring the screening of the documentary "Home of My Heart" by Director Can To on Sunday, Oct. 14, 2:00 PM in Monterey Park Library. Director To, a renowned filmmaker from Hong Kong,

worked for the local TV stations as a news producer. This film is about an overseas Chinese desperately trying to preserve her ancestral home in Southern China from demolition, and in the process, found her roots and why her ancestors sacrificed so much for her.

Notable Lodge Activities in the Past Month



GSGV and LA Lodge members having a fun time at LA Lodge's Summer Picnic in Los Angeles State Historic Park. Aug. 25



From Left: GSGV members Charles & Tammy Mau, Paul Wong, Bob Gin, Craig Miller and Alice Mah attend CAM Historymakers Gala at Bonaventure Hotel, Sept. 13.



Lodge President Charles Mau with Congresswoman Judy Chu in MP Library, Sept. 9, as she signed her name underneath her picture in the book "Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Congress, 1900 - 2017", published by the US House of Representatives. This free book may be obtained via the local Office of Judy Chu. For those members who want a copy, you may also contact Brother Charles