



C.A.C.A. Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge The Piazza - July 2018

Reception of Professor Nancy Wang Yuen's Presentation on Racism in Hollywood is Enthusiastic

On Monday, June 11, 2018, Professor Nancy Wang Yuen, Chair of Sociology Department, Biola University, gave a seminar in our monthly Lodge meeting. The title of the talk was "From Minstrelsy to Hellboy: Whitewashing of Asian Americans in Hollywood". Nancy Wang Yuen gave an informative overview of the history of whitewashing Asian characters in Hollywood, encompassing the silent film era to the present.

Many legendary actors such as Mickey Rooney and Katharine Hepburn played Asian parts. It was



Professor Nancy Wang Yuen

interesting to learn how laws against mixed marriages in those days played a pivotal role in preventing Asian actors from appearing onscreen opposite white actors in romantic situations. Nancy

also shared with us the spotty track

record of Asian actors and the Oscars. In the 89 years of the Academy Awards, only three actors of Asian descent have won acting Oscars and two white actors won their Oscars for playing Asian characters. In displacing Anna May Wong, Louise Rainer, a white actress, got to play the Chinese female lead and received the Academy Award for best actress for her role in Pearl Buck's movie, "The Good Earth" in 1938. Sadly, a repeated pattern of whitewashing still exists today. Recent examples Nancy discussed included Scarlett Johansson in "Ghost in the Shell", Emma Stone in "Aloha", Tilda Swinton in "Doctor Strange" and Ed Skrein in the new "Hellboy". There is some indication of change with Ed Skrein stepping down from the role after he learned his character was originally Japanese-American in the Hellboy comic books. This gave way to Daniel Dae Kim being cast. Social media has been an influential arena for raising whitewashing issues and to hold Hollywood accountable to its casting decisions. With more Asians participating in the film and TV industries, this situation hopefully will improve in the future.

Professor Yuen received her BS, MS, and PhD in Sociology, all from UCLA. She then began her teaching career in the Sociology Department of Biola University



David Yuen's Family with Lodge VP Sharon Wong; From L: Spencer (#1 son), Sharon, David, Nancy (#1 daughter-in-law), Jenny Louie, Stanley (#2 son & fiancée).

to the present. She is the author of "Reel Inequality: Hollywood Actors and Racism", and co-author of "Tokens on the Small Screen: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Prime Time and Streaming Television". She has appeared on BBC World TV, NPR, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, and many other venues. [Input from David Yuen and Larissa Lam; photos from Shirley Hwong.]

Three Southern Californians are among 14 Winners in 2018 C.A.C.A. National Essay Contest

Congratulations to three southern Californian students who captured top honors in the C.A.C.A. National Essay Contest. They are: **Jonathan Yu from San Gabriel Valley, the first place (\$1000) winner**, and Dingyi Chang and Peiyong Tsai, both from Orange County, who received merit awards (\$100).



Jonathan Yu

1st place winner Jonathan Yu is the son of a church friend of Sis. Pek Chan, a Board Officer of GSGV Lodge, who referred him to join the contest. Thanks are due to Bro. Winston Wu of LA Lodge who worked closely with Jonathan. A recent graduate of Arcadia High School and a young man with huge potential, Jonathan will be enrolled in Tufts University in Boston this fall. We are proud of you, Jonathan!