

The AACP Newsletter

Since 1970

Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc.

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AACP's January 2006 Poetry Selection

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From the book *Full Deck* (Jokers playing)
by Oscar Peñaranda
(Guest speaker at AACP's upcoming poetry event)

Alarm Clock

The distant drone of buses
in the half-light of morning
the banshee howling of Bart trains
rounding the bend of metal rails

the thud of the nextdoor neighbor's
footsteps getting up, scurrying
again for another day
the smells of sweetness in the new-born morn
the nudge of humans sleeping
teeth grinding, mouth and lungs coughing
the sighs of unwanted waking-
protests of the reluctant riser-

to be alive once more
and startled
by life.

From the book *Circle*
By Victoria Chang

Man in the White Truck

Each night your newly learned tricks,
an infinite pit of don't call, don't write, call,

don't write, don't call, just write. Each dusk
I splurge, fill empty flasks, spend money

I don't have, eat donuts I don't need.
I am stalling on a stool at a coffee shop,

Having what the next table thinks is boring shrimp
and cocktail talk with you. Or perhaps

I am in your truck, cutting air, an underbelly
of an aluminum can. How orange the earth is there,

so extraordinarily fire. And I wonder
why I am not on your list of the ten most stolen,

welding my dress into a prison. Some say
you have no heart, but it is beating you to death.

A Book Review of Paper Son: One Man's Story By Tung Pok Chin with Winifred C. Chin

Review by Leonard D. Chan

In researching our October 2005 newsletter article on McCarthyism and its effects on the Asian American community, I discovered an interesting story of how one Chinese American poet burned hundreds of copies of his poetry in fear that they could be discovered by government agents. That poet was Tung Pok Chin.

When I found out that Tung Pok Chin had an autobiography, entitled "Paper Son," I thought I'd check it out to see if it was something that AACP should carry.

Paper Son reminded me of my parent's generation's lament that the younger generations of Asian Americans cannot comprehend the hardships that they had to endure. Having read a number of autobiographies and biographies of Asian American that came before me, *Paper Son* reaffirms the notion that we are lucky to have not gone through what they had experienced.

Paper Son reveals Tung Pok Chin's personal life and hardships. It starts with his impoverished life in China and continues on to his entry into the US as an illegal immigrant (paper son status). His marginal existence in the laundry business and broken first

marriage resulting from years of separation reveals a life experience that was probably common to many Chinese that lived in America in the first half of the twentieth century.

The lesser-known Chinese American experience, which is exposed by this book, is the communist witch-hunts of the 1950 and 60s. Chin tells of how his family and friends were questioned, watched, and searched for many years, even after the McCarthy era had ended. What brought on this governmental scrutiny were Chin's poetry pieces for a blacklisted Chinese newspaper.

(Continued on page 3)

Give Us Your Feedback

Please feel free to send us your reviews, comments, and book suggestions. You can contact us at - aacpinc@asianamericanbooks.com

Up Coming Events

Here are some events that AACCP will soon be attending. Invite us to your events.

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jan. 14 1pm	Poetry In San Mateo Day - A Beginning of the Year Poetry Celebration	529 E. 3rd Ave. San Mateo, CA
Feb. 4 11:30am	Book Release Celebration of <i>In Good Conscience</i>	San Francisco, CA
Feb. 19 5-8pm	San Mateo JACL Day of Remembrance Film showing at 6pm	College of San Mateo San Mateo, CA
Feb. 19 5:30pm	The 26th Annual SJ Day of Remembrance Stand Up for Justice	Betsuin Buddhist Church 640 N 5th St. San Jose, CA
Mar. 3-5	California Council for the Social Studies Conference	Town & Country Inn San Diego, CA
Mar. 5	Chinese New Year's Celebration	Stockton Civic Aud. 525 N. Center St. Stockton, CA
Mar. 11-12	Reading the World VII USF	2350 Turk Blvd. San Francisco, CA
Other Event of Interest that AACCP May Not Attend		
Jan. 21 1pm	Hiroshi Kashiwagi Reading and Book Signing	Western Addition Branch Library San Francisco, CA
Jan. 29 10am-6pm	Vietnamese Spring Festival & Parade Parade 11am-1pm	Parkside Hall 180 Park Ave. San Jose, CA
Jan. 21- Feb. 12	Chinese New Year Celebration	Events in SF Chinatown San Francisco, CA
Feb. 11 5:30pm	Chinese New Year Parade	San Francisco, CA
Mar. 4-5	Marysville Bok Kai Festival	3rd & D St. Marysville, CA

Editor's Message

Hello Everyone,

Happy New Year! It's been a pretty busy month since our last newsletter.

New Book and Book Release Celebration

We've just received a shipment of our latest publication "*In Good Conscience*." The book tells the altruistic stories of individuals who assisted Japanese American that were interned during World War II.

We'll have a longer description of the book in our February newsletter. For now, if you are curious about the book and would like to join the book release celebration (see our schedule for time and place), just give us a call (800-874-2242) or drop by the store, and we'll fill you in on the details.

Poetry In San Mateo Day

A Beginning of the Year Poetry Celebration

We've been working hard at straightening up our facility for this event. Moving all the cases of *In Good Conscience* was quite a chore. So please come and join us this Sat. January 14th at 1pm.

Authors **Oscar Peñaranda**, **Hiroshi Kashiwagi**, and **Cynthia Chin-Lee** will be on hand. Plus we've added **Professor Maciko Conway**, a poet and instructor of Japanese language and calligraphy, to our list. Professor Conway was a member of the Ginushisha poetry club in Hilo. This is the same poetry club that Kurenai Hongo, author of our poetry book *Petals of the Vanda*, belonged to.

Prof. Conway will be reciting Tanka in Hyaku Nin-Isshu (classic Japanese poem form). Also she will be singing Shigin (poetry singing) "Fujisan"(Mt Fuji).

Miscellaneous

On Dec. 29, 2005, activist and author Tsuyako "Sox" Kitashima passed away. AACCP helped publish Ms. Kitashima's book *Birth of an Activist*. Thank you for your many years of service to the community.

Thank you Sophie and Nicole for your help moving books. Thanks to all the writers that contributed poems to this months newsletter. Unfortunately, we don't have a winner for our poetry contest. We didn't receive any non-professional entries from non-AACP affiliated individuals. Don't be bashful, I'm sure many of you can write better poetry than us at AACCP. So next year we really want to see some of your works.

Leonard Chan
Executive Editor

Book Review of *Paper Son: One Man's Story*
(Continued from page 1)

Tung Pok Chin's life story is reminiscent of the life of Filipino poet Carlos Bulosan who chronicled his life in the classic autobiography "*America is in the Heart*." Both of these individuals immigrated to the United States during the depression

era and both lived hard lives as laborers. The inspirational part of their stories was how they both persevered to have lives as poets and writers.

At this time when AACP is trying to promote new Asian Pacific American poets and their writings, it's good to be featuring a book on one of our community's pioneering poets.

Poems by AACP If You Think They Qualify

These are also copyrighted. If you really want to reuse them, let us know. It will help our egos :).

The following is our annual AACP staffs' attempt at writing Haiku. This year we've included two attempts at writing Tanka poetry. Tanka poetry is an ancient Japanese poetry form written in 31 syllables-5,7,5,7,7.

Here's an excerpt from our poetry book *Petals of the Vanda*, which describes Tanka.

Tanka captures the fragile quality of beauty and emotion of a particular moment. The poems are true expressions of the heart and are written on the spur of the moment. Thus, Tanka are pure, simple, spontaneous creations, and yet they have a depth of subtle meaning. When too much thought goes into writing a Tanka, it is no longer an expression of the true self, and it is therefore not a true Tanka.

Haiku by Sophie Wong

Convergence

If it's meant to be,
We will meet again sometime,
In the dream for sure.

Haiku and Tanka by Philip Chin

Enjoying the Moment

Hear the cricket sing
Jump, shout, dance, whirl, twirl, and love
Watch, learn, and enjoy

A New Year

Rain falling, wet floor
An awful year ends again
Worries and troubles
Vision, money, work, love, loss
New Year brings fortune and luck(?)

Haiku and Tanka by Leonard D. Chan

New Year's With Family

Fading rainbows seen
No pot of gold on this day
Good food served instead

The Unknowable

Quiet chilly night
Unfathomable meaning
My head wants to burst
Danger, danger overloaded
Engineers cannot compute

Haiku by Melissa Eng

Asian Pride

Love whispers in air
Cultural mist swirls in snow
Pride amongst us

Together

Kiss, smile, sunshine
White man, embrace me tightly
cultural mixture

Project Yellow-wash

Blossoms soar on land
Eyes, rice, tea, dim sum, chopsticks
We're everywhere.



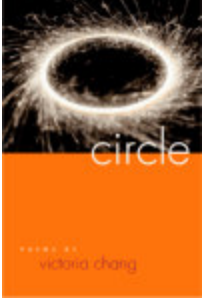


Here to Stay

Ching, Chong, Chinaman
Not foreign, subordinate
here to stay for good

This Land is Our Land

My land, not my land
History repeats itself.
Chin, Thind, Ozawa

The following books are discounted an additional 20% from the listed price for subscribers to our newsletter. The discounts on these books end February 5, 2006.

	<p>Stone Bow Prayer By Amy Uyematsu 2005, 121 pages, Paperback. Amy Uyematsu third poetry book <i>Stone Bow Prayer</i> covers a wide range of topics and styles. There are poems about the language of math, aging and youth, remembrance of childhood, hip hop, September 11th, and many more. <i>Stone Bow Prayer</i> is an engaging and accessible read that even non-poetry readers will have a tough time putting down. Item #3338, Price \$14.00 - for newsletter subscribers \$11.20</p>
	<p>Beyond the Great Mountains A Visual Poem About China By Ed Young 2005, 30 pages, Hardback. This book, as author and illustrator Ed Young's note in <i>Beyond the Great Mountain</i> describes it, is visual verse. Using paper-collage, Ed Young illustrates an interesting poetic picture of China. Although the cover and size of the book is in children's picture book format, this is probably more suitable for imaginative pre-teens to adults. Item #3369, Price \$17.95 - for newsletter subscribers \$14.36</p>
	<p>Circle By Victoria Chang 2005, 63 pages, Paperback. This is Victoria Chang's first complete book of her own poetry. Read author Marianne Villanueva's San Francisco Chronicle's review of Victoria Chang's book (http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/12/04/RVGMHFU0V41.DTL&type=books). The review includes another one of Victoria's poems (<i>Seven Reasons for Divorce</i>). Item #3370, Price \$14.95 - for newsletter subscribers \$11.96</p>
	<p>Asian American Poetry The Next Generation Edited by Victoria Chang 2004, 194 pages, Paperback. As the title suggests, this Asian American poetry anthology highlights works by the latest Asian American poets. For those that are familiar with the "Next Generation" of Asian American poets, a look at the table contents reads like a who's who list. For those less familiar with this generation of poets, this is your chance to become acquainted with some best of them. Item #3371, Price \$19.95 - for newsletter subscribers \$15.96</p>
	<p>Paper Son One Man's Story By Tung Pok Chin with Winifred C. Chin 2000, 147 pages, Paperback. Note: 2-3 weeks for delivery See review above. Item #3372, Price \$22.95 - for newsletter subscribers \$18.36</p>

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