

# Across the Ocean

## The Story of Overseas Zhongshanese

Editor-in-chief: Lu Yanhong Gao Weiwei

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華人社區

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The Story of Overseas Zhongshanese  
Editor-in-chief: Lu Yanhong  
Gao Weiwai

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Kenneth M. Low has one from the son of the chieftain.

Sure enough, he lives up to people's expectations, no matter whether in this beautiful country or in the Chinese Community.

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Emperor's Garden Restaurant is near the entrance to Chinatown in Sydney and has opened for a quarter of a century. The title of Iron Man has accompanied the boss for more than a quarter of a century.

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In one Chinese family, there are three kinds of marriage: distance marriage (marriage between a couple living far away from each other); always-together marriage (marriage between a normal couple) and cross-national marriage (marriage between a couple with different nationalities). The marriage of these three generations, it's a kind of personal choice, as well as the result of unbeatable fate.

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Yet if we take a closer look at them, it's not difficult to find that this new "Gold Rush" is entirely different from old one. They are in Australia for higher education.

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Yet they were not always lonely, as Jin Zhongxian, their teacher, had provided them with a 'music home'.

Every time, in this big music family, when there was melody, they were totally devoted to music. Maybe that was the only time they could forget the homesickness.

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Due to the restrictions of the Alien Land Law enacted by California in 1906, Chinese residents in Locke Town were not allowed to legally own the land they had lived on for their entire lives. Ma Yuehao, who was over eighty years of age, was determined to fight the government for justice and their legal right to own land.

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He was the brother-in-law and English Secretary of Sun Fo, Dr. Sun Yat-sen's eldest son. He traveled alone from the USA to the cave dwellings in Yan'an where he started a close friendship with pioneering revolutionaries such as Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, and Wang Zhen. Above all, that was the time when he had the soul-stirring experience.

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Due to the Japanese invasion of China, Xie Yuemei's family lived a stormy life. With her parents dead and her siblings apart, Xie Yuemei tried her best to support the anti-Japanese guerrillas in her hometown by living frugally and raising funds in Hawaii.

After China's reform and opening up to the outside world, she donated most of her savings to the schools and kindergartens in her hometown. Yet, her bed sheet had been used for 40 years after being sewed and mended again and again.

Though she is not rich, she is greatly respected for her charming personality and her 5-decade-long selfless devotion to the nation.



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Since the 1960s, the overseas Chinese have started to enjoy more political rights and equality in America and Canada. Due to the growing population of overseas Chinese of Chinese in the last two decades, it has become a tendency for them to take part in politics. More and more overseas Chinese realized that the right to vote was an effective way to have their own voice heard, to fight against injustice, and to protect their legitimate rights. In Canada, there are a number of famous Chinese politicians including some Zhongshanese, because of the growing Chinese population and the higher education they have received.

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People's common characteristics of a certain place might be attributed to such reasons as history, region and customs. The Zhongshanese are born good businessmen. In Victoria, Canada, there is a Zhongshanese who inherited his ancestors' characteristics and set up a supermarket kingdom from scratch in about 40 years. This man is Don Yuen.

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Suddenly you will find out that nothing can surpass your mother tongue, which is the solid ground under your feet. It will never run out, and will never alienate, dislike or abandon you.

-from "The World of Mother Tongue" by Su Wei

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Southern California has long been suffering from drought. With progressing urbanization, water is playing a more and more important role. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has taken a crucial part in ways to realize sustainable water development, the concern of more than 18 million citizens.

In 1997, a Chinese female called Carol Kwan was elected as a board member of West Basin Municipal Water District(WBMWD) attached to Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. She became the first Chinese director in the history of southern California. It was interesting that she knew nothing about water utilities before the election, though later she achieved a lot in this field.

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Los Angeles of California has the second largest Chinese population, smaller only than that of San Francisco. Los Angeles is the only city in the U.S., which has more Chinese people than other ethnic groups. Chinese immigrants have gradually claimed their places in every fields of American society by using their wisdom and strength. Some Chinese people have even become very famous in their fields, and Dr. Dunson Cheng is one of them.

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California's Silicon Valley and Hollywood are worldwide famous. In addition to those, there is one more thing, California's fruits.

On September 1, 2005, the film crew of The Story of Overseas Zhongshanese was invited to visit Weiqiang Lin's farm. We started from San Francisco, the beautiful scenery along the way made the 90-minute drive seem very short. We arrived at Golden Hill Farm in California's Escalon and met Weiqiang Lin.

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From 1872 to 1875, the court of the Qing Dynasty had sent one hundred and twenty students to America. Those students with government scholarship were commonly known as the "Chinese Educational Mission". They learned advanced technology and systems from the West, and looked for the ways to make China stronger. They were the Chinese people who first went to the modern society.

More than one hundred years after that, Richard Lee who looks like a pure white person has found out the secret of his family that his grandfather was in the Chinese Educational Mission. After knowing this, Richard Lee's life has been turned to an amazing page.

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On January 20, 2005, a Chinese doctor was invited as a distinguished guest to attend President Bush's inaugural ceremony. This has attracted the public's attention, and the doctor from China is Yongjian Lin. After ten years' hard work, he has become a doctor in charge from a common doctor, and he is well recognized by his patients and his American peers.

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The Chinese Zodiac culture has a history of more than two thousand years. It is an important part of Chinese culture and has had great influence on Chinese, especially the overseas Chinese.

Chinese Zodiac stamps celebrate Spring Festival with the pictures of twelve animals. In 1992, the United States Postal Service issued a Lunar New Year commemorative stamp for the first time in its history in order to memorize the contribution the Chinese have made to American society. Since then, a stamp in the Lunar New Year series is issued every year. These stamps are so popular that they have made Clarence Lee, an overseas Chinese designer, well known.

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Silicon Valley is the place where global IT elites fulfill their dreams. Since 1990s, Chinese students have made a mark here. Most are from the best universities in China, and have earned master's and doctor's degrees in America. They are important technicians in many hi-tech companies, and there are Zhongshanese among them.

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In Hawaii, narcissuses were introduced by overseas Chinese from Zhangzhou of Fujian Province. These flowers not only bring a sweet fragrance, but also bring the blessing of spring.

Every Spring Festival Eve, Chinese people in Hawaii would hold a "Narcissus Festival" which included lion dancing and other traditional activities. In this festival, the most popular program is the "Narcissus Queen Beauty Pageant".

## — Overseas Zhongshanese in Asia —

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Guixian Wu, a Chinese expatriate in Japan, passed away due to illness at the age of 80 in Yokohama on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001. A solemn ceremony in memory of him was held by overseas Chinese and Zhongshanese in Japan.

Though he was not an educator, he was devoted to education and donated money to build school buildings and help needy students to go to school.

Knowledge can not only change a person's life, but also shape that of a nation. Mr. Wu Guixian, who has been living in Japan for a long time, understood this more than most people.

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The early half of Kazuya Asai's life was legendary. He was a Chinese Japanese, born in China during the Japanese invasion. His mother sent him to the Japanese troops to save his life. When Japan lost the war in 1945, he was sent to Japan in a steamship together with the repatriated Japanese prisoners of war. There, a new life, also a new mission was waiting for him.

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Koo Yuen Kim shared an impoverished childhood with his peers, and shouldered his family's burdens when still in school by doing part-time jobs. Having helped his family in times of financial difficulties, he has now become a famous entrepreneur and philanthropist, demonstrating the Chinese characteristics of perseverance, kind-heartedness, and generosity.

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The film crew of **Oversea Zhongshanese** went to the South Pacific in the summer of 2006 in search of the life story of the Zhongshanese living there. In the 1930's and 1940's, many young Zhongshan girls went to places such as Singapore and Malaysia to earn money. Many remained unmarried afterwards, and their hair is combed into a bun. The sorrowful legends of those "Self-combing" women's vagrant lives moved the crew members very much.

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Yuechu Bao was the third generation of the Bao's family to live in Japan. His grandfather was a revolutionary in the late Qing Dynasty, following Dr. Sun Yat-Sen to save China from tyranny. To escape being murdered by the government, his grandfather had to bring the whole family to Japan.

Bao took over his father's business at the Koki-Shoko Co., Ltd. The Company has become the biggest food distribution center in Kobe that deals with food materials for Chinese cuisine.

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Monsoons in the South China Sea flow to the Southern Hemisphere and change into a northeast monsoon when it reaches the Strait of Malacca. When it reaches Labuan Island, referred to as Borneo Garden in Malaysia, it is still scorching hot.

There is a mansion on the north shore of the island named Sri Manikar, dubbed as "Malaysian White House". The film crew for the **Overseas Zhongshanese** had an interview with late Wong Chik Lim in the Sri Manikar in September 2006, which was his first time to be interviewed by the media.

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Chinatown in Manila, though it looks old and shabby, is busy and prosperous. There are many big restaurants of antique but beautiful appearance that display Chinese characteristics. There are also some small and ordinary chophouses which attract crowds of customers. The "Lingnan Wonton Noodles" chophouse managed by the father-son team of Mr. Feng Runzhi and Peter K. Fung is one of these.



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Honglv Hu came to Japan from Zhongshan, Guangdong Province, when she was a teenager. At that time, many Chinese dreamed of going abroad. As many young people dreamed of going abroad to look for gold, Hu also thought that the outside world would be more wonderful. Honglv Hu wondered how to make money abroad, but never expected that she would be able to be a "Chinese dancer" in Japan.

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Leong Yoon Peng was a master of Chinese Kung Fu. She was especially good at swordsmanship and Tai Chi. In her twenties, on behalf of Malaysia, she won second place in swordsmanship at the Southeast Asia Wushu Tournament and was the champion of Tai Chi in the International Wushu Invitational Tournament held in Taipei. In Malaysia, Leong Yoon Peng was known as "Kung Fu Angel" and "Kung Fu Beauty".

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Hendarmin Susilo was a famous music producer in Indonesia as well as the founder of a music and video production company PT. Gema Nada Pertiwi. In the 1980s, he made an acquaintance with Gesang, the famous Indonesian composer and songwriter of "Bengawan Solo".

Gesang was the first composer to sign a contract with him. He was also his most respectful senior and teacher. They had been acquainted with each other for over two decades. They were just like father and son.

"Your water springs forth from Solo, surrounded by a thousand mountains". Just like the lyric of this song composed in 1940, the legendary music career of Hendarmin Susilo had its roots in his understanding and love of the land as well as a beautiful dream in his heart.

## Boundless Love 270

After graduation from Manila Medical University, almost all his classmates chose to further their study in America. Charles Cheng went to the city of Baguio, located in a mountainous region, in order to set up a hospital. After having experienced the anti-Chinese discrimination in the 1960's and 1970's, and various miserable and horrible things, he still maintained the philosophy of a doctor whose mission was to relieve the poor and the aboriginal peoples from illness and difficulties.

Charles Cheng still keeps his Chinese nationality. In terms of nationality, he is a Chinese doctor, while in terms of morality, he is an invincible medic to the world.

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## Preface I

# By Liu Sifen

The TV series of Overseas Zhongshanese produced through the collaboration of Bureau of Zhongshan Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs and Zhongshan Television and Broadcasting Station has been tremendously popular in recent years. Influenced by its reputation, I also watched some of the series and it deeply impressed me. As the series is to be transcribed and compiled into a book, my fellow Zhongshan townsmen asked me to write a preface for it. I felt it an honor to be invited to do so. Thus I found it hard to disappoint them.

After reading the forty-one stories and the editor's words attached to them, I found that most of the heroes in the stories have taken root on the foreign lands. Among them there are common dwellers busy preparing for daily necessities and life. There are also celebrities such as Koo Yuen Kim, a Malaysian merchant, Wong Chik Lim, the host of Sri Mannika, Dunson Cheng, a distinguished banker, Alan Lowe, the mayor of Chinese origins, and Honglv Hu, an incessant dance pursuer, who spared no effort in promoting Chinese dances. Be they ordinary or exceptional, the forty-one stories in this book will surely make up a long and gorgeous panorama, which, in addition to being regarded as merely entrepreneurial Zhongshanese fighting their ways overseas, could be seen as a snapshot of millions of Chinese chasing their dreams in foreign lands.

A discovery made by the American Association of Archeological Study on "The Book of Change" in the 1980s found that the seven signs on Indian colored pots unearthed in Arizona were decorated with the Chinese Yangshao Culture (an ancient culture that probably

existed in China 7,000 years ago), and the signs were identical with those on unearthed relics in the ruins in Banpo Xi'an. The result served as the evidence that the Banpo clan descendants had migrated to American about seven thousand years ago. There were also records in other ancient books about Chinese sailing abroad. The most famous one, mentioned in Historical Records in Han Dynasty, stated that the first Emperor of Qin Dynasty was searching for medicine to stay young forever, and necromancer Xu Fu, dispatched by the Emperor, led a crew of 1,500 boys and girls respectively to the ocean for immortals' help without ever returning. Comparatively, records in Japanese Surname Transcription formulated in 815 B.C. also stated that in Nintokutenno's (a Japanese emperor) time, migrants from the Qin Empire proliferated with a total number of near ten thousand. All those diversified details imply that Chinese had been sailing abroad and inhabiting overseas lands since the Qin Dynasty or even earlier times.

Zhongshan is famous for being the hometown of many overseas Chinese. The history of Zhongshanese going abroad and living abroad can be traced back to centuries ago. Lives were not easy for the pioneers in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when they left their motherland in huge numbers and found themselves aliens in foreign countries. First, it was because the language, people and land in the new place were unfamiliar to them. Secondly, it was because the world was full of ups and downs. Moreover, China was dominated by domestic troubles and foreign invasion which worsened the situation for overseas Chinese in return. They were bullied. They had to bear more pain than the local residents so as to gain the same status as them. In the beginning they lived on their

labor or small businesses from which they could only afford daily necessities. As time passed, some made great achievements in different fields, and were able to bring back funds to invest in their motherland during the transition from Qing Dynasty to the Republic of China. Such examples are Ma Yingbiao, the Guo brothers, the Caichang brothers, Li Minzhou and Liu Xiji, who founded four department stores named Sincere, Wing On, The Sun, and Sun Sun. These successes became the milestone for the Chinese department store industry. Whether in times of domestic revolution or the Anti-Japanese War, China continued to see important and inextinguishable contributions by overseas Chinese to the economic development and talent supply.

The merit of their contribution entered into a new stage when it came to the reform and opening-up period. Guangdong was the precedent to carry out the Reform and Opening-up policy, and overseas Chinese were the pioneers, promoters and guides of Guangdong's experiment and the practitioners and witnesses of the policy's national application. During the past thirty one years, overseas Chinese made tremendous donations to their motherland, ranging from a single building to a whole school or hospital. Where there were needs in their hometown, there would be effort by our overseas siblings. They donated in large scale irrespective of the return, which is their way of expressing their deeply rooted attachment to the land. Among them, siblings like Chinese-Japanese Wu Xiangui who sold his valuable real estate to help build schools in his hometown, will be perpetually remembered with gratitude by their fellow townsmen.

Though I wasn't born in Zhongshan and nor did I grow up or work there, my forefathers lived in Shaxi, Zhongshan. My understanding of it could therefore only be based on books or words from my parents. Thanks to the Reform and Opening-up policy, I got more chances to return home and was able to witness the economic boom there and the stupendous changes in the society. While I was admiring the change, I was wondering what qualities make Zhongshanese different from other people, what has made them so successful in various competitions and furnishes them with fruitful achievement? The stories from this book might have given me part of the answer.

Primarily, the Zhongshanese have indomitable spirit when fighting against obstacles in life. It is obvious from history that Zhongshan couldn't be regarded as a rich city. Moreover, the whole country was deteriorating during that time; most Chinese were struggling in starvation. However, Zhongshanese sailed abroad

resolutely to find better living opportunities instead of being defeated in face of these circumstances. The act was rather brave in that secluded China. To be more encouraging, they aimed high instead of being satisfied by mere subsistence, and realized their dreams by persistent effort and ultimately achieved huge successes which surprised the world.

Secondly, the Zhongshanese are open-minded. They liked to learn from and acquire novel things and cultures rather than resting or being content with the old practices. China, as a matter of fact, has entered the transition period from an agricultural society to a modern industrial one since the Opium War in 1840. The furious invasion of western culture presented us with two choices, one of which is to cling to bygone values and resist innovation; the other is to learn and absorb, and to forsake the old for the new. It was apparent that Zhongshan people belonged to the latter. By inheriting the Chinese practical spirit, they didn't worship a particular idol, or follow one pattern, or stay confined in a small district. They absorbed actively the fruits of the advanced world civilization and they saw their social status lifted steadily above acceptance by the local citizens. Their success served as a valuable reference for China's development in the world stage.

Thirdly, they have strong and persisting attachment towards China. Dr. Sun Yat-sen used to raise the question about the most important thing in one's lifetime. The answer was to know how to increase one's patriotism. Mr. Sun's words were deeply rooted in the mind of Zhongshan citizens and Zhongshan compatriots. When tracing back Zhongshan's celebrities in history, we found their enthusiastic passion towards China and a love for humanity and innovation. There were many kind and upright Zhongshanese who devoted themselves to the revolutionary cause, and many more successful overseas Zhongshanese in different professions who cherished their connection with the land and made contributions. It was their love of China that has made them contribute to the development of both China and the country they live in now. This kind of love can also help them share the joy, the honor and the pride of success in China's rejuvenation to its glory.

My feeling is beyond description. How I wish I could write more in such a short preface!

(The author of the preface is a famous writer in China. He is also winner of The Chinese Maodun Prize for Literature and the President of Guangdong Literature Association)

## Preface II

By Qiu Shuhong

### Overseas Chinese, China's Bridge

*They raise their strong body when the high mast is erected*

*And take determined steps towards overseas.*

*Nanyang Kheks are talking about their gloomy adventure overseas*

*The elders back from San Francisco have been torn by the long hardship*

*Overseas Chinese, Overseas Chinese*

*China's ancient Bridge*

*A hopeful bridge with life*

*China's civilization of five thousand years is displayed when the awe-inspiring lion dancing is on*

*The miraculous Chinese characters carry forwards the excellence of the Chinese culture*

*The rustic yellow skin extends all over the Great Wall and the Huangshan Mountain*

*The bright black eyes sparkling with the great waves of the Yangtze River and the Pearl River*

*Overseas Chinese, Overseas Chinese*

*China's beautiful bridge*

*A cultural bridge of friendship*

*The rising bright moon brings the hometown far away to remembrance*

*The benefits passed down from generation to generation is engraved on our memory*

*The vast motherland is laden with the merits of overseas Chinese*

*The glorious PRC can feel the heartbeat of her loyal sons and daughters*

*Overseas Chinese, Overseas Chinese*

*China's great bridge*

*A patriotic bridge forever.*

(The author is a member of the Chinese Writers Association and the Worldwide Chinese Poetry Association, and council member of the Poetry Institute of China. He is now a member of the Standing Committee of CPC Zhongshan Municipal Committee, and Director of Zhongshan Publicity Department.)

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In Australia, there is a well-known Chinese community organization with a glorious history called the Overseas Chinese Youth League. The League was set up in 1939. In 1944, the Overseas Chinese Youth League set up an Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Warrior Committee in Australia in support of the Anti-Japanese War. When the People's Republic of China was founded, the Union was the first to raise the five-star red flag (the national flag of PRC) in Australia.

Of all the leaders of the Overseas Chinese Youth League, Zheng Jiale took the longest tenure, from 1961 to 1974.

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If you receive a whale tooth from a Fijian, then you must be one of his or her most respected and trusted persons.

Kenneth M. Low has one from the son of the chieftain.

Sure enough, he lives up to people's expectations, no matter whether in this beautiful country or in the Chinese Community.

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If you ask who Yu Jinhuang is at Chinatown in Sydney, few people can tell you. But if you ask who the Iron Man at Chinatown is, many people will tell you that he is the boss of the Emperor's Garden Restaurant.

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In this beautiful country, there live two Chinese families. Their life is as colorful as the sea water in Fiji.



## The Marriage of the Three Generations

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In one Chinese family, there are three kinds of marriage: distance marriage (marriage between a couple living far away from each other); always-together marriage (marriage between a normal couple) and cross-national marriage (marriage between a couple with different nationalities). The marriage of these three generations, it's a kind of personal choice, as well as the result of unbeatable fate.

Although it's just a miniature of the life of Chinese people in Australia, yet the difference is so great that it's a surprise to many people.

## New "Gold Rush"

067

The Gold Rush dream in Australia is gone forever. There is no more gold in the so-called New Gold Mountain in Australia. Anyhow, a lot of people are still on the way from China to Australia. Among those rushing crowds, there are always young faces. They leave their hometown to make money or travel to learn. It seems that they are following suit of the overseas Chinese ancestors.

Yet if we take a closer look at them, it's not difficult to find that this new "Gold Rush" is entirely different from old one. They are in Australia for higher education.

## The Big Family of Music

076

Two Chinese students could always be seen with violin cases on their backs walking along the stone-road streets of New Zealand. What accompanied them was the appealing melody from the violins in their hands.

Yet they were not always lonely, as Jin Zhongxian, their teacher, had provided them with a 'music home'.

Every time, in this big music family, when there was melody, they were totally devoted to music. Maybe that was the only time they could forget the homesickness.

# Overseas Zhongshanese in North America

## The Sad Stories on Angel Island

081

The so-called American myth is the story of tens of thousands of immigrants flowing to the American continent for equality, freedom, democracy and wealth. The Statue of Liberty facing the Atlantic Ocean is the symbol of this myth. However, this is just one of the many versions of the American dream. The stories that happened at the Angel Island Immigration Station reveal another side of the American dream.

## The Ups and Downs in Locke Town

087

Since 1920s, altogether three hundred and eighty thousand Chinese have been to San Francisco for Gold Rush. As the craze for Gold Rush faded, the Chinese laborers were forced to move to the surrounding towns. Locke Town, about 75 miles to the northeast of San Francisco, was once a busy town of Chinese laborer many years ago.

Due to the restrictions of the Alien Land Law enacted by California in 1906, Chinese residents in Locke Town were not allowed to legally own the land they had lived on for their entire lives. Ma Yuehao, who was over eighty years of age, was determined to fight the government for justice and their legal right to own land.

## Determination to Serve the Country

094

He was the brother-in-law and English Secretary of Sun Fo, Dr. Sun Yat-sen's eldest son. He traveled alone from the USA to the cave dwellings in Yan'an where he started a close friendship with pioneering revolutionaries such as Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, and Wang Zhen. Above all, that was the time when he had the soul-stirring experience.

## Deep Love for Motherland

100

Due to the Japanese invasion of China, Xie Yuemei's family lived a stormy life. With her parents dead and her siblings apart, Xie Yuemei tried her best to support the anti-Japanese guerrillas in her hometown by living frugally and raising funds in Hawaii.

After China's reform and opening up to the outside world, she donated most of her savings to the schools and kindergartens in her hometown. Yet, her bed sheet had been used for 40 years after being sewed and mended again and again.

Though she is not rich, she is greatly respected for her charming personality and her 5-decade-long selfless devotion to the nation.

## Career in Politics

104

Since the 1960s, the overseas Chinese have started to enjoy more political rights and equality in America and Canada. Due to the growing population of overseas Chinese of Chinese in the last two decades, it has become a tendency for them to take part in politics. More and more overseas Chinese realized that the right to vote was an effective way to have their own voice heard, to fight against injustice, and to protect their legitimate rights. In Canada, there are a number of famous Chinese politicians including some Zhongshanese, because of the growing Chinese population and the higher education they have received.

## A Policewoman's Story

112

Heather Fong, Chief of the San Francisco Police Department, came from a family of Shaxi, Zhongshan. Born in San Francisco's Chinatown, she began service in the police at the age of 21. As the highest ranking female police, she was regarded as a guardian angel of San Francisco.

## L&L Hawaiian Barbecue Legend

118

Tropical Hawaii is not only a beautiful resort but also a paradise for cuisine. In its competitive catering industry, L&L Hawaiian Barbecue, with over 150 fast-food chain restaurants, is a success. Its success has also made its founder Johnson Kam (Kam Guoqin) a legend.

## The Supermarket Kingdom

124

People's common characteristics of a certain place might be attributed to such reasons as history, region and customs. The Zhongshanese are born good businessmen. In Victoria, Canada, there is a Zhongshanese who inherited his ancestors' characteristics and set up a supermarket kingdom from scratch in about 40 years. This man is Don Yuen.

## Teaching Chinese at Yale

129

Suddenly you will find out that nothing can surpass your mother tongue, which is the solid ground under your feet. It will never run out, and will never alienate, dislike or abandon you.

-from "The World of Mother Tongue" by Su Wei

## Water Management in Los Angeles

133

Southern California has long been suffering from drought. With progressing urbanization, water is playing a more and more important role. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has taken a crucial part in ways to realize sustainable water development, the concern of more than 18 million citizens.

In 1997, a Chinese female called Carol Kwan was elected as a board member of West Basin Municipal Water District(WBMWD) attached to Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. She became the first Chinese director in the history of southern California. It was interesting that she knew nothing about water utilities before the election, though later she achieved a lot in this field.

## An Excellent Banker

140

Los Angeles of California has the second largest Chinese population, smaller only than that of San Francisco. Los Angeles is the only city in the U.S., which has more Chinese people than other ethnic groups. Chinese immigrants have gradually claimed their places in every fields of American society by using their wisdom and strength. Some Chinese people have even become very famous in their fields, and Dr. Dunson Cheng is one of them.

## Love for Land

145

California's Silicon Valley and Hollywood are worldwide famous. In addition to those, there is one more thing, California's fruits.

On September 1, 2005, the film crew of The Story of Overseas Zhongshanese was invited to visit Weiqiang Lin's farm. We started from San Francisco, the beautiful scenery along the way made the 90-minute drive seem very short. We arrived at Golden Hill Farm in California's Escalon and met Weiqiang Lin.

## My Grandfather Was in the Chinese Educational Mission 150

From 1872 to 1875, the court of the Qing Dynasty had sent one hundred and twenty students to America. Those students with government scholarship were commonly known as the "Chinese Educational Mission". They learned advanced technology and systems from the West, and looked for the ways to make China stronger. They were the Chinese people who first went to the modern society.

More than one hundred years after that, Richard Lee who looks like a pure white person has found out the secret of his family that his grandfather was in the Chinese Educational Mission. After knowing this, Richard Lee's life has been turned to an amazing page.

## Being a Doctor in America 156

On January 20, 2005, a Chinese doctor was invited as a distinguished guest to attend President Bush's inaugural ceremony. This has attracted the public's attention, and the doctor from China is Yongjian Lin. After ten years' hard work, he has become a doctor in charge from a common doctor, and he is well recognized by his patients and his American peers.

## A Dream Seeker in America 161

Chinese immigrants to America share a common dream. It is to return to their hometowns with great fortune one day. At least they dream to have their own careers in America. Their dreams are also their motive in migrating to America, but few realize their dreams. Jianhang Huang runs supermarkets in San Francisco, and is one of the lucky ones.

## Love of Calligraphy 168

Weixian Liu, who is over sixty years old, is from Shaxi town of Zhongshan city. As a famous calligrapher, he is employed as a calligraphy teacher in many organizations. However, while he loves Chinese classical literature, he was not good at calligraphy at first. Stimulated by his Chinese teacher, he set a goal to master calligraphy.

## A Story about the Stamps 174

The Chinese Zodiac culture has a history of more than two thousand years. It is an important part of Chinese culture and has had great influence on Chinese, especially the overseas Chinese.

Chinese Zodiac stamps celebrate Spring Festival with the pictures of twelve animals. In 1992, the United States Postal Service issued a Lunar New Year commemorative stamp for the first time in its history in order to memorize the contribution the Chinese have made to American society. Since then, a stamp in the Lunar New Year series is issued every year. These stamps are so popular that they have made Clarence Lee, an overseas Chinese designer, well known.

## Walking on Wall Street 179

Wall Street in New York City is one of the financial centers in the world. More and more Chinese people have gone to work there in recent years, and Lang Qin is one of them. Although he does not have to worry anymore, he still remembers his life when he first came to Wall Street and worked as a deliveryman.

## Life in Silicon Valley 184

Silicon Valley is the place where global IT elites fulfill their dreams. Since 1990s, Chinese students have made a mark here. Most are from the best universities in China, and have earned master's and doctor's degrees in America. They are important technicians in many hi-tech companies, and there are Zhongshanese among them.

## Narcissus Queen 190

In Hawaii, narcissuses were introduced by overseas Chinese from Zhangzhou of Fujian Province. These flowers not only bring a sweet fragrance, but also bring the blessing of spring.

Every Spring Festival Eve, Chinese people in Hawaii would hold a "Narcissus Festival" which included lion dancing and other traditional activities. In this festival, the most popular program is the "Narcissus Queen Beauty Pageant".

## — Overseas Zhongshanese in Asia —

### A Pure Person

197

Guixian Wu, a Chinese expatriate in Japan, passed away due to illness at the age of 80 in Yokohama on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001. A solemn ceremony in memory of him was held by overseas Chinese and Zhongshanese in Japan.

Though he was not an educator, he was devoted to education and donated money to build school buildings and help needy students to go to school.

Knowledge can not only change a person's life, but also shape that of a nation. Mr. Wu Guixian, who has been living in Japan for a long time, understood this more than most people.

### Asai's mission

206

The early half of Kazuya Asai's life was legendary. He was a Chinese Japanese, born in China during the Japanese invasion. His mother sent him to the Japanese troops to save his life. When Japan lost the war in 1945, he was sent to Japan in a steamship together with the repatriated Japanese prisoners of war. There, a new life, also a new mission was waiting for him.

### The Chinese-Malaysian Businessman

216

Koo Yuen Kim shared an impoverished childhood with his peers, and shouldered his family's burdens when still in school by doing part-time jobs. Having helped his family in times of financial difficulties, he has now become a famous entrepreneur and philanthropist, demonstrating the Chinese characteristics of perseverance, kind-heartedness, and generosity.

### "Self-combing" Women in South Pacific

222

The film crew of *Oversea Zhongshanese* went to the South Pacific in the summer of 2006 in search of the life story of the Zhongshanese living there. In the 1930's and 1940's, many young Zhongshan girls went to places such as Singapore and Malaysia to earn money. Many remained unmarried afterwards, and their hair is combed into a bun. The sorrowful legends of those "Self-combing" women's vagrant lives moved the crew members very much.

### The Chinese Merchant in Kobe

226

Yuechu Bao was the third generation of the Bao's family to live in Japan. His grandfather was a revolutionary in the late Qing Dynasty, following Dr. Sun Yat-Sen to save China from tyranny. To escape being murdered by the government, his grandfather had to bring the whole family to Japan.

Bao took over his father's business at the Koki-Shoko Co., Ltd. The Company has become the biggest food distribution center in Kobe that deals with food materials for Chinese cuisine.

### The Host of Sri Manikar

232

Monsoons in the South China Sea flow to the Southern Hemisphere and change into a northeast monsoon when it reaches the Strait of Malacca. When it reaches Labuan Island, referred to as Borneo Garden in Malaysia, it is still scorching hot.

There is a mansion on the north shore of the island named Sri Manikar, dubbed as "Malaysian White House". The film crew for the *Overseas Zhongshanese* had an interview with late Wong Chik Lim in the Sri Manikar in September 2006, which was his first time to be interviewed by the media.

### A Bowl of Wonton Noodles

238

Chinatown in Manila, though it looks old and shabby, is busy and prosperous. There are many big restaurants of antique but beautiful appearance that display Chinese characteristics. There are also some small and ordinary chophouses which attract crowds of customers. The "Lingnan Wonton Noodles" chophouse managed by the father-son team of Mr. Feng Runzhi and Peter K. Fung is one of these.