



THE ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE TEACHERS

March 2015

今天的教師培養明天的夢想

The dreams of tomorrow are shaped by the teachers of today...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Colleagues,

On January 31, 2015, approximately one hundred people spent a beautiful Saturday morning at Lakeshore Elementary for the Teachers Teaching Teachers (TTT) event hosted by TACT. The focus of this year's TTT event was Asian American history through art and literature. We invited Ruthanne Lum McCunn, a nationally known local author, who shared with us her research on writing

her latest book, *The Chinese Yankee*, which chronicles the fascinating life of Thomas Sylvanus (Ah Yee Way), an orphan from Hong Kong who was enslaved in Baltimore, fought in the Civil War and strove for justice and a life of dignity in the United States during the second half of the 19th century. McCunn was a teacher at SFUSD in the 1970's and later taught at Cornell University, the University of California at Santa Cruz, and the University of San Francisco. Brought up in Hong Kong, McCunn is fluent in Cantonese and knows the Asian culture first hand. Her books often highlight the experiences and influence of Chinese people in America. McCunn was introduced by Angela Sheredy, teacher from Spring Valley School. Angela shared how reading *Pie Biter* when she was an elementary school student had elevated her interest for reading. Now Angela's own children are reading McCunn's books. McCunn was such a captivating and engaging speaker that the audience could have spent another hour listening to her.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☐ Friday, April 24, 2015
 - TACT Scholarship Dinner

APIA WOMEN BREAKING HISTORY

On May 16 (Saturday), in observance of Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Heritage Month, The Association of Chinese Teachers (TACT), the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University, and the San Francisco Main Library, will celebrate this annual event at the Latino/Hispanic Community Room from 10:30 to 12:30. This year's theme will focus on APIA women who have contributed to the making of America. There will be an APIA Women Wall of Fame on display, various related arts and crafts activities for children and adults alike, and a children's book exhibition of APIA women biographies as well as books authored by APIA women for all ages. In addition to a variety of takeaways and an APIA women reading list to kick off everyone's summer reading, the first 50 children ages 12 and under to attend will receive a complimentary goody bag.

PHOTO GALLERY FROM THE TEACHERS TEACHING TEACHERS EVENT



A day full of activities.



Keynote Speaker, Ruthanne Lum McCunn



Ms. McCunn with her number #1 fan, teacher Angela Sheredy and family.



Ms. McCunn captivates her audience with details from her books.



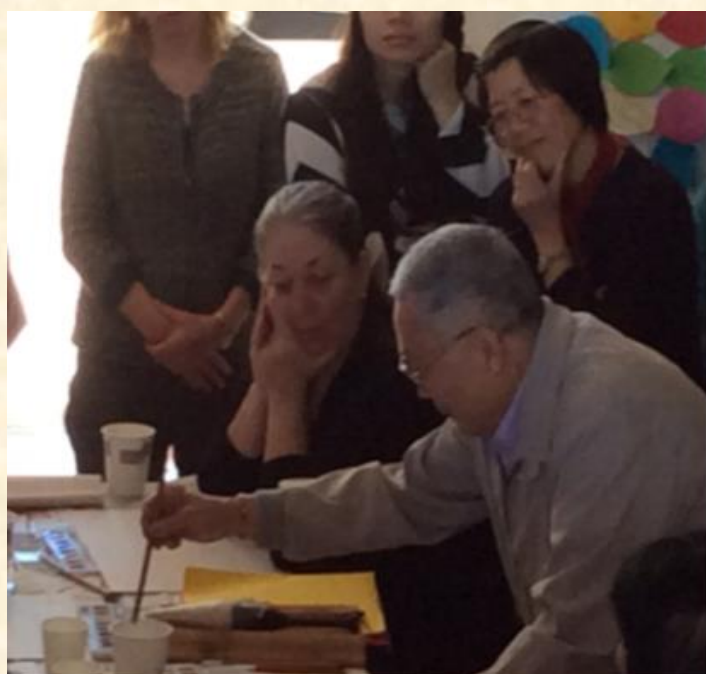
In session with Professor Lorraine Dong and Lecturer Jeannie Woo from San Francisco State University.



PHOTO GALLERY FROM THE TEACHERS TEACHING TEACHERS EVENT



Curriculum Committee members Helen Joe-Lew (photo on left) and Irene Collier, (photo on right) answer questions and provide recommendations to teachers.



Mr. Chan Hong Lim demonstrates brush painting techniques.



Teachers try their hand at Chinese brush painting.



You're doing a great job!

PHOTO GALLERY FROM THE TEACHERS TEACHING TEACHERS EVENT



Look at that concentration!



Monica Lun of Garfield Elementary demonstrates red envelope art.



The first one is always the most challenging!



Interactive and collaborative learning.

TACT'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS SHARE THEIR CHALLENGES & IDENTIFY RESOLUTIONS

Recently TACT has been in touch with scholarship recipients from 2014 and 2013. As proud as we were of each of them at the Scholarship Dinner, readers will be doubly impressed to read how they are faring, having identified and overcome specific challenges at school.

Nathaniel Ng's, TACT Scholar 2014 (U.C. Santa Cruz), biggest challenge has been developing study habits which will lead to academic success. Early on, he found himself struggling to balance the bike and the book. Nathaniel spends a lot of time de-stressing through bicycling, and during the weekends he races with the cycling team. However, Nathaniel's main focus was to spend more time with books and become more academically focused. Nathaniel now finds himself setting short and long term goals. He tells himself, "Work on your ALEKS homework for 30 minutes while your laundry finishes, and then go volunteer at the Bicycle Co-op." During these 30 minute intervals he focuses solely on the work and disallows himself from being distracted by social media outlets.

Cailin Hong, TACT Scholar 2013, finds that her biggest challenges have been adjusting to the pace and difficulty of college work. She has had hard classes before, but never dreamed that it could be this bad! Cailin shares that she has learned to swallow her pride and ask for help when she needs it. She notes, "It's a bit like voting--do it early and often if you want to stay ahead." She used to be afraid to admit that she couldn't figure things out on her own, but now she has realized that part of the purpose of college is to put bright minds in close proximity so that they can guide and educate one another. Cailin's words of wisdom: *If you don't ask questions, you're missing out!*

James Huang, TACT Scholar 2014 (U.C. Santa Cruz) shares that his biggest challenge was reading a lot. In his first weeks of college, James stayed up until 2 o'clock in the morning because he needed to finish his core course homework; routinely reading half of a 250 page book in two days. After reading his book, he also needed to write a 4 page essay about the book! James notes that in high school, he used to finish reading a book in two months and write a 2 page essay. This huge change stressed James out, and he started to doubt himself and ask, "Can I keep up in college?" James can now share that even though studying is hard in college, he has found out there are a lot of resources and programs in college that he can take advantage of. At the end of the first week class, he asked his core course professor where he could get tutoring for his essay. His professor suggested the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), Learning Support Services (LSS), Peer Tutoring, Writing Center, and his (the professor's own) office hours. James signed up for all of these programs, and found that everyone was friendly and eager to help. At this time, James feels less stressed about reading and writing.

For **Xiaofan Wu, TACT Scholar 2014 (Wellesley)**, transition is both a noun and a verb. Before coming to Wellesley, Xiaofan never thought she would have a hard time transitioning; from a city to a suburb, from a high school to college social scene, from the Chinese culture to the college culture. To manage transition anxiety, Xiaofan has sought out a counselor to talk to about her feelings.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Lorraine Dong and Jeannie Woo of San Francisco State University gave a workshop on the Asian Pacific Islander Americans History. A very memorable part of the presentation included an interactive map highlighting prominent Asian Pacific Islander Americans such as the Chinatown Him Mark Lai Public Library, Chong-Moon Lee Center for Art and Culture, Alice Fong Yu Alternative School, Ruth Asawa School of the Arts . . . etc. Teachers from 3rd grade to high school were also provided with lesson plans and activities that were aligned to the common core social studies curriculum.

Monica Lun, Chinese Immersion teacher from Garfield School, taught teachers how to use Lai Si Fung (lucky red envelope) to make the art projects for Lunar New Year in the Make and Take session. These art pieces certainly added to the ambience of the classroom during this festive time. All the yellow, red, and gold colorful lanterns, fans, goldfish and fire crackers hanging up on the wall were extremely eye-catching.

Chinese brush painting is one of the oldest art forms in the world. Chan Hong Lim, teacher from Francisco Middle School, is a long-time Chinese brush artist with arts education from Oxford and a Master of Arts degree from San Francisco State University. Mr. Lim delighted teachers with his mastery of the brush. His demonstration was magnificent and the teacher-participants patiently brought their own creations to life. Chinese brush painting is a great way to teach our students to slow down and express themselves through art. To learn more about Mr. Lim and his work, please go to www.chanhonglimart.wix.com/gallery

Approaching lunchtime, Anita Wu, teacher from Lakeshore taught teachers how to make Gok Jai (sweet sesame dumplings). Needless to say this Make and Eat session was a popular one. The aroma filled the halls and auditorium of Lakeshore and the Gok Jai was so delicious that they were made and gone in no time. For sure, our students would be very happy when we do this activity with them.

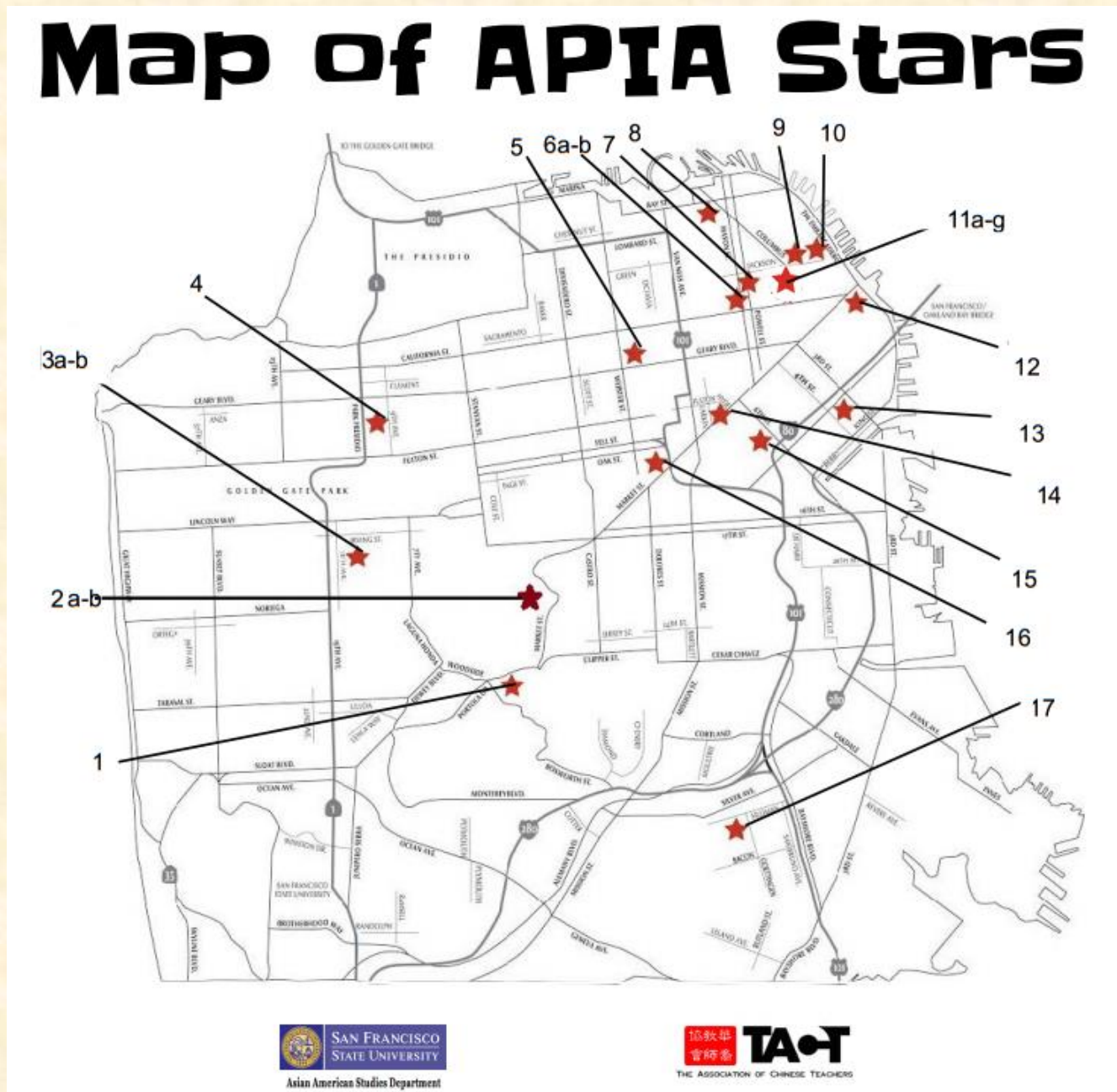
Concurrent to the hustle and bustle of these activities, two tables set up by TACT's curriculum committee (Irene Collier, chair, Maisie Dea, Anita Wu and Helen Joe Lew) allowed for teachers' quiet perusal. One table displayed Asian American themed books collected by Irene Collier and Lorraine Dong – picture books, biographies, and non-fiction, many written by Asian Americans, such as Laurence Yep, Helen Zia and Irene Collier. At another table, the committee gave away copies of *Crossing Boundaries* (TACT's publication of portraits of important Asian Pacific Islander Americans), Leland Wong's *Exploring Chinatown*, and Laurence Yep's autobiography *The Lost Garden*. As books were given out, committee members shared how to use the books to teach research skills and writing biographies of Asian Americans. Teachers were glad to find so many books could be used in their classes. These resources were a great way to let our students learn more about Chinese American history.

Last but not least, this year's TTT could not have happened without the following individuals' crucial support: Cynthia Cen, Josephine Ho, Stacy Joe, Mary Li, Anita Wu, Malcolm Collier, Victor Ho, Tony Lee and Jonathan Wu.

I want to thank the presenters and everyone who participated in the event for making it a successful and joyous professional development. I hope you will continue to support future TACT events with such enthusiasm and interest. Finally, I wish everyone a prosperous and healthy Year of the Ram.

REVISED MAP OF APIA STARS*

(updated January 31, 2015)



1. Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts (555 Portola Drive)
- 2a. Mayeda Campus, Rooftop Alternative School (500 Corbett Ave.) – Nancy Mayeda
- 2b. Jack Mayeda Library, Rooftop Alternative School (500 Corbett Ave.)
- 3a. Alice Fong Yu Alternative School (1541 – 12th Avenue)
- 3b. Dr. Roger Tom Library, Alice Fong Yu Alternative School (1541 – 12th Avenue)
4. Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive (Golden Gate Park) – Makoto Hagiwara
5. JACL National Headquarters, Masao W. Satow Building (1765 Sutter Street)
- 6a. Betty Ann Ong Chinese Recreation Center (1199 Mason Street)
- 6b. Percy Chu Basketball Court, Betty Ann Ong Chinese Recreation Center (1199 Mason Street)
7. Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch Library (1135 Powell Street)
8. Yick Wo Elementary School (2245 Jones Street)
9. Enid Ng Lim Alley (North Beach)
10. John Yehall Chin Elementary School (350 Broadway Street)
- 11a. Gordon J. Lau Elementary School (950 Clay Street)
- 11b. Helen S. Chin Community Center, Gordon J. Lau Elementary School (950 Clay Street)
- 11c. Lew Hing Building (858-870 Clay Street)
- 11d. Lim Poon Lee Building, US Post Office, Chinatown Branch, (867 Stockton Street)
- 11e. Philip P. Choy Gallery, Chinese Historical Society of America Museum (965 Clay Street)
- 11f. Walter U. Lum Place (Chinatown)
- 11g. Willy “Woo Woo” Wong Playground (Sacramento and Hang Ah Streets)
12. Don Chee Way (South of Market)
13. Margaret “Mom” Chung, Central Subway’s Tunnel Boring Machine (Downtown-Chinatown)
14. Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Art and Culture (200 Larkin Street)
15. Victoria Manalo Draves Park (Folsom & Sherman Streets)
16. Arthur Dong Meeting Room, LGBT Community Center (1800 Market Street)
17. Palega Recreation Center (500 Felton Street) – Sululagi M. Palega

*Note: This San Francisco Map of APIA Stars is a work-in-progress. We welcome any input that will make this map as accurate and as comprehensive as possible. Please email your comments and additions to aasdept@sfsu.edu.

TACT'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

SHARE THEIR CHALLENGES & IDENTIFY RESOLUTIONS

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Finally, for **Kyle Li, TACT Scholar 2013**, the most challenging part about college was the shift from being in a smaller classroom with more one-to-one student-teacher interactions to one where individually catered learning is literally non-existent. Kyle ruminates that professors and TAs in college no longer try to develop exploratory lessons that delve deeper into higher order inquiry based learning unlike many of his past experiences with teachers in high school and middle school. Kyle adds that many professors in college also fail to perform good self evaluations on their lessons and will proceed swiftly to the next topic regardless if students in a 500+ person lecture style classroom understand the previous material or not. For Kyle, forming study groups was definitely helpful in trying to really learn and understand the material. Kyle and his study group friends try to structure their study sessions so that they are able to discuss issues presented in class and construct collaborative understandings on topics. Kyle was also accepted to be a TA/discussion leader in one of the large lecture style classes that he had taken in his freshmen year. As a TA he tries to deliver the type of engaging, fun learning that he wishes he had experienced early on.



The Association of Chinese Teachers cordially invites you to the 46th Annual Scholarship Dinner

Location: Tong Palace
933 Clement Street
San Francisco, 94118

Date: Friday, April 24th, 2015

Time: Check-in at 5:30 pm
Dinner from 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Cost: \$50 per person fully paid presale/\$55 at door

Please make checks payable to: The Association of Chinese Teachers (TACT)

And send to: Mary Li
Visitation Valley Elementary School
55 Schwerin Street
San Francisco, CA 94134

Please reply by Friday, April 17th, 2015

Raffles Available:

Hawaii: Marriot's Ko Olina on Oahu, studio for two, from
7/24/15 to 7/31/15

Las Vegas: Marriott's Grand Chateau, 1 bedroom suite for four,
from 7/4/15 to 7/11/15

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